



HISTORY TODAY

School of History Newsletter

Dear Friends

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year and a particularly warm welcome to the Freshers. We also welcome new academic staff to Kent: Dr Susanna Ivanic, a Lecturer in Early Modern European History, and Stuart Barker, a Lecturer in American History. There have also been some changes to Professional Services ('Team Admin'): Amy Harrison and Emma Purce, recent postgraduates of the School, join us and you will see them in the History reception. Do pop in and say hello! You have all joined a large and thriving History School. We number about 800, incorporating staff, postgraduates and undergraduates. We want you to feel part of the academic community here at Kent and there are events throughout the year that you are most welcome to attend. The university year kicks off, appropriately, with the Start of Year lecture on Monday 25 September. This year our speaker is Professor Dominic Lieven who will be giving his 'Reflections on the Russian Revolution' in its centenary year. This starts at 6pm in Woolf Lecture Theatre and there will be a drinks reception following the talk. Look forward to seeing you there. More informally, we have the Big History quiz taking place on Thursday 21st September from 6pm in Darwin Conference Suite. Pit your historical wits against your fellow students and some (very brave) staff...

I wish you a very enjoyable start to the new year and look forward to a productive year ahead. This informal newsletter will be published a couple of times a term and is an opportunity for us to celebrate our successes and publicise upcoming events.

With best wishes,

Juliette

Dr Juliette Pattinson
Head of the School of History

Congratulations to our graduates!

Congratulations to our final year Undergraduate students who graduated on Thursday 13th July in Canterbury Cathedral! Graduation doesn't mean that your involvement with the School of History has to come to an end! We'd love for you to stay in touch, and you can do this via our Friends of the School of History group. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the subject, as well as all School of History Alumni.

For more information and to sign up, contact the School of History Communications Team on historycomms@kent.ac.uk.



Graduation 2017



Montell Boyde (left) and Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin (right)



Chloe Brown graduated with a BA (Hons) in History



Lucy Sparn - 1st class honour degree in History

Good news statistics

- ✓ In *The Guardian University Guide 2018*, over 93% of History students were satisfied with the teaching on their course.
- ✓ In the National Student Survey 2017, over 91% of final-year History students were satisfied with the overall quality of their course.
- ✓ For graduate prospects, History at Kent was ranked 13th in *The Guardian University Guide 2018* and 14th in *The Complete University Guide 2018*.
- ✓ Of History students who graduated from Kent in 2016, over 96% were in work or further study within six months (DLHE).

Our annual Graduation Party was held before the ceremony, where a number of prizes were awarded:

Best Overall Degree Result - Christopher Sturges with an impressive overall average of 76.6%

Achievement Award (2nd-5th highest Firsts) - George Bates, Katherine Payne, Tom Mostyn & Jennifer Turner

Most Improved Performance between Stages 2 & 3 - Arrun Thuraisingham & Ella Harding

Best Final Year Dissertation - Stewart Murphy: *How was Britain impacted by the introduction of Napoleon's Continental System along the Baltic coastline, between 1807 and 1814?*

Anna Fry & Christopher Sturges

Best War Studies Dissertation - George Bates: *The Evolution of Britain's Irish Policy During the Anglo-Irish War 1919-1921*

Best Dissertation in Imperial/ Non-Western History— Leon Alleyne— Mclaughlin: *The Contribution of Selected British Colonies to the United Kingdom's Balance of Trade and the Wider Imperial Economy during the Interwar Period: Assessing Cain and Hopkins' Theory in the Context of the Malayan Peninsula, and the Nigerian and Kenyan Protectorates*



Christopher Sturges won the prize for the Best Overall Degree Result 2017



Head of School Juliette Pattinson and Arrun Thuraisingham



Hannah Williams was awarded with the prize for Outstanding Contribution to the Student Experience



Stewart Murphy won the prize for the Best Final Year Dissertation

Professional Services Away Day at Crazy Golf in Herne Bay - 12 July 2017

The School of History Administration team enjoyed the full seaside experience which included fish and chips, ice cream and golf!



School of History Job Shadowing - 22 August 2017

The Shadow Matching Scheme offers reciprocal shadowing opportunities between Schools and Central Services.

This project is part of the Faculty and School administration Excellence Initiative and more particularly its enhancement theme of "Excellence through Partnership".



Jess Sutherland (PA to DVC Education – April McMahon) and Jenny Humphrey (PA to the Head of School/Events Coordinator)

Upcoming Conference: Discovering the First World War in Yorkshire and the Humber

Gateways Discovery Day - Free Event, Friday 27 October, 11:00-15:30

Gateways to the First World War would like to invite you to a free Discovery Day to learn more about the war and its legacies, hear about other local projects, and share your own experiences. Staff from the HLF will be on hand to answer any queries, and the day is being organised by members of the AHRC First World War public engagement centres, who support HLF-funded projects.

