A warm welcome to contacts old and new to our Spring Newsletter! It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Understanding Fundraising conference in February, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

We are thoroughly enjoying working with our first cohort of MA students and look forward to welcoming our second cohort in September. If you have any questions about the MA or any other comments or thoughts on our work, please don’t hesitate to contact us on philanthropy@kent.ac.uk.

Bridging academia and practice

On Monday 13 February, 140 people gathered at the Canterbury campus at our conference ‘Understanding Fundraising’. In keeping with our goal to be a bridge between academia and practice, attendees included fundraising scholars from across the UK, mainland Europe and North America as well as representatives from large and small charitable organisations.

Lively discussions on how race, gender, cause area and donor desires affect fundraising success, as well as the ‘invisible’ nature of the fundraising role, ensured a buzzing and intellectually stimulating atmosphere. The conference was an opportunity to showcase research conducted by both colleagues and PhD students in SSPSSR, including projects on gift giving, fundraising in schools, and the personal and social characteristics of successful fundraisers.
Applications open for MA in Philanthropic Studies and Standalone Modules

Applications are now open for the September 2017 intake of our distance-learning MA in Philanthropic Studies. This year we are offering all of our online modules as stand-alone bitesize courses that can be taken as part of a professional development programme, to build towards a qualification or just to brush up on your skills. These postgraduate-level modules are available for only £515*. Modules available from May 2017 include: Advising Donors, Volunteering & Society and Evidence Based Practice, and from September 2017: Global Philanthropy and Fundamentals of Philanthropy. For further information please visit this page or get in touch with the course director Dr Triona Fitton.

* prices are correct at time of publishing

Research with impact

We continue to engage with policymakers, the media and practitioners to learn from those practicing philanthropy and to share the findings and recommendations of our research. Dr Beth Breeze and Dr Eddy Hogg contributed evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Charities, which on 26th March published its report Stronger charities for a stronger society. Dr Breeze provided oral and written evidence on the role of philanthropy and the charity sector, while Dr Hogg provided written evidence on public attitudes to charity regulation. Dr Breeze and Professor John Mohan, Director of the Third Sector Research Centre responded to the report in a blog about the need for social science research on charities.

Earlier in March, Dr Breeze spoke at the Institute of Fundraising’s Major Donor Fundraising Conference, giving a presentation on Who makes £1m + donations, and why? You can view Dr Breeze’s slides here.

We also continue to disseminate our research through the media and social media. Recent examples include Dr Breeze reflecting on George Michael’s philanthropy in the Guardian, and our thoughts on the House of Lords charity report on the Social Science Matters blog.