

Makeover for study of interior design

Kingston academics are preparing to step back in time to explore the history of interior design. The Centre for the Study of the Design of the Modern Interior is the first in the United Kingdom to look at the ways people have fitted out their homes since the mid-19th Century. Headed by Pro Vice-Chancellor for Arts Professor Penny Sparke, centre researchers will also examine the development of decor in offices, banks, shops and even in railway stations and cruise liners.

The experts intend to focus on the factors that have influenced interior design since furniture, carpet, china, pottery, glass and chandeliers were first showcased at the Great Exhibition in 1851. "Since that time, interior professionals such as architects, decorators and upholsterers have gradually emerged to join the amateur homemaker," Professor Sparke said. "Now interior designers have taken on a leading role in shaping homes, offices and public places." Retail giants such as Ikea had capitalised on this growing trend, she added. "We plan to examine where people have traditionally bought their furniture and fittings and how countries such as Sweden and the United States have come to dominate the market during different periods," Professor Sparke said.

The popularity of makeover shows such as Changing Rooms and House Doctor on television reflected the growing influence of interior design, Professor Sparke said. "People have become much more conscious about the look and feel of their homes," she said. "In fact, furnishings have become just as important as clothes and cars in making a statement about who we are or who we aspire to be. Our researchers hope to discover how this material culture has helped people form their identities."

The research team includes two visiting professors from the United States – Dr Alice Friedman from Wellesley College in Boston and Dr Pat Kirkham from the New York-based Bard Graduate Centre for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture. The centre was officially launched in the middle of May at the annual Dorich House Conference, which was this year entitled Modernity, Modernism and the Interior, 1870-1970.



Kingston researchers have embarked on a major study of the history of interior design.

Records reveal rapid rise in applications

Growing numbers of students are making Kingston their first choice of university. Figures released by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that applications for Kingston courses starting this September have risen 33.2 per cent, climbing to almost 25,000 compared with 18,668 in 2004.

UK marketing manager Anthony Allen said the University continued to appeal to prospective students from a wide range of backgrounds. Much of the interest could be attributed to Kingston's long-standing record for teaching excellence. "On top of this, the University now offers an even broader portfolio of courses and has been recognised for producing some of the best paid graduates in the country," Mr Allen said. Kingston's two-year

Foundation Degree programmes were also proving increasingly attractive to both students and employers.

First year journalism student Christina White believes the University's location is one of its strongest selling points. "I want to carve out a career in the media and was keen to study in London since it's at the very heart of the industry," she said. "From my point of view, Kingston is the only place to be."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Scott welcomed the UCAS findings. "These figures underline once again just how popular the University is with potential students. Applications to Kingston have been on a sharply rising curve for a number of years now," Professor Scott said.



Kingston has been officially recognised as having one of the country's fastest-growing student application rates.



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V-C'S COLUMN

To talk up Europe – I accept – is to swim against the Eurosceptic mid-Atlantic (and little Englander) tide that grips the national mood; maybe to downplay the imperative to recruit more international students (which Kingston shares with all other universities); even to appear to ignore all the fashionable chatter about the ‘clash of civilisations’ or the competitive challenges of the global knowledge economy.

But I believe links with the rest of Europe are one of the great, but largely unexploited, opportunities facing British higher education – which leads me to wonder whether Kingston should seize that opportunity and make being more European one of its distinctive characteristics. There are good reasons for this – both internal, or bottom-up, reasons (Kingston’s existing stake in Europe) and external, or top-down, reasons (the Bologna Process and the creation of a European Higher Education Area). Their combination adds up to a strong case for putting Europe at the heart of Kingston (or maybe it should be the other way round).

Kingston already is a European university not just in the same limited geographical sense as all British universities but because we have a much higher than average proportion of students from other European Union countries (and also from the wider Europe). Indeed, until the recent push to recruit more international students, we had almost as many other-EU as non-EU students. Maybe we should turn what was largely unplanned, although not exactly accidental (because deliberate efforts have been made, for example, to recruit French and German students into science courses and because all London-based institutions are inevitably attractive to students from our European neighbours), into an advantage.

Some of the University’s strongest partnerships are also with other European institutions – INHOLLAND Graduate School in the Netherlands (into which Haarlem Business School has merged), the Academy of National Economy and the Moscow Aviation University in Russia, ICBS and TEI Piraeus in Greece. Kingston also has significant research strengths, the best example being our 4-graded European Studies unit in the last Research Assessment Exercise with a particular strength in Mediterranean and Balkan studies. Individual colleagues also play key roles in European organisations – for example, the European Association of MBAs.

At the same time the whole shape of European higher education is changing – although we in Britain have been slow to engage. Too often the Bologna Process has been dismissed as simply a matter of course structures – introducing the Bachelor-Master pattern (which is fine with us because we already have a two-tier structure – provided, of course, that the rest of Europe lets us hang on to our one-year Masters which are so attractive to full fee-paying international students). Or it gets lost in the thicket of academic regulations – ECTS points for credit transfer, diploma supplements (i.e. transcripts) and other bureaucratic ‘instruments’. As for the parallel European Research Area, proposed European Research Council and ‘Framework’ research programmes – dear me, all those forms you have to fill in.

