Funding aids fight to counter gun crime

Experts from Kingston’s Digital Imaging Research Centre have embarked on a major project to improve the way closed circuit television is used in the battle to keep guns off Britain’s streets. Drs Jean-Christophe Nebel and Dimitrios Makris have secured £186,590 of funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to develop a CCTV system able to pinpoint the behaviour of people carrying concealed weapons.

Working in partnership with academics from Loughborough, Brighton, Liverpool and Sunderland Universities, the Kingston researchers will play a key part in developing intelligent software capable of monitoring body language and reactions.

The three-year Multi-Environment Deployable Universal Software Application (MEDUSA) project is backed by the Metropolitan Police and the Firearms Partners Group and has a total budget of £620,500. Existing technology only provided operators with the scope to detect weapons if they were somehow visible on camera, Dr Nebel said. The new product would allow CCTV systems to automatically scan footage, searching for tell-tale signs that might indicate a person was carrying a firearm and bringing them to operators’ attention if necessary. “This will mean operators will be in a better position to alert police more promptly about the possible presence of a firearms and give officers additional time to respond to a potential incident,” Dr Nebel said.

The project was particularly important since the number of firearms-related offences in the United Kingdom had been growing since the mid-1990s, Dr Makris said. Home Office statistics showed there were almost 11,000 such incidents recorded in England and Wales between 2006 and 2009, up 6 per cent on the previous year. “We hope to develop technology that will eventually be applied to the network of 6,000,000 cameras already in place in the United Kingdom, providing an easily-implemented and effective means of helping tackle a problem of national concern,” he said.

Kingston’s Digital Imaging Research Centre is held in high regard for its pioneering research in visual surveillance. Other advances in the use of predictive CCTV systems have already been trialled on the underground and rail network.

Alumnus savours Oscar success

Alumni savours Oscar success

A Kingston illustration graduate has had special reason to celebrate the Oscar success of Box-office hit Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit. Claire Billett, who worked for two years on the Aardman Animation production, is the hands and brains behind Were-Rabbit characters Victor and Lady Tottington.

“I didn’t know which company had won the award for best animated film until 11 switched on the television the morning after the Oscar ceremony in March and I was so proud to hear the news,” she recalled. “Going to the premises and seeing your work on the big screen is a real high point of the job, especially on a major project like Were-Rabbit, so to be told you have an Oscar on top of that was just amazing. Everyone at Aardman is a perfectionist striving to make each production as good as possible and I think the Oscar is a real tribute to that dedication.”

The 29-year-old character animator is no stranger to success. Her work on the company’s first feature film, Chicken Run. She is now in the throngs of creating new children’s series Shaun the Sheep, using stop-motion animation techniques which require meticulous attention to detail. “It can often take a whole day to make two seconds or less of finished animation. I place the puppets in position, take one frame, move the characters just a fraction, then take another frame,” she said.

The focus of the Kingston illustration course, and especially her tutors, had provided the perfect foundation for her career. Ms Billett said: “Because the lecturers were practicing professionals, they were always keen to push us as students to achieve to industry standards. The intensity of the course was invaluable and the strong work ethic created a real atmosphere of creativity on campus,” she said. “I think the fact my Kingston degree had a strong emphasis on drawing helped me a lot in terms of observation, which has turned out to be crucial to the kind of animation I do.”

Ms Billett won her first animation accolade during those early days at Kingston, scooping the Royal Television Society’s National Student Award. Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture technical officer Brian Ackland remembers her as an outstanding student with a real passion for her chosen subject: “It’s no surprise Claire has gone on to award-winning success so early in her career.” Mr Ackland said.

