

COMMENT

THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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Gunfire and music at the Strand

A HIGHLIGHT of the College's 175th anniversary celebrations was a spectacular re-enactment of the 1829 duel fought between the Prime Minister of the time, the Duke of Wellington, and the Earl of Winchilsea.

The duel, which was in part fought over the foundation of King's, took place on Friday 30 April in the Quad at the Strand campus. More than 450 staff, students, alumni, guests and sponsors watched the evening's proceedings.

The duel, re-enacted by actors in costumes of the day and complete with pistols, was performed by Martin Wimbush (Wellington) who performs his own one-man play *Wellington* around the country and Peter Symonds (Winchilsea) who has worked extensively with major repertory theatres and also with television. Narrators took the audience through the performance and retold the history of the College.

The event began with Beating

Retreat played by The Band of Her Majesty's Scots Guards followed by the duel. After which they played Beethoven's *Battle Symphony* 'Wellington's Victory' arranged by the Director of Music for the Scots Guards Major Bob Owen. During the music members of The Napoleonic Association enthusiastically re-enacted part of the 1813 Battle of Vitoria at which Wellington defeated Napoleon.

This truly memorable evening



TOM WHIPPS

The firework finale

concluded with the Trumpeters of the Irish Guards, a magnificent firework display – the climax of which was '175' lit up between the columns of the arch at the river end of the Quad – and a stunning shower of silver confetti.

As one member of the audience commented there had been nothing as spectacular seen at the Strand since the Luftwaffe excavated the Quad labs during World War II.

Christopher Coe, Director of Communications said: 'I feared the worst as the weather forecasts predicted a sodden evening, but we were blessed with perfect conditions. It turned out to be a wonderful event and one that brought the whole College community together. Tribute must be paid to the many staff – particularly in site services – who worked so hard to make it a success.'

Take aim: Members of The Napoleonic Association with The Band of Her Majesty's Scots Guards in the foreground



TOM WHIPPS



The 1829 Duel

THE DUEL, on the morning of 21 March 1829, was the only one fought by the Duke of Wellington. It took place amid the controversy surrounding the reluctant granting of Catholic emancipation by Wellington's administration in the face of civil unrest in Ireland. The decision brought furious denunciation from more conservative supporters of the religious status quo. These included the Earl of Winchilsea, who, like Wellington, was a prominent financial backer of King's College.

He published a letter accusing Wellington of dishonesty in championing the cause of a protestant King's College. Instead, argued Winchilsea, emancipation had shown the Duke to be a friend of popery while King's under his

patronage would become a Trojan horse designed to catholicise the protestant establishment. When Winchilsea refused to apologise for the remarks, Wellington demanded satisfaction on the duelling field.

The duel took place beside the Thames on Battersea Fields, now the site of Battersea Park. Winchilsea probably never intended to fire, and perhaps distracted by his unmoving adversary, Wellington's shot was sent wide. Winchilsea then discharged his pistol harmlessly in the air before agreeing the wording of a satisfactory apology.

As the narrator said after the re-enactment 'And so, not for the last time in British history, a Prime Minister is satisfied that his honour has been restored after being called publicly a liar!'

Duel role: 'The Duke of Wellington' selects his duelling pistol

TOM WHIPPS



175th Anniversary

KING'S IS MARKING its 175 anniversary with a year of events and celebrations. As well as the duel, these include lectures; the publication of a College history; a film festival; exhibitions; a service at Westminster Abbey, and much more. www.kcl.ac.uk/175

To learn more about the early history of King's visit the online exhibition designed by Archives & Corporate Records Services at www.kcl.ac.uk/archives.

There will be further online exhibitions and physical displays forming part of the 175th anniversary celebrations, including an exploration of the life and career of the Duke of Wellington.

Home thoughts from South Africa

DOMINIC TURNER

JUST BEFORE EASTER I was finally able to accept an invitation to visit the Johannesburg campus of Monash University. The timing was perfect. Only a few days earlier I had said farewell to Desmond Tutu after his unforgettable period of residence with us, and I had his inimitable chuckle still ringing in my ears.

I will never forget his personal warmth and kindness, his enormous fondness for and commitment to King's, and the quiet, simple prayer he shared with anyone he spoke to in his tiny office at the Strand. And I had been trying to think how we could maintain that personal link and build up our engagement with South Africa in general. Monash's newly-opened operation in Johannesburg could well be the springboard for collaboration we need.

Located at a 100-hectare site some 20 kms NW of central Johannesburg, Monash South Africa is by any standards a remarkable achievement. In less than five years, an entire small university has been built and equipped to the highest standards, together with student accommodation and a wide range of sports facilities.

Some 450-500 students are enrolled on programmes in three faculties: Arts, Business and Economics, and Information Technology. About half of the students are from South Africa itself with the majority of the remainder from sub-Saharan Africa.

No less remarkable has been the transformation of South Africa itself since the transition to democracy ten years ago. It is still a country of enormous contrasts,



but the narratives of oppression and liberation which have characterised South African history have been overtaken in the minds of younger people by the imperatives of black economic empowerment. It is clear that truth and reconciliation have played an enormous part in this onward movement.

There are many actual and potential collaborations with Monash which could be located in Johannesburg. I have agreed to fund two delegates to an inaugural symposium on 'Politics, history and memory' in October; there are numerous opportunities to work on ICT applications to infrastructure projects in rural economies, and, obviously, huge potential in nursing and public health.

I will be discussing these and other ideas with senior colleagues in the weeks to come, in the hope that King's can make a contribution to the renaissance of South Africa and repay at least some of the debt we owe to our most distinguished alumnus.

Barry Ife
Acting Principal

Chinese Medicines Conference

ADTI GLOBAL WATCH MISSION led by the College investigating the discovery of new drugs from natural sources fed back to a one-day conference in the Great Hall in March. The team also launched a Mission Report that drew several conclusions.

Firstly the differences between modern Western pharmaceuticals and mixtures of natural products comprising natural medicines present a significant challenge for the development of conventional drugs from traditional Chinese medicines. While natural medicines can be as potent as pharmaceutical drugs, how they work is not understood so they cannot be licensed as pharmaceuticals and prescribed by doctors.

Dedicated investment in research is necessary to unlock the huge potential of natural traditional medicines and also to protect the public from unsafe and unregulated herbal remedies.

The conference heard a range of talks from UK and Asian experts including Dr Tony Buss, President and CEO of MerLion Pharmaceuticals, Singapore, Professor Xing-Zu Zhu,



Chairman of the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica and Dr Cui Yongquiang, Chief Physician of Guang'anmen Hospital, Beijing. Professor Monique Simmons from the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Dr Daryl Rees, Chief Operating Officer of Phytopharm were among the UK academics who spoke.

Professor Robert Hider, the academic leader of the mission, spoke to *The Guardian*, resulting in a major story, saying that increasingly Chinese doctors go to great lengths to underpin their medicine with science: 'We thought that they really didn't do clinical trails over there but increasingly

these are quite well controlled.'

The lead co-ordinator of the mission, Caroline Quest, Director of Knowledge Transfer at King's said: 'The mission so far has been very successful in achieving knowledge transfer and exchange across disciplines, professions, economic sectors and countries.'

Funding and applications

THERE HAS BEEN positive news recently with the announcement of the King's grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce), and the rise in numbers of people applying to study at the College.

Hefce recurrent grant

The total Hefce grant allocated to the College for 2004/05 was £105.33 million. This consists of £56.74 million for teaching, £42.53 million for research and £6.06 million for special funding, which includes widening access initiatives, funding for minority subjects, etc.

Overall the College has received

an increase of four per cent in cash terms, before allowing for increased activity. This is a greater rate of increase than that achieved by most other Russell Group universities.

UCAS applications

The number of students who have applied for a place at King's has risen by 11 per cent – the biggest

increase for any English Russell Group university.

Medical applications in particular have risen and the College has received 4,700 applications for the 360 places (on the MB BS and the graduate entry programme), making King's the most popular School of Medicine in the UK. Applications have risen by 38 per cent mainly due to the new graduate entry programme.

New HIV initiative for women

WHILE condom use remains the most effective protection against sexual transmission of HIV, it is clear that in many parts of the world women are not empowered to insist on it. The United Nations estimates that worldwide around 16,000 people become infected every day with HIV, the majority through unprotected sex, and now an Europe-wide consortium of scientists are launching the biggest ever international effort to develop a new class of products which

could help to curb its spread. The European Microbicides Project (EMPRO), led by King's and funded by the European Commission with a grant of €11.7 million, is recognising the urgent need for novel strategies to block HIV-1 transmission and aims to develop new products, called microbicides, containing molecules that block the virus' ability to attach itself to the genital mucosal surfaces.

Charles Kelly, Professor of Oral Immunology in the Dental Institute, is co-ordinating the project that

involves 29 institutions and has four main aims:

- discovery of new potential microbicides
- rigorous testing of microbicides using cells and tissue
- investigation of the means of formulating microbicides so that they can be applied, and also investigating ways in which they could be produced on a large scale at reasonable cost
- Phase I clinical trials

The trial was announced in a week when microbicides attracted much

media interest as an international conference took place in London. Professor Kelly spoke to *The Guardian* and a feature on Radio 4's *Today* programme also mentioned the project.

'This international collaboration provides much varied expertise and we hope to exploit this to full potential,' said Professor Kelly, adding: 'This is a relatively new field and we have high hopes for the development of these alternative approaches to preventing HIV infection.'

Met chief launches new facility at Guy's

SIR JOHN STEVENS, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, officially opened a brand new base for local police Beat officers, police community support officers and the Bankside and Pool of London community wardens, at the Guy's campus on 19 April.

The Police & Community Wardens' Office (PCWO) at Guy's has been made possible by a unique partnership between King's, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust, the Metropolitan Police Service, Southwark Council, Better Bankside and the Pool of London Partnership.

The Office, based on the end of Shepherd's House, will provide a focal point for all the agencies involved to help make the campus, the hospital and the surrounding area a safer place for students,

staff, patients and visitors, as well as everyone who lives and works locally.

The first facility of its kind in London

This is the first facility of its kind in London and was launched in the presence of Acting Principal Professor Barry Ife and representatives of the College's partners in this initiative, including Councillor Nick Stanton (Leader, Southwark Council) and Patricia Moberly (Chairman, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust).

Professor Barry Ife, commented, 'I am delighted that King's has been able to provide the premises for this important initiative and to work with some of our closest partners

to provide a safer environment for all in the local community.'

The PCWO will be an administrative base for two Home Beat police officers, two police community support officers and five community wardens. The Metropolitan Police Service is committed to running weekly drop-in advice surgeries at the office.

The community wardens will patrol a three square mile area that extends from Blackfriars Bridge to Shad Thames.

Sir John said: 'There is no doubt that closer working between police, community wardens and police community support officers will bring results through regular daily contact. We are happy to be part of this initiative and responding to the particular needs of this community. It offers a wide network of services from all those working to make Southwark safer – supporting staff at the hospital and nearby businesses, reducing crime and providing reassurance to the whole community.'

