

Comment

The College newsletter

Issue no 188 | May 2009

New support for postgraduates

The College announces new initiatives to support its 7,500 graduate students from around the world.

THERE HAS BEEN A RISE IN

postgraduate research applications across the country this year and King's is doing particularly well with an increase of 47 per cent on last year. This is a key strategic target for the College which views doctoral students as an integral part of the research community and culture.

An increase of 47 per cent on last year

The College attracts the best graduate students and provides a world-class experience within a friendly and supportive environment.

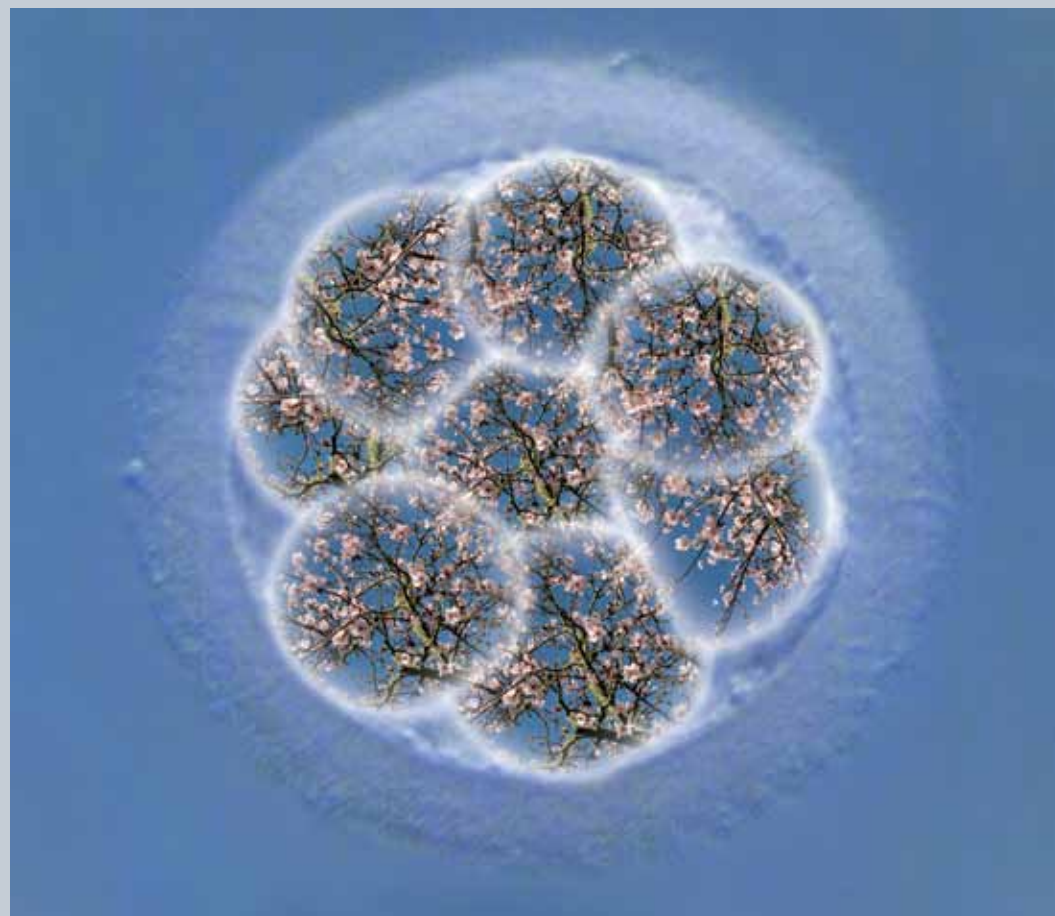
King's is England's most successful university for PhD completion rates – with 92 per cent of full-time home students successfully completing their theses within seven years of first registration.

Taught postgraduates have a wide and growing choice of programmes across all of the College's academic schools.

To further consolidate King's status as a world-class university, the College has announced new streams of postgraduate studentships and an innovative free language course.

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Assisted Conception Unit officially opens



Photographer **Gina Glover** spent a year-long residency in the Assisted Conception Unit. Her brief was to create images which would enhance the environment, helping patients and their families to feel comfortable, whilst also reflecting ideas and images relating to the unit, a joint collaboration between King's and Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Foundation Trust. The resulting artworks adorn the walls from the entrance, through to the waiting area, as well as the consultation and treatment rooms at Guy's. Blossom is used in this piece, *New beginnings – 8 cell*, bringing a burst of colour and beauty from the natural world into a clinical environment. The photographer was commissioned by Guy's & St Thomas' Charity. For the full story see page 8.

New support for postgraduates

Funding success

King's has received national funding for more than 170 PhD and master's studentships, making it one of the UK's most successful higher education institutions taking part in a new scheme.

Funding will be provided for 111 PhDs and 68 MA studentships over the next five years in the Schools of Arts & Humanities, Law and Social Science & Public Policy.

The new block grants partnership funding scheme developed by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) aims to ensure stability in university research teams across the UK.

Peter Heather, Professor in Medieval History in the Department of History, and Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Arts & Humanities, led the King's block grant management group. He comments: 'The College received

an overall grading of five out of six, classing King's as 'excellent', and has been awarded an average of 36 awards for doctoral and research master's students per year for the next five years. King's has maintained its position against other institutions which attract AHRC studentships. This is an excellent outcome.'

Postgraduate studentships

King's has also launched three new streams of postgraduate studentships. The College will offer funding to 20 exceptional new international postgraduate research students per year from 2009-10 onwards.

Fees will be reduced for these students from the international level to the home (UK/EU) level for three years for Arts & Humanities and Science students and for four years for Health Schools students. These scholarships replace the Overseas Research Student Award Scheme which is being withdrawn by

the UK Government.

Students from any non-EU country are eligible to apply and the awards can be held in any of the College's nine schools.

The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, has also signed an agreement with the China Scholarship Council to make available five awards per year for Chinese students. (See page 11.)

'Encourage innovation in our teaching'

The Graduate School is also introducing a new student bursary scheme for newly-launched master's programmes. Following an open competition, the first 14 student bursaries have been awarded to a range of new programmes that are due to recruit for the first time in October. Each bursary is worth £2,500, deducted from fees paid by the student, with programme

directors deciding which applicants will receive awards.

Professor Vaughan Robinson, Director of the Graduate School, says: 'These awards will help support and encourage further innovation in our teaching, widening the opportunities for master's students who may stay on to study for a PhD.'

Free language courses

The Modern Language Centre and Graduate School have launched an innovative scheme to offer all graduate students the opportunity to sign up for an assessed language course free of charge that begins this October.

Professor Robinson notes: 'Given the way academia and the labour market are becoming global, this will give our students an advantage when they seek employment. It will also better equip them to engage with their international peers and become part of international research communities.'

King's Health Partners update



In March's *Comment* news of King's Health Partners' accreditation as one of the UK's first Academic Health Sciences Centres was reported. Here Professor Robert Lechler, Vice-Principal (Health) and Interim Director of King's Health Partners, provides an update on progress.

Why was accreditation so important?

The accreditation is an enormously important step for King's Health Partners for several reasons. Firstly, because it cements our position as one of the leading centres of biomedical research and a channel for innovation in the UK. Secondly, although there is currently no direct funding stream associated with accreditation, it is extremely beneficial in terms of attracting resource and human capital. Higher value staff will be attracted in all domains of the partnership.

'Cements our position as a leading centre of biomedical research'

What are the challenges for King's Health Partners?

There are several challenges. Firstly to retain the huge ambition that drove our quests for accreditation. Energy and change is required in all four partner organisations [King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts] in order to create the Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC). There is always a risk of settling for the comfortable option and to become complacent.

Another challenge is generating

resource in what is a chilly financial climate. As there is no direct funding stream associated with accreditation we will have to be somewhat creative in terms of resource.

We need to prioritise. There are many areas which need consideration, from developing human resource initiatives and financial plans to launching Clinical Academic Groups. To make progress we must prioritise effectively.

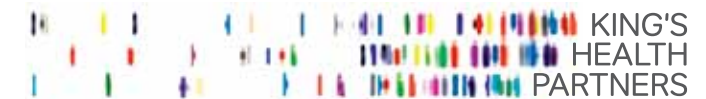
We also need to deliver tangible benefits in a short space of time so that the added value of King's Health Partners is visible both internally and externally.

In which areas are we making most progress?

We are making progress in quite a few areas. In the next few months we will be launching early Clinical Academic Groups in a 'shadow form'. These groups are central to the AHSC, places where service delivery, teaching and research will come together in a particular area. Progress has also been made in the development of a Basic Science Institute to focus on the needs of our basic science portfolio.

Much activity is taking place at the interface between the Arts and Sciences and Health Schools. We are discussing the concept of an Institute of Health Science to link the many exciting health-related initiatives in those schools to King's Health Partners, where appropriate.

Progress has also been made



Pioneering better health for all

in creating research capacity for clinicians in NHS partner trusts, for example, Guy's and St Thomas' recently launched a scheme that will enable 20 per cent of NHS consultants to be 30 per cent research active. King's College Hospital has launched a similar scheme and South London and Maudsley already fund substantial research time for NHS clinicians.

We are developing IT and IS solutions to meet the needs of the partnership and also advancing the idea of an Education Academy.

Is there any progress with the Executive Director appointment?

The post of Executive Director was advertised in *The Sunday Times* on 10 May.

Can you provide examples of where collaboration is already making a difference?

It is a little early to expect new outputs to have come from the

collaboration already, however the partnership is having an impact on recruitment.

We have been able to appoint Professor GertJan Laarman as an NHS consultant at King's College Hospital and Chair at the College. Professor Laarman held a Chair in Cardiology at a university in Europe, however he was attracted to the NHS and King's Health Partners because of the integration of service and research made possible by the formation of Clinical Academic Groups.

Randy Noelle, a basic science immunologist, is joining us from Dartmouth Medical College in the US. He believes he can do translational research better here.

The Department of Management is about to begin work with King's Health Partners to provide leadership training for the AHSC.

For more information visit www.kingshealthpartners.org/staff

Principal's column



Dear colleagues

There are abundant reasons to be very confident about the position of the College in the world of higher education.

Our recent success in the RAE, with 60 per cent of research deemed to be of a world-leading or internationally excellent standard, is testament to this; recent analysis of HEFCE research funding shows that King's comes fifth in the country (after Oxbridge, UCL and Imperial) in terms of funding per academic. At subject level our research continues to be highly regarded; we receive more Department of Health research funding, for instance, than any other university. Furthermore,

student applications continue to rise – in the case of postgraduate research applications (a key strategic target) by 47 per cent on last year. This trend fits well with the recent award to King's of PhD studentships in the new block grants partnership programme of the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

However, staff will be very aware of the College's need to make the right strategic educational and research decisions in order to continue improving our position against the background of significant funding and other resource pressures. We must respond to an extremely difficult economic climate and a global student

and research market that is increasingly competitive.

As I have already communicated, through an all-staff email, we are having to absorb the significant additional costs of pay and modernisation, substantial increases in our employer pension contributions, the withdrawal of government funding for ELQs (equivalent or lower qualifications), and reductions in investment income due to the current global financial crisis. In addition, the College will experience a real terms reduction in its HEFCE grant next year and anticipates further significant downward pressure on public funding in the short to medium term. In these

circumstances we need rapidly to adopt measures in a manner consistent with the College's overall strategy to constrain expenditure and bring our costs in line with income.

It is clear that most, perhaps all, UK universities are contemplating such large scale cost-cutting measures. These will not be easy in any institution, but I am confident that King's is in a position to ensure that it emerges from the process stronger and on course to realise the goal of the College's Strategic Plan of being regarded as one of the world's truly outstanding universities.

