



# Essex:Effect

Issue 1

The magazine for the alumni and friends of the University of Essex

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**Essex Business School  
provides shelter in  
stormy climate**



Our first students will still be in positions of influence and responsibility in the first two decades of the twenty-first century. In those distant days, 40 or 50 years ahead, their grandchildren may be at the University of Essex. They will know nothing of the bustle and bewilderment of the 1960s, nor even of the hopes and ideals which those associated with the University's foundation cherished . . . We should like them to feel that in our attempt at creating a new community of learning we had a measure of success.

Sir Albert Sloman, first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Essex,  
BBC's Reith Lectures, 1963.

# This Issue



What do you think of **Essex:Effect**?  
We want to know what YOU think about this magazine.  
Contact us at [alumni@essex.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@essex.ac.uk)  
[www.essex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.essex.ac.uk/alumni)

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# Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to your new look alumni magazine, *Essex:Effect*.

I'm sure you have already noticed some considerable changes to the magazine, not least the change in name from *Square 1* to *Essex:Effect*.

*Square 1* was first published in 1992 with the aim of keeping former students in touch with their University. Since then we have kept to its founding goal by giving you a mix of University news and alumni updates. Last year over 40,000 alumni received a copy, with 15,000 being mailed to destinations outside the UK.

I am proud of *Square 1*'s heritage and grateful to all those alumni who have contributed over the years but, just as the University has evolved, so must our publications. I hope this new magazine will better speak to all of our alumni community, including those who studied at our Southend and Loughton campuses.

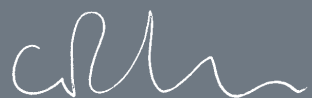
I also feel the new title better communicates the transformative effect the University has on all aspects of society. I hope *Essex:Effect* gives you a flavour of the remarkable contribution our academics, students and alumni make to the world. As one of our alumni you may be justifiably proud of your alma mater, a truly remarkable university.

The layout of the magazine has changed, with some of the former content migrating online. The diary and reunion pages may now be found on the alumni website.

Do let the Development and Alumni Relations team know what you think of the magazine. The team manages the University's relationship with its graduates and always welcomes feedback from alumni.

Finally, please take the time to keep us updated with your contact details and achievements. This can be done online or by returning the enclosed update form.

Many thanks for your continued support.



Professor Colin Riordan  
Vice-Chancellor



# Official: Essex is a 'Premier League University'!

Essex has been confirmed as one of the world's leading universities for the quality of its research in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

The RAE, commissioned by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, assessed the research quality of over 150 higher education institutions in the UK. The quality of the research submitted was assessed by over 1,000 experts and the findings influence over £1.5 billion of funding.

The results of the RAE revealed that almost a quarter of the University's research is rated as world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Overall Essex ranks ninth among UK universities for the quality of its research; ahead of many institutions more than twice our size.

Essex reconfirmed its position as the UK's leading university in the social sciences with Politics and Sociology ranked in first position, and Economics in third position nationally. The highest proportions of world-leading research at Essex were in Politics and Economics with 45 per cent and 40 per cent respectively classed as 4-star, with 35 per cent of research in Sociology classed as 4-star.

The Essex Business School was ranked second in the UK in the Accounting and Finance subject area, while History was also ranked in second place, Linguistics fourth, and Art History ninth in the UK. Essex featured in the UK's top ten in half of the 14 subject areas submitted.

Research top 20	
Average research score on numbers	
Cambridge	2.975
Oxford	2.959
London School of Economics	2.957
Imperial College	2.943
University College London	2.844
Manchester	2.823
Warwick	2.799
York	2.780
Essex	2.772
Edinburgh	2.747
Queen Mary and Westfield	2.726
St Andrews	2.724
Bristol	2.723
Durham	2.721
Southampton	2.715
Leeds	2.715
Sheffield	2.715
Bath	2.711
Lancaster	2.711
King's College London	2.693



Did you know these other impressive facts about our University?

**The University of Essex was founded off the back of a £1 million public appeal. The appeal's target was exceeded within six months. Notable supporters included Sir Winston Churchill and the Queen Mother.**

**Essex has one of the largest public collections of art of any University in the UK. The University of Essex Collection of Latin American Art has over 600 works in a variety of media.**

**The University was ranked seventh in the UK for the quality of its teaching in the most recent Teaching Assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency.**

**40 per cent of our students come from outside of the UK and from 130 countries worldwide.**



# The difference an Essex graduate can make

This year former student Carry Somers (MA Native American studies, 1992), pictured, was celebrated for her work in promoting fairtrade when she was presented with the University's Alumna of Year Award. Essex has a proud history of students who go on to help make a positive difference to the world. Current student *Matthew Bennett* (PhD Philosophy) looks at Carry's achievements and the work of other alumni and students.



Are you, or someone you know, putting the skills and knowledge learnt at Essex to good effect in the world? Do let us know, we are always interested to hear from you. Nominations for Alumnus of the Year are sought each October; for further details please contact Lynsey Dawson in the Development and Alumni Relations Office. Congratulations to 2008's Alumnus of the Year, Dotun Adebayo, who received a MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year.

**'I have always been interested in helping people out . . . Nightline seemed to be a natural choice for anyone wanting to do that on campus.'**

Essex alumni go on to pursue a huge variety of careers and interests. Often the University's former students devote their time after graduating to the needs of local communities, becoming involved in charitable institutions and voluntary work. The University's 2009 Alumna of the Year, Carry Somers, is a great example of former Essex students who have contributed greatly through ethical business.

After visiting South America as part of her MA, Carry gave up a fully funded PhD to set-up her own fairtrade fashion company, Pachacuti. Pachacuti was named using a Quechua word meaning 'world upside-down', to reflect the innovative endeavour of running a successful business in the fashion industry that benefits Andean clothing producers and is committed to environmental sustainability.

Carry was awarded the Alumna of the Year Award for 2009 in recognition for her contribution to the fairtrade movement. This will add to a number of awards Carry has earned while running Pachacuti, including two Re:Fashion awards (the first awards dedicated to ethical fashion) and the Make your Mark Entrepreneur with a Conscience Award.

2009 is not, however, the first year in which the Alumnus of the Year Award has gone to an individual who has followed a career in ethical business. Yasmin Waljee was awarded the Alumna of the Year Award for her commitment to pro bono work with Lovells in 2007.

An international business legal practice, Lovells has a specific pro bono initiative, that offers commercial legal expertise to charities, individuals and not-for-profit social enterprises tackling disadvantage. The pro bono section of Lovells' work also provides community aid in a variety of ways: legal representation for individuals in tribunal cases where legal aid is not available; legal advice for social enterprises or community businesses which provide employment opportunities for those at risk of homelessness; partnerships with leading environmental charities; and legal aid for British nationals detained and sentenced abroad.

Lovells' pro bono team has won several awards for their work in the community including the 2005 and 2003 Young Solicitors Group Pro Bono Team Awards and the 2000 Times Woman of Achievement in Law award, awarded to Yasmin personally.

Last year Yasmin was a finalist for the *Daily Mail's* Inspirational Woman of the Year award. According to the *Mail* website, Yasmin 'helps mastermind 18,000 free hours of legal help a year worldwide - from victims of domestic violence, victims of terrorist attacks including the London 7 July bombings, disabled people who are fighting for Disability Living Allowance and desperate families facing eviction in East London because they are falling behind with rent.' The *Mail* also noted that in 2007 Yasmin raised £25,000 for Save the Children by organising Legally Ballroom Dancing, a fundraising event which pitted lawyers against one another in a dancing competition.

Stuart Etherington is another Essex alumnus who, since graduating with a MA Social Service Planning in 1981, has made an outstanding contribution to charitable work. Stuart now continues to build on an illustrious political career in the voluntary sector. Over the last 28 years he has been a trustee of Business in the Community, the Chair of the BBC Appeals Advisory Committee and a member of the Community and Social Affairs Committee of Barclays Bank. He has also dedicated his time to the management of numerous charitable

organisations, including the Joseph Rowntree Trust, the British Association of Social workers and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

Stuart's extraordinary history of work with charity and voluntary organisations has led to his current appointment as Chief Executive of the National

Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). NCVO is a membership organisation that represents the interests of its members to the Government, the European Union and other political bodies. NCVO also campaigns on generic issues affecting the whole of the voluntary sector, such as the role of voluntary organisations in public service delivery and the future of local government. Stuart's work will often be covered by the national press; most recently Stuart has appeared in the news lobbying Government to make sure that charities' money is protected during the current financial crisis.

Many Essex students start donating their time and energy to others before they even graduate from the University. Alongside studying French and English Law Edouard Vaujour volunteers as the Coordinator of Nightline, the University's free crisis listening service. Since 1970 Nightline has helped the University's students confidentially talk through their personal problems and, where necessary, directs students to professional counsellors and specialists.

As Coordinator, Edouard has been responsible for the running of all of Nightline's activities for almost two years. Edouard told *Essex:Effect* how he started at Nightline: 'I have always been interested in helping people out, but I wanted to do it in a constructive way. Nightline seemed to be a natural choice for anyone wanting to do that on campus. After a few duties, I realised how important and useful this service was to so many students and wanted to involve myself even more, so I applied to become part of the executive board. As Coordinator, Nightline quickly appeared to be a service worth dedicating a lot of time for, because of its great assets and potential.'

In October 2009 Nightline celebrates its 40th anniversary. To mark this milestone former Nightline volunteers and users of the service are invited to contact the Office with memories of their experiences. The current Nightline team are looking to record the history of the movement.

