

Comment

The College newsletter

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PM speaks at King's

PRIME MINISTER GORDON BROWN

chose King's as the setting for his first major speech on health last month. Health Secretary Alan Johnson was also in attendance for this important keynote speech on the future of the NHS.

Welcoming the Prime Minister to King's, the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, commented: 'It is fitting that the Prime Minister chose King's as the location for his keynote speech on the Future of our NHS: Personal and Preventative, given our reputation for medical excellence.'

'A modern reputation for outstanding professionalism'

Mr Brown also opened his speech by congratulating staff at the College for their outstanding professionalism and dedication to health and education. Referring to the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, Mr Brown said: 'Almost one hundred and fifty years old, yours is one of the oldest colleges of nursing and midwifery in Britain with a modern reputation for outstanding professionalism, excellence in research and world leadership in the training of nurses and there is nowhere more appropriate for me to talk about how we can work together
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The Prime Minister, **Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP**, presented his first major speech on the NHS in the Great Hall at the College last month. He is pictured here with the Secretary of State for Health **Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP**.

PM speaks at King's

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The Principal, **Professor Rick Trainor**, greeting **Gordon Brown** at the Strand Campus.



From left: Nursing students **Angelina Kennedy**, **Claire Pearson**, **Georgina Marks**, **Louise Reynolds**, **Eleanor Dallman**.

to renew Britain's NHS for the future.'

Some of the new plans announced included extending the availability of diagnostic procedures in the GP surgery, and making ECGs, blood tests and ultrasounds available when and where patients want them.

Recognising the care and dedication of staff in the NHS, Mr Brown also highlighted the need for doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to be 'partners in care' with patients so that they are better informed and feel more in control: 'During 2008 we will bring forward a patients' prospectus that sets out how we will extend to all 15 million patients with a chronic or long-term condition access to a choice of 'active patient' or 'care at home options'.

Before laying out his plans for the future of the NHS, Mr Brown

had the opportunity to meet nursing students from the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery Angelina Kennedy, Claire Pearson, Georgina Marks, Louise Reynolds, Eleanor Dallman.

Professor Anne Marie Rafferty, Head of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, gave the vote of thanks to the Prime Minister following his speech. She welcomed the Government's commitment to improving the NHS and emphasised that patients rely on superlative nursing care. Echoing the sentiments of Florence Nightingale, whom she described as an exponent of improvement for health benefits with a relentless pursuit for reform, Professor Rafferty concluded by saying his vision held out the prospect of lasting improvement to the nation's health.

Principal's Column

GREG FUNNELL



Dear Colleagues

It is immensely gratifying that the Prime Minister took the highly significant step of announcing his new plan for the NHS at King's, underlining the College's growing importance in the field of healthcare (lead story).

There have been an unprecedented number of distinguished visitors to the College in recent months, and more are expected in the spring. By the time that this issue of *Comment* is published, King's will have been visited again by the Prime Minister and by Minister of State Margaret Hodge, and the Home Secretary will have addressed a major conference organised by the College (see opposite) which will be attended by two former Presidents, and the former Prime Ministers of four nations. We also hope that Kofi Annan will give a major speech here in the near future.

Besides the Prime Minister, over the last year King's has welcomed a number of important visitors including Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children and Families; Des Browne, Secretary of State for Defence; Ben Bradshaw, Minister of State for Health; Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Higher Education; Malcolm Wicks, Minister of State for Science and Innovation; Ann Keen, Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Department of Health; Boris Johnson, Shadow Minister for Higher Education; Admiral Sir Jonathon Band, Chief of the Naval Staff; and Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Senior Lord of Appeal. It is only right that

King's, with its unique academic record and geographical position, should attract such influential policy makers.

On another note, I would like to apologise on behalf of the College for the two recent disruptions that have caused much inconvenience recently. Firstly, the loss of the email service between 3-6 January 2008 was an unfortunate start to the New Year and was due to a hardware failure. The College has committed £8 million to a significant three-year 'Connected Campus' capital investment programme aimed at modernising our IT and information infrastructure.

The replacement of old electronic communication systems from April, in a phased implementation scheduled for completion by September 2008, will deliver a far more robust system. We will be acquiring new hardware in the interim to minimise the potential of further major disruptions of this kind until the new service is launched. ISS colleagues worked heroically during the loss of service and are working very hard both on interim and longer term improvements.

The loss of electrical power in parts of the Strand Campus in December was also the cause of considerable inconvenience. The power outage was caused by the failure of a major electrical distribution component which carried the power supply for key building systems. Unfortunately, replacement of the component required special manufacture and therefore there was a delay, until mid January, in installing a replacement.

My thanks for the understanding and patience shown by those affected. I am particularly grateful for their cooperation with the interim alternative arrangements which were in place and to the many individuals who managed and implemented these arrangements under difficult circumstances.

Rick Trainor

Home Secretary launches ICSR

AT A MAJOR CONFERENCE ORGANISED by King's, the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR) was launched with a keynote speech from Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, who outlined the Government's policy on radicalisation in her first speech on the subject.

'The first global centre for knowledge and leadership'

She spoke about plans to target websites promoting extremism, as part of efforts to stop people being drawn towards radical groups. She said that she wants to use technology to stop 'vulnerable people' being 'groomed for violent extremism'. She pointed out that the Security Service estimated that the number of people in the UK believed to be operating terrorists increased in 2007 from 1,600 to 2,000. 'These figures show that the threat is real and serious,' she said.

The Home Secretary's speech

opened the two-day conference, held at RIBA, which was attended by two former presidents, four former prime ministers and over 150 experts, policymakers, journalists and senior practitioners from 20 countries. They discussed some of the most pressing issues surrounding terrorism, radicalisation and political violence.

Keynote speakers included HE Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN Commissioner on Human Rights, Senator Chuck Hagel, US Senate, Francisco Santos Calderon, Vice-President of Colombia and Rt Hon Terry Davis, Secretary-General, Council of Europe.

Together with the main speeches there were a number of working groups and panel sessions discussing issues such as how should states counter terrorism; human rights and counterterrorism; why do people become radicals; and do negotiations work?

Panellists included HE Andrés Pastrana, former President of Colombia, HE Garret Fitzgerald, former Prime Minister of Ireland,



The discussion panel (from left): **Sadiq Al Mahdi, Nick Fielding, Sir Richard Dearlove** and **Frank Gardner**.



From left: **HE Mary Robinson, HE Kim Campbell, Dennis Corboy, Pete Rinfret** and **Dr Peter Neumann**.



The conference was the Home Secretary's first major speech on radicalisation.

HE Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, HE Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway, HE Sadiq Al Mahdi, former Prime Minister of Sudan, Frank Gardner, BBC, Professor Olivier Roy, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, Shiraz Maher, former member of Hizb-ut Tahrir, Peter Burgen, CNN, Sir Richard Dearlove, former Head of MI6, HE Andrés Pastrana, former President of Colombia, former UK Security and Intelligence Co-Ordinator Sir David Omand, former British Ambassador Sir Michael Pakenham, former EU Ambassador Denis Corboy, and Dan Benjamin, former Special Assistant to President Clinton at the US National Security Council.

Dr Peter Neumann, Director of the new centre, explained its importance: 'This is the first global centre for knowledge and leadership addressing the issues of radicalisation and political violence. It will produce world-class research and organise regular high-level meetings and outcome-driven dialogues on security issues.

'Also it is the first initiative in this area in which Arab and Israeli academic institutions are openly collaborating. ICSR is the product of a unique partnership which brings together King's College London, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, the University of Pennsylvania and the Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention, Amman.'

