

# ESSEX

# effect

Issue 4



**Pull-out: Unofficial history**  
The Essex stories you haven't heard before

**The Visionary Vice-Chancellor**  
Albert Sloman remembered

**Tales of the Towers**  
Student shenanigans

**Plus: Your news, your books, your careers**





Front row, L to R: Lynsey Dawson, Senior Development Officer; Angela Ainger, Development and Alumni Relations Assistant; Alison Edge, Development Researcher; Sophie Barnes, Alumni Data and Web Assistant; James Martin, Alumni Relations Officer. Back row, L to R: Gbolahan Faleye, Senior Development Officer; Jo Rogers, Alumni Relations Manager

# It's for you!



So, here's the fourth issue of *Essex Effect*. It looks different to the last three, and it reads differently, too. We listened to your feedback in a survey some of you took part in and had a re-think.

The idea of the new *Essex Effect* is that it's been created around you. It tells you what alumni are up to; what's happening at the University; and what's on offer for alumni (careers help, events and the like).

The most important thing, though, is that it should be fun to read. Essex is not a University known for its sober, boring image, is it? So, our alumni magazine should be lively, enjoyable and a little bit irreverent, too. To see what we mean by that, you might want to read *Tales of the Towers* on

p12, an eye-opening look at life in our legendary flats, or our *Unofficial history* pull-out – a look at our past, but with the odd, unknown and naughty bits left in.

We hope you like it – and we'd love to hear from you with stories, photos, mementoes and memories, so we can put them in the next *Essex Effect*. It's your magazine – we want you in it!

All the best,  
Jo and Lynsey

**Jo Rogers**  
Alumni Relations Manager

**Lynsey Dawson**  
Senior Development Officer

This edition of *Essex Effect* was written and edited by Chris Coates, Communications Officer



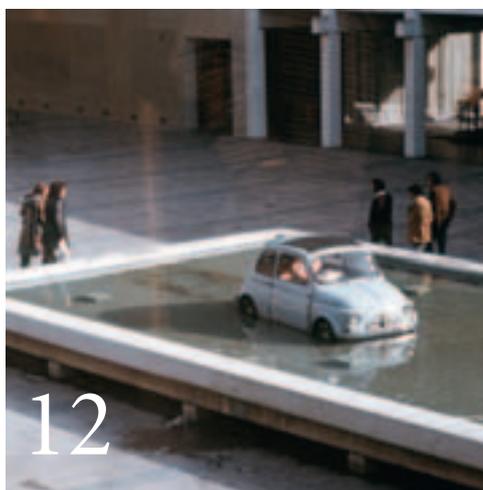
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# Tell someone today

Speechless at the water cooler? Tongue-tied at dinner parties? Inarticulate in job interviews? Essex has the answer. Impress your peers with these bite-sized nuggets of what makes your old university a remarkable place. You need never be short of an ice-breaker again...



## Snowman adman an Essex man

James Murphy must already be feeling the pressure. Expectations on him may not be quite as high as they once were on the Morecambe and Wise Christmas shows, but the John Lewis Christmas advert does seem to be becoming part of the nation's festive furniture. Politics graduate James (1989) is now CEO of Adam & Eve DDB, which produced 2011's ad – in which a seven-year-old boy can't wait to give his parents a present – and last winter's 'snowman'.

Intriguingly, they also produced 2011's most complained about advert, in which a woman in a car park late at night is freaked out by a ghost child – who turns out to be simply trying to recommend Phones4U to her. Clearly, Essex graduates haven't lost their edge. James obviously won't tell us his plans for this year, but does say, "We always shoot our Christmas ads by July, and it's our fifth one this year, so we're already looking at plenty of ideas."



## Following a hunch

The discovery of Richard III's remains in a Leicester car park in February might never have happened without Essex alumnus Dr John Ashdown-Hill, who first identified the lost Church of the Grey Friars as the site of the king's burial in his 2010 book *The Last Days of Richard III*. And it was his research, tracing the bloodline of Richard's aunt and sister, which led to the discovery of the king's 17th great-grand-nephew, Canadian carpenter Michael Ibsen – whose DNA helped to identify the remains.