Rick Trainor

Times Higher Awards launch

THE 2009 TIMES HIGHER AWARDS competition has now been launched and entries are being sought from staff. Now in its fifth year, the awards raise awareness of and reward the huge contribution British universities make to the economic and cultural health of the country.

The College is keen to encourage staff to consider entering particularly in these categories: Research Project of the Year; and Most Innovative Teacher of the Year.

Vice-Principal (Strategy & Development) Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman comments on the importance of the awards

and King's submitting entries. 'The College has always taken the view that it is important to make an effort with these prizes. They can result in good publicity for the College and it is always welcome when our achievements are recognised.'

Submissions of 500 words, based on work undertaken in the

2008-9 academic year, should be sent to Sarah Chukwudebe (sarah.chukwudebe@kcl.ac.uk) by 5 June.

See the *Times Higher* website for the list of awards and entry criteria www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/ The award ceremony will take place at the Grosvenor House Hotel on 15 October.

Top rating for software engineering

SCIENTISTS FROM KING'S SOFTWARE Engineering Group, part of the Department of Computer Science, have won grants from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) with two top-rated proposals worth more than £1 million.



Dr Iman Poernomo

large-scale software. Professor Mark Harman, a world-leading expert in software evolution, was awarded £593,580 for a proposal



Professor Mark Harman

on the analysis of finite state machine models. Both proposals received top ratings by the EPSRC assessment panel.

Professor Andrew Jones, Head of the Department of Computer Science, says: 'I am delighted that the EPSRC gave the top rating to these excellent and far-reaching project proposals. The grants awarded consolidate King's leading position in software engineering research.'

Professor Harman has also been awarded £20,000 from Motorola to support the College's world-class software testing and research centre, CREST (Centre for Research on Evolution, Search and Testing). CREST is working to develop cheaper and quicker ways to assess innovative new software so that cutting-edge products reach consumers faster. 🍷

Creative King's: fostering innovation

'CREATIVE KING'S', AN ONGOING initiative to foster creativity in learning and teaching, research and cross-disciplinary collaboration at the College, has successfully undertaken its first project, a ten-week spring semester discussion series featuring talks from leading academics in five of the nine schools. A roundtable discussion ended the series, pointing the way to future projects.

The roundtable highlighted the importance of individual thinking, risk-taking and allowance for failure in any truly creative institutional culture. Concerns were expressed

over excessively target-driven approaches to research, and lack of space in the curriculum for creative teaching.

The discussion series took place in the Old Anatomy Lecture Theatre and Museum, soon to be redeveloped into a unique new space for both performance and e-research activities. Speakers included Professor Anne Marie Rafferty, Head of the School of Nursing & Midwifery, and Chris Mottershead, Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation. Videos, audio recordings and blogs from the 'Creative King's' events can be found at: <http://creativekings.kcl.ac.uk>



In the first week of the series, **Alan Read** (left), Professor of Theatre in the Department of English, questioned the term 'creativity', and offered ideas for enhancing the creative environment at King's. Also pictured are **Dr Jan Palmowski** (centre) and **Dr Mark Miłodownik**.

£1 million War Studies awards

TWO OF THE FIRST EVER RESEARCH Fellowships awarded under the Research Councils Global Uncertainties Programme have been won by academics from the Department of War Studies. Worth £1 million, their projects will examine global security issues.

Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies and Vice-Principal, and Theo Farrell, Professor of War in the Modern World, successfully applied for these Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Fellowships as part of the *RCUK Global Uncertainties: Security for All in a Changing World* interdisciplinary programme.

£5.5 million has been allocated by the ESRC and the AHRC for 14 fellowships of up to three years duration.

Professor Freedman's proposal involves three linked projects,



each geared to developing the idea of 'strategic scripts' as a means of addressing a broad range of security issues. It is supported by an award of £650,000

(the largest institutional grant in the scheme). Professor Farrell will lead three linked projects which collectively explore how states organise for war and secure

homelands, and how non-state actors organise to compete with states. His fellowship is supported by £350,000 of funding.

New role

Professor Freedman will continue with his duties as a Vice-Principal on a part-time basis while working on the project. The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, commented: 'Lawry Freedman is not only a very distinguished academic, but a key member of King's management team who, amongst other achievements, has successfully steered the College through the recent Research Assessment Exercise and is leading negotiations with the Somerset House Trust.'

'His new role as Vice-Principal (Strategy & Development) will allow him to focus on the scholarship whilst at the same time concentrating on nurturing development and fundraising initiatives which are a vital part of the College's future strategy. He will also continue to pursue the Somerset House discussions.' 🍷

Major TwinBank project announced

King's scientists are planning to create the largest database of twins in order to investigate the genetic and environmental origins of disease and behaviour. The TwinBank project aims to hold the records of 300,000 pairs of twins.

Tim Spector, Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and Director of the Department of Twin Research & Genetic Epidemiology, and Robert Plomin, Professor of Behavioural Genetics and Director of the MRC Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Centre, are leading the project.

The database would enable researchers to compare identical and non-identical twins to determine the relative contributions of nature and nurture to human development.

Professor Spector says: 'A registry on this scale would give



us the ability to study diseases that cannot be investigated through twin research at the moment. It will transform research into conditions such as obesity, heart disease, autism, mental illness and cancer.'

The size of TwinBank would enable twin studies to investigate medical conditions that affect 1 in 100 people or fewer, such as schizophrenia, leukaemia and motor neuron

disease. Other applications include investigations of epigenetics, a phenomenon by which genes are switched on and off, and social issues such as parenting, education and the effects of poverty.

Professor Plomin adds: 'TwinBank would give us unprecedented opportunities to study the genetic and environmental factors that influence human health and behaviour. It would be a dream resource.'

The study aims to contact 500,000 of the estimated 640,000 sets of twins in Britain, and to recruit 300,000 of them to the database. The registry would also collect DNA and health data on twins through the NHS. It would be ten times larger than any other twin database.

For more information visit www.twinsUK.ac.uk 🍷

 This new icon shows that the article has featured as a news story on the College website.

Multi-million cancer venture

SCIENTISTS AT KING’S, IN COLLABORATION with the Science and Technology Facilities Council’s (STFC) Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, will begin targeted experiments to gain a better understanding of how new cancer drugs could be developed by matching medication more precisely to individual patients.

‘Bring discoveries from bench to bedside’

Professor Peter Parker, Head of the Division of Cancer Studies and Principal Investigator on this project, comments: ‘The new targeted therapeutics in cancer promise a great deal in the clinic. However, on an individual patient



Professor Peter Parker, leading a major new cancer project.

basis, we are a long way from knowing exactly who will benefit and who will not. Understanding how particular drug targets behave at a fundamental molecular level and ultimately developing ways of monitoring

this behaviour in tumours will impact enormously on the personalised medicine agenda.’

King’s and STFC scientists will carry out the work using a £4.5 million grant from the Biotechnology and Biological

Sciences Research Council. They will examine a class of receptor molecules in much closer detail than previously possible and build up a picture of how protein networks allow cancerous cells to replicate in the body. They ultimately hope to classify patients according to the characteristics of their protein network interactions, so that predictions can be made about which drugs will be effective for particular patients.

Professor Parker, who is also Director of Research for the Integrated Cancer Centre (ICC), adds: ‘Discovering new treatments is at the heart of the ICC and this research will enhance our ability to bring discoveries from bench to bedside.’

Viscosity in cancer cells

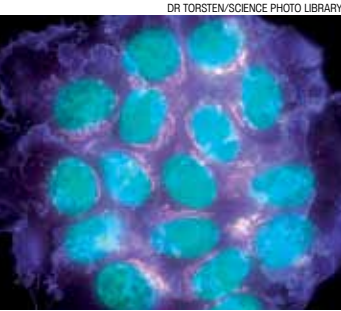
THE VISCOSITY INSIDE LIVE CANCER cells dramatically increases during light-induced cancer treatment, according to new images which give new insights into how cancer cells die, published in *Nature Chemistry*.

Changes in viscosity in human cells has been linked to disease

An international multi-disciplinary team from King’s, Imperial College London, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxford University and the University of Aarhus in Denmark, has imaged diffusion in cancer cells during light-induced Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) cancer treatment.

PDT uses light to activate a drug that creates a short-lived toxic type of oxygen, called singlet oxygen, which kills cancerous cells.

Dr Klaus Suhling, Department of Physics, comments: ‘The findings will be relevant not only for PDT-based cancer treatment,



Immunofluorescent light micrograph of a clump of cultured human breast cancer cells.

but also for other drug design and drug delivery research.’

The team’s work shows that the viscosity in single cancer cells can be mapped in real time using a novel fluorescent dye. A number of important physiological processes, such as intracellular transport and signal transduction, depend on how fast the species in a cell can diffuse together and viscosity is one of the main factors affecting diffusion.

Changes in viscosity in human cells and organs have been linked to disease and malfunction. Knowing more about these changes could help to better understand how some diseases and their treatments

Spin-out moves towards launch

OSspray Ltd, a King’s spin-out specialising in the production and distribution of a novel dental treatment material, has completed a second round of funding worth £500,000. The move follows the successful securing of supply agreements for its bioactive glass raw material paving the way for a market launch in the USA later this year.

To facilitate this move, a US subsidiary company, OSSpray Inc., was created in January. The company will extend its geographical spread by launching its products in the UK and Germany over the next 12 months.

In line with its success, the company is expanding its

presence at Guy’s Campus and will be adding critical resources in finance, research and development, and marketing to support scale-up efforts.

Roland Schmidt, Chief Financial Officer and European Business Director, said: ‘The new facility provides an excellent combination of proximity to the company’s research base and a convenient platform from which to launch our European operations.’

George Murlewski, Spin-out Manager, King’s Business, added: ‘The success of OSSpray provides a good example of how research conducted at King’s can, with the right support, grow into a sustainable commercial operation.’

affect physiological function.

Dr Suhling explains: ‘The special fluorescent dyes used for the work were used to induce cell death and, at the same time, allow mapping the viscosity in real time.’ The team has confirmed this by monitoring the

rate of formation and decay of a very reactive short-lived toxic intermediate, singlet oxygen, crucial in PDT treatment. The work confirmed that inside dying cells the reactions of singlet oxygen are indeed slowed down significantly.

Research into rheumatoid arthritis

RESEARCHERS AT KING’S AND THE Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre at Guy’s and St Thomas’ have found that inflammation in the lining of the joints of rheumatoid arthritis patients promotes the development of cells that exacerbate the condition.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease affecting more than 350,000 people in the UK. The disease affects the joints, including those of the fingers, toes, knees and elbows. People with the condition are often in constant pain. Understanding why joints get inflamed is crucial to identifying new drug targets and treatments.

The team of researchers wanted to build on recent research into the role of TH17 cells, a type of white blood cell thought to be particularly aggressive in rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr Leonie Taams, Senior Lecturer in Immunology and Principal Investigator on the



Coloured X-ray of hands suffering from severe rheumatoid arthritis.

project, explains: ‘The aim was to find out exactly what drives the transformation of innocent white blood cells into disease-causing TH17 cells. We studied the cells of rheumatoid arthritis patients to see whether there is TH17

activity in the inflamed joints and how this may be generated.’

The team cultured T cells taken from the blood of rheumatoid arthritis patients with a particular type of white blood cell called the monocyte. These

monocytes were taken either from the synovial fluid (the fluid produced by the synovium, the membrane surrounding the joints) or from the blood of the same patients. They found that monocytes taken from the environment in the joint specifically drove T cells to become pathogenic TH17 cells. They also confirmed that TH17 cells are present in the synovium of the patients themselves.

Hayley Evans, lead author of the research paper, says: ‘These findings suggest that something is going on in the synovium itself to drive the production of TH17 cells. The next step is to identify the specific molecules present on monocytes from inflamed joints that promote the development of disease-causing TH17 in rheumatoid arthritis. Based on this, we may be able to develop new ways to manipulate or block inflammatory cells in rheumatoid arthritis.’

