



You are
invited...

2014

effect

ESSEX

...to a massive

So, what is Essex, 50 years on? A collection of concrete brutalist buildings? A leading research university on three campuses? Known for its outstanding student experience? All that and more. **Essex** is you: 70,000 alumni in 130 countries – out there doing things differently, still learning, still curious and creative. Still critical. Questioning why things are the way they are. Essex is the **effect** you have on the world. Essex is your memories of hours in the library, the bar, the Hexagon, the theatres, by the lakes or the Southend seafront. Essex is what you brought here, what you learnt here and what you've been inspired to do since. You're not a stereotype dreamed up by some 'reality' TV producer. You're the Essex that's been breaking the rules since 1964. The Essex that's marking **2014** with some serious celebrations. A party for what's happened here, what you've done and how you've changed your corner of the world. You are the spirit of Essex. And Essex is 50.

Welcome home

celebration

50
years

Going for gold

Our 50th anniversary year is almost here! So here's a golden issue of *Essex Effect*.

We want you to be part of Essex long after you leave, and we want to see you again – especially this year!

There's a massive party from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September to celebrate our 50th anniversary, but that's just the start of a whole year of activity: reunions, networking, receptions (we like a glass of wine somewhere posh now and then) and opportunities to meet and support current students.

We also need your help for one of the centrepieces of the next year. The Hexagon has been refurbished and is re-opening for two new exhibitions. One is about our amazing 1960s architecture, but the other one is all about you and your memories of Essex. That means we'd love to see:

- ◆ your photos
- ◆ old fliers and posters you've kept
- ◆ cartoons from student newspapers
- ◆ old bits of video (or cine film or audio)
- ◆ your mementoes (even if that means something you nicked from the bar years ago – we won't press charges!)

So have a read – and be inspired to go through those old boxes in the attic. And come along to an event in the next year. We love catching up with you.

All the best,
Jo and James

Jo Rogers
Head of Alumni Engagement

James Martin
Alumni Relations Officer

“We want you to be part of Essex long after you leave, and we want to see you again – especially this year!”

1964
2014



Message from the editor

Thank you for your feedback on last year's *Essex Effect*. The idea was to create a magazine that's more in keeping with the spirit of this place – and you said we'd generally got it right, which is good to hear.

The magazine celebrates what's happening here now – and you and your lives today. Above all, I hope you find it a good read: interesting, smart, funny and with a bit of bite. (After all, this is an Essex magazine, isn't it?)

This year, the highlights (for me, anyway) are:

- *A family affair* – the story of two generations of South African students
- A chat with David Sanders from Government about Margaret Thatcher, floating voters and predicting elections
- Alumna Harriet Tuckey on her extraordinary, Everest-conquering father
- And Klaus! (Yes, for anyone who was here between 1982 and 2002 – *that* Klaus!)

I hope you like it – and I'd love to hear from you with more of your stories, photos, mementoes and memories.

Thanks,

Chris

Chris Coates
Communications
Officer



50
years

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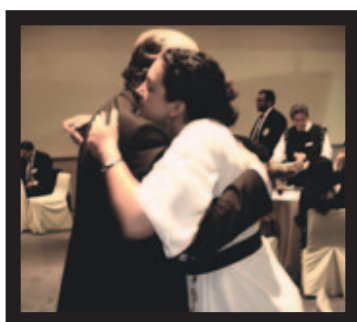
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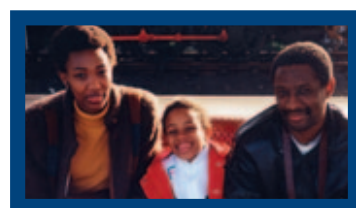
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'homecoming' weekend

Tell someone today

So, someone asks you, what do they do at Essex, then?
Now, you need never be stumped for an answer again...

Shopping, gender and class

Pam Cox from Sociology is back on our TV screens later this year, looking at the neglected lives of 'shopgirls', who should, we're told, be as celebrated as the steelworkers of the industrial revolution.

The programme – and accompanying book – will look at the women behind the counters, from drapery stores in the 1860s to Biba in the 1970s – including its bombing by the Angry Brigade.

Pam says, "It's a tale of class, gender and shopping. Researching it has been a real revelation. I'm looking at what life was like working, and in some cases living, in shops and department stores. Britain may have been a nation of shopkeepers – but they relied, in turn, on an army of shopgirls."

A million people in Britain were shop assistants by the turn of the 20th

century, since when retail has grown to become Britain's largest area of economic activity, putting shopgirls at the heart of a cultural revolution. Like other women in history, they found their contribution largely overlooked – until now.

"Shopgirls are exciting, feisty figures at the cutting edge of social change"



BBC



sweetjanesboutique.blogspot.com



Philip Townsend/Camera Press

When's it on?

Look for the latest news in our email newsletter. Add your email address to your record at www.essex.ac.uk/alumni or email us at alumni@essex.ac.uk

WARNING
⊖
LICENSED SEX SHOP
PERSONS PASSING BEYOND
THIS POINT WILL FIND
MATERIAL ON DISPLAY
WHICH THEY MAY CONSIDER
INDECENT.
NO ADMITTANCE
TO PERSONS UNDER 18

Always a buzz...

Looking at a rather different aspect of the retail industry, Melissa Tyler has been investigating the lives of people who work in Soho's sex shops. She wanted examine work that society considers 'dirty', and find out how the people who work there feel about what they do, why they do it and about the workplace itself.

Melissa, a Professor of Work and Organization Studies at the Essex Business School, says, "I wanted to look at Soho as a workplace. People have studied sex work, and looked at the

stigma attached to being a customer in a sex shop, but we know very little about the people who work in them. What draws people to it as a workplace?"

The Cuts don't work

In times of austerity governments like to make cuts, but David Hugh-Jones in Government says it's the wrong approach.

"They want to trim the fat, but don't want to harm services. But, during austerity, it's hard to find where the fat is."

It's easier to see which services are inefficient and which efficient when you're giving them money, rather than taking it away. "I looked at US libraries," he says, "an annual survey that goes back 20 years. It looks at budgets and what services they provide – such as opening hours and numbers of books. I tried to distinguish between effective libraries and ineffective ones. If you give them an extra \$1,000, what do they do? An effective library will use it well – open for an extra hour, for example. With an ineffective library, it seems to have less visible effect. When they have a budget cut, you find

the effective libraries can do less – but the ineffective ones can do less, too."

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that, "If they need to make cuts, they'll cut the most visible, frontline services – like children's lending. The handbook of library management actually suggests that one strategy is to cut in the worst place, so people complain and write to their politicians."

David started his research when he heard the UK coalition government's "optimistic rhetoric" about reforming public services. "It may be true that they have no choice," he says, "but we shouldn't be too optimistic about what we can achieve."



What Melissa found was that many of the men and women who work in Soho are attracted to its atmosphere and reputation. "They form a strong community of outsiders," she says, "who revel in its metaphorical 'filth', rather than trying to clean it up."

The research has been published in the journals *Human Relations* and *Work Employment & Society*, and discussed on BBC Radio 4's *Thinking Allowed* – and Melissa is planning to take study leave next year to work on a book on the subject. The last word, however,

really ought to go to Julie, one of her interviewees, who works in an Ann Summers shop and says of Soho (perhaps more aptly than she realises): "There's always an atmosphere, always a buzz."

"They want to trim the fat but during austerity it's hard to find where the fat is"

"It's seedy, but that's what makes it exciting"

Find out more!

Contact Melissa direct:
mjtyler@essex.ac.uk

Justice for Chile

Two Essex academics and their students have helped to win compensation for a torture survivor who fled Pinochet's Chile in 1975.

Leopoldo García Lucero came to the UK in 1975 after 18 months of arbitrary detention and torture in his homeland that left him permanently disabled. No-one has been punished for what happened to him, and Chile did not even start investigating his case until 2011. They gave him a small pension in recognition of the loss of his job, but he couldn't benefit from health and education reparation available to victims in the country.

In November last year, though, Lorna McGregor, Director of our Human Rights Centre, and Clara Sandoval, Director of the Essex Transitional Justice Network, helped human rights organisation REDRESS to win his case, and a team of students got hands-on experience supporting them.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights ordered Chile to pay him £20,000 compensation, plus further money to cover his UK medical expenses. It was a landmark judgment, upholding the right to justice for exiled torture survivors. In March, the Chilean ambassador handed Mr García Lucero a cheque, officially apologised to him and praised his long struggle.

Mr García Lucero said, "No amount of money will ever compensate the suffering my family and I have endured, but the judgment recognises that Chile could have done more for victims like us. I hope it will help prevent similar events from happening in future."



Smartphones make you smarter?

Conventional wisdom suggests that technology is making children of us all – addicted to *Candy Crush*, dependent on shiny new things and unable to function without our handheld devices. But you don't look to Essex for conventional wisdom, do you?

Geoff Ward in Psychology is part of an international consortium with a grant of almost €2m from the European Commission to investigate how we can use smartphones to help improve our memories. "We're looking at the range of technology we have in our smartphones now," Geoff says, "to find out which types of information enhance our memories best. GPS location, satnavs, social media, cameras and electronic diaries all

help us record autobiographical memories we can look through later.