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T he New University Project is dead – long live the NUP. That was my, admittedly second and more considered conclusion, to the surprise of, among others, that Surrey County Council had pulled out of the Private Finance Initiative deal to build a new headquarters in Woking (which means – almost certainly – that it will have to stay in County Hall for the moment, which means it can’t sit it in the University). My first reactions, of course, were disappointment and frustration. The NUP was always conceived of as more than just another big estates project, although understandably a lot of people tended to regard it as a rather pedestrianly code-word-for-buying and constructing County Hall (plus some other bits and pieces). Now, with the collapse of the County Hall deal, we can no longer regard the NUP as that. So have a choice – to junk the NUP, we can no longer regard the NUP in the moment, which means it can’t sell it to the headquarters in Woking (which pulled out of the Private Finance Initiative, is dynamic, innovative, creative…). To become a new university (not in the ex-polytechnic sense, but a new kind of university). To develop new creative research and scholarship needs to be distinct because one feeds off the other, although in complex ways. Rather, as with internationalisation, if Kingston is to realise its full potential as a university, research is key. It provides a vital edge, a stimulus to (even) higher aspirations, across the whole range of academic work. But, as I’ve written in other places, traditional research is just part of a much wider spectrum of activity that includes application, innovation and creativity.

• Restructuring, both academic and administrative – There are strong links between the recent changes in the academic structure of the University (and the current changes in its administrative structure) and the NUP – although these changes cannot be treated as an exact template for the configuration of the University’s campus. The former were designed to make Kingston fit for 21st century as possible; the latter to produce not just new buildings but academically and organisationally because they create the strategic context which determines our trajectory as an academic organisation.

• Research and enterprise – Maybe an artificial separation is needed because one feeds off the other.

• Social values, design values and, of course, values built in, literally, are values between them) are machines in which people function. So we have a choice – to junk the NUP, we can no longer regard the NUP in the moment, which means it can’t sell it to the headquarters in Woking (which pulled out of the Private Finance Initiative, is dynamic, innovative, creative…)

Appointment promotes economic potential of island state

A Kingston honorary graduate has added a new diplomatic responsibility to his credentials. David Doyle, who was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration in 2001, is now in charge of promoting the interests of the small island nation of St Kitts and Nevis in France. Serving as honorary consul, he will assist the Caribbean state’s Government in identifying new opportunities for increasing export. A former Irish civil servant, Dr Doyle has worked in French diplomatic circles for more than 30 years. He intends to draw on his experience championing small business in Europe in an effort to transform the economic fortunes of St Kitts and Nevis. “The island is currently facing a crisis as a result of a loss of preferential tariffs for commodities such as sugar. This has led to job losses and the demise of a 300-year-old industry,” Dr Doyle explained. “My role will involve attracting inward investment, promoting tourism and increasing general awareness of the island’s prosperity,” he said.

A senior lecturer from the School of Life Sciences has been appointed to the editorial boards of two medical journals with a worldwide readership. Dr Gulfaraz Khan, a cellular pathology specialist, will review and commission articles for publication in the Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences and the Caribbean nation of St Kitts and Nevis in France.

Dr Doyle believes a number of similarities exist between the island now and the current situation in St Kitts and Nevis. “Ireland has undergone a transformation during the past three decades to become a modern, innovative and successful economy. As an island state, it overcame many of the challenges facing St Kitts and Nevis. I am looking forward to using the skills and experience I acquired representing Irish trade interests in France to aid the island’s prospects,” Dr Doyle said.

Dr Khan believes a number of similarities exist between Ireland and St Kitts. He did not choose the title – New University Project – simply as a rather grand label to describe the development of the University’s campus, crucial as that is because there seems to be a general agreement that the current conditions of our estate is a serious deficit (although we have developed most of the substance of a university, we still lack a university ‘presence’). We chose it to make a confident statement about our commitment to developing Kingston itself as a successful 21st century university, in tune with the aspirations set out in our mission statement. These words about ‘democratic entitlement’ ‘creativity’ ‘fixing the imagination’ – written by us, remember, not a public relations or image consultant – point us what we’re trying to achieve with the NUP. University explaining ways of using feedback to improve course delivery and a presentation on the Kingston experience from Students’ Union representative Chris Ford. Associate Head of the Academic Development Centre Merton Webb said the conference had provided delegates with a valuable opportunity to share examples of good practice from across the institution. “The participants recognised that it was becoming increasingly important for them to good their knowledge and keep up to date with latest trends in an era in which students want to be sure their education equips them with the right qualifications to launch a successful career,” she added.

