

# COMMENT

THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No 140 | MARCH 2002

## £4m gift for King's



**K**ing's is celebrating a generous £4 million donation. This gift, the largest ever from a graduate in the history of the College, has been made by Sir Deryck and Lady Maughan.

Their donation is for the College's magnificent new Library in Chancery Lane, which will be named in their honour as the Maughan Library.

Sir Deryck, one of King's most eminent alumni, graduated from

Above: The Maughan Library

Right: Sir Deryck and Lady Maughan



the College in 1969 with a BA (Honours) Geography. He is now Vice-Chairman of Citigroup, the leading global financial services company. He was formerly Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Salomon Brothers, and Vice-Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

Sir Deryck Maughan said, 'Va and I are proud to make this donation to the Library at King's. I came to the College as an undergraduate because of its record of excellence in teaching and research. My education here provided the foundation for my government and business career.'

'We are delighted to be able to

**largest ever gift from a graduate in the history of the College**

help the College create an outstanding library, which we hope will provide the same opportunities for independent discovery to future generations of students, whatever their means or background.'

The Library, a distinguished Grade II\* listed building, which was formerly the Public Record Office, is a 19th century Gothic masterpiece. It was designed by Sir James Pennethorne to house the nation's records and incorporates a round reading room similar in style to that in the British Museum.

The refurbishment of this

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

**University of London**

Continued from page 1

building as the Maughan Library is almost complete and is open for use by students. Within it are housed the College's library collections of the Schools of Humanities, Law, Physical

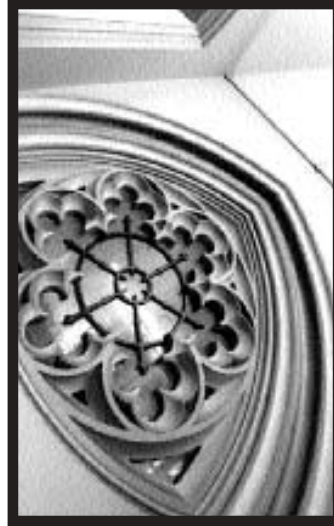
**to provide the same opportunities for independent discovery to future generations of students**

Sciences & Engineering and Social Science & Public Policy. The Library also provides 1,250 networked reader places, and purpose designed accommodation for the College's Special Collections and Rare Books, now

known as the Foyle Special Collections Library.

The Baroness Rawlings, Chairman of Council, said, 'I am thrilled with this outstanding donation which has enabled King's to complete the exciting transformation of the Public Record Office. This is one of the most important projects undertaken by the College in recent years, and one of the most rewarding of my chairmanship. I am grateful to the Maughan family for helping us to achieve it.'

Professor Arthur Lucas, the Principal, commented, 'This generous donation is wonderful news for King's. With the help of Sir Deryck and Lady Maughan,



Above: exquisite detail on a Gothic window

Left: studying in The Maughan Library

Right: Sir Deryck is knighted by The Queen

we are able to create a superb library for King's students, and for scholars from around the world who use our collections for research. We are very grateful for their support. This gift also ensures that we have exceeded our fundraising target for the

library, which is a tremendous achievement.'

Sir Deryck, who was knighted last month by the Queen for services to British business and commercial interests in the USA, is responsible for mergers and acquisitions and other corporate activities at Citigroup. Prior to the creation of Citigroup, Sir Deryck was a Vice-Chairman and Director of Travelers Group and Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Salomon Smith Barney. From 1992 to 1997 he was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Salomon Brothers, a firm he joined in 1983. From 1969 to 1979 he was a member of HM Treasury in London.

Sir Deryck and Lady Maughan live in New York City. Their daughter, Chelsea, is a student at Stanford University.



## As seen on tv

The Maughan Library was the subject of an extended feature on BBC1 London News recently. Maxwell Hutchinson, television presenter, architect and former President of RIBA, marvelled at the building and its spectacular transformation of use from a 19th century storage area for the nation's documents into a modern 21st century library and IT facility for King's students, staff and researchers.

In his closing remarks Maxwell Hutchinson gave the Library conversion a resounding

thumbs-up. 'I have to say that this is one of the best marriages between an important redundant building and a new use I've come across in a very long time.'

Below: Maxwell Hutchinson about splendour of the Maughan Library to discover the



## King's leads UK on inter-professional healthcare education

King's and three other universities (Southampton, Newcastle and Sheffield Hallam) have been awarded funding by the Department of Health over the next two years to develop inter-professional education (IPE) for undergraduate healthcare professionals.

Health Minister, John Hutton, announced the initiative saying 'We said in the NHS Plan

### reshape care around the patient

that radical reform is required in NHS education and training to reshape care around the patient. Joint training across professions is key to this process ... This is an important step towards reaching our target that all health professionals should expect their education and training to include common learning with other professions ... It will have positive and far-reaching effects on the NHS with nurses, midwives, dentists, health visitors and doctors equipped with new skills, roles and ways of flexible and responsive working.'

The King's IPE initiative, which was developed by members of the College



Inter-professional Education in Healthcare Committee (chaired by Professor Sir Graeme Catto) in collaboration with other members of the South-East London Workforce

Development Confederation, is designed to foster the skills and attitudes required by students for inter-professional working. To this end all undergraduate students (1,200 each year) from seven health professions (nursing, midwifery, medicine, dentistry, dietetics, pharmacy, physiotherapy) admitted to the College from September 2002 and thereafter, will embark on a continuous programme of IPE, which is integrated with their uni-professional education programmes.

The IPE programme has distinct stages

### the initiative makes the patient, rather than the professional group, the starting point for education

representing progression from shared learning to joint decision-making and care-planning in partnership with patients, and much of it will take place in practice placements. Thus, the initiative makes the patient, rather than the professional group, the starting point for education. An evaluation is planned that will chart the programme's impact and enable it to be developed in the light of evidence.

For further information contact Professor Ian Norman in the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery. Email: [ian.j.norman@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ian.j.norman@kcl.ac.uk)

## Lambeth e-Learning Foundation

King's is one of the founder members of the newly created Lambeth e-Learning Foundation. The Government launched the e-learning initiative two years ago, which led to the creation of the National e-Learning Foundation.

The aim of the Foundation is to ensure that Lambeth Secondary School teachers and students have a portable or mobile Information Communications Technology (ICT) device connected to the internet that will enable them to access pow-

erful learning tools. It will also act as a focal point for identifying and encouraging sources of public and private funding as well as assisting funders and schools on tax-effective and cost-effective ways of providing and applying such funds.

Other founder members are Lambeth Council, LWT, Transmedia Gateway Ltd, Brixton Online Ltd, and the Council for British Teachers.

Each member will appoint a Trustee: for King's this will be Professor Susan Standing, Sub-



Professor Susan Standing

Dean for Admissions (Medicine). She is also the Chair of the Lambeth Education Business Partnership Advisory Board. Professor Standing said, 'Being a founder member of Lambeth e-Learning Foundation will be an effective, high profile means by which King's can strengthen its involvement with the local community and support the College's activities in widening participation.'

## King's spins

Academics from around the College are continuing to form spin-out companies to commercialise their research, with help from KCL Enterprises Ltd and the College's seed funds in biotechnology and IT. The two latest, described below, bring the King's total to 12.

