Queen’s Anniversary Prize for the work of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology

The University’s pioneering education and research in global conservation has been recognised with a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The award, celebrating the work of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), was in recognition of its excellence, innovation and benefit to the wider world, highlighting our work to protect species and ecosystems. The award was collected by Vice-Chancellor Karen Cox alongside DICE staff at an event at St James’s Palace on Thursday 21 November 2019.

Since its foundation, DICE has been a leader in its field, and instrumental in supporting applied research and capacity building in this area. It is the largest UK higher education institute to undertake this work, offering interdisciplinary undergraduate and postgraduate courses in wildlife conservation. To date, over 1,000 conservationists from over a 100 countries have trained with the institute.

DICE leads projects in over 50 countries, including research on human wellbeing and nature, human-elephant conflict, oil palm deforestation, online illegal trade in protected species, national park planning and ecotourism projects, and the mapping of biodiversity through eDNA. This work is supported by funding from a range of sources including NERC, Natural England, the government's Darwin Initiative and the Global Challenges Research Fund, part of the UK's official development assistance.

Professor Bob Smith, Director of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, said: ‘We are very honoured to receive such a prestigious award. The Prize acknowledges the hard work that has taken place over the last 30 years, and will support our future endeavours as we seek to grow our impact across the globe.’

Kent Business Summit 2020

The Kent Business Summit 2020 took place at the University’s Canterbury campus on Friday 10 January, with the key focus on sustainable economic growth for the county.

Organised and hosted by Kent Business School, the yearly summit encouraged business, government and academia to collaborate in tackling challenges in four priority areas for the county: transport infrastructure, placemaking, productivity and skills development.

Gavin Cleary, CEO of Locate in Kent, said: ‘There’s much to be excited about as we start the 2020s and the KBS Summit was able to give a real taste of this, from potentially transformative projects like Creative Estuary and Medway’s application to be City of Culture, to the way manufacturers like Sittingbourne’s Contracts Engineering are embracing technology to drive both productivity and innovation.

‘Kent is well placed across a number of key sectors and delivers the skills, infrastructure, jobs and investment that will maximise business success county-wide in the years ahead.’
First apprentices graduate from the University

The first cohort of apprentices from the University’s apprenticeship scheme graduated during ceremonies at Rochester Cathedral on 20 November 2019.

In total, 33 apprentices graduated from the BSc (Hons) in Applied Bioscience and BSc (Hons) in Chemical Sciences programmes.

Designed by employers, higher education providers and professional bodies, degree apprenticeships enable the development of high level skills, providing an alternative route to a degree and a career. Bringing together higher education study with paid work, degree apprentices spend part of their time in study and part with their employer.

The University’s Centre for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships (CHDA) launched in 2016 with the aim of working in partnership with regional and national employers to develop apprenticeships tailored to their needs.

For students, the benefits of an apprenticeship include gaining a relevant qualification, employer support for their studies, a cost-free qualification with fees paid for by the government and their employer, and the ability to gain a qualification whilst employed in a real job.

For employers, apprenticeships are a cost-effective way to attract higher calibre staff, develop existing employees, fill skills gaps and boost quality.

Live music – local to global'

The Gulbenkian has a new and exciting live music programme, including world music, folk, jazz, rock and pop, making it the most diverse music venue in East Kent. Working with independent promoters, they are presenting a programme that is truly ‘local to global’ this spring.

Headlining the Global Sounds with Music for Change series is the multi-award winning artist Nitin Sawhney, who will be performing on Monday 30 March, starting at 20.00. Nitin will present an evening of music and memories for all to enjoy.

Other artists due to perform at the venue include rising star of the London Jazz scene Camilla George on Friday 28 February, and Margate-based singer Rebecca Taylor (Self Steem), described by the Guardian as ‘wild, ambitious pop’ in a 4-star review, on Wednesday 4 March.

For further details and to book tickets please visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk/events

Exciting plans for the Gulbenkian

2020 sees the start of some exciting and innovative changes at our arts centre, which will benefit both Kent students and the local community alike.