It's a fair cop: Acting Principal, **Professor Barry Ife**, delivering his speech at the opening the the Police & Community Wardens' Office. **Sir John Stevens**, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, looks on



Network security

As an institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, learning and understanding, King's places tremendous value not only on its academic community but also its information, writes Ewan Mathieson, Information Services & Systems (ISS) Communications Manager.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS, and the information they contain, are of vital importance to the efficient functioning of the College. These various systems, tools and services – including individual desktop computers, email, the web and the underlying network – now pervade teaching and learning, administration and research.

Information security

With increasing reliance on electronic information comes a corresponding concern for the security of that information. In common with all other large organisations, King's must be able to rely on the three key aspects of information security:

- **availability** (knowing that the information can always be accessed)
- **integrity** (knowing that the information is accurate and up-to-date, and has not been deliberately or inadvertently modified from a previously approved version)
- and **confidentiality** (knowing that sensitive information can be accessed only by those authorised to do so).

More precisely, since neither the systems themselves nor those who operate them can ever be totally reliable, the College must be able to react promptly and appropriately to any security incident, and to restore its information systems to their normal operational state in an acceptable period of time.

Security breaches, often involving prominent commercial organisations, are reported periodically in the press and often generate substantial publicity. Such incidents tend to fuel the popular conception that the major threat to information security comes from hostile attacks perpetrated via the Internet.

React promptly and appropriately to any security incident

'The internet however is not the only threat, electronic information is at risk for a whole variety of reasons; natural disasters, failure of technical equipment and services, as well as from accidental and malicious acts,' explains David Clyde, Director of Information Systems.

He continues: 'Investing in suitable security measures has a significant cost. It is inevitable that security concerns will consume considerable staff time, especially that of skilled IT staff, and in most cases there is likely to be additional security-related expenditure on hardware, software and services.'

A common error when considering this issue is to think of security as purely a technical problem, requiring technical solutions. Often the most important parts of security are the human and organisational ones.

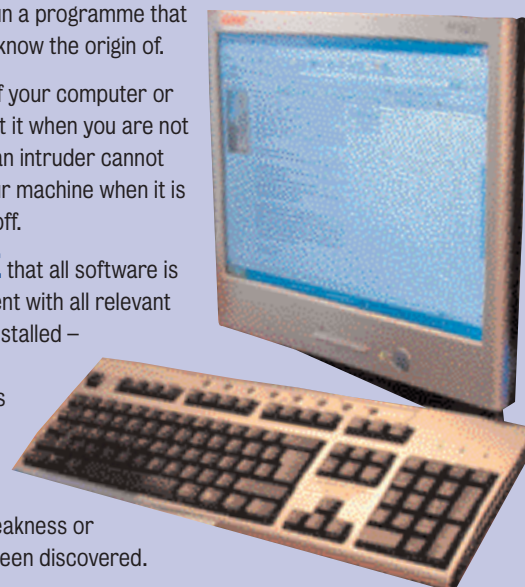
Security group

Operational aspects of systems security are discussed and addressed by a College Network Security Group – a sub-group of the College ISS Committee. This new Group, chaired by Richard Osborne (Information Systems Technical Director), meets fortnightly and has an invited membership from all schools plus representatives from central administration units. The

remit of the Network Security Group is to develop and implement systems and procedures to enhance information security as a cornerstone of the College's approach to business continuity.

All members of staff have a role and responsibility in maintaining network security; here are some simple steps that everyone should follow to protect their computer:

- ✓ **USE** anti-virus software on internet connected computers and keep it up dated. (See relevant information on the College website at: www.kcl.ac.uk/antivirus).
- ✗ **DON'T** open unknown email attachments – even if you recognise the sender.
- ✓ **MAKE** sure you make regular backups of work on a removable disk or CD.
- ✗ **DON'T** run a programme that you don't know the origin of.
- ✓ **TURN** off your computer or disconnect it when you are not using it – an intruder cannot attack your machine when it is switched off.
- ✓ **ENSURE** that all software is kept current with all relevant updates installed – software companies release new patches when a weakness or hole has been discovered.



A prescription for success

A UNIQUE COURSE at King's is opening up opportunities for experienced nurses and pharmacists to qualify as prescribers.

Until recently only doctors and dentists were qualified to write prescriptions in the UK. This prerogative has recently been extended to nurses, and now to pharmacists, who have undertaken the appropriate training.

The King's course is structured for nurses and pharmacists learning together, and in March the first joint cohort of some 60 nurses and pharmacists qualified at King's for professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The nurses qualified as independent and supplementary prescribers while the pharmacists qualified as supplementary prescribers only, since a change in the law is required to enable them to prescribe independently.

Attending a reception to mark the occasion, the Chief Pharmacist, Jim Smith, described the event as 'a watershed in the development of pharmacy'. The extension of

prescribing responsibilities to pharmacists would, he said, provide many opportunities for improving patient care and chronic disease management, as well as extending career opportunities for pharmacists. Mr Smith presented the prize for Best Pharmacist to Peter Rhodes.

The course is led by Alison Hobden from the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery and by Anne Lovejoy from the Department of Pharmacy with help from Alison While, Professor of Community Nursing.

'Our course is unique in several ways', explains Professor While. 'It's the only such course designed equally for nurses and pharmacists, offering the opportunity for inter-professional learning and the input of specialist lecturers from both Nursing and Pharmacy. Its approach to learning combines web-based materials with compulsory, topic-based seminars and learning in practice. It also focuses on problem-based enquiry relevant to the clinical practice of students.'

As well as undertaking an objective-structured clinical

examination and passing an unseen written exam, all students have to complete 12 days of supervised practice under the direction of a medical prescriber and must present a portfolio which demonstrates what they have learned.

'Many of the portfolios of the first cohort of students were of an

exceptionally high standard,' Anne Lovejoy says, 'and the high success rate illustrates the potential of this mode of assessment in the field of professional education. We're proud to be contributing to an extension of options for patients and to be part of a re-skilling of the local healthcare workforce for the NHS.'

Recognition spin-out company launched

BRINGING TOGETHER expertise in physics, acoustics, linguistics and phonology has enabled King's to create and launch a company which promises to bring the age of talking effortlessly to computers, or other devices, a step nearer.

It aims to revolutionise the way in which humans interact with machines by overcoming the current limitations of speech recognition technology.

Founder academics Roy Pike, FRS, Clerk Maxwell Professor of Theoretical Physics, and acoustician and speech scientist, Dr Barbara Forbes, have expertise in disciplines that have never before been brought together in speech recognition research.

By exploiting newly discovered fundamental physical principles of speech production in the vocal tract, the new company, Phonologica Limited, will seek to bridge the existing gap between large vocabulary systems that must be tailored to a single speaker, and those that can adapt to the characteristics of a wide

population of users if the vocabulary is small.

Professor Pike said: 'This revolutionary new approach is very important for speech recognition because it will enable people to interact much more naturally with electronic devices than is possible at present.'

The project is an example of good team work between KCL Enterprises' Technology Transfer, SIMFONEC (King's Science Enterprise Centre) and IP2IPO (one of King's preferred seed funding partners).

'The project was a real team effort with each party contributing its skills in a collaborative spirit,' said George Murlewski, King's Spin-Out Company Mentor.

The company will, through a research contract with the Department of Physics, sponsor further research and development through King's.

For more information about spin-out companies, contact George Murlewski on 020-7848 3665 or george.murlewski@kcl.ac.uk

Jim Smith presents Peter Rhodes with his prize

HOWARD ASHTON



MND Care & Research Centre

A successful collaboration providing wide-ranging expertise and leadership

THE KING'S Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Care & Research Centre was established with a grant from the MND Association in 1994. Working in partnership with the Association, the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP), the School of Medicine and King's College Hospital, the Centre set out to establish a new model of multidisciplinary care under one roof.

The expertise of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, dieticians, nurse specialists and many others have been brought to bear on the complex needs of patients and their carers.

Brain Bank

The Centre has a unique role in harnessing care and research, as Professor Nigel Leigh, Head of Neurology, points out. 'From the outset we established a clinical database, a DNA resource and a brain bank, now part of the IoP MRC-funded Brain Bank. These initiatives have enabled us to take a leading role in defining the molecular pathology of MND, in

understanding the genetics of MND, and investigating the mechanisms of neuronal damage. We are now creating a national MND Biobank for genetics, proteomics and metabolomics, which will provide an enduring resource for international collaborations to identify MND genes and genetic risk factors.'

So far only one gene has been shown to have mutations which cause familial MND, but it is now clear that many other MND genes exist, and if these can be identified it may be possible to develop a rational basis for new treatments. The Centre's genetics group, led by Dr Chris Shaw, has found a new chromosomal locus for familial MND on chromosome 16 and is now screening candidate genes to identify this new MND gene. Dr Ammar Al-Chalabi is using techniques such as DNA pooling to identify other genetic risk factors in (apparently) sporadic MND. Professor Chris Miller has discovered new evidence that altered axonal transport may be a key factor in motor neurone degeneration.

The Centre's studies using Positron Emission Tomography (PET) show that cognitive difficulties suggestive of frontal lobe damage in MND are linked to impaired activation of specific brain areas, demonstrating that MND is not a pure 'motor system disease'.

'We have also used PET to explore the relationships between genotype and phenotype in MND,' Professor Leigh explains. 'Studies of a group of people from Northern Sweden who have a characteristic slowly-progressive form of MND show that specific disease-causing mutations occurring on a comparatively homogeneous genetic background yield a characteristic pattern of selective vulnerability and physiological disturbance.'

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) also provides a molecular approach to neurodegenerative diseases. The Centre is developing new pharmacological challenge techniques with functional MRI (fMRI) to further test the hypothesis that cortical excitability is altered in MND and that this may contribute to neuronal damage.

Respiratory support

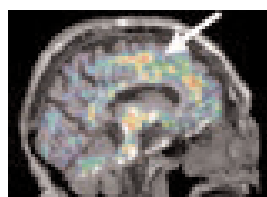
Improving the care of people affected by MND is central to the Centre's philosophy. 'With Dr Rebecca Lyall and Professor John Moxham of Respiratory Medicine, we were able to show that non-invasive ventilation improved the quality of life in patients with MND who have developed respiratory failure. We have also shown that non-invasive ventilation markedly prolongs survival. Dr Lyall has also shown that the simple, non-invasive test known as the Sniff Nasal Pressure is a far better predictor of respiratory failure

and survival than conventional laboratory tests. The team has led a quiet revolution in MND care through the assessment of every patient for respiratory support with non-invasive ventilation.

The MND Centre has also been instrumental in developing the Centre for Palliative Care in Neurology, thus far a neglected field. 'Professor Irene Higginson and I became aware of the complex needs of patients with progressive neurological disorders,' Professor Leigh says. 'We have support from the MS Society to fund a Research Consultant in Palliative Care who will identify the palliative care needs of patients with advanced MS and gather information on how care is (or is not) provided at present. With funding from King's NHS Trust we are now set to develop an ambitious programme of research that will help to define the needs of patients with longstanding and progressive neurological disease, to integrate palliative care with rehabilitation and to evaluate and develop new treatments and patterns of care.'

Finally, the Centre has been involved in the design and execution of clinical trials since the early 1990s, and helped to plan the trial of Riluzole, the first drug shown to slow progression in any neurodegenerative disease. The Centre is now expert in the design, management and execution of academic-led and industry-sponsored clinical trials. 'Our goal is to find new and more effective treatments that will, eventually, allow us to halt the progression of this disease at a stage when quality of life remains good,' Professor Leigh says. 'We have obtained MRC funding to develop human stem cells for neural repair in MND, and we are collaborating with Re-Neuron to assess the effectiveness of stem cell therapy in laboratory models of MND.'