### Cutting edge

With £250,000 funding from the Kinetique Biomedical Seed Fund (a joint venture between King's and Queen Mary, University of London) Odontis Ltd – a spin-out company – has been formed to commercialise novel approaches to dental treatment.

'Modern techniques of tooth replacement are still based on the idea of metal implants in the jaw, says Professor Paul Sharpe of the Guy's, King's & St Thomas Dental Institute, 'But our research is aimed at developing tooth

regeneration technology as an alternative.'

This patented technology, which has been licensed to Odontis Ltd, could play a major role in dental care of the future.

### Brain power

Scientists at King's are working on enabling computers to understand, speak, learn and eventually, think. Emeritus Professor John Taylor of the Department of Mathematics and colleagues, have created a technology called the Language Acquisition Device (LAD) which emulates especially the functions of the brain's frontal lobes where humans process language and emotion. It may ultimately be capable of generating a limited form of consciousness, as well as other parts involved in word and object representations.

'What we are trying to do is generate characters that can understand language by understanding what we mean and respond in a sensible manner,' said Professor Taylor.

Lobal Technologies Ltd, a newly created spin-out company from King's, is developing LAD.

At the moment, the LAD prototype has the learning ability of an 18-month old child. Professor Taylor and his team are confident it could have the language abilities of six-year-old child by the end of next year. The system works by using neural networks to mimic brain function. It then learns language as children do, not through rules and vocabularies, but through association and example.

'The crucial problem about interaction with your phone or your computer is not necessarily that it can recognise the words, but that it knows what they mean,' Professor Taylor said, 'We're trying to put a brain into the speaking system.'

One of the more immediate areas where the company sees the technology being used is in interactive entertainment such as video gaming.

# Mass spectrometry facility opens

A new mass spectrometry facility, funded from the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF), has opened in the Franklin-Wilkins Building. The funding has been used to develop shell space to provide a suitable environment for sophisticated mass spectrometers.

Mass spectrometry is a vital analytical technique in many chemical and biological sciences.

The Head of the School of Health & Life Sciences, Professor Phil Whitfield, opened the facility on 1 February. In his speech he said that the instruments, already available for use, the staffing and location, were a 'wonderful asset to the School'. He also praised the efforts of the Mass Spectrometry Steering Committee (formed in January 2000) and noted that on the back of its deliberations and activity there have been already been two successful Research Council awards (JREI) for instrumentation.

He singled out for special thanks Professor David Cowan (Chairman) and Dr Andrew Kicman (Scientific Secretary) of the Mass Spectrometry Steering Committee, Kevin Hoffman of the Estates Department, Nick Sait of Ecovert, and also the help received from the Finance Department, particularly Judith Barber, Assistant Director of Finance, and Mike Hansen, Director of Resources.

The Committee's terms of reference are 'to encourage and facilitate research grant applications requiring the use of sophisticated mass spectrometry equipment by members of the School of Health & Life Sciences and for collaborative grant applications with members of other Schools of the College. To provide a School management structure for overseeing the operation of the School mass spectrometry facility.'

Currently there are two instru-

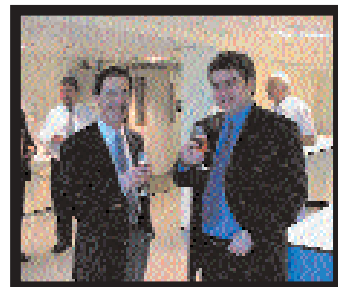
ments that members of the School can apply for free access to: an Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) for a rapid, sensitive way of measuring elemental concentrations of solutions, eg, iron; a Liquid Chromatograph coupled Mass Spectrometer/Mass and Spectrometer (LC-MS/MS) for the analysis of polar or thermolabile compounds.

The facility can house up to ten sophisticated instruments and more will become available in due course. A mass spectrometry facility website has also been set up:

[www.kcl.ac.uk/ms-facility](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ms-facility).

The College was awarded £27 million for new buildings and equipment under the Hefce/SRIF Stream 1 announced in July last year, as reported in *Comment* October 2001. The mass spectrometry facility is part of a combined bid with the School of Physical Sciences & Engineering and is the first to come to fruition. A separate collaboration with the Guy's, King's & St Thomas' School of Biomedical Sciences (for the LC-MS/MS instrument) illustrates the benefits of interdisciplinary collaborations.

Professor David Cowan and Dr Andrew Kicman celebrate the opening of the new mass spectrometry facility



## Spanish & Spanish-American Studies

The Department of Spanish & Spanish-American Studies at King's is celebrating gaining a 5\* rating in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise.

**S**panish (*la lengua española* or *la lengua castellana*) is one of the world's great languages. Spanish now has more native speakers than any other language in the world except Chinese. English has more non-native speakers than Spanish but fewer native speakers. Spanish is the

**Spanish now has more native speakers than any other language in the world except Chinese**

official language (but not always the only official language) of 21 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. Spanish is spoken by millions of people in the USA and also all over Europe and by many people in Northern Morocco.

There is no such thing as a single 'Latin-American Spanish'. Each of the 19 Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America has its own accents and its own slang and popular expressions. The difference between popular spoken Spanish in Mexico City and Buenos Aires is probably as great as between Buenos Aires and Madrid. Nevertheless, the written language and the language used by Latin Americans when talking to people from

other Spanish-speaking countries is fairly uniform everywhere, and its grammar is particularly so. Spanish has nothing like the baffling differences of pronunciation found, for example, between Tennessee, Scotland, Ireland, Yorkshire, London, South Africa and Jamaica. The difference between European Spanish and most varieties of Latin-American Spanish is probably no greater than between British and American English, so there are no fundamental problems of understanding. Millions of Spaniards watch Latin-American soap operas without any trouble.

### Language development

Spanish is descended from the Latin spoken in the Iberian Peninsula – modern Spain and Portugal – around the time of the birth of Jesus. This spoken Latin gradually broke up into different dialects, some of which became independent languages (Catalan, Portuguese, Galician, etc). Castilian, spoken in the north of the peninsula, came to be identified with the Christian reconquest of Spain from the Muslims. This long battle ended in 1492 when the Spanish monarchy regained all the territory until then under Muslim control. By then the Castilian dialect was recognized as the language of Spain, and it was this language that Christopher Columbus and his men first took to the 'New World'.

Below: A Mexican dancer performing a daily routine in the 'Zocalo', Mexico City's main square

### Spanish at King's

Spanish was first taught at King's in 1831, which means that the Department is one of the oldest in the country. At present, with around 170 undergraduate students and 20 graduate students on a variety of programmes, it is one of the largest departments of Spanish & Spanish-American Studies in the country. Half the teaching staff were born and brought up in Spain and Latin America, and there is a large contingent of native Spanish-speakers in the student body. This makes for an environment in which the culture of the Spanish-speaking countries is lived and spoken as an integral

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RICHARD HILL

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part of the life of the Department. In their year abroad, students go not only to Spain but also, through exchanges, to Chile, Argentina, Mexico, and some go to Peru, Cuba, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia.

