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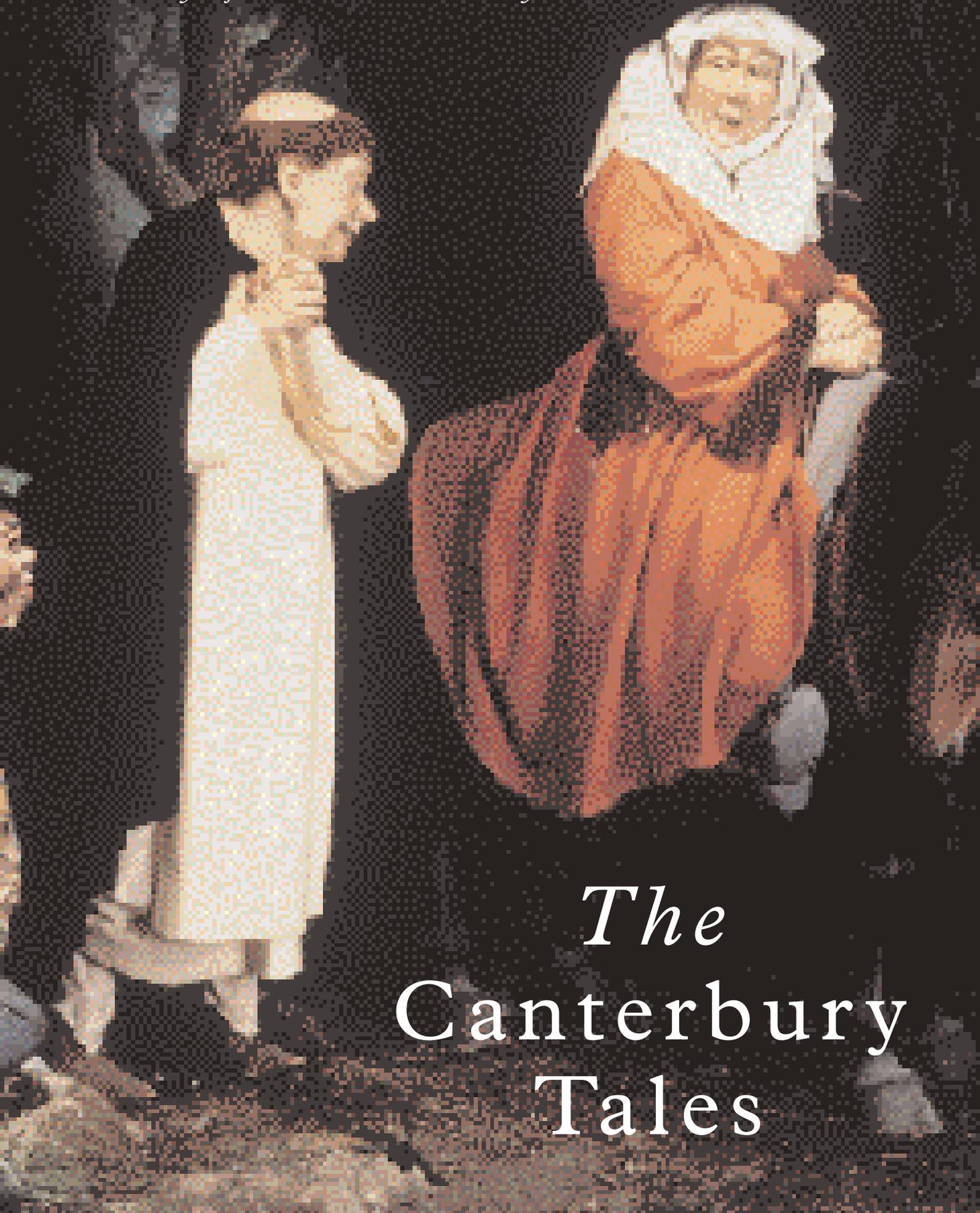
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Kent *Bulletin*

University of Kent at Canterbury · Number 35 Autumn 2000



The Canterbury Tales

Alumni letters

To: kent-grads@ukc.ac.uk

I studied Drama & Computing at Kent, a degree that has attracted much attention over the years. I first joined this list over 5 years ago when I worked for Adobe Systems in the US. I left Adobe to work as Director of IT for a print company in Dublin. It was fun for a while, lots to do and every day was different. But the pressure was never ending and I wasn't happy. So in November 1999, I resigned, and on 1 January struck out on my own. I wanted to get back to 'basics', whatever they are. I decided to work at home and spend more time on my lighting sculptures (<http://www.sculptlight.com>) and dancing Salsa. My commute is now 10 seconds down to my computer in the sun-filled sitting room. I earn cash from contract programming, and when not programming I am either working on lighting

sculptures or teaching Salsa dancing. I danced Jive at UKC and then learned ballroom in the US. When I came over to Dublin, Salsa was the craze. So if you

are in the Dublin area, please feel free to drop me a line.

From: ivan@sculptlight.com

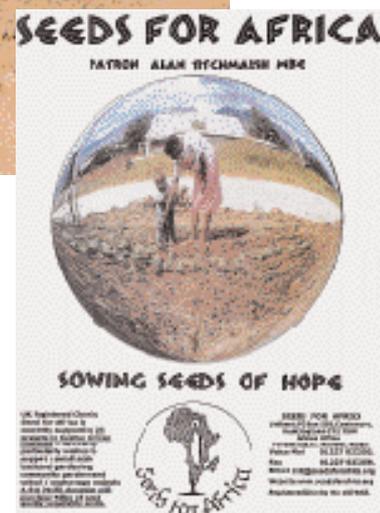
Ivan Markovic R87

<http://www.sculptlight.com>

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The Majordomo software will take your 'from' address and subscribe you accordingly. Kent-grads is an open list, for UKC alumni to discuss relevant subjects - favourite (or worst!) memories of Kent, to track down old friends, or to announce job possibilities, get-togethers or other appropriate matters. We use it from time to time to seek your views and advice. Please subscribe!



From Daniel Gibbin R97

Re: *Seeds for Africa*

My years at UKC were always action packed. From Students' Union activities and demos to walking in the Brecon Beacons, life was never dull and I will always remember it. However possibly the most fulfilling contribution I made was through the work of 'Seeds for Africa', the fantastic UKC charity started by Rutherford porters Albert Bullock and Ron Taylor in 1998. Many of you already know about the charity. While studying for my degree, I spent a large amount of time fundraising. From the infamous bean slide to being Father Christmas at the ball; from writing begging letters - not just to my bank - to answering enquiries about the charity's fundraising activities, which included skydiving, white-water rafting, even bungee jumping.

The charity's aim is very basic - to provide vegetable seeds to needy families in Africa, allowing real sustainable development. It receives no government funding and has no paid staff - yet it has made such an impact, both on those of us who have been involved with helping, and on many farmers in Africa.

Seeds for Africa is currently supporting 23 projects in 12 African countries. The charity particularly wishes to support small-scale backyard gardening, community gardens and school or orphanage projects. A £10 donation will purchase 50kg of good-quality vegetable seeds. The Patron is Alan Titchmarsh MBE. To get involved, write Seeds for Africa, University of Kent, PO Box 581, Canterbury CT2 7SW. www.seedsforafrica.org

From the British Council in Saudi Arabia

Our three offices in Jeddah, Riyadh and Damman are building databases of Saudi alumni of UK universities, and we have established an association of alumni with various benefits, including discounts on travel with British Airways. Members are regularly invited to special events, such as dinner with the Ambassador or other visiting speakers, education fairs and receptions with visiting dignitaries. Through a range of activities, we are trying to build upon the experience that Saudi alumni have had of the UK so that more students are encouraged to study in the UK. Please contact the British Council, West Saudi Arabia, 4th Floor, the Middle East Centre, Falasteen Street, PO Box 3424, Jeddah 21471 Saudi Arabia or enquiries@bc-jeddah.bccouncil.org, if you would like to get involved.

From Tara Emery R94

(SU President 97-98)

I am running the New York Marathon in November to raise money for the Trinity Hospice, where I work, and I was wondering if you could please tell alumni in the autumn *Bulletin*. If people would like to sponsor me, please contact me at: tarae@trinityhospice.org.uk

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The wife of Bath's Tale
at The Canterbury Tales
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Page 16; Mel Calman,
Sunday Times 12.4.81; page
17, both by Bill McArthur in
The Glasgow Herald, 27.1.99;
and page 17 above, 'Hullo,
Ground control... I think
we've a bug in the computer.'
19.8.97.

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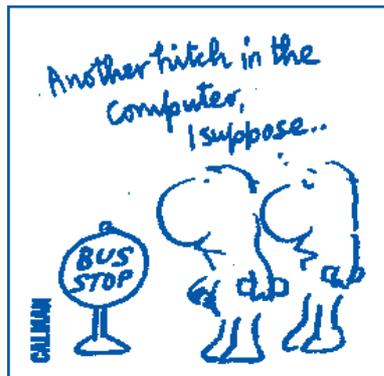
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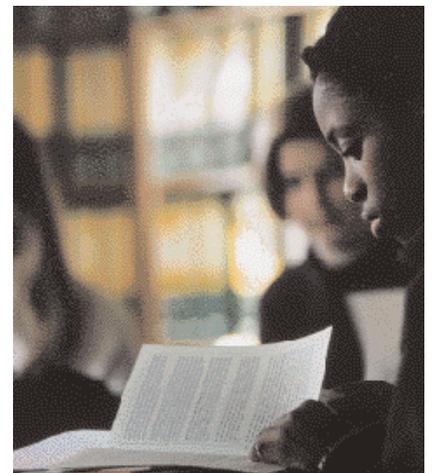
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year for alumni and friends
of the University of Kent at
Canterbury. It is sent to all
alumni world-wide who
keep us up to date with their
current whereabouts.



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UKC reaches out to local businesses

A grant of more than half a million pounds has been awarded to the University to help develop its work with businesses in the local region. The grant from the Higher Education Reach-out to Business and the Community Fund (HEROBAC), means Kent is now able to build on its already impressive track record and make it even easier for local business to gain access to UKC's high-quality research, consultancy and education services.

Vice-Chancellor to step down in August 2001

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robin Sibson, has announced his decision to retire from his post next year. 'When I took up the post in

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE. SUE SHEPHERD, WITH VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR ROBIN SIBSON AT THE LONDON ALUMNI RECEPTION.

1994 it was for a seven-year term of office, with the possibility of a further three-year extension', he said. 'I have now informed the Pro-Chancellor that I have decided not to seek any extension, and I shall accordingly complete my period of appointment at the end of August 2001.' Professor Sibson will then be 57.



By this time next year, the University will have passed a number of landmarks. The first round of external subject reviews, or teaching assessments, will be complete, and the higher education sector will be adjusting to a new Teaching Quality Assessment system. We shall be keenly awaiting the outcome of our submission to the next Research Assessment Exercise - which the VC believes we can look forward to with justified confidence.

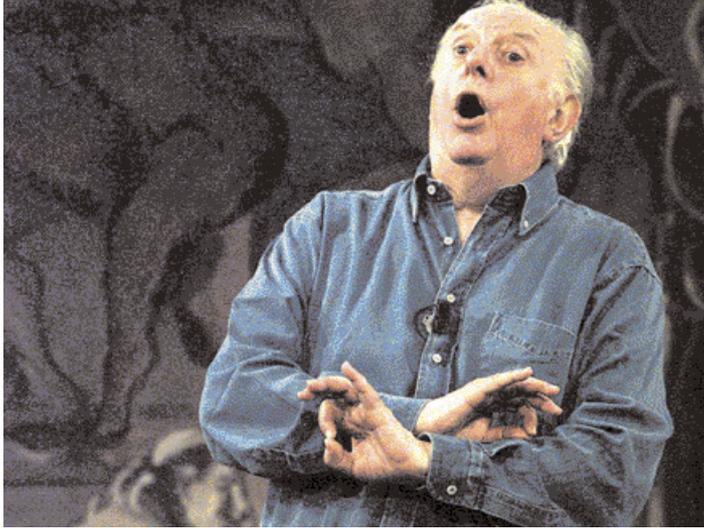
Recent outstanding achievements for UKC will also have had an impact on the shape of the University by then - in particular our success in winning considerable student numbers for 'widening participation'; the important regional partnerships we are entering into; and the Prime Minister's

High Flyers

TO CELEBRATE THEIR GRADUATION IN JULY, STEPHEN SUCH (EA:97), CHRIS HINES (DA:97) AND ROBIN DAY (RA:97), ALL THEN MEMBERS OF UKC'S PARACHUTE CLUB AND GRADUATES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, DECIDED TO PARACHUTE JUMP ONTO THE UNIVERSITY PLAYING FIELDS. EMILY HORWICH (KH:99) AND CHRIS PILLINGS (EA:97), WHO WILL GRADUATE IN 2003 AND 2002

RESPECTIVELY, JOINED THEM FOR SOME FORMATION SKY DIVING. THEY JUMPED FROM THE AIRCRAFT AT 10,000 FT. STEPHEN SAID 'IT WAS A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE. IT WAS A PERFECT DAY AND YOU COULD SEE ALL THE WAY TO FRANCE.' THE KENT PARACHUTE CLUB IS THE FOURTH-RATED UNIVERSITY SQUAD IN THE COUNTRY.