A celebratory dinner to launch the ICSR was held at the Strand during the conference. Vice-Principal Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman welcomed the guests, and ICSR founder and trustee Henry Sweetbaum, formerly Executive Director of the Plessey Company Ltd, and spoke of his hopes for the Centre. Both Kim Campbell and Mary Robinson talked of the importance of the new Centre in the fight against terrorism, and of their confidence in Peter Neumann, with whom they, and other world leaders, had worked when he was Academic Director of the Club de Madrid's International Summit on terrorism in 2005.

Professor Nairn Wilson

The Dental Institute is currently one of the top five academic dental centres in the world, but according to its Head, Professor Nairn Wilson CBE, it has much more to give...

What are your priorities as the Head of the Dental Institute?

As Dean and Head of the Dental Institute, my priorities are to promote and facilitate excellence in teaching, research and clinical service provision. Through excellence in all its activities, the Dental Institute strives to build on its substantial standing as one of the world's leading clinical academic centres for dentistry and oral health sciences.

Being one of the top five academic dental centres in the world is a great achievement, but the Institute is yet to realise its full potential.

What led you into dentistry?

I was led into dentistry by the attraction of the art and science, let alone the multidisciplinary nature of the profession. My father having been a dental practitioner, I had seen the impact dentistry could have on quality of life. Also, I like to think that I sensed the potential for innovation and development in dentistry and was keen to be part of it.

As to what led me into academic dentistry, hard as it may be to believe, it was money. A move from a junior hospital post to cover for a lecturer off on sabbatical leave came with a very attractive financial incentive – £500 – a lot of money at the time. The lecturer never returned, my post became permanent, with another increase in remuneration and there was no looking back.

Would I go into dentistry if I had my time again? It would certainly be on my shortlist and, despite the attractions of other professions, it would, in all probability, be my choice of career.

Tell us about your career.

Following a short period as a lecturer in Edinburgh, I moved to Manchester to join a department offering excellent opportunities for research and related career development.

Within a few years of this move, I found myself seconded to ICI to be the only clinician in a team of five tasked with developing ICI Dental. Seven years later, and months before ICI sold its successful multinational dental business to a company in Japan, I returned to the University of Manchester to fill a vacant chair in Conservative Dentistry. Six years later, I was Dean and Head of the University Dental Hospital of Manchester. Then followed election to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Near the end of this three-year deanship, I was appointed to be one of four Pro-Vice Chancellors of the University of Manchester. Subsequent election as President of the General Dental Council (GDC) resulted in me spending most of my time in London, notwithstanding travel overseas to maintain involvement in collaborations dating back to my ICI days. Within a year or so of my four to five year presidency of the GDC coming to an end, I was appointed to my present position – one of the most dynamic positions in academic dentistry in the world.

Looking back, it has been a career of many, varied challenges and opportunities home and abroad. Regrets, I have a few, but all pale into insignificance given the things I have achieved, the roles and responsibilities I continue to have, and, above all else, the tremendous professional fulfilment I have had throughout my career.

What other academic and related activities are you engaged in?

The major themes of my research have included the topography of the articular surfaces of synovial joints, novel systems for dental diagnostic imaging, photoactivation of dental materials, the clinical testing of systems and devices for the restoration of teeth, reasons for the placement and replacement of dental restorations (fillings) and various aspects of dental education. I remain research active, thanks largely to many of my former PhD students continuing to involve me in projects in locations around the world.

I continue to edit, subsequent to 17 years as the editor of the *Journal of Dentistry*, and following my time at the GDC, I continue to have substantial involvement in dental politics and related areas.

Some of my present positions include Chairman of the Council of Heads and Deans of Dental Schools, the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry, the Oral and Dental Research Trust and the British Dental Editors Forum. Then there is the overseas travel, predominantly now in support of the Dental Institute's international activities.

How do you see the future of dentistry at King's?

Good as the Dental Institute is, there are still many new challenges and opportunities. Dentistry is changing rapidly on all fronts, and the Dental Institute needs to adapt and



Fact file

Book on my bedside table

Brother surgeons – the story of the life and times of the Hunter brothers.

Favourite holiday destination

My bolt-hole on the coast of Mull of Galloway – no mobile phone signal, no email, no alarm clock, and lots of fresh air and exercise.

Proudest work moment

Recognition of my contributions to dentistry and healthcare regulation through my appointment as a CBE.

develop to maintain its tremendous reputation and standing as a leading academic centre in the field. There may be only one obvious way from the top, but the Dental Institute has no intention of going down that road. In contrast, the Dental Institute will be striving to reach new heights. Immediate projects include IVIDENT – the International Virtual Dental School, LONDEC – the London Dental Education Centre; a self-financing centre for postgraduate and continuing professional development and various other initiatives at different stages of planning.

How do you see your future?

I am presently not planning beyond the immediate future. In the meantime, it is more of the same with, I hope, some new national and international innovations in the offing. Whatever the future holds, I intend to find ways to make it exciting and different. Lots to do and not time to lose.

Ian McEwan reads at King's

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR IAN MCEWAN

read from his acclaimed novel *Atonement* at the College in December. The book, made into a Golden Globe-winning film, was directed by Joe Wright and starred Keira Knightley and James McAvoy. The book features nursing scenes at St Thomas' Hospital during the Second World War.

'A connoisseur of his craft'

The reading was given to a packed Great Hall at the Strand Campus and was organised by the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery. Ian McEwan was introduced by Professor Anne Marie Rafferty, Head of the School, before reading from sections of the book which described one of the main characters – Briony Tallis – training and life as a nurse in wartime London.

Professor Rafferty paid tribute to 'the outstanding writer of his generation' and a 'connoisseur of his craft', describing his 'exquisite imagination' and his 'freshness, immediacy and authenticity' which pulled the reader into the world of his characters.

Atonement, published in 2001 to great critical acclaim and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and named best novel of that year



Ian McEwan with Anne-Marie Rafferty, Head of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery.

by *Time* magazine. It also received the WH Smith Literary Award (2002), National Book Critics' Circle Fiction Award (2003), Los Angeles Times Prize for Fiction (2003), and the Santiago Prize for the European Novel (2004).

Ian McEwan's works have earned him worldwide praise and recognition, and his latest novel *On Chesil Beach*, also shortlisted for the Booker Prize (2007), has been top of the best sellers list for a number of weeks. He won the Somerset Maugham Award in

1976 for his first collection of short stories *First Love, Last Rites*; the Whitbread Novel Award (1987) and the Prix Fémina Etranger (1993) for *The Child in Time*; and Germany's Shakespeare Prize in 1999.

He has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction five times, winning the award for *Amsterdam* in 1998. He was awarded a CBE in 2000. In 2006, he won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his novel *Saturday*.



Keira Knightley, star of the award-winning film *Atonement*.

The reading at King's was part of the Culture and Care programme launched in September by the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery.

London leaders: tackling climate change

THE PRINCIPAL, PROFESSOR RICK

Trainor, was appointed a 'London Leader' in September 2007 as part of an initiative from the London Sustainable Development Commission. Their objective is to provide a 'Greater London' in all senses: a sustainable London which supports its residents and thinks of future generations.

The London Leaders programme will catalyse change to tackle London's ingrained problems. As a result of the strong academic record at King's on

environmental problems, and the College's strong efforts to improve its record with regard to carbon emissions, the Principal was identified as one 15 London Leaders expected to inspire and empower others to take action in their own communities, homes and workplaces, with benefits permeating all sectors.

In autumn 2008, each London Leader will be asked to demonstrate sustainability in action and show what can be achieved. For the Principal, this

means initiating, welcoming and participating in a major symposium on 'Achieving sustainable air quality' on 23 January.

