

Good news and bad news for Library users

There's good news and bad news for staff and students who use the IoP Library. The number of books or other items people are allowed to borrow is going to increase. At the moment, individuals can take a maximum 10 items at any one time but this is to go up in line with loan allowances at other libraries in King's College London. In most cases, loan allowances will double. This will also make it easier to borrow from other College libraries: because the library computer system is shared, different loan structures have in the past caused technical difficulties.

But the bad news is...fines are to be introduced for overdue books and other items. From 1 July, late returns will incur a charge of 10p per item per day in line with other College libraries. 'This should encourage some persistent overdue offenders to return books on time,' said Sarah Bentley from Library Counter Services. During July, all overdue fines will be donated to the Psychiatry Research Trust. 'So late are some of our Library returns, we anticipate a good bit of money heading their way at the end of the month!' said Sarah.

To help borrowers avoid fines, do-it-yourself online renewal systems are to become easier to use and books can be placed in the Returns Box in the entrance of the main building even when the Library is closed.

Bookmarks and flyers advertising these changes and explaining how to avoid fines are available from the Library: or visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/Library and follow the Library changes link. To find out more, email spyllib@iop.kcl.ac.uk or ring Sarah or Clare Martin on ext 0204.

WHAT'S ON...

Research on Paediatric Anxiety: Integrating Affective Neuroscience and Developmental Psychopathology is the title of a Visiting Professor Lecture presented in association with the Institute of Social Psychiatry Trust on Wednesday 28 June at 5.30pm in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre. The lecture will be given by Dr Daniel Pine, chief of the Emotional Development and Affective Neuroscience Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland, USA. Admission is free without a ticket: for more information email Hilary.Payne@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Update on main building refurbishment...

Refurbishment of parts of the first, second and third floors of the main building has started: all work is due to be complete by Christmas this year.

Staff and students based in the main building can't use the first or second floor corridors while the SRIF (Science Research Infrastructure Fund) funded building work continues. Until December, they must leave the building and re-enter – using the main entrance at the front and the turnstile at the back – if they need to move from one part of the building to another.

The main lifts were due to stop working for renovation on 22 May and will not now be operational again until November. The smaller passenger and goods lift will continue to give access to all floors.

Old Age Psychiatry is now temporarily based on the first and second floors West Wing until December. Epidemiology has also temporarily moved and will be in a portacabin on the Green until the end of the year.

The Education Support Team is now based in the first floor West Wing until building works are complete. Family Therapy has permanently moved to 103 Denmark Hill and the Eating Disorders Unit is now permanently housed in a portacabin in the courtyard.

The first floor East Wing refurbishment is now complete. Forensic Mental Health Science has now moved to permanent new accommodation there.

...and ambitious plans for entrance

Architects SMC Alsop are to be hired by the IoP to produce detailed costed plans for re-modelling the entrance to the main building – including the Library.

Award-winning architect Will Alsop has already presented a proposal for transforming the entrance to the main building by creating a three or four storey atrium at the front to replace the steps and wrap around the side. With internal walls removed, there would be space to create a brand new Library, new seminar rooms, new reception and new coffee room.

'We need to see how much such a development would cost so I have asked for detailed plans of this big picture proposal to allow bids for money to be made,' said Institute secretary Laurence Benson.

WHAT'S ON...

The Face of Madness? is the summer art exhibition at the SGDP Centre and shows work by Angela Rumble, an artist who originally trained – and still works part-time – as a dentist. Many of her paintings use images taken from medical textbooks, including an early textbook of psychiatry. The exhibition runs until Wednesday 23 August and is open to visitors from 9am to 5pm.

Records: to keep, store or destroy?

Do you hoard old files? Or do you regularly clear out and review what you need? A spin-off from recent office moves has been a 'spring clean' of records at the IoP – historically significant papers have been sent for preservation in King's College Archives, some records have been sent to an off-site store and those no longer needed have been destroyed.

'As a result, less needed to be moved to new offices, legal requirements have been safeguarded and infrequently consulted records are now stored where there is managed access and appraisal and are not taking up space in work areas,' said records administrator Stephen Soanes.

The moves highlighted the importance of regular reviews and systematic archiving of records when cabinets of old research data belonging to past employees were discovered. 'Many research and administrative records contain information about identifiable individuals and must be kept securely,' said Stephen. 'The IoP has an obligation to dispose of such records once the purpose for keeping them has passed.'