These are just a few examples of the positive effect Essex people are having on the wider world. Countless more alumni, students and staff strive to make a difference and improve the quality of life of others. If you have a story to tell please let us know.



Stuart Etherington

In 2008 alumni helped support the refurbishment of Nightline's facilities after an award of £5,000 from the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund makes awards of around £50,000 per annum to a variety of student led projects and around 1,000 alumni give to the Fund. For further information on the Fund and details on how to make a donation visit: [www.essex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.essex.ac.uk/alumni) or contact Joanne Rogers.





# Making a career of *Understanding Society*

Research undertaken at Essex is influencing Government and shaping the lives of thousands of people in the UK; from benefits and tax credits to children's health and education. *Essex:Effect* spotlights the work of the world-leading Institute for Social and Economic Research and speaks to some alumni playing a role in its success.

When Heather Laurie graduated with a first class honours degree from Essex in 1989, she couldn't possibly have imagined that 20 years later she would be responsible for a project that represents the largest single investment in academic social research resources ever launched in the UK.

Heather is the Survey Manager for the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), which is home to the new UK Household Longitudinal Study, *Understanding Society*. A longitudinal study is a survey which interviews the same people or households over time. Heather and the project team working on *Understanding Society* have just begun the mammoth task of co-



ordinating a survey which plans to interview 100,000 people from 40,000 households every year for the foreseeable future. The findings of this £15.5million study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, will ultimately be used not just by academic researchers, but by policy makers and a wide range of public and private organisations who are interested in tracking people's lives, experiences, behaviour and beliefs over time.

Heather's first introduction to longitudinal or panel surveys, as they are also known, was shortly after graduating when she was offered a summer job as a researcher on the team that was to set up the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), the first study of its kind in the UK.

Since that time, the BHPS has interviewed over 10,000 people annually and has become an important and significant source of data used by thousands of people around the world. It has provided unique information on a wide range of issues such as child poverty and disability and on factors like marriage and divorce and has been used as evidence in efforts to influence and change policies.

The BHPS will now be absorbed into the larger and more ambitious *Understanding Society* study, which not only involves more households and more people, but which includes a number of new questions to reflect changes in society such as new technology. For

**'The BHPS was the first national panel survey of its kind and it was very exciting to be part of the team creating and developing it. Now I feel a bit like the mother of an 18 year-old child who is moving into adulthood.'**

Heather, who worked her way up to become the manager of all ISER's survey activities in the mid nineties, it's a time to reflect on the success of the BHPS, but to look forward to the new opportunities and benefits that a more wide-ranging and comprehensive study will bring.

'The BHPS was the first national panel survey of its kind and it was very exciting to be part of the team creating and developing it. Now I feel a bit like the mother of an 18 year-old child who is moving into adulthood,' she said. 'Above all I feel a real affection towards all those people who have been interviewed over the last 18 years and glad to have been part of something that is used by thousands of people because it is such an important and valuable source of data.'

Although interviewing for *Understanding Society* only started in January this year, it's been a real labour of love for Heather and the survey team at ISER, who have developed new questions, experimented with latest survey methods and run a pilot study over the last two years in preparation for its launch.

One of the biggest challenges is persuading people, who in this day and age are increasingly bombarded with survey requests, to participate in the study and convincing them that

# Inspirational Alison



Alison Smith first came to Essex in 1998 to study for her Masters degree in Politics. While she was studying she also got the chance to work part-time in the Survey Office, an opportunity that would play a key role in shaping her future career.

More than ten years on Dr Smith is a lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Edinburgh where she is also Programme Director of the Masters in Social Research.

She describes her two years working in the Survey Office as 'hugely influential', not only in terms of learning about how longitudinal data is collected and analysed, but also developing her own social research skills.

The fact that Alison was able to learn so much during her time working with the survey team and go on to pursue a successful career was made all the more remarkable by the fact that during that time she developed cancer which led to the loss of one of her legs.

Described by colleagues at ISER who remember her as 'an inspiration', Alison stresses that the support she received from them was instrumental in helping her through a difficult time. She went on to complete her Masters and to achieve a DPhil at Nuffield College, Oxford, also spending time at the European University Institute, Florence before taking a post at the Institute for Education in London.

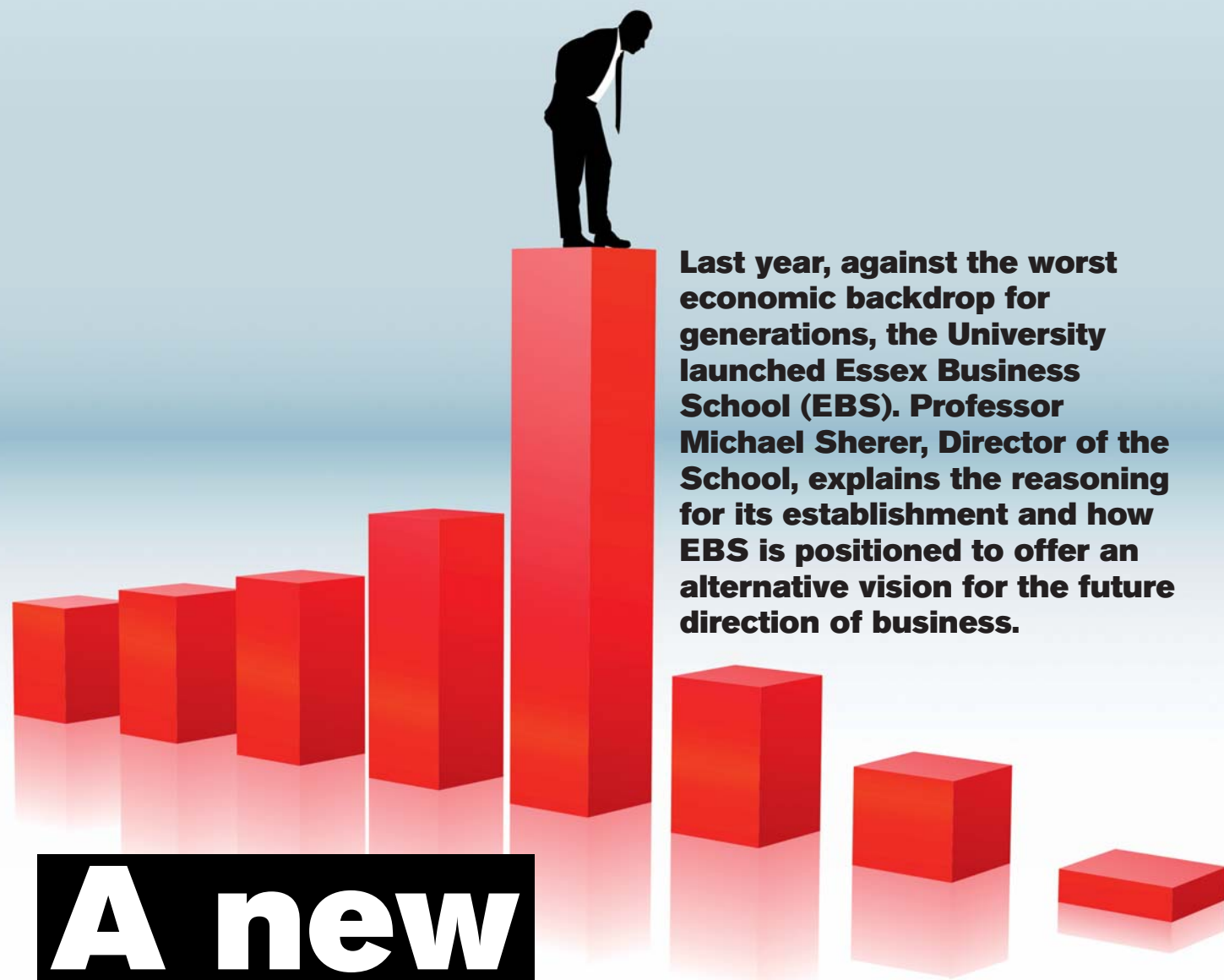
Her passion for working with longitudinal surveys like the British Household Panel Survey has never left her. 'It was a privilege to be part of the team at ISER who have led the way in this field and it certainly helped me create links and opportunities which have shaped my career,' she said.

it's a really important and serious piece of research that will have a major impact in the future. The January snow that hit the UK didn't make it easy for ISER's field research partners, NatCen, to carry out the first wave of interviews either, but Heather is still optimistic that target response rates will be achieved. 'There are some serious challenges in getting something like this up and running and then maintaining it, but it has been very exciting to see the first interviews coming in and it really does feel like we are making a little bit of history. After all people will still be able to look at the information we collected in 100 or 200 years time so it's fantastic to have played a small part in creating that legacy.'

It's quite clear that Heather's role in her early career in the development of the BHPS and her more recent work in getting this extraordinary project off the ground, is far from small. It comes as no surprise to find she has already been awarded an MBE for services to social science and that her efforts and achievements have also resulted in her appointment later this year to the role of Director for all of ISER's survey and research activities where she will lead a team which really is committed to understanding society.

For further information on ISER and its work please visit [www.iser.essex.ac.uk](http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk)





**Last year, against the worst economic backdrop for generations, the University launched Essex Business School (EBS). Professor Michael Sherer, Director of the School, explains the reasoning for its establishment and how EBS is positioned to offer an alternative vision for the future direction of business.**

**'Essex Business School is at the cutting edge of research that addresses the major issues affecting organisations as they try to cope with a changing economic, financial and social environment.'**

# A new business school for a new world

**O**n 1 August 2008 the University launched Essex Business School as a merger of the existing School of Accounting, Finance and Management and the School of Entrepreneurship and Business. The new business school, located on both the Colchester and Southend Campuses, has more than 1,300 students of which 300 are postgraduate. Over half the students are from outside the EU. The Business School currently offers 26 undergraduate courses and the 26 postgraduate courses. There are 61 academic staff

organised into four subject groups, Accounting, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Finance, and Management. In the 2008 RAE Essex Business School was ranked second in the Accounting and Finance subject area. Staff from the Accounting, Finance and Management groups were included in the RAE and 95 per cent of the submissions were assessed as international quality.