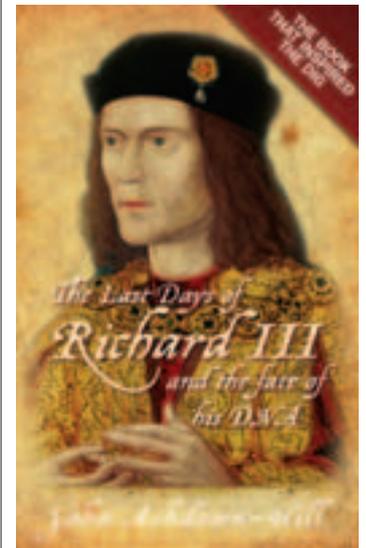
The excavation itself, Dr Ashdown-Hill says, was "exceedingly lucky. In the area where I expected the church to lie, there was a white 'R' painted on the tarmac – a reserved parking space, but we joked that maybe Richard III lay beneath it. To our astonishment, on the very first day of the dig, right under the 'R', leg bones were found." They had found a male skeleton of the right age, with a deformed backbone – and carbon dating showed he was buried in about 1490. A revised second edition of John's book is out now.

## It really is who you know...



...not what you know, and Andrea Galeotti can prove it. It's not quite that simple, of course, but Professor Galeotti is fast establishing himself as one of the world's experts in network economics. Instead of focusing on such traditional things as inflation and government policy, Andrea looks at how consumers, companies and politicians behave – and, crucially, how they interact. He has analysed how a few people become influential, and how companies can try to influence them to increase sales. He has also worked on the way voters exchange information and the amount that politicians choose to disclose.

He says, "The more global our economy gets, the more interconnected it becomes, and understanding networks is a great way to research how society works." Last year, his work won him recognition as one of the Tinbergen Institute's two best alumni of 1999-2008, and from spring this year, he'll be Associate Editor at Cambridge University Press's new journal, *Network Science*. He was awarded the 2012 Leverhulme prize and is an editor of the *Economic Journal*, which is the main journal of the Royal Economic Society.





## Can local food make you happy?

We know cutting down food miles can be good for the planet, and you don't have to – as Alexei Sayle once put it – “knit your own yoghurt” to want to support small, local producers. But could it actually be good for us? Professor Steffen Boehm and Dr Zareen Bharucha of the University's Essex Sustainability Institute are finding out. “There's been an explosion of interest in local food,” says Dr Bharucha, “but evidence on how it might help mental and physical health and well being is patchy.” With funding from the East of England Co-operative and the British Academy, they're looking into whether buying and selling locally sourced food contributes to wellbeing for suppliers and consumers. “We're also asking farmers how this affects their livelihoods and what are the benefits, challenges and potential of supplying to local markets.” Look out for the results later in the year.

## Royal recognition

Our Department of Government is to hold the Regius Professorship in Political Science – the only one of its kind in the country. Announced in January this year, it's one of 12 new professorships created by the Queen in different subjects at universities around the UK to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

The University's Department of Government has topped the UK politics rankings for the quality of its research in every national assessment of research quality since the Research Assessment Exercise began in 1991. It also obtains consistently high student satisfaction scores, with 91 per cent overall student satisfaction in the 2012 National Student Survey.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Anthony Forster said: “The department has been at the forefront of research and education for half a century and has an unrivalled reputation for the quality of its research and the commitment of staff to our students. It is a great honour that Political Science at Essex has been recognised in this way.”

Rt Hon John Bercow MP with government graduates, 2010



## Can the internet be regulated?

You could be forgiven for thinking the answer to that one is a simple 'no', but Essex Professor Chris Marsden and his co-author Ian Brown (from Oxford) suggest otherwise. They've collaborated on a new book, *Regulating Code*, which looks at how – as internet use has become all but universal – governments, legislators and regulators have struggled to keep up with both the technology itself and how people use it. Bringing together their expertise – Marsden is a regulatory lawyer, and Brown a computer scientist – they look at issues such as data protection, copyright and censorship, and conclude that laws need to be smarter if they're going to work. Out in February, the book has already been described by Kevin Werbach, an associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania, as “the best single resource on the contemporary global landscape of internet regulation.”