Online radicalisation report launched

A NEW POLICY REPORT FROM KING’S examines the different technical options for making ‘radical’ internet content unavailable, concluding that they are all either crude, expensive or counterproductive, and proposes an alternative, innovative strategy.

An instrument for radicalisation and recruitment

Political extremists and terrorists are increasingly using the internet as an instrument for radicalisation and recruitment. *Countering Online Radicalisation: A Strategy for Action* is the first systematic effort to bring together industry, experts and Government on the issue of online radicalisation.

Produced by the International Centre for the Study of

Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR), the report follows the Centre’s conference in January 2008 at which Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, declared that the internet was ‘not a no-go area’ for Government.

Dr Peter Neumann, Director of ICSR and co-author of the report, explains: ‘Any strategy that hopes to counter online radicalisation must create an environment in which the production and consumption of extremist materials become not just more difficult in a technical sense but unacceptable as well as less desirable.’

The report proposes an alternative strategy aimed at: deterring the producers of extremist materials; empowering online communities to self-regulate; reducing the appeal of extremist materials through education; and promoting positive messages.



Dr Peter Neumann, Director of ICSR.

The authors conclude: ‘Efforts to counter online radicalisation must view new technologies and modes of interaction not as a threat but as an opportunity.

‘Relying on Government alone is not sufficient. It is vital to capitalise upon the potential contributions of all stakeholders,

including internet companies and internet users.’

The report’s authors, Tim Stevens, ICSR researcher, and Dr Peter Neumann, together with Mike Whine of the Community Security Trust, recently launched the report at the Maughan Library.

It was also presented at an event in Washington on 22 April, *Digital Conflict in 2009: Fighting Online Radicalization and Rechanneling Militancy*.

The ICSR is a partnership in which King’s, the University of Pennsylvania, the Regional Centre for Conflict Prevention Amman (Jordan) and the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (Israel) are equal stakeholders. The aim is to challenge the growth of radicalisation and political violence by bringing together the world’s most innovative thinkers from academia, politics and business.

Assisted Conception Unit opens

A £4 MILLION ASSISTED CONCEPTION Unit, a joint collaboration between King's and Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Foundation Trust, was officially opened on 24 April by Health Minister Dawn Primarolo.

A full range of fertility services

The unit, which runs the largest and most successful preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) programme in the UK, offers a full range of fertility services through to treatment for NHS and self-funding patients. PGD is a specialised treatment for couples who carry

an inherited genetic condition such as cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease or Huntington's Disease, that could cause serious health problems for their children.

Families with children born through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment or following preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) were among the guests present at the opening.

Professor Peter Braude, Head of Women's Health and Director of the PGD programme, says: 'We were the first centre in the UK to derive embryonic stem cells for research and also developed a new procedure, PGH (preimplantation genetic haplotyping), which has increased the number of families we can help by testing

for serious inherited diseases.'

The state-of-the-art laboratories are among only a few in this country fully compliant with the EU Tissue and Cells Directive with rigorous clean air handling, temperature and gas control and backup alarms. In addition there are integral stem cell laboratories that will allow the derivation of stem cells for therapeutic use. The new facility has been opened with grants from the Medical Research Council, Guy's & St Thomas' Charity and the College.

'One in three couples in whom we find healthy embryos can expect to become pregnant using PGD. So far we have provided treatment for more than 600 couples and have nearly 200

babies born, making us the most experienced and successful unit in the UK,' adds Professor Braude.

A number of paintings and photographs

'These new laboratories should enable us to stay ahead in infertility treatment and PGD, and to work closely with the UK Stem Cell Bank to advance the science of stem cell therapy and regenerative medicine.'

These facilities are complemented by a range of paintings, collages and photographs, commissioned by Guy's & St Thomas' Charity arts and heritage programme. 🎨

Any Questions? at King's



GREG FUNNELL

From left: **Boris Johnson**, the **Rt Revd Dr Michael Nazir-Ali**, **Jonathan Dimbleby** and **Professor Lisa Jardine CBE**.

THE POPULAR PROGRAMME BBC

Radio 4's *Any Questions?* came to King's recently, to help mark the centenary of King's College London Students' Union.

Chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby, the show was a lively affair, as panellists answered questions on the political, economic, social and moral issues of the day, put to them by members of the audience. The panel included Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, as well as Professor Lisa Jardine, Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary, University of

London, and Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, the Rt Hon Tony McNulty, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform and Minister for London, and the Rt Revd Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester.

The audience of nearly 400 people included over 100 students, 70 members of staff, more than a 100 alumni and 90 members of the local community. Among the thorny issues discussed were the likely effects of a rise in university tuition

Top for Government funding

Figures recently published confirm King's position as one of the UK's top research-led universities. The College is the most successful higher education institution in winning grants from the Department of Health. From 2005-6 to 2007-8, almost £18 million was awarded to King's scientists.

This figure – 20 per cent of the Department of Health's total spending at universities over three years – has been produced by the journal *Research Fortnight* in a benchmarking league table.

Funding awarded recently from the Department of Health includes grants towards the following projects: The Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre; The Comprehensive Cancer

Imaging Centre; and The Global Child Dental Health Taskforce.

The complete table ranks grant data from Britain's ten largest agencies: the seven research councils, the Wellcome and Leverhulme Trusts, and the Department of Health. The analysis is based on three years of data, 2005-6, 2006-7 and 2007-8, and an investment of some £6.5 billion awarded to 60 universities.

King's also features in the top ten most successful universities for grants from the Medical Research Council (fourth); the Wellcome Trust (eighth) and the Leverhulme Trust (tenth).

Research Fortnight provides funding prospects and news on research policy politics. 🎨

fees, what the top rate of UK tax should be and who it should apply to, and whether, given that US President Obama had appeared on the *Jay Leno Show* in the States, Gordon Brown should do the same on *Friday*

Night with Jonathan Ross.

Any Questions? was first broadcast in October 1948; each week it visits a different community with a panel of four speakers. The event was broadcast live on BBC Radio 4. 🎨

Katie Sambrook

Information Services & Systems' Katie Sambrook is responsible for the Foyle Special Collections Library.

Tell us about your career to date.

I studied English at Oxford, took an MA at York and realised soon after that I needed to get some sort of professional qualification under my belt. A chance suggestion from my College tutor led me to explore a career in university librarianship. I took another MA, this time in Library and Information Studies at UCL, and spent four years in the Special Collections Department at the University of Birmingham, before joining King's in 1997.

Tell us about your role.

I'm responsible for the Foyle Special Collections Library, part of the Maughan Library building: both the management of the collections and the services we provide to make them available and accessible to anyone who may wish to consult them. We operate a reading room service for on-site consultation but we also deal with a large number of remote enquiries and provide a digitisation service for scholars, publishers and others. We also promote our collections through our web pages, public exhibitions, conferences and visits and by running a range of seminars.

Why are King's collections such an asset?

Unique library collections act as a magnet, attracting researchers from across the world. Now that many of the major UK higher education institutions, including King's, are able to offer broadly similar portfolios of electronic resources, it's an institution's special collections that can help to set it apart – and thus attract both researchers and special funding. Because special collections do generate income – they really earn their keep! We've been fortunate to be able to attract considerable sums in recent years from a whole range of supporters, to fund cataloguing, conservation treatment, even equipment and buildings.

A less tangible but equally valuable benefit that special collections can bring is the opportunity they provide for students to work with primary source material. It's often their first opportunity to handle old and rare material and the experience can trigger a lifelong passion for research or even a future academic career.

What makes a special collection?

The material we house in the Foyle Special Collections Library is material that needs

special treatment in terms of its storage and consultation. There may be all kinds of reasons for that – age, rarity, physical format, fragility, importance to the College, the presence of important marks of ownership (inscriptions, bookplates and so on), issues of copyright or even of contentious subject matter (one of our special collections, for example, is the personal library of a Holocaust survivor and contains primary source material from Nazi Germany). So, although people tend to associate special collections with rows of leather-bound antiquarian volumes, a special collections library is just as likely to contain material from the 19th or 20th centuries as from earlier periods.

One of the strengths of our collections is their range – we have world-class holdings in the history of medicine, but we also have major strengths in areas such as Portuguese and Brazilian studies, Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean and 20th century Germany.

Tell us about the scale of the collections.

There are more than 150,000 items in our special collections. All of them are rare, some are unique. One of the most widely known items in the collections is the Algonquin *Genesis* of 1655, the only recorded copy of the first book of the Bible to be printed in a North American language and one of the first books to be printed on American soil.

What is your personal highlight?

One of the most exciting developments in the last couple of years has been the decision by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to transfer its historical library to King's. This unique collection of more than 60,000 items is a fantastic and largely untapped resource which we are now able to make available for scholarly and public use. There are manuscript journals of early journeys to Australia, Central Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, some with hand-coloured illustrations and maps, annotated volumes of press cuttings from the First World War and the Russian Revolution, working documents from the earliest days of the British Empire – a historian's dream, in short.

What do you hope for the future?

Our collections have grown in both size and significance in recent years, but to be fully available to researchers they must



GREG FUNNELL

Fact file

Favourite book

I have been reading *Journey through Europe* by John Hillaby. It was written in the 1960s when even in Western Europe there were still a few more wildernesses left, and reading it makes you want to pull on a rucksack and follow in his footsteps.

Favourite holiday destination

The Swiss Alps.

Proudest work moment

Hearing in 2001 that the Foyle Foundation had decided to fund the refurbishment of our special collections library building was a pretty good moment!

be catalogued online and their long-term physical preservation assured. That is one priority. Another is the continued development of ways in which we can present the collections digitally; given their international interest, enabling our collections to be consulted from the desktop by a scholar in, say, Shanghai, would make perfect sense.

What would you like to acquire?

I mentioned the Algonquin *Genesis*. The translator and printer responsible for it also produced an Algonquin *Matthew*; the two were trial pieces for a projected Algonquin Bible, which was eventually printed nearly 30 years later. No copies of the *Matthew* are known to have survived – but if there is one somewhere, we would love to acquire it.

Alumni Ambassadors return to King's

TWO ALUMNI RETURNED TO KING'S TO give talks to students on their roles as UK Ambassadors to two of the most controversial and fascinating countries in the world: Dianna Melrose, currently HM Ambassador to Cuba, who studied French and Spanish and graduated in 1973; and Dr Peter Hayes, currently British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, who graduated with a PhD in nuclear physics.

Dianna Melrose told of her childhood growing up as a diplomat's daughter in South America, and explained how the poverty and inequality she

encountered has shaped her life and career. She outlined her journey from a Spanish translator to her appointment as HM Ambassador to Cuba in July 2008.

Two of the most controversial and fascinating countries

The Ambassador painted a vivid picture of life under the communist leadership but also discussed the opportunity for change in Cuba with the official



Dr Peter Hayes

handover of power between the Castro brothers and the new US President's approach

to the country.

Dr Hayes told students how to pursue a career in the diplomatic service. He gave a personal perspective on working for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and on foreign policy in general. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Dr Hayes took up his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in March 2008. From 2005-7 he was Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in London.

Strategic partners: contacts



IN COMMENT 186 an article on page 7 provided an introduction to King's global partners. These

partnerships are vital and open up a wealth of opportunity for students and researchers at all institutions.

For those interested in finding out more the King's academic

leads for the four strategic partners are:

- Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – Dr Jon Wilson (History)
- University of Hong Kong – Professor Cathryn Lewis (Medicine)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Dr David Ricks (Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies)
- National University of Singapore – Professor Philip Moore (Pharmacology).

