

Comment

The College newsletter

Issue no 176 | September 2007

King's Awards recognise success

AS COMMENT GOES TO PRESS THE

Savoy Hotel on the Strand is about to welcome more than 100 King's staff, students and alumni for an evening of celebration at the 2007 King's Awards ceremony.

This is the first event of this kind that the College has organised; it encompasses a number of existing awards, and some new ones, and aims to recognise the excellence and contributions of the King's community.

'An outstanding year of achievement'

'I hope it brings together members of the King's community who might not otherwise meet and helps to foster that sense of collegiality which is so important in the life of a university,' comments the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor. 'King's has enjoyed an outstanding year of achievement in many fields, both academic and non-academic, in a range of different areas and our award winners reflect these diverse accomplishments. Congratulations to all of the winners. I hope that this will be the first of many such celebrations of success.'

The event is taking place on 18 September and Adam Boulton, Sky News' Political Editor and a member of College Council, is Master of Ceremonies for the evening. There are 17 award categories: *Young researcher of the year; Media personality of the year; Helen Hudson award; Research*



Baroness Rawlings, Chairman of Council, and The Most Revd **Desmond Tutu**. Both are attending the King's Awards event: the former Archbishop will collect his *Alumnus of the year* award and Baroness Rawlings will present a number of awards at one of her final engagements as Chairman of Council.

project of the year; Young academic author of the year; Lecturer of the year; Staff member who has contributed the most to outreach/student recruitment; Distinguished supervisor award; Student academic achievement award; Business development award; Annual giving

award; Staff volunteer of the year; Most improved College service to students; Greatest student group achievement; Alumnus of the year; Greatest individual contribution to the student experience by a student; and the Lifetime achievement award. These awards will be

presented by staff, including the Principal and Vice-Principals, as well as the Chairman of Council, Baroness Rawlings, and members of the alumni and student communities.

'The College is also delighted
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King's Awards recognise success

continued from page 1

to welcome back Desmond Tutu to the event,' said Chris Coe, Director of Communications. 'The former Archbishop of South Africa is making a special trip to London to collect his *Alumnus of the year* award.'

The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu DD FKC, former Archbishop of Cape Town and Nobel Peace Laureate, took his bachelor's and master's degrees at King's in the 1960s. He has been a Fellow of King's since 1978, and the KCLSU nightclub at the Strand Campus, *Tutu's*, is named after him.

The winners of the King's Awards for *Young researcher of the year* (Professor Martin Wooster), *Research project of the year* (Dr



Professor Dame Janet Nelson, joint winner of the *Lifetime achievement award*.

Abraham Reichenberg) and *Young academic author of the year* (Dr Clare Pettitt) are also the recipients of the College Awards for these



Professor Susan Standring, joint winner of the *Lifetime achievement award*.

categories. They were each awarded a prize of £500 in August and have been automatically entered for the *Times Higher*

Awards which will be presented at a dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel on 29 November.

This year's *Lifetime achievement award* which recognises an outstanding record of achievement and/or service to the College, a substantial portion of which has taken place whilst in the employ of King's, will be presented to two academics: Professor Dame Janet Nelson FKC FBA and Professor Susan Standring. This award acknowledges Professor Nelson's outstanding services to history and Professor Standring's numerous important contributions to the Health Schools of King's.

There will be a full report detailing all the winners and including photographs from the event in November's *Comment*.

10th in Good University Guide

KING'S IS PLACED TENTH IN THE *Times Good University Guide*, rising from 17th place last year. The guide, published in August, ranks 113 institutions according to eight criteria, including student satisfaction and research quality.

The Times Good University Guide has been published every year since 1993 and compares university performance over time. In addition to the main league table and rankings by 32 subjects of study, it also contains detailed profiles of UK universities

outlining their facilities and distinguishing characteristics. There are also alternative profiles written by students themselves.

Parminder Bahra, Executive Editor of Times Online, said: 'The guide is already the leading university guide in the UK. Our enhanced online offering will make it even easier for users to get information. Throughout the year we will be adding content to ensure that users have the most comprehensive and up-to-date advice.'

UK first for dental programme

This month King's Dental Institute will admit medical graduates to a three-year dental degree programme – the first course of its kind in the UK. It is aimed at doctors who want to pursue a career in maxillofacial surgery or oral medicine.

There will be eight Dentistry Programme for Medical Graduates (DPMG) places on offer every year which are funded by the NHS and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The course

is three years rather than the standard five years, because applicants will have studied many subjects common to medicine and dentistry.

Professor Nairn Wilson, Dean of the Dental Institute, comments: 'We're delighted to be able to offer the DPMG. As one of the world's leading providers of dental education, the Institute provides a wide range of programmes to suit students' needs, depending on their interests and level of entry.'

King's neurosciences strengthened

THE KING'S NEUROSCIENCE

Consortium has been launched to strengthen links and promote greater collaboration between research teams across the College in the Institute of Psychiatry, School of Medicine and School of Biomedical & Health Sciences.

'King's has world class neuroscience and this new initiative will make our expertise much more visible and boost opportunities for collaboration between our neuroscience

groups. There is a real drive and enthusiasm from all of the principal neuroscientists in the College to achieve these goals,' says Professor Peter McGuffin, Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) and Head of the Consortium.

The College is renowned for its neurosciences in a number of areas including: developmental neurobiology and how the brain and nervous system develop; psychiatric conditions such as depression and schizophrenia; and

neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The core of the Consortium will include the IoP's Department of Clinical Neuroscience, which includes the MRC Centre for Neurodegeneration Research, the MRC Centre for Developmental Neurobiology and the Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases. The planned King's Clinical Neuroscience Institute will become a major member of the group as well.

Professor Robert Lechler, Vice-Principal (Health), comments: 'We undertook a review of King's neuroscience expertise, currently sited in different centres and schools, to determine how best to assimilate all our work in this field. By establishing this consortium the College can capitalise on its neuroscience experience by sharing intelligence and co-ordinating strategy and recruitment and so maintain its leading research status in this area.'

Key Treasury announcement

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE Treasury, Andy Burnham MP, gave his first speech in his new role at King's on 18 July in which he outlined the Government's new approach to the public sector: giving more power to local councils and NHS Trusts and reducing the number of public sector targets.

A great cultural shift

The Chief Secretary is the Cabinet Minister responsible for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), which will set out the Government's spending plans through to 2010-11 and the investments and reforms necessary to equip the UK for the global challenges ahead.

The Chief Secretary described a radical new approach to the delivery of public services and set out his vision for a new relationship between Whitehall and frontline public services. Local service chiefs will be responsible for setting performance objectives and answering to local communities if they are not ambitious enough.

Mr Burnham said that he wanted to give out a message of more trust in public bodies and emphasised the need for targets to be more motivating and empowering. He saw this as a great cultural shift, commenting that this was 'the start of a new era with renewed priorities to public service delivery'.

Under the system, there will be no more than 30 public service agreements (reduced from 110), committing Whitehall departments to use their budgets over the three years to 2010-11 to achieve the Government's goals.

The agreements will be monitored using indicators of national and local performance. A few will remain as nationally set priorities with clear measurable objectives. But most will depend on local decisions by councils, NHS primary care trusts and other service chiefs to set targets reflecting local needs and priorities.

Mr Burnham said: 'We will avoid wherever possible the more crude approach of setting a one-size-fits-all target that is dropped down from on high...The direction of travel is for public services to look and feel differently in



Andy Burnham MP gave his first speech in his new role on 18 July at King's.

different parts of the country. We want them to face downwards and outwards, having a dialogue with their local communities rather than with the centre.'

Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Vice-Principal (Research), who chaired the question and answer session

after the lecture, commented: 'I am very pleased that the Minister chose to make this major announcement at King's and welcome what he said about trust and devolving to the professionals but with that there is great responsibility on the professionals to get it right.'

Moles and slower ageing

PEOPLE WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF moles may age slower than expected, according to a 10 year study from the Twin Research Unit at King's [see also page 6].

When present in large numbers, moles can increase the risk of melanoma, a rare form of skin cancer. However, doctors have suspected that people with lots of moles may also have some advantages in view of the fact that they are common in the general population. Since moles disappear with age, the researchers looked at the relationship between the number of moles and telomere length – a good biological indicator of our rate of ageing. Telomeres, which get shorter as we age, are bundles of DNA found at the end of chromosomes in all cells and assist in the protection,

replication, and stabilization of the chromosome ends.