"Recorded images can help us remember events vividly. The research will help us find out which information is most useful – for reminding us what we want to do, where we want to go and who we might meet, for example. We'll also be developing new technology to capture memories. It's going to be fascinating!"

"Recorded images can help us remember events vividly"

Diversity is good – official

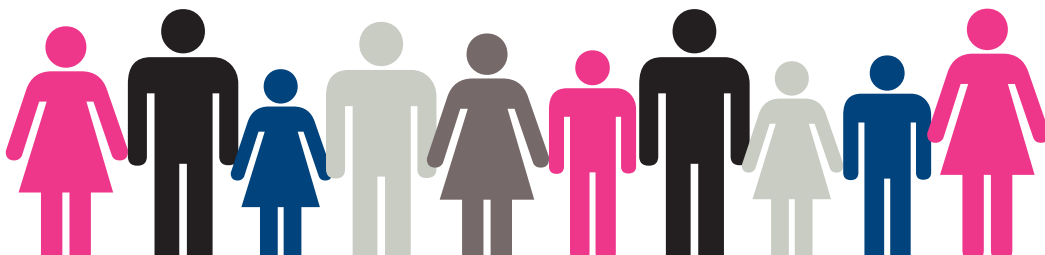
People from minorities feel more British when their neighbours show a bit of diversity, too. It's just one of the findings from the UK's most comprehensive study of community cohesion.

Neli Demireva in Sociology at Essex and Professor Anthony Heath at Oxford looked at over 4,300 British people, more than

3,500 of them from ethnic minorities. They found that when minorities live in very diverse areas, where there are few people

from their own ethnicity, they are just as likely to trust their neighbours, be willing to help them and to join local groups.

"Diversity", the authors say, "plays a positive role in forming feelings that transcend ethnicity. It should be encouraged to cement integration." Previous US and European studies have been more negative about the effects of ethnic mixing, but Neli says, "Diversity is here to stay, and our findings suggest that we should not be pessimistic about that."



Assisted dying – time to change law

Sabine Michalowski from our Law School has taken to the airwaves to say that assisted dying needs to be legalised in some way.

Appearing on Aljazeera's *Inside Story*, Sabine said, "Patients are demanding assisted dying, so I think the law would fail them if we said we cannot find criteria to deal with this appropriately."

She also talked about the importance of preventing abuse of any system in which assisted dying was allowed – but pointed out that this happens whether it's legal or not, including in the UK, "because it's all in the dark, in secrecy, so there is not even a discussion about what good practice would be, and under

what circumstances it should be acceptable. So I'm not sure the abuse problem is helped by simply prohibiting assisted dying completely."

Sabine, Research Director in our School of Law, added that there were existing distinctions between assisted dying, assisted suicide, and voluntary and involuntary euthanasia, which could form a basis for legal criteria: "They are valid distinctions, and they give us clear criteria to distinguish between different cases to which different legal principles should apply."



"Patients are demanding assisted dying, so I think the law would fail them if we said we cannot deal with this"

"Diversity is here to stay and we should not be pessimistic about the implications"

White Britons in high diversity areas were 5% less likely to trust others than those in low diversity areas – depending on how poor an area was and how fearful of crime the white Britons were – but white Britons with degrees were 27% more likely to trust others than those with no education.



More crop per drop

If the world's population reaches 9 billion by 2050, how will we feed everyone? Here in the UK's driest county, Tracy Lawson is researching something called **water-use efficiency to answer that very question.**

Tracy, from Biological Sciences, has been looking into stomata – the tiny holes in leaves that allow a plant to take in air and release oxygen. She says, "We've combined chlorophyll fluorescence – measuring light that's been absorbed by the plant and then released again – and thermography, which is what the police use for looking for cannabis farms. The first one lets us measure how much carbon the plant is taking up, and the second looks at how hot or cold the leaf is, which tells us how open the holes are."

"Thermography is what the police use for looking for cannabis farms"

"The system, which we designed, allows us to control the conditions, so we can look at how things change. Plants are always responding to changing light levels during the day, and we can see how stomata respond." The research could identify cultivars that won't need as much irrigation – or help to create genetically modified plants that use water better.

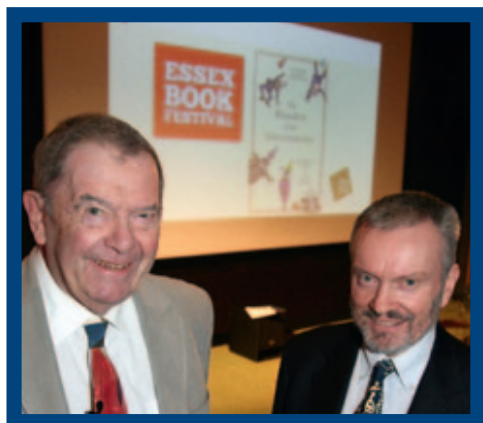
The next step is a collaboration. "In Glasgow, they're looking at stomata at the cell level. We're looking at the leaf level, and Cambridge are looking at canopy level – whole fields – so by working together, we can really broaden our understanding."

What's the latest?

There's more news every day at: blogs.essex.ac.uk/essexdaily

Been around the world...

International alumni clubs, speed networking, receptions – our events bring you together. Here's a round-up of what's happened – and what's coming up



“It was a real pleasure to see so many alumni”

Reunion in Greece

We had over 100 people at an event in Athens in March, with many of our alumni in Greece turning up to reminisce and talk to potential students about their time at Essex.

Dan Barcroft, our Head of Home & EU Recruitment, says he really appreciated their involvement: “We were extremely grateful to all the alumni who came to our event in Athens, and particularly for their help in talking about their Essex experience with prospective students. Passing on advice, excitement and fond memories is very valuable to those students and to the future of the university. It was a real pleasure to see so many of our alumni speak with our applicants – they made a great contribution to the success of the event.”

50 in Mexico

In fact, the alums in Mexico are so keen, they're having their own gala celebration of our 50th anniversary. It'll be in Mexico City on 11 September 2014 from 7-10pm.

To find out more, email Dr Luisa Ortiz Pérez: luisa.ortiz.perez@gmail.com

Club Mexico

We launched the Essex Alumni Club Mexico in December at a fantastic event in Mexico City. More than 100 alums came along and had a great time catching up and making new friends.

It's only the latest in a series of events we're holding across the globe to bring groups of you together in different countries. We have a Cyprus Club and a Hong Kong Club now – and there are plans for more. If you want to form your own club, and enjoy the benefits of networking where you live, drop Jo a line: jrogers@essex.ac.uk

Against the clock

In the last year, over 100 of you have come along to our very popular speed networking events. They're a fast and fun way for current students to get the benefit of your advice, and the last few months have seen events for Language and Linguistics, Economics, Biological Sciences and a special session for postgraduates.

After the Lang & Ling event, Manfred Schrader (Language and Linguistics, 1980) said, “I was very impressed by your students; they were really lovely and incredibly keen. If any of the ones interested in translating and interpreting would like a follow-up session to talk in more detail, I would be happy to oblige.”

“Your students were lovely and incredibly keen”

If you can help at a speed networking event, or spend an hour in your old department during an open day, please contact James: jrmartin@essex.ac.uk

Another birthday!

Southend Forum's first anniversary – put 4 October in your diary. More details nearer the time...

“The new University of Essex is a great and most commendable enterprise”

Winston Churchill

Golden years

Winston Churchill will always be best known as Britain's Prime Minister during WWII, but he was also MP for Epping and later Woodford for a total of 40 years – and the first of those constituencies included the site of our acting school, East 15 (which is why the pub opposite is named after him). Perhaps most importantly, he was one of our earliest donors, and said: “It is of the greatest importance to increase our resources of higher education. The new University of Essex is a great and most commendable enterprise, and I send those inaugurating it my warm good wishes.”

On 16 October 2014, to mark our 50th anniversary, Allen Packwood, Director of The Churchill Archive at Churchill College, Cambridge, will give a talk in the Corbett Theatre at East 15 on Churchill's relationship with the county and its university. Look out on our website and in our *Essex Extra* e-newsletter for more details nearer the time.



"I can't say I've been using differential equations in my day-to-day tasks"

Fire power and flexibility

When Alex Dimitriou graduated in 2002, Euro notes had just been introduced. 12 years on, he's trying to get one of the Euro economies back on track. *Essex Effect* finds out more

"It's an honour," Alex Dimitriou says of his role at the Hellenic Financial Stability Fund (HFSF), set up to stabilise the Greek banking system. It's a task some of us might shrink from, but it seems Alex is made of sterner stuff. "I was asked to join an elite team of 20 to revive the Greek banking system – the Greek economy, effectively – which will have a profound effect on the whole European economy."

Greek banks suffered more than most in the financial crisis, and for the benefit of those of us without a BSc in Mathematics, Alex explains why: "Banks can lend by using their customer deposits or borrowing from capital markets (other domestic and international banks, basically). If the deposits

aren't there and they don't have access to capital markets, banks can't borrow – so they can't lend."

