

Comment

The College newsletter

Issue no 182 | July 2008

Africa at the crossroads

World statesman, Kofi Annan, delivers the 2008 Commemoration Oration

KOFI A ANNAN, THE SEVENTH

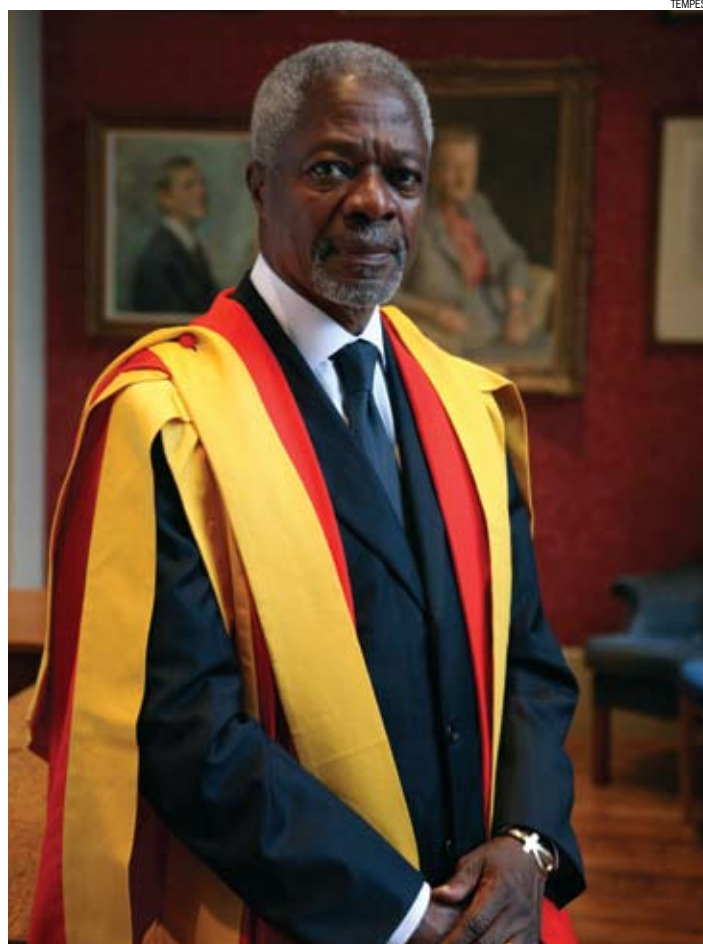
Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered the 2008 Commemoration Oration in May, held in the Great Hall, Strand Campus.

'The best Secretary General in the history of the UN'

Chairman of Council, The Marquess of Douro, welcomed Kofi Annan to the College, stating: 'I am pleased and honoured to welcome Mr Kofi Annan who has been described by a former United States Ambassador to the United Nations as the best Secretary General in the history of the United Nations.'

Mr Annan spoke about *Africa in the World Today* to an audience of staff, students and invited guests. Commenting that King's was a very appropriate place for him to discuss this topic because of its many links with the continent, Mr Annan reflected on the major achievements and continuing challenges for Africa.

He noted that the continent was moving towards being the 'next big thing', having achieved impressive economic growth and major investment over the last few years. He also praised the 'new



Kofi Annan became the recipient of the second honorary degree awarded by King's on his visit to the College in May.

generation' of African leaders, including the first female African leader, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia.

However, he highlighted that progress was not as fast or as consistent as could be hoped and that without continued investment

armed conflicts, poor leadership and broken promises will continue to tarnish the reputation of Africa.

'Africa is at a crossroads', he said. 'It can continue to move forward or retreat, in the face of old and new challenges, letting the advances of recent years slip away.'

At the Commemoration Oration, Kofi Annan also became the recipient of the second honorary degree awarded by King's College London.

Before the presentation, the Principal Professor Trainor said: 'Although Kofi Annan has received many honorary degrees, he is only the second person to receive an honorary doctorate of King's College London since the College began to award its own degrees earlier this year.'

'The first recipient, in February this year, was Mrs Helen Suzman, and it is particularly appropriate, given the College's links with Africa, that both recipients so far are people who have contributed in heroic ways to the development of that continent, with very considerable positive impact on the world more generally.'

The Commemoration Oration celebrates King's as a place of learning. Now an annual celebration at King's, the first ever Commemoration orator

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King's wins carbon award



David Carragher and Keith MacIntyre of the Estates & Facilities Directorate accepting the award on behalf of the College.

KING'S IS ONE OF 12 ORGANISATIONS IN

England and Scotland to achieve the 'Carbon Trust Standard', a new certificate launched last month for organisations to prove they are tackling climate change and have made genuine reductions in their carbon emissions.

Achieving the Carbon Trust Standard will enable King's to take advantage of the bottom line benefits that come from reducing carbon emissions, as well as demonstrating to consumers their real commitment to fighting climate change.

The Principal said: 'We're delighted to be one of the first institutions to achieve the new Carbon Trust Standard. As well as helping us to improve efficiency, the award is a great way of communicating our environmental credentials to the public, who we know are becoming increasingly carbon conscious.'

The Carbon Trust Standard is the world's first carbon award that requires an organisation to measure, manage and reduce its carbon footprint and actually make real reductions year-on-year.

£40 million in research

A TOTAL OF £40 MILLION POUNDS WAS

awarded to the College in more than 200 new or renewed research projects during the period 1 February-30 April 2008.

To date there have been 570 projects funded this year with a total value of £117.5 million

(the value of the projects in the same quarter last year was £105 million).

This quarter academics received 11 projects worth £1 million or more, with seven projects being worth £500,000 or more including two in the School of Humanities.

King's Learning Institute

KING'S LEARNING INSTITUTE (KLI)

is now formally in existence, building on the work of King's Institute of Learning and Teaching over the past six years.

The change of name reflects the Institute's concern with undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and organisational learning, whether in formal taught

courses, self-directed study or in workplaces.

The Institute has recently been awarded a grant from the Higher Education Academy (HEA) for research of student learning quality. This includes studies of learning from both face-to-face teaching and e-learning.

To find out more email david.2.hay@kcl.ac.uk.

Principal's Column

GREG FUNNELL



Dear Colleagues

As I write, Lord Darzi is publishing his plans for the NHS, which include his proposals for the kind of Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC) that we are developing here at King's. The College has just topped the list of universities for the amount of funding by the Medical

Research Council for the first time, which I certainly view as a sound endorsement of health-related research at King's and a strong vote of confidence in our plans to create an AHSC with our NHS partners.

Finally, at a time when Africa is so prominent in the news, it was a great privilege to hear Kofi Annan (page 1) speak about what the future holds for that continent at this year's Commemoration Oration. Indeed, we are blessed at King's with a tradition of being able to listen to some of the most distinguished and influential people of our times at first hand; long may it continue.

Best wishes for the summer.

Rick Trainor

Africa at the crossroads

GREG FUNNELL



Professor Satvinder Juss of the School of Law speaking to Mr Annan at the Oration reception.

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was author and poet GK Chesterton. Subsequent speakers have included author CS Lewis, former Prime Ministers Tony Blair,

Clement Atlee and Harold Wilson, and former Archbishop of Cape Town and Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu.

Westwood gowns unveiled

The new academic gowns designed by top British designer Vivienne Westwood were unveiled this month shortly before going to press. The full story and pictures will be revealed in the next issue of *Comment*.

£5m donation for neuroscience

A KING'S PROJECT TO CREATE EUROPE'S

leading neuroscience research institute at Denmark Hill took a step closer to completion in June with a major donation of £5 million from the Maurice Wohl Foundation.

This has brought the project to within £4 million of its £45 million target and, in recognition of this support, the Clinical Neuroscience Institute is to be named the 'Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute'.

The Institute will bring a bold new approach to a range of neurological and psychiatric conditions which affect millions and for which there are currently few effective treatments, they include stroke, dementia, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, brain tumours, epilepsy and schizophrenia.

Sir Ian Gainsford FKC, former Vice-Principal of King's, who has taken a key role in building support for the Institute, says:



Artist's impression of the new neuroscience research institute.

'This is an extraordinary and unique opportunity for the College and Hospital to join two of their greatest strengths, clinical neuroscience and psychiatry. The clinical need

for such an institution is self-evident, and the potential for significant public and academic advantage is huge.'

The project has also received major financial support from

the Wolfson Foundation, the King's Medical Research Trust, and with the most recent addition of the South London and Maudsley Trust.

Joint Clinical Trials Office

THE UK'S FIRST JOINT CLINICAL

Trials Office has been launched by King's College London, Guy's and St Thomas' and King's College Hospital Foundation Trusts.

Improving care for patients

Joint Clinical Trials Office's are used by some leading US centres but this is believed to be the first such service in the UK.

The new service will increase the number and quality of clinical trials taking place and lead to new treatments and valuable research for the benefit of patients locally and further afield.

The College has worked on clinical trials with its NHS partners for many years but the arrangements for recruiting patients and volunteers were

largely informal agreements. The Joint Clinical Trials Office will help to secure more clinical trials, increase their quality and delivery and also increase the income the College receives from externally funded trials.

The joint initiative is a good example of the Academic Health Science Centre partners collaborating their medical services and research to improve care for patients.

Jackie Powell, Director of the Joint Clinical Trials Office, says: 'Our primary aim is to develop a service that makes the complexities of meeting institutional, regulatory and governance requirements as simple and painless as possible for those involved in clinical trials.'

'We aim to free up investigators and their teams to focus on the science and medicine of clinical research and on identifying and managing patients in trials.'

£3m for diabetes centre

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) has awarded more than £3 million to fund a research centre to be based at King's, in collaboration with Cambridge and Bristol universities, to investigate the causes of Type 1 diabetes.