## Nimble Warner wins award



Marina Warner's book *Stranger Magic: Charmed States & the Arabian Nights* has won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism, one of the USA's most distinguished literary recognitions. They described Professor Warner's latest work as “a nimble but daring work of criticism” and praised its “impeccable scholarship”. At a time of antagonism between West and East, her book examines cultural exchanges between Islam and Christianity, and the rich interplay of the Arabian Nights with European literature and culture.

Warner says, “My work explores the interactions of imagination and reality in art and literature and the effects they have both on individuals and societies. Ideas about the Middle East, for example, are imbued with fantasies from Salome's dance to Aladdin pantomimes. The literature of the imagination isn't separate from ethical and political issues and facts. It develops in active dialogue with them, illuminates experience in history and now – and I believe its effects are overlooked and misunderstood, with sometimes dangerous consequences.” *Stranger Magic* is out in Vintage paperback now.

Photo: Dan Welldon

## The healing arts



Dr Munro with the Trust's Special Projects Director Nick Chatten and one of Michael Condon's *Tubular Figures* (or 'blue men')

Can art make you well? That's one of the questions Dr Majella Munro is asking as she catalogues the entire art collection of Colchester's hospitals. The Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust has quite a collection across its sites, including large sculptures, oil paintings, ceramic mosaics and photographic prints. Majella's

research – backed by the national Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) – aims to make sure patients, staff and visitors get the full benefit, and that the collection is being looked after.

Dr Simon Dixon, Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, and a member of the

Trust's Visual Arts Committee, says: "Emotions are often highly charged in hospitals, for patients, visitors and staff. Art, by distracting or challenging us, can help us step back a little and give us time to reflect. Being in the right state of mind is so important to the effectiveness of treatment."

## Crowd-sourced capoeira



Dr Matthias Röhrig Assunção learning a South Angolan combat game

Two Essex academics have raised \$20,000 to fund a capoeira documentary by asking for donations from practitioners across the world. Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art which also includes acrobatics, theatre, dance and music making – but precisely which bits are African is the subject of much debate. Historian Dr Matthias Röhrig

Assunção and ethnomusicologist Dr Christine Dettmann went to southern Angola with Brazilian capoeira *mestre* (master) Cobra Mansa to explore these transatlantic links.

Dr Assunção says, "South-western Angolan culture features instruments and movements similar to those used in capoeira – and there are several combat games which use kicks, hands, sticks and other weapons which are also used in historical capoeira styles." The ambitious project has been funded by the AHRC since 2010, but they needed extra funding to finish their feature length documentary *The Angolan Roots of Capoeira* which is now expected out this summer.

# University collection on show

Twelve works from the University's Jim Ede Collection are on show at firstsite in Colchester until June this year – including paintings by Christopher Wood, Ben Nicholson and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska.

In 1964, former Tate curator Jim Ede gave the newly-established University a number of artworks. Ede focused on British-based artists, and founded the Kettle's Yard collection in his home in Cambridge. There will be a series of talks accompanying the exhibition, including a talk by Kettle's Yard Director Andrew Nairne on the genesis of the Jim Ede collection and the reasons for the Essex donation.



St Michael's Mount Harbour, Alfred Wallis



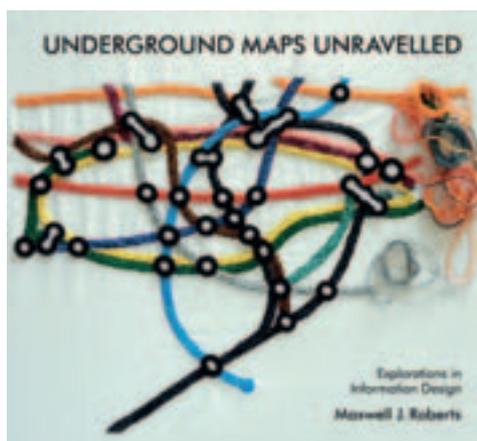
Mme Bourgoing, Christopher Wood

## Going underground

Think of tubes and subways, and the chances are that lateness and overcrowding spring to mind before any idea of beauty. Max Roberts from our Department of Psychology would beg to differ. "Travel by public transport in any city around the world," he says, "and the chances are that sooner or later you will find a stylised map." His new book, *Underground Maps Unravelled*, looks at these works of the designer's art and considers how schematic maps have become part of popular culture. He looks, too, at the straight lines, diagonals and tight corners which distort geography to try to make life easier for passengers, and asks whether they really do.