The researchers compared telomere length measurements in white cells with the number of moles in more than 900 sets of female twins. They found that those with high numbers of moles (greater than 100) had longer telomeres than those with very few moles (fewer than 25). The difference between the two mole groups was equivalent to six to seven years of normal ageing (estimated by looking at the average rate of telomere length loss per year in the whole group).

The lead researcher Dr Veronique Bataille says: 'The results are very exciting as they show, for the first time, that moley people may have the benefit of a reduced rate of ageing.'

New shop at Strand Campus



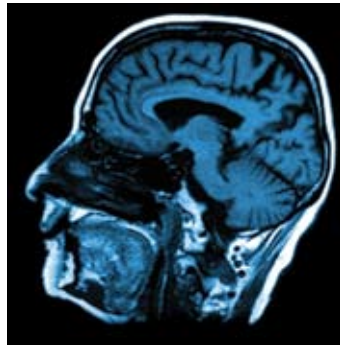
Exterior shot of the new King's College London Shop at 171 Strand. The shop began trading at the start of the 2007-8 academic session and is open Monday-Saturday with extended hours for special events such as Parents' Day on 15 September. The shop is a joint venture between KCLSU and the College. A new range of gift merchandise has been developed but the shop will also sell popular ranges from the other Campus shops. The shop's merchandise is available to buy online at www.kclshop.org

Professor leads dementia strategy

PROFESSOR SUBE BANERJEE, HEAD OF Mental Health and Ageing at the Institute of Psychiatry, is to lead the first ever national strategy to tackle dementia.

One of the fastest growing illnesses

The Department of Health initiative, which was announced on 6 August, will focus on three key areas: disease awareness, early diagnosis and high quality treatment. Professor Banerjee comments: 'Dementia is one of the



largest and most important public health and social care challenges that we face. We need to act now to develop services.'

The National Dementia Strategy Group aims to improve

the poor rate of diagnosis of one of the fastest growing illnesses in Britain. There is no test for dementia and doctors are not trained to recognise the symptoms. It will also examine the available drug therapies, setting out new rules on treatments to drive up standards of care. Although there is no cure for dementia, a range of drugs can slow the progress of the disease. In addition, the strategy will address the important issue of stigma.

Professor Banerjee, who also holds a joint clinical appointment with the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation

Trust, adds: 'One of the major obstacles is public attitudes to dementia, which stops people from seeking help. There is also a problem of professional stigma, where healthcare professionals are reluctant to diagnose the condition. So it's extremely important that this programme tries to change public and professional attitudes and understanding.'

Approximately 600,000 people in England have dementia. The figure is set to double in the next 30 years, with predictions of more than a million people with dementia by 2025.

Blood pressure mechanism discovered at King's

KING'S SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED a new mechanism for regulating blood pressure. The research, which was published in the journal *Science* and funded by the British Heart Foundation, could lead to the development of new drugs for combatting high blood pressure.

Protein kinase G (PKG) is an important protein in all tissues, but in the cardiovascular system it plays a fundamental role in blood pressure regulation. Much is known about how this protein regulates blood pressure (as well as other important cardiac functions) and nitric oxide produced within blood vessels is known to be

crucial in this process.

Now a team in the Cardiovascular Division has found a novel way in which the protein PKG can be regulated independently of nitric oxide. The researchers looked at the activity of oxidants such as hydrogen peroxide, which are produced in most cells of the body, on the enzyme PKG1alpha. They discovered that the oxidants cause a bond to form between two amino acids which activates PKG and this leads to a lowering of blood pressure.

Joseph Burgoyne, a King's PhD student who carried out much of

the laboratory work, says: 'It's long been suspected that there is another mechanism for lowering blood pressure which doesn't involve nitric oxide or reactive lipids. To identify this new pathway is very exciting.'

In addition, the research offers new insight into the role of oxidants in the body. Free radicals and oxidants, such as hydrogen peroxide, are currently viewed as harmful, causing injury and disease. This research suggests that oxidants may have specific benefits such as controlling important cellular processes. It could also help to explain why antioxidant

trials against heart disease have, on the whole, been unsuccessful.

Dr Philip Eaton, who led the team in the Cardiovascular Division, comments: 'The research could lead to the development of drugs which activate this new pathway. These drugs might also complement a number of established therapies which work via the nitric oxide pathway.'

'Apart from its impact on blood pressure control, we now plan to explore the role of this new way of activating this protein in the setting of cardiovascular disease, including the events leading to a heart attack.'

£18m to combat mental health stigma

THE BIG LOTTERY FUND HAS announced an award of £16 million, matched by a further £2 million from Comic Relief, to *Moving People*, a mental health charity partnership that includes the Institute of Psychiatry, Mental Health Media, Mind and Rethink.

This £18 million grant aims to change the culture of mental health significantly, helping to improve the well-being of people with mental health difficulties, and altering the public's attitudes towards mental health conditions.

The grant will fund a portfolio of national and regional projects under the working title *Moving People*, poised to reach some 30 million people across England and will include a large-scale countrywide anti-stigma campaign, alongside a dedicated website providing information.

The Institute of Psychiatry's role will be to provide a comprehensive evaluation service to measure the impact of each individual programme on public attitudes and through the personal



Professor Graham Thornicroft

experiences of people with mental health problems.

Professor Graham Thornicroft, Head of the Health Services Research Department at the Institute of Psychiatry, comments: 'This is by far the most ambitious programme ever undertaken in England to include people with mental illness right in the mainstream of society. We are delighted to have this opportunity to move rapidly towards the eradication of stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness – a fundamental social change that is long overdue.'

Karen Stanton

Karen Stanton is the College's Chief Information Officer & College Librarian. Here she tells *Comment* about her early days as a researcher, her work in the secret service and the new Connected Campus initiative and its many benefits...

Tell us about your career.

I first became interested in information services whilst in a summer job at the BBC on Oxford Road in Manchester. I was working as a researcher for a Radio 4 programme on travelling around southern Spain presented by Alan Whicker. Unfortunately I didn't get to visit Spain but discovered that the more bizarre facts I uncovered, the more likely they were to appear in the programme. With my postgraduate qualification in librarianship and information science now under my belt and tempted as I was by the offer of a permanent job, I declined and headed off to pursue a career in the information world working for the government.

After many months of secret service vetting I joined the Government Communications Headquarters, GCHQ in Cheltenham, initially in the geographic information services and map section, which involved lots of plotting! At this stage I began working with computing, initially programming but then moving on to computer systems analysis and design. GCHQ's computing capacity was constantly expanding, this was the era of the Cray supercomputers, and it was an exciting time to be involved in large-scale computing projects as IT moved from huge mainframe machines, locked away in vast computer rooms, to becoming the standard tool on everyone's desk. I was seconded to work at the Home Office and then the Ministry of Defence, on projects to introduce new IT systems into the workplace and I soon began to appreciate the impact IT could have on the way people worked.

How did you move into HE?

In the mid-90s I decided to move into information services in higher education. I had seen the benefits that IT had brought to large-scale government research projects and was attracted by the potential to use IT as a tool to support teaching and learning. I took up the post of Assistant Director for Learning and Research Support within the Information Services department at the University of Birmingham and was involved in one of the first convergence projects in UK higher education, bringing together library, archive and IT services into one department. I left Birmingham to join the University of Nottingham as Deputy Director for Information Services, then to Sheffield Hallam University as Director of Academic Support Services, before returning to

Nottingham as their Chief Information Officer until January this year when I joined King's. I really enjoy working in information services in universities. It places you at the very centre of academic and administrative activities and the work is extremely varied, one minute you are discussing the possibilities presented by digitising our archive and special collections, the next, how you can transform the application process for prospective students by developing an online tracking system.

Tell us about the Connected Campus.

The Connected Campus is a newly established framework to align King's ISS and technology initiatives with key objectives in the College's *Strategic Plan*. The Connected Campus framework sets out the development of an innovative e-environment for King's, delivering many of the components of a virtual campus. As a virtual campus, the Connected Campus becomes our 'sixth campus' and will be developed to sit alongside our physical estate.