But Bologna is potentially far more significant. Its objective is to reform all European higher education systems – not excluding our own – and it has already gathered formidable momentum. The goals of Bologna are partly to make European universities more globally



competitive (why should the United States dominate all the league tables of world class universities and also why should America, despite its ‘neo-connerly’, continue to attract so many students from China, India – and Europe?); and partly to put universities at the heart of efforts to construct a new and more united Europe.

It is depressing to see how many British universities, which have such a vital contribution to make, deny these responsibilities. Some even define being global players in almost anti-European terms – ‘world class’ and ‘European’ are seen as mutually exclusive. The famous ‘Times’ headline comes to mind, ‘Fog in the Channel – Continent Cut Off’. The main offenders, prisoners of this neo-imperialism masquerading as global out-reach, are often the very institutions labelled our ‘best’ universities. Maybe ‘new’ universities, because they are carrying less baggage, have an opportunity, an opening, in building stronger European links based on mutuality and reciprocity.

If all (or any) of this is true, how should Kingston respond? I think there are four things we could do:

i) Pay the same attention to other-EU as to non-EU students, which may mean we should set (soft) growth targets. Although the former do not bring the same cash benefit as the latter, they bring other substantial benefits. At present other European students are almost invisible – they just ‘happen’ or else they are welcome because they make courses more viable;

ii) Concentrate on building key – strategic – partnerships with a limited number of other European institutions, starting of course with our existing partners but possibly seeking new ones (maybe more traditional universities as well as poly-equivalents and private institutions. I have always felt we could do more to build a stronger link with the university in Oldenburg, based on the relationship the borough has with that city);

iii) Be more engaged in European-funded research (maybe by using these partnerships). The latest ‘Framework’ programme is more user-friendly to universities – and a European Research Council will offer new opportunities. We should do this not just for the money, or any RAE spin-off, but for the access it gives us to research networks which will be the way of the future (inside Britain, within Europe and across the world);

iv) Be active in Europe – in European academic and professional associations. Again Kingston has a great opportunity. We are in London; our reputation means we have lots to offer; and it may be a less crowded market because, for all the wrong reasons, too few British universities have made a whole-hearted commitment to being European.

Maybe Kingston should make that commitment.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fellows praised for inspiring learning

Eleven University staff have become the latest recipients of two-year fellowships recognising their teaching innovation and contribution to pioneering learning systems. The awards, backed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the University’s Human Resources Department, honour both academic and support staff for outstanding achievement. Each fellow is set to receive £5,000 to develop projects ranging from a maths aid scheme to a programme to help students master advanced essay writing.

The fellows include principal lecturer Dr Neil Williams, who joined the elite group after setting up videos of chemistry experiments on the web-based Blackboard learning management system. “My aim was to enable students to access demonstrations online time and again without having to find a member of staff to help them,” Dr Williams said. “I intend to use the fellowship award to look more closely at the impact of different teaching methods on students.”

The scheme reflected the place learning and teaching occupied at the heart of the University’s activities, Associate Head of the Academic Development Centre Sheila Browning said. “It’s important for staff to have their teaching achievements acknowledged, especially since their day-to-day work has such an impact on students’ university experience,” she said.

Kingston’s nominees for this year’s HEFCE National Teaching Fellowships will be drawn from the award recipients.

Dr Neil Williams, rear, was one of 11 University staff rewarded for his achievements in a fellowship scheme co-ordinated by Associate Head of the Academic Development Centre Sheila Browning.



Club encourages an early appetite for art

Children from throughout the borough have been reaching for their painting aprons as part of an educational initiative giving them the chance to work alongside real-life artists. The Stanley Picker Gallery’s Art Club caters for youngsters aged from seven to 11, who are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild while brushing up on their creative skills.

Overseen by practising artists, the interactive workshops encourage the children to try out techniques and develop ideas connected to the Gallery’s main exhibition programme. Co-ordinator Jackie Thomas said the club reflected the University’s commitment to stimulating creativity within education. “It’s now widely accepted that artistic activity helps children develop skills needed in everyday life,” she said. “Even Government ministers have recognised that getting young people involved in a range of cultural learning experiences leads to better team working and communication in the long term.”

The young participants had demonstrated a genuine enthusiasm for expressing their feelings

about issues that were important to them, Ms Thomas said. “It’s been so rewarding to see their self-confidence grow as they work alongside the artists,” she said. “Children are extremely inventive, and, when inspired, can produce some absolute masterpieces.”



Model-making has been among the activities captivating creative youngsters at the Stanley Picker Gallery Art Club.

Tributes flow for design stalwart

Friends and colleagues have been mourning the death of one of the University’s longest-serving members of staff. Product and furniture design course director Mick Warren, who started teaching at Kingston in 1972, was a highly-regarded member of the Faculty of Art, Design and Music.