The real crunch came when Greek government bonds were downgraded. "Other banks globally wouldn't lend to Greek banks, because of the high risk of default," Alex says, "and there was a bank-run – customers sent deposits abroad in fear of losing their life savings if the banks shut down. The problem is quite simple to comprehend, but difficult to contain and solve."

The HFSF is a €50bn fund set up to restructure and recapitalise Greek banks. Alex – to simplify things rather – spends his days working with chief executives and chief financial officers to make sure they're implementing their

turnaround plans. The HFSF, he says, has "achieved major milestones. In March this year, Piraeus Bank, a major part of HFSF's portfolio, regained access to international debt capital markets after five years."

His Essex degree "has been a strong plus," he says, but confesses: "I can't say I've been using differential equations, Fourier Series and integrals in my day-to-day tasks. But combining my mathematical skills with my professional experience has given me the firepower and flexibility to look at a problem from many different angles."

“Nothing comes close to **Essex**”



Oscar Muwanga's BSc in Economics has led him to a wholesale banking role in Uganda

Oscar graduated in 2010, but is already a fixed income trader at Standard Chartered Bank in Uganda. It's the job he always wanted.

How did you do it, Oscar?

It is rare to join trading almost straight from university, which is testament to the quality of learning at Essex. From the moment I started my BSc Economics, my desire was to maximise what I could get from one of the university's strengths.

So how did Essex help?

They were the most important and enlightening three years of my life thus far! My communication skills improved, my cultural awareness was broadened and my analytical and quantitative ability developed greatly. Professor Roy Bailey's lectures on bonds and derivatives were especially relevant.

What was your first step after graduation?

Managing logistics for a European Union election observation mission in Uganda. I made sure all the EU delegates had the appropriate security, the right accommodation and support team. I even got an MEP onto a flight he was late for without him even knowing it!

Any interview tips?

For the Standard Chartered job, I researched the industry I was interested in and then singled out a particular role and division. When you do your research like this, it shines through and makes assessments much easier. Plus, having the background of macroeconomics, econometrics and derivatives made me stand out.

And how's work today?

I learn something new every day. I use what I learnt at Essex, and interpret economic, political and social data. I filter out what is important for a trading strategy and, with good certainty, know the impact. My ability at the bank is limited only by my imagination – and credit limits, of course!

What do you think of when you think of Essex?

I played a lot of football, and spent a lot of time in the Union Bar and Top Bar. I don't think any student played more pool games that we did during my three years. In a word: fantastic! Nothing comes close to what Essex had to offer.

“Above all, don't give up. We can help!”

Plan your career

Both Alex and Oscar seemed to have pretty clear ideas of where they wanted to be when they left, but what if you don't? Our Employability & Careers Centre can help – and support you after you graduate.

Director of Employability Dave Stanbury says, “If you're not sure what you want to do, we can help you see what careers might be right for you. Our advisers can help you

put together an action plan. Volunteering or doing more junior roles in the industry can be a great way to build experience and connections.

“You can also use your network to find out about different career options – and about vacancies. Not all jobs are advertised! If you're applying for a job, use our online resources for help with CVs, applications and

covering letters. We're happy to talk these through to make them as strong as they can be.

“Above all: don't give up – there can be many different ways to reach a destination.”

www.essex.ac.uk/careers

A family affair

They came to Essex in the 1980s from apartheid-era South Africa. Two decades on, their daughter graduated from a university they both knew well. Essex Effect meets a remarkable family

"When I was growing up," Khethi Madima says, "they always talked about how wonderful the university was." Hearing one's parents reminiscing about their student days might not appeal to all of us, but Khethi clearly paid attention to the words of her father Taki and mother Tshidi. "That was why I was drawn to Essex," she says. "Taking a closer look at the Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies sealed the deal. The staff and faculty were incredibly helpful, and the programme itself was exactly what I was looking for." She graduated in 2011 with an MA in Psychoanalytic Studies – a day her father describes as "the proudest moment of my life" – but the full story of the family's association with Essex begins back in July 1987.

South Africa – apartheid years

Taki was then at the University of Paris on a French government scholarship, reading for a DEA [doctoral thesis] in Human Rights. This was in the latter years of the apartheid regime, and he and Tshidi had taken undergraduate degrees at one of South Africa's under-funded blacks-only universities. "I received a call from the United Nations Education and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA)," he says, "offering me a scholarship I had applied for a year earlier."

UNETPSA had been established in the 1960s to counter the effects of apartheid by providing education and training opportunities abroad. Given the sheer number of black South Africans, and the limit to the funding available, you had to be both an exceptional student and lucky. Taki, it seems, had both factors on his side. "I was accepted for the LLM by Edinburgh and Essex. Essex had a fully fledged Human Rights Centre. It had Malcolm Shaw,

Sheldon Leader, Nigel Rodley, Kevin Boyle, Carolyn Hamilton, Francoise Hampson and a host of others – all passionate about Human Rights Law and doing fantastic work. So I made a good choice!"

Khethi was around 18 months old by this time, so the whole family came to Colchester



The family at Colchester station, 1992

– where Taki completed his LLM in International Human Rights in 1989, followed by a PhD in Law in 1993. Tshidi graduated in 1991 with a BA in Accounting and Financial Management, adding an MA in the same subject a year later. "Coming from South Africa during the apartheid era," Tshidi says, "I was impressed by the way things were organised and the friendly staff in Accounting and Economics."

**"I was accepted by Edinburgh and Essex.
I made a good choice"**

Focused on studies

Taki and Tshidi both worked part-time to support themselves, and their lives were somewhat different from those of most of the students around them. "I was 31," Taki says. "I didn't socialise much!" Tshidi agrees: "I had a purpose. I focused on my studies.

We went to the SU bar for a meal occasionally." They were adamant that Khethi's time here would be different. "She had it easier than I did," says Taki. "Having to work would distract from her studies, so we supported her – but it was worth it."

Khethi seems to agree. "I had a wonderful time. I lived at Matthew Quay, with amazing flatmates. We became our own little family. The social life was a welcome distraction, especially when we were all writing our dissertations." That was only one way in which her life was different, of course. "I was raised in a democratic society. I have so many more opportunities now than my parents ever did at my age."



Taki and Tshidi at her graduation in 1991

The new South Africa

Both her parents agree, though, that there is much more to achieve in the country where they live and work. Taki is a Senior Counsel with chambers in Cape Town and Johannesburg, while Tshidi recently formed her own investment company focusing on Africa. They both agree that there has been change – indeed, both embody it – but, Taki says, "Change for who? The face of abject poverty is still black". Tshidi points out the "lack of schools, clinics, water and proper housing, especially in rural areas" as well as "a huge disparity still between white and black salaries in the corporate world".

The whole family, though, is grateful for the opportunities Essex gave them. "I loved it as soon as I set foot on campus!" Khethi says. "There were people from all over the world in one place. My parents told me: at Essex, you were guaranteed a good education and a great experience – and I agree. I made some of the best memories of my life here."

As *Essex Effect* goes to press, Khethi is starting her training with the South African Psychoanalytical Association, and completing a proposal for the PhD she hopes to do here – and her sister may be on her way, too. "I'm proud to be a second generation Essex graduate," Khethi says, "and I hope that in the future my children will be the third." The Madima family's links to Essex look set to continue for some time yet...

"I loved it. There were people from all over the world in one place"

Look!

It's Klaus and Monica!

If you were here between 1982 and 2002, there are two people you are guaranteed to know, whatever you studied. Klaus and Monica worked in the SU for 20 years each, and *Essex Effect* has been to hear their story

"The rugby players came back from somewhere, I don't know where, and they came in with a great big flower planter from a motorway service station." Monica Ginski is answering one of the questions you sent in for her and husband Klaus: what, you wanted to know, was the stupidest stunt you ever saw in your time here? They would, after all, have seen a lot from their positions manning the door and managing the catering in the Union. "They put the whole thing in the back of their minibus," Klaus says, "and brought it into the Union bar."

They have fond memories, too, Monica adds, of "a Canadian boy who'd gone back to Canada and took one of our stools with the blue velour top. He sent a picture of a lovely fireplace, a great big roaring fire and this little stool from the SU bar. It's the silly things that you remember."

Others asked what Klaus did before he came to Essex. We even heard rumours that he was an Austrian boxing champion. "I did box as a young man, but just amateur, and it was in East Prussia – I was born there in 1940."

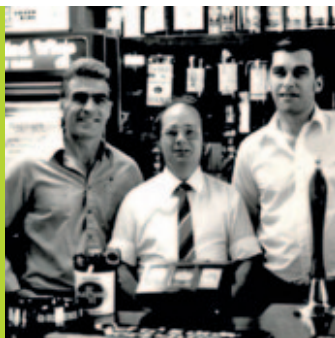
By the time they arrived at the university, Klaus and Monica had been a husband and wife team for some time. "I came here as a visitor in 1961," he says, nodding to Monica, "and, I ran into that one!" There was no escaping destiny, and he has – more or less – been here ever since. The process of getting permission to live in the UK in the early 1960s, however, was not a smooth or simple one. "We could write a book!" Monica says. "You would never believe the hassle we had."