## Departmental excellence

During the 1990s the King's Department consolidated its strength in four key areas: Medieval and Golden Age Studies, Modern Peninsular Studies, Latin American Studies and Descriptive Linguistics. These have underpinned both research and teaching, and the intellectual coherence of this basis has meant that consistently high ratings have been achieved in peer-assessed reviews. Dr Catherine Boyle, Head of the Department, describes the 5\* gained in the last RAE exercise as 'a welcome and inspiring recognition of the research of each individual member of the Department'.

She explains that the new rating (the Department previously had a 5) was gained as the Department went through a period of great change. 'We now look forward to building on this success in a number of key ways,' she says. 'We're looking at means of disseminating our research more widely, particularly (though not exclusively) that of

our graduate students, whose inter-disciplinary work has pioneered a series of innovative approaches to the particular demands of researching Spanish/American cultural expressions. We shall also be developing our in-house publications, the *KCL Hispanic Series* and *Difusión/Diffusion*, so that these become recognised publication venues for scholars in the field. We shall continue to organise conferences and seminars that are the focus for experimental work in literary and cultural studies. In this con-

## the Department is one of the oldest in the country

text, our work in visual and performing arts, film and cultural history looks set to blossom in the next few years. We value greatly the role we can play in all these areas in the equally exciting developments in the School of Humanities.'

Graduates from the Department go into all sorts of employment, ranging from the traditional humanities vocations of teaching and research, to law, accounting, publishing and the media. Many of the Department's postgraduates are in key academic posts in the UK, Europe and the USA. Catherine Boyle comments, 'What I, personally, value



Above: Ancient Mayan ruins in the forests of the Yucatán Peninsula

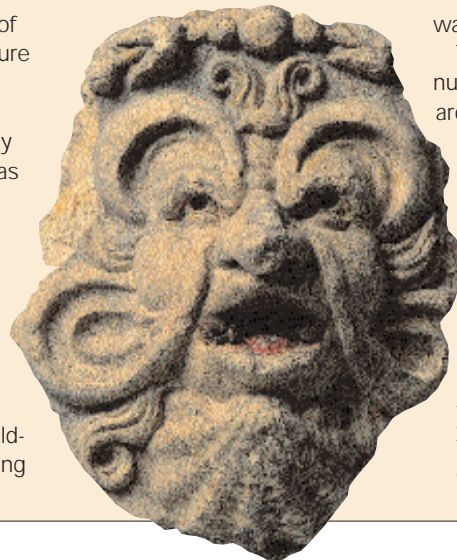
most about teaching in the humanities is the truly transformational role the study of literature and culture, married to the experience of study in a foreign country, can have on the individual student. Each year I am reminded of this by students proud of how they have grown over the four years of study and how their degree has shaped their thinking and their views of the world. I hope that, in the current environment, we can manage to maintain this role in all its richness in the future.'

## Somerset House: new exhibition

Excavations at Somerset House in 1999 unearthed fascinating remains of the Tudor and Stuart palace that once stood on the site. *The Old Palace Exhibition* opens at Somerset House on 28 March. Curated and designed by the Museum of London, it will give

an insight into two centuries of life at the palace, its architecture and its association with the Thames.

The exhibition tells the story of the palace from when it was first built by the Duke of Somerset in the 16th century until it was gradually demolished to make way for the present building during the last quarter of the 18th century. Objects on display include Tudor tile fragments, Stuart tableware, carved mouldings and digital images showing the palace as it was before it



was rebuilt.

This exhibition is one of a number of permanent displays around the city outside the Museum of London which aim to bring the Museum's core collections to Londoners across the city. It is supported by the Headley Trust.

Left: Stucco mask excavated from the courtyard of Somerset House, now on display in *The Old Palace Exhibition*

# The foundation of modern nursing

Mary Jones and 19th century nursing at King's College Hospital. The previous edition of *Comment* reviewed Florence Nightingale's establishment of nursing training at St Thomas'. This article describes the much less well-known developments in nursing and midwifery training which took place simultaneously at King's College Hospital.

**A**lthough the very first lecture delivered at the new King's College London seems to have been on a medical topic (at 0.800 on Monday 10 October 1831), the first King's College Hospital in Portugal Street did not open until 1840. Within a few years, the medical professors had become concerned about the standards of nursing there and they approached the Bishop of London about the problem. As a result, in July 1848, the Church of England founded its first nursing sisterhood, the Sisterhood of St John the Evangelist, commonly known as St John's House.



A nurse wearing the characteristic St John's uniform: late 19th century

In 1854 KCH invited Florence Nightingale, then superintendent of a home for gentlewomen in Harley Street, to take charge of the nursing at King's. Legend maintains that she accepted but

## King's College Hospital Nursing School predated Florence Nightingale's own foundation at St Thomas' by three years

the expedition to Scutari prevented her from taking up the post. Her dealings with King's, however, did bring her into contact with Sister Mary Jones, who had been appointed Lady Superintendent to St John's House the year before, and the two women soon became close friends and professional allies.

In 1856 the entire catering and nursing operations of King's College Hospital were 'contracted out' to St John's House in return for a payment of £800 a year. St John's provided 18 nurses and probationers with sisters to supervise them. In 1857 training started at King's and so the King's College Hospital Nursing School predated Florence Nightingale's own

foundation at St Thomas' by three years. Florence Nightingale indeed frequently turned to Mary Jones for advice and information, addressing her as 'my dearest friend'.

## Differing objectives

Florence Nightingale wanted to use the Nightingale Fund to extend the work of St John's, but the rules of the House required all probationers and nurses to be communicants of the Church of England. Florence Nightingale thought this would be an undesirable limitation, and no religious requirements were introduced at St Thomas'. The two schools also had differing objectives. St Thomas' existed to train training matrons while St John's trained the existing type of nurse. However, pupils of the Nightingale frequently spent a period as Associate Sisters of St John's and some Sisters entered as Lady Probationers at St Thomas'.

In May 1860 Florence Nightingale wrote to William Bowman, Dean of KCH, that Sister Mary 'wished to have a class of midwives'. Nightingale was particularly keen to support the training of midwives because of the urgent need for Parish

nurses in country parishes. She asked whether 'lying-in beds' could be set apart in King's for the training of midwives, who would 'be in all respects under the rules and belonging to the Society of St John's House'.

## Training commences

In January 1862 the Nightingale School for Midwives accordingly opened, with the Nightingale Fund bearing the whole cost of equipping and maintaining a ten-bedded 'lying-in' ward at King's. This School admitted around ten trainee midwives a year for six years, but in 1867 a severe and prolonged outbreak of puerperal fever brought the venture to an end. Mary Jones and many of the sisters left King's in 1868 to form a separate sisterhood, but St John's House

## The urgent need for Parish nurses in country parishes

subsequently trained and employed several hundred nurses in hospitals and other institutions.

In 1919 the Nightingale School and the training school of St John's merged, and were at first called the Nursing Association of St John and St Thomas. However, the two institutions rapidly integrated and became known again as the Nightingale School. In 1993 the Nightingale School of Nursing of St Thomas' and Guy's Hospital, and Normanby College (the nursing and paramedical school of King's College Hospital) combined to form the Nightingale Institute of King's College London. In 1998 the Department of Nursing Studies at King's and the Nightingale Institute were amalgamated, becoming the Florence Nightingale Division of Nursing & Midwifery, and in 1999 the Division became a free-standing School of the College under the same name.