If you would like help reviewing your records or advice on record-keeping, contact Stephen on ext 0277 or email him at records@iop.kcl.ac.uk. He can help you decide how long to keep your records and where they should be stored.

Summer party? Only if volunteers come forward

The IoP Summer Party is scheduled to take place on Friday 14 July at The Griffin in Dulwich Village. The Student Forum is looking for volunteer entertainers – bands, DJs etc – and people who are willing to help organise the barbecue and games. 'Sadly no volunteers will mean no party,' said Student Forum chair Fergus Kane. If you can lend a hand, email Fergus, f.kane@iop.kcl.ac.uk. Keep an eye out for further details on the website and via email.

Head-hunters search across the world for new dean

The search for a new dean continues: head-hunters Heidrick & Struggles are putting together a long list of candidates to be considered by a Search Committee, set up to oversee the recruitment process.

The consultants are trawling for candidates across the world and also looking here at the IoP. The Search Committee, which is led by Robert Lechler, vice principal (Health) at King's College London, hopes to meet soon to choose a short list to go forward to a selection process.

If all goes to plan, the preferred candidate will be offered the post in September. The Search Committee includes Professors David Clark, Nigel Leigh, Robin Murray and Graham Thornicroft from the IoP and SLaM's chief executive Stuart Bell.

Meanwhile, George Szmukler is to stay in post until the end of the calendar year. When his five year term of office came to an end in April, he decided to step down from leadership duties and concentrate on clinical and research work.

Book calls for action against discrimination

Shunned: Discrimination against people with mental illness is the title of a new book by Professor Graham Thornicroft, head of the Health Services Research Department and director of Research and Development at the IoP and South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLaM).

Graham is also the author of a report published by the Mental Health Foundation which includes a set of recommendations for policy-makers to make discrimination a thing of the past.

The research and personal experiences Graham quotes in both the book and the report show that people with mental health problems face discrimination and prejudice in every area of their

lives – from employment to relationships, from financial services to recreational opportunities. People with mental illness even get a bad deal from NHS services, and ill-informed stereotypes portrayed in the media exacerbate the problem.

It is time for action to stop discrimination 'blighting people's lives' and adding to the disability of people with a mental illness, says Graham, and he spells out a detailed agenda for change including education programmes and legal measures.

Shunned: Discrimination against people with mental illness is to be published by Oxford University Press in July.

• Visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk for copies of the report.

Cyclists say make parking for bikes more secure

IoP cyclists are calling for more bike racks that are secure and covered: they would also like better shower and changing facilities at work.

Better bike racks were the most frequently cited issue in a survey of cyclists conducted by the IoP Bicycle Users Group (BUG). 47 staff and students responded to the survey: most cycle to work every day. A quarter of those who responded have had their bike stolen or damaged at the IoP. Three out of five use the existing bike racks, but a quarter chain their bike to railings around the campus – and a minority keep them in their offices. The latter, however, is against IoP fire safety policies and staff who do so risk disciplinary action and having their bike removed.

Cyclists also said they were in favour of ongoing Dr Bike workshops run by visiting mechanics from Cycle Training UK who answer cycling queries and take a look at individual bikes.

If you'd like to find out more about BUG, Dr Bike workshops, or if you would be interested in joining a small working group to take issues raised in the survey forward, contact Martin Webber, m.webber@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

There is an area on the IoP website for use by cyclists and BUG occasionally posts up news there: type 'cycling wiki' in the search facility on the IoP homepage to find these pages. • BUG has arranged for puncture repair kits and tools to be available at the receptions of the SGDP Centre and Addiction Sciences Building. These kits and tools are for use on site only.

New WHO status

The IoP is to become the lead research centre for mental health in the World Health Organisation's European Region. The new status will be launched at the end of August during the third International Mental Health Conference for delegates from all over the world.

SLaM's income to run services could be down £8 million

Cuts in services provided by South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLaM) are likely during 2006/07. Lambeth and Southwark Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), responsible for commissioning NHS services on behalf of their local populations, are proposing to make 'significant disinvestments' in SLaM's services over the coming year – amounting to an estimated £8 million funding reduction. SLaM had achieved a balanced financial position for 2005/06 – but these proposed funding cuts are out of the Trust's hands. 'PCTs themselves, as commissioners of NHS services, will need to make the final

Three themes to help brand King's College London

A package of proposals to improve internal communication and better 'brand' King's College London are coming soon. They are part of the College's strategic plan for the future, penned by principal Rick Trainor and designed to make this one of the best universities in the world.

