

# COMMENT

THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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## Principal delivers Green Paper

**A** VISION FOR KING'S COLLEGE London as a World-Class Institution' is the draft Green Paper, written by Professor Rick Trainor, outlining a vision of the College for the next ten years.

'My intention is to suggest an ambitious but realistic direction that King's can take during this critical period, building on the College's traditions and current strengths while adapting to a rapidly changing, globally competitive higher education environment,' explains the Principal.

In his paper, which Professor Trainor also discussed at his recent campus fora, he advocated that King's become an outstanding university in a world context. In order to achieve this world-class future King's needs to:

- become more internally coherent and more outward-looking
- accelerate improvement in research and knowledge transfer
- enhance undergraduate programmes and expand and enhance postgraduate programmes
- consolidate ties to key communities and strengthen overseas profile
- enhance available resources, including staff development.

In moving in this direction, the College can build on its solid foundations which include a strong reputation, a firm resource base, high-quality staff and students and the loyalty and generosity of staff,

students, alumni and friends.

During the consultation period, which ended on 10 June, staff, students, parents, Fellows, Council members, alumni and friends of

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**Become an outstanding university in a world context**

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the College were all invited to make comments and suggestions. Professor Trainor continues, 'The vision can only be realised if there is broad support for it within the College's various key communities.

This is self-evidently true with regard to the College's more than 5,000 employees.'

Dozens of responses, broadly supportive of the draft Green Paper while making suggestions for revision, were received.

A digest of the responses, with an outline plan of revisions of the draft, went to Academic Board on 15 June. A revised version of the Green Paper will go to College Council on 5 July. After the comments of those bodies are taken on board, a final version will be made available in mid-summer.

Because the Paper is about a general orientation for moving



Professor Rick Trainor

forward, even in its final form it will not include detailed proposals. But the latter will not be long delayed. They will be formulated by the College Committee during the summer and will form the basis of a draft strategic plan to be considered in the autumn.

'The purpose of the Green Paper is to establish a general framework for taking the College forward. It is within this framework that subsequent detailed proposals will fit,' he notes.

For the complete text, see [www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/ppro/principal](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/ppro/principal)



**The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England: the basis of a biographical register of all recorded inhabitants of England during the Anglo-Saxon period, was launched recently. See page 4 for full details.**

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

**University of London**

RAE 2008

THE FOUR UK HIGHER education funding bodies have appointed more than 900 experts to the 67 sub-panels for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. ‘Sub-panels are responsible for the core work in assessing research submitted by universities and colleges, and making recommendations on the quality profiles to award for each submission to the main panels that

have been established,’ explains Nicola Sainsbury, Senior Assistant Registrar (Quality Assurance). The lists published include all those who have formally accepted the invitation to serve on RAE panels. International and additional members are also being invited to join the main panels. This process should be complete before the final round of criteria-setting meetings in autumn 2005, when updated lists of panel members will be published on the web. ‘The sub-panels are part of a new two-tier structure for the 2008

RAE. Each sub-panel is part of one of 15 main panels, which together cover the full range of research across all subject areas. King’s

More than 900 experts to the 67 sub-panels

has 20 members appointed to the panels, including three chairs of sub-panels,’ she continues. See below for details of the King’s staff who will be serving on panels. The full lists are available at [www.rae.ac.uk/panels/members/](http://www.rae.ac.uk/panels/members/)

One of the first roles of the panels will be to establish draft criteria and working methods, which will be developed to ensure that appropriate measures of excellence are adopted which are wide enough to capture all types of research, including practice-based research, applied research, basic/strategic research, and interdisciplinary research. Another important role of the panels is to ensure that the contributions to research excellence made by less experienced researchers are fully taken into account.

King’s panel members for 2008 RAE

College staff appointed to panels are as follows:

- 1 Cardiovascular Medicine**  
Professor Michael Marber  
Professor Jeremy Pearson
- 2 Cancer Studies**  
Professor Michael Richards
- 3 Infection and Immunology**  
Professor Adrian Hayday
- 5 Other Laboratory-Based Clinical Subjects**  
Professor Lucilla Poston

**MAIN PANEL B**  
Professor Peter McGuffin  
**9 Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Clinical Psychology**  
Chair: Professor Peter McGuffin  
Professor Til Wykes

- MAIN PANEL C**  
Professor Bob Hider  
**10 Dentistry**  
Professor Roger Linden  
**11 Nursing and Midwifery**  
Professor Anne Marie Rafferty  
**12 Allied Health Professions and Studies**  
Professor Di Newham  
**13 Pharmacy**  
Chair: Professor Bob Hider  
Professor Jayne Lawrence  
**15 Pre-clinical and Human Biological Sciences**  
Professor Stephen McMahon  
Professor Ellen Solomon  
**38 Law**  
Professor Roger Brownsword

- MAIN PANEL K**  
Professor Margaret Brown  
**45 Education**  
Chair: Professor Margaret Brown  
**53 German, Dutch and Scandinavian Languages**  
Professor David Yeandle  
**55 Iberian and Latin-American Languages**  
Dr Catherine Boyle  
**58 Linguistics**  
Professor Shalom Lappin  
**59 Classics, Ancient History, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies**  
Professor Michael Silk

For further information, please contact [nicola.sainsbury@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.sainsbury@kcl.ac.uk)

Times tables

The Times Higher Education Supplement produced league tables last month that analysed various performance criteria. In particular, King’s was:

- **3rd in the employability of its graduates** (after Cambridge and Bradford)
- **4th in terms of student-to-staff ratio** (higher than either Oxford or Cambridge)
- **7th in terms of research income** (the newly merged Manchester has moved up the table)

The College is also cited as having

achieved an average of 22.2 out of 24 in the subject review score of Teaching Quality Assessment, and an average research assessment score of 5.5 out of 7, per member of staff, in the RAE. The Times also brought out its annual league tables and the College retained its overall position of 16th out of 100 UK universities. (King’s was recently sixth in The Guardian league table.) Nine measures of quality were used in ranking the universities: teaching, research, entry standards, student/staff ratio, library/computer spending, facilities spending, good honours, graduate prospects and completion. The paper also included a

number of subject tables which ranked universities on an overall combined score from teaching and research quality, average UCAS point scores of entrants and destinations. King’s was ranked in the top ten for:

- 1st** Dentistry
- 2nd** Food Science (Nutrition & Dietetics)
- 3rd** Classics and Ancient History  
Iberian languages  
Philosophy  
Politics (War Studies)
- 4th** Music
- 5th** History
- 8th** Law
- 9th** Business Studies

[www.timesonline.co.uk/uniguide](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/uniguide)

Star relic

A recent arrival to Dr Mark Miodownik’s Materials Library (see Comment 160) was a box from NASA containing the lightest solid in the world – aerogel – which is 99.8 per cent air and is used for collecting star dust on space missions. It is now a very prized part of the collection!



Air pollution in Virtual London

RESEARCHERS FROM KING’S and University College London (UCL) are to develop an online 3-D map of the capital showing how pollution levels and the health of workers and residents, vary from street to street.

This navigable ‘Virtual London’ will allow pedestrians and cyclists to choose routes that avoid the most polluted roads and help builders and planners devise ways to prevent new constructions or traffic flow schemes causing increases in pollution levels. The project, which combines the expertise of the Environmental Research Group (ERG) at King’s and

UCL’s Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, will also allow the public to see how air pollution levels at their home or workplace could be impacting on their health. The first phase will see the detailed and constantly updated model of pollution data created by the King’s group and validated by recordings from 14 pollution monitoring sites across central London mapped onto the online 3-D map – ‘Virtual London’ – created by the UCL team. The mapped area totals 20 square kilometres, ranging from Westminster to Tower Bridge, and up to Bloomsbury. This first

A change to Law

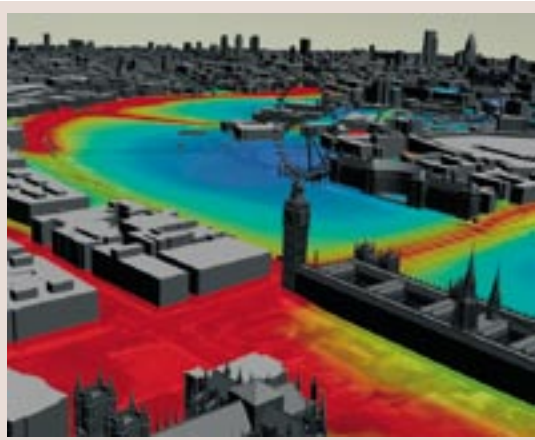
KING’S HAS JOINED THE National Admissions Test for Law, or LNAT, run by a consortium of UK universities.