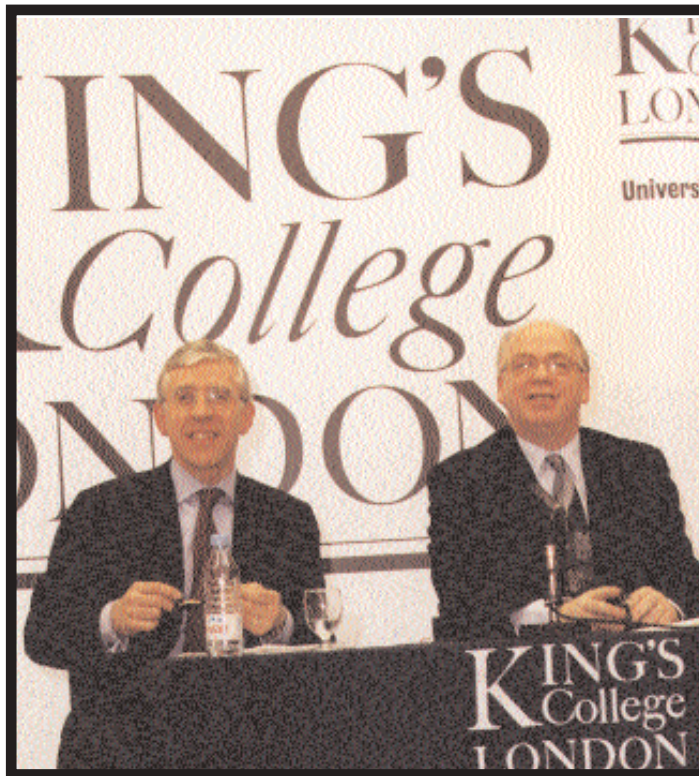
Christine Kenyon Jones

## Minister comes to King's

**F**oreign Secretary, Jack Straw, spoke on *Arms control: changing contexts and new challenges* at the Centre for Defence Studies at King's on 6 February.

In a wide-ranging speech on the past and future of arms control, Mr Straw stressed the commitment of the United Kingdom to the principles of multilateralism and international law in the approach to arms control. At a time when, he acknowledged, the US seems less interested in a multilateral approach to control, this statement of principle on the UK's stance was an important marker for the future.

During questions after the lecture, the Foreign Secretary made it clear that present US attitudes set the tone for other nations to live with, however he said, there was no alternative but to keep trying and working for more arms control. He



QuestionTime: The Foreign Secretary takes questions after his lecture. Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies and Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy chaired the event.

emphasised that the UK had a very good record on arms control and that the sceptics were simply wrong when they claimed

that the whole enterprise was no longer relevant to world peace and security.



Mike Hansen, Director of Resources and SAUL trustee

## Pension scheme celebrates 25 years

**S**AUL, the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London, which has over 9,300 members across the University and 1,300 at King's is regarded as one of the best schemes in the UK.

In this landmark 25th anniversary year, Saul has won two prestigious awards: one for Investment Strategy and the other for Trustee Excellence. Both were won in the face of strong competition from other UK pension schemes.

It is the role of the Trustees of SAUL to ensure the scheme is well managed and financially secure. Two members of King's staff are SAUL trustees, Mike Hansen, Director of Resources and Bill Causon, Assistant Site Services Manager at the Denmark Hill Campus.

The scheme provides generous retirement and death benefits, some of which are tax-free. On retirement members receive a pension of 1/80th of salary for each year of service, plus a lump sum of three times the pension. For members who die whilst working for King's there is a lump sum of four times salary and good pensions for dependants. Contributions of 5 per cent of pay are made by members, and if you join you pay lower tax and National Insurance contributions.

Recent stock market problems have not caused difficulties for SAUL.

Employees of King's who can join SAUL are mainly non-academic staff. This includes all part-time employees (possibly even if regular hours are not worked). If you cannot join one of the other schemes offered by King's you may still be able to join SAUL.

To learn more about the benefits or for information about joining, contact Dick Bywaters in the Payroll Office, ext 3067.

Mrs Penny Green FPMI  
Chief Executive, SAUL Trustee Company





King's College Hall

## Hall news

In order to support the extensive academic development programme the College plans to sell Wellington Hall in September 2002, along with a small section of the south side of the Hampstead Campus.

Over the years, countless groups of students have received a characteristically warm welcome at Wellington Hall. Traditionally a very sociable hall, Wellington is well known for its student parties and charity events.

Historically it began life as Vincent Square and was paid for by money raised by public appeal in the Church of England.

As such, it belonged to the theological part of King's which was technically separate from 1908 to 1980. The hostel was home to some Deans, as well as to many ordinands who went on to serve both the Church of England and the wider Anglican communion (including some 40 bishops still alive). When King's stopped training ordinands, the College bought Vincent Square and the proceeds became what is now the KCL Theological Trust.

## New developments

On the positive side, there are several new developments in the overall residential portfolio, with an increase in the proportion of ensuite rooms and a narrower fee range for students.

Plus the programme of developing the remaining accommodation continues with a commitment to good quality housing and value for money. Forthcoming schemes include:

- phased improvements at King's College Hall, focusing on redecorations and shower replacement
- redesign of the entrance foyer at Wolfson House to improve security
- upgrading of fire precautions across older stock
- repair of the roof of Bay House at Hampstead Campus to permit development of vacant space.

## Chief Justice of Kazakhstan visits

The keynote speaker at a seminar on alternatives to prison in East and Central Europe and Central Asia, held at King's on 8 February, was Mr Kayrat Mami, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan. The seminar was organised by the International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS) as part of its project on alternatives to prison in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Mr Mami, who is the highest law officer in Kazakhstan, outlined the new legal developments that were part of the process of democratisation following independence. Steps were being taken to secure the independence of the judiciary, protect the rights of the citizen against unjust actions by the state, consider the establishment of special courts to hear cases against children and juveniles, and possibly introduce jury trials in the most serious cases especially those where the death penalty could be imposed.

Sentencing reform was a prior-

ity Mr Mami said. Penalties should be concerned not just with punishment but also with the prevention of offences. At present 50 per cent of those sentenced were punished with a prison sentence, which was very high. There was a need to make the penalty system more humane and at the same time to improve prison conditions. The intention was to be severe with serious crime but humane with first time offenders, with women and with those under age.

Mr Mami was accompanied by Senator Ms Fedotova who is introducing alternatives to prison in Kazakhstan. She explained that three pilot projects will be set up, on community service, the reform of the criminal inspection system (a type of probation service) and special alternatives for women. A competition is being launched and advertised through the media, asking members of the public and voluntary organisations to submit ideas on how these pilot projects should be run.

The seminar brought together experts on alternative sentencing from Russia, Slovenia, Romania, Latvia, Czech Republic and the



Netherlands and the Chargé d'Affaires from the Kazakh Embassy, Kairat Abdrakhmanov.