Nursing exchange programme launches

STUDENTS AT THE FLORENCE

Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery are embarking on an exchange with the University of Pennsylvania as part of the first sponsored programme of its kind within nursing education.

'To expand awareness of global health and nursing trends'

King's students will spend a term at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, in a programme that involves

clinical work at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, a large academic research hospital, and classroom work on leadership and healthcare safety.

'It's always been my ambition to work in America and get a real understanding of nursing in different cultures and clinical environments,' commented Georgia Platman, a second-year BSc nursing student who is travelling to the University of Pennsylvania in September. 'The programme gives me a strong international outlook and will accelerate my future career progression.'

Alison While, Professor of Community Nursing & Associate Dean (External Affairs), commented: 'This exchange programme has been designed to expand a student's awareness of global health and nursing trends, and enhance their professional development. We believe this experience strengthens their ability to adapt to new working environments and boosts their interpersonal skills.'

For further information about the exchange programme please contact Professor While (020 7848 3022 or alison.while@kcl.ac.uk).



Georgia Platman

International co-operation is key

THE PRINCIPAL, PROFESSOR RICK

Trainor, was one of three keynote speakers at the Asia-Pacific Association of International Education conference, held at Renmin University of China, Beijing from 15-17 April.

Professor Trainor illustrated the significance of international collaborations by pointing out King's many links with Chinese institutions. King's not only welcomes students from nearly 140 countries, including more than 400 from China and Hong Kong, but it also has numerous

partnerships with universities in China and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

The current economic crisis raised the question of whether collaborations can be sustained. The Principal emphasised the importance of international partnerships between higher education institutions around the world against the background of the current global economic crisis. 'We need each other's co-operation and friendship all the more now to weather this storm.'



The Principal, **Professor Rick Trainor**, and **Professor Ji Baocheng**, President of Renmin University of China.

PhD scholarships for China

King's has signed an agreement with the China Scholarship Council (CSC) jointly to fund PhD students to pursue research degrees at King's. The agreement was signed by the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, and Li Jianmin, Deputy Secretary-General, China Scholarship Council, on 16 April in Beijing.

As part of the agreement, successful applicants will receive a scholarship that covers the tuition fee and an annual living allowance that includes overseas student health cover, a return airfare to London and visa application fees.

The Principal said: 'I am delighted that the China Scholarship Council has joined with us to support Chinese research students of high academic merit to come to

King's. I am confident that this experience will enrich the students' lives and further their own academic achievement.'

'These graduate researchers will make an invaluable contribution to King's international community of staff and students, and ultimately to China when they return after graduation to use their skills in the service of Chinese society. We look forward to warmly welcoming the new research students to King's.'

The agreement between King's and the CSC will initially be effective for three years, after which it may be renewed. The proposed date of the first intake of PhD students is September 2010. 📧

Nigerian dignitaries

KING'S DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, the Central Association of Nigerians in the UK (CANUK) and the Nigerian High Commission, jointly hosted a question and answer session with Nigerian dignitaries at the Strand Campus recently.

Two High Commissioners, HE Dalhatu Tafida, Nigerian High Commissioner to the UK, and HE Bob Dewar, British High Commissioner to Nigeria, were joined by Dr Mark Abani, the Chairman of CANUK, Keith Best, Chief Executive of the UK Immigration Advisory Service, and Reverend Councillor Emmanuel Obasohan, Worshipful Mayor of Barking and Dagenham, to take questions from the audience.

Dr Michael Gabbay, a British Academy Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophy and Social Secretary for CANUK,



From left: **Minister Garba Zakari**, Head of the immigration and visa section at the Nigerian High Commission, and **HE Bob Dewar**.

said: 'We wanted to promote an open exchange of ideas and information and give members of the public the opportunity to engage with representatives of the UK and Nigerian authorities as there is such a close relationship between Nigeria and the UK.'

CANUK is the umbrella body of all Nigerian Associations in the UK and Northern Ireland. 📧

King's LLM programmes among world top 10

KING'S SCHOOL OF LAW HAS BEEN

ranked seventh in the world for its LLM programmes by Spanish employment magazine *Expansión & Empleo* and the legal pages of *Expansión.com*, its website.

The publications conducted a survey among the top Spanish law firms to find out where they

train their best professionals. The survey also aimed to establish which the most prestigious educational institutions are that have most weight in the decision-making process for a new hire. The ranking also took into account various international classifications such as the ones

done by *The Financial Times*, *US News*, *The Guardian* and *The Times*, as well as the one edited by Brian Leiter, Professor at the University of Chicago and Director of the Centre for Law, Philosophy and Human Values.

Among the top 10 law schools are six from the United States,

three from the UK and one from Belgium, the College of Europe in Bruges. Interestingly, neither Oxford nor Cambridge appear in the top ten. The other two UK institutions to appear in the top 10 apart from King's, are the London School of Economics and University College London.

AWARDS

STOP PRESS

ERD successes



Teams within the External Relations Directorate excelled at a recent higher education marketing services awards competition.

The College’s **Marketing Department** was crowned 2009 HEIST ‘Marketing Department of the Year’ at the annual awards ceremony at The Royal Courts of Justice on 7 May.

King’s also won gold for the ‘Alumni Publication of the Year’ category for *In Recognition* designed by **Helena Lekka** (Corporate Design Unit) and edited by **Jenny Goepel** (Development & Alumni Office).

The Heist Awards recognise outstanding achievement and reward good practice in the marketing of universities and colleges.

This success follows an international CASE gold medal for *In Touch*, the College’s bi-annual magazine for all alumni of King’s and the Colleges with which it has merged. *In Touch* is published by the Development & Alumni Office. It was edited by **Matthew Shinn** and designed by **Esterson Associates**. The last time a UK institution won in this category was 10 years ago and it was King’s then also. CASE is the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

The Development & Alumni Office has also been nominated for the ‘Outstanding University Fundraising Team’ award at

this year’s prestigious *Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards*. The Awards, which will be announced on 9 June, recognise achievement in the university sector.

The 2008 *Report* has been shortlisted for the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Excellence Awards. These annual awards recognise and reward best practice in public relations. This year a record number of entries were received, more than 900 across 27 categories.

The *Report* is the College’s premier promotional publication. It is used to showcase King’s and its work to a wide range of audiences.

The *Report* was edited by **Dr Christine Kenyon Jones**, External Relations, and designed by **Susan Buchanan**, Buchanan Davey. Overall winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in London on 7 July. 🌐

Criminology prize

GREG FUNNELL



Dr Mary Vogel

Coercion to Compromise: Plea Bargaining, the Courts, and the Making of Political Authority (OUP 2007) by **Dr Mary Vogel**, Reader in the School of Law, was runner-up for the British Society of Criminology Book Prize 2008. Those honoured in relation to this annual award were announced at the British Society of Criminology Conference 2008.

Coercion to Compromise has been described as ‘A magnificent achievement... comprehensive, yet subtle and theoretically rich, history of the origins of plea bargaining in the 19th-century

Academy of Social Sciences

The Academy of Social Sciences has recently conferred the award of Academician on 49 individuals drawn from across the social science spectrum for their contribution in the field. Elizabeth Kuipers, Professor of Clinical Psychology, is one of the individuals recognised. ‘Several people in the Department of Psychology are Academicians so I am pleased to be joining them,’ comments Professor Kuipers. ‘With colleagues, I have been carrying out research into the effects on carers of living with someone with psychosis, since the early 1980s, developing new interventions for such families, and more recently developing CBT for individuals with psychosis. Our research team continues to try to understand the mechanisms involved, in order to improve these psychological interventions and improve outcomes for carers and patients. The evidence so far has contributed to the



Professor Elizabeth Kuipers

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) *Guidelines in Schizophrenia* and to the recent NICE update of the *Guidelines* which I chaired.’

The Academy is composed of Individual Academicians and Learned Societies. Academicians are scholars and practitioners from academia and the public and private sectors. The Academy responds to Government on behalf of the social science community.

Massachusetts courts. An important book, [it] will reward its readers tenfold’.

Dr Vogel joined King’s in 2005 and was made Reader in 2007. She has published numerous journal articles and edited *Crime, Inequality and the State* (Routledge 2007). This year she was named a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellow. Her project, *Plea Bargaining and Democratic Politics: US and UK*, will explore the historical origins of plea negotiation in England as a basis for producing a comparative analysis of the practice on both sides of the Atlantic.

This prize was established in 2001 by the British Society of Criminology.

Young Researcher

The 13th European Conferences on Mixing organised under the auspices of the European Federation of Chemical

Engineering (EFCE) was held at King’s from 14-17 April. It was hosted by the Experimental and Computational Laboratory for the Analysis of Turbulence and chaired by Professor Michael Yianneskis, Head of the School of Physical Sciences & Engineering. During the conference, the EFCE Young Researcher Award was presented to **Dr Andrea Ducci**, Lecturer at King’s and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Advanced Research Fellow.

Dr Ducci joined the Mechanical Engineering Department in 2000. After the completion of his PhD he was appointed as a Research Associate. In 2007 he was appointed Lecturer, and since October 2007 he is an EPSRC Advanced Research Fellow.

The conference was attended by 120 participants from academia and industry from across Europe, America and Asia.

MSc excellence



Paul Richmond

Paul Richmond, who is studying for a PhD in theoretical physics having completed his MSc last year, has won the University of London’s Lionel Cooper Prize 2008 along with two other students.

The Lionel Cooper Prize is awarded for excellence in all assessed parts of an MSc course at a College of the University of London, of which mathematics forms at least 50 per cent. Paul’s MSc was theoretical research into the fundamental laws of nature and his final project was on gauge theory.

Paul is ‘absolutely delighted’ to have received this prize. He also won an award from King’s last year for the best overall performance in the MSc course.

Having returned to academia after almost 10 years working as an actuary Paul sees this prize as ‘reaffirming that I made the right decision to come to King’s and a reflection of the support I have received’.

APPOINTMENTS

Fundraising team

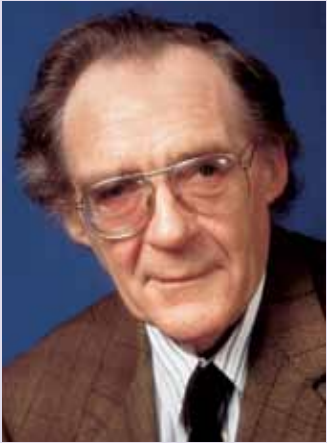
Following changes in the Development & Alumni Office, **Jennifer Cormack** has joined the College as Deputy Director of Development (Fundraising).

Jennifer’s role involves co-ordinating the College’s efforts to support its research and capital projects, through contributions from major institutional donors as well as individual givers.

Contact Jennifer at jennifer.cormack@kcl.ac.uk

OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN MADDOX 1925-2009



Sir John Maddox was a formidable editor of the prestigious science journal *Nature*, for two terms, 1966-73 and 1980-95. He established a strong tradition of journalism in *Nature* and a system of peer review. He was an alumnus, Fellow of the College and

member of College Council.

He studied chemistry at Christ Church, Oxford and then switched discipline to study physics at King’s. He entered King’s for a full-time PhD in Theoretical Physics in 1947, studying under Professor Coulson until 1949. The title of his thesis was ‘A critical study of some methods used to calculate properties of molecular systems’. He became a lecturer in theoretical physics at the University of Manchester before working for the *Manchester Guardian* (later *The Guardian*).

Sir John was a member of King’s College Council from 1985-9. He was made a Fellow in 1985.

He was knighted in 1995 and made an honorary Fellow of the Royal Society – a rare distinction – in 2000. He is survived by his wife Brenda Maddox, the biographer of Rosalind Franklin, and four children.

King’s-Warwick partnership

King’s and the University of Warwick have secured funding of £544,000 from HEFCE to create a blueprint for curriculum development in research-led universities.