The test has been established to help Law Schools make more informed choices between the many highly-qualified applicants who want to study undergraduate law. ‘It is intended to enhance the selection process and to make it fairer to all candidates, whatever their educational background,’ explains Jane Henderson, Admissions Tutor for the School of Law. ‘Last year’s LNAT results indicated that the range of candidates’ performances matched, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or school type. This suggests the test is picking up aptitude rather than educational experience.’ Participating universities use the LNAT as part of their selection processes, alongside A-levels, GCSEs, the other information

available from a candidate’s UCAS form and, where applicable, performance at interview. The LNAT is an on-screen test with multiple-choice comprehension questions and a short essay. It is administered by Pearson, who also organise the written part of the Driving Test and will be sat at their

Intended to enhance the selection process

test centres. Students can choose a convenient date and test centre to take the LNAT. LNAT have organised a website, giving further details, plus a practice test, at [www.lnat.ac.uk](http://www.lnat.ac.uk) King’s, along with the Universities of Glasgow and Manchester Metropolitan join the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, East Anglia, Nottingham, Oxford and UCL, who adopted the scheme last year.



The image shows nitrogen dioxide levels in London. The red areas show where there is most nitrogen dioxide, and the blue areas where there is less nitrogen dioxide.

phase, (made possible by a £50,000 grant from The BOC Foundation), is expected to be complete by April 2006. The second phase will incorporate the health data both from King’s researchers and other sources into the system. The information will be presented on a new publicly accessible

website. Professor Frank Kelly, Head of ERG comments, ‘Londoners already have access to an excellent air quality information service – the London Air Quality Network website – however this new initiative will bring this information alive and its visual basis will make it much more easy to understand and utilise’.

Research grant news

In the quarter ending 30 April 2005, the College was awarded more than £22 million in research grants, bringing the total in the year to date (from August 2004) to almost £57 million. External research income accounts for almost a third of the College’s entire turnover, and King’s is the UK’s seventh highest earner in terms of university research income. Currently the College receives over a third of its annual research income from UK charities, and in this quarter was awarded £8.5 million (making a total of £20 million for the year to date). New grants from Research Councils are running at £14 million for the year, with new UK Government and NHS awards totalling £8.5 million for the year so far (£4.2 million in the last quarter). In the last nine months commercial contracts worth £8.5 million have

been agreed, and recent Hefce statistics show that King’s is also performing well in seeking to recovering its full costs on this portfolio of commercial projects, with an indirect cost recovery rate of 70 per cent in the last year. Sir Lawrence Freedman, Vice-Principal (Research) comments, ‘In common with many other research-led universities, we are finding the level of growth in new research projects this year to be lower than in previous years, which can be attributed to a number of factors both internal and external. However, we are pleased that the projects that we are receiving are much better funded than in the past, in line with a move towards greater sustainability in research. This suggests King’s is well placed to deal with the introduction of Full Economic Costing later this year.’



History now online

TWO HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT databases, which have received funding from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (see *Comment* 158), have been officially launched. A reception in April at Lambeth Palace was the venue for the launch of The Clergy of the Church of England Database (CCEd). This is the product of more than six years of work by Dr Arthur Burns, Head of the Department of History, and colleagues from the universities of Kent and Reading, in collaboration with King’s Centre for Computing in the Humanities (CCH). ‘The Database, available free

over the internet, brings together more than 1.5 million records stored in dozens of archives scattered over the length and breadth of England and Wales relating to the careers of clergy between the Reformation and the early years of Victoria’s reign,’ explains Dr Burns. As well as being a valuable resource for academic historians, the Database will also be a remarkable tool for family historians and all those interested in local history. It is also extraordinary as an innovative collaboration between academics and local and amateur researchers, almost 100 of whom have recovered the evidence records from the archives using specially designed software which allows it to be uploaded into the Database itself. The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England (PASE) was launched at the British Academy last month. ‘It is intended to serve as a basis of a biographical register of all recorded inhabitants of England during the Anglo-Saxon period. It begins in the late sixth century, and ends with the accession of King Edward the Confessor in 1042,’ says Jinty Nelson, Professor of Medieval History and Project Co-Director. ‘It provides new opportunities for investigating not just the great and the good but men and women in all walks of Anglo-Saxon life.’ Professor Nelson is working with colleagues at Cambridge University and CCH. Work is already in progress on PASE II which will extend coverage to the end of the Anglo-Saxon period and onwards into the reign of William the Conqueror. PASE is available online and can be interrogated in many different ways. ‘It will facilitate study at undergraduate, graduate and advanced levels and provides new opportunities for exploring the past,’ she notes. Both CCEd and PASE have recently been awarded further tranches of resource enhancement funding by the AHRC. The CCH is a world leader in the development of historical database software and its director Harold Short and colleagues have played a central part in the success of both CCEd and PASE. [www.theclergydatabase.org](http://www.theclergydatabase.org) [www.pase.ac.uk](http://www.pase.ac.uk)

Sportsground improvements



Plans are underway to improve the sporting facilities at the Honor Oak Park Sportsground significantly. ‘Over a long period of time the facilities have become outdated and in need of rejuvenation. The College is looking to renovate the ground substantially to best meet the needs of the students,’ explains John Grant, Sportsgrounds Manager. Planning is still in the early stages, and a formal submission will have to be made to Lewisham Council, but initial proposals include:

- continued provision for rugby, football, cricket, netball and tennis
- a new pavilion with ten fully accessible team changing rooms, catering facilities, meeting room, office and stores
- first aid and treatment rooms
- renovation of existing College-owned housing
- opportunity for additional housing
- renovation of the stand
- improved and enlarged parking facilities for teams and supporters
- new trees and fencing around the ground’s perimeter

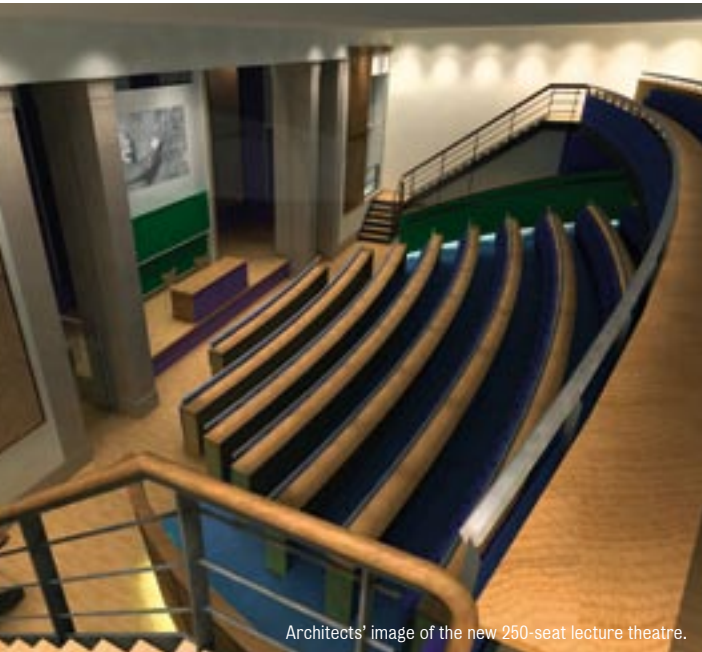
Ben Philip, KCLSU VP Student Activities says, ‘The creation of

two all-weather pitches, along with a new pavilion, will transform the ground. The new facilities will allow football, rugby, netball and hockey – sports in which KCL and GKT teams participate on a mass scale – all to play on the ground. The creation of a venue for year round activity, together with day and evening play, at a ground which is close to the major campuses will provide a high quality focal point for student sports teams. It is the most exciting development for sport at King’s during my time at the College.’ An exhibition was held on 17 and 18 June for local people and members of the College to seek their views on the proposals. The ground is used by local schools, sports teams, community groups and others so the College is keen to consult widely on its plans. The College has three sportsgrounds including Honor Oak Park (the others are at New Malden and Dulwich) and there are 50 sporting clubs.