But some may ask whether it is sensible to set up a new business school in the UK at a time when the economy is in meltdown and the global financial system is subjected to so much criticism, even

hostility. Surely there are more worthwhile and more worthy projects that the University could have initiated with its scarce resources? Also, aren't there already too many business schools in the UK and too many MBA graduates looking for jobs?

One response to these questions is that there are always ten good reasons to postpone making a bold decision; there is often more of a consensus not to do something and to maintain the status quo. It takes courage and a vision to start a new venture, especially when additional investment will be needed to help it succeed. But a more persuasive argument is that it is precisely because the economic and financial markets are in chaos and the public have lost confidence in both the institutions of business and many of its leaders that we need a new business school, one that sets out to be different and boasts an alternative vision.

At the heart of Essex Business School will be a commitment to develop professional leaders of the future through an international environment of innovative scholarship that creates value, generates enterprise, fosters responsibility and contributes to social justice. Engagement with business leaders will be essential and several Essex graduates in senior positions will advise and help shape course content.

Our teaching is informed by a broad range of social science theories and concepts, and these are applied to some of the pressing issues facing business, public sector and voluntary organisations. Our management courses include core modules on business ethics, alternative organisational forms, and managing for sustainability and the environment. In our accounting courses we discuss why the existing mechanisms of corporate governance, including auditing and non-executive directors, failed to protect investors, creditors, and employees of commercial and financial businesses from mismanagement and irresponsible leadership. One of our new postgraduate courses, the MSc in Financial Engineering and Risk Management, explains the theories behind the designer financial products promoted by investment banks and hedge funds and evaluates proposals for new risk management systems. Courses at our Southend Campus emphasise the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in contributing to a revival in economic activity and our new Masters degree in Social and Community Enterprise Management is aimed at students who wish to create and manage organisations in the voluntary sector.

Essex Business School is at the cutting edge of research that addresses the major issues affecting organisations as they try to cope with a changing economic, financial and social environment. The following examples give a flavour of the range of research to be found in the Business School. The recently completed Entrepreneurship Research Project led by Professor Jay Mitra investigated the factors that contribute to the creation and sustenance of an 'entrepreneurial culture' in Thames Gateway South Essex. The Centre for Global Accountability, led by Professor Prem Sikka, undertakes interdisciplinary research into the field of governance and accountability in all sectors in developed and developing economies. In the field of sustainability Dr Steffen Boehm has received a grant from the British Academy to research a project on the social, economic and environmental impacts of carbon markets. Dr Sanjay Banerji of the Finance Group is working on a research project on the evolution of financial systems architecture in the developing and emerging market economies of South and South East Asia.

**Professor Michael Sherer, Director, Essex Business School**



Michael Sherer has academic and professional qualifications in accounting and auditing. His undergraduate and postgraduate degrees were in Economics and Accounting from the University of Manchester. He trained as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen in Birmingham and qualified as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1975.

Most of Michael's academic career has been spent at the University of Manchester and the University of Essex, although he was also at Tulane University, New Orleans for one year. His teaching includes courses in Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, Auditing, Public Sector Accounting and Management, and Research Methodologies and Methods. His principal research areas are in auditing, accounting theory, and management control and he has published on these subjects in books and journals.

Michael has also undertaken senior management roles, principally at the University of Essex. He was the founding Head and Professor of the Department of Accounting and Financial Management from 1988 to 1991 and served as the Dean of the School of Social Sciences and the Dean of the Graduate School. He was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1999 to 2006 when he had responsibility for academic standards of learning and teaching, the development of new course provision and new partnerships, and for two years the academic development for the University's Southend Campus. Since 1 August 2008 he has been Director of Essex Business School.

Returning to the earlier question which asked whether it was a good idea to start a business school during one of the deepest recessions in UK economic history we can now give a very robust answer. It is because we are in a recession and because the public has lost faith in many of the financial institutions that were the bedrock of the whole market economy that we need a business school that challenges many of the conventional wisdoms about the market economy and the way business is conducted. As confirmed by the results of the 2008 RAE, academic staff in Essex Business School have an international reputation for critical evaluation and creative thinking that can help the next generation of students graduating with business or finance degrees make a significant contribution to building more just, more ethical, and more socially responsible economic and financial systems for the UK and the world.

To find out more about Essex Business School visit: [www.essex.ac.uk/ebbs](http://www.essex.ac.uk/ebbs)

Alumni are actively supporting the employability and entrepreneurial ambitions of currents. Donations to the University have helped fund a 'business hatchery' where students, of whatever discipline, can work on business ideas and development plans.



# 'All the world's a stage'



**Since its construction, the [Lakeside] theatre has only once being flooded by the lakes; coincidentally this was the morning of the opening night of Edward Bond's *The Sea*!**

**T**he Arts have long played an integral part to University life. This year the Lakeside Theatre, in part thanks to donations from alumni, is to receive a complete refurbishment, including the addition of a box office and café bar. *Essex:Effect* charts the contribution of performance and visual art and looks at some of the alumni who have made it their career.

With theatres at all three of its campuses, Essex can certainly claim Shakespeare's maxim that 'all the world's a stage'. The original theatre, the Lakeside, at the Colchester Campus was founded in 1971 after a dam was built to prevent the lakes from falling into the valley of the campus. A stage and seats were placed at the other end of the dam wall, thus creating a subterranean theatre. In the almost 40 years since, the theatre has hosted thousands of performances and been home to the student run Theatre Arts Society. Since its construction, the theatre has only once been flooded by the lakes; coincidentally this was the morning of the opening night of Edward Bond's *The Sea*!

In 2009 the Lakeside will benefit from the biggest investment since its construction, the culmination of a fundraising appeal to equip the theatre for future generations of students. Entrance to the £800,000 refurbished theatre will be via the square-side of the Albert Sloman Library. Theatre-goers will be able to enjoy pre-show refreshments in a café-bar overlooking the lakes and full disabled access will be provided by a newly installed lift. Internal renovations will also link the main auditorium to the smaller Black Box studio for the first time.

No-one is as excited by the refurbishment as Theatre Manager, Pasco-Q Kevlin. 'This renovation will transform the profile of our performing arts provision. To date the theatre's subterranean location, tucked behind the library, has failed to do justice to the quality of work, both professional and amateur, performed there. Our patrons will be able to relax in the new café-bar and enjoy smaller productions in the studio Black Box theatre'

Students at East 15 Acting School's Loughton Campus have the benefit of the excellent Corbett Theatre. Housed in a medieval tithe barn that was dismantled and transported to the campus in the 1960s, the theatre's unusual origins create a unique performance space. In 2009 the Clifftown Studios were opened at the Southend Campus. A multi-million pound refurbishment of the former nineteenth century Clifftown United Reform Church, the Studios offer facilities second to none for our acting students.

The visual arts are also well catered for. The University Gallery at the Colchester Campus hosts a series of exhibitions throughout the year and supports the work of Gallery Study students. The University of Essex Collection of Latin American Art (UECLAA) has over 600 works and is the largest public collection of its type in Europe.

Such extensive facilities are unusual for a university of

Essex's size, moreover, the quality of production is second to none. Jess Kenny, Arts Officer and Gallery Director, is a passionate advocate of the benefits and opportunities of good programming for the student body:

'A couple of years ago we decided to stop and re-assess the arts offer at the University's Colchester Campus. It seemed simple: if we couldn't provide quality experiences that make sense to a culturally diverse campus, why bother? We want the arts to make a positive contribution to campus life - to offer excellent experiences to students, staff and the local community. We hope that a visit to the gallery can surprise you as an artist reveals his or her ideas, skill and creativity, or a play in the theatre makes you see the world from a new perspective - or that you will hear a musician play so beautifully that the hairs stand up on the back of your neck. All these are all possibilities now - and the new Lakeside Theatre is going to make sure that such experiences really are open to everyone, all of the time.'

Although many of the facilities, particularly the Corbett Theatre and Clifftown Studios, have been built to support academic provision; students from all disciplines are encouraged to engage. Regardless of experience or background, Essex provides the space and opportunity for students to experiment. Former politics student David Yates established the Film Society at Essex before going on to direct films for the BBC and the last four instalments of the Harry Potter franchise. Nick Broomfield, another politics student, has achieved acclaim as a documentary film maker. Alumni have also made their mark in the literary world, including Ben Okri, winning the Booker Prize for *The Famished Road* and Lucy Ellmann, winner of the *Guardian* Prize for Fiction for *Sweet Desserts*.

The future for the arts at Essex is very exciting. More and more students are engaging in the opportunities available to them and the University has invested heavily in improving facilities. The new Lakeside Theatre opens in the autumn of 2009 and fundraising is underway to renovate the under-used Hexagon building into a gallery for the UECLAA. This £4 million project will transform one of the most iconic buildings on the Colchester Campus into one of the most prominent galleries in the east of England.

Alumni can continue to benefit from the arts provision long after graduation. Many exhibitions and some performances are free of charge; and concessions are available for alumni for some performances at the Lakeside Theatre. UECLAA can be viewed online at: [www.ueclaa.org](http://www.ueclaa.org).