The Connected Campus is made up of a number of projects to improve our information and IT services. For the academic year 2007-8 these include: a College e-communications project to introduce a new College email system and electronic calendar, including replacement of the current Webmail service, introduction of facilities for instant messaging and texting and a central look-up directory of email and telephone addresses alongside support for portable handheld devices; a new computing desktop for Professional Services staff and students, in the first instance, that provides access to software and personal files from any machine both on and off Campus, enabling staff and students to work from any location – this project is called 'King's Computing Anywhere'; a central facility to store data which is both secure and reliably backed up, our 'Manage Data Once' project will mean that staff have facilities to store and retrieve their files and personal data from one location instead of using multiple drives and storage mechanisms; and our 'Access King's' project will provide a one stop shop for students and staff to gain access to information and services. There will be a single log-in to services such as the library catalogue and the WebCT e-learning system, as well as the ability to change your personal details in the HR system, receive your payslip online, view your research grant finances, see announcements from the College



GREG FUNNELL

and receive information about training and staff development events.

Why is this important?

These are just four of the projects contained within the Connected Campus which has recently received investment from the College over a three-year timeframe. In the simplest terms if you think about the way you undertake your day-to-day research and teaching, or how students undertake their learning, alongside some of the everyday administrative tasks that you perform, the Connected Campus is intended to transform that activity by using technology to improve our working environment.

Many universities are now using technology in this way and we are aiming to ensure that King's can be at the forefront of these developments. This is the start of a period of intense and challenging activity within ISS as we set about delivering the Connected Campus framework.

Fact file

Book on my bedside table

Who moved my Blackberry? by Lucy Kellaway. This book makes me smile. It reminds me that we have become obsessed with keeping in touch with our email and messages. I'm currently reading *The Villa in Italy* by Elizabeth Edmondson.

Favourite holiday destination

The Amalfi Coast, Italy. I like everything about Italy.

Proudest work moment

The best moments are all about team work. As a Director of ISS I'm always proud of the commitment staff show in going the extra mile to provide a good service.

The Twin Research & Genetic Epidemiology Unit

The Twin Research & Genetic Epidemiology Unit has been part of King's Division of Genetics & Molecular Medicine since 2006. It has a team of 40 members of staff and is led by Tim Spector, Professor in Genetic Epidemiology.

THE UNIT WAS INITIALLY SET up at St Thomas' Hospital in 1992 via grants from The Wellcome Trust and Arthritis Research Campaign among others. Its initial focus was genetic influences on osteoporosis, asthma and allergy, and hip arthritis with the help of twins whose study enables a range of unique approaches to the understanding of genetic and environmental influences on disease and their interaction.

From humble beginnings the Unit has grown steadily over the years and now has the most detailed twin database in Europe with records of 10,000 twins from across the UK and extensive data on a range of disease markers. This is the only UK wide adult twin database and it incorporates all active participants from the only previous adult twin registers in the UK – the Aberdeen Twin registry and the Institute of Psychiatry database.

The Unit's research is focused on the genetics of complex diseases, in particular age-related diseases, and its current main focus is the genetics of metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease, the musculoskeletal system and ageing. The Unit also carries out research into sight and miscellaneous areas such as skin disease, immunology, gastroenterology and behaviour.

Research

Integral to the Unit's work are the twins themselves who are tremendously supportive. Their data provides a clearer insight into how genes influence not only certain diseases but also aspects of personality such as humour, sexuality and religious beliefs. Research is carried out either by one-to-one consultations or regular questionnaires sent to the twins to record every aspect of their health and behaviour.

A party to celebrate the twins' contribution took place in 2006 in the grounds of St Thomas' Hospital. The party brought together 700 pairs of twins, making it the largest ever gathering of twins in the UK.

The Unit is proud to count among its participants the oldest identical twins in the UK. The pair are 99 years old.

Exciting time

The Unit is currently involved in more than 12 concurrent studies with grants from a number of organisations including The



Some of the 700 pairs of twins at the twins' party in 2006.

Wellcome Trust, Arthritis Research Campaign, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the European Union and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. These projects cover diverse research areas such as the genetics of rheumatic diseases, obesity, short-sightedness, strokes and ageing.

This year the Unit was awarded three Wellcome Trust Programme Grants into the genetics of ageing and obesity as well as three grants from the European Union. One of these, the TREAT OA project, explores the genetics and treatments of osteoarthritis. These new grants total more than £14 million and will enable the Unit to continue to grow.

'This is an exciting time,' says Professor Tim Spector, Head of the Unit. 'We now have major funding for the next five years to explore in detail the genes involved in common diseases. We have been helped by the Sanger Centre to obtain genome-wide scans on 2,500 twins which means we have one third of a million markers to verify all 25,000 human genes. We hope to publish shortly genome-wide scans on traits and diseases such as osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, bone size, muscle mass, lipids and musical ability.'

'In 12 months we will also have unique data from muscle and fat biopsies of 10,000 twin

volunteers to look at how all these genes are expressed. This, combined with our genotype information and more than 1,000 different clinical measures of phenotypes, gives us an amazing matched resource for uncovering the function of human genes for common diseases.'

Media interest

The Unit publishes a large number of papers in highly ranked journals with an average of 40 papers annually.

The work of the Unit has also been widely reported in the media with more than 200 articles in major newspapers over the years and appearances on various television and radio programmes. The latest press releases have included studies into: the relationship between moles and telomeres (a marker of biological ageing) [see page 3] and osteoarthritis, social status, obesity, and smoking; the link between finger length and sporting potential in women; and the genetics of entrepreneurship, female infidelity and orgasm.

The Unit is currently collaborating with more than 160 institutions from around the world and is always looking for new collaborators as well as twin volunteers. For further information visit the Unit's website www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/medicine/depts/twinresearch/

FBA



Professor Genevra Richardson CBE

Genevra Richardson, Professor of Law, is one of 48 academics who have been awarded the prestigious Fellowship of the British Academy, the national academy for the humanities and the social sciences.

British Academy Fellowships are awarded to scholars who have 'attained distinction in any of the branches of study which it is the object of the Academy to promote'.

Professor Richardson has three main areas of research interest: administrative justice, law and psychiatry and the regulation of biomedical research.

She was awarded a CBE earlier this year in the Queen's New Year's Honours in recognition of her services to public law.

Professor Joseph Nye is one of 10 overseas scholars elected Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. Professor Nye is widely recognised as one of the foremost thinkers on foreign policy. In February he was presented with the first Honorary Degree of the University of London, awarded by King's, prior to delivering the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives annual lecture.

Distinguished Supervisor Awards

King's has 1,300 graduate research students drawn from around the world. Each year, on average, 400 complete their degrees and graduate. This year the Graduate School recognised the important role that supervisors play in these success stories via a new scheme,

New College Fellows & Honorary Fellows

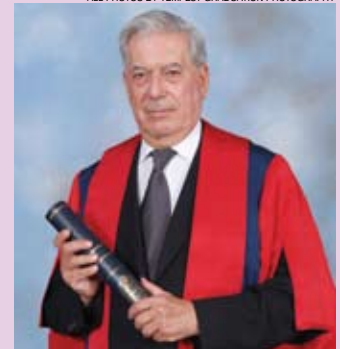
King's held six Graduation Ceremonies in July at The Barbican. In her last Ceremony as Chairman of Council, Baroness Rawlings and the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, awarded Fellowships to 20 new Fellows and Honorary Fellows of the College and more than 2,500 students were awarded their degrees before 7,000 guests.