Dr Roberts also puts his money where his mouth is by creating maps of his own – described as "masterpieces of design and beauty" by Douglas Rose, managing director of transport consultants FWT. Design legend Massimo Vignelli – responsible for New York's

subway signs – said it was "a sensational book ... about the very essence of graphic design. It will have significant impact on the teaching of design in the new digital era." You can buy your own copy from: [tubemapcentral.com](http://tubemapcentral.com).



## Don't live a little...

...research the history of state lotteries. It may not have the ring of Camelot's 'live a lotto', but anyone with a basic grasp of maths can tell you that Professor James Raven's project on the little-known history of the UK's eighteenth-century state lotteries is a better use of his time than picking out six numbers in a newsagent's and handing over £2.

Inaugurated by parliament in 1694, the final English state lottery was drawn on 18 October 1826 at Coopers' Hall in east London. Thanks to a Leverhulme award, Professor Raven is writing a book on the subject, and says: "We know lotteries were important to the eighteenth-century exchequer, but their demise has had scant historical attention. There were strident protests against the lottery's allegedly corrupt and ruinous influence, but was it abandoned in response to moral argument or as a matter of fiscal policy?"

## News in brief

### Mary makes Mayor

Mary Blake, a Sociology alumna from 1993, is serving a year as Mayor of Ipswich. She says, "It has been an amazing year, and I would not have had the confidence to pursue this role and others without the excellent experience and wonderful teaching at Essex." As part of her duties, she's supporting three charities on her chosen themes of fairness and second chances: Lighthouse – Women's Aid Ipswich; Town 102 Kids Trust and Crisis UK. You can find out more at: [facebook.com/MayorOfIpswichSuffolk](https://facebook.com/MayorOfIpswichSuffolk).

### You wait years for a 50th anniversary...

...and two come along at once. Colchester Zoo is celebrating five decades of animal attractions this summer with a 12-week Stand Tall event, which will dot Colchester's streets, parks and open spaces with 2.5 metre high giraffes. They will all be painted by local artists, and one will grace Wivenhoe Park from Sunday 2 June until Monday 26 August. All the giraffes will be sold at a charity auction at firstsite on Thursday 19 September in aid of Colchester Zoo's charity Action for the Wild.

### Think you know Essex?

Are you tired of the Essex stereotype? Our clever marketing types have produced a new video which upends the idea that Essex is only about bling and vajazzles. If you don't know what the latter is, may we suggest setting your browser to 'safe search' before you look it up? In fact, your best bet is just to type the words 'so you think you know Essex' into a search engine.

### UN role for Rodley

Professor Sir Nigel Rodley has been elected Chair of the Human Rights Committee at the United Nations – a hugely influential body which oversees and champions human rights standards across the globe. Sir Nigel, Chair of our Human Rights Centre, is a leading expert on human rights and international law. In his new role, he will chair the 18-strong committee of independent experts who monitor the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, one of the cornerstones of international human rights law.

Sir Nigel said, "The Committee and its sister bodies under other UN human rights treaties are under review. I will play a key role in making sure we are in a better position than now to help protect the victims of human rights violations."

# Familiar faces

Whatever you want from your University, we have an event for you – speed networking to help with employability, an international gathering in your home country or just an excuse to raise a glass somewhere posh...



Professor Christopher Pissarides (right) with Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr David Pevalin

## Nobel winner back in Cyprus

March saw Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Chris Pissarides meeting 85 Cyprus-based alumni and 30 prospective students at a rather special evening in Nicosia.

The University is one of the most popular destinations for students from Cyprus looking to study at a UK university – with more than 200 Cypriot students studying at Essex at the moment. Alumni Relations Manager Jo Rogers said, "This was a unique chance for alumni and prospective students to hear about Professor Pissarides' work and his time at Essex – and a great opportunity for a bit of networking. We're so proud of his achievements, and it's lovely that he's kept close links with the University."

Professor Pissarides was born in Cyprus in 1948 and studied at Essex in the late 60s. He gained a First in economics and completed a Masters here. His work on the economics of unemployment, especially job flows and the effects of being out of work, won him 2010's Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences.