The renovation to the Lakeside Theatre was made possible as a result of donations from alumni, via the Annual Fund, the Foyle Foundation, Garfield Weston and the late Professor Winsten.

**Alumni are able to attend many of the University's arts productions. For further details on performances and events please visit: [www.essex.ac.uk/events](http://www.essex.ac.uk/events). Information on becoming a 'Friend of the Lakeside Theatre' may be found at: [www.essex.ac.uk/supporting\\_the\\_University](http://www.essex.ac.uk/supporting_the_University).**





# Building an exciting future

**T**he University is passionate about providing modern, sustainable, state-of-the-art facilities for an enhanced student experience.

This vision is now the driving force behind the University's ambitious building programme to ensure a positive future by investing in first-class facilities.

It has agreed a Capital Investment Plan of £250 million over the next five to seven years to be spent on new buildings and facilities across its three campuses at Colchester, Southend and Loughton. It is the latest development in the changing face of the University which will guarantee it continues to grow and flourish in the twenty-first century.

The vision for the University is a world away from the campus facilities which greeted the first 122 students when it opened its doors more than 40 years ago. Then, the area which was to become the central campus at Colchester was still a building site, so the University was centred around Wivenhoe House, with much of the teaching taking place in a cluster of temporary teaching huts. The seven departments and two centres boasted just 28 teaching staff.

But those humble beginnings did not reflect the University's grand plans for the years ahead. The initial plan for the University was to cater for a student population of up to 10,000 and the first Vice-Chancellor Sir Albert Sloman was dedicated to his vision for the University to become 'internationally recognised in its research and have excellence in research and teaching'.

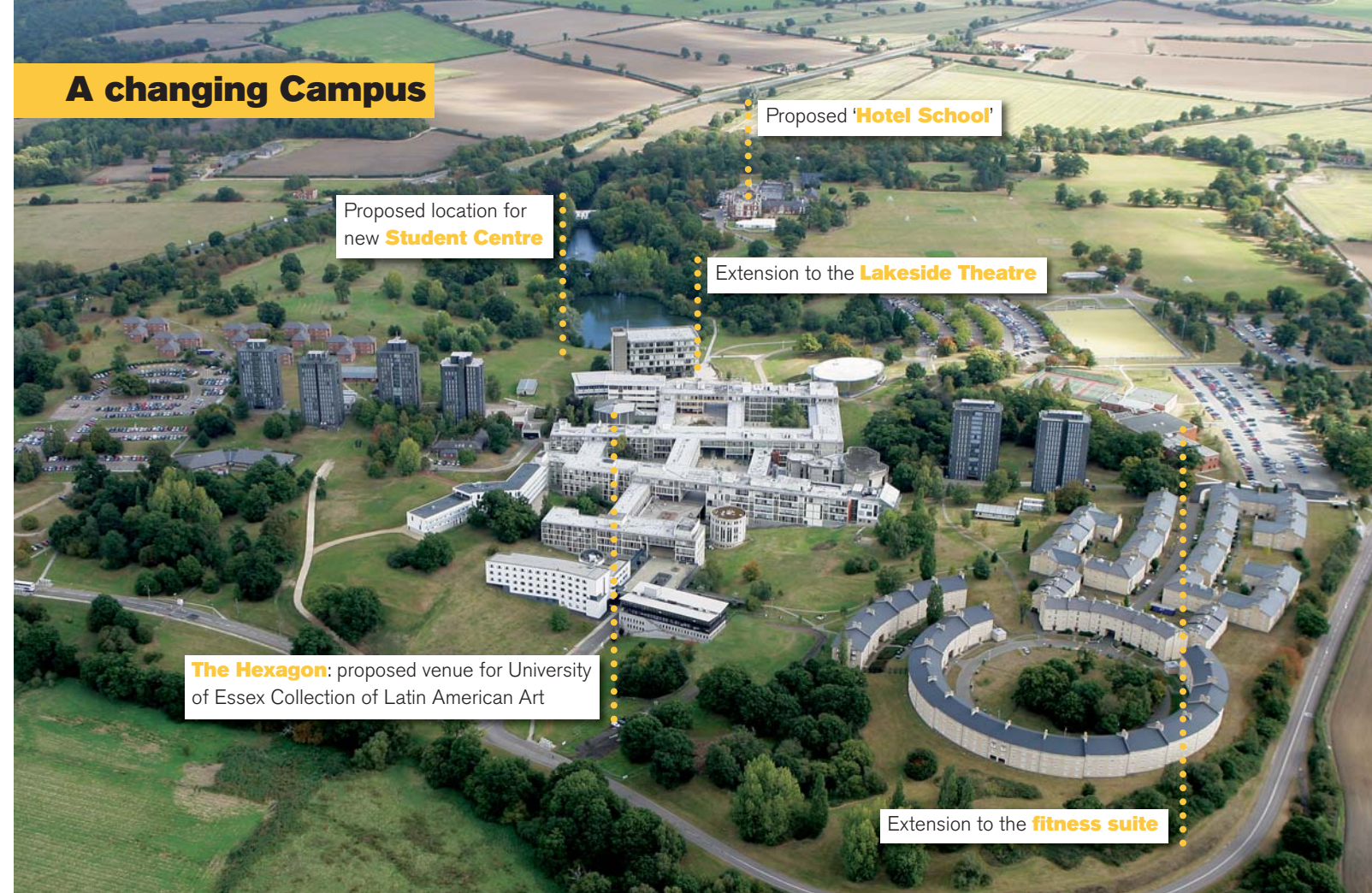
Fast forward to 2009 and the vision is being realised. As the UK's leading university in the social sciences with a student population of more than 9,000, nearly 2,000 members of staff and 22 per cent of the University's research rated as 'world-leading', students past and present can be proud of their links to Essex. With the proposed Capital Investment Plan involving 30 different projects, there is now even more reason to celebrate. While some of the projects will depend on obtaining external funding, more than half are already in progress or at the preliminary planning stages.

A flagship International Centre for Democracy, Peace and Human Rights is planned to kickstart the development of the University of Essex Knowledge Gateway, the new name for the planned research park. The Centre aims to build on Essex's internationally-recognised research strengths in politics and human rights, to engage cutting edge empirical research, industry-leading training and continuing professional development programmes, public-private partnerships, and commercial activities.

The Centre is expected to create graduate jobs and attract investment to the Knowledge Gateway. The building and surrounding office village will provide opportunities for public, private and voluntary sector organisations and businesses connected with global justice and international law to locate to the Gateway. The first phase of the development may include hotel and leisure facilities.

Registrar Dr Tony Rich said: 'Development of the Knowledge

## A changing Campus



**The Hexagon:** proposed venue for University of Essex Collection of Latin American Art

Gateway will enable the University to make a key contribution to regeneration and economic resurgence, both in Colchester and regionally.'

Also at Colchester, a new £25 million student centre is planned, a landmark building adjoining the library to provide additional library, computing, teaching and learning space, plus a range of student services and facilities.

All this major new development will be seen to complement the existing facilities at the University and the developments carried out at the University in recent years, including the award-winning 1,000-seater Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, which opened in autumn 2006, and new student residences at Hythe Quay.

Significant investment will be made in Southend to support growth in student numbers, including building much-needed student accommodation, new studio and performance facilities for East 15 Acting School, and later in the period further teaching, office and academic space.

The student experience is the focus of further capital projects in Colchester, including improved sports facilities, starting with a £1 million fitness suite extension, improved catering facilities, a phased development of new student residences, and refurbishment and improvements to the 40-year-old fabric of the original campus. This will include new signage, improvements to the central squares around which the campus is designed, and cleaning of the concrete buildings.

New research facilities will be developed along with investment in IT infrastructure, including faster and more effective communications between campuses, and improved management information systems. New arts facilities will include an enhanced entrance, foyer, box office, and café-bar

for the Lakeside Theatre, costing more than £800,000.

Other planned development includes a partnership with the Edge Foundation and Colchester Institute to refurbish and transform Wivenhoe House Hotel into the first working 'hotel school' in the UK. The completely refurbished hotel will be open to the University and the public yet also offer a new type of education and training to students on both further and higher education courses.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Riordan said: 'Essex's position as one of the UK's leading universities has been confirmed recently with our top ten ranking for research quality, and our priority now is to invest in first class student facilities which will help us to attract the brightest and best and enable the University to grow and flourish. As we approach our 50th anniversary we need to continue to improve and develop the original campus to provide a sustainable environment with modern state-of-the-art facilities that enhance the learning and life experience of today's students and staff.'

The Capital Investment Plan continues the significant investment in new buildings of recent years, and provides a long-term focus on creating a sustainable physical environment to meet current and future needs.

A loan facility of up to £100 million will underpin the whole Capital Investment Plan, while capital funding will also be provided in grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, East of England Development Agency and other agencies.

With the University's growing reputation in research and other academic achievements, this investment in its future is an exciting time which everyone who has a link with the University should be justly proud of.





## Southend Campus

**S**ince opening its first building in Southend in 2003, the University has carried out a steady programme of major development in the town.

The Southend Campus, which opened in 2007, is now very much part of the University's future plans and will see even more investment in facilities in years to come.

The Gateway Building, based in the heart of the town, offers modern, state-of-the-art teaching and business environments. Its facilities include modern lecture rooms, rehearsal studios and high-tech medical skills labs.

The Southend Campus is also home to the Business Hub, a specialist resource for companies of all sizes, which aims to foster and promote economic sustainability.