Senior lecturer Ted Vincent, who worked alongside Mr Warren for 20 years, said he would be remembered for always putting his students first. “Mick got to know them all individually and had an uncanny ability to help turn their creative ideas into real-life products,” Mr Vincent said. Design colleague Jikki Dehn recalled Mr Warren as a larger than life

character. “Mick was passionate about his work and very clear about how he wanted the course to develop,” she said. “He was particularly keen to encourage students from different backgrounds to fulfil their true potential.”

Highlights of Mr Warren’s career included setting up the first student design show, staged at the V&A Museum in 1984. He was also the driving force behind developing Kingston-validated courses at the New Design Centre in St Polten, Austria. “Mick was a great leader and a true friend,” Mr Vincent said. “His door was always open and he’ll be sorely missed by everyone here.”



Mick Warren devoted more than 30 years to nurturing students’ design talent.

Social scientists champion enhanced public awareness



Original research collaborations and a greater public profile are among the benefits expected following the launch of the University's new Institute for Social Sciences. The concept, developed within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, is the brainchild of Associate Dean Phil Spencer and Head of Social Science Professor Joe Bailey. They launched the institute to bring together growing pockets of social science research being undertaken across the wider University.

"While there has always been a strong concentration of activity within the School itself, we became increasingly aware of how many social scientists there were based in other parts of the institution," Professor Bailey said. "Many interesting projects were being carried out in such areas as geography, law, education, business and health."

As the idea evolved, the founders began to look more closely at how the institute could work and what its objectives should be. "It struck us that we ought to harness the enthusiasm that already existed by bringing people together to investigate and develop new initiatives," Mr Spencer said. "We all agreed collaborative research projects should be one of the top priorities. We also hoped that, by pooling social science expertise from a range of subject areas, we would be able to create a

Professor Joe Bailey hopes the launch of the Institute for Social Sciences will propel more of Kingston's academic experts into the media spotlight.

bank of specialists to respond swiftly and effectively to media inquiries about issues of public interest." A University-wide audit of social science research is currently being undertaken, with the results expected to shape the institute's development.

Bringing together social scientists from an array of different disciplines would make it possible to extend knowledge transfer between the University and the community, Professor Bailey said. "In the future we hope to be able to provide external consultancy and encourage further stimulating links between researchers and postgraduate students," he said.

New University Project

Plans unveiled at open meeting

Borough residents made the most of their first chance to inspect plans for major University redevelopment when a series of open public meetings got under way in May. Architects' drawings of proposed improvements set to shape the future look of the institution generated plenty of discussion when they went on show at the Penrhyn Road campus.

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Strategic Development Dr Ken Hopkins said he had been encouraged by the level of feedback about what the University hoped to achieve during the next few years. "The public meeting was the community's opportunity to see our ambitious plans for itself," he said. "We firmly believe the University is Kingston's university and we want the people of the borough to be part of its future direction."

The meeting was one of the latest activities instigated by the New University Project team to keep the local community up to speed with progress. A website was launched earlier this year and a newsletter called Communicate is now being distributed to households in the area on a regular basis. Team members have also been heavily involved in briefing local residents' associations during the past few months. Further open public meetings are due to be held later in the year.



An open public meeting has given Kingston residents an opportunity to discuss the impact of University redevelopment on the borough.

Get to know the Governors

Entrusted with shaping the educational character of the University and fine-tuning the focus of the institution's activities, Kingston's Governors have plenty of responsibility resting on their shoulders. Board member Thalia Marriott explains why she decided to take on such an important role in higher education.

What is your background?

I'm currently principal and chief executive at West Thames College in Hounslow. I moved there in 1999 from South Thames College, where I was deputy principal. I am also co-author of GCSE and A-level language workbooks, including Longman's Help Yourself to Essential French Grammar. I didn't actually pursue a teaching career until I was 27 and taught French and Spanish during the earlier part of my career. Previously I had lived in the United States, working as a translator and secretary at the United Nations, before returning to England to study linguistics and French.

What prompted you to become a Governor?

West Thames College has excellent links with the University. Because of its location, Kingston is the first choice university for many of our further education students. West Thames also has its own higher education programme, so I have a strong interest in what is happening in the sector.

Do you have other Board responsibilities?

I sit on the employment committee.

What have been the highlights of your time as a Governor?

I particularly remember the strategic planning away day outlining the New University Project. I was really excited by the vision that was shown and pleased to be part of the decision-making process.



West Thames College principal Thalia Marriott hopes the University will foster stronger links with the further education sector.

What do you believe are the major challenges facing the University?

Making a success of the New University Project, which is a tremendous opportunity to take Kingston forward into a new era, is vital.

What is your vision for the University?

I would like to see Kingston become more firmly established as a leading British University. From a West Thames College perspective, I would also like to work even more closely with the University. To fulfil the Government's target to get 50 per cent of young people into higher education, it's extremely important for the University to continue to strengthen its links with further education colleges.

• The University's Board of Governors is made up of 24 members – 12 independent representatives, another eight who are co-opted, two academic staff, one student and the Vice-Chancellor. Meetings are usually held six times a year.