Here for homecoming!

Klaus and Monica are planning to be around for the homecoming weekend, 12-14 September. Are you? See the pull-out for more details

Klaus was only allowed to stay for a month and then had to go again – and risked arrest if he came back to visit too soon. He took steps to address the problem, though – pretty direct ones. "RAB Butler [our first Chancellor and former Essex MP] lived near Halstead," he says. "I went up there and knocked on the door to see if he would give me a permit, and he said have you eaten anything? I said no, and he gave me five shillings." Some weeks later a very official-looking envelope with a red wax seal arrived, and Klaus had his permission.

So, what happened between then and his first appearance in the Students' Union bar on 1 October 1982? It seems that Klaus'





Union Bar

The Bar offers a wide selection of traditional ales, lagers, keg beers and spirits. It has an excellent local reputation as offering the best beer in the area, at the most competitive prices. In addition, there are a number of video games, pinball machines, and pool tables for your entertainment.

As far as food goes, the Bar offers a wide range of pies, pizzas, ploughpersons and jacket potatoes which are extremely good value. Food is available both at lunchtime and during the evening. The Bar Manager is Paddy Dundon. He controls the Bar on a day to day basis assisted by Deputy Bar Managers, Julian Frostick, John Hunt and Rita Dundon and full-timer Paul Hambling, not forgetting Klaus, who makes sure that you can enjoy your pint without any fears of trouble.

connection to Essex goes back much further. As a self-employed builder ("You have to work like hell to earn money"), he was involved in the frenzy of building work in the mid-1960s when the university first went up. Working in the bar, though, was "the best job I ever had. I couldn't get there quick enough some evenings."

His philosophy was simple. "I like people. I treated them all like my own children. You have to be very diplomatic. You prevent fights before they start. If the boys got a bit excited, I calmed them down. Because if you calm them down, it's like a victory on points, isn't it?" Things did kick off occasionally, though. "I remember one night," Monica says. "It was the elections, and there were all these lads, and whoever was being elected, they were really against it. Suddenly, they erupted into this massive brawl and all I saw was Klaus going right into the middle of it. I was absolutely terrified."

Klaus smiles. "I wasn't." Indeed, tales of Klaus picking young men up by the scruffs of their necks and lifting them bodily from the scrum have become legendary – and he will confess to the occasional unorthodox wrestling hold, "in case they lash out, like". Life these days, in a retirement flat on the seafront in Frinton, is rather quieter. Klaus catches the rays on a walk to the pier every day, and tops up the legendary tan

with holidays in Tunisia – and he and Monica hope it will be on show at the homecoming weekend in September.

It will be a chance to reminisce – perhaps about the time Klaus found a briefcase containing £8,000 in the bar after closing up one night (begging the question, what was a student doing carrying

a briefcase, let alone in possession of £8,000?) Or, perhaps, he can tell you the story of how he bumped into Martin Harris in the Union late one night. "I said, excuse me, who are you? He said, 'I'm the Vice-Chancellor' I said, Oh yeah? I'm security. I didn't know who he was!" It seems unlikely, though, that anyone who met him could ever forget Klaus.



“A brilliant place to teach”

After more than 40 years here, David Sanders became the UK's first Regius Professor of Political Science. *Essex Effect* went to find out what brought him here, and what's made him stay

'The economy, stupid'. Those were famously the words of Bill Clinton's unofficial 1992 campaign slogan – and a conversation with David Sanders confirms the truth of them. He puts it a little less bluntly, of course, preferring to say: “There are really quite stable relationships between movements in economic perceptions and movements in support for the incumbent party.”

The study of such movements has not only underpinned his career, but helped to re-shape the landscape of political science. “What brought

me here,” he says, “was that Essex in the late 60s and early 70s was one of the few places in Britain where you could study proper political science. Before that, the study of politics basically

involved storytelling – narrative history – and political theory. They were interesting to read and often very well written, but Essex said: ‘We’re not going to accept assertions about why things happen in the political realm. We’re going to try to establish what people think and do, and how we can test claims about why.’”

It's an approach that has transformed the face of political studies across the UK and Europe – and overturned some political certainties along the way. The death of Margaret Thatcher in 2013, for example, saw much re-appraisal of her record, but some myths persist – such as the idea that the Falklands War played a significant part in her 1983 election victory. “There are still people,” David says, “who believe it's true, but I've

thrown every statistical technique at those data over the years, and the story is very simple. Governments always try to manipulate economic perceptions. For two years after an election, in the first half of the electoral cycle, you get all of the bad economic times out of the way and try to build things up in the second half. So, for the last couple of years, people's living standards are improving, and that improves your chances of winning.”

In 1982, military successes saw spikes in Conservative popularity of 8 points in May and 5 points in June, but “what had already happened was that the bottom of the recession had been reached. From December 1981, you've got rapid economic improvements. Economic optimism had already started accelerating – you can see it from the graphs. You would have got to a point in 1983 where, even if the war hadn't occurred, there would have been enough economic optimism around to have generated the victory anyway.” So, it wasn't Thatcher's war that won it, after all, but Geoffrey Howe's budget.

Such analysis began to prove very useful. “I was using the model we'd developed in 1979-83 to analyse what would happen in the 1987, 1992 and 1997 elections. We were getting the results right 18 months before an election – not a month before or on the night, which is what a lot of forecasters do. I wrote a paper at the end of 1989 predicting the outcome of the 1992 election to within 0.2%. That was quite useful for my career!”

The reason why that career has always been based here, he says,

is simple. “It's a brilliant place to teach and research. Woe betide anybody who criticises Essex either as a county or as a university in my hearing. They'll get a real mouthful. I love it here.” It seems likely, then, that David will be at Essex, examining politics, for some time to come.

One prediction no-one can make with certainty, though, is the outcome of the UK's 2015 election. “The game has changed,” he says. “You've got a four-party system in Scotland and Wales – and almost in England as well, with UKIP as the joker in the pack. The Tories will narrow the gap on Labour, because people trust George Osborne more than they do Ed Balls, even though they don't like him. But my guess would be that their support won't come up far enough for them to win an outright majority.”

David's role as principal investigator for the British Election Study from 2000-12 feeds into this, too. When it started, in the early 1960s, he says “half the electorate strongly identified with either Labour or the Conservatives. By 2010, that had fallen to 9%. Now, most people just want economic prosperity, peaceful streets and peace abroad. They'll put up with an awful lot of other things if they've got all of that. That's the battleground the parties are fighting on now – who's best at delivering the things that most people want.” It really is all to play for.

“Governments always manipulate perceptions”

David will give a special lecture to celebrate his new professorship on 29 October. Look out for more information nearer the time.



“We’re not going to accept assertions. We’re going to establish what people think”

Your News

Another huge response this year to our call for your news.
Here's what we could squeeze in

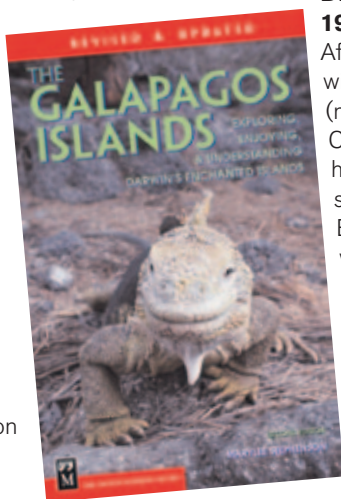
1960s

Deidre Gordon, Social Sciences 1968

What an era! I did an MA in psychoanalytic studies 20+ years later and a PhD. I still practise as a psychotherapist from home even though past my sell by date. Last year, I achieved a lifetime's ambition: sold up my carriage driving equipment and became the proud owner of an Aston Martin Vantage Roadster!

Marylee Stephenson, MA Sociology 1969

I've been on the slopes of Cotopaxi, in Ecuador, and in the Galapagos Islands (my 10th trip) taking a small group along but also updating the 3rd edition of my Galapagos guidebook – in print since 1989. Also keeping up with my story-telling, stand-up comedy (see my youtube channel) and program evaluation contracts.



Ex-Essex Racegoers

A magnificent seven alumni from the late 1960s have been meeting to watch horseracing at least once a year every year since graduating. Alan Martin and Malcolm Rose (Economics 1968 – married to Liz, nee Hill, Mathematical Economics 1969), Peter Flack (Government 1968), Tony Tomaney and Brian Cloke (Mathematics 1968), Ian Penny and Peter Seagroatt (Economics 1969) get together for a weekend of intelligent debating, a little eating and drinking, card schools, joke-telling and a spot of horseracing. Three years in the embryonic days of Essex prepared us well for the important things in life. We learned an awful lot, mainly on the fifth floor of Rayleigh Tower.

1970s

John Eagles, Computing Science 1970

Having gone straight from Essex to Oxford Air Training School, I was compulsorily retired from Civil Aviation in 2012, having reached the maximum age for a commercial pilot of 65 – most of my career was spent flying 747s worldwide. Now a volunteer in the local food bank and trying to tell as many people as possible that God loves them.