For further details see www.mndcentre.org



A PET scan showing microglial activation in a patient with progressive degeneration of upper motor neurons

(Primary Lateral Sclerosis). Microglial activation is seen in motor areas (arrow), and in the brain stem

King's people

Paul Black and Jonathan Osborne

Professors Paul Black and Jonathan Osborne, Department of Education & Professional Studies, won awards from the American National Association for Research for Science Teaching (NARST), a world-wide organisation of professionals committed to the improvement of science teaching and learning through research, recently.

Professor Paul Black, Emeritus Professor of Science Education, was awarded the prestigious 'Distinguished Contribution to Science Education Award' in recognition of 'an individual who, through research over an extended period of time, has made outstanding and continuing

contributions, provided notable leadership, and made a substantial impact in the area of science education'.

Exceptionally this award was also won previously by another King's professor, Ros Driver, in 1997. She succeeded Professor Black as Professor of Science Education in 1995.

King's academics also won a second NARST award for an article published in the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* (a leading journal in the field) which was judged to be the most significant for that year. It was awarded to a team led by Jonathan Osborne, Professor of Science Education.

JO FISHENDEN



David Beighton and Paul Sharpe

David Beighton, Professor of Oral Microbiology, and **Paul Sharpe**, Dickinson Professor of Craniofacial Biology at the Dental Institute, have won Distinguished Scientist Awards from the International Association of Dental Research (IADR).

David Beighton, whose work focuses on the microbial ecology of dental plaque in relation to the initiation and progression of dental caries in children and the elderly, received the Dental Caries Research award supported by Pfizer Inc.

Paul Sharpe, who conducts research on the molecular control of tooth development and on tissue engineering/stem cell approaches in regenerative dentistry, received the Craniofacial Biology Research award sponsored by Oral B/Gillette Co.

Another Dental Institute academic, Dr Maxine Partridge, received last year's Distinguished Scientist Award for Oral Medicine and Pathology.

The IADR promotes and enhances the quality of oral and dental research world-wide. Through these awards the IADR recognises the outstanding contribution of researchers of international excellence to the scientific community.

Nigel Leigh

Nigel Leigh, Professor of Clinical Neurology, has been honoured for his work in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) by the American Academy of Neurology.

Professor Leigh has been awarded the 2004 Sheila Essey Award - An Award for ALS Research. The Sheila Essey Award recognises an individual who has made significant research contributions in the search for the cause, prevention of, and cure for ALS. ALS is a motor neurone disease, which is characterised by the gradual degeneration and death of motor neurons. Both the upper motor neurons and the lower motor neurons are affected in ALS.

REHAN JAMIL



Professor Leigh's research focuses on understanding the cause of motor neurone disease (MND), identifying better ways to care for patients with MND, and developing new treatments that might significantly slow down or even arrest deterioration. He directs the MND Care & Research Centre at King's (see page 7).

The American Academy of Neurology, an association of more than 18,000 neurologists and neuroscience professionals, is dedicated to improving patient care through education and research.

Golf Society

AT A RECENT King's College London Golf Society AGM, Richard Burridge, The Dean of King's College, was elected Captain, joining a committee of Andy Perrin (MIS) Secretary and Keith Jeremiah (Finance) Treasurer.

The Society is keen to

encourage applications from all members of College staff. To this end they are currently offering a substantial discount to those interested in membership, on one of the Society's days this summer. Those joining in May will pay only £15.00 for 18 holes of golf followed by a meal and prizegiving. The cost will be £20.00 for anyone joining on the other days.

The Golf Society programme for

the year is:

Wednesday 12 May 09.30

Pine Ridge Golf Club, Camberley

Thursday 17 June 10.30

Redbourn Golf Club, St Albans

Wednesday 14 July 09.30

Bletchingley Golf Club, Bletchingley

Wednesday 18 August 09.30

Reigate Hill Golf Club, Reigate

For further details and an application form contact Andy Perrin, andy.perrin@kcl.ac.uk

Dialogue

A UNIQUE THREE-WAY CONVERSATION between some of the world's most eminent religious leaders was held King's on 2 March.

Entitled 'Faith in Public Life' the participants were The Most Revd Desmond Tutu FKC, Archbishop Emeritus and Visiting Professor in Post-Conflict Societies at King's; Professor Jonathan Sacks FKC, Chief Rabbi and Visiting Professor in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies at King's, and The Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury and The King's College Visitor.

The Dialogue, held in front of more than 350 staff, students, guests and journalists, was wide-ranging, incisive and good humoured.

The event was chaired by The Revd Dr Richard Burridge FKC, Dean of King's.



Conversation piece: from left: The Dean of King's, the Chief Rabbi, Archbishop Tutu, the Archbishop of Canterbury on stage at the Greenwood Theatre, Guy's campus for the Dialogue

Marathon success

Congratulations to the following who ran the London marathon on 18 April:

Professor Ian Craig, Head of Molecular Genetics at SGDP, IoP, completed the course in four hours and six minutes and raised nearly £1,500 for MIND.

Dr Mike Harrison, senior lecturer and honorary consultant in paediatric dentistry in the Dental Institute (four hours and five minutes) raised money for the Evelina Children's Hospital appeal.

Emma Meaburn, PhD student at the IoP (four hours and 35 minutes) raised around £2,000.

Mike Parsons, PhD student at the IoP (four hours and 25 minutes) raised money for Whiz-Kids

Katharine Rabson, Business Development Manager for the School of Humanities (four hours and 28 minutes) raised more than £1,500 for a Brighton-based breast cancer charity called the Pink Dolphin Appeal.

Inkha roles

Inkha, the Strand's Robo receptionist, is on her travels – she is to be the 'face' of the Cheltenham Science Festival held from 9-13 June.

Driven by nine motors and a small laptop computer, Inkha (interactive neurotic King's head assembly) responds to touch screen enquiries, directs visitors to their destinations within the College, offers events information and occa-

sional gives comments of her own!

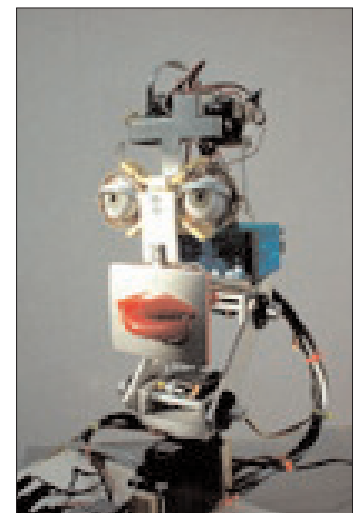
The Cheltenham Festival of Science, is a five-day science and arts festival aimed at the general public. Inkha will act as receptionist in the Town Hall showing schools, adults and families to the various different venues, events, workshops and free science experiments on offer. The Town Hall is the only point of entry to events so she will welcome more than 24,000 people during the Festival.

There will also be daily demonstrations by Inkha's creator and King's former MSc student, Matthew Walker, and Mark Miodownik, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering.

Inkha's visit has been made possible through funding from the School of Physical Sciences & Engineering.

Inkha is also the subject of King's

latest Research TV feature which was broadcast last month and distributed to more than 2,000 news organisations worldwide. See www.research-tv.com



King's people

Long Service Awards

SIX MEMBERS OF STAFF were honoured recently for achieving 40 years' service to the College, or its constituent institutions, at a reception in April at the Strand campus. Also recognised were 37 people who have worked for the College for 25 years.

Forty years: pictured with the Acting Principal, **Professor Barry Ife** (second right), and Vice-Principal, **Professor Sir Graeme Catto** (third left), are, from left, **Barry Eley**, Professor of Periodontology, **Dr Roland Emson**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences, **Anne Duggan**, Professor of Medieval History, and **Miss Patricia Adams**, technician, Department of Life Sciences. Not present were **Ms Jackie Broadey** of the Institute of Psychiatry and **Mr Moses Manuel**, Purchasing Officer, Department of Physics



DOMINIC TURNER

Triathlon call up

Dr **Margaret Sills**, Academic Director of the Higher Education Academy LTSN Subject Centre for Health Sciences & Practice, hosted at King's and a Visiting Teacher in the Department of Education & Professional Studies for the MSc Health Promotion, has been selected as a member of the TRI UK Gatorade triathlon team in 2004.



Catering retirements

TWO MEMBERS of the Catering Department have retired after a combined 53 years' service to the College. Jenny Briggs, Director of Facilities & Services, pays tribute to them.

Peter Hoffman

Peter Hoffman first joined King's in 1979 when he joined the Catering Department at the Strand. Swiftly promoted in 1983, Peter became Head of the Catering Department in 1985, following the merger of King's, Queen Elizabeth and Chelsea Colleges.

From that point Peter oversaw numerous high points in the department's operations at the Strand, Kensington and Chelsea and more recently at Denmark Hill. In his 25 years Peter's support for corporate College activity, and his help in developing the all-important conference and vacation trade in the late 1980s and 1990s has been much appreciated by his colleagues.

Most recently, Peter has played a major part in the design of new catering and dining facilities, for the Strand Redevelopment Project and he retires formally from King's just as the work begins on site for this exciting development. We look forward to welcoming him back as the works progress and are completed.

Marcia Lovi

Many former students of King's College School of Medicine & Dentistry will remember Marcia Lovi who supervised the Refectory in the Old Medical School Building, and more recently in the Weston Education Centre.

Marcia worked with the staff and students of KCSMD for a remarkable 28 years, and she retired from the College last summer to return to Spain with her husband. Friends and colleagues were pleased to come together to wish Marcia health and happiness in the future, and to thank her for all her kindness and dedication.



Above: two Catering Services Managers: **Peter Hoffman** (left) with **Terry Hope**

Below: **Marcia Lovi** pictured with another familiar face **Bill Causon**, now the Assistant Site Services Manager at Denmark Hill



DAVID BRAGG

Judith Herrin

Judith Herrin, Professor of Late Antique and Byzantine Studies, joined King's in 1995 from Princeton University. In 2002 she was awarded the Golden Cross of Honour by the President of Greece.

What did you do before coming to King's?

Before coming to King's I held the Stanley J Seeger Chair of Byzantine History at Princeton University, a post that was created so that I could introduce teaching of the subject at both undergraduate and graduate levels. It was a thrilling experience which I greatly enjoyed. But when the job at King's came up I was glad to return.

You were Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies at the College until recently, what does it do?

I was appointed to head the Centre for Hellenic Studies, one of the Humanities Research Centres, well established by my predecessor Professor Averil Cameron, with the co-operation of an active group of people from many departments at King's, who share Hellenic interests. It had already built up a tradition of organising conferences and publishing their proceedings in a series of books.

My first major effort in this field focused on a conference devoted to the Hellenic culture of Alexandria, ancient, medieval and modern. Funds were raised to bring an international array of speakers including the Orthodox Greek Patriarch of Alexandria and the Executive Director of the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The theme, Images of Alexandria, was brilliantly elaborated, making unexpected connections between ancient and



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modern times.