The King’s-Warwick Project aims to provide solutions to some of the dilemmas in the strategic development of teaching in research-led institutions and nurture a passion for learning and research amongst students, through a curriculum that will ensure students are: able to experience working in a research culture; engage in academic discourse at a high level; experience interdisciplinarity; gain a global perspective on study and research; and engage with communities beyond university.

The project will undertake a fundamental review of undergraduate provision in partnership with employers,



Professor Paul Blackmore

community representatives and students. The King’s Learning Institute (KILT), will be strongly involved in facilitating development and in evaluation. Professor Paul Blackmore, Director of KILT and Deputy Vice-Principal for Students, is leading the project. He comments: ‘Over the next four years we aim to offer a pledge that graduates will experience a truly distinctive education. We will be looking internationally – particularly to the US and Australia – to gather the best ideas from around the globe.’ 🌐



MICHAEL FORDOM 1922-2009

Around 1948 Michael (Mick) Fordom joined King’s in the Physiology Department as an instrument maker. He helped build one of the first ever renal dialysis machines. He was promoted to Departmental Superintendent of the Physiology Department in 1974.

Mick was also active in the ASCW union (Association of Scientific Workers) becoming King’s College Branch Secretary. He was also involved with the union nationally and was key in the formulation of the first national pay and grading scheme for technicians, the *Blue Book*.

In 1977 Mick handed over the reins of the by then ASTMS branch to a new generation. In 1980 he was elected to College Council and became ‘Guardian of the College Seal’. This role involved him being present

as a representative of Council whenever the seal was used to endorse official documents.

Mick retired in 1984. He remained active in retirement visiting the College on many occasions. He died within weeks of a diagnosis of cancer. His funeral was attended by a large number of staff. He is survived by his wife Joyce, three daughters, 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Glyn Baker, Unite Branch Secretary

Portuguese & Brazilian Studies

THE DEPARTMENT OF Portuguese & Brazilian Studies, based at the Strand Campus, is unique in the UK in the scope and the comprehensiveness, both chronological and geographic, of its coverage of the Lusophone world across a number of disciplines in both teaching and research. It is a national and international leader in its field, with 30 per cent of its research activity deemed 4* (world-leading) and a further 35 per cent deemed 3* (internationally excellent) in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, which ranked the Department among the UK's top five in the Iberian unit of assessment.

Unique

‘This uniqueness, national significance and strategic contribution to UK academic teaching and research is attested by the £250,000 minority subject funding awarded to King's by HEFCE in 2000 to promote and preserve the departments of Portuguese & Brazilian, and Modern Greek & Byzantine Studies,’ notes Abdoolkarim Vakil, Head of the Department.

The Department has seven members of staff including three professors, two of them holders of endowed chairs, and two language teachers funded and half-funded by the Portuguese and Brazilian governments respectively. It currently has 55 students on its undergraduate programmes; six students in the MA in Portuguese Studies and seven students researching for PhDs.

‘The teaching of Portuguese language at King's can be traced back to the 1860s,’ Mr Vakil points out, ‘however, a recognisable culture of academic teaching and research in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies is the product of three distinct phases, dating from the creation of the Camoes Chair in Portuguese, in 1919, and the appointments to the Chair of Edgar Prestage, in 1923, and Charles Boxer in 1947. The Department as it exists today – which should more accurately be named “of Portuguese, Brazilian and Lusophone African Studies” – emerged from the expansion and appointments in the 1980s under Professor Helder Macedo.

‘Oldest ally’

‘The creation of the Chair was the personal initiative of Professor Israel Gollancz, as a complement to the College's Cervantes Chair in Spanish which he also championed, but was also a result of the strengthening of political and diplomatic relations between Britain and the young Portuguese Republic in World War I. Its funding directly reflected the financial,



Detail from 'Humanidade' [Humanity] by Malangatana Ngwenya, Mozambique's foremost artist.

commercial and business interests and ties between Britain, Portugal and Brazil. In both its teaching and posts, the subsequent development of the Department closely reflects the history of the Lusophone world, including the changing place of Portugal from colonial power to post-colonial partner, and in its importance to Britain: Portugal's “oldest ally”.

The Department now offers courses on the history, culture, literature and drama of Portugal from medieval to contemporary; on the history, literature, culture and music of Brazil from the conquest to the present, and on colonial and post-colonial Lusophone African history and culture. It also offers Portuguese language courses at all levels from beginners to advanced, and courses with more comparative or thematic approaches extending to Hispanic, Latin American and Asian spaces and contexts. In addition to the single honours degree in Portuguese & Brazilian studies, and major and minor combinations with other subject areas, the Department also offers combined degree programmes with Hispanic & Latin American Studies, French, German, Modern Greek, Classical Studies, History, and War Studies.

Research interests

‘Our staff's research interests range across all areas of the Lusophone world,’ Mr Vakil says. ‘They include, for example, the history of racism in the Atlantic world; the history of the Inquisition; nationalism and identity politics in Portugal; Islam and Muslim communities in Portuguese colonial contexts and in contemporary Portugal. They also extend to the Medieval Galician-Portuguese lyric; the oral tradition and the theatre of Portugal, Brazil and Africa; Brazilian popular music; Afro Brazilian culture and cultural politics; and contemporary Brazilian fiction and its translation. Other areas in which we are expert

are the history, politics, culture and literature of Portuguese-speaking Africa; British trade and relations with Spanish America and Brazil, and the native peoples of the Andes. We also have specialists in the teaching of Portuguese as a foreign language; language acquisition and bilingualism, and the history of Romance and Portuguese languages.

‘This range of interests is well illustrated in the most recent publications from our staff: Patrick Chabal's *Africa: The Politics of Suffering and Smiling* (2009); the Portuguese translation of David Treece's *Exiles, Allies, Rebels: Brazil's Indianist Movement, Indigenist Politics, and the Imperial Nation-state* (2008), and the long-awaited English language publication of Francisco Bethencourt's comparative history *The Inquisition: A Global History, 1479-1834* to be published later this year.’

Research culture

A vibrant research culture in the Department is further fostered through the activities of the Centre for the Study of Brazilian Culture & Society, which recently concluded a major AHRC-funded three-year project on the cultures of the Lusophone Black Atlantic, and the Department research seminar, which is a showcase for Lusophone research across the UK. A series of seminars by visiting scholars and an annual workshop organised in association with Portugal's Camoes Institute through the Charles Boxer Chair reinforce the international dimension.

The creation of the King's Brazilian Institute, and in particular the recent appointment to its first research post of a scholar of Brazilian film studies, whose interests closely complement the Department's area of studies, invaluablely strengthens the College's international profile and investment in Brazilian studies and Lusophone studies more broadly.

Virginia Woolf at King's

Virginia Woolf studied history, Greek, Latin and German at King's College Ladies' Department between 1897 and 1902.

BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 20, Virginia Woolf (then Adeline Virginia Stephen) was registered for a variety of subjects at different levels at King's Ladies' Department at 13 Kensington Square. Research in the College Archives has shown that her studies were of considerable length and depth, contradicting the impression given by biographers and by Woolf herself that she was almost entirely self-educated. Her sister, the painter Vanessa Bell (then Stephen), also studied Latin, art and architecture at the Ladies' Department between 1899 and 1901.

Private tuition

The first registration record for Virginia is for the 1897-8 College year. In the Michaelmas (autumn) term of 1897 Virginia was registered for classes in Continental and English History and for Elementary Greek. The same registration continued in the Lent (spring) and Easter (summer) terms in 1898. In the following academic year she was registered in all three terms for English History, Advanced Greek and Intermediate Latin.

In Autumn 1899 Virginia began to study German ‘pt’ (ie through private tuition arranged by the Ladies' Department) and continued with Greek and Latin, and in the College year 1900-1 she took German Grammar together with two classes of Greek in the first term, one class of Greek in the second term, and private tuition in Greek in the third term. She took College examinations in German in 1899 and 1900, passing in ‘class II’. In 1901-2 she continued with her private studies in Greek. Her teacher was Clara Pater, sister of the critic and essayist Walter Pater, who was tutor of Greek and Latin at the Ladies' Department in this period.

Illness

Virginia and Vanessa were then living at 22 Hyde Park Gate, Kensington, less than half a mile from the Ladies' Department. In 1895, following the death of their mother, Virginia suffered a serious breakdown. Her illness continued during her years of study at King's, exacerbated by the death of her half-sister, Stella, in July 1897. In November 1897 her father, Leslie Stephen (later Sir Leslie, Editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, who had himself been a student at King's from 1848-50) wrote to George Charles Winter Warr (1845-1901), Professor of Classical Literature at King's: ‘my daughter



Photograph of **Virginia Woolf** (née Stephen) (July 1902) by George Charles Beresford.

is attending your Greek class. I hope you will allow me to give you one hint. She has been in a very nervous state, wh[ich], though explicable, has given me some anxiety. I have allowed her to go to the class, for wh[ich] she was very anxious; because I think that it does her some good to have the occupation [...] I should be grateful if you would just remember this & let her off with light work’.

Virginia's own diary entries are intermittent from this period, but in November 1897 she noted: ‘I go to King's College, Nessa to her studio.’ Her sister, Vanessa, had been studying art for some time at a local art school, and augmented these studies through classes at King's. On Sunday 12 December 1897 Virginia recorded the end of term: ‘My studies have almost come to an end’. In 1898 she continued her studies with Professor Warr, who was one of the foremost Greek scholars of his day and whose name lives on at King's through the Warr Memorial Prize

in Classics. He had been one of the prime movers, with King's Principal Revd Dr Alfred Barry, in the establishment of the ‘lectures for ladies’ in 1871. These began in Richmond, then moved to Kensington and grew into the King's Ladies' Department in 1885 and became the King's College Women's Department in 1902, before the women joined male colleagues at the Strand in 1915.

This early study provided the foundation for Virginia Woolf's lifelong engagement with Greek literature. Her father's caution and dismissive focus on the ‘therapeutic’ nature of her study at King's is undermined by the depth of her knowledge. She was soon translating Plato and Aristotle.

Contributions from Dr Anna Snaith (English); Professor Michael Trapp (Classics); Katherine Godfrey (College Archives); Dr Trudi Darby (Professional Services) and Dr Christine Kenyon Jones (External Relations).

Don't get hooked by phishers

IN SUPPORT OF THE IT SECURITY programme for 2009, Information Services & Systems (ISS) launched a College-wide publicity campaign in March. This year's theme is 'lock IT up!' and the campaign is aimed to encourage staff and students to understand their role in keeping the College IT network secure.

An IT security booklet was published detailing the steps that everyone should take to prevent phishing attacks, identity theft and the spread of viruses. During the lock IT up! awareness week, the ISS roadshow visited four campuses where some

500 students took part in an IT security quiz.

'A clear and unified approach to IT security'

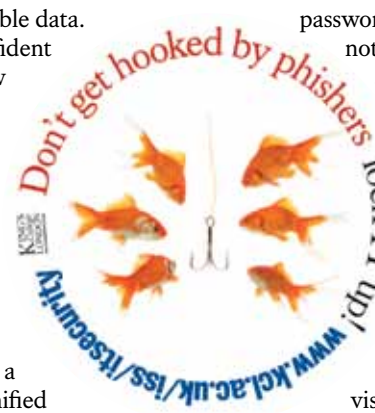
Chief Information Officer and College Librarian, Karen Stanton, believes that promoting IT security across the College is an important aspect of delivering robust IT services. 'Phishing attacks and viruses on the network can often result in less efficient services, an increased risk of service downtime and

loss of valuable data. We are confident that the new IT security framework, which sets out the role of the College IT Security Forum and ISS, will provide a clear and unified approach to IT security issues at King's.'