Professor Rainer Schulze at the History reception

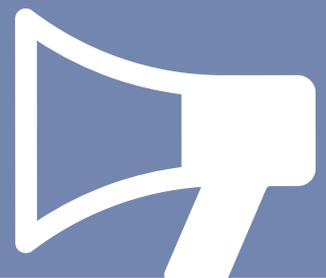


## 40 years of History

It was 40 years to the day since the first departmental meeting when 100 history alumni and former staff got together at firstsite in October. Highlights of the event included a reflection on 40 years of History at Essex by Professor Steve Smith, a mock exam paper for alumni and a pyramid of birthday cupcakes decorated with clocks. Head of Department Dr Alison Rowlands said, "This was a chance to strengthen our relationship with our alumni, and to create a real connection between current students and alumni – showing students the many different careers you can go into after an Essex history degree." Find out more at: [www.essex.ac.uk/history/alumni](http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/alumni)



**Our Cyprus event was one in a series we're organising to bring groups of you together to form international alumni clubs, so you can enjoy the benefits of networking where you live. Contact Jo to find out more: [jrogers@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jrogers@essex.ac.uk)**



**We're always looking for alumni who can spend an hour in their old department during an open day to tell prospective students what it's like to study here. Contact us if you can help.**



## A night with the Lords

In December, our first ever reception at the House of Lords was a great success, with over 230 of you coming along from as far away as Saudi Arabia and Japan. There was – as you might expect – a speech (in this case, an entertaining and inspirational speech from Vice-Chancellor Professor Anthony Forster) and some refreshment in a pleasant setting (the Peers' Dining Room).

For some, though, the highlight was a tour of the two chambers and Westminster Hall from fellow alumnus Joanna Nurse who now works in the office of another alum (and event attendee) – Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon John Bercow MP.

“a perfect evening”



Our Chancellor Lord Phillips



Kate Baker (History, 1993) said it was “a perfect evening”, and Alison Barker (Art History and Theory, 2010) tells us “the canapés were delicious”. Perhaps our favourite write-up, though, came from Sheila O'Brien (Computer Science, 2000), who said, “This is the first alumni event I've attended. I'll read my e-mails more attentively from now on!”

Sheila – and you – can rejoice, because there'll be another opportunity to rub shoulders with lords, ladies and gentlemen on 27 September. Visit our website or refresh your inbox now...

## The fast and the employable

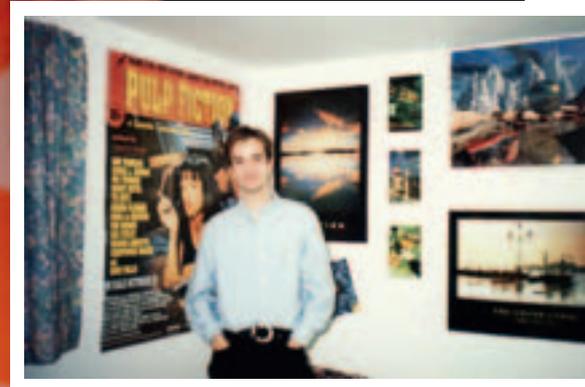
As *Essex Effect* goes to press, we're putting the finishing touches to April's economics speed networking event – following a very successful February pilot. These are fast, fun events where 20 current students network with 20 alumni – giving you the opportunity to share your experiences and workplace wisdom, while our students have a chance to get tips on building a career and some useful networking experience. There's also a chance to record a video-blog at the event with the help of our Marketing team.

There will be many more networking events in the coming months – some, like this one, will be themed by department, and there will also a series of London professional networking evenings. Contact Jo if you'd like to get involved: [jo@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jo@essex.ac.uk)



# “I feel very lucky”

Danny Lopez arrived at Essex in 1992 – the year Britain crashed out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and WH Smith stopped selling vinyl. Two decades on, he’s Consul-General to New York. *Essex Effect* talks to him



Danny in his South Courts flat, 1990s

Much has happened in 21 years – music shops, where they exist, rarely even sell CDs – but some things, such as the state of the global economy, look familiar to anyone who remembers the early 1990s. “The country was struggling to come out of recession,” remembers Danny Lopez (Economics, 1995; MA International Economics and Finance, 1996). “They were difficult times, but like then I think the UK is heading towards a brighter future.”