• **Staff and students will have the opportunity to see the exhibition and hear about the proposals for the ground on 4 July between 12.00 – 14.00 in the Spit, Boland House, Guy’s campus.**

Strand topped out

A COPING STONE WAS LAID on the roof at the Strand by Principal Professor Rick Trainor at a ‘topping out’ ceremony held on 10 May to mark the completion of the first phase of the Strand redevelopment. ‘Topping out’ in the construction industry marks the completion of the structural works and the commencement of the finishing works. The event was attended by College staff, and the Bovis Lend Lease construction management team as well as contractors, architects and designers. Professor Trainor and Bovis Lend Lease project manager, Warren Glaister, both spoke at the ceremony. The Principal explained that the project would provide badly needed accommodation, as well as restore the historic building to its former glory and remove the piecemeal alterations that had taken place over the years. Mr Glaister added, ‘We’re making excellent progress on this project and the topping out ceremony marks an important milestone. We are looking forward to handing over the facilities to the College when the project is completed in January 2006.’ The £40 million project involves the refurbishment of the South Range of the Grade 1 listed Strand Main Building which was originally constructed between 1829 and 1831 and designed by Sir Robert Smirke, who was also the architect of the British Museum. The refurbishment will provide a first-class academic environment with greatly enhanced research,



teaching, conference, social and catering facilities. It is part of the College’s £400 million Estate redevelopment plan – one of the most ambitious university redevelopment plans in the country.

London regenerative medicine network



A new networking group that aims to accelerate the progression of London’s world-class stem cell research and tissue engineering met for the first time on 1 June in New Hunt’s House. The London Regenerative Medicine Network was established by Dr Stephen Minger, Head of the Stem Cell Biology Laboratory at King’s, and Chris Mason from UCL, in direct response to demands from the regenerative medicine community in the south of England and beyond. Dr Minger says, ‘The time is well overdue for a network such as this. London has a fast-growing base of outstanding stem cell scientists, clinicians and tissue engineers who wish to dramatically reshape the world of medicine, but this paradigm shift requires excellent communication between all these stakeholders. We hope that this new network will benefit all participants by providing a forum to exchange ideas and information and to form valuable collaborations.’ The meetings are open to all involved with the advancement of regenerative medicine, including the wider scientific, clinical engineering and regulatory communities based in and around London. More than 200 people, including many industry representatives, attended the first meeting to hear presentations by Glyn Stacey, Director for the UK Stem Cell Bank and Paul Sharpe, Dickinson Professor of Craniofacial Biology at King’s.



New minister



**B**ILL RAMMELL, General Manager of King's College London Students' Union from 1989 to 1994, has been appointed as Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education in the Prime Minister's Government reshuffle following the

General Election last month. In an interview with *The Times Higher* he said that he now held his ideal job in politics. Bill Rammell was first elected to the Commons in 1997 as Member of Parliament for Harlow. He sat on both the European Legislation and Scrutiny committees. He joined the Government in 2001 as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Tessa Jowell, before moving on to the Whips Office. In the October 2002 reshuffle he was promoted to Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office and, in this role, in January of this year he launched the new prisons handbook 'Guidance Notes on Prison Reform' published by King's International Centre for Prison Studies.

Spotlight on admissions

**O**N 29 MAY *The Sunday Times* ran a front page story with the headline 'University bias hits top state schools' – the story alleged 'positive discrimination' at King's in admitting students from underperforming state schools above those from top state and independent schools. Whilst gratifying to see King's highlighted in the main story of a national newspaper, the feature nevertheless gave the impression that the College had embarked on a process of large-scale social engineering, which was far from the truth. The story was based on an email from 2002 which had encouraged admissions tutors, during clearing, to take into account an applicant's school's performance when determining whether they might have the academic potential to be offered a place. As King's accepts relatively few students through clearing, this

process has affected only a tiny number of applicants, and is widely viewed as a laudable approach to widening access in areas of weak student recruitment. Indeed, in an editorial in *The Guardian* two days later, the College was praised for adopting such a policy: 'there is nothing irrational, illogical, or prejudicial about this procedure', it thundered. King's is recognised for having high academic standards and the College has always encouraged admissions tutors to look beyond academic achievement alone to get a broader perspective of the potential of candidates. The College is not in any way lowering its standards: the number of applications has risen consistently over the past five years – King's receives 26,000 applications each year from which approximately 3,000 will be admitted – and the average A-level scores of those admitted continues to rise.

News in brief

EIGER

EIGER, (Educational Interest Group for E-Learning & Research) held a seminar on 26 May chaired by the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor. The meeeting included a presentation from Diana Laurillard, Head, e-Learning Strategy Unit, DfES. As part of an ISS webstreaming project it was broadcast live as a test and is now available on demand at [www.kcl.tv](http://www.kcl.tv)

Open House

The Strand Chapel and Maughan Library will take part once again in the Open House London event. The Chapel will be open from 13.00 – 17.00 on Saturday 17 September while the Maughan Library will

receive visitors on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September from 13.00 – 17.00. Open House London involves more than 500 buildings opening their doors to the public to form a living exhibition.

Using the War

The annual conference of the Oral History Society is being held in conjunction with King's this year. 'Using the War: Changing memories of World War Two' marks the 60th anniversary of the Second World War. Held from 1– 3 July in the Franklin-Wilkins Building, King's speakers include Professor Simon Wessely and Edgar Jones.

Correction

The caption for the story 'Minister visits Dental Institute' in the last edition of *Comment* referred to the Chairman of King's College Hospital as Michael Porter instead of Michael Parker; our apologies.

King's-Monash conferences

**T**ERRORISM: THE VIEW FROM the South', a collaborative conference by King's and Monash University will be held in July at the Monash Prato Centre in Italy. Participants include experts from King's, Monash, Europe, North America, the Middle East, Asia and the UN. It forms part of a series on root causes of terrorism, and incorporates results of the discussions from the Club of Madrid Summit meeting in March 2005. (See *Comment* 160.) Dr Karin von Hippel (King's Centre for Defence Studies) and Dr David Wright-Neville (Monash Global Terrorism Research Project) were awarded the inaugural King's-Monash Conference Grant. King's and Monash announced

last year £100,000 fund to support five joint conferences over five years, four at the Monash Prato Centre and one at Monash's South Africa campus. The two successful proposals for 2006 conferences are an Arts/IT conference 'Memories, communities, technologies', and 'Socially responsive, socially responsible approaches to employment and work'. Both will be held at the Monash Prato Centre in 2006 <http://ita.monash.edu/> Guidelines and the call for applications for the 2007 conference will be made available on the Monash London Centre website [www.monash.ac.uk](http://www.monash.ac.uk) in November 2005.

Pharmacy King's has one of the country's leading departments of pharmacy.

**P**HARMACY IS THE science of medicines. It involves research into chemical structures and natural products of medicinal value; the development of dosage forms; safety testing of the product; production; quality control; distribution of drugs to patients and advice on their use. Practical pharmacy classes were held in the Medical Department of King's from around 1871 and from around 1896 at the South-Western Polytechnic (later Chelsea College which merged with King's in 1985). Chelsea became the first institution recognised by the University of London to offer a degree in Pharmacy, with the first graduate in 1926.