If you’re a keen visitor to the Gulbenkian or want to make it your regular hotspot, then its upcoming renovation is sure to please. With support and funding from the Arts Council, the University’s dedicated performance space will transform its central foyer to better connect the wide range of people who visit and use the venue.

The work, which includes installation of new lighting and furniture, will support Gulbenkian’s ambition to offer more diverse cultural programmes and enhance its potential to generate income. Sustainability and inclusivity will sit at the heart of the project.

For students, the benefits of an apprenticeship include gaining a relevant qualification, employer support for their studies, a cost-free qualification with fees paid for by the government and their employer, and the ability to gain a qualification whilst employed in a real job.

For employers, apprenticeships are a cost-effective way to attract higher calibre staff, develop existing employees, fill skills gaps and boost quality.
Kent Student Awards nominations

The Kent Student Awards recognise the outstanding work of students on campus and in the community. Run by the University of Kent and Kent Union, the awards celebrate co-curricular achievements across many areas of university life.

This year there are nine categories in the awards to recognise students’ work in different areas, including the community, fundraising and sustainability. A full list along with T&Cs and more information about the process can be found on the awards website.

Winning students get an engraved brick in the University’s ‘Footsteps Path’ as a lasting expression of their impact on our community in the very ground of the campus. They also receive a trophy and a record of the achievement on their Higher Education Achievement Report, and all the finalists will be invited to attend a garden party celebration where the winners will be announced.

The 2019 awards saw some incredible students recognised for work on campus and in the local area, including the Student of the Year winner Daniel Rozenberg who also won Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community for his volunteer work giving legal support to local charities.

We welcome nominations from members of the local community as well as students and staff. If you know a student or student group who have done something amazing during their time at Kent and deserve recognition, please nominate them for an award! You can do so by completing the online form at www.kent.ac.uk/student/kentawards/. Nominations close at midnight on 22 March 2020.

Join us for lunchtime concerts and more

The University’s Music Department is proud to present a series of lunchtime concerts featuring both visiting professional musicians and students.

The exciting series continues on Wednesday 26 February with ‘CantiaQuorum’, performing a programme from the powerhouses of the German classical tradition. This will be followed by The University’s Chamber Choir and Consort on Friday 6 March and a concert titled ‘Last night on Rue Chappe’ on the 18 March, amongst many others.

On Saturday 28 March, Canterbury Cathedral will be the venue for the University of Kent Chorus and Symphony Orchestra concert, where the audience will be able to enjoy Requiem by Durufle & Symphony No3 by Saint-Saens. Saint-Saens’ monumental Organ Symphony has one of the greatest and loudest finales in all orchestral music. To many, the main theme is now best known for its emotive appearance in the 1995 film Babe, so come and hear it in its original exhilarating setting!

Commercial Services Showcase

Make a date to enjoy tasty treats, competitions and so much more at the University of Kent’s Commercial Services Showcase on Friday 6 March.

Come meet our fantastic teams at the Darwin Conference Suite on the Canterbury campus between 12.00 and 18.00. Our public facilities and services including conference spaces, private meeting rooms, party venues, event management support, catering outlets, Kent Sport and an Arts Centre are the focus of the event. The Showcase provides a great opportunity to see what’s available on your doorstep and how you can utilise our wide range of services.

For further information and to book your free place please visit www.welcome.kentconferences.co.uk/showcase2020

For more information and tickets please visit www.kent.ac.uk/music
Dates for your diary