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New look for University website

The University’s remodelled website contains more detailed information for students considering enrolling for a Kingston degree.

Redevelopment work gathers pace

Activity has stepped up on two major construction projects at the Penrhyn Road campus. A new six-storey quadrangle building and a state-of-the-art centre for sustainable education are set to transform the site into a modern town centre campus by the end of 2007.

Estates project manager Neil Woodcock said contractors Dean and Dyball had started work on the quadrangle complex earlier this year, following demolition of an outdated workshop block. The structure will include three lecture theatres along with dedicated information technology and teaching space.

The company’s first task has been to prepare the area prior to the foundations being laid. “Work on the main body will proceed shortly before cabling is laid,” Mr Woodcock said. The building is expected to be ready for use from September 2007.

Elsewhere on site, the development of the Centre for Sustainable Communities Achieved Excellence in Teaching and Learning Resources Centre would open up space for a large debating chamber and lecture area. An interactive learning resources centre would also be created.

The centre would serve as a model of the way buildings could incorporate elements of sustainable design, Mr Woodcock said. “Everything from the drainage system, where we are using cast iron instead of plastic pipes, to the timber worktops and floor tiles, which are made of 40 per cent recycled material, has been chosen for its sustainable characteristics,” he said.

C-SCAIPE is due to open in August.

Government grant to boost alumni activity

The University has secured $137,000 from the Department for Education and Skills after being selected to take part in a new Government scheme to encourage private donors to support higher education. The money will be allocated to Kingston during the next three years as part of a £7.5 million pilot project involving 27 institutions across the United Kingdom.

The initiative is expected to spur a number of mutually-beneficial relationships with such stakeholders as alumni and industrial partners.

Kingston’s funding allocation of $137,000 a year saw it join Cranfield, Bath, Nottingham Trent and De Montfort Universities at the top of the awards list. Each successful institution will match the Government funding, in Kingston’s case meaning more than £700,000 will be pumped into new activity by the end of 2009.

Alumni and events manager Dr Helen Trott, whose team was responsible for the successful bid, said the funding acknowledged the strides Kingston had made keeping links with former students. “We now have a flourishing alumni association with more than 8,700 graduates on our books and are keen to make contact with more, particularly those from the 1960s and 1970s,” she said.

Alumni were playing an ever-increasing role in activity at the University, Dr Trott added. Many came back to undertake further study and attend cultural events, because involved with course projects or lecturing, gave careers advice to current students or helped financially through donations.

“These activities in turn promote lifelong learning and encourage a new generation of students to enrol at Kingston,” she said. “The additional funding will put us in the perfect position to further strengthen this circle of learning.”

The University’s remodelled website contains more detailed information for students considering enrolling for a Kingston degree.

Headed by the web team based in the Marketing and Communications section within the Department of External Affairs, the project took seven months to complete. It also involved members of staff from across the University, who contributed additional course material, student and alumni profiles and career information.

One of the biggest parts of the project involved moving the prospectus online, following the purchase of the Rhythmn Content Management System. Web manager David Gilbert said the database provided staff across the University with a more efficient means of modifying their course pages instantaneously. “This ensures students are now able to log on and view a definitive, up-to-date version of the prospectus at any point in the year,” Mr Gilbert said.

Initial feedback from users had been very encouraging. Mr Gilbert added: “Not all students are able to attend open days, especially those living abroad, so the new features give them a real flavour of where they will be studying and living without even having to move away from their computer terminals,” he said.

A second phase of website redevelopment is now under way, focusing on postgraduate, international, alumni and newsroom content.

The University’s remodelled website contains more detailed information for students considering enrolling for a Kingston degree.
Bridge

E
ight mathematics students have been putting their lecture theatre learning into practice by sharing numerical knowledge with pupils at schools across the borough. They have become the University’s first participants in the Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme, established to boost the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates moving on to careers in teaching.