The conference was organised by the College's Environmental Research Group, a leading provider of air quality information and research in the UK.

On his contribution to the London Leaders programme the Principal comments: 'My commitment is to promote collaborative, inter-disciplinary research to develop solutions to

public policy issues relating to sustainability. This will draw on the considerable academic expertise and improving institutional practice within King's. I hope that this symposium will advocate novel, integrated solutions that can be put to regional and national government.'

King's was one of the first universities to have 100 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources. For more information about London Leaders, see www.londonsdc.org/londonleaders

Student's South Pole adventure



ROBERT HARDING WORLD IMAGERY

Preparing for the arctic weather, medical student **Lynsey Gawn**.

SECOND-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT,

Lynsey Gawn has embarked on a unique and formidable expedition to the South Pole. Lynsey left the UK on 29 December and was hoping to reach the South Pole by 1 February. She will also be celebrating her 24th birthday while in Antarctica.

The trip has been planned by polar explorer (and record breaker) Fiona Thornehill and led by her husband Mike Thornehill – only the third British person ever to walk to both the North and South Pole.

Lynsey explains how she came to be selected for the trip: 'In November 2006 Fiona Thornehill was on GMTV, and invited a

novice to join their polar team the following year. I wrote in saying I would love to take part, and following a selection process, was chosen to go. I then had to find £24,000 in six months, get all my kit together and try and get fit.'

'Life is so short, we have to live it to the full'

To raise the £24,000 needed to go to Antarctica, Lynsey secured £4,000 from the College's alumni, £14,000 in sponsorship and raised the rest by going to schools and involving the children.

Describing her determination and dedication to raise the money and complete the challenge, she says: 'I told Mike and Fiona that I loved personal challenges, and how I thrived on being out of my comfort zone. When I was at school I never did very well, and had very little confidence in my academic or sporting ability. But when I was 17 I moved schools and had teachers who told me that I could do whatever I wanted if I applied myself. That really motivated me. Life is so short, we have to live it to the full!'

Lynsey's tutor, Dr Despo Papachristodoulou, Head of Medicine for Years one and two, says: 'I am so proud of Lynsey

for her determination in pursuing her goal and can't wait to see her back and congratulate her – and make her catch up with the course. Well done Lynsey'.

Adam Farley, President, KCLSU commented: 'It is fantastic to see a King's student involved in such an amazing opportunity. It shows real strength of character and determination that Lynsey is going push her self to the limits both mentally and physically. We are willing her all the way to South Pole and look forward to hearing the stories and seeing the photos on her return.'

Regular updates to the team's latitude and progress can be followed at www.polarchallenge.org

Parenting Academy opens its doors at King's

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR

Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) has officially opened its doors at King's Strand Campus.

NAPP will work directly with parenting practitioners to increase the high-quality skills and knowledge they need to support parents in dealing with day-to-day challenges and give their children the best possible start in life. The Academy's aim is to improve the quality of support that is made available to practitioners and in turn parents through research,

training and information.

The Academy was opened in November by Children's Minister Beverly Hughes MP. Ms Hughes was joined at the opening by the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, Professor Stephen Scott from the Institute of Psychiatry, who is also Director of Research at the Academy, as well as the Academy's newly appointed Chairman, Hilton Dawson, and Chief Executive, Angela Sibson.

At the opening of the centre Ms Hughes said: 'Parents can learn

a lot from each other about their children, and parenting programmes make for fascinating television, but for real help that makes a difference, parents need support from someone who is properly trained. That is why the new national academy is going to play such an important role.

At the launch, the Principal also formally announced the appointment of Mark Dadds, previously Professor of Psychology at the University of New South Wales in Australia, as the new Chair of Parenting Studies at King's.

Children's Minister **Beverley Hughes MP** and **Professor Stephen Scott**.

FCO library transferred to King's

AN EXTENSIVE 'HISTORIC COLLECTION'

of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Library has been formally transferred to King's College London. The transfer to King's of this unique collection will ensure, that for the first time ever, the collection will be fully accessible to the research community. Work will be undertaken to sort and catalogue the collection which will be released incrementally.

'The most exciting print acquisition in a hundred years'

Sir Peter Ricketts KCMG Permanent Under Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service, FCO, formally transferred the collection to Professor Rick Trainor, Principal of King's, at a ceremony held at the College in November.

Patricia Methven, Deputy Director of ISS and Director of Archives & Information Management at King's, describes the riches of this acquisition: 'This is the most exciting print acquisition the library has received in at least a hundred years. Spanning over four centuries the FCO Library offers matchless coverage of Britain's role as a trading nation, imperial and diplomatic power and as a member of the Commonwealth.'

The Collection will complement the College's other collections,



A Chilean fair from: Peter Schmidtmeier: *Travels into Chile, over the Andes, in the years 1820 and 1821*. London: printed by S McDowall ... for the author; and published by Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown, & Green 1824 [FCO Historical Collection].

including the material on all aspects of British, European, Imperial and South Asian History. It will also complement holdings relating to military history, defence studies and contemporary security analysis.

A number of interested organisations were approached to take over the collection, but King's was selected because it was able to demonstrate professional management, access, an ability to keep the collection together, alignment of the collection to existing holdings, and academic interests and strengths, particularly in its top-rated departments of History and War Studies.



The Principal, **Professor Rick Trainor** with **Sir Peter Ricketts**, Permanent Under Secretary, Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Centre for Crime & Justice Studies' annual event

THE 2007 ANNUAL EVENT OF THE

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies was held in Great Hall in December. *Split for purpose? The implications of Home Office reform* was the topic, and featured a panel discussion chaired by Robin Lustig, presenter of Radio 4's *The World Tonight* news programme, with Lord Falconer, former Secretary of State for Justice, Baroness Vivien Stern,

Senior Research Fellow at the International Prison Studies Centre and member of the House of Lords and Martin Bright, Political Editor, *New Statesman*.

The panel discussed the implications of the splitting up of the Home Office, with the debate focusing on whether it would bring about positive change within criminal justice system especially in the context



From left: **Martin Bright**, **Baroness Stern**, **Robin Lustig** and **Lord Falconer**.

of an ever growing prison population and toughening up of

penal policy, with questions from the audience.

Film Studies

Film Studies at King's is a young and growing department devoted to the aesthetic, historical, social and technological study of film and cinema.

FILM STUDIES, WHICH DEVELOPED in the 1970s in the UK, is a young academic discipline. Initially taken up by the newer universities, the subject has now spread to more established institutions, in recognition of its intellectual legitimacy and high student demand.

Film Studies at King's was established as a small programme in 2000, as part of the College's strategic initiative. It included three members of staff but rapidly grew with the appointment of the current Head, Professor Ginette Vincendeau, in January 2006. With Dr Mark Betz, Dr Sarah Cooper, Professor Richard Dyer, Dr Michele Pierson and Dr Mark Shiel, there are now six full-time academic staff (with plans for a seventh soon), currently teaching over 200 undergraduate students and 44 postgraduates. As a result, Film Studies was granted departmental status in the School of Humanities in July 2007, making it the leading dedicated Film Studies department in central London. It is based in the Norfolk Building at the Strand Campus.

Signature art form

'Film is the signature art form of the 20th century', explains Professor Vincendeau. 'It provides a new visual grammar and inescapably shapes our understanding and perception of the world. For this reason, our research and teaching focus on the cinema in all its manifestations, including new media. Our aim is to offer students the analytic tools needed to understand and appreciate the creative potential and formal features of the medium and to assess its ideological and social impact.'