Donation destined to aid redevelopment

A consignment of books from the Law School is being shipped to Sierra Leone to bolster efforts to rebuild the African state's legal system after years of civil war. The assortment of law journals and other texts donated by senior lecturers John Tribe and Eric Jeanpierre is being transported to the capital city Freetown by the British Army.

The books were collected from the Kingston Hill campus by Mr Tribe's father, Royal and Electrical Mechanical Engineers Captain Allan Tribe, earlier this semester. They are due to arrive in Freetown, where the British Army is based, at the end of May. Once unpacked, the contents will be distributed to courts and education facilities. "The country is desperately poor and urgently needs resources," Mr Tribe said. "The courts, in particular, were heavily vandalised during the civil war and are virtually starting again

from scratch." The University's gesture has been matched by a large donation of books from Kingston Crown Court. "The result has been a brilliant team effort," Mr Tribe said.

Captain Tribe is confident the project will make a real difference to Sierra Leone's recovery from a decade of civil war. "The country has been through so much and hopefully this project will go some way towards helping it get back on track," he said. The Law School and Army are now making plans to fly a further batch of books to Belize in Central America.

Captain Allan Tribe, left, visited the Kingston Hill campus to take delivery of a donation of specialist books from law lecturers Eric Jeanpierre, centre, and John Tribe.



High-flying engineer scoops international scholarship

An aircraft engineering student has been named one of the aviation industry's most promising young talents. Ryan Wilson, who is completing the University's Foundation Degree programme at the Newcastle Aviation Academy, has been awarded an International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading (ISTAT) scholarship. Ryan is one of only four students from around the globe to receive \$US10,000 from the ISTAT Foundation, which supports up-and-coming aviation professionals through funding and training programmes.

The 24 year old from Belfast collected his cheque at ISTAT's annual conference in Arizona earlier this year. "All I've ever wanted to do is build and repair aircraft and this scholarship will help me fulfil that ambition," Ryan said. "I love working on planes and getting my hands dirty but the trip also opened my eyes to the sheer size of the aviation industry and the other job prospects that could one day be an option for me."

Aviation Academy head Jeff Watson nominated Ryan for the scholarship in recognition of his outstanding performance. "Ryan has shown a real determination to carve out a career for himself in aircraft engineering," Mr Watson said. "This award will boost his chances of landing a good job at one of the country's major airlines when he graduates."

ISTAT Foundation trustee Chris Partridge said Ryan had the potential to go a long way in the industry. He also praised the Newcastle Aviation Academy's role in addressing a shortage of qualified aircraft engineers. "We are striving to promote aviation as a worthwhile career and the Academy is certainly playing an important part in developing the knowledge and skills' base needed to support that goal," he said.

The Aviation Academy is run in partnership by Kingston University, Newcastle Airport, the City of Bristol College and Newcastle College.



Newcastle Aviation Academy student Ryan Wilson is soaring through his studies after being awarded a scholarship from the International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading.

Links help to advance patient care

An American telemedicine pioneer has teamed up with University researchers to develop cutting-edge techniques with the potential to treat patients in their own homes. Joseph Ternullo, associate director at Harvard Medical School-affiliated Partners Telemedicine, has taken up a post as senior visiting fellow at Kingston's Mobile Information and Network Technologies Research Centre.

Mr Ternullo plans to continue exploring the use of live video images, mobile phones and Internet technology in patient treatment as part of his new role. His investigations have close connections to Kingston researchers' trials of a robotic technique allowing doctors to perform ultrasound scans without having to sit next to their patients. "Telemedicine will never replace face-to-face care but it has the potential to free up waiting rooms for patients in more need," Mr Ternullo said. "For example, we've looked into setting up a diabetes management and recording system using mobile phones. This could reduce the need for regular hospital check-ups and allow patients greater freedom to continue with their everyday lives."

An ageing population in the United States meant that mobile health care was becoming increasingly essential, Mr Ternullo said. It was, however, proving more difficult to persuade patients and medical staff about the need for such change. "People access their bank accounts from anywhere in the world and buy groceries online and they're no longer amazed by that," he said. "If a patient has an X-ray at a hospital though, it's virtually impossible to have their results transferred to another medical facility. That culture must change if we are to improve care."

Mr Ternullo's fellowship is being sponsored by Vodafone and the Royal Academy of Engineering. He said he had been particularly keen to forge ties with the University because Kingston was rapidly emerging as a world leader in mobile communications. Research co-ordinator Bee Tang said staff were already benefiting from tapping into Mr Ternullo's expertise. "We've worked very hard to build partnerships all around the world and Joseph is at the very top of his profession. We're looking forward to sharing ideas and developing our collaboration even further," Ms Tang said.



American telemedic Joseph Ternullo is pioneering new developments in mobile health care with Kingston staff.

Comic book capers lift the lid on science



Dr Simon Locke is exploring the way comic book characters are used to portray advances in science.

A lifelong comic enthusiast has delved into his collection to explore the scientific roots of such characters as Superman, Spiderman and the Incredible Hulk. Sociology lecturer Dr Simon Locke has found that, while many scientific discoveries are greeted with widespread acclaim, superheroes are also used to portray breakthroughs in a more negative light. His research suggests that comic strip favourites have also reflected public scepticism about scientific advances since Superman first took to the skies in the 1930s.