The University has also opened new facilities at Clifftown Studios in the town. It follows the completion of the first phase of building work thanks to almost £1.5 million from Southend's regeneration partnership. Built in 1866, the grade II listed Clifftown United Reform Church has been transformed to provide new and well-resourced space for the teaching, training, rehearsal and performance of students from East 15 Acting School.

Work now begins on phase two of the project, which involves converting the nave into a performance space with seating for up to 200 and innovative lighting and technical facilities. This beautiful and flexible space will be used for student, professional and community performances.



## Planning a party

In 2014 the University of Essex turns 50 years old. Our birthday may still seem a little way off but we are already beginning to plan how to mark this milestone.

From 2010 to 2015 we will be launching a series of activities to tie in with our anniversary. From public lectures and exhibitions to reunions, the programme will celebrate our proud history and achievements.

Although much of the detail has yet to be finalised we are clear that the involvement of our alumni and friends is paramount. Over the coming months we will write with information on how you can participate.

As well as celebrating what has gone before, particular emphasis will be placed on the future, the role which the University will seek to play in the wider world and the contribution staff, students and alumni may play.

The University's overarching purpose is to extend and deepen the fund of human knowledge and pass the benefits on to others. Details of our vision and strategic statement may be found online at: [www.essex.ac.uk/about/vision](http://www.essex.ac.uk/about/vision)

## Coming back to a reunion for the first-time

**H**undreds of former students attend alumni reunions every year; they can be a great way to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Some, however, are understandably a little hesitant about 'coming back'. Current student and Alumni Office volunteer **Zarine Russell** speaks to two former students who took the plunge and attended a reunion, a recent London-based event, for the very first time.

The annual London Alumni Reunion for alumni of the University took place on 25 March, attracting a lively mix of both older and more recent alumni of the University from the past 40 years. Over 135 alumni attended the event at London's Calico Bar, enjoying the chance to reunite with old friends, meet other alumni and show off their knowledge about the University in the 'Know Your Essex' quiz!

Karen Lyons, a 1981 graduate of Biological Sciences, was attending the reunion for the first time after being contacted by old university friends who decided the event would be an excellent chance to catch up. Although initially nervous about travelling to the event by herself, Karen said 'It has been a wonderful evening and I'm so glad I came. It has been so nice to see everyone after more than 20 years although no one's changed! I'll definitely come next year'.

Anna Garenberg, a graduate of Politics and International Relations, was also attending the reunion for the first time. Although only having graduated in 2008, Anna said: 'I've had such a great evening and would really like to come again next year. As I'm now studying for a Masters in London, it's a good event to catch up with everyone else who is here and also meet other people who are also in and around London. I came with a friend this evening and I will definitely try and get more people to come next year'.

Details of the University's events and alumni reunions may be found online at: [www.essex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.essex.ac.uk/alumni). Over the last year we have held



Anna Garenberg

scores of social and professional networking events all over the world. By ensuring your alumni record is up-to-date with your personal and business details the Development and Alumni Relations Office will be better able to alert you to the most relevant event. Details can be updated quickly and securely online.

## Don't just wait to be invited!

**Have you been thinking about returning to the Colchester Campus? Keen to find out whether your old tower is still standing, if the paternoster lifts in the library are still working or whether there are still as many ducks and geese on campus?**

**A small team of student volunteers are available to give guided tours of campus. Tours usually last around 30 minutes and can be tailored to what you are most interested in viewing. Tours take place between Monday to Friday during term-time and can be booked through the Development and Alumni Relations Office.**





## Bridging the generations on a phone line

**S**tudents spending hours on the phone may not just be chatting to friends and family but helping to raise money for the University. Student Zarine Russell reports on a month last November when she helped build links with former students.

A concert by The Kinks on campus, Pink Floyd playing in the LTB, discos in the Hexagon, student sit-ins in the 1960s and lectures in Wivenhoe House are just a few of the experiences recounted by former alumni when reminiscing about their time here at Essex.

A job that entails calling up alumni of the University to try and secure donations to the Annual Fund may not sound too enjoyable to some people but last November, I found myself doing exactly that as part of the University's campaign to raise money for the Annual Fund.

Over four weeks, a group of over 20 current students were responsible for calling over 2,000 alumni as part of the telephone fundraising campaign to source donations which would then be dispersed to many different projects across all three campuses, all of which would directly benefit students.

After the initial nerves of the first couple of phone calls, I soon came to realise that, rather than being just a job, this was actually a great opportunity to talk with a wide range of people about memories of their time at Essex, what they had gone on to do since leaving, if they had been back to see the campus at all and whether life in the Towers really was that much different 40 years ago!

I often ended up speaking to more than just one graduate during the same call as many of those I telephoned had met their partner or spouse at Essex. Some even had children that had also studied at Essex. For the first time I began to

think about the many generations that had benefitted from an Essex education and that I actually belong to a very wide (and growing) Essex community.

As well as a fundraising opportunity, it was also a chance for alumni to update their current contact and career details, let them know about upcoming events and give them the opportunity to ask us any questions they might have about the University now. By the end of the campaign, it felt like not only had we had the opportunity to fundraise for many worthwhile projects at the University but also been in the privileged position of being able to share similar experiences with both recent and older alumni.

Over the past four years, the University has successfully raised around £200,000 through the twice-yearly telephone campaigns, all of which have been manned by students. A key factor in the success of these campaigns has been the enthusiastic response of those contacted; I found that alumni really appreciated speaking to current students rather than someone with no direct involvement in student life and because of this more personal way of being approached, responded generously to the requests for donations.

The money raised for the Annual Fund has been used in areas such as student hardship bursaries, sport scholarships, various societies and sports clubs, Nightline, the library, diverse exhibitions and festivals as well as the Lakeside Theatre and talking to the alumni about how the money would be used was a great way to let them know that their generosity would benefit many projects across the University.

The University really cares about its alumni, the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar both made regular visits to the call room. This year I graduate from Essex and I am already looking forward to receiving a call in the years to come!

We very much hope you gained from your time at Essex. Many of the activities that you may have been involved in as a student benefit from the charitable support of others. Perhaps you were a member of a sports club or student society, maybe you enjoyed the theatre, gallery and other provision or possibly you received support in the form of a bursary or scholarship? Please help guarantee these opportunities for future generations of students by making a donation of whatever you can afford to the Annual Fund. Donations can be made by completing and returning the donation form that accompanies this magazine, online at: [www.essex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.essex.ac.uk/alumni) or by contacting the Development and Alumni Relations Office directly. Thank you.

**'To say that being in a position to further my education is a gift is meant in the literal sense – it is exactly that – a gift, and something that I am deeply appreciative of.'**

**'I soon came to realise that, rather than being just a job, this was actually a great opportunity to talk with a wide range of people about memories of their time at Essex.'**

## The impact of giving: a student's story

**T**he way in which higher education is funded has changed enormously in recent years and now, more than ever, the University looks towards philanthropic support. The last year has been remarkably successful with more than £2 million donated by friends and supporters. The money raised has helped to support a variety of projects across all three Campuses. Some of this money has directly benefited students in the form of scholarships and bursaries. In 2008 Amanda Wilkinson received one of three Silberrad Scholarships which enabled her to pursue a PhD in History. In her own words, Amanda describes the opportunities the scholarship has provided and her ambitions for the future.

'Having studied at the University of Essex for both my BA in History and Sociology, and then my MA in Cultural and Social History, I was eager to stay within the department, working with my supervisor Dr Edward Higgs, for my PhD in History. My research now involves study of the ways in which the work of married women was recorded during the nineteenth century, on the perception of their contribution to the workplace and the effect on their lives of the overriding ideologies and beliefs of the time.

'The study of history has always been a great passion of mine, some of my earliest memories involve looking at history books and learning about people and events from the past. I have enjoyed developing my knowledge so much and have, through my studies learnt not only historical facts, but also a great many transferable skills that will be invaluable in the workplace. The thrill of discovering new archives, new sources that have as yet been untouched, and hopefully through my research contributing to our knowledge of the past is like a gift.

'My aim, following the completion of my PhD thesis, is to continue to work in academia. I find life at the University

rewarding and fulfilling, not simply in an academic sense, but also through the whole ethos and atmosphere on the campus. When I first began my undergraduate degree the possibility of developing a career in academia, becoming a lecturer or a researcher, had not occurred to me as being an option. I am married and a mother to three children, and as such self funding for postgraduate study was simply beyond my means. Certainly juggling family life and my studies has not been easy, there is a fine line between giving my children and my husband enough of my time and attention, and getting my work done to meet deadlines and pass my degrees. Studying is not, and never has been a 9-5 job, for me, at several points during my time at Essex, it has meant 12-18 hour days, 7 days a week. However, they have always been 100% supportive of me, encouraging me on, and never complaining. The greatest issue I have had to deal with however has been the financial strains, particularly once considering post-graduate study.

'It is only through the generosity of those are able to assist with postgraduate funding that I have been able to continue with my academic career and each step on the ladder has always been dependent on being able to find funding which, particularly in the arts and humanities sector, is very rare and extremely competitive. Being awarded the Silberrad Scholarship has meant that I can continue, that I can further my knowledge, and that ultimately I will be in a position to teach another generation of students, sharing that knowledge with them, and assisting them on their path to a fulfilling career of their own. To say that being in a position to further my education is a gift is meant in the literal sense – it is exactly that – a gift, and something that I am deeply appreciative of. It has meant that I am now in a position to fulfil a dream and to change my life from a string of dead-end jobs into one where I can have a career revolving around my life-long passion and there can surely be no greater gift than that.'



The Silberrad Scholarships were established at the bequest of the late John Silberrad. His legacy of just over £1 million established a fund to provide scholarships for alumni who had completed an earlier degree at Essex to study at PhD level. For further details on remembering Essex in your Will and the lasting effect such an act can have please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office.