Honorary graduates

On 24 November, the University will be holding its autumn degree ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral. This ceremony is for postgraduate students plus students from our affiliated colleges, including the London School of Contemporary Dance and Mid- and South Kent Colleges. Two

honorary degrees will be awarded at this ceremony, to the historian and well-published retired General Medical Practitioner, Dr Cyril Hart, and to the Italian actor and playwright, and Nobel laureate, Dario Fo (pictured left).

announcement of medical student places at Kent.

But not everything on the horizon is so encouraging. Recent indications from the government suggest that the decline in funding for teaching, which all universities have had to endure in recent years, is unlikely to level off, after all. Further funding pressures may well trigger the introduction of some new form of fee structure in the sector.

Professor Sibson concluded: 'It is appropriate that the challenges arising from this situation should be addressed by a new Vice-Chancellor at the start of a substantial period of office - I shall be handing over to my successor an institution well-placed to respond to those challenges.'

New look for the UKC Web site

The start of a new University term means new subjects, new students, new faces. This term, the new faces include the University of Kent Web site. Having commissioned Brighton-based company KeyMedia to come up with a bright new look, UKC Web Editor Miles Banbery (D90) and the Web team have worked hard over the summer to translate the concepts into workable web pages. It has been a major undertaking, involving the updating and redesign of the core UKC Web site. Alongside the contemporary design, there are shifts in content. There is a new Research services section,

continued on page 6

People

Professor Phillip Davies

(E65) succeeds **Professor**

John Slater as

Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Slater is now Emeritus Professor of Computing. **Dr**

Francis Lough is the new

Dean of Humanities; **Jill**

Davis heads the School of Drama, Film & Visual Arts.

Sue Shepherd has joined the



University as the new Director of Communications and Development, succeeding Joanna Motion, now Executive Director of CASE Europe. **Dr Stephen W Liu** has been promoted from Senior Lecturer to Professor of



Management Science and Computational Mathematics.

Dr Glynis Murphy has been promoted to Professor of

Clinical Psychology of Learning Disability; **Dr Murray**

Smith, to Professor of Film Studies and **Dr Simon**

Thompson, to Professor of Logic and Computation.

Professor Robin Gill has been appointed to the Ethics

Committee of the Royal College of Obstetricians and

Gynaecologists, and re-appointed to the Medical

Ethics Committee of the British Medical Association.

Professors **David Turner** (Computing), **Alan Common**

(Maths), and **John Todd**, **Andrew Williams** and

Anthony Beezer (all Chemistry) have been made Emeritus Professors.

Campus update



ELIOT COLLEGE DINING HALL WAS RE-OPENED AS A FULL-SERVICE DINING HALL AT THE BEGINNING OF MICHAELMAS TERM, AND KEYNES DINING HALL CLOSED. THE UNIVERSITY DESPERATELY NEEDS ADDITIONAL TEACHING SPACE, AND ELIOT, WITH ITS TALL CEILING, WOULD BE FAR TOO COSTLY TO CONVERT. THE JUNIOR COMMON ROOM AREA IN KEYNES, LOOKING OUT ON THE POND, WILL BE UPGRADED, PROVIDING AN ATTRACTIVE CATERING AND SOCIAL AREA FOR STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS.

Obituaries

Tom Blagg joined the University's then School of Continuing Education in 1978. From the outset he gave himself to the needs of extra-



mural students and contributed selflessly to classics and classical studies. His main research interest was in the techniques of Roman monumental sculpture, in which he had an international reputation. Tom will be remembered not only for his impeccable scholarship, but also as a warm and humane personality.

During **Ian Dallas's** short illness, countless colleagues asked after him and offered to help. This was just a small measure of the widespread respect across the University community that Ian commanded. He joined the Computing Laboratory in 1971, becoming Head of User Services in the early 1990s, and later Head of Laboratory Administration, embracing video conferencing, Audio Visual Services and the Regional Support Centre. Ian was kind and considerate and highly valued by colleagues here and elsewhere. We shall all miss him.

created with help from the Research Office, and a new Arts, leisure and public events section. This launch represents the first phase of an ongoing process to create a user-

friendly and coherent website. Much remains to be done, including on the alumni pages, and your comments on the new look are invited. ukc-webteam@ukc.ac.uk.

London Alumni Reception

RICHARD DE FRIEND (R67) AND SHIULIE GHOSH (D86) (RIGHT) AND ALISTAIR GRAY (E72), HILARY STEEL (E92) AND FLAVIO IORIO (R81) AT THE ANNUAL LONDON ALUMNI RECEPTION, THIS YEAR HELD AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AND ATTENDED BY OVER 200, INCLUDING ALUMNI FROM GERMANY, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.



University of Kent at Canterbury Alumni Diary 2000 - 2001

- 10 November** Open Lecture: Professor Hermione Lee 'Women writers and biography'
- 10-24 November** IO visits India
- 17 November** Open Lecture: Dr Alice C L Lam, Canterbury Business School 'Skills formation in the knowledge-based economy'
- 24 November** Congregations Ceremony for postgraduates - Canterbury Cathedral
- 24 November** Open Lecture: Gavin Esler (R71) 'What *British* means'
- 24 November - 1 December** IO visits Turkey
- 1 December** Open Lecture: Robin Hanbury-Tenison, International explorer 'The Sahara: prehistoric rock art and the Tuareg'
- 8 December** Open Lecture: Dr Mark Connelly, Reuter's Lecturer in Media History at UKC 'Good Christian Men Rejoice: the English and Christmas 1780-1914'
- 20-23 January 2001** IO visits Hong Kong and Thailand
- February** IO visits Norway, Kenya, Dubai, Bahrain, Brunei and China
- 1 March** Annual Careers Fair
- 1 March** Alumni in the media event
- 7 March** Ian Gregor Memorial Lecture
- 29 March** Alumni event in Edinburgh

Unless otherwise indicated, all the above events take place at the University. Each of the Open Lectures is followed by a High Table and alumni are welcome; if you would like more information, please contact us (see p3)

Watercolours of Kent

In 1998 the distinguished Royal Watercolour Society artist, Dennis Roxby Bott was asked to produce two definitive watercolours of The University of Kent that would capture something of the setting that makes Kent special.

The two watercolours he has painted represent different but characteristic aspects of Kent's environment: the central campus, seen from Eliot College, is strikingly green and the huge window in Rutherford Dining Hall, one of the really distinctive features of Kent's architecture, frames the familiar but always breathtaking view of Canterbury Cathedral.

Dennis Roxby Bott R.W.S. was elected to the Royal Watercolour Society in 1981 and his commissions include the Royal Yacht Britannia, Sotheby's and American Express. It was decided that 500 limited edition prints would be made from each watercolour which the artist would sign and number. Each print is 12" x 18" presented in a bevelled hand cut mount the overall size being 19" x 25". The price is £79.50 each or £145 for the pair.



View from Central Campus



Canterbury Cathedral from Rutherford Dining Hall

University of Kent
Contemporary Watercolours, 165 Farrock Street, Gravesend,
Kent DA12 1ER. Tel: 01474 535822

Please send me (no.) mounted print(s) of A View of Central Campus
..... (no.) of mounted print(s) of Canterbury Cathedral from
Rutherford Dining Hall

@ £79.50 each or £145 for the pair (UK & Europe). Rest of the World please add £10 p&p

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE TELEPHONE

Cheques to be made payable to **Contemporary Watercolours**

Visa/Mastercard

Amount £..... Expiry Date...../.....

Signature Date

The Ian Gregor Scholarship

In memory of Professor Ian Gregor, who died in November 1995, his family, friends, former students and colleagues launched a fund to support a lecture and an English MA student annually. The 1999-2000 Gregor scholar was an American. Jennifer Burch undertook the MA on Modern Literature and Culture, including the Creative Writing module.

Jennifer, a graduate of the Ivy League Amherst College, in Massachusetts, relished her year at Kent, 'I consider receiving the Gregor Scholarship a grand piece of luck, strange chance. American graduate programs in literature have subsumed MA level study into the PhD, for the most part no longer offering terminal MAs or funding. Grants at the international level and within England are scarce. Kent's generous offer, combined with the merits of the English department, led me to choose the University over a number of other esteemed institutions.

'The most important thing the scholarship has meant to me is time. I have been able to spend a year immersed in modern literature with a degree of freedom I would not have had anywhere else. The incorporation of creative writing into the MA is unique. Professor Michael Irwin advised me on the creative writing module, and I cannot find the words to express what a great privilege that was for me. Other academics in the School of English were fantastic too, in the areas of research and criticism, and exceptional in character and spirit.

'If only I could slip into the skin of next year's Gregor scholar...'

The Ian Gregor Memorial Lecture this year takes place on Wednesday 7 March.



SUMATRAN TIGER
'CAUGHT' IN A PHOTO-TRAP. MATTHEW (CENTRE) AND COLLEAGUE ON THE EDGE OF A DEFORESTED AREA.

Alumni Postgraduate Scholar 2000

Matthew Linkie, postgraduate at UKC's Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), has more reason than most to be interested in the Red List of plant and animal species threatened with extinction that was published last month. He not only spent several months working on it, but his research into one of the listed creatures, the Sumatran tiger, has won him the University's Alumni Scholarship.

Matt has become increasingly involved with this beautiful threatened big cat over the last couple of years. He helped set up the Tiger Protection Unit in Sumatra's massive Kerinci Serblat national park. 'There are 500 Sumatran

tigers in existence; 20 years ago there were 1,000. Around 76 of them live in this 90,000 square kilometre park - the second largest national protected area in Asia.' The problem is that the tiger's natural habitat is shrinking, a result of the continuous process of deforestation which is in itself a result of economic pressures. 'You have to get the balance right between human and animal needs.' Matt's challenge is to find a cost-effective way of helping those involved in the conservation of the tiger in its natural habitat. One of the ways he's helping to achieve this is by mapping and predicting land use change within and around the national park. This helps identify where deforestation is likely to occur,

information which can then be used to develop strategies for the tiger patrol units.

Having completed his first degree in biology and zoology at the University of Liverpool, Matt (24) was recommended to apply to DICE. 'It was sage advice. Doing my MSc here, I developed my research interest in tropical deforestation and tiger conservation.' More details about Matt's research can be found at his Website: www.Sumatran-tiger.co.uk

The Alumni Postgraduate Scholarship is funded by gifts from alumni and the award is made only to UKC alumni. Among the criteria for selection are academic excellence and an ability to act as ambassador both for the University and for the scholar's subject. Past scholars have included two psychologists, an historian, an English scholar and a physicist. If you would like to help fund this annual scholarship, please use the box on your response form.

Learning Resources Centre

Education Support Services were awarded nearly £5,000 by the Development Trust this year for a new project to help develop mathematics resources and study support sessions in the Learning Resources Centre. This exciting initiative is a valuable way of helping students with numeracy - one of the key skills graduates need. 'We are

delighted with this great boost to ESS', said Jan Sellers, of the Centre. We ran a small-scale numeracy skills project last year and the need for greater resourcing in this area was quickly apparent in the steady flow of student inquiries. We look forward to being able to assist many more students this year'.



Chaucer



ABOVE:
THE WIFE OF BATH'S TALE

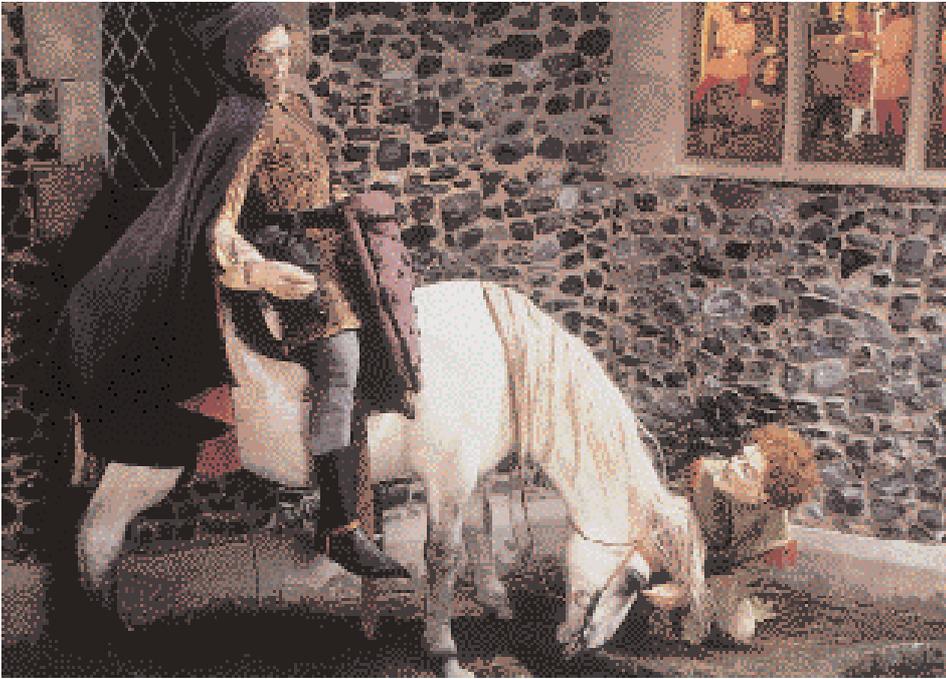
LEFT:
*A SLEEPING PILGRIM IN
THE TABARD INN*

BELOW:
THE PARDONER'S TALE

**ALL THE TABLEAUS SHOWN
HERE CAN BE VIEWED AT
THE CANTERBURY TALES
VISITOR ATTRACTION IN
ST. MARGARET'S STREET,
CANTERBURY**



Shakespeare stole plots from him. Spenser idolised him. Dryden translated him and dubbed him the 'father of English poetry'. The Victorians edited him. T. S. Eliot began *The Waste Land* with 'April is the cruellest month', a line that recalls the opening of the *Canterbury Tales* while reversing its joyful note. The history of English literature is saturated with the influence of Chaucer. A modern collection of allusions, by Derek Brewer, runs to two thick volumes.