The new Honorary Fellows are:
Mr Othman Benjelloun, Chairman and CEO, BMCE Bank Morocco
Sir Martin Jacomb, Chairman, Share plc and the Canary Wharf Group, Chancellor of the University of Buckingham
The Hon Tessa Keswick, former Director of the Centre for Policy Studies
The Rt Hon Lord Kingsland, Deputy High Court Judge and Shadow Lord Chancellor since 1997
Mr Malcolm Lowe-Lauri, Chief Executive, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Mr John-Dmitry Panitza, founding board member of the American University in Bulgaria
Baron David de Rothschild, Chairman of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG and NM Rothschild & Sons Limited
Dr Mario Vargas Llosa, writer, novelist, playwright and broadcaster
Sir Robert Worcester, founder, MORI and Chancellor, University of Kent
Dr The Hon Paul Zuckerman, Development Economist and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences

The new Fellows are:
Professor Robert Lechler, Vice-Principal (Health), King's College London
Professor Tak Lee, Head of Department of Respiratory Medicine and Allergy, King's College London
The Hon Olga Polizzi, Vice-Chairman, College Council
Professor Charlotte Roueché, Professor of Classical and Byzantine Greek, King's College London



Professor Charlotte Roueché



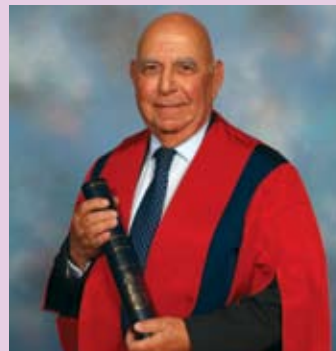
Dr Mario Vargas Llosa



Dr The Hon Paul Zuckerman



Professor Peter West FRS



Dr Kevin Zilkha



Professor Philip Whitfield

Dr George Szmukler, Head of the Health and Society Network and former Dean, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London
Professor Frank Walsh, Honorary Professor (and formerly Professor) at the College, and Executive Vice President, Wyeth Research
Professor Peter West FRS, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Department of Mathematics, King's College London
Professor Philip Whitfield, Vice-Principal (Students), King's College London
Professor Gwyn Williams, former Dean, School of Medicine,

King's College London
Dr Kevin Zilkha, consultant neurologist and Trustee, King's College Hospital Medical Research Trust, (former student of Guy's Hospital Medical School)

Graduation ceremonies for students in the School of Medicine and Dental Institute were held at Southwark Cathedral in June.

[For reasons of space we are unable to print all the photos of the Honorary Fellows and Fellows.]

the Distinguished Supervisor Awards. The winners are:

- Dr Peter R Ellis: School of Biomedical & Health Sciences (Biochemistry/Nutritional Sciences Research Division)
- Professor Timothy Newton: (Dental Institute; Oral Health Services and Dental Public Health)
- Professor Simon Gaunt: School of Humanities (French)
- Dr Jonna Kuntsi: Institute of Psychiatry (SGDP Centre)
- Professor Susan Brain: School of Medicine (Pharmacology, Cardiovascular Division)
- Professor Alison While: School of Nursing & Midwifery
- Dr Lev Kantorovich: School of Physical Sciences & Engineering (Physics)

For further information contact Chan Ha (chan.ha@kcl.ac.uk).

Appointments

Dean of RAF College



Dr Joel Hayward

King's defence scholar Dr Joel Hayward has been appointed Dean of the Royal Air Force College. Dr Hayward is Head of the Air Power Studies Division, part of The Defence Studies Department, a team of eight air power specialists who have been based at the prestigious Royal Air Force College in Cranwell since 2005. Dr Hayward described his appointment as 'a rare privilege and honour'. Bestowed with the rank equivalence of Group Captain, the Deanship makes Dr Hayward the principal advisor on academic matters to the Commandant of the RAF College.

Dr Hayward has spent over a

Obituaries

PROFESSOR LYN PILOWSKY 1961-2007



LYN PILOWSKY, PROFESSOR OF Neurochemical Imaging and Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, was a pioneer in the use of molecular imaging in psychiatry. In her first study using these methods, she demonstrated that the use of very high doses of antipsychotic drugs in schizophrenia, a practice commonly used in treatment-resistant patients, conferred no additional benefit to standard doses. This finding alone resulted in a dramatic reduction in drug-induced side effects in these patients. This study set the tone for Lyn's subsequent research, which was always aimed at improving the quality of patients' lives. She thought that the development of more effective drugs, with fewer side effects, should be the primary aim of schizophrenia research.

As well as being a researcher, Lyn was an excellent clinician. She developed a national antipsychotic review service and went on to found the first early onset treatment service at

decade teaching at various officer cadet colleges and command and staff colleges around the world.

New fundraising team members

The Development & Alumni Office recently welcomed two new members of staff, who will help to attract funding individuals, foundations and businesses to fund

the Maudsley. She was a warm, outgoing and unique person, who was loved by her patients, to whom she always gave her best. Her illness stopped her from continuing her clinical work, and this she always regretted.

Those who were privileged to work with Lyn will miss her friendship, her academic leadership, her gift for laughter and fun, and her unwavering personal and professional integrity.

Dr James Stone, Institute of Psychiatry

AIR MARSHAL LORD GARDEN 1944-2007



TIM GARDEN JOINED KING'S AS A Visiting Professor in 2000. He had joined the RAF after reading Physics at Oxford, and was soon flying V-bombers. He could later claim that he was one of the few people discussing nuclear deterrence who had actually been part of the deterrent force. After taking an MPhil in international relations at Cambridge he became the RAF's Director of Defence Studies in 1982. It was

preparation for the forthcoming second major fundraising Campaign.

Head of Fundraising Julia Chadwick has 14 years of fundraising experience in the university and charity sectors.

Julia has run fundraising campaigns for St Martin-in-the-Fields and Cranfield School of Management. She joins in

at this point that he became well known among the academic community and established his reputation for independent, critical thinking. During the 1990s he had a number of influential policy roles in the air and central staffs, culminating in the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, before a spell as Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Although he could have gone higher he decided to retire from the RAF and start a new career as an independent writer and consultant. After a spell as head of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, where he frustratingly spent most of his time on a financial rescue mission, he joined King's as a Visiting Professor. This gave him the contact with academics and students he enjoyed but the freedom to take on projects that interested him. He was soon established as an unusually well informed commentator on all defence issues.

His work on European defence, much of it undertaken for King's, and his scepticism about the Iraq War made him a natural choice to become the Liberal Democrat spokesman on defence in the Lords from 2003. He thoroughly enjoyed his new role, bringing to it the application, intelligence enthusiasm and humour that he had brought to everything he did, managing at the same time to maintain a first-rate website. He died shortly after being diagnosed with incurable cancer.

Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies and Vice-Principal (Research)

Head of Fundraising Julia Chadwick has 14 years of fundraising experience in the university and charity sectors. Julia has run fundraising campaigns for St Martin-in-the-Fields and Cranfield School of Management. She joins in preparation for the forthcoming second major fundraising Campaign. Head of Arts and Sciences Fundraising Dale Cooper, has eight years' experience of fundraising in the voluntary sector, including at homeless charity Shelter. He will be working to closely support the College's priorities across the Arts and Science disciplines.

The Smith family: stationery and service

This account of more than a century of service given to King's and King's College Hospital through three generations is drawn from a new book on the history of the College's governing body [see page 11].

THE FIRST SMITH TO BECOME A King's Council member (from 1867 to 1891) was the son of the founder of the newsagent firm. **The Right Hon William Henry Smith (1825-91)** initially wanted to train as a clergyman but his father set him to work in his news agency in the Strand and at the age of 21 he became his father's partner.

By 1862 Smith the younger had secured exclusive bookstall rights on all the important English railway systems, excluding from them all material that he judged corrupting or sensational. Henry James wrote of a Smith's bookstall at a London terminus: 'It is a focus of warmth and light in the vast smoky cavern; it gives the idea that literature is a thing of splendour, of a dazzling essence, of infinite gas-lit red and gold. A glamour hangs over the glittering booth, and a tantalizing air of clever new things.'

'Ruler of the Queen's Navee'

Smith was elected to parliament for Westminster in 1868. When he entered Disraeli's cabinet in 1877 as First Lord of the Admiralty the appointment of a tradesman to be 'Ruler of the Queen's Navee' was mocked in Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*. In 1885 he was elected MP for the new Strand constituency, which he continued to represent until his death. In 1887 he became Leader of the House of Commons and in this role was influential in aiding King's in the debate over the establishment of a teaching ('Albert') University for London.

Known affectionately as 'Old Morality', Smith was renowned for his common sense and perception, although a fellow King's Council member, the Prime Minister William Gladstone, called him 'dunder-headed'. He became a life governor of King's College in 1879 and was also a member of the managing body of King's College Hospital.