Dik Leatherdale, Computing Science 1970

After more than 40 years of messing about with computers, I retired from paid work (not a moment too soon) and fell in with the Computer Conservation Society. I edit their house magazine, *Resurrection*, and get to rub shoulders with heroes introduced to me at Essex by the late John Laski. It's a job for which my grade D at English O-Level makes me entirely unqualified, but there weren't any other candidates...

Tony (Antoine) Khater, Theoretical Physics 1968, and PhD 1972

Tony's career has taken him to Lebanon (during the civil war), back to Essex, Brazil and France, where he is now Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University du Maine, Le Mans. "Invited to a wedding anniversary in Essex in June 2013," he says, "we stayed at Wivenhoe House, went down at night to Wivenhoe for a drink, and saw friends still in East Bergholt and Weeley Heath."

John Rabson, MPhil EE 1974

John Rabson and Rosy (née Border) are celebrating their ninth year in central Burgundy. They run a gîte which sleeps up to five, and welcome visitors, particularly people with PTSD, their families and friends. It's not run for profit – they simply ask for a donation to Combat Stress. charity-cottage.org.uk for details.

Gordon Ritchie, PhD Electrical Engineering 1974

I started in 1967 as a PhD student in Electronics, and had a great time at Essex – Head of Department 1983-86 and Dean of Science & Engineering 1990-93 – until I retired in 2000. The university was small, even in 2000, and I knew a lot of people. I was lucky to have been at Essex, and am enjoying retirement even better.

Charlene Weisler, International Programme 1974

In addition to my research consultancy that specializes in big data for media, I am also a big advocate and enthusiast of street art. I photograph eroding and decaying graffiti in NYC, where I exhibit my work and post it online: charleneweisler.com



Krishna Brijpaul, MSc Mathematical Computation 1975

I lectured at the University of Guyana, then did a PhD and taught until 1987 at the University of the West Indies. I emigrated to Canada, taught in high schools, retired in 2008 and founded a private tutoring company, Malton Mathematics Academy. I fondly remember classmates Jane, Bill Broughton, Petros Gladakis and lecturers Prof. Broyden, Bill Hart, Les Graney and John Ford. I'd love to get back in touch!

Aaron Rynd, PhD Literature 1975

I've jumped out of airplanes and scuba-dived, set up and edited web sites, taught fitness and CPR, practised law for 25 years and cultivated an interest in 17th century China. Essex helped me understand how to build the life you want and make others happy. The result was a lot of fun, and hearing alumni news is a treat – I feel part of a larger community.

Seen a face or name you recognise?

Email alumni@essex.ac.uk and we can put you in touch

Martin J Ball, MA Linguistics and Phonetics 1976

I am about to relocate from the US to Sweden. In June, I'm taking up the position of Professor of Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics, at Linköping University.



Nick Dear, Literature 1977

Nick continues to write plays for theatre, and screenplays for film and TV. His plays are regularly performed around the world. He wrote the script for *Frankenstein* at the National Theatre, plus six episodes of *Agatha*

Christie's Poirot over the last few years. His most recent play was *The Dark Earth and the Light Sky* at the Almeida Theatre, about the poet Edward Thomas. There will be new work in 2015.

Jose Luis Velasquez Pereira, MA Latin American Government & Politics 1977

I'm now Dean of the School of Political Science at Thomas More Universitas, Nicaragua.

1980s

Don Clarke, Computer Systems 1981

After a diverse career in telecommunications research I left BT in April 2014 after 40 years to move to the US for a new career in the cable industry. I recently co-founded and lead a new international industry initiative to migrate the world's telecommunications networks to software running on industry standard servers – bringing me full circle to my Essex roots. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me, and can be found on LinkedIn.



Joan Dsouza, Literature 1981

I have worked for the Home Office, Department for Transport, Office for Security and Counter Terrorism and now Croydon Council in housing. My daughter and son have recently graduated themselves. I would like to meet up with June who was living in Southend and Susan in Gloucestershire (we all read Literature).

Rezki Bounekhla, MA Sociology 1982

I've been a lecturer in Sociology, Economics and English as a Foreign Language in Algeria (1982-98), taught English as a Second Language in Montreal (1999-2003) and French to Federal Public Service Employees in Ontario (2003-2006). I'm currently a lecturer in English as a Foreign Language, Jubail Industrial College, Saudi Arabia. My greetings to contemporaries at Essex 1980-82.

Ken Goodman, MA Language and Linguistics 1983

I'm now Professor and Director, Bioethics Program and Director, WHO Collaborating Center in Ethics and Global Health Policy at the University of Miami: www.miami.edu/ethics. I'd include a picture, but can't figure out how to Photoshop the grey hair...

Constantine (Dinos) Koutsos, Electronic Engineering 1983

I am President of Miltech Hellas, established in 1997 by a team of engineers to cover the needs of small-medium sized companies in the defence sector.

George Mavromaras, Economics & Government 1983

I don't jump out of aeroplanes, but fellow Essex graduate Constantine Koutsos and I fly them together! Also I was elected President of the European Association of Industrial Bakeries (AIBI) in June 2013.

Albert Weideman, MA Applied Linguistics 1983

Albert is CEO of ICELDA, a partnership of four multi-lingual South African universities, and a professor of applied language studies in the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice at the University of the Free State.

Carina Varain (formerly Byrne), LLM Human Rights Law 1984

I went back to Germany and went into adult education teaching English. My partner, J H Peron, is a founder member of Krautrock band Faust, and I set up a label and managed the band for many years. We founded the Avantgarde Festival 12 years ago (www.avantgardefestival.de), which takes place in and around our old farmhouse. We have five children and four grandchildren between us, and I am deputy mayor of our village.

Stephen May, Literature 1986

My third novel *Wake Up Happy Every Day* was published in March. Set in San Francisco and small town England, it's informed by my time sharing a house with fellow Essex graduate Nick Crawshaw, a brilliant bloke who sadly died in 2005. He managed to combine careers as an Army sharpshooter with a study of Philosophy, and was successful at both.



Your News

Ian Watson, Biological Sciences 1981, MSc Computer Science 1986

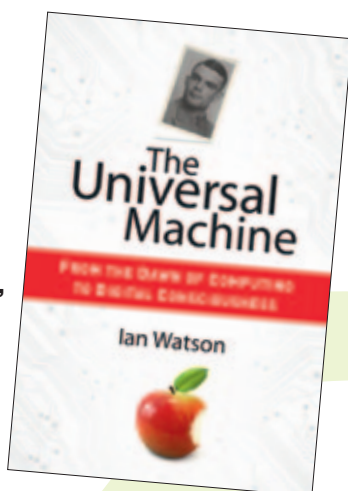
I recently published *The Universal Machine: from the dawn of computing to digital consciousness*. The Association of Computing Machinery said, "This interesting popular science book ... is unique in considering the history of computing from its early notions up to its latest forecasts, with no gaps in between." Essex gave me my first insights into computing (during my Biology degree) and my fascination with it has remained.

Sandip Patel, Law 1987

I was called to the Bar in 1991, and appointed to Queen's Counsel in April. A member of Furnival Chambers, I specialise in criminal and civil fraud, business crime, asset recovery, serious crime, tax and regulatory matters and cybercrime. I'd be delighted to know how my class mates are faring. (I had hair back then.)

Waleed Addas, MA Economics 1988

I have a PhD in Economics from the International Islamic University Malaysia (2006), and am currently Operations Resources Manager in the Operations Policy and Services Department at the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. I am proud to have studied at Essex, and when I met Tony Blair some years ago, he nicknamed me 'the Essex man'!



Will Jackson, Government 1989

I've worked for the BBC and Ofcom, and just started a new role as managing director of the Radio Independents Group, the trade body for UK independent radio producers. Working on a training day with the Student Radio Association, I met some of the current RED Radio (though I still remember it as University Radio Essex) team. I'm pleased it's still going strong.



Lam San Keung, Law 1984

I'm now a managing partner at Lam, Lee & Lai Solicitors & Notaries in Hong Kong. I'm also President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, Honorary Legal Advisor of the Hong Kong Doctor's Union and Legal Advisor of the C.C. Yip Martial Art Association (among other roles).

1990s

Dayang Mariani, MBA 1991

My husband, Khairuddin Ab-Hamid (PhD Electronic Engineering 1992) and I came home to Malaysia, where he worked at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, becoming dean of IT and then Vice-Chancellor from 2008-13. I lectured on management and strategic planning at a private college which a colleague and I later bought and ran. Since selling most of my business interests, I have concentrated on charity work, in particular as president of our chapter of the Special Olympics.



Djedou Adaman Etrin-Ehoussou (Adaman Ouattara), Applied Linguistics 1992

I did a Masters in Culture, Education and Human Development at New York University 1995-97, and I now lecture at the Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB) in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. Ekaterina Tsiora (from Greece), Doris (from Malaysia), Marilyn Ang (from Singapore), Yi (from China), I would like to have a Skype conference with all of you!

Akram Shalghin, Literature 1992

I am an assistant professor at Jadara University, Jordan, teaching English Literature. I would love to hear from my Essex class mates.