'Film studies has already diversified tremendously, with most institutions offering some form of film or media courses, many with practical elements. Capitalising on staff expertise, at King's we are, emphatically, a film studies department, and we concentrate on historical, critical and theoretical work. This has implications for both our teaching and our research.'

'Traditionally we have offered undergraduate courses for students coming from other departments, and we teach a joint BA in Film Studies and American Studies. A key development was the launch of our first single honours degree, the BA in Film Studies, in autumn 2007, which immediately attracted a high level of recruitment. Similarly, our graduate programme has greatly expanded in the last two years, with a much larger cohort



Amélie (directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and starring Audrey Tautou; France, 2001) is a popular film with students, which has been studied on several courses in the department, in particular for its innovative style using computer-generated special effects and its controversial portrayal of a nostalgic Paris.

in our taught MA in Contemporary Cinema Cultures and a fast-growing population of PhD students.'

Research

As in most humanities departments, research tends to be based in individual scholarship, although some collaborative projects have emerged both within and outside the Department. Research focuses on three clusters: European cinema, which is considered in both its art and popular dimension, with an emphasis on French and Italian cinema; cultural history (the representation of the city, national and trans-national cinema, stardom, music and film); and critical theory, in particular the relationship between film and other disciplines such as philosophy, psychoanalysis, literature, geography and art.

As a result, while core courses are taught in film history and theory, specialist options range from 'Serial Killers in Film' and 'Cinema and the City' to 'Fathers in Film', 'The French New Wave', 'Avant Garde Cinema' and 'Asian Popular Cinemas'. PhD topics range from Greek stardom to the representation of the American suburbs, to the spy film.

Collaborations

'It is clearly an advantage to teach Film Studies in the heart of London', Professor Vincendeau

points out, 'especially with BFI Southbank on the other side of Waterloo Bridge'. The British Film Institute (BFI) is one of the institutions through which King's Film Studies staff spread their research outside academia: publishing books, giving seminars and designing film retrospectives. Other institutions with which they have collaborated in London include Somerset House, the French Institute, Australia House and the National Gallery.

There is now a well-attended regular series of research seminars, and in May 2006 Film Studies organised its first international conference at King's, on Eminent Europeans – the representation of famous Europeans in American cinema: part of research on the relationship between Europe and Hollywood. Plans for future international conferences include: New Developments in Stardom in March 2008 (organised by PhD students), Los Angeles in the Cinema in 2009 and the sixth Popular European Cinema Conference, on Melodrama, in 2010.

'We are members of the London University Screen Studies Group, through which we exchange MA modules and organise events', Professor Vincendeau adds: 'Within the College, we are keen to link with other departments, whether through joint seminars, courses or projects. Current and future partners include American Studies, Geography, War Studies and Nursing.'

New director

Internationally renowned stem cell scientist **Dr Alan Colman** has been appointed as the new Director of Stem Cell Research at the School of Biomedical & Health Sciences. Dr Colman will be joining the Health Schools on 1 May 2008.

Dr Colman was part of the team who created 'Dolly the Sheep' – the world's first mammal cloned from an adult cell – at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, and currently leads a research team at the A*STAR Institute of Medical Biology at the Singapore.

Professor Hamnett accepted to ACSS

Professor Chris Hamnett, Department of Geography, has been accepted as a member of the Academy of Social Sciences (ACSS). Professor Hamnett, who has conducted extensive research on social inequality and social polarisation in large cities, was nominated for the post by the Royal Geographical Society. He is currently co-principal investigator with Professor Tim Butler on a study of Gentrification, Ethnic Change and Education in East London.

New LMS President

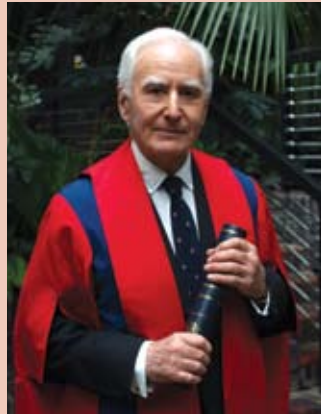
Professor Brian Davies FRS, one of Britain's leading mathematical analysts and a member of the Department of Mathematics, has been elected President of the London Mathematical Society. Professor Davies took up the role in November 2007 and will be in post for two years.

Steve Ball

Steve Ball has taken up the post of Head of Security. This is a new position which has been created with the intention of improving security across all areas of King's College.

Previously an officer with the Metropolitan Police, in his new

January Graduation Ceremonies



Mikhael Essayan QC

At the Graduation Ceremonies on 15 and 16 January Fellowships of King's College London were awarded to **Mikhael Essayan QC** and **Stephen Schilizzi**, and an Honorary degree of the University of London was awarded to **Dame Nancy Rothwell DBE FRS**.

The award to Mikhael Essayan recognises his work as Honorary President and Trustee of the UK branch of the Gulbenkian



Dame Nancy Rothwell DBE FRS

Foundation, which has supported scholarship at King's in many ways. Mr Essayan is a grandson of Calouste Gulbenkian, who in 1887 was awarded a Diploma with Distinction from the Department of Engineering & Applied Sciences at King's.

Stephen Schilizzi is Chairman of the Schilizzi Foundation, which has provided major support for the Department of



Stephen Schilizzi

Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies and scholarships for students of Greek nationality in any discipline to study at King's.

Dame Nancy Rothwell is a distinguished neuroscientist and communicator of science who is Professor of Physiology Research and Vice-President for Research at the University of Manchester, and a graduate of Queen Elizabeth College.

post Mr Ball aims to help raise awareness and increase security on Campus and Residences alike.

New member of Council

Rory Tapner, Chairman and CEO Asia Pacific UBS, has been appointed Treasurer to the Council of King's College London. Mr Tapner was appointed Chairman and CEO Asia Pacific in May 2004, and became a member of the Group Executive Board of UBS in January 2006.

Unique Research Translator

Dr Julie Lotharius has been appointed as a Research Translator to the School of Biomedical & Health Sciences. This post is the first of its kind in the UK and will assess the results of pre-clinical biomedical research for potential development into new therapies. King's has provided £60,000 funding towards the scheme.

Honorary Degree Ceremony



From left: Principal **Professor Rick Trainor**, **Viscount Runciman of Doxford FBA**, Chairman of Council **Lord Douro**, **Professor Deborah Greenspan BDS**, **Professor Colin Blakemore FRS**, **Dr Mark Walport FMedSci**.

Four key academics have received recognition for their outstanding contribution to their fields at an Honorary Degree Ceremony held in the Chapel at the Strand Campus. The Ceremony took place in November and was officiated by the Chairman of Council, Lord Douro and the Principal.

The academics include: **Dr Mark Walport FMedSci**, Director of the Wellcome Trust, who specialises in immunology and the genetics of rheumatic

diseases; **Professor Colin Blakemore FRS**, Director of the Medical Research Council, a highly distinguished neuroscientist, with particular interests in vision, the early development of the brain and conditions; **Professor Deborah Greenspan BDS**, one of the world's outstanding investigators in dental science; and **Viscount Runciman of Doxford FBA**, a leading British sociologist, a Senior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge.

New Year Honours

The 2008 New Year Honours have been announced with many King's staff and alumni receiving awards.

CBE

Former member of staff **Dr Margaret Bent** was recognised in this year's honours list for services to musicology. She was joined by **Hanif Kureishi**, author, playwright and alumnus of King's who was awarded a CBE for services to literature and drama. **Professor Jonathan Shepherd** also received a CBE for his contributions to healthcare and the Criminal Justice System.