Top school

Today, the King's Department is part of the School of Life & Health Sciences and is located on the fifth floor of the Franklin-Wilkins Building at Waterloo. As Professor Gary Martin, Head of the Department, explains, 'It is one of the top schools of pharmacy in the UK, having been rated excellent in the QAA review of teaching in 1999, and graded 5 in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise. We have 46 members of staff, of whom 30 are academics; 380 undergraduate students, and some 140 postgraduates, including 70 on research degrees, working within the Pharmaceutical Sciences Division. At master's level the Department offers the MPharm, an MSc in Primary Care & Community Pharmacy, and an MSc in Pharmaceutical Science.'

Course developments

Developments in the MPharm course include participation in the King's interprofessional education programme; an increasing emphasis on case-based learning and greater interaction with the NHS, both though teaching placements and especially through the final year research projects. The MPharm degree is accredited professionally by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and last year this was granted for the maximum period allowable of five years.

'The Department is developing a range of post-registration courses in response to changing professional roles', Professor Martin says. 'These include an important new course, the joint Supplementary Prescribing Course, first available for pharmacists in 2004. The course at King's is unique in that pharmacists are taught alongside nurses, and it produces the largest cohort of prescribing pharmacists in the country.'

Research

Research in the Department has included the design of new drugs such as deferiprone (now used extensively as a main line of treatment for thalassaemia in Europe and India) and orally active iron chelators; the formulation of drugs into medicines such as Solaraze (the first non-invasive treatment of actinic keratosis – pre-cancerous lesions that can lead to carcinoma); the mode of action of Nacystelyn (leading to a clinical trial for cystic fibrosis treatment),



and a clinical investigation that has provided key evidence for a Food & Drug Administration white paper on hormone-containing dietary supplements. Recent news coverage has focussed on the work of Peter Houghton, Professor of Pharmacognosy, whose recent projects include demonstrating that India's traditional diabetes remedy from its native curry-leaf tree really does work; that an extract of alfafa, a common ingredient in cattle feed, could effectively treat athlete's foot, and that self-medicating with herbal medicines such as St John's wort could be dangerous because it makes many prescription drugs and oral contraceptives less effective. Professor Martin also points out that the Department offers various research services, both internally within the College and to external sources. 'The Department has a record of innovation and has given rise

to the International Olympic Committee accredited Drug Control Centre and, since 1999, a spinout company MedPharm which offers research and development services in drug delivery and now employs over 30 staff.' **Influence** 'The department boasts excellent links with industry, regulatory agencies, the NHS and community pharmacy', Professor Martin says. 'This is not only through the activities of our staff, but also through former students now occupying senior positions in these fields. For example, Trevor Jones, former head of the ABPI, is an alumnus of the Department and Visiting Professor. Members of staff serve on the MHRA and the British Pharmacopoeia, and the Department is currently providing the head and a panel member of the 2008 RAE panel in Pharmacy.'



Essay prize

The Trustees of the Gravity Research Foundation have awarded first prize in the Awards for Essays for 2005 to **Dr Nick Mavromatos**, Reader in the Department of Physics for work entitled ‘The String Coupling Accelerates the Expansion of the Universe’. Dr Mavromatos was joint author with John Ellis FRS of CERN and Dimitri Nanopoulos of Texas A&M University. The topic has enormous importance to the understanding of the evolution of the universe and assesses the continued expansion of the universe.

This team also won this competition, which has been running since 1949, in 1999. Previous winners include Stephen Hawking, mathematical physicist Roger Penrose and cosmologist G Smoot.

Awards

At a recent reception Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery (FNSNM) graduates from the September 2001 intake of the pre-registration nursing programme, were presented with excellence awards donated by Taylor

Wessing, a European-wide legal partnership. These awards are part of the partnership’s Community Initiatives Scheme which supports local healthcare and education activities. This is the second year the partnership has presented these awards. (See photograph below.)

Membership

**Peter Jenner**, Professor of Pharmacology, has been elected as an Honorary Member of the Movement Disorder Society in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the Society and the field of Movement Disorders.

**Professor Andrew Shennan** has been appointed to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Committee on Blood Pressure Monitoring,

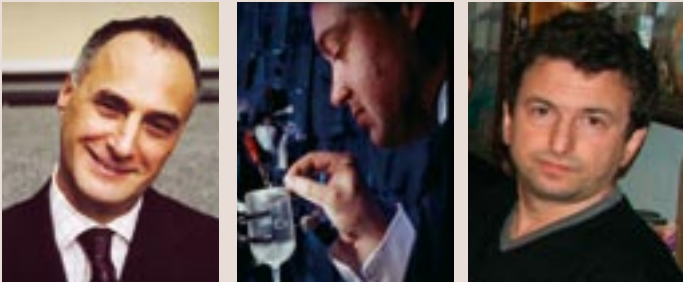
Fellowship

**Stephen Challacombe**, Professor of Oral Medicine and Head of Group, has been awarded the Fellowship in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in recognition of his contributions to British Dentistry.



Serena Cooper (Clinical Dean, FNSNM), Nina Radetic (BSc Nursing Studies), Emma Fletcher (Dip HE Nursing Studies), Michael Frawley (Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing), and Brian Gilchrist (Head of Pre-registration Education, FNSNM).

Teaching Awards



Christopher Dandeker Mike Shattock Lev Kantorovich



Ishtla Singh Barbara Moreland Ian McFadzean

The Teaching Excellence Awards provide an opportunity for King’s students studying on undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes, and for Heads of Department, to nominate a member or members of teaching staff.

These Awards are made as part of the College’s Learning and Teaching Strategy which aims to enhance the quality of teaching across the College. Each of the College’s ten Schools has an Award of £1,000 which can be given to an individual member of staff or shared between two or more staff. The results for 2004-05 are:

<b>Biomedical Sciences</b> <b>Dr Rob Evans</b> (Randall Division of Cell & Molecular Biophysics) <b>Dr Iain Beith</b> (Physiotherapy) <b>Dr Ian McFadzean</b> (Pharmacology & Therapeutics) <b>Dr Mike Shattock</b> (Physiology)	<b>Law</b> <b>Dr Vanessa Munro</b> and <b>Professor Richard Whish</b>
<b>Dental Institute</b> <b>Dr Mark Woolford</b> (Conservative Dentistry)	<b>Medicine</b> <b>Dr Barbara Moreland</b> (Biomolecular Sciences ) <b>Professor John McGrath</b> (Skin Sciences)
<b>Health &amp; Life Sciences</b> <b>Dr Ram Abuknesha</b> (Life Sciences)	<b>Nursing &amp; Midwifery</b> <b>Ms Lina Gega</b> (Mental Health)
<b>Humanities</b> <b>Dr Ishtla Singh</b> (English) <b>Professor John White</b> (German)	<b>Physical Sciences &amp; Engineering</b> <b>Dr Lev Kantorovich</b> (Physics)
	<b>Institute of Psychiatry</b> <b>Dr Jane Marshall</b> (Psychiatry)
	<b>Social Science &amp; Public Policy</b> <b>Professor Christopher Dandeker</b> (War Studies)

KCLSU awards

At its awards ceremony, the Student’s Union awarded Honorary Life Membership to a number of staff and students in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the College community.



<b>Professor Sir Graeme Catto</b> Vice-Principal <b>Michael Champion</b> KCLSU President (2004-05) <b>Eleanor Coker</b> former KCLSU Volunteer Manager <b>Rob Farag</b> former KCLSU Democratic Services Manager <b>Melanie Gardner</b> Senior Public Relations Officer <b>Helen Marshall</b> Chaplain, Waterloo campus <b>Omid Masoud</b> KCL football and Persian/Iranian Society <b>Paul Mould</b> Sportsground Manager, New Malden	<b>Ambrose Muchembled</b> Medical and Dental Students Officer (2004-05) <b>Lee Peterson</b> KCLSU VP Sites & Services (2004-06) <b>Ben Philip</b> KCLSU VP Student Activities (2004-05) <b>Hywell Thomas</b> former Dean of Basic Medical Sciences <b>Kate Tomlinson</b> KCLSU Executive Officer (without portfolio) <b>Samantha Williams</b> VP Media & Publications (2004-05) <b>Margaret Winter</b> Receptionist, Waterloo campus
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Cdr Simon Huntington receives the Sir Michael Howard Prize from Vice-Principal Professor Phil Whitfield.