The centre, which combines UK strengths in the clinical, genetic and epidemiological aspects of the disease, will be known as the JDRF Centre for Diabetes Genes, Autoimmunity and Prevention (D-GAP).

The aim of the centre is to understand how and why Type 1 diabetes occurs, and to try and unravel the connection between genes, immunity and Type 1 diabetes. This knowledge may help develop future therapies with the aim of preventing the condition.

The team comprises Mark Peakman, Professor of Clinical

Immunology at King's, Professors John Todd, Linda Wicker and David Dunger from the University of Cambridge, and Professor Polly Bingley from the University of Bristol.

Professor Peakman comments: 'We know a good deal about the identity of the genes that confer risk of Type 1 diabetes, but very little about how they affect the immune system to do this.'

'The new research centre represents an exciting venture that will address this critical scientific gap in Type 1 diabetes research.'

Type 1 diabetes is caused by the body's own immune system destroying insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

Complications of the condition can include blindness, kidney failure, limb amputation and heart disease.

King's links with cultural partners

THE COLLEGE HAS LAUNCHED TWO

new unique master's programmes in collaboration with the British Library and the British Museum.

The programmes – Early Modern English Literature: Text & Transmission, and Eighteenth-Century Studies – will offer students the chance to work with the unparalleled collections of manuscripts, books and artefacts held at the British Library and the British Museum.

Students reading the new MA in Early Modern English Literature: Text & Transmission will study some of the masterpieces of early modern English literature – including Shakespeare – in their original editions (print and manuscript) and will learn to read, transcribe and edit neglected literary manuscripts and rare printed texts for the modern reader.

Dr Sonia Massai, Reader in the Department of English and convenor of this programme says: 'This new MA programme offers students the unique opportunity to study early modern literary texts not only in light of recent critical and literary approaches, but also as actual material artefacts.'

The second new master's programme, the MA in Eighteenth-Century Studies is a prestigious and unique cultural



Visits to the British Museum (above) and access to artefacts will be key to the new master's programmes.

partnership with the British Museum: for the first time a selection of curatorial experts will be co-teaching on a King's degree programme.

Through museum visits and seminars, this interdisciplinary

MA will introduce students to the resources of other London institutions with their roots in the 18th century, including the British Library, the Royal Society and the National Portrait Gallery.

Dr Clare Brant, Senior Lecturer

in the Department of English, and convenor of the MA in Eighteenth-Century Studies, says: 'The MA is at the hub of a series of eighteenth-century research-related events which celebrate and extend our new links with cultural partners.'

£1.4m for educational research

ACADEMICS FROM THE COLLEGE'S

Department of Education & Professional Studies have won £1.4 million to undertake research to help the next generation of school children develop the mathematics and science skills needed to keep the UK competitive.

'Excellence in mathematics'

Two awards, from the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), have been made to Dr Jeremy Hodgen, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics Education, and

Professor Jonathan Osborne, Head of the Department of Education & Professional Studies, respectively. They successfully bid for two of only five awards available.

In total, the ESRC made £3 million available and the initiative attracted 56 bids, of which 13 were shortlisted, with four from King's. Professor Osborne, working with Louise Archer, won the largest grant – £745,591.

Professor Osborne comments: 'I am absolutely delighted that we have won two of the five awards available. This success clearly demonstrates the Department's excellence in mathematics and science educational research.'

New AHSC shuttle service



A new internal shuttle bus service was launched in June and runs between King's College Hospital, Guy's Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital. The Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC) shuttle service can be used by all staff and students showing a valid King's College London, Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust ID badge.

Princess Royal's visit to King's

HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL VISITED

the College in May to attend the opening session of a two-day international conference marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the British mandate in Palestine.

The conference *Palestine, Britain & Empire: 1841-1948* was hosted by King's in partnership with the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London.

After being welcomed to the College by the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum, listened to some of the



HRH The Princess Royal meeting postgraduate History student **Rachel Bright** and **Dr John Stuart**, Lecturer in the Department of History.

papers being presented at the meeting in the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Theatre.

The Princess Royal, who is also Chancellor of the University of London, then met representatives

from the organising institutions at a reception in the River Room.

Dr Sarah Stockwell, Senior Lecturer in Imperial and Commonwealth History at King's, and one of the organisers of the conference, comments: 'We brought together senior scholars and younger historians to explore new approaches to the long-standing connection between Britain and Palestine before May 1948.'

Speakers for the conference were drawn from all over the world including Harvard Professor Roger Owen, and Roger (WR) Louis, Emeritus Professor at the University of Texas, Austin.

Pioneering cancer labs opened at King's

THE NEW RICHARD DIMBLEBY

Laboratory of Cancer Research at Guy's Campus was officially opened at King's in June, in a ceremony attended by Jonathan and David Dimbleby, Trustees of Dimbleby Cancer Care and DIUS Secretary of State John Denham MP, Chairman of Council Lord Douro, and the Principal.

In his speech David Dimbleby praised the work that was taking place at King's for cancer research and said that he felt the new laboratories were a fitting tribute to his father, and a huge achievement which Dimbleby Cancer Care were delighted to be part of.

Scientists at the new laboratory will focus on translating basic research into molecular diagnostics

for cancer drugs with the aim of improving targeted therapy for cancer patients.

The new laboratories will also offer PhD training for oncologists and cancer surgeons and will, from 2009, contribute to the new King's Masters research degree in Translational Cancer Medicine.

Professor Tony Ng who currently holds the Dimbleby Cancer Chair at King's and is Director of the Laboratory.

Professor Ng comments: 'Basic science and laboratory-based research is fundamental to improving patient care and treatment in the future. By collaborating with health professionals and scientists from a range of disciplines, I hope to



From left: **Lord Douro**, **Professor Tony Ng**, **Jonathan Dimbleby**, **John Denham MP**, **David Dimbleby**, **Professor Rick Trainor** and **Professor Robert Lechler**.

ensure that my research moves from bench to bedside and provides benefits to patients

as quickly as possible.'

The Centre is funded by the charity Dimbleby Cancer Care.

First translational research grants awarded

THE FOUR WINNERS OF THE FIRST

King's Translational Research Grant Awards have been announced.

The awards were set up as part of a pilot scheme to identify pre-clinical biomedical research studies with potential for development into new therapies that can eventually be evaluated for clinical benefit.

Andrew Beavil, Senior Lecturer, and Professor Brian Sutton, Division of Asthma, Allergy & Lung Biology, and Randall Division of Cell & Molecular Biophysics, have been awarded £98,412 for their research project on 'Drug-screening for gE inhibitors for anti-allergy/asthma therapy.'

Robert Vaughan, Senior

Lecturer and Consultant Clinical Scientist, Division of Inflammation, Infection & Immunity, has been awarded £39,086 for his project: 'A new approach to the HLA system designed for solid organ transplantation.'

Paola Dazzan, Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Institute of

Psychiatry, has been awarded £87,132 for the project: 'Establishing early neuroimaging biomarkers to predict treatment response in schizophrenia'.

Professor Mark Richardson, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, has been awarded £36,154 for the project: 'Use of a cortical excitability tracking device for the prediction and

Anne Marie Rafferty

The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Here Professor Anne Marie Rafferty, Dean of FNSNM, talks about the legacy of the past 30 years and describes what the future holds for the School.

Tell us about your career.

Reflecting on where I am now seems a long way from when I graduated in Nursing Studies from the University of Edinburgh almost 30 years ago.

After qualifying, I worked at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and was rapidly promoted to Deputy Sister, but I missed studying so I left this post to take up a joint appointment as a staff nurse and research assistant at the brand new Nursing Studies Unit at the Queen's Medical Centre at the University of Nottingham. My MPhil thesis took me into clinical research where I was supervised by the then Professor of Surgery, Jack Hardcastle, undertaking a randomised controlled trial, which was relatively rare for nurses in those days.

Switching to history, I was lucky to find a foothold in the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Oxford to do my doctorate in modern history where I was supervised by Charles Webster, official historian of the NHS.

I was appointed as Head of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery and Professor of Nursing Policy in November 2004 from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where I had been for

nine years. I see my current role as providing strategic leadership to the School, to sustain it financially and position it as a world-class provider of nursing and midwifery education and research.

How do you think FNSNM is regarded?

We are distinctive in our professional world because of our history. As the direct descendant of the original Nightingale Training School and the oldest nursing school in the world, we have a tradition to uphold and to preserve the values and spirit of Nightingale.

The global reach of the Nightingale model is reflected in our internationalisation programme and we are delighted to be sending our first students to the University of Pennsylvania this year.

Like Florence Nightingale, we also seek to impact policy. It was especially gratifying, therefore, that our staff and students were able to have a roundtable discussion with the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown MP, prior to his first major speech on health, which he made at the College in January.

I am proud to say that the School is also influencing policy directly within Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review.

How significant is research to the School?

The Nursing Research Unit, relaunched, as the National Nursing Research Unit, celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. It is a tribute to the Unit that it is now the longest surviving Department of Health funded Unit in the country. In addition, we celebrated three years of the Burdett Institute for Gastro-Intestinal Nursing this year, which is rapidly gaining a reputation as a global leader in the field.

The Health & Social Care Research Division is hosted virtually within the School. We work closely with Professor Charles Wolfe, Head of the Health and Social Care Research Division, and are building a strong and sustainable research enterprise and integrating this into the Academic Health Sciences Centre.

What is the 'Culture and Care' programme?

The strength of the contribution that the School has made to nursing scholarship and research, especially in the clinical area, is striking. FNSNM is a research-intensive environment, and research forms a crucial part of the School's portfolio. We will continue to build on this



legacy, integrating it into our School strategy.