William Frederick Danvers Smith FKC (1868-1928) succeeded his father in 1891 as MP for the Strand and held this seat until 1910. He succeeded his mother, who had been created first Viscountess Hambleden just after her husband's death, as second Viscount Hambleden in 1913. He was also head of the family firm and helped to create a network of bookshops.

Smith gave lifelong service to King's. In the 1890s a gift of £5,000 from him enabled the College to stave off bankruptcy and was the first of several magnificent donations. In 1898,



William Henry Smith by 'Pet', circa 1877.

as Treasurer, he moved the motion to abolish religious tests for both teachers and Council members, which came into effect through the King's College London Act of 1903. The laboratories in the Department of Anatomy, built over the Chapel at the Strand Campus, were named after him.

Smith was also a generous donor to King's College Hospital. When WH Smith & Son bought the land north of the Aldwych then occupied by the Hospital he selected and donated a new site for it at Denmark Hill. He became a Fellow of the College in 1907. He is said to have had reserved manners and a deep sense of duty and to have been even-tempered and compassionate, but not to be bluffed.

William Henry Smith, third Viscount Hambleden (1903-48), son of the second Viscount and Governing Director of WH Smith & Son Ltd, was a member of the Delegacy from 1928 to 1935 and Chairman of King's College Hospital from 1936. He spent much time and energy in helping to convert the Hospital from peacetime to wartime footing.



Maquette for a plaque of Lord Hambleden at the Strand Campus.



Jeremy Hardie CBE MA FKC.

The Hon David Smith CBE (1907-76) was the younger brother of the third Viscount Hambleden, and the fourth member of the Smith family to be active on behalf of King's. He was a director of the family company and also Chairman of WH Smith & Son (Holdings) Ltd. He was a member of the King's Delegacy (which governed the College at this point) from 1966 to 1976 and its Chairman from 1972 to 1976, and he was also a member of the Council (which governed the King's Theological College) from 1972 to 1976.

Jeremy Hardie CBE MA FKC, director and then Deputy Chairman of the WH Smith Group between 1994 and 1999, followed the company's long tradition of strong support for King's. He served as a member of Council from 1996 to 2002 and Vice-Chairman of the Council for five years until 2002. He held a number of board positions with prominent companies as well as WH Smith.
Christine Kenyon Jones

Commemoration Oration 2007

ON 31 OCTOBER THE RIGHT

Honourable Lord Bingham of Cornhill KG FKC will deliver the 2007 Commemoration Oration. All members of the College are invited to come together for an evening of celebration and intellectual stimulation.

Lord Bingham will speak about *The Rule of Law and the Sovereignty of Parliament*. He is one of the most senior judges in the UK, and has been Senior Lord of Appeal in Ordinary since 2000. He was a member of College Council from 1989-93.

The event starts at 18.00 in the Great Hall, Strand Campus. For a ticket please email pr@kcl.ac.uk

The Commemoration Oration is one of the highlights of the College year. Now an annual celebration at King's, the first Commemoration orator was

author and poet GK Chesterton. Subsequent speakers have included author CS Lewis, former Prime Ministers Clement Atlee, Harold Wilson and Tony Blair and former Archbishop of Cape Town and Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu.

News in brief

Principal's fora

The dates for the next fora are: Tuesday 30 October, Prideaux Lecture Theatre, Main Hospital Building, St Thomas' Campus; Wednesday 31 October, Small Lecture Theatre, IoP Main Building (lunch in seminar room 3); Monday 12 November, Great Hall, Strand Campus; and Thursday 15 November, Henriette Raphael function room, Guy's Campus. All talks begin at 13.00 except St Thomas' which starts at 12.30. A sandwich lunch is available half an hour beforehand.

Media training

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is offering free media training to BBSRC grantholders and PhD students. Three introductory one-day courses in central London are being offered this autumn on 27 September, 2 October and 20 November. The course is tailor-made and uses experienced practising radio and print journalists to introduce scientists to the workings of the media and to provide training in interviewing and communication skills. For more information contact the BBSRC Media Office on 01793 413299 or email press.office@bbsrc.ac.uk

Networking reception

Alumni who work in the City are invited to attend a networking event at The City of London Club on 6 November (18.30-21.00). The evening will include wine and canapés, and provide

an opportunity for attendees to meet others working in the financial, business and law communities. If you know any alumni who work in the City who may be interested contact Sally Ford in the Alumni Relations Office (sally.ford@kcl.ac.uk or ext 4342).

WHO Centre

The Department of Oral Medicine within the Dental Institute was re-designated as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Oral Cancer & Precancer for a further four-year period from June 2007. The Head of Department Professor Saman Warnakulasuriya has functioned as the Director of the Centre for several years and has directed and overseen the progress of a range of global research partnerships on this topic.

KILT conference

The first Learning and Teaching Conference, facilitated by KILT (King's Institute of Learning and Teaching), was held at Waterloo Campus on 4 July. This was an opportunity for staff to raise the profile of teaching across the College through discussion and debate. The conference was opened and introduced by Simon Lygo-Baker, Acting Director of KILT. The event was well supported with more than 100 participants including external learning and teaching specialists from other Russell Group universities. Next year's conference will take place on 4 March.

MP awards certificates

LOCAL MP KATE HOEY PRESENTED

certificates to 80 Uni4U students at a celebration event on 20 July in the Franklin-Wilkins Building, Waterloo Campus. She has been the Labour MP for Vauxhall since 1989 and is constituency MP for the Waterloo, St Thomas' and (part of the) Denmark Hill campuses.

The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, opened the proceedings in front of an audience of 200 people, welcoming students, family and friends to King's. Making the link with other widening participation projects in the College, the Principal praised Uni4U students' achievements and expressed the hope that more local people would be able to benefit from the Uni4U project at King's.

Kate Hoey, a great supporter of these types of initiatives, commented that she was impressed by the scale of the project, the



Kate Hoey MP presents certificates to successful Uni4U students.

achievements of the students and role of Uni4U at King's in providing these novel learning opportunities for local people.

Uni4U, a widening participation project which 'opens new doors to adult learning' is based in the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery.

Alumni Sports Day

THE KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Association is holding an Alumni Sports Day on Saturday 29 September to provide an opportunity for the large number of alumni sports teams to compete with current undergraduate students. At the end of the day successful teams will be presented with the first set of Alumni Sports trophies.

A full range of sports is planned at the New Malden sports ground including rugby, football, netball and hockey, and supporters are encouraged. This will be the first fixture in the alumni sports league, which is to be a regular event, to

enable alumni teams to recruit new players and allow King's to further develop its already flourishing alumni sports programme.

From 19.00 there will be a black tie dinner in the Great Hall at the Strand Campus. Tickets are priced at £55 and include a drinks reception with a live band, followed by a three-course dinner. After dinner there will be a party with a DJ in the Waterfront Bar. For more information contact Paul Mould (paul.mould@kcl.ac.uk) or Michael Walsh (michael.p.walsh@kcl.ac.uk) or call 020 7848 3447.

The Council: a portrait

A HANDSOME, FULLY-ILLUSTRATED 56-page book, *The Council: a portrait*, has been published by the College to record and celebrate the role of the Council.

The publication describes the major contributions made to the College by its governing body over 180 years, and was written by Dr Christine Kenyon Jones of External Relations, with research in the College Archives by Michal Sofer. It traces how the Council's role and membership have adapted over this period to changes in the College, in education and in society. Mini-biographies of nearly 40 individual members of Council include those of WE Gladstone (the Council's longest-serving member) and the three other prime ministers who

have served King's in this way, as well as a wide variety of the 'great and good' who have been members.

The publication also features five 'snapshot' descriptions of King's and its governing body in key years of the College's life; articles about the contributions to King's made by families such as the WH Smith dynasty [see page 9] and the Twinings of tea fame; a timeline showing important events in the College's history; and a full list of all those who have been members of the Council and Delegacy. The illustrations include many portraits and some newly photographed objects from the College's Archives.

The book was presented to Lady Rawlings, Chairman of the



Council (1998–2007), following her final Council meeting in the chair, and in the presence of the next Chairman, Lord Douro. Reference copies are available on

loan from Tess Morey in External Relations on 020 7848 3004. The Principal's Office is despatching copies to friends and supporters of the College.