Prize-giving

At the MA Graduation Ceremony held at the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), Shrivenham last month, **Cdr Simon Huntington RN** was awarded the Sir Michael Howard Prize for overall outstanding performance in the King’s MA in Defence Studies 2003-04.

JSCSC provides command and staff training at junior, advanced and higher levels to a world-class standard in order to support the operational effectiveness of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force. The College’s Defence Studies Department (part of the War Studies Group) comprises 46 academic members of staff and provides the academic support for JSCSC.

The Guildhall School of Drama & Music held the final of their Gold Medal Competition last month to a packed house at the Barbican. The winner was mezzo soprano and second year Opera student **Anna Stéphany** (BMus 1999). She performed songs by Brahms, Bush and Poulenc and arias by Mahler and Mozart.

Guildhall School Principal Professor Barry lfe said of her performance ‘Anna has everything you would want in a singer: a wonderful voice allied to a mature musical intelligence. She will be a great success and we wish her well.’

The Gold Medal is awarded in alternate years to singers and instrumentalists, and Anna follows in the footsteps of other eminent winners including bass-baritone Bryn Terfel, mezzo soprano Susan Bickley and violinist Tasmin Little.

Alumni

**Professor Shirley Pearce**, a clinical psychologist and postgraduate student from the Institute of Psychiatry (MPhil Clinical Psychology) has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Loughborough University. She is currently the Professor of Health Psychology, University of East Anglia.

Literary award

Chilean writer **Carlos Franz**, who was an Honorary Research Fellow and Writer-in-Residence in the Department of Spanish & Spanish-American Studies from 2002-04, has won the La Nación Novel Prize. This is one of

the most prestigious literary prizes for writers from Latin America. He was awarded it for his novel *El desierto*, which he was working on while at King’s.

Dr Catherine Boyle, Head of the Department said, ‘We are very pleased for Carlos and excited that the book was largely written while he was at the Strand.’

*El desierto* (The desert) tells the

GREG FUNNELL



story of Laura, a judge, who, 20 years after the Pinochet regime, returns to her home town in Chile to find the community are in denial over the past. She embarks on a journey of self discovery leading to the consideration of her own culpability.

Carlos Franz gave a series of lectures to students while at King’s and his novel will be a set text for undergraduates next year.

Summer fun

The Jazz4Peace Collective, a world peace and humanitarian band, which includes members of King’s staff and alumni will be playing as part of the National Theatre’s ‘Watch This Space Festival’ on the South Bank on Monday 4 July at 17.30. Admission is free.

Members include **Errol Thomas** of ISS, **Chivon Winsloe**, **Paddy Milner** (BMus 2003).



# Hands across the pond

**The association between Johns Hopkins University and Guy's, and subsequently King's, which enables physicians, medical students, administrators and nurse educators to exchange places and learn from each other, grew out of an unlikely friendship during World War II.**

WHEN THEY FIRST met in Sicily in 1943, two of the Allies' top doctors – Guy's graduate Brigadier General Edward 'Bo' Boland, and his American counterpart, Colonel Perrin H Long of the US Army – didn't like each other much. Boland had been severely injured during World War I, including losing an eye. However, at the start of World War II he somehow contrived to be placed in medical category A1 (fit for active service) while still entitled to a 100 per cent disability pension from the first war. Perrin Long of Johns Hopkins, meanwhile, had been something of a 'doctor to the stars'. An expert in infectious diseases and virology, he was renowned for his pioneering work on sulfa drugs, some of the earliest antibiotics.

In the 1930s Long would receive telephone calls from all over the world asking for advice about these new medications – as well as 'spoof' calls from his colleagues, who would ring and announce themselves as some famous individual and give him a fictitious account of their problem. A colleague tells the story of how one night Long took a call and responded 'You can't fool me this time! I know you're not Eleanor Roosevelt', and hung up. Within seconds the phone rang again. This time he said meekly, 'Yes, Mrs Roosevelt, this is Dr Long'.

Later, the press reported that the President's son had been cured by sulfanilamide, supplied by Long. After their initial hostility in Sicily, Drs Boland and Long finally hit it off at a mess party featuring lots of 'medicinal alcohol' and became such good friends that they laid plans for forging some permanent bond between their two institutions. After the war Boland became Dean of Guy's Hospital Medical School, and one of his early acts was to propose a new exchange programme. 'The object', Boland wrote on 28 August 1946, 'would be to maintain the friendship, co-operation and exchange of ideas which has been one of the better things which have come out of this War'.

**Blue babies**

The response from the Johns Hopkins faculty was unanimously enthusiastic, and in the autumn of 1947 the exchange was inaugurated when Hopkins' world-famous heart surgeon Alfred Blalock came to Guy's and performed the miraculous 'blue baby' operation (to treat the dangerous congenital malformation tetralogy of fallot, which robs the blood of oxygen) on eight desperately ill British children. One of these, Edward Mansell from Letchworth, recalls: 'I was born in 1933 and had survived despite having a miserable, handicapped childhood. The operation proved to be a miracle



Alfred Blalock (front centre) visited Guy's in 1947 and saved the life of eight British children with the 'blue baby' heart condition.

and enabled me to grow up, to marry and have a family'. Since then, for 58 years, two physicians a year from both schools have spent a month working at the other institution. Scores of medical students from each school have traded places to do their electives.

Professor Roger Jones, Head of the Department of General Practice & Primary Care and Dean for Teaching in the Health Schools, comments, 'Johns Hopkins is situated in downtown Baltimore, in an area of poverty and ethnic heterogeneity in which staff security around the campus is a major concern. But once on site, our visiting staff and students have access to the largest school of public health in the world, first-class tertiary medical and surgical facilities and a remarkably welcoming and enthusiastic clinical faculty. Our recent exchange visits have included Professors of Rheumatology, Pharmacology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Radiology, Dermatology and General Practice.

'When senior staff from both institutions were surveyed recently, there was almost unanimous support for continuing the exchange and endorsement of the academic benefits that it provided. These include the establishment of research collaborations; the acquisition of new surgical and histopathological techniques; new knowledge and experience of management systems and educational methods; the experience of new approaches to student welfare and support and the joint writing of textbooks. One individual even succeeded in recruiting someone from Hopkins to work at Guy's! This is clearly a most valuable arrangement which deserves further support in the future.'

**Christine Kenyon Jones**

**Our thanks to Hopkins Medicine for the opportunity to base this article on one by Janet Farrar Worthington published in the Spring/Summer 2005 edition; see [www.hopkinsmedecine.org/hmn/S05/annals.cfm](http://www.hopkinsmedecine.org/hmn/S05/annals.cfm)**

## SOLIDARNOŚĆ exhibition

**ROADS TO FREEDOM** – Europe via Solidarity', an exhibition marking the 25th anniversary of the Solidarity movement, was launched at King's on 20 June in the Great Hall.

Bogdan Lis, President of the Solidarity Centre Foundation, formally opened the exhibition with Zbigniew Matuszewski, The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, and Principal Professor Rick Trainor.

Travelling around the world the exhibition has already been shown in Chile, France and Germany. Organised by the Polish Embassy

and the College's Polish Language Service in the Modern Language Centre, King's will be the only place it can be seen in the UK.

The exhibition covers 1945-2004 and is a multi-layered narrative of the country and city in which history took place – history which initiated the transformation process in Central and Eastern Europe.

Using various types of media, the exhibition chronologically leads the viewer to an invitation to visit the historically significant country and city, and to witness its continuation, which is currently being embodied

in the form of the European Centre for Solidarity in Gdansk.

From 23 June to 8 July, the exhibition will be in Weston Room of the Maughan Library. It is open from 09.30 – 17.00 (Mon – Sat) and from 11.00 – 17.00 (Sun).

There will be a series of lectures to accompany the exhibition in the Weston Room at 18.30 on 27 and 29 June and 8 July respectively.