In preparing the practitioners of tomorrow, we need to reach beyond the immediate priorities of the NHS. Our 'Culture and Care' programme is designed to do this, to bring the arts and humanities into the curriculum, embed the School within the cultural and political landscape of London and build research links with cultural organisations on our doorstep as well as within the College, notably the School of Humanities. Our writer's programme was launched in December 2007 by Ian McEwan, who read from his award-winning novel *Atonement*.

A new series of projects and initiatives are planned for the centenary of Florence Nightingale's death in 2010. We are also currently part of a Wellcome Trust bid led by Professor Brian Hurwitz to establish a Centre for Medical Humanities within King's.

How are you taking the School forward?

Over the past 18 months, we have been formulating and implementing a strategic plan, supported by the College.

I have a first-class School Leadership Team working with me, supported by a talented group of Heads of Department and an excellent cadre of staff and students. Our focus is on relentless refinement and reform, to better serve our students and our stakeholders. A responsive, confidence-inspiring ethic of service has to pervade everything we do.

There is also a massive communications and motivational agenda to attend to here too and this is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges in my role. We have set up a variety of mechanisms to accomplish this, but it needs constant nurturing and the desire to try something different and new. We are constantly on the look out for new ways of learning and incorporating that into everything we do.

Fact file

Book on my bedside table

I am currently reading a biography of Joseph Cornell, creator of shadow boxes from found objects usually associated with the surrealists.

Favourite holiday destination

This has to be Borge, a wee speck on the Scottish landscape near Kirkcudbright in lush and verdant Galloway. The craggy Solway Firth coast is so unspoiled and breathtakingly beautiful.

Proudest work moment

I love graduation days, seeing the thrill of success reflected in the students and their families. They are also one of the few times that the size and diversity of the School are visible, and where you can feel the pride of both staff and students.

Rowing for Olympic Gold

THREE KING'S ALUMNI WILL BE ROWING for glory in August at the Olympic Games in Beijing. Katherine Grainger MBE, Frances Houghton and Annabel Vernon, along with their team mate Debbie Flood, will be rowing together in the women's coxless quad.

'A great credit to the College'

The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, together with KCLSU President Adam Farley and Head of Alumni Relations Jennifer Garner, met with the rowers at an informal event in May to congratulate Katherine, Frances and Annabel on their success and wish them the best of luck for the Games.



From left: **Katherine Grainger, Frances Houghton, Annabel Vernon.**

Professor Trainor said to them: 'Your achievements in rowing are terrific. It is admirable that you have combined academic success with sporting achievements at this level – you are a great credit

to the College.'

Katherine, is currently studying for a PhD in Law at King's. She has won the World Championships four times, achieved Olympic success in 2000

and 2004 and was awarded an MBE for services to sport in 2006.

Looking to the Games in August, Katherine comments: 'I am really looking forward to taking part in the Olympics this year. The buzz in the Olympic Village is amazing, and there is a huge amount of respect between athletes of all sports.'

Frances, who studied for a BA Hispanic Studies (2003), is also an Olympic medalist and three times World Champion. Katherine and Frances rowed together at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, where they scooped silver medals for the women's coxless pairs and women's quadruple sculls respectively.

Annabel, who graduated with an MA in International Relations in 2007, is currently a member of the Thames Rowing Club.

Olympic visitors to drug laboratory

MEMBERS OF THE BEIJING OLYMPIC Games drug testing team visited King's Drug Control Centre for a week in May to learn from the UK's only accredited laboratory how to rid the Games of drug cheats.

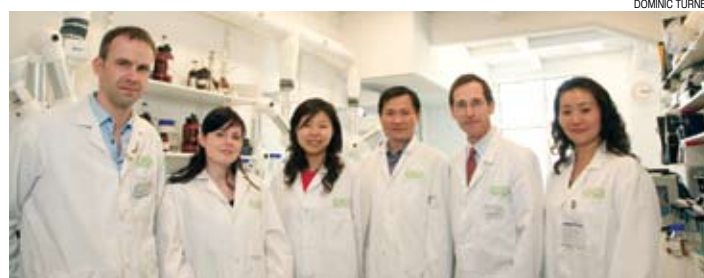
The Drug Control Centre analyses samples collected from human sports competitors covering events and training in the UK. It is one of 33 laboratories accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Working with UK Sport to implement the UK's anti-doping policy in sport, the Centre carried

out more than 7,000 tests across 50 sports last year.

The Centre, led by Director Professor David Cowan, is well respected internationally and has a proven record of successfully delivering analysis services for major games. It was the first human sports drug-testing laboratory established outside of an Olympic Games.

Professor Cowan, who was involved in the successful bid for the London 2012 Olympic Games, comments: 'As part of our continuing involvement in working with and assisting other WADA



From left: **Christiaan Bartlett, Susann Herrmann, He Chunji, Yang Sheng, Professor David Cowan and Ying Dong.**

accredited laboratories, we are delighted to be hosting a group of senior scientists from the Beijing laboratories, preparing for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.'

Scientists from the Drug Control Centre have been invited to work alongside their Chinese colleagues this summer in Beijing to assist at the Olympics.

Stroke research celebrates 20-year anniversary

THE SOUTH LONDON STROKE GROUP led by Professor Charles Wolfe, Head of the Division of Health and Social Care Research at King's celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The group comprises a multi-disciplinary stroke research team who have an established

track record in stroke medicine, epidemiology, health service research, complex randomised controlled trials, health economist, and health policy evaluations.

The platform for research within the group is formed by the world-renowned South London Stroke

Register (SLSR). Established in 1988 as a community-based Register, the SLSR has recorded stroke in patients of all age groups covering the South London areas.

Professor Wolfe comments: 'Stroke is one of the leading causes of death and disability,

costing over £3 billion a year in England. As there is little information on the needs of patients after stroke, particularly in the longer term and amongst different ethnic groups, the aims of the project are to address the scarcity of such information.'

King's awarded major studentships

KING'S HAS BEEN AWARDED 24 FOUR- year Doctoral Training Grant studentships by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) in their most recent competition – twice the number from the previous competition, despite fewer awards being given nationally in this funding round.

The studentship awards are granted by the Studentships and Fellowships Panel using an algorithmic approach where BBSRC research grant income is a key factor. In order to be

considered for an award at this stage each institution's proposal is judged to an exacting quality threshold.

Professor Roger Morris, Head of the School of Biomedical & Health Sciences comments on the awards: 'We are delighted to have been granted these four-year studentships because they will enable us to progress our involvement of young scientists in our multidisciplinary research ethos.'

'These prestigious BBSRC doctoral training studentships will

be led by the College's School of Biomedical & Health Sciences and integrate our interest with colleagues in Maths, Computing, Physics, Engineering, Craniofacial Development, Immunobiology & Infectious Diseases, Genetics and Cancer Cell Biology, with whom we collaborate in both research and teaching.'

The 24 BBSRC four-year studentships will be awarded over a period of four academic years from 2009-12 and are given in the form of a single Doctoral Training Grant.



PHIL SAYER

The BBSRC studentships will help young scientists become involved with research.

£1.1m major depression study launched

UK SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING A TEAM from the Institute of Psychiatry, launched a groundbreaking £1.1 million study last month into the genetic causes of clinical depression.

A groundbreaking study

Researchers from the University of Aberdeen, the Institute of Psychiatry and the University of Liverpool believe the answers could lie with short DNA

sequences which act as 'genetic switches' controlling key genes in an area of the brain that influences mood.

These switches ensure that certain genes are only used in the correct parts of the brain at the proper times and in the right dose. Any changes in these can cause imbalances in the amount of critical proteins in the brain that may increase susceptibility to depression.

Scientists at the Institute of Psychiatry, led by Dr Gerome

Breen, Research Fellow in the Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Interdisciplinary Research Group, and Peter McGuffin, Professor of Psychiatric Genetics and Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry, will look at variations found in these sequences using DNA samples from patients with chronic depression.

Dr Breen comments: 'We can now analyse millions of genetic variations in the human genome but it is only studies like this that

will allow us to track down those that are important in disorders such as depression.'

Professor McGuffin adds: 'We are delighted to be part of such a potentially exciting project and look forward to our collaboration further enlightening clinical research and practice.'

It is hoped the three-year study – which will also examine why some sufferers do not respond to anti-depressant treatments – will ultimately pave the way for new drugs to treat the condition.

Academic honoured

THE INSTITUTO DE PSIQUIATRIA IN São Paulo, Brazil, has named its new research support facility after Professor Robin Murray of the Institute of Psychiatry.

The Centro de Apoio à Pesquisa 'Robin Murray' or the 'Robin Murray' Research Support Centre, was officially opened at a ceremony attended by Wagner Gattaz, Chairman of the Board of the Instituto de Psiquiatria, and Professor Euripedes Miguel, Coordinator of the Research Centre, in May.

Professor Murray gave a lecture which was followed by a reception for more than a 100 professionals involved in research and clinical activities at the Instituto de



Professor Robin Murray with the dedicated plaque.

Psiquiatria, as well as guests from other Departments of the University of São Paulo.

The Robin Murray Research Support Centre is housed in a newly-refurbished building of the 'Departamento & Instituto de Psiquiatria' of the University of São Paulo Medical School and Hospital das Clínicas.

Osteoporosis discovery

Research led by a group from King's has uncovered two genes to aid diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis.

The research, published in the *Lancet*, scanned for variations in more than 20,000 human genes, uncovering the OPG and LRP5 genes which are crucial in bone density and fracture.

The group undertook a combined Anglo-Dutch study of more than 8,500 people and looked at the genes of female twins, comparing the positive results in men and women from Rotterdam, as well as women from Essex.