As part of a 19-week programme, the Kingston students have been paying a series of visits to Hollyfield School in Surbiton, Coombe Girls’ School in New Malden and Chessington Community College. Principal lecturer Nigel Atkins said the nationwide initiative added a vital vocational dimension to degree-level learning. “By taking a hands-on role in classroom activities, second and third year students from the University have been able to see for themselves that mathematics continues to play an important part in the modern-day school curriculum,” he said. “They have also been developing their communication skills explaining concepts to children of different ages while acquiring a first-hand view of the challenges teachers encounter and the fulfillment that can come from doing the job well.”

Mature student Bozena Miller, who has been working with Year 7 and 9 pupils at Hollyfield School, said assisting with a range of exercises and giving special attention to young people with language difficulties and special needs had proven more rewarding than she had anticipated. The experience had made her more determined than ever to train as a teacher once she had graduated, she added. “I have really been enjoying interacting with the pupils and being able to make maths come alive for them. It’s been especially satisfying when I’ve succeeded in explaining a difficult problem to them,” she said.

Hollyfield’s head of mathematics, Andrew Nortoes, praised Bozena’s enthusiasm in the classroom. “We have gained an enormous amount from having another person who is passionate about maths at the school. Bozena has become a real asset in my department – even volunteering to come in during the Easter break to provide extra help for pupils setting their GCSEs next term,” he said. “Her presence has provided an excellent role model for the pupils, many of whom have been inspired to think more seriously about the advantages of completing a degree themselves.”

Graduate takes trophy for top class teaching

There were 19 pupils at Tolworth Infant School last year, and each of them underwent a complete turn around. She really is able to work...
A Kingston student's drive to succeed in a male-dominated occupation has been recognised with a top industry accolade. Automotive engineering student Kiara Harper has become the proud holder of the Ford WISE award, which honours high-achieving female undergraduates in the penultimate year of their studies.

As part of the selection process for the trophy, 28-year-old Kiara had to explain to a panel of professional engineers how she would cope working in an industry where most employees were men. "Being the only female in a course intake of 36 students, I told them I was already quite used to being in a largely male environment and the experience had simply made me even more determined to do well," she said. "After all, engineering isn't really about oily rags and oversalls — it's actually a highly technical profession just as suitable for women.

Having completed the first two years of her Kingston degree course, Kiara is now developing further hands-on skills as part of a year-long work placement with engine manufacturer Cummins. "I've also been involved in the company's scheme to promote engineering in schools in Dagenham and I've really enjoyed talking to pupils about my experiences," she said. "I wish someone had filled me in on the opportunities open to women in this field when I was still at school!"

Away from the classroom, Kiara is a motor sports enthusiast. A regular at the Grand Prix, one of her career goals is to help design and test vehicles for a leading Formula One team. "Motorport is one of the most competitive industries to break into and, whether you are male or female, you have to be at the very top of your field to stand a chance," she said. "I'm prepared to start at the bottom, though, and work my way up gradually."

The University's field leader in automotive engineering, Dennis Marchant, said Kiara's attitude and commitment had made her an obvious contender for the Ford WISE award. "She lives and breathes the subject and is an excellent role model always ready to help at open days and induction events," he said.

A new business venture has seen its fortunes soar after technology created as part of a Kingston University Knowledge Transfer Partnership was purchased by the Hiton Hotel chain. The accommodation giant has commissioned The FMCompany to install its touch screen site terminals in 60 hotels in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The multi-lingual online system, set up to streamline facilities management, was developed when engineering consultancy Letch, Bates and Associates approached the University's Enterprise Exchange for support. The link soon led to software engineering graduate Andrew Lewin and marketing postgraduate Richard Cooper being commissioned to turn a prototype already patented by the company into a commercially viable product.

Known as KTP associates, the pair set to work establishing a panel of professional engineers on the University's campus and began to promote the venture to a wide cross-section of potential employers.

The University and Lerch, Bates and Associates collected a Knowledge Transfer Partnership Award from then Trade and Industry Secretary Alan Johnson in March. At a ceremony to live.

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Report reveals bankruptcy remains a last resort

The assistant director of Kingston’s Centre for Insolvency Law and Policy has cast doubt on suggestions that bankruptcy is on the rise because it is regarded as an easy way to escape financial woes. In a pilot study released earlier this year, senior lecturer John Tribe, who is based at Kingston’s Law School, found that many debtors in England and Wales would go to great lengths to avoid being declared bankrupt. He also noted that the causes were far more complex than sometimes perceived.