LEFT:
THE KNIGHT'S TALE

in Canterbury

Peter Brown

But Chaucer is not just a relic of literary history. His writing continues to win new readers, who report their surprise at how 'modern' he seems. What do they mean? Some of Chaucer's creations, with their irreverent and scandalous sense of humour, could hold their own with any TV comic: the outrageous Wife of Bath out-sauces Dame Edna. Then there is a variety as natural and changeable as English weather: moods that shift from exuberance to solemnity, serious stories that end in farce, characters that mix every quirk of vice and virtue, love stories that explore tender intimacy alongside the embattled antagonism of men and women.

The millennium year is a special one for all Chaucer fans, since it marks the sixth-hundredth anniversary of his death. In July, Chaucer scholars from around the world met in London for a three-day landmark conference that debated 'the place of Chaucer' in medieval and modern culture. Closer to home, the month of Chaucer's death was marked by an Open Lecture at the University in October (an event that was also part of the 'Passing Tales' programme of exhibitions and talks about Chaucer). The leading international authority on Chaucer's biography,

Professor Derek Pearsall of Harvard and York Universities, spoke on 'Chaucer's Two-Way Pilgrimage: Canterbury and Beyond'.

But just what was Chaucer's association with Canterbury? Anyone glancing through the commercial section of the city's telephone directory could be forgiven for thinking that Canterbury was his home town. Listed are the Chaucer Book Shop, Chaucer Club, Chaucer College, Chaucer Garage Equipment, Chaucer Hair, Chaucer Homecare, Chaucer Hospital, Chaucer Hotel, Chaucer Housing Association, Chaucer Insurance, Chaucer Lodge Guest House, Chaucer Motor Factors, Chaucer Stores, Chaucer Taxis, Chaucer Technology School and, especially for those who warm to Chaucer, Chaucer Thermal Insulation Contractors.

Chaucer himself might have enjoyed the irony of his name's association with Canterbury, for there is no hard and fast evidence that he ever set foot inside the city walls. But there is a high degree of probability that he did. He travelled abroad on the king's business on a number of occasions, embarking at Dover, and it is likely that his journeys brought him through

Canterbury. Again, in 1375 Edmund Staplegate, son of a prominent local merchant with property interests in the city, became Chaucer's ward. As his guardian Chaucer had to oversee Edmund's inheritance and the discharge of his duties may well have brought him to Canterbury.

One thing we can be sure of is that Chaucer put Canterbury on the literary map, but here too frustration abounds. The Canterbury pilgrims never arrive in the city: the last place named is 'Bobbe-up-and-down', perhaps Harbledown. Nevertheless, Canterbury figures prominently in the imaginations of the pilgrims as the place where they hope to obtain rest, food, the satisfaction of a destination reached, and above all the spiritual and physical benefits of visiting the shrine of St Thomas in Canterbury cathedral. Ever since their legendary journey, 'Canterbury' and 'Chaucer' have been inseparable.

Peter Brown is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Kent and Director of the Canterbury Centre for Medieval & Tudor Studies. His Companion to Chaucer (Blackwell) will appear later this year. This article was adapted from one that appeared in the Kent Messenger.

Entente *cordiale?*

Former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard delivered a revealing Reuters Lecture on relations between politics and the fourth estate at the University earlier this year.

the false images of Timisoara in Romania, for example - are taken at face value, are powerful and sometimes deceptive.

Media practices

can be harmful to the democratic process. Journalistic fabrication, a real phenomenon, demonstrates a growing disrespect for the truth. And the media controls any legal right to reply; always has the last word. The trend of ignoring human rights, the right to privacy and the assumption of innocence is greatly worrying. Examples of this trend include the treatment of people charged with (but not convicted of) a crime and the plaguing by the media of the late Princess of Wales. The people who are victims of this treatment cannot avoid being affected by it. Unusual levels of risks taken, absurd excesses in the search for privacy, quick and sometimes foolish



maintain stability and accountability in this situation?

Technical developments naturally affect the news agenda, for example, the speed of communications. When significant events such as a coup d'état or the murder of a world leader are known worldwide within ten minutes, and microphones thrust at politicians a minute later with the question 'What's your comment?', there is a risk that politicians will answer immediately without knowing the context, without having further information - or others' reactions - at their disposal. What is broadcast or printed is presented as public opinion whereas in fact, it's a collective knee-jerk reaction, often irrational, uninformed, even dangerously so. Yet it has the power to influence voters. And broadcast pictures are worse - whereas words on a page can be checked, re-read, analysed, TV images communicated by the media -

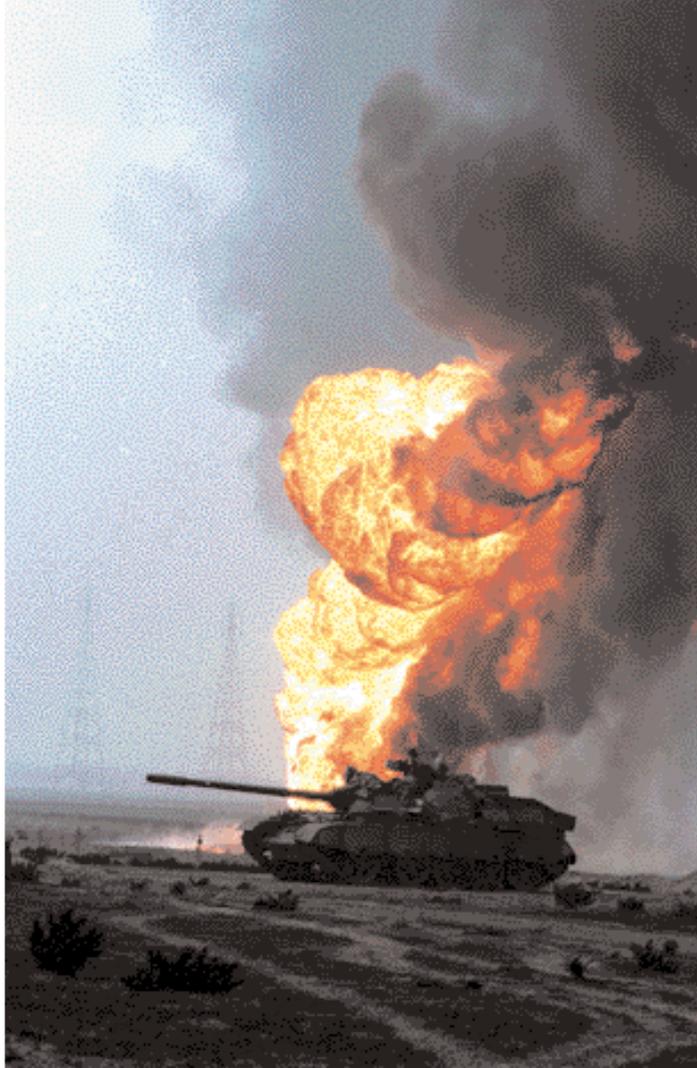
The trend of ignoring human rights, the right to privacy and the assumption of innocence is greatly worrying

The problems attending the relationship between political responsibility and the media are universal. News management began with the Egyptian Pharaohs, who created the post of scribe to control what was said about those in power, a situation that continued until the freedom of the press was established in the 19th

Journalistic fabrication, a real phenomenon, demonstrates a growing disrespect for the truth

century. What has changed since then is not the phenomenon itself, but its scale and nature.

The statistics are interesting: before the second world war, radio reached a mere 10% of the population, the print media no more than 20%. Now papers and TV both reach 90% of adults, and radio around 98%. The power of the media has effected a sea change in the development of public attitudes. As the raw material of politics, public opinion has become a mere reflection of the messages put out by the system, the producers of which insist unconvincingly that they follow what, in fact, they are creating. This shift has serious implications. Without noticing it, we are abandoning representative democracy and marching towards opinion-led democracy. Politicians and journalists are frequently in conflict, with politicians complaining that the media's influence on political affairs is illegitimate, rarely pertinent and sometimes devastating. How do you



As the media gives the public what it thinks it wants, with an emphasis on emotional topics, governments are forced to address those issues, and the media system creates the political agenda

decisions made in anger, and, because of the need for protection, a complete separation between the person affected and people living ordinary lives all create a climate antagonistic to the serenity needed for good decision making in government and public life.

Another damaging media trend is their 'interest' in heated debates about dull facts. Jacques Chirac, commenting on his economic record a year and a half after he'd left office, claiming that I had 'emptied the coffers of State'. I immediately had dozens of interview requests from the press. I said I would only comment on condition that the journalists looked up the real figures of the state deficit and published them. Not one single newspaper took me up on this! Allied to this is the trend for greater simplification. Instead of reporting on a government's evaluation of a new way of ensuring food safety, the media will say the government has decided to take a particular course of action. Eventually, governments move from well-planned studies and preparation to quick intuitive decisions. In France over the last decade, there have been a number of poorly thought-out government decisions for this reason.

It can be even more serious. The questioning of the need for secrecy about

government action, even in war, has led to very dangerous situations. Remember the astonishing result of the Kuwaiti war, when the allied armies (mainly Western with some Arab) had almost no casualties. Obviously, their technical and air superiority played a part, but contrary to the accepted view, that does not explain the whole affair. General Schwartzkopf tried and succeeded at an audacious manoeuvre copied from Napoleon at Austerlitz. Instead of attacking from the front, which would have been dangerous even with a weak Iraqi force, he decided on a charge of light armed vehicles far to the West, to cut off the Iraqis and enable the battle corps to move via a desert position to an unexpected attack on the enemy from the rear.

But this manoeuvre was dependent on secrecy and a news blackout. I was one of seven civilians in France who knew about the manoeuvre in advance. Yet three days before the land attack, while watching the TV news one evening, I saw a positive report on the French troops' good morale. Unfortunately, the neighbouring Arab village was shown, and in it, an identifiable mosque. If the Iraqis had been able to analyse this image, which thankfully they weren't, they would have had enough time to change their position and the war might have gone very differently, with thousands

of Allied army casualties. I spoke to the two TV editors later but completely failed in inspiring them with the slightest sense of responsibility for the many people's lives they had risked. In the First World War, their exposure would have led to a court-martial, but now no sanction is available. I have no hard evidence for this, but I sense British journalists might have had more respect for the national interest.

And what about violence and sex on TV? Our young children are accustomed to violence and sex much earlier than any other generation. It is the price for freedom of the press. I would like our social scientists to research and determine whether there is a relationship between violence on TV and violence at school. Does such an early exposure to TV sex result in early - and potentially harmful - sexual activity? Debate must go on on these subjects.

As the media gives the public what it thinks it wants, with an emphasis on topics with an emotional content, and governments are forced to address the issues picked up by the media, the media system creates the political agenda. And of all the six systems of power that rule society - the executive, legislative, judiciary, financial, scientific and media - only the media is a system without proper checks and balances.

In the face of this, how can democracies protect their core values? In France there are two main problems concerning the media. One is the future of the TV networks, with the privatisation of TF-1 weakening the public network. In Britain a strong public sector institution, the BBC, influences the whole broadcasting system. The second problem is the fact that efforts towards media regulation have had very little impact on the defects of the current system and the challenge it presents to our democratic society.

We must persist in seeking a media system and practice capable of strengthening democracy instead of destabilising it.

Partnerships

across the

The University collaborates with a wide range of organisations in every area of its activities - in research, in teaching, and in its provision and procurement of services. UKC validates degrees for at least twelve different institutions, including the Kent Institute of Art and Design and the London School of Contemporary Dance. Kent academics collaborate with colleagues in continental Europe and all over the world in countless research projects in nearly every subject area. These two pages offer a tiny selection; they reflect the growing trends of regionalization and globalization, our European strengths and the development of widening participation.