Professor Tim Spector,

Genetic Epidemiologist and Director of the Twin Research Unit at King's, who led the work, comments: 'This study shows, for the first time, that osteoporosis is caused by many common gene variants of modest effect rather than just a few genes.'

'These two genes are likely to be the most important and together can easily be tested and are as useful in risk assessment as many other tests used by clinicians, such as questions about smoking history or the use of steroids. They also show the way for future gene tests as we add more genes.'

KCLSU

The students' union at King's has been described as 'a beacon steering the third sector in the right direction'. Steve Vaid, Chief Executive of King's College London Students' Union (KCLSU) gives an insight into the organisation's history and how it is changing to reflect the needs of students today.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

King's College London Students' Union (KCLSU) is an independent charitable organisation based on four of the College's campuses. It works to represent and support King's students in practical ways, ensuring that they have the best possible experience during their time at university.

KCLSU achieve this by providing students with personal development opportunities to broaden their intellectual and social interests; working in partnership with the Principal, Principal's Central Team, Heads of Schools and Professional Services to ensure that students have excellent facilities, teaching, feedback and courses; championing student volunteering in the community; and by providing advice if things go wrong.

History

The King's College London Union Society (KCLSU's predecessor) can trace its origins back to 1873. The first President was appointed in December 1908 following a complete reorganisation of the society. To mark this occasion KCLSU will shortly be celebrating its centenary.

Since 1908 KCLSU Presidents have gone on to reach incredible heights. For example, the founding president of the National Union of Students, the former Prime Minister of St Kitts, and the Chairman of the National Stud Board are all KCLSU alumni.

In recent times KCLSU has experienced a period of rapid change; in 2005 following a vote by its Student Council, KCLSU became an independent charity and in 2006 was the first students' union in the UK to appoint a board of trustees consisting of both students and non-students.

This change was recognised with a Third Sector Excellence Award in 2007 for 'Most Improved Trustee Board' and having also gained Investors in People and Investing in Volunteers standards was a combined first for any students' union.

KCLSU today

I was appointed by the new Trustee Board as CEO in July 2005. Having not previously worked in the higher education sector, I was amazed at the breadth of services and support an organisation the size of KCLSU offered King's students.

In a typical year our 35 permanent staff interact with thousands of people, helping to



Dance and theatrical performances are just one area that KCLSU is involved with.

support more than 3,000 student volunteers, managing over 500,000 unique physical student 'hits' on our services and facilities; operating a diverse portfolio of social enterprises that jointly turn over £2 million and create employment for 250 students or more.

'Through student activities we enable around 6,500 students to pursue their sporting, cultural, religious, and political passions, resulting in students investing 325,000 hours of their time in their personal development and 24,000 hours in community work.'

KCLSU also offer advice to students who encounter difficulties with their studies and examinations; help prepare over 4,000 new students start their life at university and in London; conduct two elections with more than 3,500 student votes cast to elect sabbaticals, trustees, student council members and NUS delegates; put on 60 live gigs, and 100 club nights; train approximately 1,000 course representatives; and coach and mentor the four sabbatical officers who represent the 140 nationalities and 20,000 students at King's.

These achievements are significant but KCLSU will not be standing still. The organisation is about to embark on an ambitious programme of strategic development and renewal.

The future

In the current UK higher education climate

of widening participation, internationalisation and rising tuition fees, there is increased pressure on students to reconsider their role as consumers and citizens, and to make themselves more attractive to employers. Against this backdrop the role of students' unions is also changing.

KCLSU is developing into one of the most innovative students' unions in the country. We are constantly challenging traditional perceptions and striving to ensure we are relevant to the needs of our students today and in the future. In this vein, over the next four years KCLSU will be researching new forms of student government to ensure that every student's voice is heard.

KCLSU realise, however, that this cannot be done alone. In this respect they are forging new partnerships with colleagues in King's Professional Services and Schools.

KCLSU's aim is to create an organisation that is truly led by the community of students at King's; one that it is made up of various groups based on common interests and common experiences, such as faith, ethnic origin, course of study, disability and health. It is essential that everything we do is based on an assessment of our community's wants and needs.

From this KCLSU believe it can become a world-class students' union, building on its history and heritage of over 100 years.

Inaugural lecture has global audience



Professor Patricia Reynolds

Patricia Reynolds, Professor of Dental Education at King's presented her inaugural lecture in May at the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Theatre, Strand Campus.

Professor Reynolds spoke, via a video conference, on the past and future of dental education to an overseas audience, which included Prishtina Dental School in Kosovo and Witwatersrand University in South Africa.

The lecture, *Back to the Future: Destination Education*, examined the experience of dental education through the eyes of a student (in this case Professor Reynolds) at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of the system.

Professor Reynolds also looked at the influence of technology in dental education and how medieval some of the education sector still is, regardless of the well documented advantages of e-learning.

Better Together Day

A team of nine King's staff took part in the London-wide *Better Together Day* in May.

Organised by Business in the Community, *London Better Together Day* is the largest employee volunteering event of its kind and this year over 2,500 volunteers from more than 80 companies answered the call to improve their city by working in teams, large and small, on projects in schools and community organisations all over London. This year's projects were all

environmentally based.

King's volunteers, led by team leader Karen Bearman from Alumni Relations, did a hard day's work of painting, decorating and gardening, giving a much needed face lift to the playground of Fircroft Primary School in South London.

Karen says: 'We had a fantastic day out of the office and hopefully made a real difference to the school. It was a great opportunity for me to gain new skills in project leadership and work alongside colleagues from other teams and departments.'

Two world premieres



Dr Silvina Milstein

The world premiere of **Robert Keeley's** *Symphony No. 2* was held at St John's Smith Square in May, while **Dr Silvina Milstein**, composer in the Department of Music, held the world premiere of her new piece, *surrounded by distance*, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London in June.

Symphony No 2 was performed by Kensington Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Russell Keable.

Mr Keeley describes the symphony as 'entirely abstract in conception', and 'an example of 'pure' music, with no extraneous or picturesque references'.

Surrounded by distance was performed by the London Sinfonietta and conducted by Oliver Knussen, one of the leading figures on the British contemporary music scene.

In a pre-concert talk Dr Milstein discussed her new piece, one

Birthday Honours

Irene Higginson, Professor of Palliative Care & Policy at King's, received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, which were announced last month.

Professor Higginson, who is also Head of the Department of Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation in the School of Medicine was awarded an OBE for services to medicine.

King's alumni were also among those who received an OBE, including: **Roger Bland** for services to heritage; **Henry Bragg** for services to the community in East Kent; **Dr Harriet Crabtree** for services to community relations; **The Marchioness of Douro** for voluntary services to social housing; and **Professor Robert McClelland** for services to medicine.

Alumna and donor to the College **Donna Kinnair** was made



Professor Irene Higginson

a Dame for services to nursing in London.

Alumni **Dr Sheila Filshie JP** was awarded an MBE for services to the administration of justice in Nottinghamshire and **Bernard Sinclair** received an MBE for voluntary service to Redbridge Jewish Youth and Community Centre, London.

movement lasting around 20 minutes, which was commissioned by the Association for Cultural Exchange (ACE), and was performed at a concert to mark their 50th anniversary.

Top 20 downloads

Dr David Barlow and **Professor Peter Hylands** in the Division of Pharmaceutical Science have achieved three top 20 downloads in the last year for their papers on the use of Chinese herbs and medicine.

The articles – 'Phytochemical Databases of Chinese Herbal Constituents and Bioactive Plant Compounds with Known Target Specificities'; 'Virtual Screening of Chinese Herbs with Random Forest'; and 'Phytochemical Informatics of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Therapeutic Relevance' – were all published in the *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* in 2007.

On their success, Dr Barlow and Professor Hylands say: 'We are delighted that our research has attracted such worldwide interest, and are particularly excited by

the fact that it has provided a platform for our collaboration with the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica in China, with research funding of £90,000 provided by ICUK.'

The funding will be used for the development of a database of Chinese herbs and their use within Traditional Chinese Medicine. The database includes information on over 8,000 phytochemical compounds from 240 of the most commonly used herbs in Chinese medicine.

KCLSU Awards

KCLSU held its annual Awards ceremony in May, recognising those who have made a significant contribution to the KCLSU and King's community. Held in Tutu's at the Strand Campus, more than 150 students, College and KCLSU staff attended the event.

Professor Rick Trainor opened proceedings, congratulating award winners and commending their wide-reaching achievements. Awards, including Commendations, Half-Laurels,



Joe May (centre) was a winner of the Honorary Life Membership Award.

Laurels and Honorary Life Memberships, were given to the following members of staff:

Joe May
Helen McNeely
Dr Barbara Moreland
Dr John Halliday
Dr David Crankshaw
Professor Penney Lewis
Dr Suzanne LaBelle
Dr Tina Chronopoulos
Dr John Stone
Dr Andrea Ducci
Frank Bongiorno
Mr Keith McIntyre
Professor Richard Hooley
Professor Roger Morris
Dr Ian Stevenson
Mrs Sian Hawkins
Ms Vicky Manning

A variety of student activity groups were also recognised alongside individual achievers in campaigning, volunteering, societies, field and non-field sports.

UN working group visits King's

A UN group of human rights experts met with **Dr Christopher Kinsey**, Defence Studies Department, in May to discuss the growing use of private security companies by governments and multinational corporations in conflict zones and their impact on human rights.

The working group visited Britain to look into the activities of private security companies (PSCs) registered in the country, selling military training, security sector reform programmes, security and consultancy services

to international clients, many of whom operate in conflict zones.