Art for the Planet: a new College competition

SUBMISSIONS ARE INVITED FROM STAFF and students for the first annual art competition, organised by the Estates and Facilities Directorate with the support of KCLSU.

The subject of this year's competition is *Art for the Planet*, with the theme of climatic change, the impact on the planet and imaginative ways of solving it. The main prize for the finalist in each category will be £500 with a special student prize, a President's Award, which will be a KCLSU event pass for a year.

Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates, comments: 'I thought it would be good to raise the profile of both art and climate change in the College, given there is an interest in both and much hidden talent waiting to be discovered.'

The two categories are: painting, drawing, cartoon or other work on paper; and collage or wall sculpture using recycled material.

The judges will be Sally Taylor, Director of the London Centre for Arts and Cultural Enterprise, Michaela Crimmin, who runs the Arts and Ecology programme at the Royal Society of Art, Professor Rick Trainor, Principal, and Adam Farley, President of KCLSU.

Submissions should be unframed, A2 in size or smaller. Wall sculptures should be mounted on a card or board backing which is able to be hung on a wall and made of clean recycled materials.

Finalists will be displayed in

the South Range on the Strand Campus and the winning entries will be exhibited in public areas of the College.

Submissions should be sent to the Estates and Facilities Office, 3rd Floor, Capital House, 42

Weston Street, London SE1 3QD with the name, Department and email address of the originator on the back. Submissions should be made by 14 January and judging will take place by the end of February 2008.

FREESPACE at King's showcases the arts



On 27-29 July the first FREESPACE event showcasing music, art and dance with opportunities to take part in workshops and participatory performances took place. Organised by Somerset House, a number of the events were held at King's Strand Campus. The Great Hall was the venue for indoor jam sessions and hands-on music learning with musicians *Tomorrow's Warriors*. Young artists expressed their creativity via graffiti and drawing workshops. A giant work of street art in the Quad (pictured) was the centrepiece of the FREESPACE event. Artist Steve Dixon also led a number of *Draw a Dancer* workshops in the South Range.

King's Summer School



Students at King's Summer School.

KING'S FOURTH SUMMER SCHOOL, organised by the Widening Participation Office, started on 3 July with more than 50 gifted and talented 16-year olds from London taking part in an extensive four-day programme which provided an insight into, and flavour of, university life.

The programme was made up of academically-themed sessions across three campuses and further afield with lectures on the London Eye. Other activities included talks, lively discussions, a debate, demonstrations, practical

workshops and one-to-one course and careers advice.

Samantha Paxton, Widening Participation Manager, explains: 'We hope it gives students the idea of the richness of university life in London and that they had the chance to taste both work and play in the life of an undergraduate, with diverse talks and activities. I am extremely pleased with the wide-ranging programme we were able to organise with some of King's top academics and thank all those staff who gave up their time to help us.'

New ERG initiatives

A NUMBER OF EXCITING INITIATIVES are taking place within the Environmental Research Group, part of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Division.

The Group is working closely with the London Borough of Camden to investigate the efficiency of NOX (nitrogen oxide) reducing paint. The paint contains titanium dioxide (TiO₂), a strong photocatalyst that breaks down NOX into nitrates in the presence of sunlight and water vapour. The results of the trial will provide useful information about what effect the photocatalytic paint has on its surrounding environment and if the results are favourable it could help battle air pollution.

A wall at an enclosed area at Central Saint Martins College will be partially painted with photocatalytic paint and a

monitoring station with two NOX analysers will monitor the air. Meteorological sensors will also monitor the impact of prevailing weather conditions. To measure the difference in air quality the site will collect one year's data before the wall is painted and compare it with a year's data after the paint has been applied.

The site is in the heart of Camden's busy business district inside the congestion charge zone. It experiences high NOX concentrations with low dispersion conditions. These are the optimum conditions under which the paint should work.

The data from the site will be updated on this website – www.londonair.org.uk – for the trial period. The ERG has also recently upgraded the LondonAir website so that the latest air pollution measurements can now

Research tools rewarded

KING'S BUSINESS HAS JUST

concluded a £24,000 research tool licensing deal with Santa Cruz Biotechnology in the USA for a panel of HIV monoclonal antibodies. Professor Michael Malim FRS, Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases, developed the antibodies when he was a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania which has subsequently assigned all rights to the antibodies to King's. The antibodies have been raised against the HIV-1 Gag, Vif, integrase and REV proteins which all play important roles in the proliferative success of the HIV-1 virus in humans.

King's Business can potentially generate income for King's researchers who have developed valuable research tools. Research tools are anything used in the performance of research. The



Professor Michael Malim FRS

most common are reagents such as antibodies, enzymes, animal models and molecular biology and proteomics reagents but there is also potential for licensing of teaching packages and software programmes. For further information contact Michael Jorgensen (michael.jorgensen@kcl.ac.uk).

Rory Bremner comes back

Staff are invited to join alumni and friends of the College on 18 October, when noted comic satirist and King's alumnus Rory Bremner FKC (French and German, 1984) will host a fundraising dinner in aid of student facilities and activities. This glamorous black-tie event will be held in the Great Hall at the Strand Campus, where guests will enjoy a drinks reception and three-course dinner. After dinner guests will be entertained by Bremner's unique brand of satire as he discusses current affairs with

co-host Adam Boulton, Political Editor at Sky News.

A raffle on the night will include prizes donated by Kumuka Worldwide, Sea France, British Airways London Eye, the Southbank Centre and the Hard Rock Café, and will raise further funds for KCLSU.

Tickets for this event cost £80 per person (or £750 for a table of 10). For further information or to purchase tickets please contact Nathalie Debono in the Development & Alumni Office (020 7848 3396 or nathalie.debono@kcl.ac.uk).

be sent directly to desktops via RSS feeds which will provide a notification if any sites in the network measure 'moderate', high or 'very high' pollution.

The Group has also set up dedicated feeds for each local authority in the network enabling council officers and members of the public to view the latest measurements from all of the sites in their area.

Air quality monitoring manager

Gary Fuller comments: 'We are always seeking new ways to get air pollution information out to the public. Up-to-date public information is an important part of the air quality management process; raising awareness of pollution incidents and helping people to minimise the impacts of air pollution on their health. We believe that the LondonAir is the first air quality network in Europe to provide an RSS service.'

Science performance

Claire Haworth and Professor Robert Plomin at the Institute of Psychiatry have published a paper into the differences between male and female science performance in primary school.

Published online in the *International Journal of Science Education*, this paper *A Twin Study into the Genetic and Environmental Influences on Academic Performance in Science in nine-year-old Boys and Girls* is important as it is the first behavioural genetic investigation of science performance. No other researchers have looked at the relative influences of nature and nurture for science performance before.

There has long been debate about the under-representation of women in scientific careers, and there have been suggestions that men are simply intrinsically

better at science than women. The researchers aimed to assess whether there are sex differences in the genetic and environmental influences that impact on individual differences in science performance, and whether these differences are present in early science development in primary school.

Using a very large representative cohort of more than 2,600 pairs of twins from the Twins' Early Development Study, the researchers showed that in the early school years there are no mean differences in science performance (ie boys are not significantly better than girls at science) and also there are no aetiological sex differences (ie the same genes/environments influence science performance in boys and girls and influence performance to the same extent).

HRT alternative

FOODS LIKE SOYA, DARK CHOCOLATE, tea and red wine, which are rich in polyphenols, can have a beneficial effect on cardiovascular health, and could even provide postmenopausal women with potential alternatives to long-term hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

Professor Giovanni Mann and Dr Richard Siow from the Cardiovascular Division presented their findings recently at the Life Sciences Conference in Glasgow. Their group has investigated the cardiovascular benefits of soy isoflavones – natural plant-derived compounds which can mimic the actions of the female sex hormone oestrogen.

The researchers have found that low concentrations of isoflavones increase blood flow by releasing the dilator nitric oxide from endothelial cells lining the blood vessel wall. These compounds also stimulate the activity of protective antioxidant genes which remove dangerous 'radicals' associated with an increased risk of heart disease and stroke.