Further conferences followed on the Greek Civil War, Personifications in the Greek World, Images of Socrates, and Logos. Controlling Language: the Greek Experience, takes place in September 2004. By coincidence three volumes in the CHS series will be published this year, so the current Director, Dr Karim Arafat, will launch them at the CHS's Fifteenth Anniversary meeting on 10 May.

With the support of Mr Nicholas Egon, the CHS hosts the Annual Runciman Lecture, which is dedicated to Sir Steven Runciman, a great historian of Byzantium and of the Crusades. This event takes place on the first Thursday of February every year and brings an internationally famous speaker to lecture on a subject related to Hellenism.

What can we learn from Byzantium?

The role of Byzantium is critical to an understanding of medieval history. In the seventh and eighth centuries, the Byzantine Empire's resistance to Islam permitted the West to strengthen its own power and culture, which was directly influenced by Constantinople and sometimes inspired by the East. Byzantium was, of course, seminal in the conversion of Bulgaria, Russia and other Balkan countries to Christianity, and made notable contributions to the European Renaissance and Reformation through its art and theology.

Byzantine scholars preserved and commented on ancient Greek philosophy, drama, mathematics, medicine and Homer's epic poetry, as well as Roman law, which remained in force in Greek translation until the fall of the empire in 1453.

What is your involvement with the Greek and Turkish communities in London?

I am delighted to have helped in the development of the new BA degree in Turkish and Modern Greek Studies, since these countries share major monuments of the Byzantine era and I have spent many years in both. In this collaboration with the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), King's is making an important contribution to better mutual understanding of two distinct but related cultures.

For this new degree,

undergraduates will study both languages, with the relevant history and culture, including the year abroad which makes such a difference. This important new venture will also be expanded to graduate study.

We hope that a deeper knowledge of the shared roots of their cultures, the intertwined history of their modern countries, and an awareness of contemporary issues, such as Turkey's application to join the EU, will present a beacon for this field of combined study.

What are your research interests?

Professors today must combine teaching and training at both undergraduate and graduate levels, with entrepreneurial development and fundraising, and research and publishing. College and university administration, national evaluations and international projects also require time and it is hard to balance these demands.

Since *The Formation of Christendom*, which surveyed the entire post-Roman world from AD 500-850, I have published widely across the field of Byzantine history. I collected descriptions of daily life from a great variety of sources for *A Medieval Miscellany*. In *Women in Purple* I examined three exceptional Byzantine empresses who had a real influence on medieval development.

I am currently working on another Byzantine book and after that I would love to devote time to a history of Ravenna, the city known for its magnificent Byzantine mosaics rather than for its significance as a great metropolis. Between the fifth and eighth centuries AD, however, Ravenna filled the role of capital city, competing with Rome which suffered a gradual decline. The abundant sources, both Latin and Greek, and outstanding art and architecture make this most exciting and challenging.

175th anniversary

Citizenship Symposia

THIS SYMPOSIA SERIES (see *Comment 151*) continues on Thursday 13 May with Does the NHS treat its patients as citizens? in the Governors' Hall, St Thomas' Hospital.



The speakers are Sir Ian Kennedy, Shadow Chair, Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection, and former Head of the School of Law at King's, and Lord Sutherland, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and former Principal of King's. Professor Sir Graeme Catto, Vice-Principal of King's will take the chair.



Top: Sir Ian Kennedy
Bottom: Lord Sutherland

To register attendance please contact the Central Enquiries Unit on ext 2929 or email events@kcl.ac.uk

Alumni Weekend: 11–13 June 2004

A WEEKEND OF EVENTS has been planned for alumni to celebrate the College's 175th anniversary. Details can be found on the Alumni webpages (www.kcl.ac.uk/alumni) or by contacting the Office on ext 3364.

Staff and students are particularly welcome to attend a lecture entitled The Dimensions of the American Military Experience by Professor Brian Holden Reid, Head of the Department of War Studies, on Friday 11 at 17.30 in the Weston Room, Maughan Library.

Also, on Saturday 12 a debate entitled Religion, Queen of the Sciences – are science and religion inextricably intertwined or inevitably opposed? will be held at 16.00 in the Arthur & Paula Lucas Lecture Theatre, Strand campus. Speakers will include the Revd Dr John Polkinghorne KBE FRS, formerly President of Queen's College, Cambridge and Professor of Mathematical Physics, Dr Fraser Watts, Starbridge Lecturer in Theology and the Natural Sciences at Cambridge and Dr Stephen Minger, Lecturer in Biomolecular Sciences at King's.

Global Partnerships Symposium

THIS ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM is a celebration and promotion of international partnerships in higher education. King's has enjoyed a wide range of international links since its foundation and the aim of the symposium is to help foster and develop collaborations between schools, research disciplines and international institutions, and promote exchanges.

The event, to be held on 23 June in Lecture Theatre 1, New Hunt's House, Guy's campus, is aimed at vice-chancellors, international officers, senior administrators, academics, researchers and anyone interested in globalisation and exchange.

Discourses will be interspersed with panel discussions and will include:

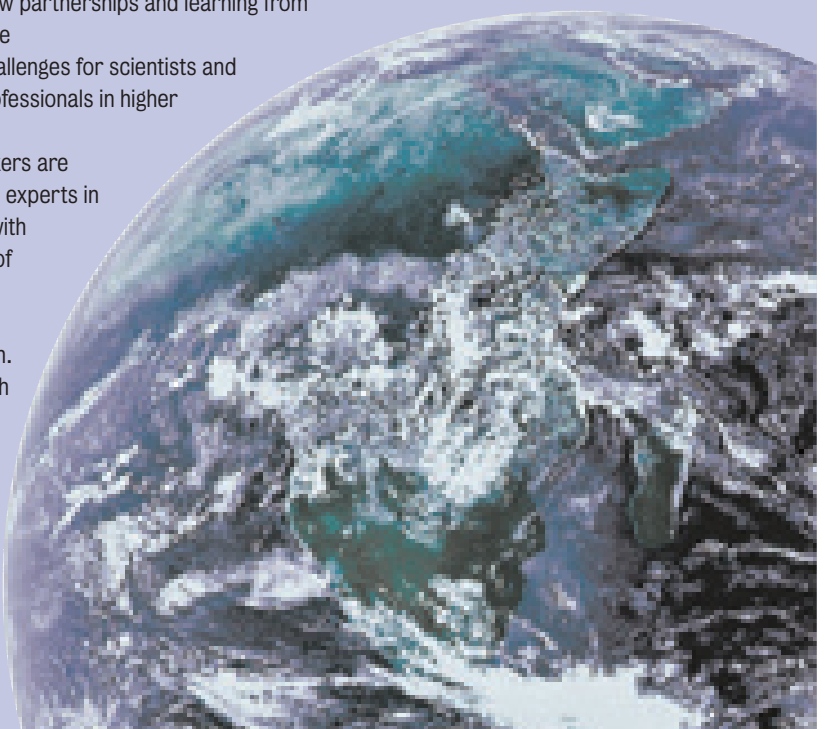
- educational and research challenges across the world
- educating the healthcare workforce of the future
- importance of international research collaboration
- forging new partnerships and learning from experience
- ethical challenges for scientists and health professionals in higher education

The speakers are international experts in their fields with experience of promoting international collaboration. Together with King's

participants, they include major academics from the College's overseas partner institutions. The speakers include:

- **Professor Sir Graeme Catto**, Vice Principal, King's and President of the GMC
- **Professor Sir Cyril Chantler**, Chairman, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Former Dean of the Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Schools of Medicine & Dentistry
- **Dr David Cornblath**, Director, Neurology EMG Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University
- **Professor Michael Gibbons**, Secretary General of the ACU
- **Professor Michael Johns**, Director, Robert W Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory University
- **Professor Stephen Parker**, Deputy-Vice Chancellor and Vice-President, Monash University
- **Professor Mark Walport**, Director, The Wellcome Trust

To attend please contact Rachel Harnett on ext 3103 or email rachel.harnett@kcl.ac.uk



Mud, murder and John of Gaunt

Geoff Browell, Archives & Corporate Records Services, provides background to the College's original building at the Strand as the current major refurbishment begins.

WHEN KING'S College was first established in 1828 it was without a home. The interim Provisional Committee charged with setting up the College considered dozens of suggestions submitted by members of the public, including locations near Guy's Hospital and next to London Zoo in Regent's Park. This latter proposal was defeated by the objections of local residents, which the national press joked owed more to a fear of the break-out of prospective students than an escape of wild animals.

The problem was finally solved when the Crown granted its largely vacant Strand estate to the

College in June 1829. Supporters of the College were divided on the merits of the site, with critics complaining that the naïve young students risked being led astray by the numerous local pubs and theatres or menaced by the proximity of the slums that comprised Dickens' notorious 'rookery'.

Danes

The story of the King's site was often colourful and dramatic. It was first occupied by the Anglo-Saxons and a Danish colony established in the ninth century, close to the site of the present church of St Clement Danes. During the 14th century the

southern portion of the Strand, including the future College, formed part of the Savoy estate of John of Gaunt, whose fabulous palace was located beneath the present Savoy Hotel and which was seriously damaged by rioters during the Peasants' Revolt in 1381.

Prior to the Reformation, when the Strand became the preserve of powerful nobles, the site was home to a series of magnificent bishops' residences. These old buildings were swept away by the Protector Somerset's new palace in 1549. The original Somerset House was the popular venue for Tudor and Stuart royalty and aristocracy, and it was when it was the residence of Queen Anne of Denmark, consort of James I, that it hosted the famous 1604 Anglo-Spanish Peace Conference. (The anniversary of this conference is being celebrated this year in a series of summer events jointly organised by Somerset House and King's – see *Comment* 152).

Two new wings for public functions were added to the Palace in the early 17th century. One was above what is now the north end of the College car park, and the other behind a façade of town houses accommodating a multitude of businesses including printers, taverns and brothels, and even the residence of the famous astrologer, William Lilly. The remainder of the site was a

peaceful riverside refuge from the noisy bustle of the city to the east, comprising one of the earliest herb gardens in England, tree-lined walks and bowling greens.

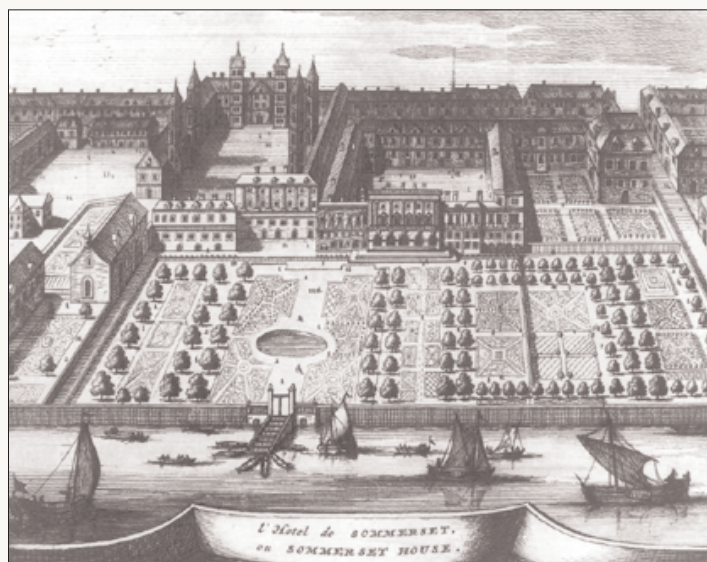
Smirke

The old Somerset House was demolished and replaced in the 1770s with the present buildings, then containing government offices and space for the Royal Society. The King's plot remained a complex of overgrown ruins until work began on the College in 1829. Its architect, Sir Robert Smirke, was responsible for a number of important public commissions including the British Museum. However, he faced serious logistical difficulties when work began, particularly as the site was surrounded by other buildings and largely inaccessible. He was also required to ensure that the river frontage conformed to the neo-classical style of the neighbouring Somerset House. During the building, theft of materials was a problem and a suspected murderer was even apprehended among the labourers.