The meeting with Dr Kinsey discussed ideas about how the industry might be regulated in the future.

Psychology award for Dr Freeman

Dr Daniel Freeman, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, is to receive the 2008 May Davidson Award from the British Psychological Society's Division of Clinical Psychology.

Dr Freeman has been a pioneer in the development of the psychological understanding and treatment of paranoia. His innovative research has concerned questions such as: What is paranoia? What causes it? and Are we more paranoid now than we used to be?

Dr Freeman says: 'I'm absolutely delighted to be awarded the May Davidson Award, which has had many distinguished winners. It's further recognition of the contribution of UK clinical psychology to advancing the understanding and treatment of psychosis.'

The May Davidson Award is made by the Division of Clinical Psychology each year to a clinical psychologist who has made a significant contribution to the profession within 10 years of qualifying.

Spanish honours

Julian Weiss, Professor of Medieval & Early Modern Spanish Studies and Director of the Centre for Late Antique & Medieval Studies, has received two major honours.

Professor Weiss has just returned from the United States, where he was awarded the prestigious *La corónica* (a journal of Medieval Spanish Language, Literature and Cultural Studies and the major journal in the field) International Book Award 2008 for his monograph, *The 'Mester de Clerecía': Intellectuals and Ideologies in Thirteenth-Century Castile* (London: Tamesis, 2006).

The Award was made at the 43rd International Congress of

Marketing Award winner

Kelly McDonnell (centre), International Marketing Officer (Asia) won silver at the 18th Annual HEIST Awards. The Heist Awards programme celebrates excellence in education marketing and is held in high esteem across the sector. Kelly joined the College last year and her victory in the Young Marketer category is the first time a College marketing professional has been given a personal award.



Kelly McDonnell



Professor Julian Weiss

Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The Award carries over into 2009, when Professor Weiss's work will be the focus of a special session at the Congress and he has been invited as Respondent of Honour.

The judges praised the theoretical rigour and 'its brilliant and original textual analyses' and concluded by saying that the book 'represents a paradigm shift in the traditional treatment of medieval didacticism as a whole, not only in the genre that is the book's subject'.

Professor Weiss has also recently been appointed by UC Berkeley to be Distinguished Visiting Professor in Medieval Studies, the first Hispanist to hold the honour.

Dr Bagshaw recognised

Dr Michael Bagshaw, Director of Aviation Medicine at King's, and Visiting Professor at Cranfield University, has been awarded the Aerospace Medical Association's

2008 Louis H Bauer Founders Award.

Dr Bagshaw received the award for his substantial and significant contributions to the international aerospace community. For example, in recent months he has given evidence at a House of Lords Select Committee on Air Travel and Health, in which he highlighted the lack of funding for aviation health research.

Dr Bagshaw is an internationally recognized aeromedical expert and physician-pilot, qualified as a private, military (RAF), commercial, air transport, and instructor pilot.

The Louis H Bauer Founders Award was established to honour Louis H Bauer, MD, founder of the Aerospace Medical Association. It is given annually for the most significant contribution in aerospace medicine.



Dr Michael Bagshaw

New Fellows elected to Academy of Medical Sciences

Two King's scientists are among 40 UK leading doctors and medical researchers who have been recognised for excellence in medical science with their election to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Andy Adam, Professor of Interventional Radiology in the School of Medicine, and **Simon Lovestone**, Professor Old Age Psychiatry and Director of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, join the 35 other King's academics who are Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Academy Fellows are elected



Professor Andy Adam

for outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, for innovative application of scientific knowledge and conspicuous service to healthcare.

Professor Adam's primary



Professor Simon Lovestone

clinical and research interests are in the areas of biliary and gastrointestinal intervention, and percutaneous tumour ablation, and Professor Lovestone's area of research concentrates on

understanding the molecular and cellular events that take place in the brain, especially the role of tau in Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Sir John Bell, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences said: 'These Fellows enter the Academy at a time when health and medical science issues are high on the public and political agenda. Our Fellows demonstrate the wealth of experience and diversity of talent amongst the UK's research community. Their excellence in medical research plays a pivotal role in determining the future of medical science.'

Academic wins Lister prize



Dr Juan Martin Serrano

Dr Juan Martin Serrano in the Department of Infectious Diseases, has been awarded a prestigious Lister Institute Research Prize, one of only four granted annually.

The Lister prize gives young

scientists the opportunity, as Lister Institute Research Prize holders, to develop their potential as research scientists by giving them flexible funding over a five-year period.

Dr Serrano comments on his award: 'I am truly honoured to receive the Lister Prize. This award would not have been possible without the talent and hard work of the members of my laboratory. I also want to thank the members of the Infectious Diseases Department for their unreserved support during the last four years.'

Professor Mike Malim, Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases comments: 'We are all delighted for Juan, and are tremendously proud of his achievements. This award represents some very well-deserved recognition of a rising scientific and scholastic talent.'

'The funding will help Juan to

extend his recent ground-breaking discoveries linking the processes of cell division and HIV production – one important objective being to translate these fundamental findings into drug discovery.'

New appointment for Professor

Cathy Warwick CBE, one of the country's leading midwives and visiting Professor at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, has been appointed as the next General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives (RCM). She will succeed Dame Karlene Davis who retires in October this year.

Professor Warwick, who currently holds the posts of Divisional Manager of Women and Children's Services and Director of Midwifery at King's College Hospital Foundation Trust, has an esteemed record throughout the UK for advising on midwifery and sustainable service changes.

On her new post Professor Warwick said she was delighted to have been appointed as the next General Secretary, adding: 'I consider it a great privilege to take over such a prestigious role, following in the footsteps of Dame Karlene. I look forward to working with and for the midwives of the UK to ensure that women get the very best possible care.'

Juliana Oladuti shortlisted for award

Juliana Oladuti, Divisional Manager in the Division of Asthma, Allergy & Lung Biology, was shortlisted for this year's *Times* Crème and Hays Secretarial PA of the Year Award.

The award, which despite its title is also open to executive assistants and office managers, aims to recognise the 'unsung heroes' of the office whose hard work and professionalism helps the organisation to run smoothly.

Ms Oladuti was nominated for the award by Professor Tak Lee, Head of the Division of Asthma, Allergy & Lung Biology.

On her success at being shortlisted, Ms Oladuti says: 'It was a great honour to have been a finalist in the 2008 *Times*/Hays Secretarial PA of the Year Award. Although disappointed not to have won, it has been fantastic being a finalist. I saw this as also being a recognition of the invaluable contribution and sterling work of all support staff across the College.'

CORRECTION

Professor Paul Ekins and Dr Michael Howard, featured in the King's People pages of *Comment* 181, should have been cited as academics in the Department of Geography.

Bronze award

The 2008 King's Calendar, designed by **Sue Buchanan**, has won a Bronze Medal in the CASE Circle of Excellence Awards Programme, in the Individual Institutional Relations Publications category. There were 166 entrants into this year's awards with four gold medallists, two silver winners and five winners of the bronze award.



Mapping the shaking earth

Earthquakes such as the one that recently devastated parts of China's Sichuan province were first measured by seismographs invented by John 'Earthquake' Milne (1850-1913): a student and Fellow of King's.

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JOHAN MILNE WAS BORN IN LIVERPOOL in 1850 and brought up in Rochdale and the nearby village of Milnrow. He was interested in geology from an early age, and used the prize money he won as a teenager at Liverpool Collegiate Institute to fund a trip to the Lake District and Dublin. In 1867, at the age of 17, he became a student in the Department of Applied Sciences in King's, taking exams in mathematics, mechanics, divinity, geology, chemistry, mineralogy, geometrical drawing and surveying.

Milne left King's in 1870 with an excellent academic record and moved to the Royal School of Mines (one of the predecessors of Imperial College) to specialise in geology, travelling to Iceland in 1871 to study geysers and the Mount Hekla volcano.

After gaining practical experience of mining engineering in England and Germany he was sent to report on the mineral resources of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1873 and also joined an expedition to the Sinai Peninsular.

Japan

In 1875 he was appointed to the staff of Japan's newly-formed Imperial College of Engineering in Tokyo and made the journey overland via Scandinavia, Russia, Siberia, Mongolia and China, leaving a vivid description of his six-month trek. In Tokyo he taught mining, chemistry and metallurgy and he also made a thorough study of Japan's volcanoes.

Milne experienced his first earthquake on the day he arrived in Japan in 1876, and his interest grew when in 1880 his house in Tokyo was rocked by the devastating Yokohama quake. Investigations of this led to him to realise the inadequacy of the measuring methods available.

Together with his colleagues Thomas Gray and James Ewing, he began a course of research and instrumental development culminating in the successful construction in 1896 of the first seismograph capable of recording major earthquakes, using photographic paper rotated by a drum. Seismology thus acquired a sound scientific and mathematical basis. Distances from epicentres could be calculated, the complex nature of wave motion thoroughly investigated and the possibility of giving warning of quakes was first explored.

The Nobi earthquake of 1891 helped to convince Milne that quakes were caused by the release of strain energy which had been stored in rock through the slow deformation of the Earth's crust. He and his colleague WK Burton



John Milne

described this quake in *The Great Earthquake of Japan, 1891* and illustrated it graphically with 30 plates taken by Kazumasa Ogawa.

Milne also established a seismic survey of Japan with some 968 stations. His advice on building in an earthquake zone included safeguards such as not having windows in direct alignment on different floors of a high building.

Isle of Wight

In 1895 Milne left Japan with a generous pension and the rare honour (for foreigners) of the Order of the Rising Sun (third grade), conferred on him by the Meiji Emperor. He settled with his Japanese wife Tone at Shide

Hill House on the Isle of Wight, setting up two seismological observatories there.