University of Kent at Medway

In partnership with Mid-Kent College, UKC is working to expand the educational opportunities and skills base in the South-east. The University was awarded additional funding worth more than £33m over two years by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in order to provide around 1,000 extra student places in subjects including business studies, the performing arts, information technology, travel & tourism and law - and many of these places will be

concentrated in the Medway area.

Under the new agreement, higher education places formerly allocated to Mid-Kent College(MKC) will be funded through the University. A new Medway Higher Education campus has been established for UKC, to be known as the University of Kent at Medway. HNCs and HNDs will continue to be run by Mid-Kent, which will remain an autonomous Further Education College, now linked to the University as an Associate college, to ensure the strong links between the two institutions continue.

Yes to medics

The joint bid between the University of Kent and Guy's, King's and St Thomas's Medical School (GKT) for extra places for medical students was successful. Fifty GKT medical students will come to UKC in their fifth year of study - the final clinical year. They will then experience clinical practice in Medicine, Surgery and



Community Medicine in the context of Kent-based NHS trusts and primary care groups.

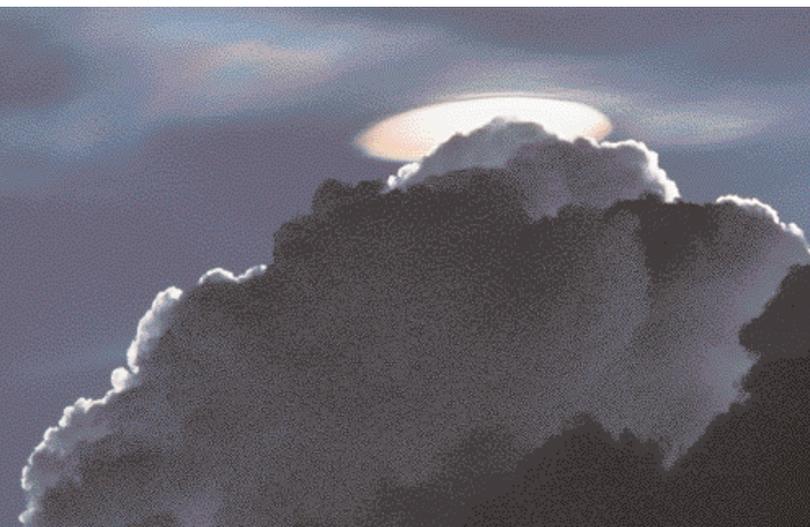
The project aims to attract nontraditional students into medicine, and GKT and UKC will work with South London schools to improve access to a medical career

for students from socially disadvantaged groups.

Forecasting the future

Professor Peter Clarkson and Dr Elizabeth Mansfield of the Institute of Mathematics and Statistics have started a three-year project with fellow academics from the Universities of Bath and Cambridge, and scientists from the Forecasting Research Division of the Meteorological Office.

Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the project's aim is to improve the Met's supercomputer programs, in particular those used for modelling weather fronts. Improvements will come by studying the underlying mathematical structures implicit in the equations used to predict weather phenomena, including hurricanes, storms and cold fronts.



world

Nihon University

Links between Nihon University (NU) and UKC date back to March 1994, when Professor Tamuro of the Department of English at NU's College of Arts and Sciences asked his colleague Stephen Harding, a UKC alumnus (E75) to explore with UKC the establishment of a summer language programme for his students. That programme, now in its

sixth successful year, is open to students across all the NU colleges. In 1996, a Visiting NU traineeship in English literature was established at UKC; in 1999 the traineeship was extended to other subjects. This year, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robin Sibson, and Pro-



fessor Shimakata, Dean of Nihon University College of Arts and Sciences (above), formalising these programmes and a Junior Year Abroad programme for NU students at UKC.



Theatrical links

The Gulbenkian Theatre is building a blossoming partnership with the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. During the year they issued their first joint publicity leaflet promoting dance and drama events, and hosted a Theatres' Open Day, which took visitors from one to the other and gave them free entertainment.

Anything but rubbish

Chris Rootes, of the Sociology Department, has been collaborating with colleagues in the Universidad Complutense de Madrid on a project looking at waste management in Britain and Spain. The project, which was funded by the EC, investigated the processes of issue formation in relation to waste management, the roles played by environmental movements, governmental agencies and private associations, and the effects on both ordinary people and professionals of the contentious issues surrounding waste management.

Electronic Engineering and the Media

A creative new course at Kent launched this September attracted hundreds of applicants. Multimedia Technology and Design is a multidisciplinary programme of study bringing together the new technologies, including internet and Web-based technologies, digital video and audio, digital television and mobile communications, with design skills in the new media - 3D modelling, animation techniques, Web site design and authoring multimedia CDROMs.

This BSc Honours programme is an innovative collaboration between the University's Electronic Engineering Laboratory and Computing Laboratory and Kent Institute of Art and Design.

Regional IT support

A UK-led consortium of further and higher education institutions across the Southeast has won £766,500, over three years, to establish a Further Education Regional Support Centre for the Region. The Joint Information Services Committee (JISC) will aim to provide IT support for institutions across the region; the Head of the Centre will be based at UKC's Bridge Wardens' College in the Medway.

Partnerships with Purpose

A government-funded joint venture between colleges, universities and other education providers in the region, Partnerships with Purpose aims to make higher education in Medway, East Kent and Thames Gateway towns more accessible. Like the MKC partnership, the initiative is part of the Government's move to widen participation and is concerned with making the education set-up in the region more user-friendly, in particular for nontraditional students.

KLS in the Caribbean

In January Kent was visited by senior members of Bermuda College. They came to cement an agreement with Kent Law School which means that Bermudan students who complete the KLS certificate in Law can go directly to Part II of Kent's LLB. KLS is one of the country's leading innovators in the use of electronic technology in teaching, and the Bermudan students will be able to use the Web to download lecture recordings and handouts, and subscribe to the same e-mail list and Web boards as students in Kent.



Mother Chip

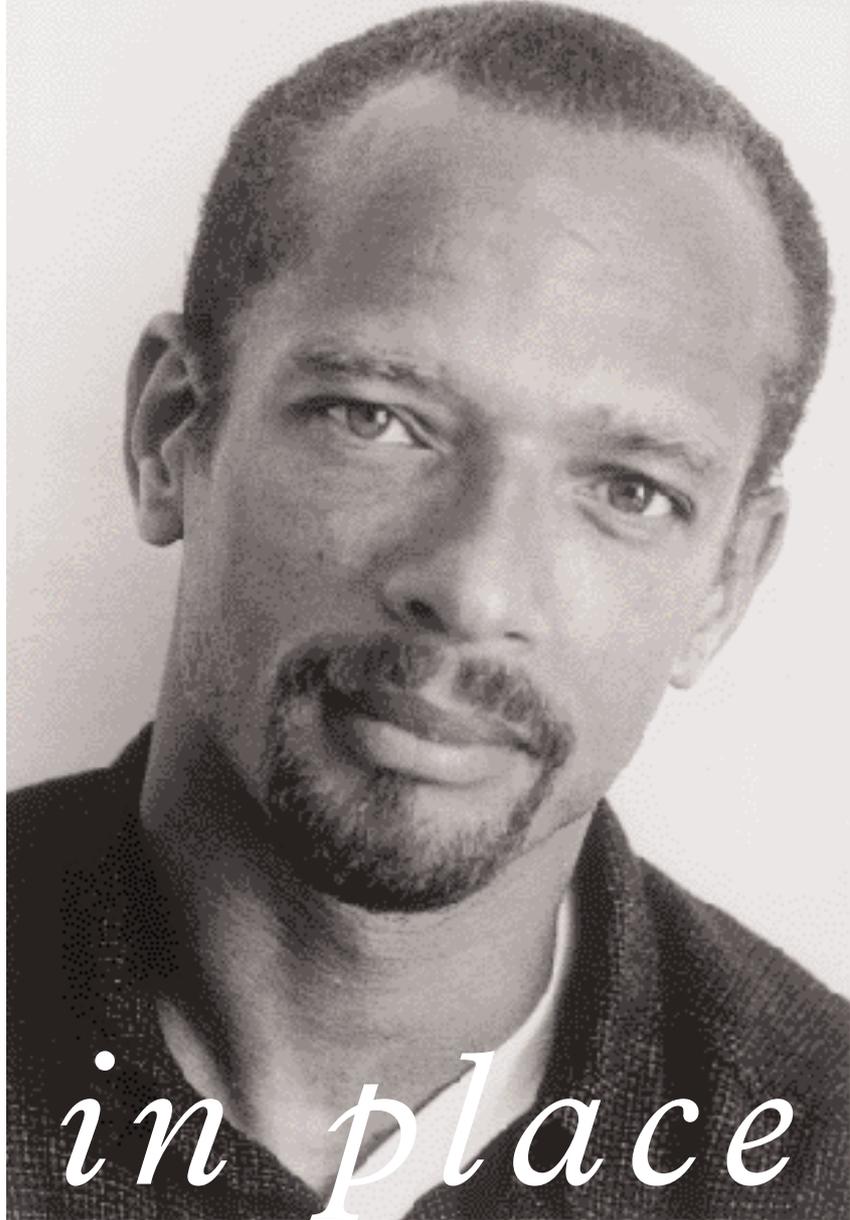
Drama at Kent was awarded top marks for its teaching a year ago. Mother Chip is a sci-fi radio soap launched last spring. It is the project of students on the Radio drama course, a kooky situation comedy, starring an inter-galactic catering company and a saucy mix of food adventures. It is co-produced with the Sound Department of the London College of Printing, who provide the sci-fi effects and some of the post-production. Exchange across the two sites is through the Internet, with scripts and sound being updated daily. All the students involved, from UKC and the College, get a boost to their career prospects through the production company, Sound Kitchen, which markets their products through the Internet.

Fred D'Aguiar peers closely at the photos on the wall: Ted Hughes, glowering, craggy and monumental; Wendy Cope, impassive and a little distant; Andrew Motion with that familiar, patrician smile. 'I don't suppose he wears all those bangles now', he laughs, 'but he's doing a wonderful job, isn't he?'

We are at the Poetry Society in Covent Garden; D'Aguiar has just returned from Edinburgh, where he did the first reading from his new book, *Bloodlines* (Chatto & Windus). Such events are a delightful distraction from his routine in Miami, where he has lived and taught for several years. 'Miami is a place you take with a pinch of salt, the place where Versace was murdered and the place where there are the most breast implants'.

D'Aguiar was born in Britain, lived in Guyana until he was 12 and then spent 20 years in south-east London and Kent,

Poet *in place*



before taking his first creative writing job in the US. Miami has brought him financial and domestic stability. He has been with his second wife, Debbie, for seven years and they have a two-year-old son, Christopher. 'Domesticity has been blissful,' he smiles with the zeal of the convert, 'knowing where the spoon will be in the cupboard and finding it. There is nothing more liberating and creative than that stability'.

His output since moving to America has been impressive: three novels, one book-length narrative poem and now his new verse-novel. *Bloodlines* tells the story of a young female slave, Faith, who falls in love with the white son of a plantation owner, Christy, and runs away with him in search of freedom. It draws on the intricate rhyme scheme of Byron's 'Don Juan' and the narrative devices of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*, and its time-frame ranges from the American Civil War to the present.

D'Aguiar has talked of the way that each of his books starts off as an image. 'For Christy and Faith,' he explains, 'it was the idea of bloodlines. Obviously, it's selfish in that I'm interested in my own

mixed heritage and in a space opened by the amalgamation of two different traditions. 'Just to show,' he adds with a smile, 'how fortunate I am and that skinheads are no big deal.'

It is the first indication that Fred D'Aguiar speaks and writes from bitter experience. He speaks eloquently of growing up in London and becoming aware of blackness as a negative thing. 'I didn't want to become political,' he confesses. 'I wanted to have a good time - it was the seventies. But in the middle of the Carnival you had serious riots. My historical imagination was made through those experiences, which is why I argue for an aesthetics that is political, or a muse that's a card-carrying humanitarian.'

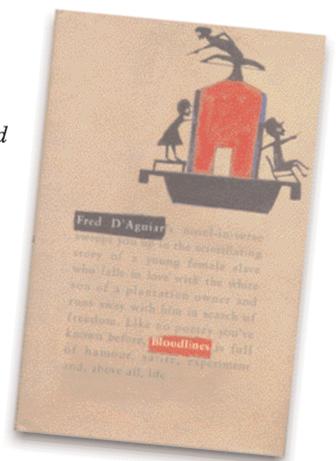
Much of what he discovered he explored in his collection, *British Subjects*, but he feels there is scope for plenty more. His mother still lives in South London, as do his brother, a bus driver, and his sons from his first marriage. If the right job came up, he'd be back like a bullet.