Both staff and students are encouraged to ensure that

passwords are unique and not shared, to use antivirus software, be vigilant with personal data, secure mobile devices and never reply to a request for password and account details by email. For further information visit: www.kcl.ac.uk/iss/itsecurity

The artwork for the ISS publicity campaign was designed by the Corporate Design Unit.



Lion's Den winners announced

TWO POST DOCTORAL STAFF, Dr Alexander Kapustin and Dr Yiwen Liu from the Cardiovascular Division, won the King's Business Commercialisation Prize at the Finals and Awards Dinner of the 2008-9 Graduate Business Plan Competition on 24 March.

The team transformed their research achievements into a business plan to set up Indica, a company that seeks to develop a diagnostic kit for the early identification of vascular calcification.



From left: **Dimitrios Mistrionis, David Ganly, Yiwen Liu** and **Alexander Kapustin**.

The winner of the King's Graduate School Prize was Notion Learning who aim

to launch a new e-learning training product for small-and-medium-sized companies on graduation. Notion Learning was formed by David Ganly, MSc Computing, IT Law & Management, and Dimitrios Mistrionis, MSc Computing & Internet Systems, both from the School of Physical Sciences & Engineering.

Prize money totalled £10,000 and for the first time alumni joined the competition known as the Lion's Den to offer business mentoring and professional voice

and presentation skills coaching to teams.

Chris Mottershead, Vice Principal Research & Innovation, who awarded the prizes, said: 'The Lion's Den provides early career research staff and postgraduate students with an excellent opportunity to benefit from business and commercial training that many might not otherwise access and helps them develop a real or hypothetical business plan. In many cases it is the first step on the journey to commercialising an idea.'

Photography competition: winners online

LAST YEAR THE MARKETING Department launched a photographic competition and invited students, alumni and staff to enter photographs of current students on location in London. The winners and runners-up of the 'King's Now' competition have been announced.

The response was large and entries were received from across the College. The overall winner 'One chapter at a time' was taken by Gbolahan Williams, a first-year Computer Science PhD student. The judges appreciated

the composition which shows a silhouetted student enjoying a private moment of study framed by blurred equations and diagrams on the wall in the background.

Winning photos now form part of an exhibition which will travel around the UK and across the globe and be shown to prospective students as an expression of student life. The exhibition has already been shown in China and India. Take a look at the winning photos at www.kcl.ac.uk/photocomp



'One chapter at a time' by **Gbolahan Williams**, a first-year Computer Science PhD student.

King's Plaza transformed

MAJOR WORK TO TRANSFORM THE plaza outside the entrance to the James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Campus has recently been completed.

'A flexible, high quality public space'

Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates & Facilities, comments: 'The new plaza has transformed a poor environment, providing a flexible high quality public space with much increased bicycle parking provision, in support of the College's green agenda. The better lighting at night not only improves safety but the feature lights in the paving and the trees provide a welcome night-time sparkle to the area.'

The plaza was once an unattractive public space with a service road leading to the College entrance running right through the middle of it. A three-



The newly transformed plaza outside the James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Campus.

phase scheme was developed and managed by Lambeth Council and South Bank Employers'

Group focusing on improving walking routes, safety and accessibility, as well as providing

new facilities such as curved granite benches and several cycle racks.

First concert for School



THE FIRST CONCERT FOR ALUMNI of the School of Arts & Humanities was held recently at St John's, Smith Square with a performance by King's College London Symphony Orchestra.

More than 400 former students and staff, together with current members of the College, packed into St John's. The orchestra performed the symphonic suite drawn from Leonard Bernstein's music for

Elia Kazan's Academy Award-winning film *On the Waterfront*, Samuel Barber's *Violin Concerto*, and Sergei Rachmaninov's the *Symphonic Dances*.

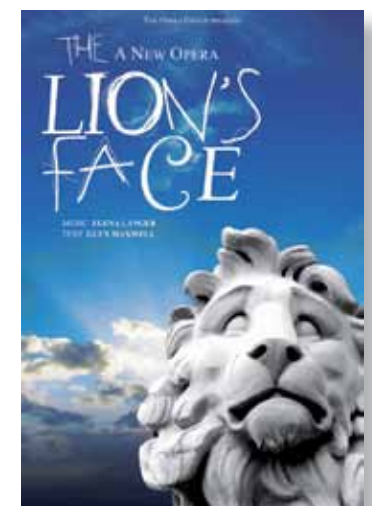
Head of the School, Dr Jan Palmowski, explains: 'Our commitment to students doesn't end with the degree ceremony. The School is planning a series of events especially for alumni, who are a greatly valued part of our community.'

The Lion's Face previews

THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY IS collaborating with leading opera company, The Opera Group, on an exciting public engagement project exploring dementia through opera and poetry.

Members of the public and delegates from the Alzheimer's Research Trust Network conference were recently invited to a preview performance of *The Lion's Face*, at the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Pioneering Alzheimer's researcher Simon Lovestone, Professor Old Age Psychiatry and Director of the National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health, said: 'Public dissemination of science is important and I am excited to be working with The Opera Group. What captured my imagination was the opportunity to work with artists who are interested



in genuine dialogue – reflecting back to us aspects of the disease we might not have thought about. The use of poetry and music will help us look at Alzheimer's disease in a different way.' The opera will tour the UK next year. Visit www.thelionsface.com

Medieval plays and poetry

TWO RECENT EVENTS HAVE SOUGHT to recreate the Middle Ages for today’s audiences.

Plays
Students from the History Department’s Latin for Graduates module performed two anonymous medieval plays, *Filius Getronis* and *Ordo Paschalis*, in the Chapel at the Strand Campus.

The plays were produced by Dr Jacqueline Glomski and Professor Anne Duggan, and directed by Kellyn Johnson, a student on the English Department’s MA in Text & Performance. Musical accompaniment was provided by Taro Visser, an undergraduate Music student, and Charlotte Fairbairn and Emma Hopewood, sopranos from the College Choir.

The 12th-century French *Filius Getronis* narrates the rescue by St Nicholas of a boy who has been abducted by a pagan king, while the 13th-century Austrian *Ordo Paschalis* is famous for including the first appearance in an Easter play of the ‘Harrowing of Hell’ legend.

Kellyn remarks: ‘As a director and a scholar, the challenge of working with medieval texts in a foreign language presented an opportunity to explore methods



The St Nicholas play (*Filius Getronis*) was performed in modern dress, with the evil pagan king and his attendants cast as a biker lord and his gang.

of storytelling that do not rely on gesture and tone. My responsibility to the audience was to ensure the clarity of the work in performance. To the History students, I endeavoured to provide a new means of responding to, and engaging with, their subject.’

Poetry
Matthew Francis, whose recent book of verse, *Mandeville: A Package Tour of the Medieval World* (Faber 2008), met with impressive critical acclaim, recently presented a talk and poetry reading at the College.

He spoke about his poetic rewriting of the legendary travels of the 14th-century knight Sir John Mandeville in the series ‘Locating the Middle Ages: The Spaces and Places of Medieval Culture’ organised by the Centre for Late Antique & Medieval Studies (CLAMS).

The Director of the Centre, Professor Julian Weiss, Spanish & Spanish American Studies, notes: ‘We invited Matthew not only because of the intrinsic quality and broad appeal of his verse, but also because his poems illustrate the powerful hold of the Middle Ages on the

imagination of contemporary writers, artists and filmmakers.’
Dr Jan Palmowski, Head of the School of Arts & Humanities, comments: ‘This event worked well not just because of its quality, but because medieval studies really can address and link constituencies in different departments.’

‘Imaginative recreations of the Middle Ages’

Professor Weiss concurs, ‘CLAMS will continue to sponsor events that showcase the many ways in which modern writers and artists strive to understand the past – and modernity – through their imaginative recreations of the Middle Ages.’

Last year two other poets, Bernard O’Donoghue and Chris Jones, read their verse and discussed their imaginative encounter with the medieval past. Another CLAMS speaker was Patricia Lovett, the country’s foremost calligrapher. Post-medieval reinterpretations and recreations of the past also inspired the ‘Writing the Middle Ages’ exhibition held recently at the Maughan Library.

UG Prospectus



THE NEW
Undergraduate Prospectus for entry in 2010 has been published and more than 12,000 copies are being sent to schools and colleges worldwide. The whole prospectus has

been redesigned with some key changes including entry requirements moving alongside the programme details, career destination information as well as new alumni and current student profiles.

The prospectus was designed by Helen Senior and Associates. Staff can order boxes online by visiting www.kcl.ac.uk/internal/prospectus-form.html Copies are also available at receptions. Please email olivia.davenport@kcl.ac.uk with any feedback.

Comment

The next issue of *Comment* will be published in September. The copy deadline is 10 August. Keep up to date with news in the staff ezine and by visiting the front page of the College website and the internal staff web pages.

ART AT KING’S

Air, Earth and Sea



Located in the Franklin-Wilkins Building, Waterloo Campus, this abstract sculpture by Alan Collins entitled ‘Air, Earth and Sea’ (1960) is made of carved laminated European limewood and is mounted on a bronze turntable on top of a granite plinth.

The sculpture was commissioned for the entrance to the new Sir John Atkins Laboratories at Queen Elizabeth College in Kensington (QEC merged with King’s in 1985); it was cleaned, restored and repositioned in its present location in 2001 following the closure of the Kensington Campus.

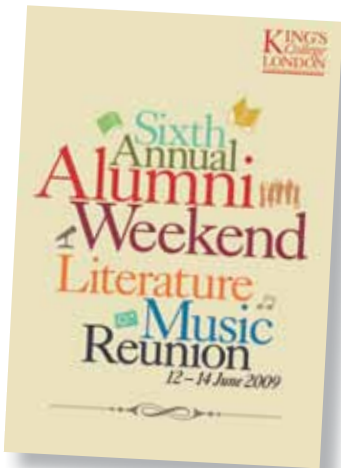
Alan Collins trained at the Royal College of Art and had several major commissions in the UK, including the memorial to President John F Kennedy at Runnymede (1964) and the stone sculptures on Guildford Cathedral, before moving to the United States in 1968 where he continued to produce sculpture for churches, colleges, universities and hospitals.

Alumni Weekend

STAFF ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART in this year’s Alumni Weekend, in which former staff and students return to the College for a programme of talks, tours and social events.

This year’s Alumni Weekend – 12 to 14 June – will include an Alumni Literary Festival, a showcase for the College’s many alumni authors, screenwriters and critics.

Current members of King’s English, History, Film and American Studies departments will lead panel debates around a variety of literary themes, giving attendees the chance to hear from many well-known authors.



For further details contact the Alumni Office (alumoff@kcl.ac.uk).

DNA t-shirts for sale

AT THE LAUNCH OF KING’S Health Partners it seemed appropriate to highlight the involvement of King’s with one of the key discoveries of all time. Photograph 51, taken in May 1952 at King’s by Dr Rosalind Franklin and Ray Gosling, Doctoral Assistant to Dr Franklin, led to the discovery of the structure of DNA. T-shirts which capture what could be described as the most important photograph ever taken are available to buy from the Public Relations Office (room 4.14, James Clerk Maxwell Building). They cost £5 each and come in medium,



large and extra large sizes. Email pr@kcl.ac.uk or call ext 3202.

News in brief

Traffic-free zone
Chancery Lane is gearing up to become a pedestrian area. Under proposals from the Corporation of London to make the City more pleasant for pedestrians, the street – home of the Maughan Library & Information Services Centre – could be closed to cars and vans. If approved works could begin this year.

Booking hotels
Purchasing Services has agreed terms with Expotel on behalf of the College for the booking of hotels and conferences in the

UK and worldwide. Expotel is an independent agency with more than 150,000 hotels listed on its database, instant access to room availability and access to Government and last-minute promotional rates. Bookings can be made by telephone, email or online. See the Purchasing Services website.