Smirke demolished two houses in the Strand to improve pedestrian access, while building materials arrived by barge on the river. An average of 300 workmen were engaged at any one time in laying the foundations, which were sunk to a depth of 20 feet using cement that would harden in the waterlogged ground. The main structure was to a high specification in Portland stone and incorporated several advanced features such as fire breaks and chimney flues that could be cleaned by machine rather than using children.

Building was rapid and completed in time for the official opening in October 1831, by which time it had cost nearly £86,000. The work of King's College was now ready to begin.

The garden of Somerset House in the 17th century



Social Care Unit set up

A NEW Social Care Workforce Research Unit has been established at King's as part of the International Policy Institute (IPI) in the School of Social Science & Public Policy.

With funding from the Department of Health, the Unit will be conducting research into issues relating to the social care workforce. It is currently working on various research projects, continuing work developed by the former National Institute for Social Research Unit, with new interests and activities around the social care workforce as a whole. There are seven members of the Unit and the Co-Directors are Professors Peter Huxley and Jill Manthorpe.

'The Unit aims to generate knowledge, to provide information, advice and recommendations for policymakers, service providers, employers and social care service user and carer groups,' explained Professor Manthorpe.

The Unit's main focus is on the description and investigation of interpersonal, policy- and service-related issues that affect the capacity of the social care workforce to promote best practice in employment and training, and to achieve the highest quality care and best outcomes for service users.

She continued: 'With more than a million people working in social care in the UK, and over 66,000 employers of all sizes and types, workforce intelligence is crucial to the quality of care and service planning.'

King's study cited by US Government

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE provided by a recent research study¹ undertaken by scientists from the Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Division, School of Health & Life Sciences at King's, has been used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the USA to advise companies to cease distributing products sold as dietary supplements that contain the steroid androstenedione.

Androstenedione, also known as andro, is a steroid produced within the body and is naturally converted to other steroids, including the male hormone, testosterone.

An FDA press release stated 'While andro products may seem to have short-term benefits, the science shows that these same properties create real and significant health risks'.

The FDA launched a White Paper in March on the 'Health Effects of Androstenedione'. Over the last ten years, androstenedione has been readily available as a dietary supplement and has been sold without restriction in most countries, including the USA and UK.

Manufacturers market androstenedione as a 'prohormone' that can increase blood testosterone concentration, resulting in increased lean body mass and strength. It is available in capsules containing 50 to 300 mg of the steroid and the manufacturers suggest that the 'desired' effects can be gained by taking 100 to 300 mg/day orally.

There have been a number of

studies on the effects of ingestion of such doses of androstenedione on blood testosterone in men, the results indicating no to very modest increases, although potentially harmful increases in female hormones occur.

By contrast, the effect of androstenedione ingestion in women has not been reported until recently by two groups, one in the USA and the other at King's – the two studies being referred to in the US White Paper. Both studies report large increases in blood testosterone following administration.

'In the King's investigation, it was found that ingestion of a single dose (100 mg) of androstenedione caused blood testosterone in ten young women to increase by an average of 16-fold, well into the high end of the male range, concentrations being similar to those encountered in abuse of

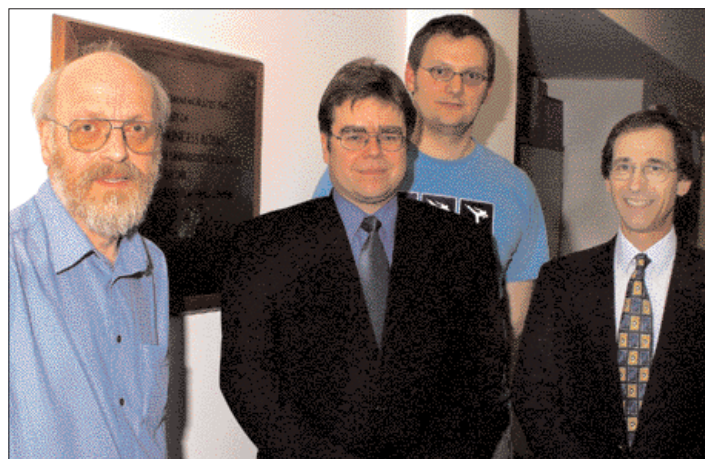
testosterone for anabolic purposes,' explains Dr Andy Kicman, Head of Research, Drug Control Centre

It follows that, if androstenedione was repeatedly used, it may cause irreversible masculinising effects in women. Worried by potential risks of 'andro' to the health of both men and women, the FDA has sent warning letters to 23 companies asking them to cease distributing products sold as dietary supplements that contain androstenedione and warning them that they could face enforcement actions if they do not take appropriate steps.

Within the UK, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency regard androstenedione as a medicinal substance and have already notified companies who supply this steroid as a supplement.

¹Kicman, Bassindale, Cowan, Dale, Hutt and Leeds

The study's authors: from left, Dr Andrew Hutt, Dr Andrew Kicman, Thomas Bassindale and Professor David Cowan



Library and Archives Visiting Fellowships

NOW IN ITS second year of operation, the College's Library and Archives Visiting Fellowship scheme provides financial support to advanced researchers from all over the world who wish to make prolonged use of the collections held in either the Foyle Special Collections Library at Chancery Lane or the College Archives and Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives at the Strand.

'Visiting fellowship schemes of this type are fairly common in the large North American research libraries but King's is one of the first

UK higher education institutions to introduce a scheme of this kind,' explains Katie Sambrook, the Special Collections Librarian.

Applications are judged both on their intrinsic academic merit and on the use of the College's Special Collections or Archives which the project proposal will involve.

Up to three visiting fellowships are awarded each year and the recipients may take up the fellowship whenever they wish during the course of the academic year. Each fellow is assigned a 'home' academic department and is

encouraged to become fully involved in College life during the term of the fellowship.

'The benefits of the scheme to the fellows are obvious: financial support, scholarly contact and affiliation, and the opportunity to make prolonged use of a major research library in the heart of London,' she continued. 'It also raises the international profile of our significant research library and archival collections, builds links with academic institutions all over the world, and fosters new and exciting research.'

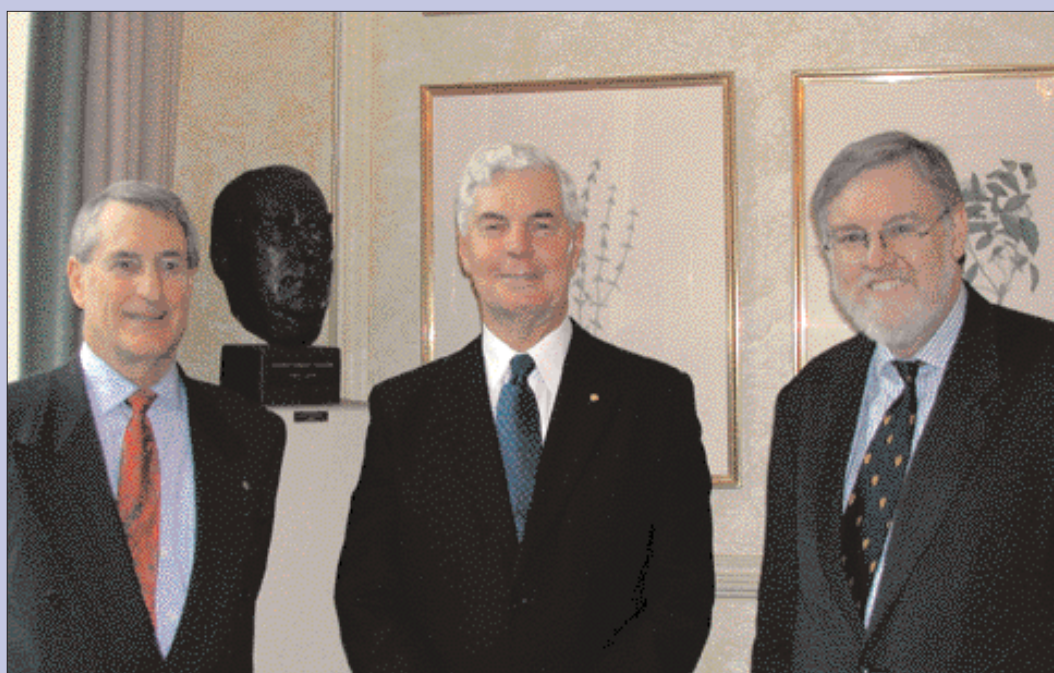
The three Library and Archives Visiting Fellows for 2004-2005 are:

- Dr Elizabeth Greenhalgh of the Australian Defence Force Academy, University of New South Wales, who is researching the military career of Marshal Foch
 - Dr Devoney Looser of the University of Missouri-Columbia, who is researching British women writers and old age from 1750 to 1850
 - Dr Shef Rogers of the University of Otago, who is researching 18th century English travel literature.
- In addition, a discretionary award has been made to Anna Greening, archivist at Queen's College, London, who is researching a topic of particular interest to the College in this 175th anniversary year – the role of F D Maurice in the formulation of educational policy at King's and Queen's College, now a noted girls' school.

Governor-General visit

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA, Michael Jeffery, visited the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, part of the School of Humanities, in March

The Governor-General is the Queen's representative in Australia undertaking ceremonial roles such as opening parliament and the greeting of visiting foreign heads of state. His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery was in the UK to meet The Queen as is tradition in the first year in office of a new Governor-General. During his stay he visited the Menzies Centre where he learnt about the Centre's role in promoting scholarly and public understanding of Australia's history, politics, economy, life and culture in Britain and Europe, as well as talking to some of the Centre's students.



From left: Michael Cook, Menzies Centre Chairman, HE Major General Michael Jeffery, Governor-General of Australia, and Professor Carl Bridge, Head of the Menzies Centre

King's collaborates in hospitals technology project

ON 5 April MATCH (Multidisciplinary Assessment of Technology Centre for Healthcare) was launched in Whitehall.

MATCH is a £6-10 million, five year collaboration between King's and the universities of Nottingham, Ulster, Birmingham and Brunel, and a cohort of industrial partners, aimed at speeding the transition of critical medical technologies from the research lab into hospitals, homes and clinics.

At the launch, Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation, praised MATCH as 'an extremely good example of a knowledge transfer partnership which can help the flow of world-class science and technology out of our universities and into industry.'

'MATCH is expected to set new standards in UK academic-industrial collaboration to boost the competitiveness of the British healthcare industry,' comments Dr Jane Gate, Business Development Manager, Medicine and Healthcare, KCL Enterprises.