D'Aguiar adores his work at the University of Miami. 'The seminar is an altar

for me,' he declares with a faraway look. 'It's a great space where you suspend the world outside and look at the poem as an utterance, the lyric as a contemplative space...it's messianic'. I am reminded that his first collection was dedicated to his grandmothers, one of whom bore the name Edna Messiah. He laughs - 'It's quite a name, isn't it?' - but is soon back in the world of poetic utterance. 'Were it a pool,' he announces dreamily, 'you could dive into it and come out the other side altered.'

Fred D'Aguiar studied English and African & Caribbean Studies at the University of Kent 1983-86.

This is an edited version of an article that Christina Patterson, Director of the Poetry Society, wrote for The Independent



Transferring skills: *the Student Development Unit*

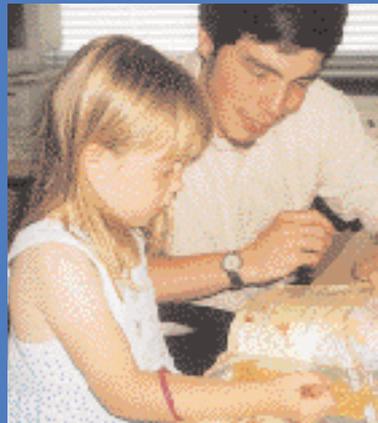
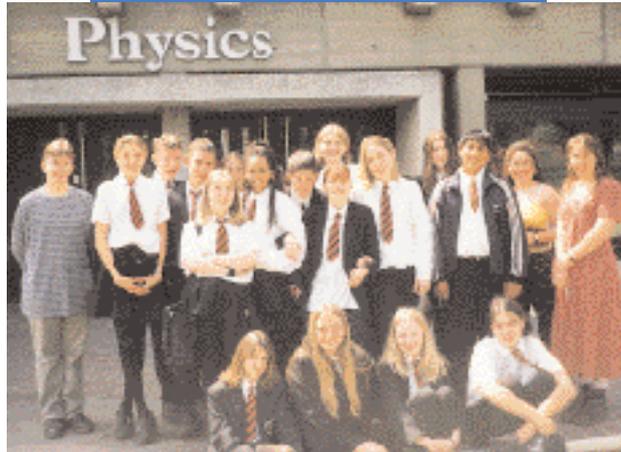
In this series profiling special features at UKC, Sally Bowden and Sean Ireton of the Student Development Unit (SDU) describe how the SDU helps today's students. One of the University's major providers of, among other things, essential 'transferable life skills', the Unit was established in 1996 with seed-corn funding from the Careers Advisory Service, whose work it complements, and the Annual Fund.

With the abolishment of grants and the introduction of tuition fees, students today, more than those of any other generation, must focus on income and employability. Most work during term-time as well as holidays, and with around 200,000 students graduating annually in the UK, graduate jobs can be hard to find.

UKC's Student Development Unit was set up to help. It incorporates the JobShop, Student Community Action, High Flyers and other training and volunteering programmes. Last year JobShop advertised over 1000 part-time vacancies. Hundreds of students took advantage of the training offered in such skills as leadership and communication, and nearly 400 volunteered in the local community.

Richard de Friend (R67 Law), now Director of the College of Law in London, commented that in the 1960s the Students' Union didn't offer this kind of help. 'The SU (though it supported societies and a range of activities) was strongly oriented towards political activities.' He admits that while a student, he hadn't considered the skills he might need, adding that 'given the culture and labour market of the time, the need for such help was not as great as it clearly is for students of today'.

High Flyers is a programme unique to UKC. Professional training staff from local and national companies and organisations pass on their expertise to students in the Unit as if they were staff in those companies. Participants include HMV, the National Deaf Children's Society and



Macintyre Hudson, and the skills covered range from time management to risk assessment. The sessions themselves offer a chance to practise skills as they are learned, and are open to all UKC students. Russell Goom (D98 Computing and English) attended all the sessions last year: 'I realised a wider commercial awareness would give me an advantage over other graduates when applying for jobs.' He also appreciated the chance to gain contacts.

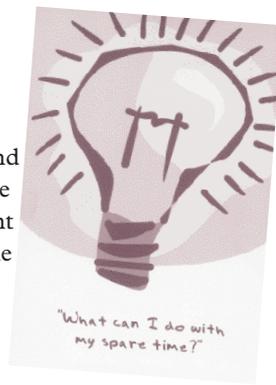
The SDU encourages students to record and articulate their skills. Knowing how to sell your abilities to an employer is a skill in itself. Dave Carr (D89 Chemistry and Environmental Science) volunteered in College and Students' Union activities. He admits he was filling in the gaps in his CV, but recognises that he gained in other ways also: 'The most important skill was working with such a range

of people. It meant developing my communication skills - something my course didn't do!' Now Manager of Sheffield Volunteer Bureau, Dave would have welcomed more help in gaining experience. 'Student Community Action wasn't around at the time.'

Elizabeth Harper (D97) used the JobShop to get several jobs, including care assistant for a severely disabled man, and ended up with a job in JobShop itself! She said of her care work, 'I learned to break down barriers to communication and am far more patient with people and calmer in the face of things that go wrong.' She recognises that part-time work offers more than money: 'No matter how mundane a task, you are always developing important skills.'

The SDU is growing. Students can now register with the JobShop online and see all vacancies on the Website. It has launched UKC Conservation Volunteers, offering skills and experience in conservation work around Canterbury and on campus. Student Tutoring will offer over 100 placements in local schools and an extensive training programme is planned.

The SDU would be happy to hear from UKC alumni or parents interested in getting involved! Contact: J.Curbishley@ukc.ac.uk



Software failure!

Living with a



Most of the attempts that I have had at a career over the years have been afflicted by software failure in some way or other. I did my PhD on tornadoes and waterspouts. I later tried to reproduce my results, but - different place, different computer - and some of the results were completely different! Some I tracked down to problems with the new machine, some were algorithmic subtleties. I worried for ages that I would be discovered and defrocked until I realised this was fairly normal. In some ways the reason for the differences was more interesting than the original results and less well understood.

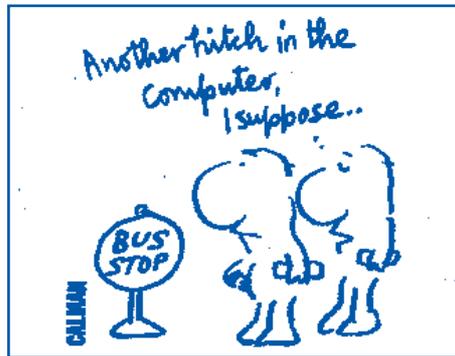
Les Hatton

I then went to work for the Meteorological Office. I had only been there for a few months when I found a terrible error in the current forecasting model. Every other time step, the software mistakenly threw away all of the non-linear weather-generating terms! I thought, this is it - fame and fortune! The forecasting staff visibly paled when I showed them the problem. It was the only time in eight years that the operational forecast for the day was not carried out, while I corrected the bug and we reran the forecast. There was almost no difference! I was young, and I suggested rather too publicly that, as we were always short of computer time, why not take the equations out completely, because they obviously had no effect and the model would run quicker. Sadly my suggestion was not appreciated and it was suggested that I should seek an alternative career elsewhere. With the benefit of experience, I now suspect that the reason was a bigger bug that I didn't find.

As a result of this slight setback, I became a seismologist for some 15 years. Here too I found software failures, in this case potentially leading to drilling a \$20 million well in the wrong place. At this point I gave up, realising I was destined to study software failure.

We are now the first generation in history to live with a technology that we completely depend on, but do not fully understand.

So, what is software? In many ways, it is like a recipe. You have containers of different sizes, ingredients (different kinds of number) and instructions for mixing the ingredients in the containers. For example, to make a Sachertorte, you would put a wonderfully cholesterol-rich series of



ingredients together and bake it slowly in a not-too-hot oven. Now most people who know how to bake cakes could, from a list of the ingredients, produce a perfectly functioning cake. In fact they are just carrying out a set of instructions very similar to a computer program. But if you don't know what you're doing, you might mix them in the wrong order. And what on earth does 'not-too-hot' mean? The devil is in the details, and this is so with a vengeance in computer programs.

How big are real programs? As an example, SCT is a toolset for testing the reliability of embedded control systems. The day before I gave this talk, its recipe contained 1,428,967 characters on 64,412 lines, which corresponds roughly to a 500-page book. It took me about three years to write. The programs that fly aircraft and run telephone networks are about 50 times bigger than that.

Software is in everything: TV, videos, DVD and MIDI systems, answering machines, mobile phones, cameras, washing machines, microwaves, central heating controllers, burglar and fire alarms, cars, trains, planes, nuclear reactor control systems...

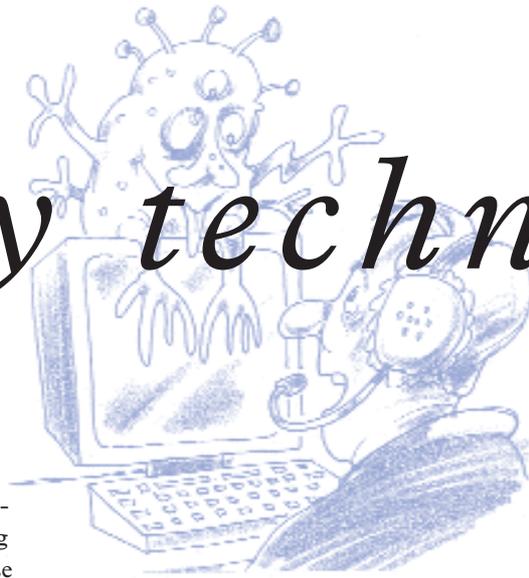
Software enables us to do fantastic things we could not do otherwise, but one tiny mistake can have huge repercussions. We can tolerate mistakes in some areas (your PC for example), but not in others, where massive costs or human safety may be at stake. On 15 January 1990 AT&T contracted arguably the first \$billion bug in history. They misplaced just one line out of 3 million lines of program and thereby crashed the entire long-distance telephone network in the USA for nine hours.

The first example of a major software problem in commercial aircraft was in 1994. Airbus A340 G-VAEL was trying to land at Heathrow after flying from Japan, and in so doing, did some unexpected things. First, there was a bug in the soft-



ONE SINGLE MISTAKE CAUSES FAILURES ON AN UNBELIEVABLE SCALE. AND THE INCIDENCE IS GETTING LARGER. THIS IS ARIANE 5. \$4B UP IN FLAMES, AND PIECES OF IT ALL OVER NEW GUINEA.

wobbly technology



ware that calculated the remaining fuel level, so the pilot's instrument panel suddenly gave a low fuel warning. Then both pilots' screens went blank, and a reassuring 'Please wait...' message appeared. Just imagine having 281 passengers behind you, you appear to be running out of fuel, and you get the message 'Please wait...'. Shortly after that, the plane turned right when instructed to turn left, and it acquired a nine-degree descent (almost a dive in a commercial aircraft) instead of the normal three degrees. The good news is that the pilots landed this plane safely. The bad news is that to my knowledge, only one of these defects has been found and corrected. The others have not and the 'Please wait...' message, for example, has occurred on other aircraft of this type.

As another example, the ultimate high-tech warship USS Yorktown (known as the 'Smartship') was left dead in the water off the coast of Virginia for an hour on a weekend in September 1997 because of a software failure. The boat can apparently not even steer without its computers. Ultimately, they had to reboot the ship. Perhaps there should be an international maritime flag signal for 'Please wait...'.
How many of you have ABS brakes? They have lots of software too, and in 1999,



General Motors (GM) unfortunately introduced a software defect into them. The effect was to extend truck stopping distances by 15-20 metres. GM looked at possible mechanical and corrosion problems, at first not contemplating a software problem. While they did, there were 11,000 complaints, 2,111 crashes and 293 injuries. They finally identified the cause as a bug in the software! GM then had to recall 3.5m vehicles. Think of the cost - even without the litigation costs for the accidents.

Financial systems also have alarming

failures. One common source of failure in computer systems is a mismatch in storage space. As a result of one of these, the Bank of New York some years ago had to borrow \$24 billion from the US Federal Reserve because a software failure due to an overflow of a 16-bit counter (the rest were 32-bit counters) stopped the processing of incoming credits. In other words, money could go out, but none could come in - not a very stable position for a bank. At \$5m a day interest charge on the loan, imagine the pressure on the programmers to fix it.

One of my favourite stories took place in 1985: an entire Montgomery Ward warehouse disappeared for three years. Someone made a mistake in the input program, and it lost the record corresponding to this warehouse. The staff did not like to say anything, because they thought they had lost their jobs. But the paycheques continued to arrive, so they sat in Redding, California for three years and nothing ever came or left. In the end, someone apparently met someone else from another warehouse at a party and they said, 'Oh are you still around?' and the mystery was finally solved.