Location: Devonshire Hall, 15 Cumberland Road, Leeds, LS6 2EF

For more information and to register see [here](#)



News Round-Up

Dr Juliette Pattinson appeared on BBC Radio 5 speaking about Dunkirk on 13 July, and on BBC Scotland on 14 July talking about memory and the Second World War.

Professor Charlotte Sleigh gave a talk on Science Communication as part of Think Kent. Watch it here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv6XZcMEFEQ&feature=youtu.be>

Congratulations to Dr John Wills who was promoted to Reader over the summer.

Congratulations to Dr Ambrogio Caiani, Dr Rebekah Higgitt, Dr Peter Donaldson and Dr Phil Slavin who were promoted to Senior Lecturer.

To coincide with the new Dunkirk film, Palgrave Macmillan have published a paperback edition of Dr Smalley's book *The British Expeditionary Force, 1939-40* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)

Professor David Welch, a retired member of staff and ex-Head of School, was recently invited to speak to 500 politicians, diplomats, and senior military figures at a conference organized by NATO in Riga, Latvia.



Professor David Welch

Professor Welch gave a paper on the role of propaganda in a post-truth global world. The conference, which was organized by StratCom (a division of NATO's Central Command) addressed the topic of: 'Perception Matters: The Politics of Strategic Communications'. Professor Welch gave his paper on the art of propaganda and argued that if we view propaganda as an ethically neutral concept it can be employed positively to address these dilemmas. He explored the historic relationship between propaganda and strategic communication and the manner in which propaganda has been used successfully (and unsuccessfully) in moments of crises and war.

Conference Update

Gateways to the First World War and Western Front Association host International Conference

Gateways to the FWW has been successful in bringing together Early Career researchers for a two day International Conference, held at the University's Canterbury campus.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Conference attracted speakers who travelled from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the UK and Europe for this two day conference which explored the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; its task, legacies and future.

Sarah Ashbridge, from the University of Bradford presented a paper on Military Identification between 1914 and 1918 and commented:

"I loved the panels. So well organised! We have been really looked after and this has been great for networking! Each panel included talks that complimented the others, giving a broader understanding and interdisciplinary involvement"

Professor Mark Connelly, Principle Investigator for Gateways said:

"The conference on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was a great success both in terms of the quality of the papers and the hugely positive response from the audience. It was wonderful to give so many PhD students and ECRs the opportunity to deliver their research to a wider audience and interact with each other."

www.gatewaysfww.org.uk

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@GatewaysFWW

Getting to Know You

Amy Harrison

Taught Programmes Coordinator

Describe your role within the school

I am the new Taught Programmes Coordinator for the School of History. My role in the Administration team is to support the School and make sure everything is running smoothly for all our Taught Programmes. This includes not only the Undergraduate History courses but also the Postgraduate Taught MA. Alongside the day-to-day running of the modules, my role is also to be the first point of call for many of our students if they have questions or issues.

Tell us about your career so far

My career so far has been mainly in the University. I completed both my Undergraduate degree and my Postgraduate MA with the School of History. During my time as a student I worked in various roles for the University including School of History Ambassador, First World War School's Project Tutor and as an Outreach and Recruitment Ambassador. I really enjoyed talking to prospective students about the experience of studying History at the University, and applied to the position of Taught Programmes Coordinator to have a part in supporting and helping these students. I've also had a number of volunteer roles within the University working with Gateways to the First World War and the 50th Anniversary projects.

What's your favourite part of your job?

I only started this position at the end of August, before my MA had officially finished! I've really enjoyed seeing the intricacies that go into organising a new academic year and preparing to welcome a new intake of students. Answering their questions has so far been extremely rewarding, it's great to see how you can have an impact in increasing a student's experience of the University. I'm also looking forward to the other busy periods of the year.

If you have a news item, an upcoming event, or simply an idea for something you'd like to see in the next issue of this newsletter, please get in touch with Valeria Radu on v.radu@kent.ac.uk



Tell us an interesting fact about yourself:

My parents actually met at and graduated from the University of Kent! When first looking at Universities I didn't want to like the Campus, as I didn't want to just follow in their footsteps, but after the first visit I realised there was nowhere else I'd want to study.

Where's your favourite place in the world?

There are a huge number of places I'd love to travel to, and it could be that one of those might be my favourite! At the moment I'd have to say home though, whether it's my tiny village home in Essex or new home in Canterbury. There is nothing better than being curled up inside as it begins to get colder!

What's your favourite book?

It would have to be 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald or 'Catch-22' by Joseph Heller. Both are texts I read before University in an attempt to become more cultured and they're both books I return to almost yearly!

What's your favourite film?

There's so many films I've enjoyed, but I don't know about a favourite! I've always loved the film *Love Actually*, but mostly because of what it represents. I've had a tradition of watching it every Christmas since I was young and so look forward to it each year.