Darren Harrison, United States Studies 1995

I started an MA in International Relations at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas in 1996 while working for the US government. I was transferred to Italy halfway through and distance learning wasn't available then. I became a journalist, rising up the ranks to become an assistant managing editor for the *Washington Post*. In 2010, I re-enrolled with St Mary's and this year will finally get my MA – 18 years after I started!

Dave Appleby, MA Comparative History 1997

Born in Elmstead Market, I watched the university being built in the 1960s – and graduated at the famous 'Nelson Mandela' graduation in July 1997. I'm now a lecturer in Early Modern British History at the University of Nottingham, and appeared on BBC Radio 4's *The Third Degree* in May 2014 as part of our 'dons' team.

Simon Dancer, Economics 1997

I'm an economist at the Homes & Communities Agency (England's housing and regeneration agency), where I co-authored its *Additionality Guide*, an economics book now in its fourth edition and used across the UK and internationally. This recently culminated in me presenting to the World Bank in Paris, with delegates from across the globe.

“Our William Morris flat is booked for the big September reunion, and ready to be filled with old drunken rugby girls!”

Ash Afzalnia, Electronic Systems Engineering 1998

Ash started an IT company while still a student, and then borrowed money to set up Bar 33 on Colchester's Crouch Street in 2001. The IT company is now international, and that bar is now Waikiki – and part of Ash's Elysium Group, which owns six venues in Colchester, has another, Hudson, in development on the high street and plans to turn the River Lodge site on Middlebrough into a 50-room boutique hotel.

Amir Altshuler, Law 1998

Sagit Amitay Altshuler and I met at Essex, and have been married for about 13 years. We have two children (11 and 8), and I am a senior partner at Altshuler & Welner, a Tel Aviv law firm, as well as a member of Law Europe international.



Kelly Geary, Modern Language and Linguistics 1998

I'm now living in Teddington, working at Kingston University and helping with marketing/photography for my partner's French bistro in Richmond, La Buvette. I have very fond memories

of Essex and the friends I made there.

Vicki Hedou Buck, Politics & Sociology 1998

My book *Roadside Warrior* was published in May. It's about a woman who joins the Royal Logistics Corps and goes to Afghanistan instead of university – while her brother drops out and goes to Pakistan to train with the Taliban. I was a mature student. It wasn't easy as my own children were taking their GCSEs and A levels, and my poor husband supported us all – but I loved every minute!

Luther (Ben) Hughes, Art History 1998

Ben sadly died in March this year aged just 39. His sister, Dominique, who still lives in his native Solihull, described him as “kind, thoughtful, caring and bubbly” and said his death would leave “an enormous hole” in the lives of his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. They would be very happy if anyone who remembers Ben made a donation to Mind in his memory.

Vicky Kaioglou, MSc Sports Sciences 1998

I live in Athens, and work as a PE teacher at a primary school, which I enjoy very much. It's demanding but creative. I've travelled around Europe with my husband and two sons.

Mat Smith, Accounting and Financial Management 1998

I live in Woburn Sands with my wife and two daughters, and work in Edinburgh and London for Aberdeen Asset Management. I maintain a parallel career as a freelance music journalist writing for *Clash*, *Feeder*, *Electronic Sound*, *This Is Not Retro* and *Documentary Evidence*. Last year, I released two compilation albums called *MuteResponse*.

Alexey Tatarinov, PhD Theoretical Physics 1998

I am 50 soon. My mind is still fresh, but I can't run as fast, or play football (or drink) for as long as I did! I still meet uni mates, and would like to hear from anyone I knew in the UK.

Christine Strobel, MA Contemporary Theatre Practice 1999

After an absence of more than 14 years, I moved back to London in May. I am still working as VFX Producer / Animation Producer and my current project has me shuttling backwards and forwards between London and Mumbai. I look forward to catching up with old friends from Essex when I'm back in Britain.

2000s

Harry Stamelos, LLM European Community Law 2000

I started practicing law in Athens, and studying part-time for a PhD in EU and US law, which I received in 2011. I teach English legal terminology to lawyers and produce two radio shows (one on poetry, one on EU matters). I am also President of the European Federalist Party in Greece and the party's programme manager at a federal level – and a candidate to become an MEP.

Missing old friends?

Get yourself to www.essex.ac.uk/alumni and visit the Alumni network pages!

Jane Fairhead, English & European Literature 2001

At 78, and with eight grandchildren, I've discovered who wrote Shakespeare's works, though needless to say no-one seems to believe me! However, my book, *Shakespeare's Sonnets Revisited* is available on Amazon. I'm now working on *The Story of Otta*, a children's book for grown-ups in ten parts. Eternal thanks to the Literature department for giving me a chance to take a degree.

Matthew Sugden, Economics 2004

I became a qualified accountant, and just got promoted to Head of Underwriting Management at XL Insurance with a team of 21 staff including doctors, lawyers and accountants. I've been living in Zurich for the past two years with my wife and two children – and I still travel back to London to watch Spurs home games!

Anna Moon, Psychology 2005

I'm now a Metropolitan police officer, and have been nominated for a Royal Humane Society award after jumping into a canal to save a woman from drowning. I was women's rugby captain for Essex in 2003 and now play for Beckenham Ladies with Jenny Vent (American Studies 2007). Our William Morris flat is booked for the big September reunion, and ready to be filled with old drunken rugby girls!

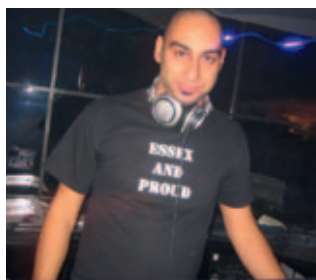


Jenny Vent

Aur lie Payet, International Trade Law 2005

I have worked as a qualified French lawyer in the Paris office of Norton Rose Fulbright for the past five years, specialising in renewable energy in project finance.

Your News



Constantinos (Costas) Constantinides (aka DJ Goofy), Law 2006

I have been an advocate-legal consultant for seven years, and am currently taking a diploma on international taxation, hosting a radio show, trying to keep my hobbies alive and catching up with friends as much as possible. I miss Essex, Colchester and London, and look forward to the day Colchester United wins a championship!

Julio Villa-García, MA Linguistics 2007

I did a PhD in Linguistics at the University of Connecticut, and am now Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. I'm very happy

here, have a book coming out soon, and owe much to Andrew Radford and Martin Atkinson at Essex. At least once a day, I travel to Colchester in my mind...



Miles Cooke, Computer Science 2008, MSD 2009

Miles has been doing some great programming and developing work in his spare time – including creating the Reddit Now android app, which has become very popular and has a 4.2* rating. The app is an easy, intuitive way to browse content on social news and entertainment site Reddit using an android phone or tablet. It's regularly updated, and has had some great reviews.

Sergei Golubok, LL.M International Human Rights Law 2008

In 2013, I was a legal advisor for Greenpeace International in the 'Arctic 30' case (30 activists detained for a peaceful oil rig protest). They faced up to 15 years in prison, and were eventually released with all charges dropped. They are now suing the Russian Federation in the European Court of Human Rights.

Samai Haider, MSc International Economics 2008

No sooner had I stepped out of my graduation robes than a lengthy and gruelling recruitment process for the Government Economic Service began. Within a few months, I was an economist in the Treasury. After two years, I opted for a change of scenery, backpacked around Europe and America and settled in Melbourne with my husband, where I am a government economist analysing labour and training markets.

Tomoko Kurabayashi, Economics 2008

I came back to Japan and started working at TV stations such as Nikkei CNBC and NHK as a news/sports caster. I'm now working at NHK Tokyo and aiming to be on a news program called *News Line*, which is broadcast in many countries, including the UK! I am also a paid and voluntary interpreter and translator.

Belén Robertson-Cenzual, Latin American Studies 2008

Will (now my husband) and I met in Freshers' Week, graduated together and married in 2013. The best man and one of the bridesmaids were also Essex alumni.

John Shea, Economics 2008, MSc 2009

Thank you to the Alumni Relations team (and others) for helping me propose to my fiancée. It worked! We now live in Tennessee, and got married in May.



Katey Street, English Language 2009

After two years as a primary teacher in Essex, I moved to Australia in 2012 and now live in Sydney, managing a preschool. I'm also a big advocate for health and fitness in my spare time, mentoring at a kickboxing gym and participating in marathons and fitness fundraisers such as the Sydney Colour Run. Hope everything at Essex is good!



2010s

Sami Naimat, Law 2010

Sami died in a car crash in March 2013, and many of his friends sent in tributes and memories

- Mahammad Qarashi said, "A better friend with a greater character and a bigger heart, there could not have been."
- Sara Al Zou'bi: "The world has lost a great soul, full of life and laughter."
- Nour Al'Refai: "When I think of Sami I think of smiles and laughter, and the warmth of his soul."
- Beatrice Blois: "Sami's joy for life made us gravitate towards him. His laughter and happiness were contagious."

Kerry Sweeney, Occupational Therapy 2010

I work as an occupational therapist in an early intervention psychosis team which I love. I miss my old mates (who I occasionally catch up with at festivals and lectures) but I have to admit: having no assignment stress is wonderful!