**Archives exhibits**

Archives and Corporate Records Services have created a display of historical sources illustrating some of the most dramatic episodes in modern Polish history, including the emergence of Solidarity. It is in the entrance of the Strand Main Building.

**LECTURES**

- **FREEDOM, COMMUNITY, LITERATURE: SOLIDARITY VALUES IN 1980-2004 POLISH PROSE**  
**Professor Przemyslaw Czaplinski, Pozna University, Poland**
- **POLISH – A LEARNER-FRIENDLY LANGUAGE**  
**Mr Nigel Gotteri, University of Sheffield**
- **TO RECOVER LOST TIME**  
**Professor Marian Styczen, Director of the John Paul II Institute at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.**

**DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI**

**Legacy for Spanish studies**

THE COLLEGE HAS RECEIVED a generous legacy of more than £500,000 from Marjorie Grice-Hutchinson, Baroness von Schlippenbach, for the furtherance of Spanish Studies.

Marjorie Grice-Hutchinson's distinguished career began at King's after a stint in the Foreign Office during the war. She then went on to become Head of the Department of Spanish at Birkbeck, as well as teaching speciality courses at LSE.

In 1951 she married Baron Ulrich von Schlippenbach, owner of a large farm estate near Malaga, where she established a school for local children. She continued to exhume and translate manuscripts of key texts located in Spain and became a well-known and respected authority on the development of economic thought in South Europe. She died at her home in Malaga in April 2003.

**Annual Fund hands out £120,000**

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE has disbursed more than £120,000

across campuses and committed to two new PhD studentships, thanks to alumni and staff support for the Annual Fund.

Annual Fund Officer Kathrin Ostermann explains, 'Each year the Annual Fund seeks to support a diverse range of projects from academic facilities, student activities, lab equipment and library provisions and this year was no exception. With applications totalling £328,401, 17 projects were funded.'

The grants range from £580 awarded to the Institute of Psychiatry's Gallery to £15,450 awarded to the Dental Institute for the purchase of 40 Personal Digital Assistants. The Committee also awarded £15,000 to help purchase Field Marshal Alanbrooke's papers for the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, and will help fund a student production of 'Closer' at the Edinburgh Fringe for the King's Players this summer.

The Annual Fund 2004-05 appeal finishes on the 31 July and staff will be updated on the 2005-06 campaign in the new academic year.

For further information on the Annual Fund or the Development Committee see [www.kcl.ac.uk/](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/)



Student callers express their gratitude to contributors to the Annual Fund

**annualfund** or e-mail Kathrin Ostermann at [annual.fund@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:annual.fund@kcl.ac.uk). The Committee will next meet in May 2006.

**Genetic music**

KING'S MUSIC ALUMNA, Sharon Choa, is returning to King's on Tuesday 28 June to conduct The Chamber Orchestra Anglia in a concert, 'Music and Genetics'.

In association with the John Innes Centre and Cambridge Genetics Knowledge Park, the orchestra seeks to explore the relationship between music and genetics through pieces by Haydn, Bach, Smolka, Janacek and Maconchy.

The concert will also feature

the world premiere of a new work by Nicola Le Fanu, in which she expresses her musical interpretation of genetics based on discussions with scientists.

Sir Walter Bodmer, FRS, and Nicola Le Fanu will give commentaries on how they approach their work, providing a unique insight into the workings of the musical and scientific minds. The host for the evening is Radio 3's Christopher Cook.

The concert is to be held in memory of the late Professor Maurice Wilkins at 19.30 in the Great Hall, Strand campus. Tickets are £15, please contact: [alison.3.thompson@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:alison.3.thompson@kcl.ac.uk)



Blood pressure device

Research carried out by Professor Andrew Shennan and his team from the Department of Women's Health has proved the accuracy of an automatic blood pressure reader for pregnant women.

THE MICROLIFE 3BTO-A DEVICE, which is now being marketed in the UK, allows pregnant women to accurately record their blood pressure themselves on a day-by-day basis, enabling pre-eclampsia to be diagnosed earlier in pregnancy. Pre-eclampsia can manifest itself from 20 weeks of pregnancy onwards. The pregnancy complication, marked by high blood pressure and protein in urine, is responsible for the death of 600 babies and seven pregnant women in the UK each year. Previous automatic machines under-read the blood pressure of pregnant women, meaning that pre-eclampsia could go undiagnosed, leaving the affected women at increased risk of stroke. The unreliability of these machines meant that women had to wait for midwives to check their blood pressure during their monthly antenatal appointments. Professor Shennan, Professor of Obstetrics says, 'High blood



pressure is a key sign of pre-eclampsia, so having an accurate blood pressure device is essential. This device is simple to use and allows pregnant women to alert their midwives to any blood pressure changes so that pre-eclampsia can be diagnosed earlier, allowing us to deliver babies early before they have serious complications.'

- **Professor Shennan's research was published in the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.**

Enterprising arts

THE MAJOR NEW UNIVERSITY collaboration, London Centre for Arts and Cultural Enterprise (see *Comment* 155), has established a Knowledge Exchange Project Fund to incentivise academics to become more enterprising and develop new projects. Seed fund grants were awarded to 13 projects across the seven partner institutions with three of the successful applicants being from King's. The King's projects awarded funding were:

- **Innovative training dramas for students in healthcare professions.** Professional Roleplayers Ltd will work with the Centre for Caribbean Health and the Communication Skills Unit of the School of Medicine to develop a series of interactive dramas to raise awareness and understanding of cultural and ethnic issues.
- **EngineeringArt Materials Lab residency.** An artist/curator will facilitate visits to the archives and lab at King's as a space for artists and scientists to interact.
- **Theory into Practice.** A King's conference aimed at current students, considering the relationship between theory and practice in the creative and cultural industries.

**For more information on LCACE and the other Knowledge Exchange projects visit [www.lcace.org.uk](http://www.lcace.org.uk)**

Pipes on film

DR KASPAR ALTHOEFER, Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded £27,000 from the EPSRC Follow-on Fund for work on a Camera Laser-based Inspection Profiler (CLIP). This is a low cost and user-friendly system for non-destructive inspection of waste and water pipes. He plans to work with a number of water and pipe-inspection companies.

Afghan project

A research team from King's spent two weeks in Afghanistan during March evaluating Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). The Conflict, Security and Development Group (CSDG), of the International Policy Institute, was commissioned by the UK Government Department for International Development to review its involvement in PRTs. 'PRTs are joint civil-military teams, consisting of 100 to 150 personnel, which are intended to help stabilise the security situation and support nascent reconstruction efforts,' describes Dylan Hendrickson, Senior Research Fellow in CSDG. The research team consisted of Dylan Hendrickson, Annabel Taylor, who is enrolled on the King's MA in Conflict, Security and Development, and Mark Knight and Michael Bhatia, both of whom are external consultants. The team visited five different PRTs including the UK-led PRT in Mazar-I-Sharif, in the north of Afghanistan. 'The research findings are currently being reviewed by the Government and will assist in preparations for the deployment of a larger UK military force to Afghanistan starting in 2006,' explains Mr Hendrickson.



The team at Mazar-I-Sharif.

Prizes

Two King's medical students, Joanne Ooi from Malaysia and Charikleia Papadopoulou from Greece, were shortlisted for the third annual International Student Awards for 2005. The competition, run by the British Council, asked entrants to describe how their UK education was equipping them for a bright future. More than 2,300 students representing 142 nationalities entered the awards by writing a letter home describing their experiences of life in the UK.

'Sauerkraut-Cup'

A mixed football team of students from the Department of German and the School of Law have won the 'Sauerkraut-Cup'. It is an initiative of the German Academic Exchange Service and its 'Lektoren' (German language teachers who work at British universities). Its main aim is to promote the study of German at schools and universities. The team beat a selection of German students from the University of Kent, Canterbury, at Champion Hill Stadium in south London by six goals to one. Arsenal FC's goalkeeper Jens Lehmann, and the German national team, was the guest of honour at the event. After the match he presented the cup to the King's team and joined the students and spectators in a goal-scoring competition.