The event was filmed for Kazakhstan television by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

Mr Kayrat Mami, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan

Vivien Stern  
Senior Research Fellow, ICPS



Scientists at work and play: Professor M R C Greenwood, Chancellor of the University of California at Santa Cruz with Dr Goery Delacôte, Executive Director of the Exploratorium in San Francisco, and King's Principal, Professor Arthur Lucas, at the launch of the Centre for Informal Learning and Schools (CILS) in February. The Centre, which aims to improve science teaching and learning, is a collaboration between the three institutions. The launch took place in February at the Exploratorium, which utilises an astounding array of installations to engage children in science activities that are both fun and educational.

## Law book

The Centre of European Law held a very successful international conference on *Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships* in July 1999. Following on from that a 47-contributor, 790-page book of the same name, edited by Robert Wintemute, Reader in Law, with honorary co-editor Mads Andenas, former Director of the Centre of European Law, was published by Hart Publish-

ing of Oxford last October.

It was launched at the House of Commons' ultra-modern Portcullis House on 9 January. Over 50 people attended including Stonewall's Angela Mason OBE, Richard Hart and Jane Parker from Hart Publishing, Britain's pre-eminent human rights lawyer, Lord Anthony Lester of Herne Hill QC, Lord Justice Stephen Sedley of the Court of Appeal, a number of MPs from both sides of the house, and Martin Bowley QC (Bar Lesbian

and Gay Group).

Lord Lester (Liberal Democrat) spoke about his Civil Partnerships Bill, a private member's bill he had introduced in the House of Lords earlier that day.

Robert Wintemute said, 'I hope the book will prove helpful to parliamentarians and judges when dealing with the question of equality for same-sex couples in Britain.'

Dr Robert Wintemute  
Reader in Law

## Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Is it a sign of our violent times that your front page caption 'King's has lent one of its finest works of art to Tate Britain' (*Comment* February 2002) is set to remind us of Pietro



Torrigiano as the breaker of Michelangelo's nose rather than as the maker of Henry VII's tomb in Westminster Abbey?

Yours very truly,

Professor  
Robert Weale  
Visiting Senior  
Research Fellow,  
ACIOG

## In brief

### Middle East

Efraim Karsh, Professor of Mediterranean Studies, has recently given several high-level talks and briefings on the continuing Middle East conflict. These include an invited audience for the Council of Christian and Jews; a briefing to the Conference of American Jewish Presidents (the representative body of Jewish organisations in the United States) on their visit to London and an invited guests of the South Asia Forum

### Student elections

The annual KCLSU elections for the executive, including the five sabbatical posts, and the SRC take place in early March. This year sees a new executive structure for the Union. Results will be announced in the next edition of *Comment*.

### Sam West

One of Britain's best young actors was spotted at Professor Ann Thompson's inaugural lecture *Infinite jest: the comedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* on 11 February. Sam West is currently playing Hamlet in the RSC's production at The Barbican.

### Alanis Morissette

One of the world's biggest-selling female singers played a one-off gig at Tutu's last month. Her first two albums sold over 40 million copies and she is about to release her third, *Under Rug Swept*. Tutu's is a popular venue for record companies to showcase their top acts.

## City Hospital

The daily hour-long programme starring patients and staff of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals is well under way on BBC1. Introduced by Matthew Kelly, Kate Humble and Akhtar Khan, it follows the trials and triumphs of life at the Trust

and includes live broadcasts from Accident & Emergency and maternity. The stories of some of the 2,000 patients and staff will be featured. A number of the College's medical and dental students, plus staff, have also appeared.

Matthew Kelly  
and new friends



### Computer security

Following a number of thefts of computer equipment in recent weeks, departments are asked to review their local security arrangements for such equipment. To assist the local Site Services teams on each campus, all staff are asked to:

1 secure any equipment within their department with a recommended security device and to ensure that there is a record of the serial numbers in the departmental inventory

2 lock offices even when they are only vacated for a few moments

3 remove all personal laptops from College premises at weekends and out-of-hours

4 report any suspicious behaviour immediately to security

5 bring your ID with you and sign in if you are entering the College out-of-hours, as this helps ensure that unauthorised individuals are not allowed on to College premises

If you would like details of recommended suppliers of security devices, please contact your local Site Services offices.

## The Bacchae

### Greek Play 2002 review

With a devil-may-care young fertility God as protagonist, a cross dressing King, and a Queen who gets entranced to the extent that she 'accidentally' beheads her son – *The Bacchae* is not an easy tragedy for any company to tackle. According to producer Ismene Lada Richards, King's productions of this play have also had the reputation of being cursed. So, as a non-speaker or even reader of Ancient Greek, it was with some trepidation that I ventured over to Guy's Greenwood Theatre on a windy afternoon in February.

On arrival, my fears were immediately allayed by the theatre itself – a good, functional, modern building with vibrant orange walls! Victoria McGuinness's

striking blue-green set was split to depict, on one side, the wild mountain landscape, on the other the demure and sophisticated architecture of the city. Between the two was the skene – a muslin draped upper stage reserved for *deus ex machina* intervention and hazy tableaux.

But this was not a typically traditional production. Indeed it was refreshingly untraditional, without being archly 'modern'. A combination of simple costumes (muted cotton shift and Indian pyjamas for the men, black open sleeved leotards and burgundy silk wraps for the women), a haunting score, clear programme notes and several key moments delivered in English rather than Greek ensured that an uninitiated audience would err on-side.

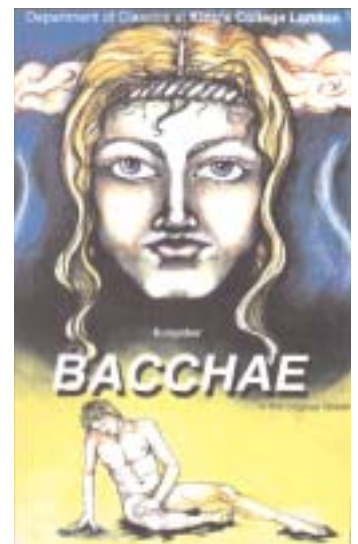
It was the performances, however, that really won them over.

Anastasios Samaras, a Greek drama student at RADA, set a fine standard as Dionysus and the rest of the cast seemed to benefit by his example. The men were all strong, particularly George Papaioannou – a tragicomic Pentheus, as well as Daniel Hadas as a rich voiced Teiresias, a sympathetic Cadmus (Edward Yong) and two clear and expressive messengers (Chris Batchelder and Dean Abrahams). The chorus had its expected weak links and director Annie Phillips, excellent as Pentheus' tragic mother, Agave, was confusingly indistinguishable from the other bacchic revellers in the penultimate scenes.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of King's Greek play and submissions of potential plays are being invited by Executive Producer, Ismene Lada Richards. If it turns out to be

half as good as this year's *Bacchae*, there'll be dancing in the aisles for sure.

Ali Redford  
Public Relations



# In the news

## Vive la loi!

Eva Steiner, Lecturer in French Law, took part in a discussion on BBC Radio 4's *Law in Action* programme, about whether English law should have a general right to privacy similar to that in France.

## Re-assessing assessment

A new matriculation diploma for 19-year olds was discussed by Assistant Principal, Professor Dylan Wiliam, on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*. Professor Wiliam's comments were then widely quoted in the national broadsheet and tabloid press.