Free dental care
The Dental Institute is looking for staff who students can treat as part of their training. All treatments are supervised and free. If you would like free dental

treatment you will be given an initial appointment to assess if your dental needs are appropriate for student treatment. Contact Diane Brook on 020 7188 1162.

Innovation funding portal
The integration of innovation with research and teaching is essential. Accessing the right relationships and necessary funding are key to ensuring the successful translation, exploitation and uptake of new ideas and outcomes of research. To support these activities a single information point to access

funding schemes and networks available for innovation has been created. Visit www.kcl.ac.uk/business/innovationfunding.html

Principal’s fora
The dates for the next round of Principal’s fora are:
27 May – Waterloo Campus;
5 June – Denmark Hill Campus;
22 June – Guy’s Campus;
30 June – Strand Campus.
All staff are encouraged to attend. The fora begin at 13.00. A sandwich lunch is available half an hour beforehand. See What’s on for room information.

CBT and depression

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY (CBT), which focuses on the thoughts and behaviours which underlie and perpetuate depressive episodes has been proven as an effective, short-term psychotherapy treatment for depression. However, currently there are no neurobiological markers that are used in clinical practice which can help to predict how well an individual with depression will respond to CBT.

Dr Cynthia Fu, Senior Clinical Lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry, and colleagues examined the brain responses in individuals suffering from depression while they looked at different facial expressions.

Researchers investigated whether the pattern of brain activity to sad faces in an individual patient predicted his or her clinical response to CBT. In particular, a subset of patients was initially excluded and reintroduced as novel participants to test how well the pattern of



brain activity predicted clinical response in a new, previously unseen patient.

The brain responses to sad faces identified those patients while they were depressed, before they began CBT, who would go on to have a full clinical response to CBT and those patients who would have some ongoing symptoms of depression following CBT. The brain responses to sad faces may be a more sensitive marker of clinical response to CBT than to antidepressant medication as an earlier study found a lower predictive potential for antidepressant medication. The development of biomarkers will help clinicians choose treatments.

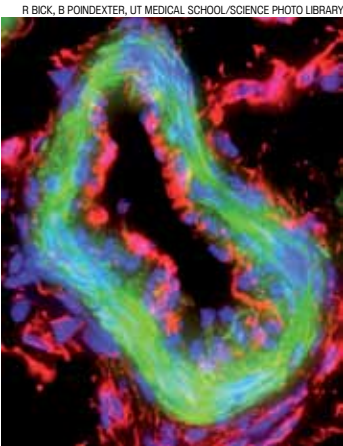
Arterial stiffening study

A NEW STUDY IS BEING CARRIED OUT by King’s researchers, and funded by the Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre at Guy’s & St Thomas’ Foundation Trust, to increase understanding of why arteries stiffen and how this contributes to cardiovascular disease, as well as to identify new treatments.

Arterial stiffening disease affecting the heart, the brain or causing aortic aneurysms is the major cause of death and disability in south east London. One aspect of arterial disease is the deposition of calcium within the arterial wall leading to the stiffening of arteries. At the same time there may also be a loss of calcium from the bones leading to osteoporosis.

Through the ARTERial Inflammation, Stiffening and Calcification programme, researchers and clinicians hope to increase understanding of the causes of arterial calcification.

Phil Chowienczyk, Professor



An artery cross-section.

of Cardiovascular Clinical Pharmacology, says: ‘Heart disease is a key local priority and so increasing our understanding of its causes is an important step to help us improve patient care. Through this study we hope to inform the direction of further research, contribute to the development of new treatments and enable patients to be the first beneficiaries of new discoveries.’

Middle East nursing shortages

RESEARCHERS AT THE FLORENCE

Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery and the American University of Beirut have been awarded a two-year grant by the World Health Organisation’s Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research to investigate how to attract and retain health workers in the Middle East.

Together with colleagues from Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, the research team will examine factors behind health workers’ career decisions and choices of practice location, and assess the feasibility and effectiveness of interventions to encourage health practitioners to work in under-served areas.

‘The question of how to attract and retain health workers in under-served areas in low and middle income countries is fast emerging as priority,’ commented Dr Susan Murray, Reader in



International Healthcare. ‘We are very pleased to be collaborating with Dr El-Jardali at the American University of Beirut and his colleagues in the region and to contribute to an evolving programme of research on health workforce for the Middle East.’

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research aims to promote the generation and use of health policy and systems research to improve developing countries’ health systems.

\$1m for international security

The King’s Centre for Science & Security Studies, led by Professor Wyn Bowen, has secured a \$1million grant from the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation in Chicago, under its Science, Technology & Security Initiative.

With this grant the Centre will conduct research on nuclear energy issues in the Middle East, European approaches to threat reduction in the former Soviet Union and beyond, intelligence and nuclear proliferation and the role of deterrence in preventing nuclear and radiological terrorism. The Centre, based in the Department of War Studies, seeks to generate new knowledge and understanding of the intersections between science, technology and security. It is multi-disciplinary in approach, bringing together

scientific experts with specialists in politics, international relations and history.

Professor of Non-Proliferation and International Security, Wyn Bowen, says: ‘The new grant will enable the Centre to generate new knowledge and insights into issues at the heart of international security. Our continued focus on nuclear security is all the more exciting with the renewed impetus that Barack Obama’s administration has given the international non-proliferation agenda.’

The Department has a long association with the MacArthur Foundation; in the mid-to-late 1990s Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies, and Christopher Dandeker, Professor of Military Sociology, received Institutional Fellowships for two programmes on Regional Security in a Global Context.

Mind over body?

Simon Wessely, Professor of Epidemiological & Liaison Psychiatry and Director of the King’s Centre for Military Health, was interviewed for a *New Scientist* feature about his research into treatments for conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome and threw light on how these types of conditions can first develop in particular patients.

‘Push! eat!’

A King’s study, in the *British Medical Journal*, has found that eating a light meal during labour has no effect on the duration of labour, the need for assisted delivery, or Caesarean rates. The research led by **Andrew Shennan**, Professor of Obstetrics, was reported on BBC News Online, Fox News, *China Daily*, *The Japan Times*, *The Australian* and *Globe & Mail* (Canada).

Rude names

Analysis conducted by **Richard Webber**, Visiting Professor of Geography, has found that surnames with rude overtones have experienced the sharpest decline over the past 120 years as their owners have changed them to something more innocuous. The research was reported in *The Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *The Times* and in a number of international publications including *The Australian*, *Philippines Daily Inquirer* and the *Malaysian Star*.

Community terms

Richard Garside, Director of the Centre for Crime & Justice Studies, spoke to the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme about community sentences. The interview was covered by local BBC radio stations across the UK.

Alzheimer’s funding

Simon Lovestone, Professor of Old Age Psychiatry, spoke at the start of the tenth Alzheimer’s Research Trust conference of the potential for having good treatments to slow down the disease within five to 10 years if funding is maintained. This was reported in the *Evening Standard*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Express*, *The Herald*, *The Sun* and online.

Romantic rebellion

Dr Christine Kenyon Jones, of the Department of English, took part in interviews for BBC Radio 4 series *Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen’s Men of Fashion*. Dr Kenyon Jones discussed the Albanian costume and other clothes worn by Romantic poet and Regency trend-setter Lord Byron.

Carrots or bribe?

Health authorities and corporations are increasingly offering money to people who quit smoking, lose weight or take medicine, despite uncertainty that such incentives work. A new study published in the *British Medical Journal* online and led by **Theresa Marteau**, Professor of Health Psychology, reviewed the outcomes of a range of ‘incentive’ schemes. The study was reported in the *The Independent*, *China Daily*, the *Oman Daily Observer*, *The Hindu Business Line*, *The Times of India* and the *Bangkok Post*.

Flying Dutchman

John Deathridge, King Edward Professor of Music, and Head of the Department of Music, discussed the opera *The Flying Dutchman* on BBC Radio 4’s *Front Row*.

Political turmoil

Articles written by **Dr Harsh Pant**, Lecturer in the Defence Studies Department, on topics including political turmoil in south Asia and the relationship between the US and India were published in *The Straits Times*, *The Asian Age* and *The Japan Times*.

Ethical dilemmas

Professor Clare Williams, Director for the Centre for Biomedicine & Society, took part in a discussion on ethical dilemmas encountered when carrying out social science ethnographic research in medical settings; debating the subject on BBC Radio 4’s *Thinking Allowed* programme.

Teeth stress

Teeth grinding is known to be triggered by anxiety and dental researchers believe that people’s woes over the economic downturn are responsible for a surge in patients. **Professor David Bartlett**, Head of Prosthodontics at the Dental Institute, commented in an article in *The Daily Telegraph* that stress caused by fears over the credit crunch was a likely cause of the trend. **Professor Tara Renton**, Head of Oral Surgery, was quoted in an article on tooth extractions in the *Independent on Sunday*.

Soap students

The character of Amber Kalirai, played by Nikki Patel, was offered a place to study Law at King’s on the popular ITV1 soap, *Coronation Street*. The character of Josh Ashworth, played by Sonny Flood, also considered studying at the College in an episode of the popular teenage Channel 4 drama *Hollyoaks*.

Piracy problem

As US military chiefs were bolstering their forces around the Horn of Africa to help tackle Somali pirates holding a US captain hostage in a drifting lifeboat **Andrew Lambert**, Professor of Naval History, Department of War Studies, discussed the economic crime of piracy on BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme.

Thatcherism

It is almost 30 years since Margaret Thatcher first entered Downing Street. **Richard Vinen**, Professor of Modern European History, and author Simon Jenkins discussed the legacy of Mrs Thatcher and Thatcherism on BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme.

Terrorism arrests

Dr Brooke Rogers, Lecturer in Risk & Terror in the King’s Centre for Risk Management, Department of Geography, discussed the consequences of the terrorism raids and arrests in the north west of England on the BBC News Channel.

Dissident threat

Dr Michael Kerr, Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies, was interviewed on Sky News on the dissident republican threat to Northern Ireland’s peace process. Dr Kerr also spoke to Sky Italia, *Público* in Portugal and the Italian Associated Press.

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

Moot success

STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF Law are achieving outstanding success in international mootings competitions and have also competed in their own internal contest. A moot is a mock trial, where participant argue points of law as they would in a court. Two students – Lingxi Wang and Katherine Lim – on King’s LLM programme will be competing in the final of the European Law Students Association Moot Court Competition on World Trade Organization Law in Taipei this month.

Third-year law students Aqeel Noorali and Sajid Suleman have won the national finals of the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition. Four students argued a legal case before the distinguished judge, Lord Brown of Eaton-under Heywood (a current Lord of Appeal in Ordinary), in the final of the School’s internal mootings competition. Lord Brown declared Kimberley Smith winner and presented her with the mootings trophy.

Funniest student

FINAL-YEAR PHILOSOPHY STUDENT Tom Rosenthal has been crowned Paramount Comedy On Tap’s Funniest Student of 2009. Tom performed his award winning set at the world famous Comedy Store in London on 16 March and was described as ‘very confident, clever and funny’. The competition was judged by representatives from Off The Kerb Management and Paramount Comedy (now Comedy Central), as well as comedian Robin Ince. Tom receives gigs courtesy of Alan Carr and Michael McIntyre’s management Off

Tom Rosenthal (right)



The Kerb Productions and mentoring and advice from Comedy Central. Tom described his win as ‘thrilling’ and hopes to develop a career in stand-up. ‘Once my exams finish I’m going to go full-time for a year and see where it takes me, should be fun times.’ *Comment* asked Tom to tell us a joke. Tom responded: ‘Hoovering – that sucks.’