Around 20 companies have already signed up to the partnership, and support is steadily rising, augmenting MATCH's unprecedented resources, which include £4.3 million from the Engineering

and Physical Sciences Research Council, the DTI, the National Patients Safety Agency, and Invest Northern Ireland.

Combined with similar sums from industry in cash and 'in-kind' commitments, MATCH will be able to create a critical mass of leading research and business talent, focused on developing faster and better methods to bring healthcare products to market.

Matching partners: the MATCH team with Lord Sainsbury and industrial partners. Far right is Dr Patricia Grocott, Research Fellow, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, the King's lead academic for the programme



iGrad training programme

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES' mission is to enhance the experience of graduate students in the six Health Science schools at King's.

Part of this process is to support and provide a programme of transferable skills training for postgraduate research students. This includes the latest initiative, the 'iGrad' programme, which is designed to enhance information retrieval and IT skills.

Student enthusiasm for this new project comes from Sarah Wooderson, a third year PhD student at the Institute of Psychiatry. She says that participation on a number of courses on the iGrad IT training programme has been very rewarding.

'The 'Word Quick Tips' and 'Long Documents' sessions are just two of the many courses that have helped me. In just two three-hour sessions I

was equipped with a range of skills that are highly relevant to writing my thesis and useful transferable skills. Now that I have started to write up my thesis, it's made life much easier knowing how to go about setting up paragraphs, indexes, tables of contents, headers and footers etc,' she says.

'Not only would I recommend that PhD students enrol on as many of these courses as possible, I would also strongly suggest that their supervisors play an active role in encouraging them to do so. After all, it's in their interests to have a more confident, efficient and competent student working for them!'

See www.kcl.ac.uk/igrad

King's-Monash conference

THE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE between King's and Monash University has given rise to a new initiative to support joint conferences at the Monash Prato Centre.

Acting Principal Professor Barry Ife, and Monash Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Larkins have agreed to commit the equivalent of £10,000 each annually to jointly sponsor Monash-King's conferences at Prato for five years.

'This initiative is an ideal way to progress collaborative research and academic endeavour between King's and Monash,' said Professor Ife.

An open bidding contest is proposed as a way of building bridges between cognate areas. Relevant departments and schools at King's and Monash will be invited to submit joint conference proposals. Guidelines will be disseminated soon and also available on the Monash London website www.monash.ac.uk

Forthcoming King's-Monash collaborative conferences at Prato include an International Palliative Care Nursing Research Conference in 8-10 June 2004 and a Clinical Skills Conference in May 2005. A proposal for one on Mediterranean Encounters: Australian and British in September 2005 could involve a range of areas in the humanities and social sciences.

Student news

New sabbaticals

KCLSU elections were held in March. The new full-time sabbaticals, who will take up their posts on 1 September, are:

President: Michael Champion (succeeds David Dunne)

VP Education & Representation: Rajesh 'Josh' Joshi (succeeds Polly Mackwood)

VP Sites & Services: Lee Peterson (succeeds Caristeen Hickey)

VP Media & Publications: Samantha Williams (succeeds Alexi Duggins)

VP Student Activities: Ben Philips (succeeds Toby Boon)

There was a turnout of 2,233 out of a potential 19,000.

Prizewinners

Polly Mackwood, VP Education & Representation, has been nominated 'London Student of the Year' in a competition run by Waterstones to find the most dynamic student across the University of London.

David Dunne, KCLSU President, has been awarded the President's Cup: a University of London Union (ULU) award given by the ULU President, Chris Piper, for the student he thinks has done the most for ULU throughout the year.

Alexi Duggins, VP Media & Publications and editor of *Roar*, has been elected as editor of *London Student* for next year.

HE debate

Politicians representing the three main parties took part in a debate on the future of higher



Above: Michael Champion and Samantha Williams celebrate their election victory

Below: The panel discuss higher education

education in the UK. It was organised by the Students' Union as part of the 175th anniversary celebrations.

Stephen McCabe MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education, Chris Grayling MP, Shadow UK Minister for Public Services, Health & Education, and David Rendel MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for higher education, took part in the debate held on 16 March in the Auditorium of the Franklin-Wilkins Building.

The Acting Principal, Professor Barry Ife, and David Dunne, KCLSU President, were also part of the panel which was chaired by Chris Piper, President, University of London and former KCLSU President. Debate centred on the university funding reforms that have been outlined in the Higher Education Bill, and there was a spirited question-time session to end.



Student Recruitment successes

Careers Conference

The Student Recruitment and Widening Participation teams held a Careers Teachers' Conference on 10 March at the Waterloo campus. Sixty careers teachers and advisers from across the UK attended the event.

Given the range of issues students now face when considering their higher education options, the Conference's aim was to provide the careers advisers with up-to-date information about the College and answer questions regarding King's provisions for students.

The day included talks covering admissions criteria and the personal statement, degree programmes and graduate destinations, student finance and student support and welfare. Careers teachers had the opportunity to meet College staff from each of the undergraduate schools of study to discuss individual departments and degree programmes in greater depth.

Claire Gascoigne, Higher Education Marketing Officer, commented: 'The feedback we received from the attendees was very positive, and we hope that the Conference will become a regular event.'

Manchester Information Evening

Student Recruitment held their third annual Information Evening in Manchester on 26 March at the People History Museum. This year there was an impressive attendance of 160.

'The evening offered prospective undergraduate students and their parents the opportunity to find out more about King's and the realities of student life in London, which often has a negative perception outside the M25,' commented Claire Gascoigne.

In addition to talks on the College, finance and accommodation, current King's students spoke about their own reasons for and the experience of moving to the capital to study, and were able to offer positive insights about studying at King's. A similar evening was held in Bristol on 6 May.

CTR celebrates 10th anniversary

Professor Ian Groves FIEE, Visiting Professor in the King's Centre for Telecommunications Research, reflects on the history of the Centre and examines the research opportunities for the future.

AS THE COLLEGE CELEBRATES its 175th anniversary, the King's Centre for Telecommunications Research (CTR), the leading UK research laboratory in the area of wireless communications, is marking its tenth year of operation.

Celebrations include an Open Day for industry and academia on 19 May and a dinner on 20 May, with Dr David Goodman of WinLab, USA, the guest speaker. This coincides with the 4G Forum: an annual international workshop established by CTR two years ago to explore, within a wider commercial context, future emerging wireless technologies worldwide.

As third generation (3G) mobile networks begin to roll out commercially, the research interests move naturally to explore what the fourth generation (4G) will comprise.

The pioneering work in telecommunications at King's stretches from the mid-19th to the 21st century. Charles Wheatstone joined King's in 1834 as its first Professor of Experimental Philosophy and pioneered the electric telegraph from the late 1830s. Sir Edward Appleton received the Nobel Prize in 1947 for his identification of atmospheric layers crucial for wireless transmission, while the current CTR Director Professor Hamid Aghvami FREng, is an international leader in mobile communications technology.

Early days

CTR had its early beginnings at King's and Chelsea Colleges in the 1970s (see *Comment 141*).

Telecommunications had developed from the wire telegraph of Wheatstone's day and the first demonstration of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876 to become, by the early 1980s, a universal world-wide network of wired communication systems.

In the mid 1980s, however, two 'disruptive'

technologies appeared that are revolutionising modern telecommunications: first cellular or mobile telephones, and subsequently the Internet and, more specifically, the World Wide Web.

The next few years will see a merger of mobile communications and the Internet, enabling the users of tomorrow's mobiles not only to access the Web, but also to make transactions, conduct business, link up with friends and family, play games, watch videos and listen to and download music – a process starting to emerge now with the advent of 3G mobile phone networks.

The Internet

This merger of mobile communications and the Internet provides a far greater challenge than the transition from fixed lines to mobile phones for voice services because of the diversity of multimedia user applications. Wireless links are intrinsically unreliable and variable in quality. There is a shortage of radio spectrum set aside exclusively

for mobile communications use – witness the very high prices paid by mobile operators in the auctions for 3G radio spectrum.

Users are becoming increasingly mobile and making connections to a variety of indoor and outdoor, local and wide area coverage radio networks; this in turn increases the complexity of the infrastructure of the networks which must locate, track, authenticate and bill the users correctly. CTR is providing leadership for academic institutions to take a wider and longer view of the whole process of mobile wireless communications.

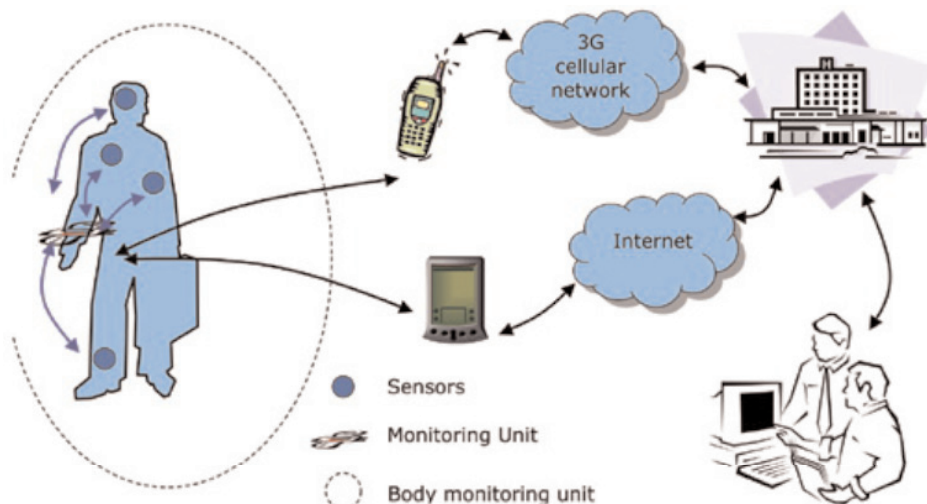
The research agenda of the Network Group at CTR spans a wide range of state-of-art Wireless Networking issues representing goal-oriented research themes which form part of various national/European or Industry-based funding research topics. (See *Comment 147*)

The Radio Access Team is developing wireless transceiver technologies that allow the transfer of very high data rates over a limited radio spectrum. The team has evaluated 3G technologies and is now actively researching into 4G systems which will allow ultra-high data rates anywhere at any time to anybody.

An increasingly important area of research in mobile communications is the potential for mobile terminals to be reconfigured. Reconfiguration could be the installation of a new radio interface/multiple access system, upgrades of terminal functionality or operating system.

This prestigious national and international research will continue in CTR's new home at Drury Lane.

The image shows an overview of how the various radio and network technologies might integrate into a future application for health monitoring. A range of sensors attached to a patient can monitor conditions which may alert a local medical centre to offer help and advice, or in the extreme be prepared for a medical emergency admission.



Sara García Peralta (1947 – 2004)

Dr Sara Elena García Peralta, who was born and raised in Argentina, joined King's in 1991 after teaching posts in the Dominican Republic, in France and at Reading University where she had obtained her PhD in applied Linguistics. At King's she led the Spanish teaching team in the then Language and Communication Centre before becoming Programme Director – effectively both Manager and Director of Studies – of the restructured Modern Language Centre in 1997.

During her time at King's Sara presided over two very difficult transitions. The first, the creation of the Modern Language Centre as a re-modelled unit, was a complex exercise and a potentially bruising experience for staff, but was successful largely due to her own combination of efficiency and sensitivity. She found herself supervising a large department hosting a volatile mix of cultures with a remit which also involved balancing academic and entrepreneurial priorities.