OBE

The 2008 honours list saw alumnus **Wing Commander Ian Valley**, RAF Military Division,

awarded an OBE, along with current member of staff **Professor Saman Warnakulasuriya**, Professor of Oral Medicine and Experimental Oral Pathology at the Dental Institute, who was recognised for his services to medicine. An OBE was also awarded to alumnus **Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Porter MBE**, Royal Marines, Military Division.

MBE

Alumni to receive this award included: **Barry Shooter**, pharmacist, for services to pharmacy; **Edwin Tritschler**, Commander in the Royal Navy.

Alumni **Dr Ian Baker**, a retired Consultant in Public Health Medicine, **Major Carl Harris** of the Royal Marines, and **Dr Cyril Isenberg**, retired lecturer

in Theoretical Physics, for services to physics were awarded MBEs for their contributions to medicine, the armed forces and physics respectively.

Mrs Comfort Momoh, a Visiting Lecturer, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, and Female Genital Mutilation and Public Health Specialist at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, was also among those honoured with an MBE for her services to Women's Healthcare.

DBE

Nuala O'Loan, alumna and Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, received a DBE for public service. Knight's Batchelor **Professor Bruce Ponder**, alumnus of medicine at St Thomas' received



Comfort Momoh



Professor Saman Warnakulasuriya

a Knight's Batchelor for services to medicine.

Obituaries

STEVEN ACKERLEY (1972-2008)



DR STEVEN ACKERLEY WAS A SENIOR research fellow in the MRC Centre for Neurodegeneration Research. His BSc was from Stirling from where he moved to the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) to undertake an MSc in Neuroscience and then a PhD. His PhD was funded by the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

During his PhD research, Dr Ackerley formed a highly

productive team with another talented young scientist, Andy Grierson and together they published several important papers on axonal transport and motor neuron disease (MND). Following his time at the IoP, Dr Ackerley continued his studies on MND, firstly in John Hopkins University in Baltimore and then in Oxford.

He returned to the IoP in 2006 where he was studying axonal transport and MND. Dr Ackerley was a highly talented scientist who was always willing to find time to help other researchers and especially younger research students.

Professor Chris Miller, Department Head in the Centre for Neurodegeneration

JACK SADDLER (1987-2007)

TROOPER JACK SADDLER, 21, WHO completed a War Studies degree last summer, was tragically killed in an explosion while on patrol in Helmand province, southern



Afghanistan in December.

Jack, who was from Devon, died when his vehicle was caught in a blast in Helmand province.

Trooper Sadler first joined the Honourable Artillery Company as a recruit in October 2005, and had hoped to join the regular army after his tour of Afghanistan.

The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor said: 'On behalf of the College community I would like to express profound sadness at the loss of this brave young man and

to extend our condolences to his family.'

Captain Jim McCaffery, troop commander of 4/73 Special Observation Battery which Trooper Sadler joined in May, said: 'He was always keen to be in the thick of the action and would not countenance being left behind. His dry wit and his resilient character will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.'

Pearl before line

The model locomotive on the stairs' landing in the entrance hall at the Strand Campus is the oldest large-scale model railway engine in existence.

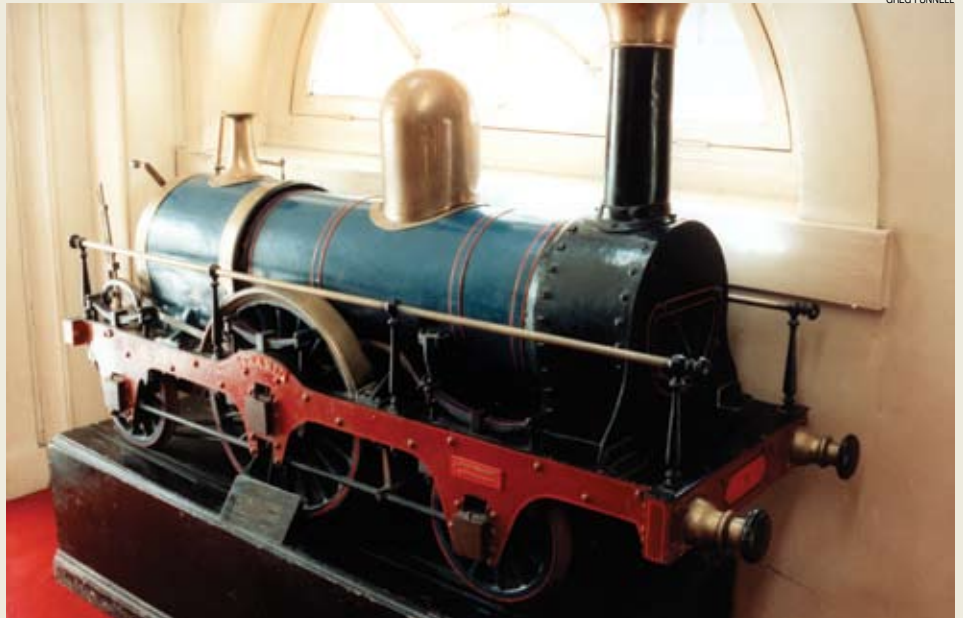
KNOwn AS *PEARL*, SHE WAS BUILT by Peter Brotherhood, a former student of King's College School and a talented engineer, in about 1861. She was restored a hundred years later by a group of King's students led by railway writer Sydney A Leleux, then a Chemistry undergraduate. Peter Brotherhood was born in 1838 and studied at King's College School between 1852 and 1855. He was the second son of Rowland Brotherhood who had been a contractor under Brunel for parts of the Great Western Railway main line from London to Bristol, and who subsequently set up a large engineering works at Chippenham. Leleux believes the engine was built by Peter Brotherhood 'purely for personal reasons', and is probably the model which accompanied the lecture on 'The Steam Engine and Its History' he gave in January 1862.

Tank engine

Pearl is thought to be only the second 15-inch gauge locomotive to be built, and Leleux describes her as having no known prototype but as 'a very interesting model of a typical passenger engine of the 1850s'. He points out that she seems never to have had a tender. 'Since there is a small well tank under the cab floor and there is no provision for connection to a feed tender anywhere in the feed-water system, it is unlikely that one was ever provided.' Therefore *Pearl*, like Revd W Audrey's famous creation Thomas, is a tank engine.

Letters in the College Archives show that Brotherhood gave *Pearl* to the George III Museum at King's in 1868. On 26 March 1868 Brotherhood wrote: 'I have in my possession a fine working model of a locomotive which was made by me soon after leaving King's College. Having no further use for it and as I received my first instruction in practical mechanics at your Institution I shall be most happy to present it to you for your Museum.'

The College Council accepted the offer, and on 7 April Brotherhood wrote: 'I will at once have the locomotive put into good order.' It is not clear where the engine was kept once it came to King's. A 'locomotive engine' is listed in the 1900 catalogue of the George III Museum, but the well-known railway enthusiast JN Maskelyne had no recollection of seeing it while he was a student in the College from 1910 to 1914. By 1919, however, it was on display in the entrance hall.



GREG FUNNELL

Pearl, as she is now, on the south staircase of the entrance hall at the Strand.

Sorry state

By 1958, *Pearl* was in a sorry state. The smokebox and well tank were full of waste paper and the safety valve cover was crammed with nutshells.

The King's Railway Club (of which Leleux was Secretary and President between 1959 and 1961) asked the College for permission to restore the engine, and in November 1959 *Pearl* was slowly and carefully run downstairs on scaffolding planks and rolled on a series of old doormats out into the Quad and round via the Strand to the Mechanical Engineers' workshop in Strand Lane.

Railway at King's

The renovation was completed by March 1961, with the boiler, firebox, wheels and springs repainted in *Pearl*'s original royal blue, the frames in dark red and the buffer beams in dark red, bright red and black. The engine was returned to her station by the same route she had come, although because by this time her weight was known (10.5 hundredweight) she could be taken up in the College lift.