Dr Locke has spent the past two decades investigating the topic after a childhood fascination with comic books sparked his interest in the subject. "I read my first superhero comic when I was four years old and now I've got thousands of them. As I've grown older, I've realised that comics carry a much deeper meaning about how society perceives scientific developments," he said.

Superman's first appearance in 1938 highlighted the public's fear of the unknown. "At that time people still didn't know what would happen if they left the Earth's atmosphere," Dr Locke said. "Superman's superior strength and resistance to physical injury was seen as an example of what humans might evolve into if scientists did go into space. The character epitomised everything good about the potential of space exploration but people were also afraid of the consequences."

More recently, the Incredible Hulk had emerged as a classic example of what could happen when a scientific experiment went wrong, Dr Locke said. The green-skinned comic character was created when a fictional scientist accidentally irradiated himself during a gamma bomb test. "On the one hand, modern society is structured around scientific developments and people are keen for scientists to find cures for diseases," Dr Locke said. "On the other hand, this progress can be unpredictable and, in some cases, potentially dangerous. Certainly in the Hulk's case, the capability of science is portrayed as a source of trouble."

The next stage of Dr Locke's research will examine the way mad scientists, including Superman's arch enemy Lex Luthor, are portrayed in comic books.

Alumnus turns on the style at London Fashion Week

A Kingston graduate joined some of the biggest names in the industry when he showcased his latest collection on the catwalk during London Fashion Week. Daniel Poulson unveiled his new autumn and winter range alongside 160 other exhibitors at the event, regarded as one of the highlights of the international fashion calendar.

Womenswear specialist Mr Poulson said the shows had given both established and up-and-coming designers an opportunity to catch the eye of buyers from all over the world. "Taking part was a great chance to build contacts with people in the industry who I might not normally meet," he said. "Last year I struck a deal to market my collection in Saudi Arabia and this year I was approached by a number of people interested in finding out more about my work."



Designs by Kingston graduate Daniel Poulson hit the catwalk during London Fashion Week.

Cutlery chair set to seat hungry hordes

A design student could soon be causing a stir amongst discerning diners in some of Britain's leading restaurants after creating a chair from used cutlery. Osian Batyka-Williams has welded together more than 150 knives, forks and spoons for his final-year project. He hopes his concept could soon be rolled out to seat patrons in the country's top eateries.

Osian, who is completing a degree in product and furniture design, said a chance discovery that restaurants tended to change their cutlery every nine months inspired him to build the chair. "It occurred to me that there must be a lot of waste cutlery out there because people don't usually want to buy second-hand knives and forks," the 22 year old said. "The obvious thing seemed to be to find a way to get restaurants to use the cutlery again and that's how I got the idea to make chairs." Osian spent six months collecting unwanted cutlery from restaurants and charity shops in South West London before setting to work. "It's taken a long time to get everything together and a lot of late nights creating the chair itself but all the hard work has been worthwhile," he said. "The chair is only a prototype and the design could easily be adapted for different types of restaurant." Osian is now taking his concept a step further – creating a cushion made from recycled napkins to make his chair more comfortable.

Senior lecturer in product and furniture design John Coles said Osian's cutlery chair was an inspirational design with excellent manufacturing potential. "Osian has an amazing creative spark and, once he has an idea in his head, he always goes that extra mile to realise his vision. He has also considered wider issues such as the importance of sustainable design and that vision will ensure he has a very bright future in the industry," Mr Coles said.

Furniture connoisseurs will be able to put Osian's cutlery chair to the test when the Faculty of Art, Design and Music hosts its annual Degree Show in June.



Osian Batyka-Williams has his sights set on providing seating for diners at Britain's top restaurants.

After completing his Kingston course in 1995, Mr Poulson worked as an assistant designer at top fashion house Sara Sturgeon for five years. He launched his Daniel Blake label in 2003 after a spell working as a design consultant for MaxMara. "I actually started my business using contacts I made during my Kingston studies," he said. "The University's Fashion Department is very good at introducing students to industry contacts and helping them get that all-important first job."

Mr Poulson also works as a visiting lecturer on the course that gave him his big break, drawing on the advice offered by his own Kingston tutors when they fostered his talents a decade ago. "I always remind my students that fashion is full of ups and downs. The industry moves on and buyers' opinions change but I advise them that, if they are passionate about clothing, they shouldn't be afraid to take risks," he said. "Above all, they should always aim to produce garments that inspire them."

New research projects under way

Academic staff have commenced another round of research projects after securing backing from a variety of funders.