Danny’s glass is clearly half-full, but then he does live “in one of the greatest cities on earth, meeting people from all walks of life. I feel very lucky to work in New York. It’s electric, like London, and I challenge anyone to run out of things to do and see!”

## So, what do you do? Is a consul-general like an ambassador?

Ambassadors are based in political capitals, and head the diplomatic mission. Other major cities have consuls-general. I report to the ambassador in Washington, and promote the UK's economic profile, foreign policy and national security priorities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and part of Connecticut, managing a consulate with 140 staff. I also sit on the Board of UK Trade and Investment, and lead its network in nine US cities.

## And you enjoy your work?

This is a dream job. I support British companies wanting to do more business in the US, and encourage US companies to invest in the UK. I have links with political leaders and opinion formers in the media, education and culture. I host events to showcase 'the British story' and I lead

programmes for visiting dignitaries including the Prime Minister, cabinet ministers and members of the Royal Family.

## Did Essex help you get where you are now?

Yes. Essex proudly marketed itself as the most international university in the country then. That's what had the greatest effect upon me. I made friends from dozens of countries and really broadened my outlook. And I came across the application for Barclays' graduate programme in the Careers Centre!

## And that's where your career started?

I joined straight after Essex. I got to work in Miami, New York, London and Mumbai. After ten years, I started working for the commercial arm of the Foreign Office, which led to me becoming a diplomat in New York.

## But secretly you miss Essex?

The library, the paternoster lift, Squares 3 and 4 and Top Bar will always have a special place in my heart – and my wife Susan and I do miss driving out for a Sunday roast in a country pub. But the beauty of this job is that I am surrounded by Britain in New York. I hear British humour every day, and that's what I would miss the most.

## Interns boost business

Our Internships Essex scheme works with graduate recruiters and SMEs to find our graduating students paid placements, to help them develop their skills and experience further. If you run a business, you could help today's students on to a fulfilling career – and their enthusiasm can be a boost for you.

Celia Hodson, the former Chief Executive of Choose Suffolk, says: "These young people come in with fresh ideas and have the right attitude employers are looking for. They want to learn and are very hard working."

If you can offer an internship, call the team on: 01206 872495 or e-mail: [internships@essex.ac.uk](mailto:internships@essex.ac.uk)

## Aim high with our help

Graduate programmes, like the one Danny signed up for, are "fantastic ways into fast-track graduate roles," says our Director of Employability Dave Stanbury. "We have more employers coming onto campus than ever before. Many are alumni, and they run workshops and networking sessions to help students get ahead of the game."

Our Centre also arranges general and law-specific careers fairs. "We make a big thing of the main Options graduate recruitment fair – it's all about grabbing students' interest and raising their aspirations. This year, we attracted a record-breaking number to find out about graduate schemes at 50 organisations – including the Bank of England, BT, John Lewis and Santander. There's also a law event with about 30 firms and speakers for both law and non-law students."

Our Centre can advise students and graduates about suitable programmes – and help with written applications, interviews and psychometric tests. And, says Dave, "We support graduates for three years after graduation."



Danny and his wife Susan with a (smiling!) Andy Murray after his US Open win, September 2012

# Tales of the Towers

What happens when you compare and contrast the experiences of someone who knew the Towers in the 1970s and someone who lives there now? *Essex Effect* went to find out...



Yes, that's a Fiat 500 in the fountain which used to be in Square 4

"Water was very prevalent!" Gerard (known as Ged) Parker studied in our Department of Government from 1971-74, and remembers his time here remarkably well, considering the amount of post-pub hi-jinks he seems to have enjoyed. "The dairy would deliver milk in plastic pouches, so the obvious thing to do when they were empty was to fill them with water and fling them out of the window." It got worse, though. "You'd have hosepipe fights between floors – a rivalry with another flat – but there was the infamous multi-floor hose fight between the two north towers closest to the squares. As a consequence, pressure was reduced so you couldn't get across."

Jenni Draper is open-mouthed when she hears Ged's stories. "Really?" she says, when

she hears that they used to remove the lift buttons and re-arrange the wiring to make the buttons take you to the wrong floor. "I think it was a little bit more crazy then than it is now!" Jenni is in her first year studying law, and living in Rayleigh. "There's 13 in our flat, and we're quite lucky in that everyone gets along, everyone's quite considerate of each other." She does concede, though, that, "It can be noisy. It depends what night it is. Wednesdays are the worst night of the week to study, because you get the rugby lads having their socials."