More than half the respondents sampled as part of the Bankruptcy Court Survey 2005 attributed their predicament to an inability to manage credit, Mr Tribe said. Business failure, divorce, illness and redundancy were the next most-frequently cited factors. Commissioned by the Insolvency Service as part of its evaluation of Enterprise Act reforms that came into effect in 2004, the report concluded that most debtors in England and Wales would go to great lengths to avoid being declared bankrupt. He also noted that the causes were far more complex than sometimes perceived.

Given a 30 per cent rise in bankruptcies between the second and third quarters in 2005, Mr Tribe maintains that the conduct of lenders should be re-examined. “A credit agreement is a two-sided contract and therefore it could be argued that both the debtor and the bank are equally culpable. Some of the 955 bankrupts I interviewed had been given credit when it was clear they were in no position to make repayments,” he said.

Modifications to the Enterprise Act had brought the discharge period for bankrupts down from three years to one, reducing the time they had to wait to once again become eligible for credit. However, Mr Tribe said, new research had demonstrated that changes to the law had not made being declared bankrupt any more palatable a prospect. “There appears to be as much of a stigma attached to bankrupts as there was 500 years ago when they were labelled ‘evil-minded’ by the Bankruptcy Act of 1543,” Mr Tribe said. “It is certainly not as easy an option as some lending institutions would make out – in fact most people would do anything to avoid becoming bankrupt at the point where some take drastic measures.”

Mr Tribe has taken his findings all the way to the Scottish Parliament, where politicians are considering adopting similar reforms. “Through the evidence collated during my research, I was able to demonstrate that claims shortening the discharge period had led to an increase in bankruptcies didn’t take into consideration the fact that irresponsible lending was occurring...”

The evidence collated during my research, Mr Tribe said, “I was encouraged to see that my address stimulated some lively debate in the chamber.”

A dearth of researchers studying personal insolvency in the United Kingdom was worrying given the growth of debt nationally, Mr Tribe said. “I was encouraged to see that my address stimulated some lively debate in the chamber.”

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Academic accomplishments

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

Anthony Escott has become a Doctor of Philosophy after examining the work of ‘Alan Colburn: Colour Theory and Practice’.

John Hudson has been named a Doctor of Philosophy after completing a study entitled ‘Alan Ayckbourn: Subverting the Form’.

Ettienne Corree has become a Doctor of Philosophy after investigating ‘Optical Flow and Tracking Techniques for Recovering Motion within Image Sequences’.

Senior lecturer John Tribe has discovered changes to the law have not resulted in bankruptcy being viewed as an easier means of escaping debt.
Academic takes action to restore urban rivers

A senior lecturer is spearheading a campaign to help communities rediscover what he believes is one of their most precious resources. Dr Stuart Downward, who is based in the School of Earth Sciences and Geography, has been providing the Environment Agency and local councils with expert advice in a bid to restore rivers in city settings.

The presence of a clean, picturesque river played a crucial role in urban regeneration as it encouraged people to forge a strong bond with nature and their surroundings, Dr Downward explained. “Rivers and parks are among the last bastions of nature in built-up areas, and the authorities are now beginning to realise exactly how important it is to protect and improve them,” he said. “Rivers bring all sorts of benefits to communities, not just in terms of making the environment more pleasant and encouraging wildlife. They also have enormous educational value for schoolchildren, for example, and provide a venue for recreational activities.”

Many rivers had been swallowed up by urban encroachment over the years, Dr Downward said. “In some towns and cities, rivers have literally been forced underground and forgotten about, so people have become divorced from nature,” he explained. “I’m keen to see them returned to their former glory to recreate that link.”

Improving contaminated waterways is also high on Dr Downward’s agenda. He has already seen his recommendations for transforming the Wandle Park Channel in South West London become a reality. When called on to survey the site 10 years ago, Dr Downward found a clogged stretch of water running between ugly concrete banks. “In the past, the council would probably have viewed the river as a health hazard and built over it, but now thinking is more enlightened,” he said. “During a five-year period the concrete was removed and water quality improved. It’s now a clean river where wildlife flourishes and heron come to fish.”