Grant Holder	School/Centre	Project Title	Funding Body	Amount/Duration
Dr C McGuckin	Life Sciences	To Characterise the Potential of a Proprietary Cord Blood-derived 'Multi-lineage Cell Line' for Biomedical Applications	BioE	£26,000 – one year
Professor L Spaas	Humanities	Remembering the Congo	British Academy	£6,055
Professor R Blackburn	Small Business Research Centre	The Economics of Compliance Assessment and Enforcement Strategy – Scoping Study	Environment Agency	£5,000 – one month
Professors R Blackburn and D Smallbone	Small Business Research Centre	Social Inclusion in Enterprise Development – Action 1	European Social Fund	£6,000 – six months
Ms R Athayde	Small Business Research Centre	Evaluation of 'Big School'	Young Enterprise Northern Ireland	£5,000 – four months
Professor R Ennals	Centre for Working Life Research	Integrated Innovation	Norwegian Research Council	£10,000 – three years

Lottery emerges as odds-on favourite for women

The age-old stereotype of men frittering away their hard-earned cash in betting shops could soon no longer hold true, new research has found. A Kingston study suggests that these days women are just as likely to fancy a flutter, particularly when it comes to the National Lottery. Dr Emma Casey, a senior lecturer in sociology, has been exploring the reasons that have prompted increasing numbers of working class women to turn to the lottery as a leisure pursuit.

Previous research into participation in the National Lottery had never explored links between gender and class, Dr Casey said. Her study had tracked the consumer habits of sample groups of working class women from Lewisham in South London and Newcastle. The research had found that females were becoming just as likely to gamble as men. "Although men might still prefer to bet on horses and greyhounds, the National Lottery is a more accessible form of gambling

for women," Dr Casey said. "Females with hectic lifestyles can buy a ticket at a petrol station or supermarket, for example, without having to go out of their way."

The results also dispel the belief that the lottery encourages addictive behaviour and wasteful spending. "There may be a small proportion of players who become hooked but, for the majority, buying a ticket is nothing more than a bit of fun and gives them something to look forward to," Dr Casey said. The study revealed that women had generally already planned how they would spend the jackpot if their ticket was a winner. "Mental pleasure is gender specific and women are clearly driven by how their lives could change if their numbers were to come up," Dr Casey said.

The National Lottery Commission is now considering Dr Casey's proposal to take the study a stage further. She hopes to generate the country's first database of female lottery players if given the go-ahead.



Dr Emma Casey has found growing numbers of working class women are hoping to strike it rich on the National Lottery.

Study could slow disease to a snail's pace



Dr Tony Walker is exploring links between freshwater snails and cases of the disease schistosomiasis in humans.

Research being carried out at the School of Life Sciences could help experts determine why snails are the perfect carriers of one of the world's most widespread waterborne diseases. Senior lecturer in cell biology Dr Tony Walker is investigating how certain types of freshwater snail become infected by a parasite which causes schistosomiasis in humans.

The infection, capable of causing malnutrition, bladder cancer and kidney failure, had its origins in certain species of freshwater snail which harboured a parasite called schistosoma, Dr Walker said. Once inside the snail, schistosomes reproduced until thousands of new parasites were emitted into the water, infecting humans by penetrating the skin. "People catch the disease through direct contact with water that is home to infected snails," Dr Walker said. "Typically they are exposed to it during activities such as drinking, washing and bathing. It is also a common ailment among workers in such industries as farming and fishing." The infection is particularly prevalent in rural

populations in parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Dr Walker has teamed up with experts at the Natural History Museum to look more closely at changes in the snails' cell behaviour when infected by schistosomes. "We already know that these parasites cause major physiological changes in snails," he said. "Little research has been done, however, into how the snails' defence system reacts to schistosomes and we hope to make advances in this area." Dr Walker is particularly keen to discover how different cell signals are affected by the parasite, allowing it to replicate inside snails. "At this stage, we're not trying to find a cure for the disease but to increase understanding of how schistosomiasis actually spreads," he said. "Further down the line, our work might also help scientists suggest ways to control infection rates."

Dr Walker has been awarded a promising researcher fellowship from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to pursue his study.

Academic accomplishments

The University has announced the latest recipients of its prestigious research degrees.

Emma Ferry has been named a Doctor of Philosophy in recognition of her work entitled 'Advice, Authorship and the Domestic Interior: An Interdisciplinary Study of Macmillan's 'Art at Home Series', 1876-1883'.

Mary James has been awarded a Master of Philosophy after completing a study of 'The Glovemakers of Battersea with Particular Reference to the Glovers of the Fownes Glove Company, 1777-1900'.

Millie Ho has received a Master of Science by Research after examining 'Artificial Neural Networks for Speaker Recognition'.

Michael Robinson has been awarded a Master of Arts by Research after concluding 'An Enquiry into the English Art Dealer System of the Early Modernist Period.'

Fellowship for exponent of classroom equality

A researcher from the School of Education has received Government backing for her work exploring ways teachers can help students with disabilities reach their full potential. Dr Victoria Perselli has been awarded a promising researcher fellowship from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to investigate how educators can improve learning for pupils with special educational needs.