- **Saturday 21 March** – Canterbury Christ Church Award Ceremony at Augustine House
- **Monday 30 March to Monday 13 April** – Easter Holidays at Canterbury Christ Church University
- **Friday 3 April to Monday 4 May** – Easter Holidays at University of Kent
- **Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 February** – The University of Kent Players present J.B. Priestley’s Dangerous Corner at the Gulbenkian. For tickets visit thegulbenkian.co.uk
- **Friday 13 March to Saturday 14 March** – University of Kent Musical Theatre Society presents Evita at the Gulbenkian from 19.30
- **Wednesday 25 March** – University of Kent String Sinfonia at the Colyer-Ferguson Hall, 13.30
- **Community Events** – on campus and in the city
  - *Meet me a Tree*: An interactive first opera for 0-2 year olds and their carers. Tuesday 3 March at the Gulbenkian Theatre
  - *Museum of the Moon*: A giant replica of the moon which has inspired audiences across the world is coming to Rochester Cathedral, from Thursday 13 February to Thursday 4 March
  - *The Tina Turner Experience Show*: Powerful vocals, live band, backing singers and fabulous professional dancers make: The Tina Turner Experience at the Gulbenkian on Friday 27 March at 19.30

For more key dates visit:
Kent – www.kent.ac.uk/community/dates
CCCU – www.canterbury.ac.uk/termdates

Who to contact

If you are experiencing problems with your neighbours, use the contacts below for information and advice.

**Noise**
T: 01227 862 202 E: envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk
www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20045/noise_and_air_pollution/65/report_a_noise_smell_or_smoke_problem

**Rubbish**
T: 0800 031 9091 E: help.canterbury@serco.com
www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20025/household_waste/120/report_a_missed_bin

**Crime or anti-social behaviour**
T: 101 to report non-urgent crime T: 999 to report an emergency
Find out who your Police Constable or Police Community Support Officer is by entering your postcode at www.kent.police.uk

**Students**
Both universities take the concerns of our neighbours very seriously. If residents experience anti-social behaviour, whether they believe it to be by students or not, they should contact the agencies listed above as they have the power to intervene. However, if you need further support both universities have a community liaison person who can provide further advice.
University of Kent – E: communityliaison@kent.ac.uk
Canterbury Christ Church University – E: communityliaison@canterbury.ac.uk

Kent Sport running groups

Kent Sport is bringing back their popular running groups for 2020! Why not make this the year you take up a new hobby, or dust off those old trainers and get back to running. Whether you’re just starting out or a confident runner, there’s plenty of sessions to suit everyone.

The 12-week Couch to 5k program is perfect for all beginners and will get you comfortably running each week, while the intermediate sessions may help motivate the already keen runner in you. If running at the weekend is right up your street, then Canterbury’s Parkrun, a free collection of 5-Kilometre events, may be just what you need for a Saturday morning!

2020 also introduces the Social Run Club, where a group will meet twice a week and be guided by a qualified member of staff.

For more information on all the sessions available and where you can sign up please visit www.kent.ac.uk/sports
Improve your English this summer with five weeks of free English language classes!

If English is not your first language and you'd like to improve, why not come along to some free English language classes at the University’s Centre for English and World Languages? This summer, we are offering English language classes every weekday from Monday 15 June to Thursday 16 July 2020. They are suitable for people aged 18 or over whose first language is not English. You don't have to be a University of Kent student and, best of all, there are no tuition fees.

The classes are a great way of learning English in a relaxed environment. They will be taught by trainees on our annual Cambridge Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) teacher training course.

To find out more and apply and conditions of the course please visit www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/courses/ceita/free-english-classes or call: 01227 824401.

Festive Fundraising

Christmas is seen as the most wonderful time of the year and last term staff, students and alumni at Kent certainly embraced the giving spirit.

Topping off a fantastic year of fundraising activities, the Kent Hospitality Housekeeping team organised a festive Christmas raffle to raise money for the local homeless charity, Catching Lives. Making the £500 donation in person to the Canterbury-based charity was Becky Verlin and Lydia Lee from the team.

After their visit in December, Becky said: ‘Catching Lives were extremely happy to receive our donation. I am humbled and very proud of the support from staff throughout the year for their generosity for this fundraising and to achieve over and above our expectations is a credit to all.’

But that's not all. Generous donations (including Gift Aid) at the University Carol Service appeal helped raise £2,004 for another local homeless charity, Porchlight.