As Joint Secretary to the Seismological Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science he established a seismic survey of the world, encouraged the establishment of seismic stations internationally and, with his assistant Shinobu Hirota, co-ordinated reports of all the earthquakes recorded. He was the author of two books, *Seismology* (1898) and *Catalogue of Destructive Earthquakes, AD 7-AD 1899* (1912), and many more papers on seismology.

The importance of Milne's work was recognised as early as 1881 by an honorary fellowship of King's, and he went on to receive the fellowship and Lyell Medal of the Geological Society (1894), the fellowship of the Royal Society (1887) and the award of its Royal Medal (1908), and an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford.

Milne was also a keen naturalist, golfer and photographer, a traveller and a kindly man with a keen sense of humour. Besides his seismological works he wrote a number of science-based fiction stories and a best-selling humorous travel book. Isle of Wight locals remembered him as a squat old gentleman with a broad-brimmed hat and a slight stoop, making jokes in a quiet Lancastrian accent, with a bushy moustache which had a gap in it burned by numerous cigarettes.

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A lantern slide taken by Milne of houses devastated by the earthquake he experienced on the day he arrived in Japan in 1876.

New medical heritage centre at Guy's

FIVE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS LED

by King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas' Charity are exploring the possibility of creating a medical heritage centre on the College's Guy's Campus on the original site of Guy's Hospital.

A study into the feasibility of creating a medical heritage centre was jointly commissioned by King's and the Charity. Substantial capital funding from external sources will be required if the project is to go ahead.

The study included analysis of the potential for collaboration

between five 'partner' institutions: The Gordon Museum, The Old Operating Theatre, The Florence Nightingale Museum, The Bethlem Maudsley Museum and The Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Professor Simon Howell, Guy's Campus Dean at King's, who led the study comments: 'London has been the birthplace of many improvements in healthcare which have had an impact worldwide. This museum will record and celebrate these advances and the people who made them, in the



The Gordon Museum.

historic setting of the original Guy's Hospital in Southwark. It will also challenge visitors to

engage with current issues in healthcare provision in the UK and beyond.'

Gerontology comes of age



From left: current director of the Institute **Professor Simon Briggs**, with former directors **Professors Anthea Tinker** and **Janet Askham**, and guest speaker **Professor Alan Walker**.

THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MSc

in Gerontology was celebrated last month with a keynote address and the launch of two new master's programmes in Global Ageing and Public Policy & Ageing.

Founded in 1986, the Institute of Gerontology at King's is one of the foremost gerontological research and teaching centres in Europe with staff from a wide range of disciplines. The Institute's aims are to foster an understanding of ageing and old age and to develop the means of improving the well-being of older people.

From the beginning, a key objective was to develop the first MSc programme in Gerontology in Britain drawing on the substantial gerontological interests across all Schools in the College to create a programme spanning the medical,

biological and social sciences.

Twenty-one years on, the MSc Gerontology continues to provide education at the cutting edge of current research into ageing and later life. Building on this success, from September the Institute will be introducing two new master's programmes: the MSc in Global Ageing and, in conjunction with the King's Public Policy Programme, the MA in Public Policy & Ageing.

The current Director of the Institute of Gerontology, Professor Simon Biggs, comments: 'It is a great honour to be Director of one of the founding institutions of UK gerontology, especially in its 21st year.'

• *As Comment was going to press we learnt of the very sad news of Professor Askham's death.*

Looking for alumni writers

Plans for the Alumni Weekend 2009 include organising a literary festival on the Strand. This will be the perfect event for authors and writers to showcase their most recent publications or give talks on their areas of expertise.

If you are in contact with alumni who are professionally published novelists, biographers, critics, screenwriters or poets, please contact the Alumni Office on 020 7848 3053 or email on alumoff@kcl.ac.uk

Oscar winner at King's



Oscar winner and best-selling novelist **John Irving**.

MORE THAN 170 ALUMNI, STUDENTS, staff and friends of the College attended 'An Evening with John Irving', the bestselling American novelist and screenwriter last month.

Mr Irving gave an engaging and inspiring talk on his life, writing and future plans. He read extracts

from a number of his novels and answered numerous questions from the audience.

The audience members, from a range of Schools and Departments, thoroughly enjoyed this exclusive opportunity to see such an important literary figure at the Strand Campus.

Parkinson's cutting-edge research

THE ANNUAL EDMOND J. SAFRA

Memorial Lecture, exploring cutting-edge research on Parkinson's disease took place at King's in May.

The first keynote speaker at the event was Miguel Nicolelis, Professor of Neuroscience at Duke University, USA, Co-Director of the Duke Center for Neuroengineering and Co-Founder and Scientific Director of the Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute for Neuroscience of Natal (Brazil).

At the lecture Professor Nicolelis, who best known for his study of Brain-Machine Interfaces (BMI) for

neuroprosthetics, talked about the latest advances in neuroprosthetics, showing how we could use brain signals to control robot arms and legs, including the latest experiments involving real-time control of a bipedal robot in Japan. He also discussed a new therapeutic approach for treating Parkinson's main motor signs and symptoms.

The second talk was given by David Brooks, Hartnett Professor of Neurology, Imperial College London, and Head of the Neurology Group at the Medical Research Council Clinical Sciences Centre in Hammersmith Hospital, London. He is also



GREG FUNNELL

Mrs Lily Safra FKC

Head of Neurology in Medical Diagnostics, GE Healthcare.

Professor Brooks' lecture focused on topics such as

approaches to neuroprotection and restoration in Parkinson's disease, advances in understanding motor complications of Parkinson's, and the relationship between Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

This memorial lecture, highlighting frontline advances in research into Parkinson's disease is an annual event at King's. The lecture honours the late Mr Edmond J. Safra, philanthropist and financier, and his widow, Mrs Lily Safra FKC, who recently made a generous gift to support research being undertaken at the College into the causes of Parkinson's.

Milestone for Research Ethics Committee



DAVID TETT

The **Principal** and representatives from across the Committees celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Research Ethics Committee in June.

AT THE END OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, the College Research Ethics Committee (CREC) will be 25 years old. The Committee, chaired by Professor Anthea Tinker since

2001, is responsible for the ethical review of non-NHS research involving human participants at King's College London.

Over the past 25 years the

Committee (one of the oldest university ethics committees) has sought to ensure a rigorous yet flexible ethical review process within the College and is considered

one of the leaders in its field.

In order to meet the growing requirements for ethical review and the diverse research activity at King's the Committee established two, soon to be three School-based subcommittees.

As recognition of the work undertaken by all those involved, the Committee held a 'thank you' event on 4 June which was attended by the Principal and representatives from across the Committees.

Special thanks were extended to the external lay members and student members who donate their time for review as well as to the professional services staff who support ethical review. The Principal commended all those involved for the work they do in fostering ethical research at King's.

Saudi Arabian visit to King's

A GROUP OF 19 SENIOR SAUDI-ARABIAN faculty members visited the College as guests of The Learning Institute in May. The group took part in a programme focused on teaching and learning in higher education.

Discussions are already under way for the possible development

of accredited programmes in teaching and learning.

Professor Paul Blackmore, the Institute's Director said: 'I'm delighted that we have had the opportunity to make such good links with Saudi-Arabian colleagues. I look forward to strengthening these in the future.'

Alumni give back to College

THIS YEAR OVER £360,000 WAS awarded by the Annual Fund to more than 25 projects across the College and three new PhD studentships.

As ever, the awards were made across a diverse range of projects. For example, the Department of Engineering has been awarded a

grant to purchase a 3D Fabricator, a piece of equipment which can 'print' 3D objects, and the Department of History received funding for equipment to produce recordings featuring King's staff discussing London's historic sites.

Visit www.kcl.ac.uk/support/fund for a full list of projects.

Archives' summer exhibition



The exhibition aims to celebrate the pioneering commitment of King's staff to education.

'FOUNDATIONS', A NEW EXHIBITION

by the Archives and Corporate Records Department, will be on display in the entrance to the King's Building, Strand Campus, over the summer.

Drawing on the College's Archive collections, this richly illustrated exhibition celebrates the pioneering commitment of King's staff to education by examining

their role in the development of groundbreaking medical training, nursing instruction, and education for women and working men.

This includes the work of the Christian Socialist, Frederick Denison Maurice, founder of the Working Men's College that opened in Red Lion Square in 1854, and Robert Bentley Todd, founder of King's College Hospital.

As part of the Camberwell Arts Festival, 2008, Archives have also created an illustrated display in the foyer of the main Institute of Psychiatry building with a theme of 'King's College in Camberwell'. The exhibition examines King's College Hospital's move to the area in 1913, social life at the Hospital, the Hospital in wartime and recent developments.

Spotlight on criminal justice

THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL

Criminal Court (ICC) marking 10 years since the adoption of the Rome Statute and six years of operation, were addressed at a major workshop held at King's last month.

The workshop brought together practitioners, policy-makers, scholars and students to examine the record of the ICC in light of past experience and current practice and to consider its role in the wider context of international criminal justice in three sessions.

The keynote speaker was the Hon Sir Adrian Fulford, Judge of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of England and Wales and one of 18 judges of the ICC.

Organiser and Lecturer in the Department of War Studies Dr Rachel Kerr, comments: 'At the



Hon Sir Adrian Fulford, Judge of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of England and Wales and Dr Rachel Kerr, Lecturer in the Department of War Studies.

time of establishment, there were high expectations that the ICC would mean an end to impunity for perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

It is too early to judge it on this measure, but there have arisen a number of issues as it has begun to operate, some of which were foreseeable at the time of creation.