## Local links

As Chair of the Bankside Open Spaces Trust, Justin Dillon of the Department of Education & Professional Studies was interviewed for BBC Radio 4's *Changing Places*, about the work of some of Southwark's community environmental projects.

## He should be so lucky

Diminutive Kylie Minogue has the substantial brain of style guru Will Baker behind her. The recent revival in Ms Minogue's pop fortunes was attributed to the King's theology alumnus by *The Times*.

## Teaching thinking

The publication of a new pack of materials for Year 1 children called *Let's think* by Professor Philip Adey of the Centre for Advancement of Thinking Skills (with Anne Robertson and Grady Grenville), was the springboard for an article in *The Sunday Times* on teaching children how to think, with comments by his

colleague Professor Michael Shayer. It also formed an item on BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*.

## Mind blowing

A startling colour image of the brain of Dr Robert Howard (also seen in this year's *College Report*) and the comments of his colleague Dr Derek Jones featured in a *Guardian* news story about the groundbreaking work of the Neuroimaging Department at the Institute of Psychiatry.

## Jazzed up

Music student Paddy Milner appeared on BBC Radio 4's *Loose Ends* in an edition featuring Dame Judi Dench, among others. He performed on piano with his trio the title track from his acclaimed debut album *21st Century Boogie*.

## Moving goal posts

The benefits or otherwise of business speak were up for discussion on BBC Radio 4's *Shoptalk*, with Tony Thorne, Head of the Language Centre, explaining the various reasons behind the use of jargon.

## Bad apples

Professor Tom Sanders, Head of Department of Nutrition & Dietetics, in a debate organised by Food Foundation at the London Business School, criticised the School Fruit Scheme which is costing £52 million and involves giving each child between four and six years old a piece of fruit every day as a snack.

His comments that dental advice for children advocated avoiding consuming acidic and sugary foods such as apples between meals struck a raw nerve with the media. He also commented that modern

varieties of apples now contain 50 per cent more sugar than traditional varieties and only provide trivial amounts of vitamins. Various interpretations of this appeared on *GMTV*, in *The Sunday Times*, *Daily Mail* and in Mo Mowlam's column in the *Sunday Mirror*.

## Positive encouragement

Reader in Criminology & Criminal Justice in the School of Law, Dr Ben Bowling, suggested to the *Financial Times* that offering disaffected youth alternative ways of getting on in life through community programmes and a stake in the future was more likely to reduce urban and suburban crime than increased prison sentences.

## Birthrights?

An extract of a lecture on the ethical options genetic engineering offers potential parents by Professor Jonathan Glover, Director of the Centre for Medical Law & Ethics, to a British Institute of Human Rights meeting at King's, was featured in *the Independent's* Podium column.

## Sick soldiers

Dr Edgar Jones' research, carried out by the Department of Psychological Medicine and Institute of Psychiatry, demonstrating that the symptoms displayed by Gulf War Syndrome sufferers were not confined to soldiers who had served in the Gulf, was widely reported in the national press.

## New world order

'Will the cry of terrorism be used, as communism was, by repressive regimes to suppress dissent?' was one of the questions posed by Professor

Lawrence Freedman, Head of the School of Social Science & Public Policy, in his column in *the Independent*. Professor Freedman also recently reviewed a book on the role of Whitehall during the Cold War for the *Evening Standard*.

## Older mothers

The trend for older childbearing has increased the probability of Down's syndrome, according to Andrew Shennan, Senior Lecturer in Gynaecology and Fetal Medicine, in *The Times*. The likelihood of having a Down's baby is one in 100 among women aged 40, and rises to one in 20 by 45.

## Hard-hitting report

Professor Kevin Gournay and his team at the Institute of Psychiatry have urged the NHS to train staff to deal with violent and potentially violent patients, in a new UKCC report on the recognition, prevention and therapeutic management of violence in mental health care, as reported in the *Nursing Times*.

## Bad buzz

Around 2,000 Britons each year contract malaria, according to Dr Larry Goodyear of the Pharmacy Department in the *Daily Mail*. Symptoms are very flu-like but, if left untreated, can prove fatal unless prescribed pills are taken daily.

## Fat chance

Expert to the *Daily Express's* Slim.Fast Challenge, Dr Tony Leeds, Lecturer in Nutrition, has been overseeing the weight loss of an entire family from Livingstone, West Lothian.

Ali Redford  
Public Relations

## Marching on

**A**round 300 King's students turned out for the NUS National Demonstration against student hardship on 20 February. In total there were over 10,000 students from all corners of the UK.

The Demonstration started outside the University of London and went to Trafalgar Square via the Houses of Parliament. It was well supported by the trade unions, with the AUT, Unison, NATFHE and the TUC all speaking in support of the NUS at the after march rally. Politicians who attended included Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, and David Rendell MP, Liberal Democrat HE spokesperson.

Students' concerns are the huge levels of hardship suffered since the abolition of the grant and the introduction of tuition fees. The average debt for a student upon graduation is some £12,000 and this rises to £30,000 for students on longer courses such as dentistry and medicine. This is a doubling of the debt experienced by students leaving in 1998.

More students than ever take on part-time work just to survive and for many it is the choice between the shift at the supermarket or the lecture.

The Government is currently reviewing the student support arrangements in the light of surveys undertaken during the 2001 General Election, which showed that the abolition of grants and the introduction of fees were the Government's most unpopular policy amongst the general public.

Both the NUS and KCLSU are hopeful that the review will be beneficial for students especially, as from September, England will be the only area of the UK where students cannot apply for a grant. In Northern Ireland and Scotland, they have also abolished tuition fees, a power that the Welsh Assembly does not possess.

However, there is still a long way to go, particularly as the Government is considering putting commercial rates of interest on student loans, which will be disastrous for those students who enter the low paid professions such as teaching and nursing.

Chris Piper  
President, KCLSU

## Student honours

**E**very year KCLSU awards people who have given exemplary service to either the Union or have benefited the students in some way. This year, King's students (through the SRC) are honouring two distinguished King's alumni with Honorary Life Membership. The Right Reverend Desmond Tutu and the impressionist Rory Bremner have received this award for their achievements in life since leaving King's.

Desmond Tutu receives his award for his life's work fighting apartheid in the 1970s and 1980s. Indeed this is not the first time Desmond Tutu has been honoured by the KCLSU. In 1992 the main night-club in the Union was named Desmond Tutu Hall or 'Tutu's' in his honour and in 1996 a large bust of him was erected, with the support of the Development Trust, in the venue.

Rory Bremner receives his award for his distinguished service in the world of public entertainment. Bremner's political satire and impressions being much loved by the students of the College, it was

felt that Honorary Life Membership would be a means of showing the students appreciation for the work of a former King's student.

Also awarded by the students are Laurels, which are given for exceptional service to the students of the College. This year King's staff who have been awarded Laurels include the Dean of King's College, The Revd Dr Richard Burrigge and the Chaplain, Revd Tim Ditchfield. Both were honoured for their pastoral work in the College over the last few years and for bringing together people of all faiths.