At one stage the restorers had hoped to run *Pearl* on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch miniature railway or even to construct a 15-inch gauge railway to run her at King's, but her boiler was found to be leaking and it was decided that the cost of restoring or replacing it could not be justified. The total cost of repairs and painting came in fact to only just over £7



Mechanical Engineering Technical staff Alex Heaney, Paul Leforte, Dave Elgar, Mike Harrington and Les Clarke lowering *Pearl* down the staircase in Spring 1987, en route to the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch miniature railway.

(about £110 today), including a few new parts to replace missing old ones.

Pearl did finally make it to Romney in 1987 for the 60th anniversary of the miniature railway. Paul Leforte and Alex Heane, technicians in the Mechanical Engineering Workshop, recall her being taken out of the Strand in almost exactly the same way as in 1959.

For further details see Sydney A Leleux, *Brotherhood's Engineers*, published by David & Charles in 1965 (revised edition planned) and King's College London Archives, Secretary's in-correspondence, refs KA/IC/B292-3 and K/MUS4/6.

Christine Kenyon Jones

New lease of life for Museum

THE ANATOMY MUSEUM AND THEATRE on the Strand Campus, survivors of an era when the medical sciences were studied alongside the Humanities at King's, are being transformed for the 21st century.

Following research investment from the Department of English, and support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, a collaboration between Alan Read, Professor of Theatre in the School of Humanities, Centre for Computing in the Humanities, the Arts and Humanities Data Service and Information Services and Systems proposes to restore these spaces for digital scholarship and interdisciplinary performance research.

To help celebrate this change, Professor Alan Read invited 150



Alan Read in the Anatomy Museum and Theatre.

leading figures from the theatre and arts community to launch his new monograph *Theatre, Intimacy*

& *Engagement* and to introduce the research venue to the London theatre community. One of the

guests included Steve Tompkins, RIBA award-winning architect responsible for the rebuilding of the Young Vic and advisor to the project.

Professor Read also outlined his ambition to create a state-of-the-art facility for research collaborations across the College disciplines from medicine to materials science from war studies to law where performance plays a part. He said: 'My vision is to create a research centre and publicly accessible project performance space in this historic area.'

A new website www.anatomytheatre.com will carry news on the progress of the project and further scheduled events from March 2008, when it goes live.

News in brief

Early day motion on outdoor

Initial Teacher Education and the Outdoor Classroom, a report co-authored by Dr Justin Dillon, Senior Lecturer in Science and Environmental Education at King's, has been used to support an early day motion in the House of Commons. Among the recommendations, the report suggested that the Office for Standards in Education should report on the degree and quality of fieldwork training and development in ITT providers and schools.

Annual Fund Grants 2008

Applications are now being welcomed for the 2008 Annual Fund grants. All of the College's Schools and departments can apply for the grants, which are intended to enhance student life across the College and Students' Union. The deadline for applications is 20 March 2008, and the Committee will make its decision on which projects to support in May 2008. For more information visit: www.kcl.ac.uk/support/fund

RAE return submitted

The College submitted its Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) return on 30 September 2007. This consisted of the publications, student information and research income of around 1,500 researchers in 37 different Units of Assessment (UoA), as well as a statement on research strategy and activity for each UoA. The outcome of the RAE is crucial to the College both in terms of its reputation and the income that it generates. The outcome of RAE 2008 will be published in December.

New species

A new species of tapeworm, *Oochoristica whitfieldii*, has been named after Professor Phil Whitfield, Vice Principal (Students), and an internationally renowned parasitologist. The parasite was discovered by Dr Sergio Guillen-Hernandez, a former PhD student of Professor Whitfield's, now Head of Marine Biology at the University of Yucatan, Mexico.

Masterminds at the Maughan



The Maughan Library was the setting for contestants' last minute revision for *Junior Mastermind* in December. Here are the finalists of the competition in the Round Room. Back row (from left) **David** from Lancashire, specialist subject George Lucas (who went on to win), and **Mathew** from Manchester, specialist subject Alfred the Great. Front row (from left) **Edmund** from London, specialist subject Sir Issac Newton, **Andrew** from Biggleswade, specialist subject the Spanish Armada, and **Graeme Lockheart** Information Specialist (Classics and Music) at the Maughan Library and ISC. *Junior Mastermind* first aired on BBC1 in August 2004. The show is the same as the original version, with children answering questions on a specialist subject and then on general knowledge, but the contestants have to be aged between 10 and 11.

World's first virtual reality simulator

The world's first virtual reality simulator in keyhole kidney surgery has been launched.

The simulator, called the Procedicus MIST (Minimally Invasive Surgical Trainer) Nephrectomy, was developed by staff from Guy's Hospital, Kings College London and Mentice, a technology company who develop virtual reality applications in medicine. The project was funded by a grant of £185,000 from Guy's and St Thomas' Charity.

Mr Prokar Dasgupta, Reader in the Division of Immunology, Infection and Inflammatory Disease at King's, and Consultant Urologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, said: 'We are

delighted to be the first in the world to have this facility. The simulator will revolutionise the way that we train our surgeons. Ultimately the true beneficiaries of the simulator will be our patients.'

The simulator allows trainee surgeons to practice in a safe environment by holding controls representing the instruments they would use during an operation and following commands on screen.

The screen shows a life-like representation of the organs and the simulator guides the trainee through procedures, step-by-step. It also gives a competence-based assessment of surgical trainees without any concern about harming a single patient.

Bullying genes



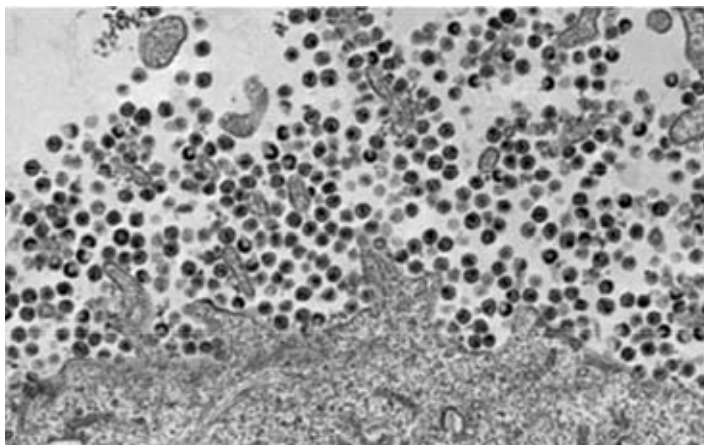
IN THE FIRST RESEARCH PROJECT OF its kind to look at genes and the environmental effects on the role of bullying and victimisation, Harriet Ball, Louise Arseneault and colleagues in the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry, have found there are strong genetic influences on being a victim, a bully, and being a bully-victim (a victim and a bully).

It was found that genetic factors can influence a child's individual characteristics in such a way as to increase their risk of

becoming victimised, or being a bully with genes responsible for 73 per cent of children's risk for being a victim and 61 per cent of their risk for being a bully. The study shows that further research is needed to focus on the heritable characteristics within victims, as well as those within bullies.

The research paper 'Genetic and environmental influences on victims, bullies and bully-victims in childhood' is published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, Volume 49, Issue 1 (January 2008).

HIV protein discovery



THE DISCOVERY OF A NOVEL HUMAN protein called tetherin which appears to block the replication of HIV-1 thereby halting the spread of the virus, has been made by Dr Stuart Neil, Lecturer in the Department of Infectious Diseases at King's.