The 'Sauerkraut-Cup' winning team.

Rowing medals

The KCLSU Boat Club enjoyed great success at the BUSA Rowing Championships last month with the men's and women's teams achieving impressive results. The women won the Novice VIII category, beating 32 other crews from all over the country. In a very close final King's just pipped Oxford University to the line by 0.02 seconds. The women also came sixth (out of 16) in the Championship coxless fours, and came fifth in the Lightweight pairs category. The men won silver in the Novice VIII's, beaten only by a very big Imperial College crew in an extremely competitive event with 44 entries. The men's lightweight pair also had similar success to the women, finishing fifth in the final, and the men's championship coxless IV narrowly missed out on reaching the final.

Goodbye 05 and Hello 06

Sam Williams, KCLSU VP Media & Communications, reflects on the year

This time of year is something of an oddity for KCLSU. One would be forgiven for thinking that, once the main body of students have departed for a gap year or an internship, our workload is somewhat diminished. But much the same as staff throughout College, we take the opportunity to prepare for the September influx of students. Budgets are being prepared, training sessions written, staff recruited and publicity printed. The elected officers are readying themselves for the time they hand over the mantle of trusteeship to their successors, and anticipating either a continuation of their studies or entry into the world of work. As such, it tends to be a time of reflection. Learning from our triumphs and tribulations, we believe that every year can and should be an improvement on the last. There is no resting on laurels in the offices of KCLSU! So where are we going? The transitory nature of Student Union representation might be viewed as

a fundamental problem; however, from another angle it embodies that which enables us to continue year after year, serving and supporting an ever changing cohort. The basis is that of compromise – working together to reach goals with which most, if not all, can be content. If each new group of KCLSU Executive Officers embarks on a programme of radical policy and change every year, it may be safe to say that not very much would be achieved in their relatively short time in office. That is not to say that changes, some of them far-reaching, are not made annually, but that a respect for those who came before and those that will succeed the officers is necessary in the continuum of good representation. Therefore the induction of next year's Executive Committee will take into account the work of this year's. They will come to realise that only through consultation, conversation and compromise is it possible to represent and cater for 20,000 students from a rich diversity of backgrounds. The result will hopefully be a smooth handover and consistent progress in our efforts to provide effective representation, to encourage ever-greater participation in the King's community, and to aid the personal development of all our members.





Royal wedding

**Robert Blackburn**, Professor of Constitutional Law, was interviewed by UK and foreign media organisations about the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Mrs Parker Bowles.

Booming marvellous

At a London school it appeared pupils were booing Tony Blair, however it was later explained that the pupils were, in fact, shouting ‘boom’. **Tony Thorne**, Director of the Modern Language Centre, talked to *The Independent* and *Metro* about the meaning and origins of this slang word.

Witchcraft trial

**Dr Richard Hoskins**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Sociology of Religion, acted as an expert witness in the trial of three West Africans accused of child abuse for ‘exorcising’ evil spirits from a young girl they believed was a witch. Dr Hoskins subsequently wrote a feature in *The Sunday Times*. He was also quoted extensively elsewhere and interviewed for the television news.

Psychopathic genes

Research lead by **Dr Essi Viding** of the Institute of Psychiatry which found that anti-social behaviour was strongly inherited in children with psychopathic tendencies was reported by *BBC News Online*, *The Telegraph*, *The Independent*, *The Times*, *The Scotsman* and other newspapers.

English education

Following a report on standards of literacy teaching in primary schools, **Bethan Marshall**, Lecturer in English Education, was interviewed on BBC2’s *Newsnight* about teaching reading using ‘synthetic phonics’ to build up

words from simple letter sounds. Along with **Dr Peter Medway**, Bethan Marshall was also quoted in a *Guardian* article about a new King’s MA in performing arts in the classroom, in conjunction with the Globe Theatre.

Traumatic events

In the wake of the assault on Abigail Witchalls and her son, **Dr Sean Perrin**, from the Institute of Psychiatry, commented in *The Guardian* on the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder seen in children who have experienced distressing incidents.

Mystery man

**Michael Kopelman**, Professor of Neuropsychiatry, and **Dr Felicity de Zulveta**, a clinical lecturer in forensic psychiatry, both gave expert comment to the media about ‘piano man’ who was discovered to have no memory of his identity or past. Between them they appeared on *Channel 4 News*, *Sky News* and in *The Sunday Times*.

Police abuse on tape

After a teenager, who claimed he was arrested without cause, secretly recorded the police officer racially abusing and threatening him in the back of the police van, **Chris Eades** of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies commented in *The Times* on the Government’s policy of rounding up prolific offenders.

Stem cell risks?

**Peter Braude**, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, appeared in interviews for the ITV News Channel, BBC Radio Scotland, *BBC One O’Clock News*, BBC Radio 5 Live, ITN and *Channel 4 News* talking about this research into how the

premature use of stem-cell therapy could put patients at risk of viral or prion infections.

Youth crime hyped

**Mike Hough**, Professor of Criminology, contributed to an article in *The Observer* looking at anti-social behaviour and the ban on hooded tops. A further study by Mike Hough which called on the Government to do more to tackle the economic and social reasons behind anti-social behaviour was reported on BBC News.

African trafficking

**Dr Satvinder Juss**, Reader in Refugee Law & Human Rights, was interviewed by Capital Radio News on immigration laws as part of a story on 300 African boys who went missing from London schools between July and September 2001 in suspected cases of child trafficking.

Mumps outbreaks

**Dr Jenny Best**, Reader in Virology, was interviewed on BBC News 24, BBC Radio 5 Live and Saga Radio about the findings of a paper she co-authored for the *BMJ* which suggested that the outbreaks of mumps in younger children may be due to the recent fall in the uptake of the MMR vaccine among 2 year olds.

Veterans’ trauma

**Professor Simon Wessely** of the Centre for Military Health Research appeared in a feature on Radio 4’s *Today Programme* about army personnel returning from Iraq. Colleague **Dr Jamie Hacker-Hughes** appeared on various BBC radio stations talking about his research findings that going to war is not necessarily bad for troops’ mental health.

Parties spin to win

**Daniel Leech-Wilkinson**, Professor of Music, was interviewed for an article in *Metro* looking at the music used in election campaigns and party political broadcasts. He talked about what can be achieved using a particular type of music.

Nuclear discussions

**Dr Wyn Bowen**, Director of Research Defence Studies Department, was interviewed by the BBC World Service and BBC Radio Scotland about a meeting taking place in New York to discuss the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Hops and hormones

An article in *The Daily Telegraph* about the medicinal properties of hop shoots quoted research by **Stuart Milligan**, Professor of Reproductive Biology. The research isolated and identified a compound in the hop which has a similar structures to the female hormone oestrogen and can mimic its effects.

Fall of Singapore

**Carl Bridge**, head of the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, took part in a discussion Radio 4’s *Today Programme* into why Singapore fell to the Japanese so quickly in 1942. He argued that the Australians were not solely to blame.

See [www.kcl.ac.uk/headlines](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/headlines) for a summary of the latest media coverage for King’s and higher education generally with links through to the full articles. The Public Relations Department is keen to know of any staff featured in the media, contact us on 020-7848 3202 or email [pr@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:pr@kcl.ac.uk)

Microscopes for Romania

Dr Tony Brain describes a unique collaboration

A 30 YEAR COLLABORATION between King’s and the ‘Iuliu Hatieganu’ University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMP) in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, has recently been enhanced by the donation of two electron microscopes and ancillary equipment for teaching and research.

The collaboration began in 1975 when Dr Gheorghe Benga came from Romania to work with Professor Dennis Chapman at the Chemistry Department of Chelsea College and also started a collaboration with Dr John Wrigglesworth at the Biochemistry Department.

At the time of the visit, it just happened that the College was in the process of replacing one of the transmission electron microscopes. On being told that the redundant microscope would be given to the Science Museum or to another college, Dr Benga asked if it could be donated to his university in Romania. Dr Wrigglesworth arranged for its donation and shipment to Cluj-Napoca and it was reinstalled in 1976. Despite its antique nature, it continued in operation for research and teaching until 2004.