Another recent project has resulted in the River Quaggy — once driven underground by urban sprawl — restored in Lewisham’s Sutcliffe Park, where it now occupies a prominent position as a wildlife and wetlands area.

Dr Downward acknowledges river restoration can present some risks. The possibility of pollution and flooding, especially in dense urban areas, had to be considered along with public safety issues, he said. However, there were likely to be even more dangers if nothing was done. By encasing a river in concrete, the problem of contamination, for example, was not being solved.

The next project on Dr Downward’s list is advising on the clean-up and restoration of the River Lee in East London, which is part of a multi-million-pound regeneration project before the 2012 Olympics. “This is a huge opportunity to revitalise a long-neglected river and show the rest of the world how such work can benefit the environment and the whole community,” he said.

Facilitator strengthens focus on sustainability

Nicola Corrigan is a woman with a mission. The University’s newly-appointed sustainability facilitator is determined to ensure environmental responsibility is embedded at the heart of all activity and decision-making on campus.

With a job role that encompasses tackling a range of social, community and resource issues, Ms Corrigan is already making her mark. She has just helped the institution succeed in its bid to achieve Fairtrade-status, recognising its support for goods produced using ethical business practices, and is also hard at work promoting greater energy efficiency and recycling.

She said her appointment signalled the University’s commitment to taking even greater responsibility for the impact it had on the local community and the environment. “Kingston is already recognised as a leader in this field, particularly through its work on the sustainable curriculum,” she said. “My aim now is to make sure all students and staff are aware of actions they can and should take to preserve the planet for future generations.”

Previously head of an award-winning environment team at the University of Hertfordshire, Ms Corrigan is well aware of the significant effect a large educational establishment can have on the surrounding area. An organisation as big as Kingston University not only consumed significant quantities of water and energy, but also faced transport issues and needed to make important considerations when purchasing goods, she said.

Ms Corrigan firmly believes the University has an obligation to help ease pressure on local roads and develop sustainable travel. She intends to work on data collected from a survey assessing the ways staff and students get to the University’s four campuses in her bid to change attitudes and increase support for the institution’s Travel Plan. “It’s inevitable that people will sometimes need to use cars, but what I hope to do is raise awareness of alternative transport options that are more environmentally-friendly,” she said. “Even by considering car sharing just one day a week, it’s possible for people to make a huge difference.”

Recycling is also a pivotal part of Ms Corrigan’s remit. Long term she aims to raise the University’s rate above the national target of 25 per cent. “Recycling should still however be the last resort,” she said. “I’m encouraging staff and students to be more mindful of keeping waste to a minimum in the first place and to think more about reusing products in other ways before they turn to recycling. Every time something is thrown away it costs the University money for disposal which could be better spent elsewhere.”

The future behaviour and decisions of students with regard to sustainability would be shaped by what they learned from their campus experiences and through the leadership of the institution, Ms Corrigan added. “Kingston University has a strong tradition of academic research in sustainability and it is important that this knowledge and experience continues to be put into practice on campus and in the local community to provide a positive example of the good things that can be achieved,” she said.

New sustainability facilitator Nicola Corrigan has been raising awareness about Fairtrade products and recycling issues across the University.
The University is gearing up to play a major part in supporting the fifth annual Kingston Readers’ Festival. Alumni and events manager Dr Helen Trott said the University would this year be hosting 15 events at locations across campus.

Dr Trott believes the festival is an ideal way to showcase the literary talents of academic staff while contributing something special to the local community. “The University is a huge resource of learning and we have so many interesting members of staff who are either writing books or can talk about them with passion and knowledge,” she said. “We have always found that for many people the Readers’ Festival opens doors to a whole range of opportunities at the University, from seminars and short courses through to postgraduate study.”