Youngsters with conditions ranging from mild language or developmental difficulties to autism



Senior lecturer Dr Victoria Perselli has been awarded a promising researcher fellowship from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

and Down's syndrome were increasingly being taught in mainstream schools, Dr Perselli said. "The biggest challenge is to enable those pupils to participate in school life as purposefully as their classmates and there are number of ways teachers can make that happen," she said. "They might modify their language so they are understood by children of all abilities and should also take individual physical and learning requirements into account when planning lessons." It was vital the curriculum was varied so pupils with short attention spans were not sitting still for long periods, Dr Perselli said. Plenty of sporting and artistic activities were also important in boosting children's achievement levels.

During her six-month fellowship, Dr Perselli will visit the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in the United States to work on her new book, *Diversity and Method*. The content will include case studies from her time as a special educational needs co-ordinator in infant and junior schools. "Wisconsin has a strong reputation for teacher education research," Dr Perselli said. "I hope to learn more about techniques to help teachers explore their own professional practice in relation to pupils with disabilities while I'm there."

Dr Perselli intends to draw on her overseas experience to enhance her work leading practitioner research modules on Kingston's Master in Education and Doctor of Education programmes. "Many of my students teach children with special needs and I hope my findings will help them respond to the challenges they face more effectively," she said.

Education expert heads back to Parliament

Politician Alistair Burt has returned to Whitehall with an in-depth understanding of higher education after completing a programme to bring parliamentarians up to speed with the role of modern-day universities. Kingston was one of four institutions chosen to play host to the Conservative MP when he took part in the two-year fellowship scheme run by the Industry and Parliament Trust.

Mr Burt, who has most recently served as private parliamentary secretary to Conservative leader Michael Howard, said he had gained an enormous insight into higher education during his time at Kingston. "Few of my colleagues have had such an amazing chance to find out how a university actually works. I was given an access all areas pass which I really valued," he wrote in a report summarising his experiences.

The opportunity had taught him that universities needed to define their missions more tightly to differentiate themselves from each other and build on their strengths as part of their local economies, Mr Burt said. "I was very taken with the extraordinary efforts made by universities to match their talents with the world of enterprise around them. At Kingston, Professor Andrew Self's pioneering work relating aircraft development to the mutual benefit of industry and university was truly inspiring," he said.

The fellowship has strengthened Mr Burt's belief that higher education should be properly



Going back to the lecture theatre has helped MP Alistair Burt get a better understanding of the challenges facing universities.

funded and universities allowed to run with a minimum of bureaucracy. He has also called for universities to be free to choose their students. "Excellence should be acquired not at the expense of others, but as a reflection of a nation where education is prized by all," he said.

Watching Kingston students step forward to receive their degrees at a graduation ceremony at the Barbican Centre would remain ingrained in his memory forever, Mr Burt wrote. "You could not look into the eyes of those students without recognising that each one had a story and that each would make a difference to the company and country they worked for," he said.

Speaker revisits Holocaust horror

A Holocaust survivor relived the trauma of life in Nazi concentration camps at a University commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Rene Salt was guest speaker at the special event, staged as part of a week of diversity and equality awareness-raising activity in April.

Mrs Salt, whose father and younger sister perished at Hitler's hands, described how she was living in a ghetto in her Polish hometown, Zdunska Wola, when the German army tore her world apart. "I remember so vividly the night the Gestapo took my sister away - it is imprinted on my mind," Mrs Salt, then aged 13, said. "They forced the people from the ghetto into fields and began to separate the children. My mother hid me on one side and my sister on the other under her coat. They uncovered my sister and I knew we would never see her again." Mrs Salt's sister was gassed at the Treblinka concentration camp along with hundreds of other children.

Grief-stricken Mrs Salt was sent to another ghetto in Lodz with her parents and forced to work in factories. "There was severe overcrowding, people were starving and disease was widespread," she said. "I contracted typhus and on my second night in hospital the Germans cleared the building out except for the infectious ward. The only reason I wasn't taken to an extermination camp then was because I was so ill." In 1944, Mrs Salt and her parents were herded on to a train to Auschwitz. She lived to tell the tale - her father was not so lucky. Mrs Salt and her mother later moved to the Belsen concentration camp, where they remained until

it was liberated by British forces in 1945. Her mother died just 12 days later.

Earlier this year Mrs Salt, now 75, returned to Poland and Germany for the first time since the war to feature in the BBC documentary *Grandchild of the Holocaust*. The programme was narrated by her grandson, Adrian. "I went back to my home town, then on to Auschwitz and

Belsen," she said. "The only place I couldn't bring myself to visit was my family's house."

Mrs Salt said the opportunity to speak at the University was another important step in educating younger generations about the Holocaust. "I don't like talking about what happened, but I feel I have to," she said. "Only by remembering the Holocaust can we prevent such an atrocity happening again."

Mrs Salt's visit marked the start of UNity Week, a programme of events highlighting Kingston's commitment to encouraging staff and students from all backgrounds to participate fully in University life. "Rene's story was particularly poignant because it reiterated the importance of tolerance and understanding of people's differences," diversity and equality manager Jan Stow said.



Auschwitz survivor Rene Salt returned to the death camp with grandson Adrian, right, earlier this year.

Exhibitions and Events...