I believe the ability to read and write English is closely connected to the ability to write good systems. There are many examples of literacy problems in software programming, and computer manuals particularly are infamous for gobbledy-gook. This however is not the only problem. Some time ago, my local pub was unable to dispense beer. The message on the screen on the cash registers was 'System overstressed'. Translated into English, it eventually transpired that the printer had run out of paper. The message 'No paper' might have been somewhat more appropriate one would think. This kind of thing is surprisingly common.

How about this one - 'Button push

ignored'. This appeared on the flight management system of a McDonnell-Douglas MD11 aircraft. The pilot also noted that 'The aeroplane [computer system] manuals were written as though by creatures from another planet'. This kind of thing is probably responsible for the reported fact that the two most common pilot statements recorded on aircraft voice recorders are: 'What's it doing now?' and 'There it goes again.'

The illiteracy problem permeates everything to do with computers - including job adverts:

**'App dev, Java, C/C++,
WebObjects,
Oracle-PL/SQL, Perl,
Candidates with
datamining skills will
also be considered.'**

JOB ADVERT MAY 2000

We are stuck with software, without question. It is a huge benefit and we simply cannot do many many things without it. However the more we depend on it without understanding it properly, the more out of control it will get, the greater the risk and the more expensive the problems. We have already reached the position where a single mistake can threaten the financial security of a giant company. In conventional engineering, engineers go to extraordinary lengths to keep their designs simple to maximise the benefit whilst minimising the risk. We need to adapt that policy also in computer engineering and I look forward to helping computer science students of the future understand the nature and scale of these risks so that we can all fully enjoy the benefits. I also look forward to learning a lot more about them myself.

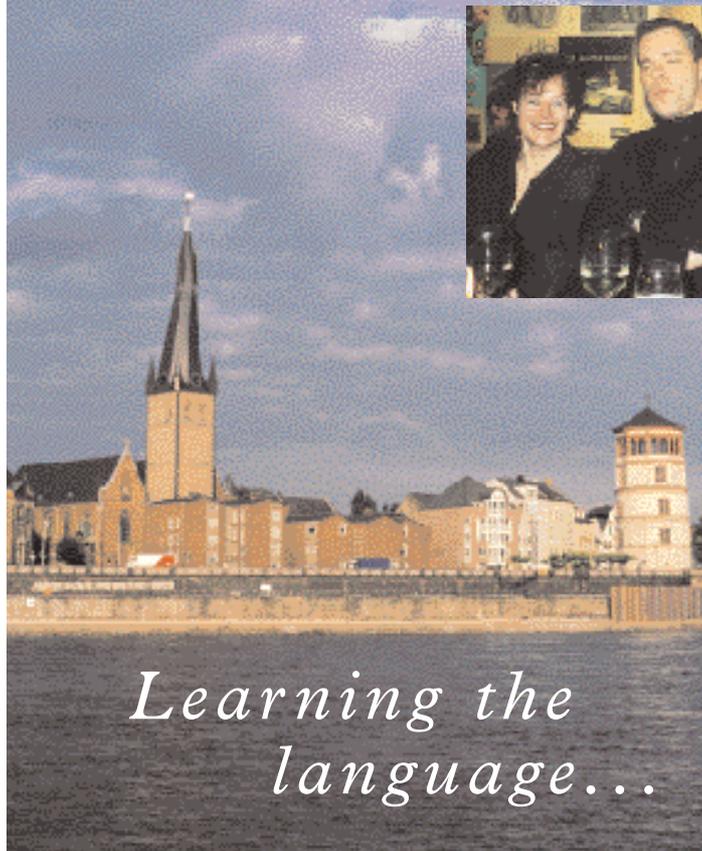
Les Hatton is Professor of Software Reliability at the University. This article was adapted from his inaugural lecture.

Letter from *Düsseldorf*

I left Kent as the recession started to bite in 1990. I decided to work abroad, where living and working in a new country with a new language would prove a challenge. With no knowledge of the German language and an interest in central-European politics, the time of the fall of the Berlin wall was an ideal time to live in Germany. I am now coming up to my tenth year here, so things look pretty permanent.

While I have been learning German, the rest of the country, already pretty bilingual, has been speaking more English. Some years ago *Die Zeit* published a joke article in Deutsch, using all the imported Anglicisms they could find. An English speaker would only recognise the difference in the occasional use of 'der' and 'das'. Today you could probably extend the article to half a newspaper.

On a trip to Hamburg recently I travelled on the 'Metropolitan Express Service'



Germans that 'handy' doesn't mean mobile phone in English meets with looks of disbelief. German technology may be 'up to date' but perhaps not German names. German Telekom caused a stir when it introduced its new tariffs with names like 'City' and 'Moonshine'. Some people decided to pay their bills in pounds or dollars!

I moved from being an English teacher to working as a 'Locally Employed' (LE) member of staff for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The FCO abroad is divided between LE-staff and UK-based (travelling) staff. In each category there are those who want to get on with things and therefore learn the language and those who seem to want to learn little. I am sad to say that this latter description is often true of the younger generation, while the older staff work hard and are easy to work with.

After more than five years at the FCO I moved to Elizabeth Arden as a business analyst. The company, in Düsseldorf, is a nice environment where people try to make life easier for each other. The language used is often half-English/half-German, but as the company head office is in the USA, that is to be expected.

Christiaan Hofman R86 studied Politics at Kent. He is British!



where the compartments were divided into 'Silence', 'Office' and 'Club'. The 'Service Team' looked after passengers and were 'Managed' or 'ge-Managed' by the 'Operations

Manager'. On the way we had a 'Business snack' and were given 'Meeting mints' (?) at the end of the journey. En route you could read the popular national magazine *Fit for Fun* containing articles about 'wellness' and 'beauty trends'.

The trend has been accelerated by the use of English in areas of computing, the internet and marketing. A wonderful example of how far this can go is the 'handy' - German for mobile phone. Trying to explain to

Alumni life: *the Press Officer*

UKC has a particularly good employment record for its graduates. For 'Alumni life', Killara Burn spoke to Louise Richards (E96) about her work. Louise works in the Press office at the Imperial War Museum in London. She studied Drama and History at Kent.



Jim Styles

LOUISE (CENTRE) IN H.M.S. PINAFORE (1997)

Was the Imperial War Museum in your 'career goals'?

No, I hadn't planned to work in a museum - or even in a press office! When I was at University, I was very focused on the performing arts and arts administration as a career. On the other hand, being at the Museum keeps me in touch with history, which was half of my degree and a subject I very much enjoyed at Kent.

So your having studied history is useful in your current work?

Yes - even though 'my' period was medieval history! The research, analysis and writing required in studying a subject like History have all helped in my current work. And the combined Drama and History degree was a very nice mix. In the combined degree there's less acting and more theory than in single honours Drama. In Drama I studied Shakespeare, Early Drama, Naturalism, and Acting. Especially useful for me was that in the third year, we studied Theatre Systems and Their Funding. We learned about all the various funding bodies, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Arts Council. I wrote my final dissertation on 'Is Opera for the Elite?'

Does your Kent experience feature in other ways in your life now?

Music at Kent is fantastic for students who, like me, were studying something else, but who still wanted music to be a major part of their lives. That



was one of the important reasons I chose Kent - and being awarded the music bursary also helped! While at Kent I sang in the Chamber Choir, the Chorus and the opera chorus. I could almost say that every free moment was spent in some musical activity or other. And the bursary funded my voice lessons with Kate Lewis. Kate was wonderful - she was a real friend as well as a great voice teacher.

Being so involved with music, I was active in the Music Society and became its Secretary. And that experience was very useful for what I do now - so much of my role was helping organise and publicise events. And at the Museum, that's an important part of my work. We are always organising and publicising exhibitions!

What did you do immediately after Kent?

I knew I wanted to go into performing arts administration, so during my final year, I wrote for an internship to all of the performing arts companies I could - both here and, as I was also interested in travelling, in Canada and the USA. The Royal Opera House in Covent Garden offered me a placement. But before I had heard from them, I received a phone call from the Canadian Opera Company, and two

weeks after graduation in July 99, I flew out to Toronto. It was completely scary - I didn't know anyone - but fantastic. I had arrived one month before the opening of their new season. It was a wonderful opportunity. There was so much to do! And fortunately the Royal Opera House allowed me to delay my work placement with them until my return.

And then?

I came back just in time for the two-week work placement with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. That was November - just before their move into the new building. What a time to work there! That experience, too, was great.

But then, after lots of applications but no job, I had a period of temping. Fortunately not too long. In February, I answered the Imperial War Museum's advert in *The Stage*

newspaper, and was accepted here.

What, exactly, do you do?

I write press releases, help prepare mailouts, respond to and contact journalists, help organise and run exhibitions and events. We frequently have film crews coming in and it's my responsibility to take them around the galleries and set interviews up for them. In the autumn, we have about two major events a week, which are normally for about 200 people, so the job is frantic at the moment - not 9 - 5 at all!

High point so far?

The Holocaust Exhibition, which opened in June. It is a permanent exhibition, and was opened by the Queen. Learning about protocol for a royal visit, and organising all the other dignitaries who must be included was amazing. Security had to be perfect, of course; all the other guests had to arrive before the Queen and be 'passed'. And there were about 400 people, including film crews, photographers and journalists. Each of us in the Press Office was fully responsible for one film crew for the day - I had ITN. And for the evening's function, guests included Ken Livingstone, Jack Straw, and Sir Jeremy Isaacs just to name three.

Do you get back to Kent these days?

Last year I sang in the 'Messiah from Scratch', which Susan Wanless organises for students and staff every year. And I'm in touch with old Kent friends - in fact one of them lives in the flat below me!

These constitute a small selection of the entries received for 3W since April, when the last *Kent Bulletin* was published. The complete listing of 3Ws for the year is on the Web (the URL is opposite). To send us a 3W entry, please either use the carrier sheet that accompanied this *Bulletin* or the Alumni questionnaire on the Web.

KEY: D: Darwin, E: Eliot, K: Keynes, R: Rutherford; T or M: Information Technology (including Maths), N: Natural Sciences, A: Science, Technology and Medical Studies, H: Humanities, S: Social Sciences, U: Foundation year or Short-term studies. The location at the end of your entry is from your mailing address - if it's in parentheses, we think you're not actually living there but use it for UKC mail. **Year:** We place you under your year of entry to Kent, *not exit* and if you were here for more than one course of study, we try to put you in your first entry year - please let us know if corrections are needed!

1965
PHILLIPS, Colin (EH) Became US citizen in 90. United Methodist clergy - pastor of church in Maryland. Clinical Director of Abuser Intervention Program at Family & Children's Services, a domestic violence/sexual abuse agency. Doctoral degree in 87. Owner of the first student home movies shot at UKC in 65/66. Married; 1 son. May 2000, USA.

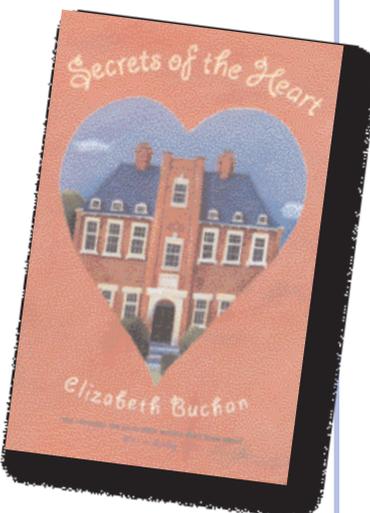
1966
CONSTANTINIDES, Glafkos (RS) MSc Development Planning (LSE); MA Town and Regional Planning (Sheffield). Then I worked as a planner in Cyprus in the Department of Town Planning and since 1992 I have been working as a planning consultant. Married; 3 children. I would be extremely happy to hear from UKC Alumni. Address: 9, St. Paul Street, Nicosia 1105, Cyprus. Tel. 357 2 779768. E-Mail: gconstan@spidernet.com.cy. Sept 2000.

FARMER, Mike (KS) Happily gardening and motor biking with Sally (E67 née Wiltshire) in suburban Surrey, having provided next generation replacements (Lucy and Katy). May 2000.

1968
ARNELL, Susan (RH) Visited my old friend Charles Ross R66 in Frankfurt last year and also spoke to Sally Carr (R66 née Jordan). Just auditioned for a local production of 'Pinafore' which takes me back to UKC days. I would love to hear from friends. Now divorced and living in New Jersey. May 2000, USA.



1967
Elizabeth Buchan (K) has just published her 6th novel, *Secrets of the Heart* (Penguin), which, according to Pamela Norris in *The Independent*, 'recalls EM Forster's *Howard's End*, first published in 1910, but similarly concerned to bridge the gap between spiritual and material values.'



Who's What Where from UKC?



1976
Max Bulsara (DM) works for the Department of Public Health at the University of Western Australia. He is pictured with Manar Abdel Rahman (DT:87) of the School of Mathematical Science, University of Khartoum, Sudan; Amy Berrington (DT:95) of the Cancer Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford; and Wendi Qian (KA:93), Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, Cambridge. They were together at the School on Modern Statistical Methods in Medical Research in Trieste, Italy.