# News snapshot from across the University

## 80 years of service celebrated



**T**wo long-standing members of staff at the University were honoured at a conference hosted to mark their retirement and contribution to the study of physics.

Professors Brian Ridley and Rodney Loudon, who combined have worked at the University for more than 80 years, are leaders in the field of semiconductor and optics research. Between them they have won some of the most prestigious international physics awards.

The conference, held at Wivenhoe House Hotel on 20 March, attracted close to 60 alumni, current and former colleagues as well as students working in the field.

## £2.5 million to analyse port pollution

Researchers in the Faculty of Science and Engineering have been awarded a share of £2.5 million to develop robotic fish that analyse and monitor pollution in a port.

Professor Huosheng Hu will lead the Essex robotics team, joined by Dr John Gan and Dr Dongbing Gu. They will develop autonomous robotic fish, which can function independently and as a team.

The fish will be equipped with chemical sensors to find pollutants in the water, so can analyse contaminants in ports and produce a real-time 3D map of the port, showing what concentrations of pollutants are present and where. They will be designed to adapt quickly to changes in the port environment, with advanced swarm intelligence techniques used to control and coordinate them.

## 'Blind' patient sees colour



A researcher from the University has succeeded in inducing the experience of colour in the blind part of a partially sighted patient's visual field.

Using a magnetic coil to stimulate the patient's brain, Dr Juha Silvanto demonstrated for the first time that it is possible to experience visual sensations of colour in an area of blindness caused by a cortical brain lesion.

Dr Silvanto, a lecturer in visual perception from the Department of Psychology, explained: 'We demonstrated that the undamaged side of the patient's brain had taken over the function of colour perception.'

'This technique demonstrates that it is possible to restore visual awareness but we don't yet understand the neural mechanisms. If further research enables us to uncover this process, it opens up the possibility of therapeutic treatment.'

Working with colleagues from the University of Oxford and University College London, Dr Silvanto tested a patient who had suffered damage to the primary visual cortex of his brain - the part considered essential for vision - in a childhood accident. The damage left him with a reduced field of vision on his right side, and he had not experienced visual perception in this blind field for more than 40 years.

The researchers demonstrated that the colour shown to the patient's intact (left) visual field determined what colour he saw in his blind field. While this was a short-term effect, it opens up the prospect of developing longer-lasting therapy to recover visual function, for example in stroke patients.

The researchers' findings 'Inducing conscious perception of colour in blindsight' were published in *Current Biology*.

## A fairer rate for the food on your plate

Rising food prices means research is needed on how those in the supply chain can be paid fairly, so Dr Lisa Jack is looking at whether participants in the food supply chain, from farmers to retailers, could adopt target cost management (TCM).

Dr Jack, from Essex Business School, explains: 'TCM has potentially an important role to play in negotiating fair terms in any collaborative relationships between links in supply chains. It facilitates sharing and learning so as to enhance the reputations and bottom lines of all businesses involved.'

'Users establish what the market will pay, then factors in the realistic return they need in the long-term to arrive at a target cost. Then they examine their processes to see if that target is achievable. This may lead to operations being re-designed or to prices being re-assessed.'

Although farmers could be against using TCM because of its perceived office-based nature, Dr Jack believes that, in reality, the nature of crop and livestock lifecycles mean there are fewer and more significant opportunities to intervene. This is in contrast to the continuing tinkering which might be experienced if using TCM in a factory environment.

Dr Jack added: 'TCM is more of a broad management philosophy and is a market-driven approach, not just an accounting technique. It is a way of thinking strategically and to gain competitive advantage.'



## BAFTA launch for new degree

East 15 Acting School attracted support from some of the biggest names of stage and screen at the launch of its new MA/MFA in Filmmaking at BAFTA last month.

Held on the eve of the British Academy Film Awards, the event began with a speech from Stewart Till CBE, Chair of the UK Film Council, former Chairman and Chief Executive of United International Pictures, and a graduate of the University. As the Vice-Chairman of the leading film industry training body, Skillset, Stewart Till welcomed East 15's initiative in creating a course that is so relevant to the digital age of independent filmmaking.

More words of support came from Erich Schultz, Director of the London Independent Film Festival, and one of the UK's leading film directors, Mike Newell.

The course, which will equip students with practical, professional experience in developing and producing projects from the storyboard to the final edit, also received praise in recorded

## Child poverty research



When research was last conducted five years ago, the majority of children in poverty had parents who were unemployed. But a new study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) shows that, even though the majority of children living in poverty now have at least one parent in work, they are earning so little they are unable to raise their family above the poverty line.

The study, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, predicts the Government will fail to meet its promise to halve child poverty by next year unless another £4.2 billion is spent on the problem. It also questions the Government's assertion that the best route out of poverty is work.

The Government wants to reduce the number of children in poverty from 3.4 million in 1998 to 1.7 million by 2010. However this report forecasts that there will still be 2.3 million children beneath the poverty line when the deadline expires.

The research shows that low-paid work and casual labour does not necessarily help in pulling families out of deprivation. Professor Holly Sutherland from ISER explained: 'The idea is that you get a job, progress upwards and be lifted out of poverty in the long term. But, for a lot of people, the jobs are low-paid, casual and short-term, and often they are back on to benefits very quickly.'

The report concludes that the 2010 pledge could still be fulfilled if the Government spends another £4.2 billion on increasing child tax credits, a means-tested form of benefit for children available only to those on low incomes.

messages from industry professionals not able to attend. Award-winning writer and director Mark Herman said: 'East 15's new MA/MFA in Filmmaking is a fantastic initiative and a valuable addition to the UK's independent film industry. I believe this course can only add to East 15 Acting School's exceptionally high standard of training.'

Introducing independent filmmaker Vito Rocco as the Head of the course, East 15's Director, Leon Rubin, explained: 'This course is the next step in our quest to deliver programmes that address emergent needs in live and recorded performance. The team we have brought together to support this programme are able to share a wealth of experience from within the industry as practitioners as well as trainers.'





# Alumni updates

## 2008

**Spotlight: Carly Bray (Biomedical Sciences)** After finishing my degree in Biomedical Sciences, I was interested in using the knowledge I had gained to work with animals. I volunteered with a Rescue Centre Zoo in Costa Rica, a fantastic experience from which I made great friendships, worked with a diverse range of animals and even learnt some Spanish! I definitely want to get more involved in volunteering, it was one of the best decisions I have made and really opened my eyes to how I could use my degree in a positive way.

**Miaolai Han (BEng Internet Engineering)** Now studying towards a master's degree at Warwick. Hope to stay in the UK for the foreseeable future. Best wishes to all my lovely friends.

**Vladimir Slyshchenkov (PhD Law)** I remember my time at Essex with pleasure and once again thank you to all my friends in Essex, to my supervisor, Dr Sabine Michalowski and to the Essex staff. Wish all graduates happy and successful post-Essex life! vaslys@hotmail.com.

## 2007

**Maria Katsianou (MA Modern Art)** Life goes on here in Athens where I work as an official tourist guide in Greece. My email: maria.katsianou@yahoo.gr.

**Isabel Michaleli (BSc Psychology)** I am currently living in Oslo, Norway and doing my Masters in Special Needs Education. I often think of Essex and the great times I spent there.

## 2006

**Ali Hussain Al-Hoorie (MA Applied Linguistics)** After Essex I returned home, continued my career as a Lecturer at Jubail Industrial College where I was promoted. I would like to convey my greetings to all my teachers, especially Professor Roger Hawkins. Also I have recently married. I would love to stay in touch with all my old classmates, so please contact me.

**Sarah Bower (BA Sociology)** Hello everyone! I've moved to Horsham to start my teaching career. I will be teaching Sociology full-time at a sixth form college. Fingers crossed!

**Nkiruka Eluwah (nee Onyeka) (MSc Adult Nursing)** Hello friends! I hope you are all doing well in your various chosen career paths. A lot has happened to me since I finished my course at the University. I got married and have a four month old daughter now. I am currently on maternity leave and look forward to going back to work so I can progress further in my career. Wishing you all the very best in your endeavours and please keep in touch. Warmest regards.

**Ali Iftikhar (BA Accounting and Finance)** I would love to catch up with mates, so do shoot an e-mail if anyone decides to visit Australia. iftik@gmail.com.

**Shaun Vos (BSc Computer Science)** Shortly after graduating I met my Australian partner and in late 2007 we had our Civil

Partnership ceremony. I lived and worked in London for various IT companies until immigrating to Australia in April 2008. These days I live in Sydney, still programming for a living but I do make an effort to get outside and enjoy the lovely weather and beaches here. It would be good to hear from some old friends.

## 2005

**Robin Edmans (BA History)** Hey everyone, I've been living in Sussex for three years while Sally finished her degree. Now she's finished we are moving back to our 'homeland' of Kent. We've recently got engaged and are planning a 2010 wedding. I've been working in HR mainly, and I'm going to work at Kent County Council in their HR department. If you want to get hold of me, I'm on email: rlndm@gmail.com.

## 2004

**James Hayward (MSc Psychological Research Methods)** After graduating I taught English in China, came back to the UK and did six months of an MSc in Mental Health Nursing, went back to teach English in China again and now I have a job as a secretary in the International Academy at the University of Essex.