Professor Trainor's draft 'White Paper' – formulated after eight months of work and consultation since his 'Green Paper' outlined the need for change – includes the concept of 'encapsulating' what the College does for both inside and outside audiences. He suggests three themes to 'emphasise broad practical issues associated with our diverse academic pursuits'. They are: culture and heritage; public policy and competitiveness; health and sustainability.

The draft 'White Paper' published in March sums up the broad future direction for the College: many of the proposals it contains are already being implemented or are at advanced planning stage. The proposals include ways of attracting more students and offering better support for teaching and learning; ways of ensuring success in the 2007/8 Research Assessment Exercise and beyond; ways of enhancing commercialisation and other types of knowledge transfer; and ways of running more efficient administration systems.

Consultants have been helping the College draw up an internal communications plan and create a revised external image: new corporate identity guidelines are currently being discussed. In the meantime, if you need advice on how to present a document or publication for public consumption, call the Corporate Design Unit on ext 3092 or email them, design@kcl.ac.uk.

Childcare Vouchers and pay changes

You can find out how to apply to join the Childcare Voucher Scheme newly introduced by King's College London by visiting www.kcl.ac.uk/personnel. There are links on the same site to the Pay and Modernisation Programme pages where you will find background information and the latest updates about plans to modernise pay and grading.

decisions about where they choose to allocate their resources over the next year,' says SLaM chief executive Stuart Bell in a letter sent to all Trust staff at the beginning of May.

Service Level Agreements (SLAs) negotiated with Primary Care Trusts determine the funding SLaM receives to operate services. Lambeth and Southwark are likely to take final decisions by the end of May. Meanwhile, SLaM is close to reaching agreement on SLAs with PCTs in Lewisham and Croydon: neither are contemplating 'significant long term disinvestment from services.'

WHAT'S ON...

The third International Mental Health (IMH) Conference takes place from 30 August to 1 September. The theme of this year's conference, organised by the IoP and co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation, is *People on the Move* and it will take place at King's College London's Franklin Wilkins Building Conference Centre on the South Bank. For more information about the conference, visit imh@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Funding research in future years

'The IoP and partner NHS Trusts are working together to make sure we maintain our ability to conduct leading-edge, patient-relevant research in response to the new Department of Health strategy *Best Research for Best Health*,' says Gill Dale, assistant director of Research and Development, IoP/SLaM.

Launched in January, the new strategy changes the way that NHS organisations will receive research funding in the future. Instead of a 'block' allocation, NHS organisations will bid to different funding streams. Some of the current Department of Health funding programmes will be extended and new ones introduced.

Best Research for Best Health is scrapping the block allocation because it says the system is historical and does not reflect the quality and relevance of research. An open competitive system will 'result in resources being allocated to all those who conduct excellent research, wherever they may be across the country.' Changes to funding will take place over a three year transition period.

• Visit the new National Institute for Health Research, www.nihr.ac.uk, set up as part of the *Best Research for Best Health* strategy, to find out more.

Recruiting PhD students

The second issue of *IoPhD* is being distributed across the world to aid recruitment of students. Produced by emeritus Professor Anthony Mann, the newsletter contains personal experiences of existing students and a focus on the International Mental Health Group that supports PhD students who study at the IoP, but carry out research projects in their own countries.

New email system to be IoP-wide by Autumn

A new email system is on its way: by the Autumn, a Microsoft Exchange 2003 server will bring staff and students at the IoP a plethora of benefits.

The replacement of the IoP email gateway before Easter has heralded the introduction of a state-of-the-art Microsoft Outlook 2003 system. A number of test users have already migrated to the new system and are helping the Computing team iron out teething problems before rolling it out across the IoP: the plan is to introduce the new service to all accounts by September.

Benefits include the same view of email, both at your desk and when you're away from the IoP; support for calendars, tasks and contact lists; collaborative features which allow controlled sharing of information; better support for mobile users with PDAs and mobile phones; more flexible back-up options, with the ability to restore individual messages that have been deleted; the web email programme Outlook Web Access; better management of circulars.