KIRBY-HARRIS, Abigail (RS) Back in the UK running the Danish Chamber of Commerce at the Embassy in Sloane Street. Great to be working again! Bob R70 is finishing his contract in Namibia - great holidays! July 2000, London.

PELL, Christopher (DT) For the past year I have been working as Counsellor in the British Embassy in Washington. The job is fairly tough, but the US cultural and social experience is terrific. My sons are back in the UK, with Simon employed in horticulture and Jonathan reading economics at Bristol. Liz continues her nursery school activities in Washington. I have fond memories of a great university and send my very best wishes to all Kent friends. May 2000, USA.

1969
EASTHAM, Albert (KS) Climbed Mont

Blanc in August. Lectured in several Chinese cities in September. Early retirement is to be recommended. July 2000, Oxford.

KILROY, David (DT) Working as an IT technical architect at M & S, but still dream of reviving my mathematics. Married with 3 young children. Still an avid Beatles and Tolkien fan. July 2000, Surrey.

1970
JONES, Davey (EH) I am now working at the Audit Commission as head of local government performance indicators. May 2000, London.

1971
MARCHANT, Jeremy R (RT) Career as composer and arranger proceeds. My arrangement of Philip Glass's song cycle, 'Songs From Liquid Days', for chorus and orchestra will premiere in October this year in London and has been recorded for CD release later in the year. Day job, senior consultant with Admiral plc, continues. Contact me at: jeremy@marchant.com. May 2000, London.

RAYNER, Steve (KH) Just completed my first year as Professor of Environment & Public Affairs at Columbia University, New York. June 2000, USA.

1972
HAMPTON, Peter (ET) In February of this year I changed career from secondary school teaching to Communications Engineer at DERA in Malvern. Sept 2000, Worcester.

MEREDITH, Simon (KS) Twenty years in charge of the most successful health club in the USA. May 2000, USA.

STOLLMAYER, Donald (RS) Now in possession of 3 children, 2 boats, 1 wife. Owner/Manager of a large marina in Trinidad. Spare time spent sailing the Caribbean. Still in love with life! May 2000, Trinidad.

UNDERWOOD, Peter (KS) Having worked for the London Ambulance Service for 6 years I am soon to become finance

lead for a group of GPs in southwest London. I am still busy climbing, but getting a bit slow and creaky. I climbed Huascarán in Peru last year, surviving low temperatures, steep ice, avalanche conditions and roast guinea pig. March 2000, London.

1975
BYFORD, Anthony (RT) Having spent much of my time at UKC in the Gulbenkian, I went on to work in Industrial Theatre (the audio-visual industry). I am now a manager in the UK Desktop Services Group at Reuters and keep my hand in by lighting productions for the Hackney Players. Married and living in Winchmore Hill. August 2000.

WILTON, Nick (EH) Bumped into fellow UKC graduate Laura Dalton D92 in Croyde in Devon, when I backed into her car. Oops, sorry Laura. May 2000, Surrey.

CUTLER, John (DS) Still in finance as a Compliance Officer for Swiss bankers. Still looking to make my fortune! I keep in contact with a few old UKC friends. May 2000, Hampshire.

1977
HORNBY, Simon (RS) My second daughter born a few days shy of the Millennium which turned out to be good for tax reasons. Now settled in southern Florida for good; the weather's great apart from a few blowy things called hurricanes in the summer. Starting my own business consulting company with focus on Latin America. Still follow Chelsea from afar. In touch with very few friends from UKC - where are you all? June 2000, USA.

NORTHWOOD, Judith (DH) Huge life change over the last year - must be the 40 something syndrome! Reacquaintance with UKC after the Careers Fair 2000! May 2000, Kent.

1978
KELLETT, Steven (DT) Have worked for ICL since 82, still in software support and now based in Kuala Lumpur. Married since 97. Sliding rapidly towards 40 and wondering where the years went. For anyone who remembers me: yes, my weight still goes up and down like the tide. Yes, I still play guitar loudly and ineptly. March 2000, Malaysia.

MATTHEWS, Georgina (DH) Married Mark Pumfrey (D77) who is now Director of Institutional Client Division at Merrill Lynch in London. Two daughters. May 2000, London.

SIMPSON, Alan (RH) Now in my 8th year at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and currently advising Ministers on architectural policy. Passed 40 with no problems (now I'm waiting for life to begin!). May 2000, London.

1979
ABDULRAHEEM, Shuaibu (RH) Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin. May 2000, Nigeria.

FINE-THOMPSON, Christophe (ES) Managed a radio station in Nice a few years after leaving UKC and still on the Riviera doing communication and marketing. Drop me a line at: cft@cftconcepts.com. June 2000, France.

KENDALL, Sarah (ES) Still with Eurotunnel as the company finally heads towards profitability after a roller-coaster ride. Enjoying access to mainland Europe and life in rural Kent with Piero and 2 mostly wonderful children, Clare and Jack. Went back to UKC with Hilary Moll E79 and Julie George E85 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our meeting and are planning Canterbury, New Zealand for the 40th. May 2000, Kent.

1980
HEENAN, Andrew (KS) Now full time on the Internet at Nursingtimes.net, with Emap Digital, a company with online ambitions! Still living in Holloway, still advising Robert Hayward K80 on making

Please use the Alumni questionnaire you will find there to send us your next 3W message or update your contact details.



Judith Kirkland (KH) met up with Julie Perks (KH née Haynes), Christine Croker (KH née Durkin), Angela Smith (KH nee Robinson) and Louise Ramsden (KH née Harkin) recently in Bath.

millions. May 2000, London.

WALKER, Janet (DH) Still watching pink dolphins and doing Japanese speeches on marine environments. UKC radio days have caught up with me and I'm working part-time at a local station (but the technology has changed a bit). May 2000, Japan.

1981
FELLINGHAM, Paul (KH) Still living in Brighton, but had a spell in Vienna (so the German did come in useful). Became an accountant just like the careers bod said I should, but don't let that put you off getting in touch at paul.fellingham@aventis.com. Married; 2 girls. August 2000.

1982
ALLEN, Clive (ET) Currently working for Nortel Networks on all the stuff that makes the internet tick. July 2000, Solihull.

1983
SANSON, Nicola (RH) My son Oliver was born in 98 and now another baby is due in November. What with running a language school and renovating an old house in the Nantes vineyard, life is hectic. June 2000, France.

1984
HOBBS, Rachel (KH) Left Moscow in 99 after 3 years and headed for Melbourne. I had a pouch fitted on arrival and Alexander Lloyd was born here in Jan 2000. March 2000, Australia.

TREWIN, Simon (DH) Professionally this has been the best year of my life - moving

to Europe's largest multimedia talent agency has been a revelation. In addition to developing my literary client list I have had fun adding dot com companies to my client base. The future is here and it is electronic but in the beginning was the word! I am always on the look out for new projects - fiction and non-fiction and please do get in touch via strewin@pfd.co.uk or visit my homepage w.pfd.co.uk/agents/simon_trewin to see how much hair I have lost since those Darwin days! Married; 1 son. August 2000, London.

1985
KNOWLES, Louise (RH) Made it; a rich theologian at last! Ostensibly no longer a rebel, I now work as Head of RE at The Abbey School in Kent. Email me at: lknowles@rocketmail.com. May 2000, Kent.

PLESNIAK, Steve (RH) Currently producing TV commercials for RSA films in London. Have spent most of this summer shooting the Jamie Oliver Sainsbury's ads. Still in contact with Ben Norrington R85 (who was my best man 3 years ago) and a number of others. Contact me at: plesniak@nildram.co.uk. Sept 2000, London.

SHIBA, Kazumi (DH) Since returning to Japan after my M.Ed (Uni of Wales) working for a high school as an English teacher. Married; 3 children. Desperately brushing up my English! June 2000, Japan.

1986
GHOSH, Shiulie (DS) Hello everyone - I

am currently the Home Affairs Correspondent for ITN. Feel free to get in touch via email: shiulie.ghosh@itn.co.uk. May 2000, London.

VECCHIO, Raffaello (EH) After graduating I started my own import-export company and now travel all over the world. Married with three-year-old son. Being at UKC was a unique and exciting experience which broadened my mind and perspective on life. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me; email me at: oldnrb@tin.it April 2000, Italy.

1987
JAFFERJEE, Azra (DS) Headed home after a Masters Degree at Cambridge, then spent a chequered but fulfilling 8+ years working in journalism, economic policy research, investment banking and finally

settling (for the moment) with the German Development Agency (GTZ) doing poverty impact monitoring. I would love to hear from those who remember me. Contact me at: azra@mega.lk. June 2000, Sri Lanka.

MIDGLEY, John (KN) I've been running my own company since 95 and now work largely from home doing various things in optics, IT and mathematics. Married Lesley (K85 née Powell) with 3 UKC degrees, 2 children and a house in Sandwich. Contact me on 01304 614787 or email: lesley.midgley@virgin.net. May 2000, Kent.

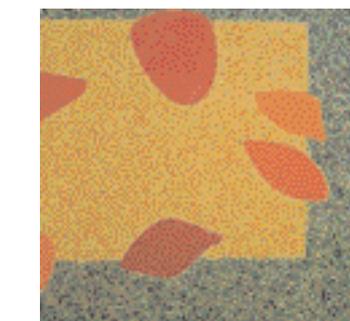
1988
COCHRANE, Louise (RS) Currently working from Jakarta as Programme Coordinator for VSO, supporting



1988
Pamela Cross (Director of UKC's International Office) met up with Kent alumni on a recent trip to Brunei. Pictured from left: Siti Salimah Abu Salim (E85), Susilawatiniah Hiji Ibrahim (E88), Pamela Cross, Cecilia Kong (E88) and Sainah Haji Saim D90.



1996
Julian R Kirk (RH) has set up Big Art Co, affordable and accessible modern art that can be purchased on the Web: www.bigart.co.uk London



Valerie Bloom's (R82) new book is a full selection of her warm and evocative poetry for children entitled *Let Me Touch the Sky: Selected Poems for Children* (Macmillan). Valerie's first book of poems was published in 1983, while she was at UKC, and since then she has conducted workshops, performances, as well as educational residencies, throughout the country. The University awarded her an honorary MA in 1995.

Autumn Gilt

*The late September sunshine
Lime green on the linden leaves
Burns bronze on the slated roof-tops
Yellow on the farmer's last sheaves.*

*It flares flame-like on the fire hydrant,
Is ebony on the blackbird's wing,
Blue beryl on the face of the ocean,
Glints gold on the bride's wedding ring.*

*A sparkling rainbow on the stained-glass window,
It's a silver sheen on the kitchen sink,
The late September sunshine
Is a chameleon, I think.*

Valerie Bloom

(by courtesy of Macmillan Children's Books)

volunteers and seeking new placements across Indonesia. May 2000, Indonesia.

HURLEY, Paul (KH) Quick snapshot since I left in 92: MA in film, then worked in interactive television, left that to be a film buyer and jumped into the .com world earlier this year. Feel free to contact me at eudipe@hotmail.com. July 2000, London.

SCALLAN, Samantha (RT) I am still based at King Alfred's College, wrapping up the research project I have been running with GP registrars for the last year. Marcus Collins R88 and I got engaged at Easter, and we are busily planning the event and the future. We are in regular contact with Helen Hall R88, Jason Barnaby D86, Alison Bellamy K93 and Martin Goodchild K88. May 2000, Hampshire.

TAYLOR, Ian N (EN) I am an enzymologist making chemicals for the pharmaceutical industry. Married with new baby son. Hope life is treating you as well as me. Contact me at: iantaylor@chirotech.com. May 2000, Cambridgeshire.

1989
ARONOFF, David (DN) I am training in infectious disease medicine at Vanderbilt University. Married; 2 children. Any UKC visitors welcome. April 2000, USA.

MBEKENI, Liyazongoma (KS) Currently Director of Research & Policy Planning and Economic Affairs. Married for 19 years. My daughter is doing a Bachelor of Commerce: Information Systems. May 2000, South Africa.

1990
HAGGER, John-Lloyd (DT) I love teaching but have resigned so I can run my own computing teaching resources company - the lure of longer holidays. Still in Bristol - it's a great city. May 2000.

KNOX, Scott (RH) After graduating I spent a year working for the National Union of Students (NUS) before moving to Endsleigh Insurance in London. Not a great career move but it got me to London. After 3 years I moved to a great job with Major Players in Covent Garden where I am now Director of Education for the Institute of Sales Promotion. The next step? You know me - take over the world outside the marketing industry! June 2000.

1991
ASKEW-RENAUT, Estelle (DS) After 2 months' travelling in Venezuela, I relocated from London to Brussels and am now working in a Washington DC-based law firm, specialising in European Law. I have met up with a number of UKC alumni out here, namely Indiana De Seze D91, Tessa Hellbusch K91 and Samantha Murray D91. June 2000, Belgium.