**Spotlight: Johnathan Wade: Education Officer, Bournemouth Oceanarium (Marine and Freshwater Biology)** After studying Marine and Freshwater Biology at Essex, I joined the Bournemouth Oceanarium as their Education Officer, a varied role which involved dealing with tour groups as well as mucking in and cleaning the turtles and the tanks! My time at Essex inspired me to take up surfing as I joined the American Football club which turned me into an active person! I have recently become a surf instructor at Bournemouth Surf School, Boscombe, where the first artificial surf reef in the Northern hemisphere is being built.

**Saji Titus (MSc International Management)** Hi guys and gals. I thought it would be a good occasion to catch up with you all as we approach the fifth Anniversary of our graduation from Essex. If you're interested please contact me on - sajtitus@yahoo.com. Wherever you all are I wish you all the best.


**Nicholas Tsiroyiannis (BSc Information Management Systems)** Hello friends, I'm living in London and in touch with a few of you from my years at Essex. I am looking for all great residents of Rayleigh 7 in 2000-01 with whom I've lost touch! Fancy a reunion? Get in touch, you can find me on Facebook.

## 2003

**Ioannis (Yannis) Kanistras (BSc Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine)** At Essex I was known as Yannis or Yan and I had the best years of my life in Essex. The teaching was excellent, but, the things I remember most are Jump, Spin, Tonic, Mondo, SU, Top Bar. I won't forget these words even 50 years from now! I made many friends in Essex, that are still my friends and most importantly I met my wife. ikanistras@yahoo.gr.

## 2002

**Spotlight: Gary Burchell: Computer Games Developer (BSC Computer Science)**




After studying at Essex, I moved into the production side of the games industry for which the course helped me gain a good technical understanding, plus problem solving skills which is an important part of my job. Working with so many varied disciplines, and balancing all that they need and want - but still delivering a great game - is a real challenge, and each game is completely different! On a personal level, the experience gained from living apart from family certainly helped me mature. I also met my future wife at Essex.

**Chris Moxey (née Ward) (BEng Information Systems Engineering)** Finally, after 10 years of living together, much to the relief of everyone, **Eddie Moxey** and I got married on 6 September, 2008. Many of our friends from University were able to make it down to Maidstone, just to check that the wedding was actually happening, and wasn't something they had imagined. Thank you everyone.

**Dervish Ersun Seytanoglu (LLB Law)** After Essex I studied for an LLM in Commercial Law at Cardiff University and graduated in 2003. I have now qualified as a solicitor and I have recently moved back to Cyprus and set up my own practice in Nicosia.

**Spotlight: Matius Tuler: Programme Manager, World Health Organisation (MA International Relations)**



Studying for my MA at Essex was an eye-opening experience; the introduction to statistical analysis was one of the most useful things I ever learnt. I particularly remember Professor Eric Tanenbaum, who was teaching in the Department of Government, who introduced me to a scientific way of thinking. In 2003, I joined the WHO; my job is the perfect mix of legal work, with loads of diplomacy and a touch of politics. The multicultural environment is great and provides a permanent learning opportunity about human nature.

## 2001

**Stavros Skrinis (MA Politics)** After graduating, I started a PhD (at Pantheon University in Athens) on politics in the Basque Country. I am now looking forward to doing a post-doc, research fellowship or lectureship. I would like to send a special hi to all my classmates. **Martin Nord (MSc Physics of Laser Com 2001)** where are you?

**Rita Olivia Tambunan (LLM International Human Rights Law)** It is always a nice surprise to find out that the Essex graduates are everywhere amongst human rights activists. Whenever I have a chance to go abroad, participating or attending some human rights events, I could find someone who are alumni, or know someone from the Essex Human Rights Alumni network. The intensive yet fantastic one year at Essex was a great moment in my life. I hope it would be also the experience of others.

## 2000

**Spotlight: Rachel Aston: Social Policy Officer, Mother's Union (BA Politics)**

My course was the most useful preparation for my job; as the organisation is based across 78 countries, I am involved in lobbying at national and international level, meeting with parliamentarians and NGOs, and lobbying at the United Nations. Most aspects of my job are enjoyable! I enjoy following UK policy and international affairs and enjoy the academic aspect of analysing policy and responding to government consultations. I am motivated every day because I believe in what I do and the aims of the organisation.

## 1997

**Michael Clark (BA United States Studies)** Hi to everyone who knew me when I was at Essex. I've lived in the US since 1998, bounced around a fair bit from coast to coast, but currently live near Chicago. I got married in 2006 and became a dad to Grace London in June 2008. I remember some great times with you all and if you're reading this I hope life is treating you incredibly well.

**Cathryn Iliffe (n-ee Weston) (BSc Cell and Molecular Biology)** Hello to all biologists who studied between 1994-97. I'm plodding along teaching half-time; science maths and sociology, and spend the rest of the time travelling and meeting people. I live on a boat but spend a lot of time hanging out with my partner in grime, a political rapper poet. I'm also doing an MA in education/ neuroscience specialising in how the brain develops and learns.

**Eddie Moxey (BEng Electronic Systems Engineering)** Chrissie (Ward) and I got married on 6 September 2008 and now live in Aldershot.



# Alumni updates

## Spotlight: Simon Dancer: Government Economist (BA Economics)

I studied BA Economics at Essex; the course was very analytical, which I have found to be an invaluable skill. There were two people who helped steer me through my years at Essex; Rob Bailey, in the Department of Economics, and Reverend Michael Butler, the University Chaplin, with whom I am still in contact. The great thing about working as a Government Economist is that no one day is the same, I often have to drop what I am doing to turn around some analysis for a Minister.

## 1996

**Gloria Hughes (née Gonzalez Ruiz)** (*MA International Economics*) Hi to all Economics and International Economics graduates 95-96. After Essex I went back to Mexico and taught economics at the ITESM for four years. In 2001 I wanted to take a break from teaching and decided to open a travel agency... LOVED IT! In September 2008 I married Bryan Hughes and moved to sunny California. I am still in touch with most of the Italians (Francesca, Annalisa, Tiziana and Cristina - Government). I would like to hear from all of you and get in touch with **Laura Barcena** (*MA International Economics 1996*).

**Paul Timms** (*BSc Biological Sciences*) Still happily stuck in my never-ending studying loop, aiming to start postgraduate studies at various institutions (including Essex, depending on the funding). I graduated (again) last year from Brighton with a 2:1 in History. I'm currently looking for work after returning from Bulgaria postgraduate work.

**George Tsirtsis** (*MSc Telecommunication Systems*) After I graduated, I joined BT Labs at Martlesham Heath, where I stayed for four years. I worked from London for years but then moved to New York to be closer to the action. I returned to London after three years in NY and now live in West Ealing and continue working for Qualcomm's WFT department on advanced networking R&D leading a network architecture group and designing funky new MAC, Link and IP protocols.

**Stephen Wheeler** (*BA Politics and Economics*) After graduating from Essex I worked with international students in Cambridge for a year and then moved to Indonesia to teach English for EF English First. After working for EF for five years I was promoted to Director of Studies with responsibility for a school of 1,000 students. I then moved back to the UK to take up a similar position for EF in Oxford. I also came back with a wife and two children to show for my time in Indonesia.

## 1995

**Anthony Jenkinson** (*BEng Electronic Systems Engineering*) Since graduating in 1995, I joined the Royal Air Force in 1996. After serving 12 years in the RAF I was Honourably Discharged in November 2008, having decided to settle down into civilian life. I'm now working for a bank in Canary Wharf as an IT Specialist. Each year I travel to Australia where I spend my time surfing and scuba diving.

## 1994

**Rosinaldo Bulhoes** (*MSc Electronic System Engineering*) I was part of the audio Engineering team between 1992-93 and I would like to contact my colleagues from that time. After my MSc, I returned to Brazil where I now live. Since 1994 I started my own electronics engineering company.

## 1993

**Samuel Budu** (*MA Social and Economic Development*) Hi, everyone who was on the MA programme, especially between 1992 to 1993 . Unfortunately, the only course mate I kept in touch with (Alpha Sherrif from Sierra Leone), passed away in the US on 13 March 2007. Since graduating, I worked briefly for Oxfam, and as Director of Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality in Suffolk from 1996 to 2004, Equality and Diversity Manager at the London Development Agency from 2004 to 2006 and Regional Business Link Contract and Partnership Manager for the East of England Development Agency in 2007. I am now a British citizen (I am originally from Ghana) and have a beautiful daughter. I also graduated from LSE in 2006 with MSc Human Rights through part-time studies. Please get in touch with me (Aki from Japan, Lomey from Canada, Glacio from Hong Kong etc.) Sam Budu.

**Tamas Molontay** (*MA Financial and Business Economics*) If you remember me from 1991-1992, let's get back in touch. It would be great to hear from you. Send an email to me: Essex@t-online.hu.

**David Winter** (*BA Economics and Politics*) Since obtaining my degree in Economics and Politics I started work with Kent Police, first stationed at Canterbury. Whilst training at Ashford Police Training Centre, I met my wife, Claire who worked for Hampshire Police. After completing my probation, I applied to transfer to Hampshire and a year later I moved. Having been here for 12 years, I am now an Inspector and run a Public Protection Unit in the North and East OCU in Fleet. I am now currently working my way through a management diploma in order to assist with the next step in my career. If anyone wants to get in contact I can be reached through david-winter@sky.com.

## 1992

**Kevin Wood** (*BEng Electronic Systems Engineering*) Now living in Hampshire with my wife Emma and working as a Consultant and Software Developer in mobile telecommunications.

## 1991

**Wing Cheung** (*MSc Telecommunications and Information Systems*) I am working for PCCW of Hong Kong. My daughter, Ching Yee, is now 19 and studying hard to prepare for the University entrance examination in March 2009. My son, Alex, is 12 and enters secondary school to study in form one today 1 September 2008. Please drop me a line - wing-kin.cheung@pccw.com.