From humble beginnings in 2002, the festival now consists of 65 events staged over a five-week period. Speakers will provide an insight into such subjects as politics, poetry, philosophy, publishing, Zoroastrianism and interior design. Festival director Sandy Williams said the University’s support was always guaranteed to add a range of inspiring features to the programme. “Kingston University has been instrumental in the success of the festival since its inception, helping it grow into the event it is today,” she said.

Also supported by Kingston Council and sponsored by Borders and John Lewis, the festival will raise funds for the new Rose of Kingston Theatre, the All Saints Parish Church Appeal and a range of reading-related charities.

The following Kingston Readers’ Festival events are among those being hosted by the University:

**TUESDAY 15 – SATURDAY 24 JUNE**

London Orbital – Providing perspectives on urban and suburban living through exhibits from lecturers, research fellows, PhD students and visiting professors at the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture. Stanyard Point Gallery, Middle Mill, Kingston Park

Gallery opening times: Tuesday-Friday 12.00–6.00 pm; Saturday 12.00–4.00 pm; Monday by appointment only

**WEDNESDAY 14 – THURSDAY 22 JUNE**

Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture

Undergraduate Degree Show – Featuring work by students graduating from the School of Architectural and Landscape Architecture, Art and Design History, Fine Art, Design and the Department of Fashion. Kingston Park campus

Opening times: Monday-Friday 10.30 am–6.00 pm; Saturday 12.00–4.00 pm; Sunday by appointment only

**EVENTS: MAY**

**WEDNESDAY 10 MAY**

1.15 pm Lunchtime concert – Hosted by the School of Music; featuring the newly-formed Kingston University Guitar Ensemble. Coombehurst Studio, Kingston Hill campus

**FRIDAY 12 MAY**

4.00 pm The Future of the United Nations Genocide Convention – Part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ Human Rights Seminar Series. Guest speaker Mahta Faresi, programme manager for Rights in Action and research fellow at the Overseas Development Institute. Room TH13, Penelope Road campus

**WEDNESDAY 17 MAY**

1.00–3.00 pm Is Human Rights Useful for Improving Development Policies and Practice? – Part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ Human Rights Seminar Series. Guest speaker Maria Frensini, programme manager for Rights in Action and research fellow at the Overseas Development Institute. Room TH13, Penelope Road campus

1.15 pm Lunchtime concert – Hosted by the School of Music; featuring the Kingston University Wind Ensemble. Coombehurst Studio, Kingston Hill campus

6.30 pm Local Residents’ Meeting – An opportunity for residents to hear about the University’s plans, meet senior staff and discuss issues of mutual interest. Putney Room, Penelope Road campus

**TUESDAY 23 MAY**

1.15 pm Lunchtime concert – Hosted by the School of Music; featuring the Kingston University University Chorus and Orchestra. Coombehurst Studio, Kingston Hill campus

**SATURDAY 16 MAY**

7.30 pm What Good Are the Arts? – Reviewer and author of two compilations on national identity. Professor Brian Hughes discusses his latest publication, Why Theatre? – The University’s Chancellor, Dr Ian Smith from the Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture, and Dr Simon Garfield, a feature writer for The Observer and author of two compilations on oral history, discuss his latest publication, We Are at War.

7.30 pm The Remarkable Diaries of Five Ordinary People.

7.30 pm We Are At War – Simon Garfield, a feature writer for The Observer and author of two compilations on oral history, discusses his latest publication, We Are At War.

**SATURDAY 20 MAY**

11.30 am English National Identity. A Fairy Tale? – Dr Andrew Trenoweth from the School of Humanities discusses the impact of English folk and fairy tales on national identity.

4.00 pm English National Identity. A Fairy Tale? – Dr Andrew Trenoweth from the School of Humanities discusses the impact of English folk and fairy tales on national identity.

**SATURDAY 27 MAY**

7.30 pm Evening concert – Featuring the Kingston University Chorus and Orchestra. Sunbury Assembly Rooms, Maple Road, Kingston

**EDINBURGH FESTIVAL**

**MONDAY 12 JUNE**

4.00 pm University Fashion Show – Launching catwalk collections created by final year students.

Banqueting House, Whitehall Palace, London

**Editorial Information**

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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 rights to amend articles as appropriate.