Her success in seeing these

changes through was followed by a very rapid expansion in the Centre's teaching, both on degree programmes and external courses, and again Sara played a crucial part, in liaising with colleagues across the newly-merged College, in the skilful deployment of staff and, perhaps above all, in understanding the real needs of individual students and the problems they sometimes encounter.

Her busy and demanding role left her almost no time for research, but Sara saw herself above all as a teacher and promoter of teaching and learning. Her qualities, of determination and absolute dedication to the task in hand, together with a tenderness and fellow-feeling which she couldn't conceal, inspired fierce loyalty and respect from her fellow teachers and enormous affection from the students to whom she taught Spanish or Applied Linguistics. An ideal colleague and a consummate professional, she never indulged in either small-talk or gossip, but privately cultivated a mischievous sense of humour and a wry appreciation of life's absurdities.

Sara had lived with progressive illness for many years, but had never at any time allowed the fact to interfere with her professional duties. It therefore came as a shock

to many of her students and colleagues when in February this year her condition very suddenly deteriorated and she was taken from us – before she had had time to make all the arrangements she had carefully envisaged, but not before she had received messages of affection and concern from a huge number of well-wishers from King's and elsewhere. A memorial service for Dr García Peralta will take place in the College in May.

Tony Thorne
Director of Language Services

Derek Glass (1944 – 2004)

With the sudden and untimely death of **Derek Glass** at the end of March, the Department of German has been deprived of its longest-serving member of staff, a much-loved colleague and teacher, and a scholar highly regarded by his professional peers. Generations of former students remember him with affection as their first point of contact with the Department in his capacity as Admissions Tutor, a role which he fulfilled for more than 20 years.

Educated at Leeds Grammar School and at New College, Oxford, where he was awarded an outstanding First, Derek was appointed to King's in 1967. His principal area of teaching and research was the literature of the 19th century. His teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels ranged widely over the period in courses on the Novelle, realist fiction, drama, and poetry.

Informed by a profound understanding of 19th century history and a keen sense of style and literary values, his teaching was entirely undogmatic and aimed



Derek Glass

above all to encourage students in the development of their own ideas; these he treated with the utmost respect, while seeking gently to mould them through discussion and the detailed marginal comments which he was renowned for making on their written work. Students responded warmly to his unpretentious manner and his regard for each one of them as individuals, and many remained in contact with him long after leaving the Department.

Derek's meticulous and patient scholarship bore fruit particularly in his contributions to bibliography and the history of literary translation. Descriptive and bibliographical essays on Theodore Fontane in English translation and in translations into other languages set new standards for the study of this author's reception world-wide, and they established Derek's international reputation in these fields. Important further work on Fontane was in progress at the time of his death.

The expertise demonstrated in his Fontane studies led to his most significant undertaking, a

continued over page

Dr Sara García Peralta



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bibliography of translations of Goethe into English made in the 20th century. This work was commissioned by the English Goethe Society and will be published in the Bibliography Series of the Modern Humanities Research Association. The product of intensive research over several years, it contains many discoveries, bearing testimony to Derek's consummate skill and persistence as a bibliographer. The final touches were put to this volume at the beginning of this year. Sadly, Derek will not see it in print, but it will certainly attain the status of a standard work of reference and will be a fitting monument to his scholarship.

The last of his work which Derek lived to see in print appeared in the three-volume *Internationales Germanistenlexikon 1800-1950*, published in 2003, for which he wrote entries (partly co-authored with John Flood) on several Professors of German in the University, including two who had occupied the Chair at King's. These historical articles bear witness to the commitment to his subject and to his Department which characterised Derek throughout.

During his 37 years at King's he did much to shape the character of the Department: through his eye for the potential in applicants whom a less discerning Admissions Tutor might have rejected, through his firm grasp of what was essential in a humanistic education, and through his unassuming, courteous, and ever-helpful dealings with students and colleagues. Those who had the privilege of studying and working with the gentle and cultivated man that Derek was will miss him sorely.

Martin Jones

Head of the Department of German

News in brief

Online pg form

A new online postgraduate application form has been launched. The form has been created by Studylink, working with the Academic Registry and with the support of the Student Recruitment & Exchanges Department. As well as good for potential students, it is very useful to the College, particularly in facilitating the recording of applicant information.

Advantages to the student include the speed with which they can apply, the flexibility of the system and the ability to track progress. The online form is currently accessible from the online postgraduate prospectus www.kcl.ac.uk/pgp04/

Global success

The handbook, *A Human Rights Approach Prison Management*, written by Professor Andrew Coyle, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies, and launched by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in November 2002, has now, or is about to be, translated into more than ten languages. The handbook is well on the way to becoming the principal international reference text for prison management. The latest government to order copies for prison staff is Brazil with 40,000 editions being distributed. It is also used by the British Council and the United Nations.

e-learning

Are you involved with or interested in e-learning at King's? There are two recent developments: one, the formation of the e-Learning Project Board, chaired by the Acting Principal, Professor Barry Ife, to provide guidance over College-wide e-learning. The second is the formation of the Educational Interest Group for E-learning and Research (EIGER) as a teaching and research forum. See www.kcl.ac.uk/elearning, which will be regularly updated with news and developments.

Dignity at work

King's has developed A Dignity at Work Policy which outlines the College's, line managers' and employees' responsibilities in achieving and maintaining an environment free from harassment and bullying.

The procedure includes a process for staff to raise issues informally, and formally by lodging a complaint. A central feature of the policy is the role of Contact Officers who will be specially trained to offer advice and support to staff who believe that they or their colleagues have been subjected to harassment/bullying. If you would like to become a Contact Officer, and receive full training, contact Sarah Peskett, Personnel Administrator on ext 3471 or e-mail sarah.peskett@kcl.ac.uk

Confirmation Service

This year's College Confirmation Service will be taken by Bishop Edward Holland (AKC 1964) formerly Suffragan of Europe 1986-95 and Bishop of Colchester 1995-2001, and now retired but Assistant Bishop in London. This, the last service of the academic year, will take place in the Chapel at the Strand on 9 June at 13.00.

Fit 4 Uni?

A series of free Wednesday afternoon sessions to prepare local students for higher education has been organised by Aspire (Aspire Aimhigher South East London, a partnership of King's, Goldsmiths, South Bank and Greenwich). King's is running sessions, aimed at local FE and sixth form students, on study skills, managing money and stress-busting. For more information, contact King's Aspire Project Officer, Ali Redford, on ext 3479 or email aspire@kcl.ac.uk

Annual lecture

The Department of Education & Professional Studies are holding their annual lecture on 17 June in the Great Hall at the Strand campus at 17.30. The lecture, entitled Education for sale! The commodification of everything, will be given by Professor Stephen Ball of the Institute of Education and a former Professor of Education in the School of Education at King's.

Reunions and events

THERE HAVE been a number of reunion and events held recently. Listed below are details on some of them.

Dental Clinical Day

This year's Dental Institute Clinical Day took place on 28 February and was a great success. More than 300 dentists attended the day, which is recognised for verifiable Continuing Professional Development. The Herbert Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Edwina Kidd, Professor of Cariology in the Division of Conservative Dentistry. The newly formed GKT Dental Alumni Association held its AGM during the day.

The Dental Clinical Day 2005 will be held on Saturday 5 March. Contact the Alumni Office for details.

John Williams Memorial Service

Around 100 alumni and current and former King's staff joined family members in the Chapel at the Strand on 9 March to remember

John Glyn Williams FKC. John Williams, who studied Spanish at King's and graduated with a BA in 1958, was a member of the KCLA Council throughout the 1990s and made an enormous contribution to the development and importance of the KCLA.

New former staff group

Nearly 80 King's alumni met at the College on 26 March and proved that you don't have to be a graduate to be counted as an alumnus. A group of former members of both academic and support staff, from King's and the merged institutions, met in the Council Room at the Strand for lunch and the inaugural meeting of the King's College London Former Staff Association.

After lunch Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Vice-Principal gave a talk on the current defence and intelligence issues particularly related to affairs in Iraq and Palestine.

The group is the initiative of Dr Barrie Morgan FKC, formerly Director of External Relations at

King's, who was very pleased by the level of support. He commented: 'It is a great tribute to King's that the institution both pre- and post-mergers is held in such high regard by its former employees.' The group will meet again in the autumn. Former members of staff who would like more information should contact: Dr Barrie Morgan, c/o the Alumni Office or by email: b.morgan67@ntlworld.com

US alumni events

King's alumni in New York and surrounding districts enthusiastically supported a social event held at a cocktail bar in Manhattan at the end of March. A good mix of alumni of all ages and professions, including recent graduates and Junior Year Abroad students came along and support for King's through the American Friends of King's College London was strengthened.

Vice Principal, Professor Sir Graeme Catto, and Chairman of Council, Baroness Rawlings, were hosts at a reception held at the Harvard Faculty Club for King's alumni from the Boston area. Professor Catto gave a talk entitled Are Doctors Good for our Health?

Professors John and Diane Greenspan, both alumni of the Royal Dental Hospital, welcomed around 50 alumni and friends of the College living in the San Francisco area to a reception at their home at the end of April. Professor Nairn Wilson,

Alumni fundraising

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE is happy to report another successful telephone fundraising campaign for the King's Annual Fund and the Guy's, King's & St Thomas' Annual Fund. During the four-week campaign in March, student callers contacted more than 3,000 alumni who together donated nearly £30,000. The Development Trust will meet this month to disburse the funds raised this year – currently around £200,000.

Dean of the Dental Institute, was the guest of honour.

American alumni support an annual scholarship for an American student who is accepted onto a one-year full-time Masters degree in any discipline offered by the College.

Principal's Concert

On 22 April more than 250 alumni donors attended the traditional Principal's Concert and Reception held in recognition of their support for the Annual Fund and GKT Fund. The concert was performed by students of the Department of Music.

The reception after the Principal's Concert



Forthcoming events

ALL STAFF are invited to attend any of the following. For further details please contact the Alumni Office on alumoff@kcl.ac.uk or ext 3364.

175th anniversary Alumni Weekend

See page 12 for details.

IoP Reunion

Former students, former staff and

friends of the IoP are welcome to attend the first IoP reunion on 26 June. After an afternoon of talks, visits and debate there will be an opportunity to catch up with contemporaries and IoP staff, past and present, at the reunion drinks reception.

KCLA Anniversary Dinner & AGM

This will be held on 8 October in the Great Hall.