**Nigel Courtis** (*BSc Maths Computers and Communication*) I'm living in York, working at Heathrow, having left the RAF. I have three children.

## 1989

**Sanjeev Buddhdev** (*BSc Maths, Operational Research and Economics*) Moved to Vancouver in 2003 and now married with a four year old boy.

**Ana Rennolds (née Alvarez)** (*BA Latin American Studies and Literature*) All the best, had a great time at Essex. I have travelled, now married and living in Bristol with a daughter who is a teenager, how time flies. Hope you have all done well! I still remember the old bar.



Mark Herzog (left) with Tim Kaine, Governor of Virginia

## Spotlight: Mark Herzog: Executive Director, Virginia Biotechnology Association (USA Exchange Programme)

My experience at Essex differed from the US as my courses lasted for a full year, allowing me to get into a level of detail that was good preparation for my future work experience. Anthony King, Professor of Government, particularly inspired me; after graduating, I worked on political campaigns then went to work for a large, regional Chamber of Commerce. In my current job, I am helping to develop the bioscience industry, working with scientists who have invented a new drug, diagnostic, or medical device which is a huge challenge.

## 1988

**Karen Franzel (née Hairston)** (*Politics Exchange Student*) Hello Essex! I would love to hear from old flatmates, classmates and anyone who has great memories of being at Essex. Can't forget **Simon London** (*BA Philosophy 1990*), **Peter Willment** (*BA History 1988*), **Myrna Handem**, **Renuka Thilagaratnam** (*LLB Law 1991 and LLM International Human Rights Law 1994*), **Alexis Onosode** (*BA Economics 1990*), **Ade Odunsi** (*BA Economics 1988*), **Maxwell Edunyah** (*BA Economics 1990*), **Michelle Slater** and the list goes on. Thanks for the good times in the Top Bar.

**Claire McShane (née Thompson)** (*LLB Law*). I am married with two children, Molly aged 12 and Patrick aged 9. We live in Texas, the climate is much better than England!

## 1987

**Scott Jarvis** (*BSc Mathematics Operational Research and Economics*) Moved back to East Midlands after Essex. Now live and work in Derby and married to Jane since 1991.

## 1986

**David Hay** (*BSc Electronic Engineering*) I moved to Perth, Australia in 1996 and am staying! I'm married with two kids, a dog, a cat and live within five minutes from the beach. I have gone from starting out as a Software Developer in the UK to Engineering and Operations Management out here. Still have great memories of my time in Colchester.

## 1985

**Maria Ioannou (Zarpetea)** (*BA Literature*) After teaching English and Literature at a private school in Nicosia for six years and Academic English at the University of Cyprus for 14 years, I am now a public school teacher and have taught at two rural schools in the region of Nicosia. My husband is a civil engineer who works for the Bank of Cyprus. Our son Andreas has just finished high school and is doing his military service after which he plans to study economics in the UK. Our daughter, Marilena is 13 years old, a student of the English School in Nicosia, has a talent in music, loves horse riding and wants to be a vet. We live in the suburbs of Nicosia, have a garden with fruit trees and a host of pets, including an adorable dog named Lucky.

## 1984

**M Foysoyl Chowdhury** (*BSc Electronic Engineering 1984 and PhD Electronic Systems Engineering 1992*) After graduation I worked for Marconi in London and then returned to Essex to do my PhD in Electronic Systems Engineering. I also did my post-doc at Essex, in image coding and compression. I went to the University of Kent as a Research Fellow to do some interesting work on electronic sensors. Then I followed my pursuits in industry, working for various electronic firms. I am now working for Cambridge Semiconductor (a Cambridge University, spin-out Company) for a good number of years! If anyone knows me, please feel free to contact me.

## 1983

**Andrew Waller** (*BSc Physics with Laser Technology*) I drifted into teaching in 1986; worked for public and private sectors in UK. Moved to Kuwait in 1997 and still here teaching. Anyone who remembers Rayleigh 12 in 1980/1 and BR 13 in 1982/3 is welcome to reminisce.

## 1981

**Mark Brierley** (*BSc Environmental Biology*) After working in the UK, Bermuda and the USA I have now been in Austria for the last 13 years. I am happily married and have one son who is getting on for 22 months old. If any old friends want to contact me I have a Facebook presence and am part of the Essex Alumni group as well. You can also google my music under the name Candorwien.

**Geoffrey Startin** (*BA Government and Sociology*) After studying Theology and Pastoral Care at Oxford University, I became a Church of England minister. This I did as a Parish Minister and TA/schools chaplain for 16 years until my divorce led me to leave the ministry. I am currently ministering at the University of Northampton Multi-Faith Chaplaincy and am completing a postgraduate qualification there. My years at Essex were from 1977-81 does anyone out there still remember me?



# Alumni updates

## 1980

**Michael A Baker** (*BA Economics*) I married an Adelaide girl in 2004 and immigrated to Australia in 2007. I would be pleased to hear from any 1980 graduates that remember me.

## 1979

**Howard Hawes** (*BA Government*) Hi everyone. Some of the old gang from BR and Keynes met up in 2007 and 2008 at Essex for a reunion. It was great to see them and catch up on things. How some things have changed! I am due to retire in 2009, where has the time gone? To all who knew me at Essex get in touch if you can?

**Sharon Shoebridge (née Cooper)** (*BA Government and Sociology*) Working for a travel company and have lived in this area for 20 years now. Single with two children - both at University. Would love to hear from anyone who was at Essex with me.

## 1978

**Marian Brooks Sardinha** (*BA Government*) I am still working at Bradford College, now in a largely non-teaching capacity. I married Jorge, my partner for twenty years in 2006. Our daughter Cathy, is about to start an HE course here at Bradford College. I recently moved to a Victorian industrial village in Saltaire. Current interests: e-learning in HE; Asperger's Syndrome.

## 1977



**Spotlight: Henrik Eger PhD: Professor of English and Communication, Philadelphia, USA (MA Applied Linguistics 1977 and MA Literature 1977)**

My two years at Essex influenced my life greatly; they not only gave me two Master's degrees, but I learned a great deal about the production of literature and the inner workings of language. This led me to teaching in India, Sri Lanka, England, and Germany and am now a Professor of English in the USA. I have also written several plays which have been performed all over the world and my website ([www.henrikeger.com](http://www.henrikeger.com)) is one of the most visited educational websites in the US.

## 1975

**Anne Clements** (*BA Sociology*) I am now helping to run a charity which helps children and adults to understand the countryside and sustainability.

**Keith Marriage** (*BSc Biological Chemistry*) Hi fellow veterans from Chem and Biochem from those 'explosive' days of the mid '70s! Career progress has been to move from the concrete and

glass at Wivenhoe Park to more of the same in Brentford! A year back a fantastic return visit was made inc Colchester v Palace (goodbye Layer Road) and search for the ghost of St Osyth's teacher training college in Clacton-on-Sea. Heady days, we even had summers way back then!

## 1973

**Greg Michaelson** (*BA Computer Science*) My novel *The Wave Singer* is now published by Argyll Publishing.

**Colin Underwood** (*BA Government*) It's been an interesting journey moving from Colchester to London to Amsterdam and now Sydney. Waiting to see where the next place will be! After a career in education I am now working for a medical college and looking to see where the next move will be.

## 1971

**Glyn Saunders** (*BA Literature*) Formerly a Head of English in two London schools and then at a sixth-form college in Hampshire. I am now retired from teaching and currently an Administrator at the University of Chichester. I'm married with two children.

**Barry van Eupen** (*BA Economics*) Qualified as a Chartered Accountant. After qualification I worked for an oilfield services in several overseas location, Paris, Singapore, Houston and Calgary. I returned to the UK and have developed a career as an Interim Executive taking on assignments in the UK and Europe.

## 1970

**Christine Hinton** (*BA Sociology*) Does anyone remember when a computer filled a floor at Essex? If so you are probably as old as me. We were often on strike and protesting about some long forgotten cause. I hope it is still an exciting and stimulating place to be. If anyone remembers the early days of Essex and me I would be happy to hear from them.

**Tim Phillips** (*BA Government*) I worked for 29 years in Personnel and Training before taking early retirement. Since then I have been carrying out academic research in biology, investigating a link between sexual selection and human altruistic or selfless behaviour. I obtained a PhD at Nottingham University this year.

## 1968

**Susan Herman** (*BA Comparative Literature 1968 and MA Applied Linguistics 1974*) I've been back in the West Country for over 30 years having taught in Ipswich for a few years after graduation. In the 1990s I produced and directed annual outdoor productions for the National Trust on the slopes of Golden Cap, the highest cliff in the South of England. The productions included a cycle of the English Mystery Plays, leading on from some research I had been doing at Exeter University, and attracted audiences from all over the country. I now coach, teach, run workshops and produce (as well as editing a magazine and doing some writing) and don't intend retiring in the near future!

# How to get in touch

The Development and Alumni Relations Office helps former students stay in touch with the University. We love to hear from you, so do stay in touch. It is important that you keep the University up-to-date with your details. You may have noticed an 'alumni update form' accompanies this magazine; please take the time to

read what details we currently hold on you and correct or complete as required. We use the information supplied to build up a better profile of our graduates and tailor our services accordingly. Alternatively, you can submit your details online on the alumni web pages.



# www.essex.ac.uk/alumni

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Copy of degree certificates:  
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Accommodation on campus:  
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# Have you seen the magic trick where £100 is turned into £150?

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Edited by Dominic Boyd, Head of Development and Alumni Relations

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