Alina Isaev, Literature 2011

I'm a search engine optimisation specialist for Carpetright, and have started to write for their blog and work with other bloggers. I also have my own blog, fairytaleprettypicture.co.uk, and have been made a lifestyle category judge for the UK Blog Awards. I was part of the Essex Flames, and I've continued cheerleading in my spare time – the RT Twilights are taking part in regional and national competitions this year!

“My Essex degree has changed my life”

Missing old friends?

Get yourself to www.essex.ac.uk/alumni and visit the Alumni network pages!

Ramon Archila Marin, MA Political Economy 2011

I am back at home in Mexico and working at the Ministry of Economy. Kind regards to all my Essex mates and professors.

Patra Vlachopanou, MSc Psychology 2011

I am currently doing a PhD in Educational Psychology at the University of Ioannina, Greece and working part-time as a research and teaching assistant there. I miss Essex, especially the library.

Patricia Borlenghi, MA Creative Writing 2012

I founded my literary press, Patrician Press, over a year ago and have now published seven paperback titles and twelve e-books. Many of my authors are connected to the Creative Writing Department at Essex, including Philip Terry, Mark Brayley and Emma Kittle-Pey. See patricianpress.com for more details.



Mahmut Çelik, MSc Economics 2012

I'm working for the Central Bank of Turkey, have a 14-month-old daughter and have started a PhD in Economics here in Turkey.

James-Nicholas Lee-Angel, Molecular Medicine and Biochemistry 2011, MSc 2012

I have accepted an unconditional offer to study at UCL, researching neurology, and I intend to transfer to the PhD course next year. I am also contemplating joining the reserves or Air Force reserves. In the meantime I am working mainly as a waiter.

Nathalie Margi, LLM International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law 2012

After working as Heartland Alliance's Country Director in Lebanon, developing gender-based violence prevention and response programs for Syrian refugees, I got married and moved to New York City. I am now a consultant for human rights organisations doing UN advocacy for women's rights. I will also be teaching a course on the UN this summer at Rutgers University.

Muhammad Tahir Qadri, PhD Electronic Systems Engineering 2012

My Essex degree has changed my life. I joined Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology in Karachi, Pakistan, as an associate professor, and at 32 am now Associate Chairman of a department with 1,500 students and 150 staff. I also head the Signal Processing Research Group (SPRG) we've created: www.ssuet.edu.pk/SPRG

Peter Williams, Computer Science 2012

I'm now in physical commodity trading in Switzerland, and enjoy climbing, skydiving and bungee jumping. Switzerland is a brilliant place for all three – now I just have to learn how to ski!

Alexandra (Alex) Dillnutt, Psychology 2013

After a PGCE, I start teaching year 5 in Southminster in June. Essex really helped me to get this job – especially an email in my second year about ABA (an early autism intervention scheme) which provided me with fantastic work experience and drove my decision to get into teaching.

Ugonnaya Igwilo, MAPH Public Health 2013

Being a graduate student at Essex was amazing. I was able to build on my knowledge and experience as a doctor. I am back in my home country doing a community health and primary health care residency programme. Thank you, Essex!

Emma Willis, Psychology 2013

I was a Football Development Officer for Essex County Football Association, and also worked with the University of Essex to develop the Mars Just Play Centre which is now allowing students and staff to play football recreationally. I've been a mentor for the SOVA Bridge Project (helping offenders engage with the community), and have now been offered a part-time case worker role. In September, a friend and I will be coaching young people in favelas in Rio de Janeiro – and raising money for them at www.gofundme.com/ewracingroundrio.

Eleni Alexandrou, LLM International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law 2014

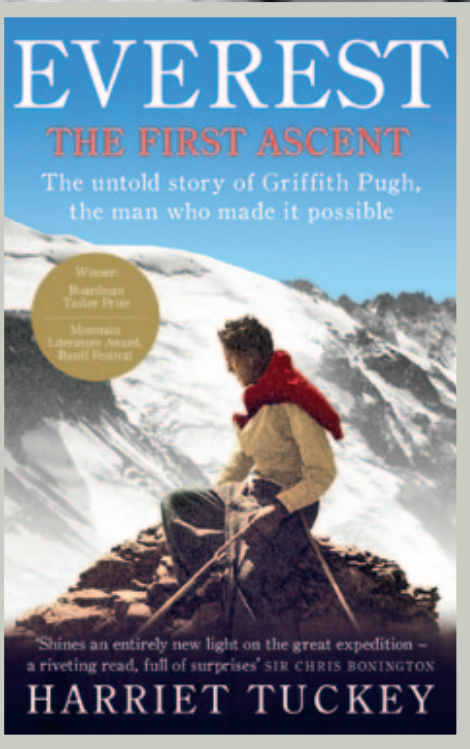
I am volunteering at PASYKAF charity shops (Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends) and am a UN volunteer online with Grace Foundation-Nigeria. I also started volunteering with Cyprus International Women of Today (CIWOT), and run their website. I miss Essex, and look forward to graduation, and seeing my friends again.

Seen a face or name you recognise?

Email alumni@essex.ac.uk and we can put you in touch

Griffith Pugh greets Harriet on his return from Everest in 1953

“Essex was absolutely amazing”



Harriet's dad and the yellow snow

Harriet Tuckey was at Essex at “a time of revolution”, and has now written a book which upends everything you thought you knew about Everest



Harriet at 17

The first thing Edmund Hillary did on reaching the top of Everest was to empty his bladder. Not something you learn from most books about the 1953 conquest of the world's highest peak – but, then, those accounts weren't written by an Essex graduate.

Harriet Tuckey's book, *Everest: The First Ascent*, completely re-assesses the expedition – and brings to the fore her father, pioneering physiologist Griffith Pugh. Having served in the Medical Corps in Lebanon during WWII, Harriet explains, “with soldiers doing strenuous manoeuvres in mountainous regions, he worked out that they had to have six to eight pints of water a day.” Being properly hydrated, of course, has its consequences.

The book is no simple collection of little-known facts, though. It's subtitled ‘The untold story of the man who made it possible’ because without Pugh's scientific approach, the 1953 expedition would almost certainly have ended in the same failure that characterised the previous 11 attempts. “He had this ability to get to the heart of a problem,” Harriet says, “to see something obvious that others missed. One problem for climbers was that their Primus stoves took too long to melt the water they needed, so he redesigned them.”

It was part of a comprehensive overhaul of almost every piece of equipment – including the oxygen tanks. “Climbers had been complaining for 30 years that they didn't work. Griff recommended that climbers use oxygen at about four litres a minute for climbing, which was double the previous rate, two litres a minute for descending and one litre a minute for sleeping. That advice has been followed ever since.” He also came up with the acclimatisation regime. His ‘climb-high, sleep-

low’ philosophy is still followed today – as is the approach to diet he devised.

This all begs the question of why his story isn't better known – which takes us to the heart of Harriet's story, and why it needed to be told. Pugh's professionalism was the very opposite of the way of the gentleman amateur, and seen as unsportsmanlike – and “the public school types resented it when you spoke out of turn,” Harriet says. Pugh, she acknowledges, “was his own worst enemy. He was rude and outspoken. Because he wasn't ‘clubbable’, he didn't get the recognition, and pretended he didn't mind.” Another factor was that the mountaineers themselves wanted to be seen as conquerors. Expedition leader John Hunt's 1953 account, *The Ascent of Everest*, is a tale of heroism and great leadership (his own).

“The public school types resented it when you spoke out of turn”

Harriet's work, then, takes on the established view – as one might expect of an Essex student of the late 1960s. “It was absolutely amazing,” she says of her time here. “There were brilliant lectures. I learnt an incredible amount.” It's fair to say that some her contemporaries were expanding their minds in rather different ways. “There were a lot of drugs around. People used to drop out of trees saying, ‘Man, I've seen God!’” Harriet's wild days were already behind her, though. “I'd been expelled from so many schools! I had a dread of traditional schooling and hierarchy.”

She was also not especially fond of her father – describing him in the book as ‘turbulent’, ‘cruel’ and ‘totally selfish’ – but the book

rewrites history in his favour. It wasn't easy. “I couldn't write about it for years,” she says. “If you don't get on with your father, you don't grow out of it. But it was a mission. I had a parent who did something important.” Writing, it seems, was a way of becoming reconciled to a rather difficult man. “You don't think of your parents as people,” Harriet says, “you think of them as parents. Now I thought of him as a person. I began to see how curious he was about everything.”

That curiosity was handed down. Despite her first class BA in Literature and an MA in Sociology of Literature, Harriet “never had any intention of becoming a writer,” she says, “but I was attracted to research.” Research – for think tanks and the Civil Service, among others – became her career, and is now the basis for a second career as a writer. She won't be drawn on what she's working on now, but she will be at the 50th anniversary ‘homecoming’ weekend to talk Everest at an event with Professor Chris Cooper from our Centre for Sports & Exercise Science. It's an appropriate pairing: Griffith Pugh went on, after Everest, to work at altitude again with the UK's 1968 Mexico Olympics team, pioneering the field in which Chris Cooper is now a prominent player.