The future of robotics

Professor Jian Dai, Division of Engineering at King's, organised a two-day seminar on the future of robotic surgery in March at the IMechE headquarters in London.

Over the two days delegates were presented with a state-of-the-art update on the current status of robotic surgery in the UK, Europe, USA and China.

Speakers included leading experts in medical robotics, surgical robotics, surgeons and consultants, such as Professor Paolo Dario of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna at Pisa, Professor Brian Davies of Imperial College, and Professor Shuxin Wang of Tianjin University.

Aimed at engineers, scientists, and surgeons, the seminar offered a forum to discuss the recent developments in robotic surgery, hear about patient feedback, and debate future directions of surgical robotics.

During the second day of the seminar Mr Prokar Dasgupta, Reader and Consultant Urological Surgeon at Guy's Hospital and King's School of Medicine, performed a radical prostatectomy using a robot. The operation, undertaken at Guy's Hospital, was transmitted live to the seminar.

The two-day event provided an opportunity for surgeons and mechanical engineers to stimulate collaboration between the professions, and push forward developments in robotic surgery.

The workshop was convened to begin to address some of these issues.'

Other speakers at the workshop included Professor David Crane, former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Gavin Ruxton, Chief of the Trials Division of the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICTY, and Paul Seils, Head of the Situation Analysis Section of the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC.

Student presents at Arctic conference



Alexander's project focused on the HIV/AIDS risk among Inuit living in the Canadian Arctic.

Alexander Kumar, a final year medical student at King's, was the first student to be invited to present his research on HIV/AIDS among the Inuit population of the Canadian Arctic, at the Annual Meeting of the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research, in

Tromsø, Norway in May.

His research, *Breaking the ice: assessing HIV/AIDS risk & exploring related issues among Inuit living in the Canadian Arctic*, resulted from spending four months living in the Arctic collecting data.

Professor Susan Standing,

Head, Department of Anatomy & Human Sciences, comments: 'Alex is to be heartily congratulated on being invited to present the results of his research at an international meeting while still a student.'

The research is the first of its kind looking at HIV/AIDS among Canadian Inuit, specifically focusing on infection risk and assessing prevention, laying an important foundation for this kind of work.

Alexander comments: 'At the time I did my research there was no policy in place to protect Inuit from HIV. My research aimed to try not only to improve local prevention efforts, offering recommendations, but also to encourage local HIV testing uptake, where the results were disseminated, although as yet no local policy or strategy exists for this part of the Arctic.'

Native American Literature'.

James will use the £750 prize money for a research trip to interview the Native American writer Diane Glancy in order to investigate the effect of white shamanism on the Anishinaabe people.

His research deals with issues of ethnic and tribal identity, and in the ways in which Native American identity has been appropriated by people from other groups for diverse ends.

International disability funding

KING'S HAS A FUND TO SUPPORT

international and EU students with disabilities. The fund aims to meet the extra costs that arise from studying at the College with a disability.

Home students who are eligible receive such support through the nationally funded Disabled Students Allowance (DSA), which is not available to international and EU students with disabilities.

Payment from the College ISD Fund is calculated on a needs basis. Students can apply before they start their studies, or during their course. Find out more from www.kcl.ac.uk/equal-ops

Double success for PhD student

EMANUELE COTRONEO, A SECOND YEAR

PhD student in the Salivary Research Unit at the Dental Institute, is celebrating a double success. Emanuele was recently presented with the International Association of Dental Research (IADR)/Lion Dental Research Award for Junior Investigators. He has also received high profile coverage for his paper 'Does adult rat submandibular gland regeneration follow the embryonic/perinatal pathway of development?', which was published in *Cell and Tissue Research* in March.

Commenting on his academic achievements, Emanuele says: 'Being awarded with the IADR/Lion Dental Research Award and having high profile coverage of a paper in a leading journal is very rewarding for both my personal and professional life. Scientific research can be fascinating as much as frustrating and such achievements help to keep my motivation up and encourage me for the future.'

Bradbury Prize for American Studies

JAMES MACKAY, A PHD STUDENT IN

the American Studies Department

under the supervision of Professor Susan Castillo, has been awarded the prestigious Malcolm Bradbury Prize for his doctoral research on 'Kleptographers: Appropriation & Identity in

Supporting medical students

KCLSU are in the process of creating a photo petition to campaign against the Government removing junior doctors' right to free accommodation.

At present, medical students are graduating with an average debt in excess of £20,000. By taking away their right to free accommodation this debt will increase by £5,000, worsening the financial burden on medical students as they enter their first year of doctor training.

KCLSU want to see free accommodation to be reinstated for junior doctors, or students to be given financial support in recognition of the loss of free accommodation.



Supporting the students: Professor Robert Lechler (left) and Professor Anne Greenough with KCLSU President Adam Farley.

The KCLSU petition aims to photo as many King's staff as possible with a signed scrubs top that medical students have signed. The Union hope to present the petition to Alan Johnson MP, Minister of State

for Health, in the near future.

KCLSU are currently working with the British Medical Association, National Union of Students and ULU Medgroup to expand this campaign as far and as wide nationally as possible.

Youth crime

Richard Garside, Director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and co-author of a report on youth crime, discussed the findings and argued that Labour's work on crime has had no measurable impact, on Radio 4's *Today* programme. The research was also reported on the BBC News channel Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*, BBC Radio 5 LIVE, and widely across local BBC radio. *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sun*, *The Metro* and BBC News Online also covered the research.

HE standards

Professor Rick Trainor, Principal of King's and President of UUK, was interviewed on the BBC1 *Ten O'Clock News* about standards in higher education and overseas students following Professor Geoffrey Alderman's comments on the number of first class degrees awarded.

Forgotten causes

Alison Wolf, Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management, wrote in an article in *The Observer* that for many people, especially women, increasingly busy lives mean that there is no time left for good works or charity. Professor Wolf also presented Radio 4's *Analysis* programme *The War on the Professions*.

Press freedom

Dr Peter Neumann, Director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation & Political Violence, was interviewed on Radio 4's *World at One* about the Greater Manchester Police's attempt to use counter-terrorism legislation to force a journalist to reveal confidential source material on terrorist organisations.

Choice of enemies

Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Vice-Principal (Research), was interviewed about his new book *A choice of enemies* on the US *Charlie Rose Show*. Professor Freedman also wrote an article on the military strategy of the United States over the past decade in *The Financial Times*.

Housing market

As property values fell **Professor Chris Hamnett**, Department of Geography, took part in a discussion on the BBC 5 Live *Simon Mayo* programme on the whether renting or owning a home was best.

SATS testing

Margaret Brown, Professor of Mathematics Education, was interviewed about SATS and maths testing on BBC1's *Panorama* and *Today* programme.

Medieval sexuality

Dr Robert Mills, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, discussed medieval sexuality on BBC4's *Inside the Medieval Mind* programme and the complex passions of medieval men and women.

Eye disease

Professor John Marshall, Wolfson Centre for Age-Related Diseases, was interviewed on the BBC1 *One O'Clock News* as the Department of Health considered extending trials to cover more types of inherited eye diseases.

Nocturnal snackers

Ulrike Schmidt, Professor in Eating Disorders, advised a patient with compulsive night eating issues on Fiver's *Real Lives: Curse of the Night Eaters*.

Portuguese spelling

The government in Lisbon is proposing an official change bringing Portugal into line with Brazilian spelling. **Eduarda Mota**, Department of Portuguese & Brazilian studies, was interviewed on the subject on BBC World Service *Europe Today*.

Nuclear revival

The BBC World Service *Analysis* programme interviewed **Dr James Acton**, Lecturer in War Studies, about the nuclear revival. Dr Acton provided background detail on a BBC2 *Newsnight* feature on Syria's suspected nuclear programme and was interviewed on the same subject by Radio Free Europe and was quoted in an *Los Angeles Times* article on Iran.

Male guardianship

Saudi Arabia's male guardianship of women and policies of sex segregation stop women from enjoying their basic rights according to Human Rights Watch. **Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed**, Professor of Social Anthropology, took part in the discussion on Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* on the subject.

Nasty decades

A BBC News Online article about historical times of recession included a quote from **Dominic Rathbone**, Professor of Ancient History, on the Roman Empire in third century AD.

Gentrification

Professor Tim Butler, Head of the Department of Geography, was a guest on the Radio 4 programme *Thinking Allowed*, talking about gentrification.

Religious views

Professor Mary J Seller, Sub-Dean of Graduate Students in the School of Medicine was one of three guests who discussed how their particular religious tradition affects their values and way of looking at the world on Radio 4's *Beyond Belief*.

Teachers' identities

Research into teacher's identities and retirement by **Meg Maguire**, Professor of Sociology of Education, was reported in the *Times Educational Supplement*.

Natural disasters

Dr Derek Summerfield, Institute of Psychiatry, was a studio guest and spoke on the impact on children of the recent natural disasters on the BBC World Service's *World Have Your Say*.

Prof of the Week

Michael Linden, Professor of Virology, and part of a team of international researchers who have grown human heart cells in the lab from embryonic stems cells and whose work was reported in *Nature*, was the 'Prof of the Week' in *The Times* Body & Soul supplement. **Brian Sutton**, Professor of Molecular Biophysics, was also named 'Prof of the Week' in the weekly feature.

Soldier support

Dr Neil Greenberg, Senior Lecturer in Military Psychiatry, was interviewed about Battlemind, on Radio 4's *All in the Mind*.

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

ncse project completed

A NEW, FREE AND PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE

digital edition of six 19th century newspapers and periodicals was launched at the British Library in May.

The Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition (ncse) project was led by King's and Birkbeck College, in collaboration with the British Library and Olive Software, and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

ncse includes a range of titles that span the century. Selected for their variety and innovation, they represent the prodigious transformation and growth of the press in that century that parallels our own move from paper to digital.