Chris Piper  
President, KCLSU



Good  
impression:  
Rory Bremner,

Honorary Life  
Member of  
KCLSU

## Well played

**A**s the Lent term draws to an end, the Students' Union maintains its high tempo of activity from musical productions on the stage to national success in the sporting arena. The sporting developments have been mirrored by improvement to facilities: the netball courts at the Honor Oak Sportsground have been relaid, while preliminary meetings have been held between College and the Union to begin the long task of constructing an artificial playing surface at one of the four sportsgrounds.

KCL Men's Squash remains on course to win in their British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) league and to gain promotion to the Premier Division, placing them in the top eight teams in the country. GKT

Women's Squash has mirrored their male KCL counterparts and again hope to be in the top eight female teams in the country next session; KCL Men's Tennis is also in the same position.

In University of London competitions, KCL Men's Hockey team have been crowned champions of the Premier League, narrowly beating their GKT opponents to the title. The GKT Ladies Rugby football club had an impressive win over UCL, notching up a whopping score of 113-0, putting them on the way to the final of the UL Cup.

The standard of sport at King's is steadily improving confirming that academic and extra-curricular success can be achieved together.

King's Musical Theatre Society is staging a production of *Grease* in the Greenwood Theatre at the Guy's Campus between the 13 and 15 March, while King's Players have

recently completed a staging of *The Invention of Love* by Tom Stoppard. Indeed, look out around College for at least five productions by such groups as the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and the Dance Society, whose production last year played to sell out crowds.

Away from the stage other societies are becoming more and more successful each academic year. Salsa is one of the most popular with some 400 members. Additionally the activities of various societies, for example, the Sikh, Jewish and Debating, increase in size and frequency, contributing to the extremely healthy and diverse life that characterises KCLSU.

Alex Siddell  
VP Sports and Societies, KCLSU

# Obituaries

## Rt Hon Sir Frank Cooper, GCB, CB, CMG, PC, FKC 1922–2002

A career civil servant, following war service as a Spitfire pilot: he was downed and escaped, Sir Frank Cooper, earned himself a reputation as a skilled negotiator. In the 1950s he led some 109 meetings with Archbishop Makarios to achieve a settlement over British bases in Cyprus. In 1973, faced with the introduction of direct rule in Northern Ireland, he rapidly established a Northern Ireland Office and a climate of business that allowed him to jump in a taxi and pay a surprise visit to Gerry Fitt's home when negotiations got particularly tough. A ceasefire was achieved in 1975. As Permanent Under Secretary at MOD, in the six years leading up to the Falklands War, it was Frank Cooper who implemented the savage manpower review that would ensure effective support for a fighting force more than 8,000 miles away.

His management style has been variously described as 'buccaneering' and 'administration by outrage'. His approach to the Select Committees was similarly explained as pugnacious, forthright and cunning. He was never

a mandarin's mandarin. When boots leaked in the Falklands he called it 'inexcusable'.

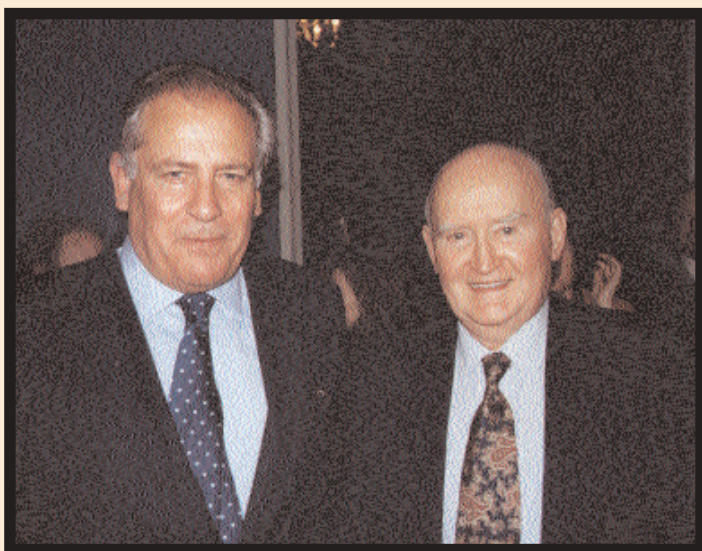
In retirement, as well as taking on several commercial directorships, Frank Cooper became a member of King's College London Council (1981-1989), Chairman of the Delegacy of King's College Medical and Dental School (1983-1989), and after some years as a trustee, Chairman of the Trustees of the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, a post he held from 1987 until his death. He was elected a Fellow of King's in 1987.

In these capacities King's learnt to value Frank Cooper's breadth of experience, his ability to cut to the chase, a trenchant sense of humour, and the generosity, with which he gave his time and support. His papers systematically organised and donated to the Centre during his lifetime, remain his abiding legacy to the College.

Patricia Methven  
Director of Archive Services

Sir Frank Cooper (right) pictured with General Sir Charles

Guthrie, then Chief of Defence Staff, at the 2001 Liddell Hart Lecture.



## John Taylor 1941–2002

Lecturer in the Department of French

John Taylor, who died in January, had been a member of the French Department for over 40 years. He arrived at King's as an undergraduate in 1961 and, after a successful year as an Assistant in a French school, obtained an outstanding First, extracting astonishingly high marks from the notoriously parsimonious federal examiners.

He then took up a post as Lecteur at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, and spent two years in Paris working towards an MPhil, on the political thought and activities of Jean-Paul Sartre. The relationship between Sartre's thought and his literary output, and the rivalry between Sartre and Albert Camus, remained the central themes of John's research and teaching after his return to King's as Assistant Lecturer in 1967. Devoted also to the novelists of the 19th century, he inspired generations of students to embark upon the intimidating tomes of Emile Zola and his contemporaries.

John became an important part of that formidable team of modernists who established the University of London's reputation in the field for innovative research and enlightened teaching.

John was among the first to recognise the potential of IT. Single-handedly he guided his faltering colleagues towards a modicum of competence. Modestly, John claimed to know only six things about computers; miraculously, one of the six invariably produced a solution to the most intractable problem. He revolutionised the Department's language teaching by developing a mercifully user-friendly CALL programme, and fostered the innovative degree in French with Applied Computing. He pioneered the Depart-

mental website and the characteristically affable yet practical Departmental newsletters *Sud-Ouest* and *L'Est Républicain*.

Always keen to broaden his teaching, he had recently developed courses, heavily subscribed as always, in critical theory and the analysis and interpretation of narrative.

His genial presence and patient practicality will be long remembered; one of his last duties was to supervise the examination process and chair an entire day of gruelling meetings with his customary unflappability and wit. The College has lost a good and faithful servant; for the Department, as a colleague, mentor, and friend, he is, simply, irreplaceable.

Michael Heath  
Department of French

## John Townsend

Fellow and Chairman of Chelsea College Council

John Townsend served on the governing body of Chelsea College from 1955 to 1972 and for all but five of those years he was its Chairman.

During his involvement with the College it went through a particularly demanding period that embraced the transition from polytechnic to university status.

In 1973 at a ceremony at Chelsea Town Hall, he was presented as one of the first Honorary Fellows of Chelsea College.