This, of course, is not the only difference between now and then. "My bills are around £1,000 a month," Jenni says, "but I only get a £1,200 loan. Luckily I've got a job on campus."

It's Ged's turn to be surprised. "We had no sense of what things cost. I paid £2.60 a week for bed and breakfast, and my [£280] grant worked out at about £9 a week or so. Once you'd sorted out a bit of food, I had a massive surplus. 50p got you three pints in the bar. We were very rich as students."

Money is perhaps the deciding factor in all of this. "Our issues were changing the world and the Vietnam War," Ged says, "nothing as mundane as getting a job." With a larger population and a suffering economy, students have to apply themselves more now to get a good job at the end of it, and pay off those loans. Jenni, for example, says she has never felt the need to walk into a lecture with a pint in her hand. "No! I don't think I could take

Clockwise from top right: ranks of police at the University in March 1974; Jenni Draper in her flat; Rayleigh Tower today; the 'Wiv Run' (Gerard Parker second left); two pictures of the annual demonstration, 1970s (archive photos supplied by Ged Parker)



anything in my lectures if I had a beer." Such a sight was commonplace in the 1970s, apparently, although Ged does point out that "visitors from other universities were amazed".

Jenni is aiming to become a solicitor, which may also explain her approach. "Being here teaches you to work faster. There's just so much information to take in, compared to A-levels – they were easy. It felt like loads of work at the time, but now you look back and that was nothing." Ged went on to get an MA in regional planning and an MBA, and to become a chartered surveyor, so he's no stranger to the work ethic himself. His stories do keep coming back to one thing, though – the social aspect of life in the Towers. "It socialised you with existing students, so first

years met second years – who took us on our first Wiv Run. There were nine pubs in a line down to the quay. You'd have a pint in each one, but you got used to it, so at the end of the year, we'd always do a double run. Street lighting was much less then, so people ended up in hedges and ditches. I never knew hospitals before I came to Essex, but once I was there, there was always a reason to visit someone or take someone to casualty."

It does seem that Jenni's life is a little quieter than that. Another game Ged's generation used to play was to "stay in the library's paternoster lift when it went up and over, and re-appear stood on your head". Jenni has yet to try this. "My friend wanted us to go round together, but she went round the other day

and said 'I don't ever want to do it again. It's pitch black! I might do it on my last day, and take a light with me.'

She doesn't sound altogether keen, though...



# The visionary Vice-Chancellor

Sir Albert Sloman, founding Vice-Chancellor of the University of Essex, died in July. At his memorial service in September, Professor Anthony King talked about the man and his achievements

Essex is a world-class University. It is one of the very best – if not *the* best – of the new universities that were founded during the great era of expansion during the 1960s.

It is a genuine community. People care about the place. It is also a university that, unlike some, takes teaching very seriously and is very good at it. Students are the first to acknowledge the fact. Members of the academic staff do research and publish the results of their research. They work hard, and they think. Now for more than a quarter of a century, Essex has been assessed by panels of outside experts as one of the finest research-intensive universities in the UK.

And all of that – I repeat *all* of it – is down to Albert Sloman. Of course, his successors as Vice-Chancellor have built on the foundations he laid; but *he* laid them.

Albert Sloman had a vision. He aimed to establish a university that would be international in outlook, not merely in the sense of recruiting students from other countries, but in the sense of studying other countries and having an academic staff who came from anywhere and everywhere. This was to be more than a purely English university.

It was also to be a university that took graduate education seriously. Unlike at Oxford, for example, its focus was not to be almost exclusively on teaching undergraduates. And taking graduate education seriously meant, among other things, having large departments staffed by specialists, people who were not jacks of all academic trades.

He wanted to create a new university that was about as unlike Oxford and Cambridge as could be imagined. It was to resemble far more closely a university in the United States where he had taught: the great University of California at Berkeley. He wanted it to be, above all, a tough-minded professional university, more renowned for its research than for its high tables, partying or punting on the river.