Low concentrations of soy isoflavones may be of use to postmenopausal women because of their increased binding to a specific oestrogen receptor. Professor Mann comments: 'The American Heart Association has cautioned that women on long-term treatment with HRT have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. At this stage we cannot say that isoflavones and related polyphenols are a cure-all for symptoms associated with menopause, but eating a well-balanced diet rich in isoflavones may provide protection against increased oxidative stress in menopause and ageing.'

Asthma-obesity link



SCIENTISTS AT KING'S HAVE discovered a protein that is known to increase appetite in cells closely associated with asthma, suggesting a mechanistic link between asthma and obesity.

Researchers from the MRC-Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma investigated the molecules produced by Th2 cells – specialised immune cells. They found that in addition to producing proteins which cause asthma, the Th2 cells also produce a protein encoded by the gene PMCH (pro-melanin-concentrating hormone) which is known to increase appetite. The research is published

in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The number of people with asthma has increased in recent years in many countries, including the UK, which coincides with a rise in the incidence of obesity. Scientists have been investigating whether the two conditions may be connected. Asthma is more common in obese people and obesity often precedes asthma, suggesting that increased weight is not simply a result of inactivity caused by asthma.

The researchers will now look at possible genetic polymorphisms, or variations, of PMCH to see the role they play.

Hot weather and suicide

DR LISA PAGE, CLINICAL LECTURER and Researcher at the Institute of Psychiatry, is the lead author in a new study that finds an increased risk of suicide during hot weather. The research was published in the August issue of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

This study sets out to assess



the relationship between daily temperature and daily suicide counts in England and Wales over 10 years (January 1993 to December 2003) and although researchers did not find a spring or summer peak in suicide, once temperatures rose above 18°C, with each extra degree C increase in average temperature there was also an associated rise in all suicides of 3.8 per cent and of 5 per cent in violent suicides.

There are three mechanisms by which higher temperatures could cause suicide – sociological, biological and psychological, which the researchers explore. The effects of high temperatures on suicide counts will probably become more important as global warming continues.

Armed forces

Research by the King's Centre for Military Health Research about the overstretch dangers facing British Armed Forces Personnel in Iraq, was reported by *The Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *Independent*, *Daily Mail* and BBC News Online. The academics involved, **Professor Nicola Hotopf**, **Professor Roberto Rona** and **Dr Nicola Fear** were interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Sky News, ITV and BBC television news.

Moles

People with a large numbers of moles may age slower than people with fewer moles, research from **Dr Veronique Bataille** of the Twin Research Unit suggests. Dr Bataille was interviewed by BBC Radio 5 Live, Radio 2's *Chris Evans Drivetime*, BBC Radio Scotland and BBC Southern Counties Radio. **Professor Tim Spector**, Head of the Twin Research Unit, was interviewed about the study for BBC Radio 5's *Drivetime*.

Knife crime

The extent of Britain's violent crime epidemic is revealed in new figures that show the number of street robberies involving knives has more than doubled in two years. The study, by the **Centre for Crime and Justice Studies**, is based on the government's own statistics and was the lead report in *The Sunday Times*.

Extremist cells

Dr Peter Neumann, Director of the Centre for Defence Studies, was interviewed on Sky News, Fox News, ZDF (German TV), More 4 News, CNN and Swedish public television about terrorism, extremist cells and why attacks fail.

Foiled attacks

In the week following the foiled terror attacks in London and Glasgow, **Dr John Gearson**, Reader in Terrorism Studies, spoke to Sky News, BBC News 24, BBC World TV, CNN International, CNN USA, Press Association TV and BBC Radio London, BBC World Service Radio and BBC Radio Wales.

Diet advice

Sensible eating of more familiar fruits and vegetables is a better approach than focussing on superfoods, argued **Professor Tom Sanders**, Head of the Nutritional Sciences Research Division, on BBC One's *The One Show*. Professor Sanders also offers his expertise on the Channel 4 series *Cook Yourself Thin*.

Brain training

Dr Yulia Kovas, Researcher, Institute of Psychiatry, tested the latest craze in video games – 'brain training' on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. Dr Kovas said there have been no studies to determine brain age and the concept does not exist.

Nuclear capability

A controversial plan by Australia to sell uranium to India was discussed by **Pete Zimmerman**, Professor of Science and Security, on ABC News. Professor Zimmerman also contributed articles for the *Financial Times* and *The New York Times*.

CBT

Professor Paul Salkovskis, Clinical Psychologist, participated in an interview and phone-in about Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and its applications on the BBC Radio 2 *Jeremy Vine Show*.

Youth crime

Following the shooting of the 11-year old boy, Rhys Jones, in the Liverpool area, **Will McMahon**, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, was interviewed on Al Jazeera English.

Radiological threat

Brooke Rogers, King's Centre for Risk Management, was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *6 O'Clock News* about the medical and governmental capabilities for dealing with radiological terrorism.

Medical degree

BBC Radio 4's *PM* ran a feature on the graduation of the first students from King's Extended Medical Degree Programme. **Pamela Garlick**, Course Director, and three students – **Linda Onyema**, **Isaac Shepherd-Prince** and **Canh On** – were interviewed. There was also an article on the degree programme in *The Independent's* Education Supplement.

Addiction unfound

Dr Vaughan Bell, Institute of Psychiatry, hit out at an 'infuriating and self-contradictory' article in the *Journal of Mental Health*. The piece refers to an alleged psychological addiction called 'Internet addiction disorder'. He told CNN it is impossible for people to be addicted to the internet as it is neither a substance nor an activity.

Beckham's fitness

Duncan Critchley, Lecturer in Applied Biomedical research, argued that by aiming to play for both his club and country, David Beckham could be pushing himself too hard too soon, on Sky News.

Moliere

Professor Ginette Vincendeau, Head of Department of Film Studies, reviewed *Moliere* – a film about the French playwright's life – on Radio 4's *Front Row*.

ADHD

Dr Tamsin Ford, Clinical Training Fellow, was interviewed on Radio 4's *Am I Normal?* about the use of medication for children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Harry Potter

The latest Harry Potter novel was the subject of a Sky News interview with **Dr Richard Howells**, Reader in Cultural and Creative Industries.

Cannabis education

Robin Murray, Professor of Psychiatry, was interviewed on BBC1's *10 O'Clock News* about *The Lancet* paper on cannabis and psychosis and called for education rather than re-classifying cannabis.

Crime perception

Following the publication of the crime figures by the Home Office, **Professor Mike Hough**, Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research, was interviewed on the BBC1 News about public perception of levels of crime.

See www.kcl.ac.uk/headlines for the latest media coverage or on Campus noticeboards. *Comment* is keen to know of any staff featured in the media, call ext 3202 or email pr@kcl.ac.uk

Volunteering Gold



Three of the Gold Award winners (from left): **Katherine Carroll** (Imperial College London), **Kartik Muthusamy** (King's) and **Roxana Carlisle** (University of Bristol).

KARTIK MUTHUSAMY, A SECOND-YEAR

Engineering student, has won a prestigious Gold Award from Student Volunteering England. In honour of this award, Kartik, who works with disadvantaged young people, attended a dinner at the House of Lords on 19 July and was chosen to give a talk to the Lords about student volunteering.

Student Volunteering England's Gold Awards are the only nationally recognised awards where students' achievements are honoured by their peers. Kartik was one of eight winners of Gold Awards from London.

Kartik is a football team manager for a volunteering project called Street League, a charity which uses sport to help young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their potential. They work to engage and inspire individuals through a range of sporting projects. As a team manager Kartik's main duties include registering new players, completing the registration of all players at training, picking a team for the matches and ensuring they arrive on time, knowing all match details as well as generally encouraging the players.

Kartik also volunteers every Sunday on a project called, KEEN London. KEEN London aims to provide sports and recreation to children with special needs, promoting physical and social

development, teamwork and self-confidence in a supportive and fun environment.

Describing his volunteering work, Kartik says: 'Through my volunteering I have gained a real sense of achievement. I have learnt valuable organisational and leadership skills by being the manager of one of the teams. Not only has it made the past two years at uni more rewarding, but it made me stay when I really did consider throwing the towel in. I'm incredibly thankful to the College and Students' Union as well as the charities for giving me the opportunity to volunteer for them.'

Shelley Rowley, Volunteer Programme Worker, comments: 'Kartik is a fantastic and dedicated volunteer, this Gold Award from Student Volunteering England is very well deserved for all the work he does and the time he gives up for young people and disadvantaged children. We are so proud of him.'