The titles will be of use to pupils, students, scholars, and the interested public, as together they represent the widely ranging, miscellaneous contents of the newspaper and periodical press: news, debates, reviews, pictures, interviews,



manifestos, and advertisements.

From history to theology, literature to politics, woodcuts to photography, women's history to art history, national meetings to local committees, interviews to obituaries, the material included in the project is framed by, but not confined to, media history.

ncse includes publications such as *Tomahawk*, *English Women's Journal*, *Publishers' Circular*, *Northern Star*, *Leader*, and the *Monthly Repository*.

Humanities students will be able to learn from ncse how digital humanities shapes the journalism it publishes, just as earlier technologies did.

Visit www.ncse.ac.uk

New therapy for hypertension

SCIENTISTS AT KING'S, IN

collaboration with teams at the National University of Singapore and the Peninsula Medical School in Exeter, have found that hydrogen sulphide (H₂S – the smell of rotten eggs) could offer a potential treatment for hypertension and associated cardiovascular disease.

The team found a way to harness the positive effect of hydrogen sulphide for a therapy which could treat high blood pressure and other cardiovascular diseases, according to research published in the science journal *Circulation*.

Philip Moore, Professor of Integrative Pharmacology in the Pharmaceutical Science Division, comments: 'The enzymes that make H₂S in the body do so slowly. Therefore, this compound is a better mimic of the real life situation. Since it appears not to be toxic to vascular cells, it opens



up an entirely new potential therapeutic approach for the treatment of hypertension.'

The research team had previously shown that H₂S is produced naturally within the body, along with other gaseous molecules such as nitric oxide, and that a balance between these gases relates to good health, whereas an imbalance could indicate disease.

In the case of high blood pressure, a reduction in nitric oxide causes an increase in blood pressure.

High blood pressure (also known as hypertension) increases the risk of developing conditions such as heart disease and stroke.

Major grants for ethics research

King's has been awarded two of three substantial grants from the Wellcome Trust to support the best research in biomedical ethics. Each grant is in the region of £800,000 and will be used to strengthen collaboration and support new research fellowships and studentships over a period of five years.

The first grant has been awarded to Professor Clare Williams, Principal Investigator of the London & Brighton Translational Ethics Centre and Director of the Centre for Biomedicine and Society at King's.

Together with colleagues at King's, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Queen Mary University of London and Goldsmith's College, Professor Williams will explore the shifting moral landscapes as

research progresses in areas such as human embryonic stem cell research and neuroscience. The team will ask what are the acceptable boundaries of science and medicine?

Professor Theresa Marteau, Principal Investigator for the Centre for the Study of Incentives in Health and Professor of Health Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, has been awarded the second grant.

Working with Professor Richard Ashcroft from Queen Mary, University of London and Dr Adam Oliver from the London School of Economics, Professor Marteau will be using this grant to develop a programme of research looking at the use of financial incentives in UK healthcare, by asking when is it right to use financial incentives to improve health.

Breakthrough for Huntington's

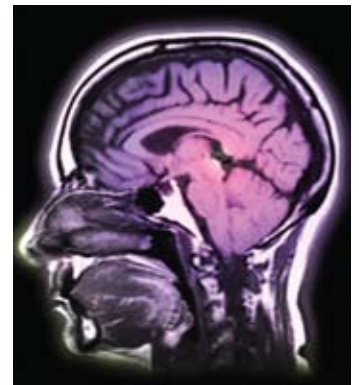
RESEARCHERS FROM KING'S, IN

partnership with University College London (UCL), and scientist from Sweden, the USA and Canada, have announced a discovery that sheds new light on how Huntington's Disease (HD), a degenerative brain disease, interacts with the immune system.

The findings, published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, could be of significance in the search for treatments and blood markers of HD, and other degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The researchers, led by Dr Sarah Tabrizi at UCL, showed abnormally high levels of inflammatory molecules called cytokines were present in the blood of people carrying the HD gene, even many years before the onset of symptoms.

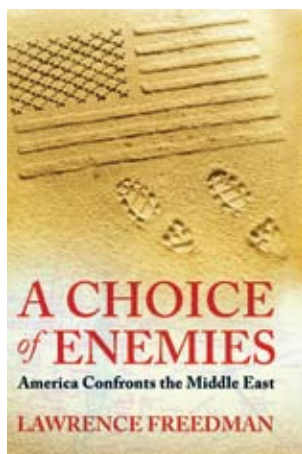
Gillian Bates, Professor of Neurogenetics, from the Medical and Molecular Genetics Department at King's, provided samples that enabled the team to confirm that the blood changes they had seen in humans were



found in three different models of HD.

Professor Bates comments: 'Activation of the immune response in the blood cells from individuals carrying the HD mutation was completely unexpected. These findings indicate that it might be possible to identify blood markers that could be used to monitor clinical trials of potential therapies.'

HD is a fatal, incurable neurological disease that usually develops in adulthood and causes abnormal inflammatory movements, psychiatric symptoms and dementia.



A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East

Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman,
Department of War Studies

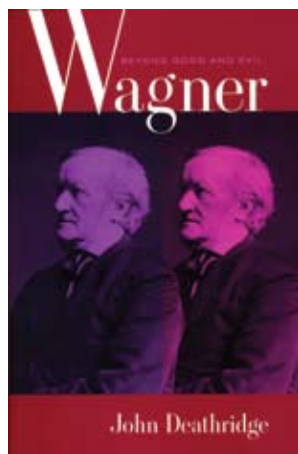
The United States is locked into three prolonged conflicts without much hope of early resolution. Iran is pursuing a nuclear programme; the aftermath of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein has seen unrelenting intercommunal violence; and the Taliban have got back into Afghanistan. George W Bush will almost certainly leave office without solving any of these big foreign policy issues that have defined his presidency.

Professor Freedman teases out the roots of each engagement over the last 30 years and demonstrates with clarity and scholarship the influence of these conflicts upon each other.

He supplies a context to recent events and warns against easy assumptions: neo-conservatives, supporters of Israel and the hawks are not the sole reasons for the failure to develop a viable foreign policy in the Middle East. The story is infinitely more complex and is often marked by great drama.

Unique in its focus, this book will offer not only new revelations but also remind us of what has been forgotten or has never been put in context.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson



Wagner: Beyond Good and Evil

Professor John Deathridge,
Department of Music

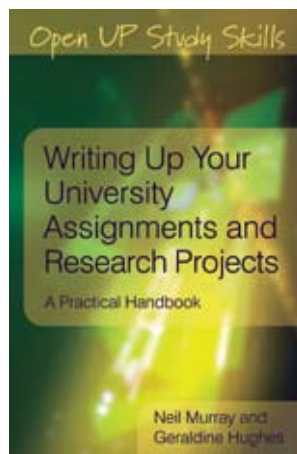
Professor John Deathridge presents a different and critical view of Richard Wagner based on recent research that does not shy away from some unpalatable truths about this most controversial of composers in the canon of Western music.

He writes authoritatively on what Wagner did, said, and wrote, drawing from abundant material and also from less familiar sources, including seldom discussed letters and diaries.

At the same time, Professor Deathridge suggests that a true estimation of Wagner does not lie in an all too easy condemnation of his many provocative actions and ideas. Rather, it is to be found in the questions about the modern world and our place in it posed by the best of his stage works.

Controversy about Wagner is unlikely to go away, but rather than taking the line of least resistance by regarding him as a 'classic' in the Western art tradition, he suggests that we need to confront the debates about him and reach beyond them, toward a fresh and engaging assessment of what he ultimately achieved.

University of California Press



Writing Up Your University Assignments and Research Projects

Geraldine Hughes, English Language
Centre, and Neil Murray

Academic writing can be a daunting prospect for new undergraduates and postgraduates alike, regardless of whether they are home or overseas students. This accessible book provides students with all they need to know to produce excellent written work.

Based on their many years of experience, the authors have structured the book so as to build students' confidence in their own writing ability whilst at the same time respecting conventional ideas of what is, and what is not, acceptable in the academic domain.

To reinforce student learning, the material is presented using a wealth of clear examples, hands-on tasks with answers, and logical sequences that build on earlier chapters.

The first two sections of the book address the preparation and writing of assignments and research projects, while the third provides a useful toolkit containing reference materials on areas including punctuation, grammar and academic terminology.

Open University Press

Three favourite...

Views across the College
*As recommended by Claire Taylor,
School Manager, Medicine and
Biomedical & Health Sciences*

Through the colonnade at Guy's

The view through the Guy's colonnade is one of the most photographed sights on the Guy's Campus. Part of the original Guy's Hospital built in the 18th Century, the sense of history of the colonnade never escapes me. In contrast the view southwards from St Thomas' street allows a glimpse of the very modern New Hunt's House and the beautiful recently landscaped gardens. It can be forgiven for being the most photographed. It simply looks good in every light.

Across the river from St Thomas' Hospital to Houses of Parliament

Probably the most unobscured view of this most iconic British buildings to be found anywhere in London. Though not located at St Thomas' I often wish I was, just to see this sight every day every day. St Thomas' and the Houses of Parliament are almost identical in length, occupy the same north and south facing position on the Thames river front as if a matching pair.

Ruskin Park at Denmark Hill

An oasis located next to one of the country's busiest hospitals, King's College Hospital, the park is named after the art and social critic, John Ruskin. Ruskin was a local resident and former King's student. Scanning the rolling open space with its landscaped lawns, flower beds and bandstand, and with no (albeit brief) sound of an ambulance, it can be easy to forget where you are.

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 **19 August**.