**Here for
homecoming!**

See the pullout for more detail or go to www.essex.ac.uk/fifty

Your support

The Essex Fund has had a record year, thanks to your generosity. Find out how you make a difference – and about our 50th anniversary fundraising



Our Vice-Chancellor meeting recipients of your Essex Fund donations

Thank you

A boost for campus life

In just one month in 2013, you donated a record £12,400 to support the societies, sport, arts and events that make campus life that little bit more special. Alumni Relations Officer James Martin explains: "Every year, we run a four-week telephone campaign in which our students ring a selection of you to raise money for the Essex Fund. In November, you really came through for us, and outdid all your gifts from previous years. We're really grateful.

It means we can fund more student-focused activities than ever."

This year, the projects to benefit from your kindness include:

Ghanaian Society. A £2,000 grant will allow 15 students to spend two weeks working at the Kumasi Children's Home (below) in Ghana – teaching, running the library and farming, as well as leaving behind gifts of books, food, water and disability aids. It will not only benefit the children, but also the students, who will get an insight into the daily running of an NGO and develop their communication and team-building skills.

Audio drama. The Lakeside Theatre will get a new studio for recording audio drama which they can broadcast on the internet. Up to 240 students a year are expected to benefit by learning to create an audio drama – with audiences across the university and further afield that could number in the thousands.

Essex Blades Trampolining Club.

This club has grown enormously in the last two years, and needed more equipment. A £4,000 grant from the Essex

Fund will buy them a new trampoline and mat, and allow them to extend their voluntary work with local schools.

Banner-making. Jess Kenny, an alumna who heads our Arts Office, says, "We want to make beautiful banners for student societies, in the tradition of the old, embroidered trade union banners you still sometimes see. We're going to run workshops for as many as 120 students who learn to sew, work as a team, manage their time and create something that celebrates student diversity and activity."



today

Making a difference

"One of the people we studied was 99 – and he loved playing the Wii. We've seen it offer real hope to some of the most vulnerable and elderly people in society." Dr Murray Griffin is talking about the research he and his colleague Dr Matthew Taylor have been doing into – of all things – the Wii-Fit. It's more commonly known as a video game console, used for home aerobics or yoga, but at Essex our team in Biological Sciences realised it could help elderly people to feel better and live longer.

Murray explains: "Some of the most frail people find that not being mobile seriously affects their quality of life – and it stops them getting access to further treatment." Recurrent fallers are often too weak to have conventional physiotherapy, he says, but "with the Wii, patients use less energy than standard physiotherapy, so it could help the most vulnerable to improve their balance."

Elderly people may fall because of frailty, lack of practice or confidence, or another mobility problem, but whatever the cause, Matthew adds, "the knock-on effects can make them anxious, so they're that much less likely to move about – and that can lower their quality of life and lead to depression." This research, then, could change the lives of an ageing population – and save the country serious money. Recurrent falling costs the NHS nearly £1.7 billion every year in inpatient admissions and long-term care costs.

Murray says, "Exer-gaming helps elderly people improve and reconstruct the skills they need to avoid falling – and because it uses 30% less energy than standard physiotherapy, it could be really useful for the most vulnerable fallers who are too frail to have physio."

"The Wii can help people too frail to have physio"

Matthew and Murray's work is part of our Ageing and Assisted Living Network, which brings together experts in biology, psychology, social and health science, computing and engineering to improve the health and quality of life of older people and people with disabilities. As part of our 50th anniversary, we're raising money for this and other areas where our research is at its strongest and can have the greatest impact on the world. Look out for more news throughout 2014-15, and please contact Lynsey Dawson, our Senior Development Officer, if you can help: ldawson@essex.ac.uk, 01206 872700.

A scholarship changed my life

One of our alumni, Holly Crawford, herself the recipient of an Essex PhD in Art History and Theory, has generously funded a PhD scholarship. Ana Bilbao-Yarto is now in the second year of her doctorate in curatorial theory and practice.

"Thanks to the scholarship," Ana says, "I can concentrate all my efforts on research and afford the books I need. I have been able to visit Indonesia for research, and my studies are going really well. It would have been impossible to start a PhD without Holly Crawford's generous donation."

Holly says, "I'm very happy, both that I had the opportunity to earn a PhD in Art History and Theory, and that I can help someone else. I'm now curating exhibitions, writing catalogues and publishing art history books."

If you can fund a scholarship, matched funding may be available. To find out more, contact Lynsey Dawson: ldawson@essex.ac.uk or 01206 872700.

"I'm very happy that I can help someone else"

My Essex

Mike Taylor (Sociology, 1969) appeared on the front page of *Wyvern* on 19 January 1968 carrying a copy of what was then our student newspaper as he flung himself out of an aeroplane

I was a second year when I formed the university skydiving club. We used to jump from a Cessna 172 and an old Auster at Martlesham Heath airfield near Ipswich. Bernie Minshall, a comparative studies student majoring in Russian, was the only female jumper. Terry Hagan, first year social studies, helped me in the training. Terry was a mature student who came from the RAF parachute training school at Abingdon. USAF personnel from nearby bases would sometimes join us.

The Wyvern newspaper had some other papers wrapped inside, so it wouldn't bend. I dropped it before pulling the ripcord. The university scarf stayed with me – in fact, I still have it!

We had a lot of fun. After leaving Essex in June 1969, I roamed around the USA and Australia jumping. Back in England, I got a Masters in Industrial Relations at LSE in 1970, and at the end of 1971 I toured eastern and southern Africa as part of a skydiving team.

I will always remember my 500th jump: 15 July 1972. I collided with an aircraft at 11,000 feet over Halfpenny Green Airfield near Birmingham. It was a unique accident. [Mike was part of a team trying to set a new European record of a star of 16 skydivers. There were eight jumpers on Mike's plane and eight on another.] On jumping, I saw the other aircraft slide under us, 30 feet below.

When I hit it, I shattered my left leg. My instinct was to grab hold and I finished up lying on top of the roof, just forward of the tail plane and behind the stiletto radio ariel. I rolled off, freefalling, and felt myself begin to lose



consciousness, so I deployed my parachute. Because of the height, I spent a long time under the canopy, with my left leg swinging about uselessly. I landed as best I could (fortunately without the bone puncturing the skin), in an unploughed cornfield miles from the airfield.

Eventually, I was found and taken to hospital. I developed an embolism, and it was 'touch and go' for a few days. I spent 4½ months on my back in hospital. The accident was widely reported in the world's press and my 15 minutes of fame was a *News at Ten* hospital bed interview! It was two years before I could jump again. I carried on skydiving for another five years, but in 1979 the same leg fractured badly on landing. I fly a micro-light now.



After the accident, I got a real job. I joined British Airways at Heathrow in 1973. In 1981, married with a two-year-old daughter, we sold up and travelled to Australia. I joined BP, then went into management consulting before getting into career management with Price Waterhouse and my own company Ascot CMS.

I still love to travel and have just returned to Sydney after four years in Oman where my wife was teaching.

We were a very lucky generation: full employment, no fees and the 60s. Essex was challenging, inspiring and at times crazy. Our tutors were Lipsey, Blondel, Townsend and a young Geoffrey Hawthorn. It was a time of great experimentation. And, oh, those Saturday night Hexagon gigs: The Who, Pink Floyd, Fairport Convention. Just marvellous!



Do you have a memento or photo from your student days? We'd love to see it. E-mail alumni@essex.ac.uk

What does it mean, being an Essex alum?

Well, it means everything you've just read – and a bit more besides. These are just some of our growing range of members' benefits.

Get the card!

Your alumni card is essential for campus-based events, like the popular Alumni Sports Weekend. To get yours, email alumni@essex.ac.uk with:

- your name (and your name while at Essex if it's changed)
- year of graduation
- subject of study
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- a passport size head and shoulders photo (.jpeg) of you

We aim to get the card to you within 10 working days.

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- Essex alumni get a discount rate at our showpiece gym and sports centre – go to www.essex.ac.uk/sport to find out how
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NUS Extra

Essex alumni can now get an NUS Extra card, which offers you over 160 different discounts for just £12 for 12 months. Offers include:

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nus
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www.wivenhoehouse.co.uk

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www.essex.ac.uk/alumni

Essex excellence

Fifty years ago, something extraordinary happened. People, schools, clubs and businesses across the country gave over £1 million in just six months to found a new university.

It was the 1960s – a time of hope, change and rebellion. Essex was born, and we were different from the start. We broke old rules and new ground – and our students went on to change the world. You've become politicians, teachers, writers, business leaders and even astronauts. Two of our alumni have won Nobel prizes. This year, we were ranked 3rd in the UK and 22nd in the world in the *Times Higher Education* 100 Under 50 list of the best young universities.

We are proud of what we've achieved together, and we're ambitious about what we can go on to do. If you would like to invest in

the future of our students and our world-changing research, please donate online at www.essex.ac.uk/alumni or fill in the form below.

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50
years



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(Please send to: Advancement Office, University of Essex,
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- Please notify us if you change your name and/or address, want to cancel this declaration, no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains while the declaration is still in force.

- If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

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