SUMMER 2005

EXHIBITIONS JUNE

WEDNESDAY 8 – SATURDAY 25 JUNE

Lines of Investigation

An exhibition highlighting the role of drawing in developing ideas for design and art work.
Stanley Picker Gallery, Middle Mill, Knights Park

*Gallery opening times: Tuesday–Friday 12.00–6.00pm;
Saturdays 12.00–4.00pm;
Mondays (by appointment only)*

TUESDAY 14 – THURSDAY 23 JUNE

Faculty of Art, Design and Music Degree Show

Featuring work by students graduating from the Schools of Architecture and Landscape, Art and Design History, Fine Art, Design, the Department of Fashion and the HND in Graphic Design.
Knights Park campus

*Opening times: Monday–Friday 10.00am–9.00pm;
Saturday 10.00am–4.30pm
A private view will be held on Tuesday 14 June from
6.00–9.00pm.*

EVENTS MAY

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY

11.00am **Health and Social Care Sciences Graduation Ceremony**
Barbican Centre, London

FRIDAY 27 MAY

11.00am–
3.00pm **Widening Access and Success Seminar**
Keynote speaker Professor Diana Laurillard, Head of the e-Learning Strategy Unit, Department for Education and Skills.
Kingston Hill campus

SATURDAY 28 MAY

7.30pm **Kingston University Chorus and Orchestra Concert**
A performance of an oratorio by Haydn.
Kingston Parish Church, Market Place

EVENTS JUNE

SATURDAY 4 JUNE

7.30pm **Kingston University Big Band**
Featuring a range of popular jazz music, preceded by a performance of the winning entry in the annual composition competition.
Kingston Parish Church, Market Place

WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE

4.00 and
6.30pm **University Fashion Show**
Launching catwalk collections created by final year students
Banqueting House, Whitehall Palace, London

FRIDAY 24 JUNE

3.00–
8.00pm **University Birthday Party**
Featuring a range of activities for staff, students, alumni and their families to enjoy.
Coombehurst Lawn, Kingston Hill

7.30pm **Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire**
A performance by internationally-renowned soprano and Arts and Humanities Research Board fellow in creative and performing arts Dr Jane Manning.
Coombehurst Studio, Kingston Hill

Space invaders book place at Readers' Festival

University rocket scientists have been hard at work showing youngsters there is more to learning about the solar system than working their way through textbooks. As part of a Kingston Readers' Festival bid to enthuse children about literature, director of the University's Aerospace Research Centre Dr Chris Welch volunteered to make it his mission to promote the study of space. Families turned out in force earlier this month to find out more about his search for life on other planets.

Dr Welch, who chairs the United Kingdom's Space Education Council, said the festival had provided an ideal opportunity for young people to learn about the universe. "Children can be put off studying space because it is often seen as a highly scientific subject," Dr Welch said. "Bringing so many people together under one roof gave us the perfect chance to demonstrate that space discovery could actually be a lot of fun."

Dr Welch's guide to rocket-building and space launching systems topped the bill at the workshop. He discussed the use of

rockets in the Napoleonic and Second World Wars before turning his attention to the Space Age and nuclear-powered launchers. Kingston life sciences lecturer Dr Andy Augousti and former NASA award-winning student Rebecca Blackhurst also gave space-related talks. Youngsters then had the chance to put theory into practice building their own air-propelled cardboard rockets with a helping hand from aerospace engineering and astronautics students.

The event was one of more than 20 in this year's Readers' Festival programme backed by the University. It also supported appearances by a series of high-profile speakers, including Monarch of the Glen actor Julian Fellowes and former BBC Newsnight presenter Donald MacCormick. Festival director Sandy Williams praised the institution's commitment to getting involved in cultural activities in the borough. "The University is a real gold mine of talent and our audiences have loved getting an inside view of Kingston's vibrant academic community," she said.



Youngsters followed in the footsteps of Mount Primary School pupils when they were challenged to create air-propelled rockets during the Kingston Readers' Festival.

The University has supported 21 Kingston Readers' Festival events this year. Those still to run include:

MONDAY 23 MAY

7.30pm **Whatever: A Guide to Parenting Teenagers**
Guest speakers health education consultant Gill Hines and Alison Baverstock from the School of Marketing.
Borders store, Market Place

7.30pm **The Universe: The Big Picture**
Cosmology experts Professor Peter Coles and Marcus Chown discuss their work in a panel chaired by Dr Chris Welch from the School of Engineering.
Tiffin School, Queen Elizabeth Road, Kingston

THURSDAY 26 MAY

7.30pm **Question Time on Politics and the Media**
Daily Mirror associate editor Kevin Maguire, co-founder of SustainAbility John Elkington, visiting professor of economics at the University of Manchester Diane Coyle and Brian Cathcart from Kingston's School of Humanities discuss the role of journalists covering political affairs.
Chairman former BBC Newsnight presenter Donald MacCormick.
Tiffin School, Queen Elizabeth Road, Kingston

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University staff are invited to submit ideas for possible stories and features. Contributions should be sent by email to bridge@kingston.ac.uk or by internal mail to Bridge, Room 6, River House.

The editorial team reserves the right to amend articles as appropriate.