Through the sale of Seasons Greeting Cards, the University’s Development Office had also been successful in raising £144 on behalf of Professor David Wilkinson’s Brain Injury research and development. This was sponsored by Carbase Dental practice, with both their support and every donation last term greatly appreciated.

From The Crown to The Lion King – the importance of visual effects in modern film and television

Love going to the movies or watching television? The School of Engineering and Digital Arts is delighted to announce its latest public engagement lecture entitled ‘From The Crown to The Lion King – the importance of Visual Effects in Modern Film and TV’.

Given by Dominik Platen, Lead 2D Artist at One of Us and Kent alumnus, the lecture will take place on Monday 2 March from 18.00 – 19.00 in the School of Engineering and Digital Arts on our Canterbury campus.

The talk will cover:
- Dominik’s study and career path
- What is VFX? Use of CGI vs invisible effects/set-extensions
- Types of VFX, using the examples of The Crown (Invisible, set-extension type work), and The Lion King (Photorealistic, fully-CG)
- The current state and future of the VFX industry in the UK

With its exciting topic, this lecture will appeal to a wide range of ages and backgrounds. Everyone is welcome to attend and school visits are encouraged to come along. The cherry on top of the cake is it’s free!

To book tickets for this lecture please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk

Photo: The Lion King: VFX by MPC 2019 ©Disney Studios. EDA Alumni: Dominik Platen
Topping out for new Medical School building

The University recently marked an important milestone for the new Kent and Medway Medical School building (KMMS) at a topping out ceremony on Monday 9 December.

The building, which is due to open in July 2020, will provide students with an inspirational learning and study environment, including a 150-seat lecture theatre, seminar rooms, IT suites, social spaces and a GP simulation suite.

KMMS is a collaboration between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University. It will offer first-class medical education and research, combining the existing high-quality clinical teaching and research strengths of the two universities. From 2020, it will provide a five-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (BM BS) degree with medical placements in Primary, Community, Mental Health and Secondary Care settings across Kent and Medway. Based at the universities’ Canterbury campuses, KMMS is Kent and Medway’s first medical school and aims to be first choice for all those aspiring to achieve excellence in person-centred medical care in the UK. In October, it received more than 1,500 applications for its 100 places.

When complete, KMMS will provide a centre in the region for medical education and research to develop the area’s health workforce, and address the growing need for medical professionals in the region due to rapid housing and population growth. Among those attending the topping out ceremony were Kent’s Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Karen Cox, Canterbury Christ Church’s Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, and Professor Chris Holland, Founding Dean of KMMS.

SPORTS FOR ALL THIS EASTER

Make the most of the Easter break with our half price one-month Kent Sport membership, giving you access from 1 to 30 April to our modern facilities including the gym and fitness and dance classes, which range from Circuits, Zumba, BodyPump, Spinning, Pilates and many more.

For children, EasterZone is the University’s one-week sports camp which runs during the spring vacation, from Monday 6 to Thursday 9 April. Co-ordinated by the Sports Development team, led by qualified coaches and supported by DBS-checked supervisors, children will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of sporting activities on a daily basis, including football, kwik cricket, tag rugby, hockey and multi-sports.

Find out more on our website: www.kent.ac.uk/sports

STUDENTS LEAD TREE PLANTING EVENT ON CAMPUS

Students from the Environmental Conservation Sustainability Society (ESC) brought together students and staff from across the University to plant 50 new native trees on campus. The UK Committee for Climate Change has called for dramatic increases in woodland creation as part of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Supported by the University’s Landscape and Grounds team, ESC Society secured 50 free trees from The Conservation Volunteers ‘I Dig Trees’ fund, and a piece of land that borders Bluebell wood on the Canterbury campus.

The new trees will provide more cover for the numerous bird species that feed and nest in that area, such as Great Tits, Wrens, Nut Hatches and Tree Creepers.

Postgraduate study at Kent
Apply now for 2020 entry

www.kent.ac.uk/pg