In the news



Madrid bombing

Following the atrocities in Spain, academics were extremely busy with national and international media requests. **Mr Diego Muro** and **Dr Stephen Jacobson**, Lecturers in Modern Spanish History and European Studies, were interviewed on Spanish politics and the Spanish election result. In the International Policy Institute, Centre for Defence Studies, and International Centre for Security Analysis, **Professor Michael Clarke**, **Air Marshal Sir Tim Garden**, **Dr Paul Cornish**, **Dr John Gearson**, **Mr Bill Durodié**, and **Mr Andrew Garfield** were all interviewed about terrorism by most national news channels and broadsheets. ¶

Testing times

Dr Bethan Marshall, Lecturer in English Education, wrote several articles in the *Guardian* about the key stage 3 Shakespeare paper, and in the *Independent* about national curriculum tests in England. She was also quoted in the *Guardian* and the *Sunday Telegraph* about the teaching and testing of Shakespeare, and on assessment in the *TES*. Dr Marshall also wrote an opinion piece in the *Independent* about the difficulties schools face in filling senior positions. ¶

Robotic reception

The Times and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* produced articles about the development and use of Inkha the robot in the Strand reception by **Mr Matthew Walker**, a College alumnus and animatronics consultant. Both Mr Walker and **Dr Mark Miodownik**, Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, were subsequently interviewed on *Research TV* about their work, the footage of which was also broadcast on international television stations including CNN. ¶

Language barrier

Mr Tony Thorne, Director of Language Services, was interviewed on Radio 4's *The Art of Indecision* about how indecision – often feigned – is built into the linguistic behaviour of many British speakers. He was also interviewed by Vanessa Feltz on BBC Radio London following the publication of the Plain English Campaign's report condemning the use of clichés in communication, and subsequently on slang and street language and its affect on declining literacy among young people. He was quoted in an article in *Metro* about the use of slang in the workplace. ¶

Killing truths

Professor Clive Coen, GKT Centre for Neuroscience Research, and **Dr Gary Sheffield**, Defence Studies Department, were interviewed for the Channel 4 documentary *The Truth About Killing*. The programme looked at the brutality of conflict, the reality of death in warfare and the psychology of killing. ¶

Allergies and asthma

Professor Peter Burney, Head of Public Health Sciences, was interviewed on BBC Breakfast from the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network conference in Brussels at which he was delivering a paper on the epidemiology of allergy and asthma. ¶

Unusual questions?

Several King's academics answered curious questions posed in 'The Science Behind the News' in the *Guardian* recently. **Simon Lovestone**, Professor of Old Age Psychiatry, responded to the question of how the new 'mind viagra' works, and

Jeremy Ward, Professor of Respiratory Cell Physiology, explained the physiology of death by crucifixion. ¶

Downfall

Dr Peter Hallward, Lecturer in the French Department, wrote an article in the *Guardian* regarding the downfall of the Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Dr Hallward discussed the events leading to Aristide's removal from office, and the political motivations behind it. ¶

Palliative care

Alison Richardson, Professor of Cancer & Palliative Nursing Care, was quoted on BBC Online after she headed up the team which drew up new national guidance on cancer and palliative care on behalf of National Institute of Clinical Excellence. Professor Richardson stressed the guidance would ensure access to support services that would benefit patients and carers alike. ¶

Slowly does it

Research published by **Dr Anthony Leeds** in the Department of Nutrition & Dietetics was discussed in *The Times*. The article (written by **Peta Bee**, formerly a student at King's) looked at the benefits of the GI diet, whereby a ranking system based on the rate at which food raises blood glucose levels is used as a healthier approach to losing weight. ¶

Dental crisis

Dr Mark Woolford, a Senior Lecturer in Conservative Dentistry, was interviewed in *The Times*, following scenes of huge queues in Scarborough of people

who wished to register as NHS patients. The question of how this should be addressed was discussed in relation to the shortage of newly qualified dentists, in spite of the overwhelming popularity of courses, in particular those run by King's. ¶

Allot-a-ments

The resurgence in popularity of the allotment was reported on in the *Independent* recently. Research by the Allotments Regeneration Initiative (ARI) showed that city dwellers, especially young women, have gone back to the garden to 'de-stress'. **Dr Richard Wiltshire**, Senior Lecturer in the Geography Department, commented on this popularity, particularly in inner urban areas. ¶

New leaf of life

A speech given at a symposium by **Dr Mohammed Sharief**, Senior Lecturer in Neuroimmunology, was referred to in an article in *The Times* about the potentially wider therapeutic role of cannabis in modern medicine. Dr Sharief stated that the drug was useful at reducing pain such as that in cancer patients owing to its analgesic properties, its use as a muscle relaxant, and its simultaneous ability to reduce nausea and stimulate appetite. ¶

Elderly falls

The work of a team in the Applied Biomedical Research Group, which aims to probe why elderly people are more prone to heavy falls, was publicised on BBC Online. It is hoped that the research of **Dr Kirsty Elliott** and her colleagues will lead to new ways of minimising the risk of death and serious injury in older people. ¶

The Public Relations Department is keen to know of any academics featured in the media. Please do keep us informed by contacting the Public Relations Office on 020-7848 3202 or email pr@kcl.ac.uk

Mel Gibson's Passion

The Dean, Revd Dr Richard Burridge, was asked to review Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ* for the *Church of England Newspaper* and also for the *Sun*; he was also interviewed in *The Times* and the *Sunday Express*, as well as on GMTV. His review for *Comment* looks at the key issues.

GIBSON'S blood-spattered depiction of Jesus' last hours looks like *Reservoir Dogs* meets *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Some of the monsters in the crowd could have come out of Monty Python's *Life of Brian*, while the devil skulks like an understudy for Gollum in *The Lord of the Rings*. The dialogue – in Aramaic and 'street Latin' – reminded me of Klingon!

Is it too violent?

Some have suggested this is Gibson back to his violent old habits of *Mad Max* days. Yet a beating with the Roman flagrum – a leather cat-o'-nine-tails with metal barbs – was a very nasty business. Today, the Cross has become a item of jewellery: 'Do you want a little silver man on it?' said one shop assistant to me recently. So it is good to be reminded that when God became one of us, the human race did the most awful things imaginable to him.

Anti-Semitic?

Some suggest that the film blames the Jews for Jesus' death. Gibson's Jewish temple police are indeed thugs who never miss the chance to put the boot in. But their violence is nothing compared to the Roman soldiers who beat, whip, and lacerate Jesus before they nail the bloody pulp of his remains to the cross. While the Chief Priests hit and spit at Jesus as they plot his death, however, the Roman commander tries to restrain his men and Pilate wants to avoid giving the death sentence. Here

Gibson goes even beyond the tendency in the gospels of Matthew and John to blame the Jewish religious hierarchy for the death of Jesus. It is a fact of history that some Jews loved their fellow Jew – Jesus – and others wanted him dead. But the same was true of Greeks, and Romans, and every nation on earth since. If this film is racist, it is the whole of the human race it condemns.

Gospel truth?

The film mixes up scenes and words from the different gospels with little regard for what the different evangelists were trying to do. But the influence of Hollywood seems stronger than the Bible itself. Father William Fulco, who acted as consultant and translated the script into

Latin and Aramaic, says 'I have to keep reminding people: "This is not a documentary. We had to make artistic choices".' It is significant that Fulco is a Jesuit, since extended meditation upon the Passion is central to Ignatius Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*. When Gibson hit rock bottom 12 years ago he found salvation – quite literally – through very traditional Catholic beliefs. Through the ages, graphic pictures of the instruments used to torture Jesus have been designed to facilitate meditation and prayer upon his suffering and wounds. A beautiful German devotional booklet from about 1340, with scenes of flagellation, Jesus falling, the nails, crown of thorns and bleeding wounds, looks just like this script.

Christian devotion

This is what is driving Gibson's blood-soaked epic. He gives us clues through flash-backs: as Jesus falls and Mary runs to his side, she poignantly remembers when she dashed to pick him up when he was a child. As his body is split open on the cross, the film cuts to the breaking of the bread at the Last Supper. When his blood runs down the nails, we are given a glimpse of the chalice of wine.

But will everybody get these hints? I was amazed by the reactions of hard-bitten journalists coming out of the cinema in tears or very angry. Perhaps the real outrage is that this film is true to life in most of its vivid brutality. This is the kind of thing we did to God when he lived among us – but almost even worse, it is what human beings continue to do to one another in the name of God throughout the world today.

Dr Burridge's new book *Jesus – Now and Then*, co-written with Dr Graham Gould and based upon their AKC lectures at King's, was published by SPCK on 19 March.

Simon of Cyrene (Jarreth Merz) helps Jesus (Jim Caviezel) carry his Cross in a scene from *The Passion of The Christ*

PHILIPPE ANTONELLO



Oxford Textbook of Primary Medical Care

Edited by **Roger Jones**, *Wolfson Professor of General Practice, Guy's, King's & St Thomas' School of Medicine*

THE OXFORD TEXTBOOK OF PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE is the first comprehensive, truly international textbook of primary care. It covers the entire range of organisational, academic, and

clinical activities associated with this most common form of medical practice.

The book is arranged in two volumes to ensure the right reference resource for every eventuality with a full volume on the principles of primary care and on clinical problems in general practice.

The clinical sections have been written by practising GPs together with specialists, guaranteeing relevant and authoritative coverage. There is also a free searchable CD-ROM containing full text and illustrations included with every copy.

OUP



Obscure Objects of Desire

Surrealism, Fetishism, and Politics

Johanna Malt, *Lecturer in the Department of French*

THIS BOOK offers a new critical approach to the political claims of the surrealist movement, asking whether it is possible to theorise a connection between the surrealists' commitment to the cause of revolutionary socialism, and the form that surrealist art and writing took.

Through the analysis of narratives,

paintings and objets surréalistes by Breton, Aragon, Dalí, and others, Jo Malt examines how the object emerges as psychologically and historically marked in the surrealist context, functioning as both fetish and fetishised commodity.

Responding to recent debates about the role of the uncanny and the representation of the body in surrealist art and literature, her study offers new perspectives on familiar works such as the paintings of Salvador Dalí as well



as illuminating relatively neglected ones such as Breton's poèmes-objets.

OUP

Science in the Looking Glass

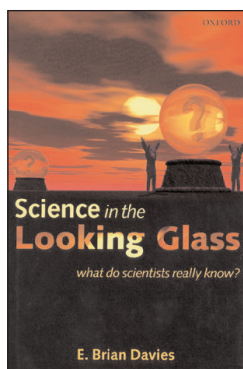
What do scientists really know?

E Brian Davies FRS, *Professor of Mathematics*

HOW DO SCIENTIFIC conjectures become laws? Why does proof mean different things in different sciences? Do numbers exist, or were they invented? Why do some laws turn out to be wrong?

Experience shows that disentangling scientific knowledge from opinion is harder than one might expect. Full of illuminating examples and quotations, and with a scope ranging from psychology and evolution to quantum theory and mathematics, Brian Davies brings alive issues at the heart of all science.

In his book he makes important issues in the philosophy and history of science easily accessible.



He uses historical examples, stories, and quotations to illustrate the ideas and confronts widely-held perceptions of science. He argues that mathematics was invented rather than discovered and disentangles those aspects of evolution which are fact from those which are aspirations.

OUP

Crossing Fields in Modern Spanish Culture

Federico Bonaddio and Xon de Ros, *Department of Spanish & Spanish-American Studies*

MODERN SPANISH CULTURE is bold and experimental, expressing a disregard for generic boundaries and formal conventions. The essays in this collection explore the dialogue and interrelation between cultural discourses and artistic practices in a variety of 19th- and 20th-century texts, from the perspectives of literary criticism, cultural analysis, media studies, politics and the history of art.

Federico Bonaddio and Xon de Ros address fundamental questions about the relationship between artistic media and cultural fields and provide insights into the way identities – social, political or cultural – are bound up with the textual.

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