Henley success

STUDENTS MATT NEAME (INSTITUTE of Psychiatry) and Rob Irving (American Studies) cruised to victory at the Henley Royal Regatta (4-8 July). Competing in the University of London coxed four team, they won the Prince Albert Challenge Cup beating the University of British Columbia, the Canadian champions, and the University of Cambridge in their semi-final and final. The Regatta is open to teams from around the world and this University of London team is only the third university coxed four to lift the cup.

Summer School

LCAGE (LONDON CENTRE FOR ARTS and Cultural Enterprise) is a consortium of eight London-based universities including King's. It was established at the

end of 2004 to encourage new partnerships and collaborations between those universities and the arts and cultural industries in London. Part of its role is to enable both academics and students to develop better business skills for working in these industries and, for the last three years, it has run a Summer School for students from all eight partners.

Survival Skills for working in the arts and cultural sectors was this year's theme. The week brought together a wide range of experts from across these sectors to talk to students about the general skills needed to work in those fields.

Feedback was extremely positive. One King's student, Oyinda Fakeye, commented: 'The panel discussions were very insightful and I really enjoyed the visits. I wasn't aware of the array of activities offered at The Roundhouse for under 26s.'

From Bangkok to Brighton by tuk-tuk

A King's student who travelled by tuk-tuk from the British Embassy in Bangkok to Brighton has written a book about her experiences, *Tuk Tuk to the Road*.

Jo Huxster (Medicine) and her friend Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent kept an online diary throughout the 98-day trip. The book is an edited version of their blog and includes tales of armed guards in Laos, landslides in China and marriage proposals in Russia. The book is illustrated with stunning photography of their travels.

They drove the 12,500 miles in Ting Tong, their bright pink performance-enhanced three-wheeled tuk-tuk. The pair drove through Thailand, Laos, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium and France at an average of 150 miles a day meeting local people and travellers on the way. They also raised £37,368 for the mental health charity MIND in the process.

Jo comments: 'I travelled to Thailand in 2002 and fell in love



King's student **Jo Huxster** (right) and her friend **Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent** with their tuk-tuk.

with tuk-tuks. After a trip in one around Bangkok, I decided that one day I would like to drive one back to England. The trip was an experience of a lifetime. As well as travelling to remote areas and meeting interesting people, we had the opportunity to raise money for MIND and increase awareness about mental health problems. We wanted to support

MIND, because I suffered from depression in my adolescence and was personally helped by them.'

They have spoken about their experiences on television programmes including *This Morning* and *Richard & Judy*. In November 2006 they won *Cosmopolitan* magazine's 'Fun, Fearless and Female' award.



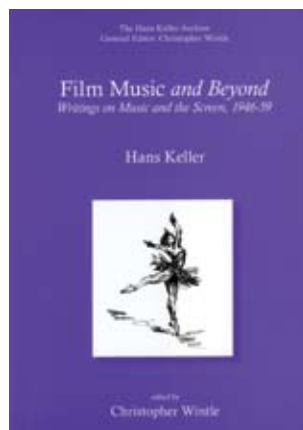
Thomas Becket: Friends, Networks, Texts and Cult

Professor Anne Duggan, History Department

Becket's life was lived on a European stage, his dispute with Henry II of England was conducted in a European setting.

The 15 studies published here reflect not only the global reach of the subject but the international reputation and wide-ranging expertise of their author, whose edition and translation of the *Correspondence of Archbishop Thomas Becket* (Oxford, 2000) and acclaimed biography (*Thomas Becket*: London, 2004) have established Professor Duggan as the doyenne of Becket studies.

Based almost exclusively on the critical examination of manuscripts and texts, this important collection includes significant studies on the papal curia, Becket's household in exile, the florilegium gallicum, the authorship of Becket's letters, the coronation of the young King Henry (1170), Henry II's reconciliation at Avranches (1172), the explosion of Becket's cult across the Latin West, the transmission of hagiographical and liturgical texts to France, Germany, and Portugal, and the role of diverse agencies of dissemination: Henry II's daughters, for example, in Saxony, Castile and Sicily.
Ashgate: Aldershot



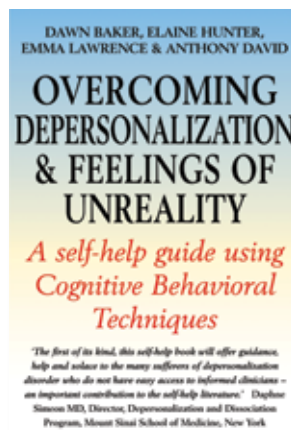
Film Music and Beyond: Writings on Music and the Screen, 1946-59

Christopher Wintle, Department of Music

Between 1946 and 1959, the most outspoken voice in British film music was that of Hans Keller (1919-85), the celebrated Austrian critic who emigrated to London in 1938. He argued passionately for 'the need for competent film music criticism', laid out the main topics of the time, and studied the contribution of all the main British composers and many others besides. His principles were extraordinarily prophetic, and are essentially the same as those taught today.

More than this, he was a personal friend of many of the film composers, and in particular championed William Alwyn, Arthur Benjamin and Alan Rawsthorne as well as the more established names – Auric, Bernstein, Britten, Thomson, Vaughan Williams and Walton. His knowledge of all their work was extraordinary. In 1959 he also devoted a combative column to 'television music'.

This important collection forms a vital complement to the contemporary *Composing for the Film* by Hanns Eisler and Theodor Adorno. It also provides an unparalleled account of a great age for film music, especially in Britain.
Plumbago/Boydell & Brewer



Overcoming Depersonalization & Feelings of Unreality

Professor Anthony David et al, Institute of Psychiatry

This book was produced by the Depersonalisation Research Unit at the Institute of Psychiatry and Maudsley Hospital. Depersonalisation disorder is characterised by persistent or recurrent episodes of 'detachment or estrangement from one's self'. The individual may feel like an automaton, or, in a word 'unreal'.

Symptoms of depersonalisation and derealisation in the general population are common but prevalence of clinically significant depersonalisation is probably one to three per cent.

At present there is no established treatment but there are medications available which help some. The clinic developed a cognitive-behavioural approach to treatment thanks to psychologists Dawn Baker and Elaine Hunter. While helpful to many patients there emerged a clear need for a self-help book.

This latest addition to the popular 'Overcoming...' series takes many elements from the CBT approach plus others which have proven utility in anxiety and depressive disorders. It offers a simple step-by-step-guide and information to sufferers.
Constable & Robinson

Three favourite...

Art galleries near the Strand and Waterloo campuses

As recommended by Dr Richard Howells, Director of the Cultural and Creative Industries Programme

Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery, The Strand

This is an absolute gem of a gallery, right next door to the Strand Campus. It's not just the strength of the collection (including works by Gauguin, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Renoir, Modigliani – to say nothing of the Courtauld's star turn: Manet's Bar at the Folies-Bergère). It's also a quiet, uncrowded part of the beautiful Somerset House, and admission is free to King's staff.

The National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq

Quite simply one of the finest art galleries in the world. It's home to many iconic works – my advice is to go 'little and often' and focus on just one or two paintings at a time. Look for the disguised symbolism in the 'Arnolfini Wedding' or the anamorphic skull in 'The Ambassadors'. If you've already done that, just luxuriate in the countless Old Masters. Admission to the permanent collection is refreshingly free; occasional blockbuster exhibitions carry a charge.

The Hayward Gallery, Southbank

This is the place for the unexpected in a revitalised Southbank Centre. The Hayward showcases new works, commissions and installations. Sometimes gimmicky, occasionally inspiring, never dull! Exhibitions are usually free of charge, with some staged outdoors.

Let us know your three favourite things related to a King's Campus. Email julie.munk@kcl.ac.uk

Comment is the College's regular newsletter, edited by the Public Relations Department and designed by the Corporate Design Unit | *Comment* is printed on paper produced with 80 per cent recovered fibre | Articles are welcomed from all members of the College, but please note that the Editor reserves the right to amend articles | Copy for the next issue can be sent to Julie Munk, Public Relations Department (ext 3075), James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Campus, or emailed to julie.munk@kcl.ac.uk by **3 October**.