Dr Neil isolated tetherin whilst working in the group of Paul Bieniasz at Rockefeller University's Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York. This breakthrough study, published in *Nature*, is particularly exciting because tetherin might be an important antiviral inhibitor of many diverse viruses.

Dr Neil, and a team of researchers at King's, will set up a laboratory to focus on trying to understand the mechanisms by which the HIV-1 gene Vpu counteracts tetherin.

Dr Neil comments: 'With this new discovery there is potential for opening up a novel drug target for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. Understanding how Vpu takes out the activity of tetherin will facilitate the design of therapeutics to inhibit this part of the virus, allowing the cell's natural defence systems to interfere with HIV replication'. The research will be funded by the Wellcome Trust.

New trial for breast cancer

A NEW UK-BASED CLINICAL TRIAL HAS

been launched to improve breast cancer treatment for women with aggressive hormone and HER2 negative tumours. The trial is to be led by Dr Andrew Tutt Director of the new Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit at King's and Consultant oncologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation.

This type of breast cancer is referred to as 'triple negative' because the tumours lack hormone (oestrogen and progesterone) and HER2 receptors. It is also more likely to spread to another part of the body than hormone-driven breast cancers.

Dr Tutt says: 'Due to its nature, hormone and HER2 negative, or 'triple negative', breast cancer does not respond to targeted treatments like tamoxifen or Herceptin. Women with these tumours face standard chemotherapy, which



does not target the specific biology of this type of cancer. Ultimately, we hope the drug carboplatin could become part of a new, standard treatment for patients with hormone and HER2 negative breast cancer.'

Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Cancer Research UK are jointly funding the Triple Negative Trial. To find out more about the Triple Negative Trial, please visit the Breakthrough Breast Cancer website www.breakthrough.org.uk.

Knife crime

Following the publication of a report on knife crime by the Centre for Crime & Justice Studies, the Director, **Richard Garside**, and author of the report, **Roger Grimshaw**, undertook interviews on Radio 4's *Today* programme, BBC *Breakfast News*, GMTV and the local London news.

Look after dad

On BBC1's, *Panorama*, **Professor Clive Ballard**, of the Wolfson Centre for Age-Related Diseases, investigated the effects of anti-psychotic medication, which is given to nearly half of dementia patients in care homes at an annual cost of £80 million.

Heroin clinic

John Strang, Professor of Psychiatry of Addictions, discussed a pilot scheme in which addicts inject themselves with diamorphine and its initial results on Radio 4's *Today* programme. Also in the *Independent*, *Daily Mail*, *The Sun* and BBC Online.

Benazir Bhutto

Professor Anatol Lieven, Chair of International Relations & Terrorism Studies, wrote about the implications of Benazir Bhutto's assassination, in the *Financial Times*. In his regular column, Professor Lieven also examined the Israeli and Palestinian conflict in the *Financial Times*.

Plastic surgery

The issues surrounding overseas surgery and the impact of corrective surgery on the NHS was the subject for **Alex Gallinicos**, Professor of European Studies, and the rest of the Radio 4 *Moral Maze* team.

Eating disorders

Professor Janet Treasure, Head of Eating Disorder Unit, was interviewed by Simon Mayo on BBC Radio 5 Live about eating disorders and her new book for carers.

Australian politics

Dr Frank Bongiorno, Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, commented on Maxine McKew's rise in Australian politics, the other women to watch and how the parties are now vying for the female vote on Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*.

Moon & madness

The link between the moon and madness was explored on Radio 4's *All in the Mind*. **Niall McCrae**, psychiatric nurse and clinical trial manager at the Health Services and Population Research Department at the Institute of Psychiatry, was interviewed.

Junk food

Tom Sanders, Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics, offered his expertise on a BBC1 television programme on junk food.

Russian religion

Dr Marat Shterin, Lecturer in Sociology of Religion, and a specialist in religious movements in Russia, commented on the current religious situation in Russia for BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme.

Youth justice

Rob Allen, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies, took part in an edition of *Unreliable Evidence* on Radio 4 on youth justice.

Iraq jihadists

Dr Rory Miller, senior lecturer in Mediterranean Studies, wrote in *The Irish Times* on the US's achievements in Iraq.

Homesickness

In a Radio 4 *Woman's Hour* programme about students returning home for the holidays and the possible issues that could arise, **Ann Conlon**, Director of Student Services, took part in a discussion on homesickness.

Top toys

Dr Richard Howells, Reader in Cultural and Creative Industries, discussed the perceived difference between girls' and boys' toys, along with the semiotics of the colour pink on BBC2's *James May: My Sister's Top Toys*.

Iraq war

Professor Simon Wessely, King's Centre for Military Health Research, appeared on ABC News (US) commenting on the increasing and on-going cost of the War in Iraq in the light of new research in the *American Medical Association Journal* that shows screening soldiers twice helps identify more who need further treatment.

Monarchy future

Robert Blackburn, Professor of Constitutional Law, was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, on the future of the monarchy.

Great smog

As weather conditions in the UK worsened, the great London smog of 1952 was discussed by **Professor Glenn McGregor**, Department of Geography, on BBC News 24.

Constant combat

Sir Lawrence Freedman, Vice-Principal (Research) and Professor of War Studies, wrote an opinion column in *The Times* where he stated that there are some very personal elements in the spat between retired senior officers and the Government, but the underlying issues go back to the Blair years.

Cloned embryos

Professor Chris Shaw, Institute of Psychiatry, commented in *The Guardian* and appeared on the Channel 4 news on scientists having created the world's first cloned monkey embryos and extracting stem cells from them. Also on Channel 4 News.

Serial killers

Dr Glenn Wilson, Institute of Psychiatry, commented in *The Observer* on the characteristics of serial killers, following excavations at the former home of suspected serial killer Peter Tobin.

Soldiers in the Sun

Professor Simon Wessely, Director of King's Centre for Military Health Research, contributed to a Radio 3 drama-documentary on the psychological effects of conflict.

Housing problem

In an article for the *Financial Times*, **Chris Hamnet**, Professor of Geography, wrote on London's soaring house prices and the impact City bonuses and wealthy foreign buyers have on the property market.

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, email pr@kcl.ac.uk

Medical careers day

KCLSU Volunteering, in conjunction with MedSoc, hosted a Medical Student Careers Day on Friday 12 November with 75 school children, aged between 15 and 17, from five different south London schools attending the event.

Volunteer medical students delivered a number of workshops including introductory talks on the King's medical degree, practical sessions on how to take a patient's blood pressure and history, as well as giving tours of the Guy's Campus.

All the sessions were designed by King's medical students, with 25 volunteers helping out both on the day and to arrange the event. KCLSU were also delighted to have Professor John Rees, Dean of Undergraduate Education give a brief introduction to the Medical School, which was very well received.

The event gave the school



The day gave hands-on experience for students considering following a career in medicine.

children a chance to talk to current medical students, learning from their experience of successfully applying for a medical degree.

The response from each school taking part was extremely positive. One year 12 student stated, 'We were able to learn the basic skills

that we need for medicine. The interview skills workshop was great because it will help us to become a successful applicant.'

Election fever hits KCLSU

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR candidates to enter the KCLSU spring 2008 Elections.

During Spring elections, candidates are chosen by the student body to stand for the President, Vice President and Student Trustee positions within KCLSU. Each role entails sitting on the Trustee Board of KCLSU, which has over 300 staff and a £5 million turnover, as well as acting as representatives for the King's student body which involves liaising with the Principal and the national student network to improve the student experience.

Spending a year in any of these roles is a worthwhile experience for any King's student and the responsibility involved ensures that ex-Trustees are highly favoured amongst graduate recruiters.