Since 1975, there have been numerous exchange visits by various members of the academic and technical staff and several research projects were developed between King’s and UMP Cluj-Napoca. Probably the most significant was the research collaboration between Dr Benga and Dr Wrigglesworth on the structure and function of the red blood cell membrane water channel protein, a subject recently at the centre of a Nobel Prize controversy (see *Comment* 151).

History seems to have a habit of repeating itself. In October 2004 the formation of the CUI at New Hunt’s House generated redundant equipment including several electron microscopes. Rather than sending everything straight for scrap, Dr Wrigglesworth contacted Professor Benga to see if Cluj-Napoca would again be interested in acquiring the instruments. The result was that the College agreed to donate two electron microscopes. The microscopes were dismantled and packed in October and finally left the Franklin-Wilkins Building on the 5 April. Dr Wrigglesworth commented, ‘What an adventure for Dr Brain! Travelling in the lorry with the equipment across half of Europe he



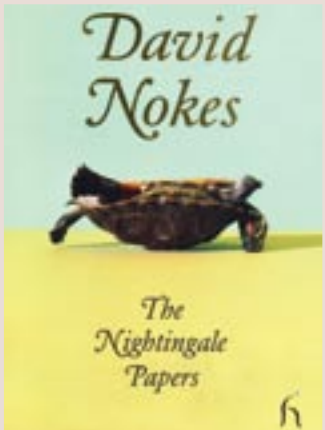
The arrival of the electron microscopes in Romania.

was involved in finalising paperwork at customs in a 12-hour stay at the Hungarian-Romanian border followed by a night drive across Transylvania finishing in Cluj-Napoca at 4am on Sunday 10 April.’

By Wednesday evening the SEM and TEM were running to specification and the microscopes were then officially left in the capable hands of the technician Eugene Mironescu.

BOOK REVIEW

The Nightingale Papers



‘A flight of pigeons wheeled around Somerset House and came to rest above the windows of St Mary-le-Strand ...’. An elaborate academic forgery is being planned by a professor whose College window has this view. A group of literary critics is about to be hoodwinked into believing a cache of long-lost poetry manuscripts by the poet Thomas Madoc has been discovered in an obscure castle

in Wales, where a conference is being hosted by the Order of Primitive Brethren, and where all sorts of mayhem – critical, sexual, suicidal, drunken and Welsh Nationalist – are about to be unleashed.

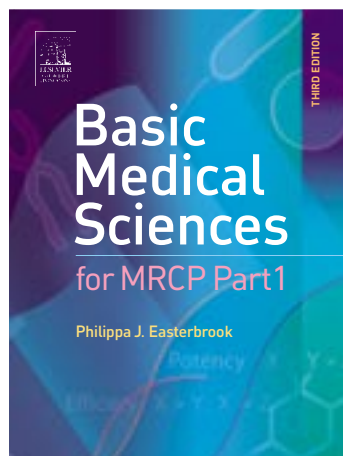
King’s has featured in fiction before (in Maureen Duffy’s *That’s How it Was* (1962) and *Capital* (1975), and in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* (2003), to name but three), which may not be surprising for a College that has produced many more than its fair share of writers – from John Keats to W S Gilbert, and Susan Howatch to Hanif Kureishi.

The College’s latest role is in *The Nightingale Papers*, published by Hesperus in May (£9.99) and written by Professor David Nokes of the Department of English. Nokes’s colleagues at King’s could be forgiven for feeling a little apprehensive about this, his first novel (although he has previously written prize-winning biographies and television screenplays), since it subjects academia to a keen wit, and a searching dismemberment

of the fads and fashions of literary criticism. Luckily, the three male literary Romantic specialists whose dubious exploits at the conference are unsparingly delineated by Nokes are as fictional as the ‘famous’ Romantic poet Thomas Madoc on whom they are supposed to be experts. One does have the impression, however, that Nokes’s observations are based on experience of a range of academic obsessions quite as weird as those he portrays.

In the satiric tradition of Kingsley Amis, Malcolm Bradbury and David Lodge (and of Jonathan Swift, on whom he is an expert), Nokes skilfully combines aspects of the campus novel with a literary detective story in the style of A S Byatt’s *Possession*, to create a novel which is provocatively amusing and entertaining: whether or not you come to it with a prior knowledge of Romantic poetry, of literary academia, or of King’s College London. **Christine Kenyon Jones**





## Basic Medical Sciences for MRCP

Philippa Easterbrook, Professor of HIV and Genitourinary Medicine

This is the third edition of this best-selling revision textbook in the Basic Sciences, which has now sold more than 27,000 copies. It is intended primarily for candidates sitting their Membership of the Royal College of Physicians examination, which now has a significant focus on the basic sciences.

In 436 pages, with 169 illustrations, this concise revision guide covers the core basic sciences relevant to physicians: genetics and molecular medicine, microbiology, immunology, physiology, biochemistry, cell biology and clinical chemistry, statistics and epidemiology and clinical pharmacology.

The chapters have been extensively updated to reflect recent developments, particularly in molecular medicine and immunology, for example, tumour suppressor genes and gene therapy. Each chapter is prefaced by a summary of the key topics covered to provide a useful

framework for revision. Information is also presented in the form of lists, tables, flow diagrams and simple illustrations. Hot topics and worked examples are presented in highlighted boxes. **Elsevier**

## The Low GI Guide to the Metabolic Syndrome and your Heart

Dr Anthony Leeds, Senior Lecturer, Department of Nutrition & Dietetics

Glycaemic Index (GI) of a food is a measure of blood glucose response after eating the food compared to standards, and is influenced by many factors including the type of starch, the presence of dietary fibre and the physical structure of the food.

Metabolic syndrome (which increases the risk of developing diabetes and vascular disease) is a group of characteristics including central obesity (waist circumference over 102cm in men and 88cm in women), high blood glucose, high blood pressure, low blood HDL-cholesterol and high blood triglyceride levels. Insulin resistance is an underlying causative factor. Epidemiological and experimental studies have shown an association between use of low GI diets and improved risk factors with varying levels of quality of evidence.

The authors present practical guidance for

the one in five adults in the UK estimated to have metabolic syndrome and who may benefit from following a low GI diet. **Hodder and Stoughton**

## Nongovernmental organisations in environmental struggles

Politics and the making of moral capital in the Philippines

Raymond L Bryant, Reader of Human Geography

Dr Bryant provides a new account of how non-governmental organisations (NGOs) function in society. He provides important new perspectives on the strategic thinking of NGOs, the way they identify and position themselves, and how they behave. While other studies assess how NGOs help others, this book focuses on how these increasingly significant actors also need to help themselves through an organisational politics of reputation building and empowerment vis-à-vis diverse stakeholders.

He develops a novel theoretical perspective around the concept of moral capital. The emphasis is on perceptions of NGOs as moral and altruistic and how such perceptions can translate into social power.

Focusing on case study NGOs from the Philippines, chapters cover the ways in which the quest for moral capital is

manifested in political, financial and spatial terms. The author draws on extensive interviews and observations to demonstrate how NGO decision-making is strongly influenced by concerns about reputation, including who to work with, which funding to seek and where to work. **Yale University Press**

## Making Sense of Your Career in Medicine

Riaz Agha, Final year medical student

This practical guide – conceived and edited by a King's student for the benefit of other medical students – is packed with invaluable career information, and explains the best path to career success. All the chapters address topics of real and continuing interest for today's undergraduates.

The text emphasises the competitive aspects of a career in medicine, providing ideas and strategies on how students can maximise their time at medical school and thus make more effective applications afterwards. This book provides the right balance of insight and pragmatism that will appeal to many students.

In a foreword written by Professor Sir Graeme Catto, Vice-Principal and President of the GMC, and Sir Barry Jackson Past-President of the Royal Society of Medicine, the book is hailed as 'a remarkable achievement'. 'We have no doubt that any medical student would benefit from reading this book and so would many of their teachers.'