Macadam Cup

NOW IN ITS SIXTH YEAR, THE Macadam Cup competition took place on 26 March at the College’s New Malden sportsground. King’s teams played against King’s Medical School teams in a wide range of sports. This year the King’s Medical School teams won, with a final score of 9-6. More than 180 students competed in this year’s Cup. Tony Sebastian, Vice President Student Activities & Facilities, commented: ‘A great turnout, good natured rivalry and tough competitive play all culminated in a great day to celebrate sport at King’s, and also helped raise money for the charity Right to Play to help raise awareness of their efforts in using sport to improve health, fitness, develop life skills and foster peace for children and communities across the world.’ The Macadam Cup is the highlight of the sporting calendar. 🍷

Obama inauguration

IN MARCH’S COMMENT it was reported that Faraz Mujtaba attended the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America. It has since come to light that another

Student releases CD

Portuguese & Brazilian Studies third-year student, Aisling Lavelle, is launching her debut CD *While We’re Young* at the Vortex Jazz Club at the end of the month. This is a joint album with jazz and classical pianist Sam Hogarth. Jazz singer Aisling has been singing and performing since she was about six years old and is described as a ‘young, up and coming, quirky jazz singer’. Aisling performs standards and originals in her own unique style singing a wide range of Brazilian material. Aisling comments: ‘The whole project has in some way been facilitated by being at King’s as learning Portuguese has just deepened my love of Brazilian music. I am so fortunate that in making my university choice I was able to accommodate my two great loves – language and music. I definitely would not have



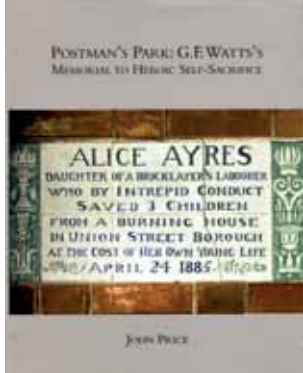
made this album if I had not been in London among the finest jazz musicians in the country. It also helps that I can find out anything I want about Brazilian music, just by knocking on someone’s door in the Department!’ The study of Brazilian music is taught on a number of the BA and MA courses within the Department and Aisling is taking one of the modules in her final year. (See the *Focus* on page 14 for more information on the Department.)

student, Rebecca Glockner, who is studying German & Modern Greek, was also amongst the special guests on the National Mall in Washington DC on 20 January. Her

attendance at the historic event was also part of the University Presidential Inauguration Conference, an event for alumni of the National Youth Leaders Forum.

New KCLSU team

A new sabbatical team and student trustees for KCLSU have been elected to office for the academic year 2009-10. More than 25 students ran for six different positions and a record 3,229 votes were cast (a 61 per cent increase on last year). They are: Ryan Wain (President), Emilie Tapping (Vice President Academic Affairs) (right), Annushka Amar (Vice President Student Activities & Facilities) (left), and Natasha Wynarczyk (Vice President Student Media & Engagement). The new Student Trustees are: Ozair Afridi and Becky Samuels (not in photograph). 🍷

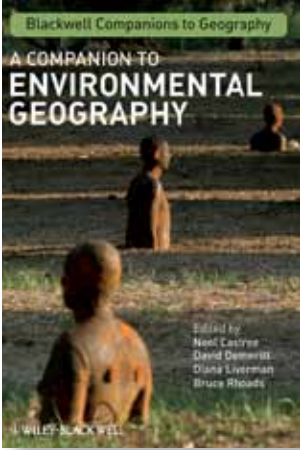


Postman’s Park: G.F. Watt’s Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice

John Price, Department of History

Postman’s Park is a green and pleasant oasis of calm in the City of London, but it also contains an extraordinary, yet little known, Victorian monument to heroism. This publication sheds new and valuable light upon the history and context of this remarkable object. The monument, erected in 1900, consists of 53 ceramic memorial tablets which commemorate civilian individuals who lost their own life while heroically attempting to save another. The memorial was conceived and funded by the Victorian artist George Frederic Watts.

The descriptions on the tablets allude to dreadful circumstances; terrible domestic fires, fatalities on the railways and tragic boating incidents. Yet they also tell of sacrifice; mothers saving children, doctors tending to patients but mostly strangers giving their life for someone unknown. The monument can be appreciated for its lasting legacy as a memorial to heroism or as one man’s wish to leave behind a memory of people who would have otherwise been forgotten. It is also an expression of the mindset of the man who created it. This study is available from the Guildhall Library, the Museum of London and online from Watts Gallery. Watts Gallery



Blackwell Companion to Environmental Geography

Professor David Demeritt, Department of Geography

Increasing public and policy concerns about climate change and other environmental problems have given rise to an outpouring of research exploring the tangled relationships between environment and society. Such work is necessarily interdisciplinary, violating conventional divisions between the natural and social sciences to generate new understandings of the challenges – and opportunities – we face in forging more sustainable ways of living together on earth. This publication is the first to provide comprehensive and systematic coverage of this interdisciplinary research frontier. In more than 30 chapters the *Companion* draws on international experts from across the discipline of geography (including several current and former King’s staff) to map the growing middle ground between human and physical geography. It brings together, in a single volume, cutting-edge research on topics such as environmental remote sensing and ethnography, ecosystem ecology and environmental governance more often treated in isolation by technical specialists. In this way it highlights the uniquely integrative perspective offered by the discipline of geographers into human-environmental relationships. Wiley-Blackwell



Health Care Errors and Patient Safety

Professor Brian Hurwitz, Department of English

Over the past decade a transformation in attitudes to health care error and patient safety has taken place. Recognition, classification, monitoring and prevention of errors have become visible fields of multidisciplinary debate, empirical research and policy development. Errors in medicine are now of great interest to many parties – lawyers, insurers and policy analysts, as well as medical educators, researchers, psychologists, professional, regulatory and defence bodies, patients and politicians. Each brings different viewpoints to the issues raised by medical error, such as: error definition and reporting, error interpretation, how to identify the causes of medical error and maximise prevention, and how to reduce error associated health care harms. Over the coming decade, the detection, reporting, measurement and minimisation of medical errors and the harms which result from these will become part and parcel of every clinical organisation in developed societies. This volume brings together contributions by internationally recognised researchers, scientists and critical thinkers and discusses the practical issues involved in reducing errors in health care. Wiley-Blackwell



A Fine-Tuned Universe

Revd Professor Alister McGrath, Department of Education & Professional Studies

Are there viable pathways from nature to God? Natural theology is making a comeback, stimulated as much by scientific advance as by theological and philosophical reflection. There is a growing realisation that the sciences raise questions that transcend their capacity to answer them – above all, the question of the existence of God. So how can Christian theology relate to these new developments? In this landmark work, based on his 2009 Gifford lectures, Professor McGrath examines the apparent ‘fine-tuning’ of the universe and its significance for natural theology. Exploring a wide range of physical and biological phenomena and drawing on the latest research in biochemistry and evolutionary biology, Professor McGrath outlines our new understanding of the natural world and discusses its implications for traditional debates about the existence of God. *A Fine-Tuned Universe* will contribute significantly to the discussion of natural theology by developing a rich Trinitarian approach that allows deep engagement with the intellectual and moral complexities of the natural world. It will be essential reading to those looking for a rigorous engagement between science and the Christian faith. Westminster Press



Thatcher's Britain

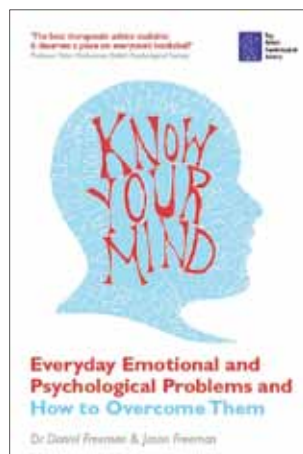
Professor Richard Vinen,
Department of History

This month it is 30 years since Margaret Thatcher entered Downing Street. Thatcher was the longest serving prime minister of the 20th-century and her period in Government coincided with extraordinary changes in British society and in Britain's place in the world.

Thatcher's image permeates, not just discussion of recent British history, but also films and novels. Curiously, the emphasis on Thatcher as a kind of cultural icon has often gone with a declining interest in the details of what her Government did.

This book tells the story of Thatcherism for a generation with no personal memories of the 1980s – as well as for those who want to revisit the polemics of their youth. It aims to describe Thatcherism in a way that is both detached and engaging. Most of all, it seeks to rescue Margaret Thatcher from being seen as John the Baptist for Tony Blair.

It stresses that Thatcherism was not a timeless phenomenon that can be traced back into the 19th century or transported forward into the 21st. It was rooted in the 1970s and 1980s.
Simon & Schuster Ltd



Know Your Mind

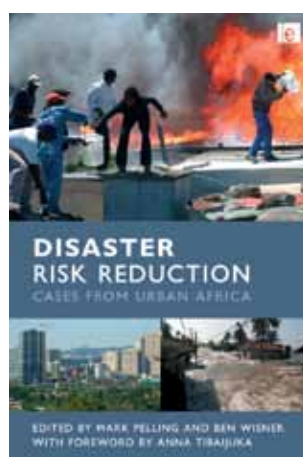
Dr Daniel Freeman,
Institute of Psychology

Know Your Mind is the perfect starting point for dealing with any psychological or emotional problem – and, for most readers, it will be the only self-help book they'll ever need.

It distils the best and most up-to-date psychological research to provide both a concise summary of the proactive steps you can take to stay mentally healthy and a comprehensive reference guide to common problems. As such, it will sit perfectly on the family bookcase next to the medical encyclopaedia, providing families with all the information they need for a happy, healthy and productive life.

More than 50 problems are covered, including anxiety, depression, anger, bereavement, eating problems, insomnia, mood swings, pain, paranoia, relationship difficulties, sexual problems and stress.

Written in a clear and accessible style, it steers clear of jargon. *Know Your Mind* is interactive and entertaining, including self-assessments, case studies, interesting and amusing facts and anecdotes, and quotes from celebrities, TV and film.
Pan Macmillan



Disaster Risk Reduction

Mark Pelling,
Department of Geography

In her forward to this book, Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and UN Under-Secretary-General, stresses the need to identify risks and vulnerabilities but also the capacities and opportunities for action to reduce risk from natural and technological hazards.

This is the aim set for this edited collection which brings together findings from detailed case studies of six cities framed by substantial chapters that critique state-of-the-art thinking and policy on urbanisation and disaster risk processes including the impact and future risks of climate change for Africa's mushrooming urban population.

The book frames comparative risk assessment in a continuum from everyday disasters to catastrophies and points to reform in governance at all scales as the priority for reducing risk.

The book is one output of a capacity building and advocacy programme for research and planning in African urban risk supported by the United Nations Development Programme and the ProVention Consortium. All proceeds of the publication support this initiative.
London: Earth Scan

Three favourite...

Sporting venues
As recommended by John Grant, Sportsgrounds Manager

The River Thames

Even in the centre of London you can watch great sporting events such as the Doggett's Coat and Badge Race and the Great River Race, but once you get out to Putney and beyond there is sporting spectacle galore. My favourite is the Head of the River Race held annually in March with 420 crews all desperate to overtake and not be overtaken. The course is the boat race in reverse from Mortlake to Putney. They come down thick and fast, much more interesting than just a two boat race off. The Women's Head is normally a couple of weeks earlier and contains 300 crews, and, if you want somebody to cheer, King's usually has two boats in each race.

Richmond Park

A great venue for cyclists and runners, but in the summer just after dusk when the road closes to traffic it becomes a magical spot for cyclists, wheelchair racers and in line skaters. Ten kilometres of road with no cars and no traffic lights, just trees and deer.

Hampton Open Air Swimming Pool

Set in two acres of woodland, this heated open air pool is open 365 days a year. It is a magnet for casual and family swimmers but is also a popular training centre for tri-athletes. On Christmas and New Year's days they serve a champagne breakfast.

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

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