CHEVRIER, Sidonie (DH) Shortly to fly



Hor Seer Foon (KS), now working for Deloitte & Touche Management Solutions Sdn Bhd and **Hor Seer Heong (DA:95)** now working for Meditel Electronics SDN Bhd (an associated company of Siemens) brought their younger sister (right) to visit the Kent stand at the British Education Exhibition in Malaysia.

to the USA to start working at Badlands National Park in South Dakota. I feel absolutely thrilled. I will let you know about it when I come back to France. Best regards to all my friends from UKC. Email me at: csido@hotmail.com. May 2000, France.

KHUNJI, Rasha (KS) I work in the Technology Department in Investcorp House, Bahrain. If anyone is visiting or would like to know more about the Middle East please email me. Would love to hear from old friends from Park Wood. Keep in touch: friends are forever. Email me at: gatwa@yahoo.com. May 2000, Bahrain.

1992
BITHAL, Tarun (ES) I expect most people remember me as Taz! Working as a Senior Consultant for an American firm and living in London. I have travelled extensively both for work and pleasure, which is fun but exhausting. I have lost contact with many of my UKC friends; please contact me on: tarun1974@yahoo.com. May 2000, London.

BRENNAN, Jane (RT) I finished my CompSci degree in Germany in 95 and moved to Australia to marry my boyfriend Luke. Worked as a programmer before starting a PhD in Artificial Intelligence at the University of New South Wales. Happily married and still doing my PhD. How are Jools, Clarice, Martina, Ashleigh and Paul from Rutherford? Enjoying yourself in Strasbourg, Olivier? May 2000, Australia.

LANCEY, Kate (EH) Working in London and living in Berkshire with my partner. Seeing the latest *Bulletin* made me miss UKC - especially reading about Grace Clifton E92 whom I knew. Contact me at: katie_button@yahoo.co.uk. May 2000, London.

LE NAOUR, Patrick (RT) Head-hunted from Lucas, where I worked for 3 years, by the Ford Motor Company, to work for

their automotive parts subsidiary Visteon, who are now independent from Ford. As Account Associate based in Paris, I am in charge of developing the offer of Visteon's electronic systems to the French Car Makers. May 2000, France.

WEST, Michael (DT) Evening all, obviously as I never did any work at uni, I have carried on the trend by becoming a games designer. Basically get paid loads for coming up with silly game ideas and getting other people to make them. If only I had gone to those Computer Graphics lectures instead of being in the Uni bowling team. August 2000, Hertfordshire.

1993
ELLISON, Sara (KN) PhD Astrophysics (Cambridge) and now a postdoc astronomer at the European Southern Observatory based in Chile. Managing to fit in skiing, climbing and salsa around the stargazing! August 2000, Chile.

HOSSEIN, Caroline (ES) Since March I have been the Senior Program Officer for the 'African Woman Food Farmer' at an international organization called the Hunger Project in New York City. June 2000, USA.

LORKIN, Julian (RH) MA Radio (Goldsmiths College). I now produce a UK-wide radio programme on a major network. Email me at: lorkers@broadcast.net. May 2000, London.

1994
BARNETT, Tracy (RH) Working in French and English Publishing in London. Email me at: Tracy_Barnett@link.org. May 2000, London.

WELCH, Nicola (KS) After getting a MA in Russian & Russian Politics and Law, I am in a completely unrelated career as a Marketing Controller and Webtruss for a sales company in the semiconductor industry. It would be great to hear from anyone who was at UKC. Contact me at:

Deaths

We are very sad to have to report that we have been notified of the deaths of several alumni since the Spring 2000 *Bulletin*. **Annie Elizabeth Lockwood (E67 née Farmery)** died in March. **Tim Emms (E69)** died 30 December last year. **Robert Paul Williams (D71)** died in January. We were notified in September that **Steven Foster (K78)** had died. **Hussein Fahri D82** died earlier this year. We were notified in April that **Sharon Laura Cook (E81)** had died several years ago. **Mostokin Ali (E95)** died in August this year.

Contact us if you would like more information. We may be able to put you in touch with family or friends of the deceased.

nicola_welch@hotmail.com. August 2000, Hampshire.

1995
BAINBRIDGE, Emma (RH) Still at Kent doing a PhD in the postcolonial field. I would love to hear from those who were undergraduates with me. Contact me at: emma.bainbridge@virgin.net. May 2000, Kent.

DILLIWAY, Craig (ES) Hi everybody! For more details about me please visit www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~cjd. May 2000, Essex.



1996
Sharylza Alis Sharkawi LLB (ES), completed her CLP in Malaysia last year and is currently working in the Attorney General's Chambers, Kuala Lumpur; **Zairuddy Zainal (KS)** is now with BDO Binder, Public Accountants, also in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Only Connect...

Lost touch with an old friend? The UKC alumni database may be able to help. If we have a current address for them, we would be happy to forward a message from you. If we too have lost touch, 'Only Connect' (which is printed in the *Kent Bulletin* twice a year and on the Web) may get a response:

We would like to find Abdur Ismail Mia (E94), Bruce Carson (R66) w/lf Ronald Cleaver (R66), Tony Robinson (E67) w/lf Peter Miller (R67) and John Still (R67), Kevin Connell (E68) w/lf Angela Walker (Jepson, E70), Bob Gidlow (R69) w/lf Pete Stow (E66), and Tony Penning (K66), Phill Watson w/lf John Lewis (D70), Brian Greenow (K71) w/lf Alan Leigh and Alastair McFarlane (both K71), Alan Lear (R71) w/lf Elspeth Baillie (D71).

Richard Whiteing (E71) w/lf Paul Baines (R71) and Michael Flood (E71), Paul Gibson (E72) w/lf John McGowen (72), Mick Lowe (K74) w/lf Chris (Robin) Hodge (K74), Kaiyoze Billimoria (R75) w/lf Mike Woodhead (R75), Dave Grant (E76) w/lf Ian Scott Gilchrist (E76) and Aubrey Irwin (E75), Themis Themistocleous (K78) w/lf Kathy Davies (K77), Anthony Clarke (D79) w/lf Philip Milburn (D80), Tajammal Abidally (R80) w/lf Philip Sng (D81), John Foley w/lf Richard Leslie (R80), Dan LeClerc (R81) w/lf Horst Schade (E79), Chris Ryan (D81), Jenny Hartley (E79), Chuck Gray (E81) and John Feeley (E81), Darren K White (K81) w/lf Sarah Norris (E81) and Kathy O'Riordan (K81), Charles Abbott (K82) w/lf Gillian Anderson (K82), Colin Adams (E82) w/lf Malcolm Joyce (K82), Adebajo Odutola (R83)

w/lf Helen Gray (K82), Kate Amos (R84) w/lf Britt Reynolds (R86), Sharon Johnstone (R86) and Sally Meek (D85), John Dixon (K84) w/lf Richard Timm (K70), Kerry Jones (K84) w/lf Oliver Wagg (K88), Philip Duddy (R85) w/lf Colin Miles (R85), Andrew Roberts (R85) w/lf Tim Gregory (E85) and Mark Poultney (R85), Laurence Sands (K85) w/lf Marion Wachtel (D85), Karen Holmes-Malone (E86) w/lf Elke Huberti (E86), Antoinette Van Zelm and Sonya Lancaster (R86), Alex Knight (D86) w/lf Michael Rheinneck-er (D86), Tom Martin (E86) w/lf Simon Davidson (E86), Francoise Collange Davies (Davies E87) w/lf Julie Ford (R86), Joanna Roach (K87) w/lf Richard O'Brien (E89), Amanda Watson (E87) w/lf Tim Yarnell (E86) and Lawrence Peck (E86), Carol Whitwill (D87) w/lf Maisoon Rehani

(K87), Kevin Wilby (K87) w/lf Julian Palmer (K84), Amin Sabooni w/lf Dr Philip Philip (D88), Mineko Honda (R88) w/lf Sibel Kalaycioglu (R74), Sarah Lewis (K88) w/lf Spencer Marshall (E92), Gregory Weinkauff (R88) w/lf Melanie Shearer (R88), Ali Shamseddine (R89) w/lf Denise Freilich (R89), Laura Hutchison (D90) w/lf Tom Hargreaves (D88), Karen Webb (E90) w/lf Anthony Hall (R90), Crystal Hutton (D91) w/lf Barry Kiernan (D91), Mert Palabiyik (K91) w/lf M Khodor Mekkaoui (R91), Andrew Reid (K91) w/lf Diana Candida (K91), Caroline Tigner (E91) w/lf Luke Thurston (E91), Ian Bradley (D92) w/lf Barbara Coghlan (E89), Lisa Flexner (K92) w/lf Kostas Alexakis (R92), Andrew Courtney (K93) w/lf Mark Lawrence (K93), Francis Cook w/lf Suzy Romero (K95).

If you've used 'Only connect' and been lucky enough to re-connect, please let us know! Thanks.

Inside story



The series where UKC people describe what's really going on. Jenny Keaveney, Careers Adviser and Information Officer, describes...

Summer in the Careers Advisory Service

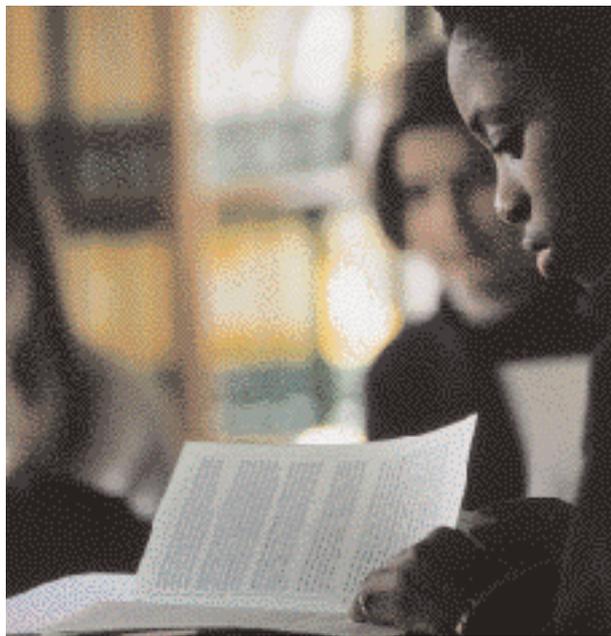
TThere was a time when the summer vacation was relatively peaceful.

The campus was deserted and we were left with few more pressing activities than updating the Careers Information Files.

Things have changed - the University, the students and the graduate job market - and the Careers Advisory Service must not just keep up with these changes but anticipate and prepare for them. Summer is not the same.

The graduates of 2000 emerged into a buoyant job market. Fewer than 3% were unemployed - the second lowest figure ever recorded. All kinds of employers are seeking graduate recruits, and only the most popular and competitive employers (such as the Civil Service Fast Stream, the investment banks and the big advertising agencies) can still demand that students adhere to the old 'milk round' schedule. In other areas, students know they can afford to wait.

This has nothing to do with student apathy - today's students are working harder than ever. Not just to get a 'good degree', but working to help fund themselves through University (which also helps to develop the personal skills employers require). Many can be seen around campus during the summer sporting UKC Hospitality T-shirts, and many of these, plus local students and



my surprise, everything falls into place and the booklet is dispatched to the publishers by the deadline.

Meanwhile, the other careers advisers have been busy revamping our Website. It now has a completely new layout, with information for students at our associate colleges as well as those in

postgraduates, continue to use the careers service.

We also see a number of 'mutual aid' graduates from other universities. And then there are enquiries and visits from UCAS candidates, employers, parents of graduates and the occasional language student or conference delegate (augmented this year by lost souls trying to find their way through the building site and into Keynes). So the Careers Information Room during vacation is sometimes hard to tell apart from the same room in term-time.

On top of this, I foolishly said yes to writing a careers information booklet for AGCAS - the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services - on Advertising, PR and Direct Marketing. These booklets are core careers material, used in careers services throughout the country. They may be the first thing a student reads on that career area, so need to be accurate and include all the essential information. Before starting to write I need to talk to professionals in all these fields, which entails several visits to London as well as many phone calls and emails. Somewhat to

London and even Brussels. Part of the site is, for the first time, devoted to UKC graduates, including encouraging alumni established in their careers to help students through the Careers Network and Careers Fair (1 March 2001).

One task that used to take up the vacation is the gathering of information about new graduates' destinations that is used as the basis of our (and the DfEE's) graduate employment statistics. New regulations for collecting this data mean that we are not allowed even to ask graduates what they are doing before September. This is all in the interests of statistical reliability, validity and consistency, but we must avoid losing touch with graduates in the interim.

The summer vacation does not quite link Lent and Michaelmas terms seamlessly with no let-up, but it is vastly busier than it used to be. And, in addition to all the above and the countless other routine tasks, we still must find the odd moment to update (at least some of) the files.

Visit our website at:
(<http://www.ukc.ac.uk/careers/>)



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