Current email stores will transfer to the new server: it's therefore a good time to go through your archives and delete unwanted or out-of-date emails that are no longer required, particularly those with large attachments. The computing team will be contacting everyone to plan their migration to the new system, but in the meantime you can find out more by visiting <http://portal.iop.kcl.ac.uk/sites/bc/computing/mailswitch> (you will need to log in using the prefix BC\ before your log in name – BC\spxyyy for example.) In addition to updated information about introducing the new server and system, there is also a discussion forum here where you can post questions – or email them directly to Charlie Sharp at c.sharp@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

These pages also contain links to useful web resources to help you learn more about the new system. Microsoft Outlook 2003 is also covered in the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) online courses available from King's College London Staff Development Training Unit, www.kcl.ac.uk/liss/training/online/ecdl/.

Two professors receive long service awards

Gisli Gudjonsson, professor of forensic psychology, has celebrated 25 years at the IoP. He has conducted research into many diverse areas of forensic psychology, including police stress, shoplifting, psychiatric aspects of homicide, violence and recovered memories and is well known for his pioneering work in the field of false confession and psychological vulnerability which can lead to wrongful convictions.

Gisli is often asked to testify in high-profile criminal trials, here and abroad, for both prosecution and defence. These cases have included those of the Guildford Four, the Birmingham

Self-help book about paranoia and suspicion

Overcoming Paranoid and Suspicious Thoughts is a self-help guide aimed at members of the public which will be published in June.

Research carried out by two of the IoP-based authors – lecturer in clinical psychology Daniel Freeman and professor of clinical psychology Philippa Garey – shows that 20 to 30 per cent of people frequently have suspicious or paranoid thoughts. This book explains how fears about others arise and presents practical steps to deal with them. It includes personal accounts of people affected by paranoid thoughts and questionnaires and exercises to help readers learn about and combat their fears.

Pilot open evening for potential students

Taught course leaders and administrators welcomed prospective postgraduate students at an open evening organised by the new Education Support Team at the end of March.

Some 40 potential students visited to find out more about studying at the IoP in September. The event was marketed internally through King's College London and externally through newspaper advertising and NHS Trusts and the emphasis was on educational opportunities for mental health professionals.

The early evening event included three talks, two from programme leaders and the other from the Student Union about the 'student experience' here. There were also tours of the Library. 'This pilot event was so successful, we plan to repeat it again next year,' said Amy Neale, marketing and publications officer in the Education Support Team.

SLaM smoking ban

Staff and students will be banned from smoking on SLaM premises from 1 June. The ban includes areas surrounding buildings and balconies. *Full story next time.*

Towards Mental Health

You can download the first issue of *Towards Mental Health*, a magazine describing some of the work of the Health Services Research Department, from the IoP website homepage.

A new website has also been set up to offer information and help people cope with fears: www.paranoidthoughts.com

'This pioneering book shows that, just as many of us can have mild anxiety or depressed feeling without ever requiring specialist help, many of us have minor, but troubling, paranoid thoughts. Most importantly, the book proposes simple and practical ways to understand and overcome these ideas,' says Professor Robin Murray.

Overcoming Paranoid and Suspicious Thoughts by Daniel Freeman, Jason Freeman and Philippa Garey is published by Robinson Constable on 29 June.

Neuroscientists should do more networking

Leading neuroscience academics have proposed ways of better integrating their activities across King's College London.

Professors Peter McGuffin (SGDP Centre), Pat Doherty (Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases), Andrew Lumsden (MRC Centre for Developmental Neurobiology) and Brian Anderton (MRC Centre for Neurodegeneration Research) have suggested that Neuroscience activities stay put at the IoP, the School of Medicine and the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences and that more research groups and networks are set up to facilitate better collaboration. Existing research committees should be revised and extended to incorporate representatives from all areas of neuroscience across the College, they say.

In addition, they propose a new website (Neuroscience and Mental Health at King's College London) to present a coherent public face for the speciality.

The proposal comes in the wake of a College-commissioned External Review of Neuroscience, which suggested bringing all neuroscience activities together in a single entity in either a new or an existing school.

Poetry style workshops help young scientists

A series of 'poetry workshop' style meetings to help young scientists better prepare research proposals comes to an end this month. The workshops were led by Professor Temi Moffitt and organised under the wing of the SGDP Centre Postdoc Forum.

The 'poetry workshop' group has been meeting for an hour each fortnight since October and aimed to help junior academics think through general principles that apply to research proposals: members who were writing proposals shared their drafts and were given feedback by their peers. 'Trust, courtesy, honesty and confidentiality' were the passwords of the workshops.

The SGDP Postdoc Forum promotes communication between junior scientists (junior lecturers, postdocs and nearly completed PhD students) and helps with career development and training.