## Memorial Service

The Memorial Service of Professor Albinia de la Mare, former Professor of Palaeography at King's, will be held in the College Chapel on 28 May. Time to be confirmed.



## Death of College donor

**C**anadian-born Garry Weston, one of British industry's best known names as well as Chairman of The Garfield Weston Foundation, which has long been associated with King's, has died.

Credited for being the inventor of the Wagon Wheel, Mr Weston served on the board of ABF for 51 years. He joined in 1947, becoming Chairman and Chief Executive in 1967, a position he held for 33 years. He turned the sprawling bakery empire (whose principal product was sliced, wrapped bread) created by his father, into a coherent billion pound multinational food group. He focused on its Allison and Kingsmill bread and Ryvita and Twinings teas. ABF's most successful acquisition, British Sugar, was led by Mr Weston in 1990. The Weston family also own Fortnum & Mason and Mr Weston was appointed a director in 1951 and Chairman in 1978.

The Garfield Weston Foundation donates many millions to

charitable causes in the areas of medical research, the arts and education. The Weston Education Centre at the Denmark Hill Campus was created thanks to a £1 million donation, and the most recent gift from the Foundation, also for £1 million, was towards the Maughan Library. In recognition of this donation, the room formerly known as the Rolls Room has been renamed the Weston Room.

Left: The Weston Education Centre

Below: Garry Weston (1927-2002)



## Law score

**C**ollege authorities aren't concerned about this attacker at King's as he only strikes on the football pitch. Dubbed the Professor of Priestfield by team mates, Gillingham striker Iffy Onuora spends his spare time studying for a postgraduate certificate in sports law at King's.

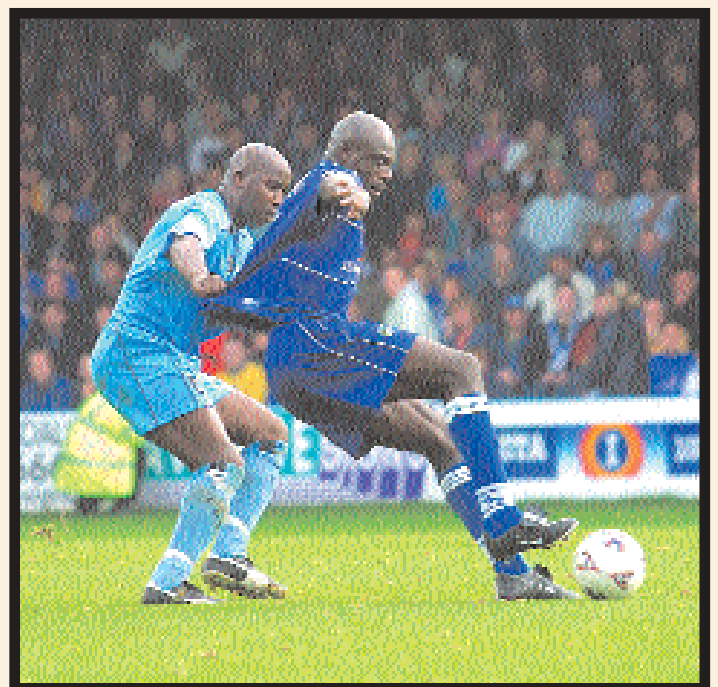
The course covers how sport and law interact both in the UK and EU. Topics include the history and development of sports law, sport and litigation, competition law, image and broadcasting rights, players' contracts and ethical aspects of sports law.

'I just have to organise my time properly for study as I have

to write a 5,000-word dissertation and take exams at the end of May,' said Iffy. He already has a degree in economics, but this qualification should help his career when he steps off the pitch.

'Working in sports administration is something that may appeal to me when I pack up playing, although I must stress that's a few years off yet.' In the meantime Gillingham fans look forward to his appearances on the pitch. The last time he scored was against Coventry City with a stylish 40 yard drive that has taken his tally to eight goals this season.

Iffy Onuora (dark blue) sees off an opponent



## Principal unveiled

A remarkable portrait of the Principal, Professor Arthur Lucas, was unveiled in the presence of the artist, June Mendoza, at a reception which also celebrated the knighthood for Vice-Principal Professor Sir Graeme Catto.

The portrait shows the Principal seated, wearing his PhD robes from Ohio State University. It will hang in the Committee Room (alongside pictures of previous principals dating back to the 19th century).

June Mendoza is widely regarded as one of the most notable and successful portrait painters of the day. Her commissions have included members of the royal family, prime ministers, sports personalities and famous musicians. Former staff she has portrayed include King's Principal, Professor John Beynon, Vice-Principal and former Principal of UMDS, Sir Cyril Chantler, Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry, Professor Stuart

Checkley, College Secretary, Mr Bill Slade and QEC Principal, Professor Kenneth Denbigh.

Her skill has been attributed to her ability to reveal something of the character and personality of her subjects. The background of her portraits is often significant, and for the Principal an aerial map of his home city, Melbourne, with Port Philip Bay, was chosen.

The Principal reported that the experience of watching her work was fascinating, and that seeing portraits and part-finished images of others in her studio during sittings last summer helped him learn quite a lot about her!

The Principal, Professor Arthur Lucas, with artist, June Mendoza



## Profile

The Public Relations Office is about to publish *Profile 2002-2003*: a useful, pocket-sized booklet that gives a clear snapshot of King's today. The information contained includes the College history, facts and figures on student numbers and the financial position, research and teaching statistics, details of senior College staff and



Campus addresses. The text is interspersed with images of King's and London.

The brochure is an ideal publication to give anyone who needs quick access to information about King's, for example, new staff, visitors, external bodies, etc.

Copies of *Profile 2002-2003* will be available at College receptions and from the Public Relations office, ext 3202 or email [pr@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:pr@kcl.ac.uk).



## What's on at King's

Enclosed with *Comment* is *What's on*, a diary of events open to the public. Over 90 lectures, seminars and colloquia are listed.

Events at King's can also be found at [www.kcl.ac.uk/phpnews/wmview.php?ArtCat=3](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/phpnews/wmview.php?ArtCat=3)



## King's granted stem cell licence

Academics at King's have been granted one of the first two UK licences to produce human embryonic stem cell lines. This is the first time scientists have been allowed to work on developing embryonic stem cells for research as all previous embryo work has been for fertility treatment or other medical therapy.

The licence was approved by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) on 1 March and comes only days after a House of Lords report agreed that embryonic stem cell research of this kind could go ahead. This makes King's, together with the Centre for Genome Research in Edinburgh, one of only two places in the world legally permitted to perform such pioneering work.

The licence is granted to three College researchers: Dr Stephen Minger, Dr Susan Pickering and Professor Peter Braude, who also works for the Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust.

Commenting on the HFEA's decision, Dr Minger, a neurobiologist in the Guy's, King's & St Thomas' School of Biomedical Sciences said, 'This is a very exciting day for science in the UK. The HFEA decision is a fantastic step forward for research in this country and the hope is that the results of this research will one day be applied to treating human diseases such as diabetes and Parkinson's Disease, as well as looking at the causes of infertility and miscarriage.'

'It has taken a lot of hard work by the team to get this far. Now the real challenge has begun and we're going to start work on increasing our knowledge of embryo development straight away.'