College staff aware of bright, confident and articulate students are invited to encourage them to consider standing in the election. Full information can be found at www.kclsu.org.

Student wins top pharmacy award

KING'S PHARMACY STUDENT SEEMA

Mehta has won the UniChem customer forum pharmacy student award. Seema Mehta, who is a third year student was selected as winner of this award for demonstrating a comprehensive insight into the impact that the Community Pharmacy Contract is now having on the pharmacy profession.

Her competition entry showed an encouraging understanding of the extended services role for pharmacy, as well as a great enthusiasm for how the Community Pharmacy Contract has impacted not just pharmacy, but also the wider healthcare sector.

MSc graduates shine at RSM

CONGRATULATIONS GO TO TWO

recent graduates of the MSc in Gerontology who have won awards at the Royal Society of Medicine. Last November the Geriatrics and

Gerontology Section held their Annual Trainees' Prize evening. All those presenting were Specialist Registrars.

Dr Judith Partridge was awarded the oral prize for her presentation 'Back from the dead: an interesting case of end stage dementia?' Dr Partridge is a specialist registrar (SpR) in Care of the Elderly at St Mary's Hospital in London.

Dr Karen Kee won the best poster prize for her poster 'The truth behind acopia'. Dr Kee is an SpR in Elderly Care at Mayday University Hospital in Croydon.

Both Dr Partridge and Dr Kee were awarded the MSc in Gerontology with Merit this year.

KCLSU showcases student talent

IN CELEBRATION OF RECENTLY BEING

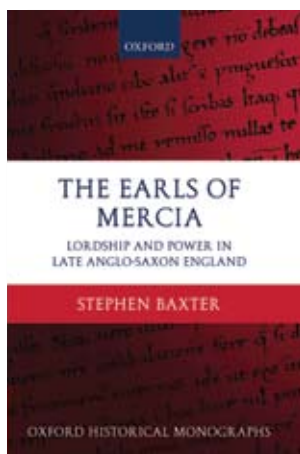
awarded Investing in Volunteers status, KCLSU presented a showcase of student activity at the KCLSU Student Support Centre, Boland House on in December, which was well attended by both KCLSU volunteers and senior College staff. The event featured



photographic displays of a range of King's student activity as well as a live ballet display from the Dance Society, and a presentation and live performance from the Diwali Society.

Students who freely give their time to organise sports clubs and societies through committees, are all classed as volunteers, and without them KCLSU would not be able to provide the range of student activity currently available.

Being awarded 'Investing in Volunteers' status is a mark of KCLSU's commitment to these students.



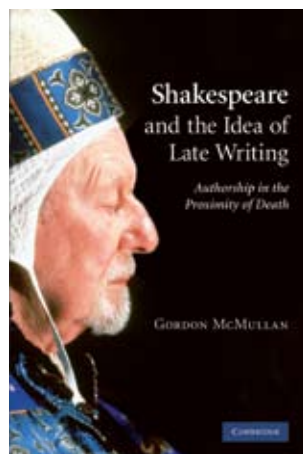
The Earls Of Mercia: Lordship and Power in Late Anglo-Saxon England

Professor Stephen Baxter,
Department of History

The Earls of Mercia offers a fresh interpretation of power structures and political patterns in late Anglo-Saxon England. Its principal focus is the family of Ealdorman Leofwine, which obtained power in Mercia and retained it throughout an extraordinary period of political and dynastic upheaval between 994 and 1071. The family survived through events such as the Viking wars, and further rounds of political bloodletting during the reign of Athelred 'the Unready'.

It describes and explains why this family managed to retain power for so long, and in doing so offers a major new appraisal of some fundamental elements of the late Anglo-Saxon government and society: the nature and limits of the powers of earls; forms of land tenure and the mechanics of royal patronage; the social and political functions of religious patronage; the structures of pre-Conquest lordship; and the relationship between local and national politics.

The Earls of Mercia is a new interpretation of the late Anglo-Saxon polity, and of the origins of the Norman Conquest.
Oxford Historical Monographs



Shakespeare and the Idea of Late Writing: Authorship in the Proximity of Death

Professor Gordon McMullan,
Department of English

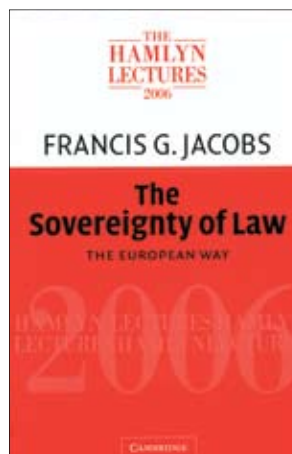
What do we mean when we speak of the 'late style' of a writer, artist or composer?

Professor Gordon McMullan argues in *Shakespeare and the Idea of Late Writing* that, far from being a natural phenomenon common to a handful of geniuses in old age or in proximity to death, late style is a critical construct which has helped creative artists give shape to the work they produce late in life.

Taking Shakespeare as his exemplar, he maps the development of the 'discourse of lateness' from the 18th century to the present, noting not only the mismatch between that discourse and the actual conditions for authorship in the theatre of Shakespeare's day but also its generativity for subsequent projections of creative selfhood.

And he provides the first full critique of the idea of late style, one which will be of interest not only to literature specialists but also to art historians, musicologists and anyone curious about the relationship of creativity to old age and to death.

Cambridge University Press



The Sovereignty of Law: The European Way

Professor Francis Jacobs,
School of Law

This book is addressed, not primarily to the specialist, but to a wider audience. It tackles some basic questions about the role of the law, and the courts in a society ever more complex.

Recently, the role of courts has changed dramatically. Not only do courts now have to decide cases between parties, they also often have to choose between competing fundamental values.

Judges may have to balance the potentially conflicting interests of human life and human dignity; freedom of speech and the right of privacy; or free trade and the protection of the environment. The courts may have to circumscribe freedom of religion, and decide when religious dress may be worn.

With the non-specialist in mind, and starting from the basic notion of the rule of law, this book explores how judges can and should address such issues.

Both the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Union often play a decisive role, and *The Sovereignty of Law* points out both the advantages and the difficulties posed by this.

Cambridge University Press

Three favourite...

Cycle rides near the James Clerk Maxwell Building

As recommended by Wendy Russell,
Widening Participation Co-ordinator

Waterloo to Hyde Park

From the James Clerk Maxwell Building, scoot round the IMAX cinema and head over Waterloo Bridge. Turn left down the Strand and carry straight on through Trafalgar Square and underneath Admiralty Arch for a mooch down The Mall past St James's Park, and Buckingham Palace. Continue up through Green Park via Constitution Hill to Hyde Park corner and follow the cycle route into Hyde Park. Wend your way alongside the Serpentine and enjoy the respite from the traffic for a while.

Waterloo to St Paul's

Strike out along Stamford Street and cross the river over Blackfriars Bridge, then head east to St Paul's Cathedral, nipping through the quieter streets such as Pilgrim Street and Carter Lane. Head back down towards the river and walk across the Millennium Bridge (no cycling allowed over the bridge) for a fantastic view of the Tate Modern.

Waterloo to Borough Market

There is usually a great atmosphere during weekday lunch hours at Borough Market, especially so on a Friday. Cycling along the South Bank is the most enjoyable and scenic route to the market. Trundle along next to the Thames, heading towards Southwark Cathedral, and moor your bike just outside Borough Market. Pottering round the market is best done on foot.

Let us know your three favourite things related to a Campus.

Email kate.saunders@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 the Internal Communications Officer, Public Relations Department (ext 3075), James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Campus, or emailed to kate.saunders@kcl.ac.uk by **22 February**.