His vision was embodied in what he *said*; but also in what he *did*. And one absolutely crucial thing he did was to focus on bringing to Essex top-quality academic staff: adventurers of the mind, if you like – not safe pairs of hands but ever so slightly dangerous pairs of hands.

The University began with only two departments: Literature and Government. In the case of Government, Albert trawled for people who might be the department's founding professor among the then establishment of the political-science profession. He didn't like what he heard: the people they all recommended sounded conventional, safe, dull. So he cast his net more widely and identified as the sort of person he wanted to hire a little-known Frenchman lecturing at Keele: Jean Blondel. It was a distinctly unsafe appointment, but a brilliant one – and, like most of Albert's early appointments, it worked out brilliantly.

The late 1960s and early 1970s were hard. Students worldwide went berserk – and Essex had a peculiarly hard time. But, although at times he felt desperately isolated and beleaguered, he stuck to it. He never gave up.

And his determination paid off, fortunately while he was still in post as Vice-Chancellor. In May 1986, the results of the first-ever UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise were published, and the whole world discovered the truth about Essex: that, in the words of the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, Essex was "probably the most academically distinguished university in Britain for its size". Of our 15 departments, no fewer than six were "outstanding by international standards." I went to see Albert in his office that day to congratulate him. He was absolutely delighted. He had been vindicated – authoritatively and in the most public possible way. I had never seen him so chuffed. I have no way of knowing, but I suspect that those REF ratings gave him even more pleasure than his knighthood, which came the following year.

The last time I saw Albert – by way of business – was at a meeting to appoint a new Senior Lecturer in 1987, just before he retired. For some mundane reason, the selection committee could not reach a decision that day and it was proving difficult to find another date that Albert could manage. "Come on Albert," I remember saying, "It's not going to be a difficult decision. You don't need to be there." He paused and then said, quite shyly, "In all the years I've been here, I've never missed a senior appointment meeting, and I'm determined not to miss this one." We found another date. He took appointing top-quality academic staff *that* seriously.

Essex is world-class, and it owes its success to the imagination and determination of one man: Albert Sloman.

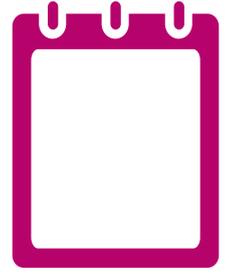


Image courtesy of the Essex County Standard, copyright retained.

Albert Sloman meeting the first students, 1964.

# Alumni news

We asked for your updates and had an overwhelming response. Here's the news from as many of you as we could fit in



## 1960s

### Sue Chattington, Economics 1968

I ended up in America. I'm now retired from teaching, and curious to see how life has treated others.

### Graham (Grey) Morris, Literature 1969

I spent 10 years in retail and 20+ years in further education – and worked as an independent consultant in the UK, EU and USA. I'd love to hear from 1965-69 contemporaries. ('Wilbur' Wright, Social Studies, where are you now?)

## 1970s

### Andy Walker, Physics 1969, Physics 1972

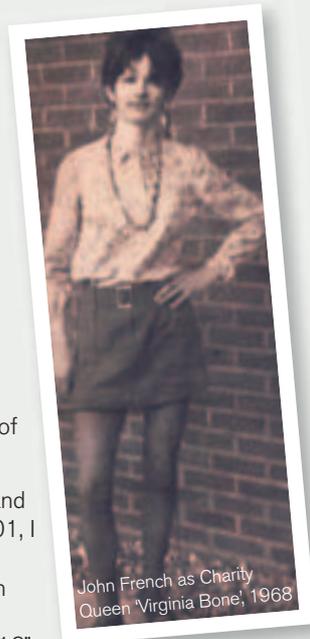
Senior Deputy Principal at Heriot-Watt University. Retiring in August. From September, I will be working part-time for the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland.

### John French, Computing Science, 1970

10 April 1949 – 3 January 2013, remembered by Dik Leatherdale, Computing Science 1970

You couldn't miss John – so full of life, fun, confidence; and really bright in an effortless way. When we graduated in 1970, he, Rob Watts and I went back to my previous (unfortunate) employer, London University Computing Services. John became Mr Operating System for our new computer, bending and shaping the system to his will. It was like watching a concert pianist play – alongside a hectic social life, much of which seemed to involve the consumption of prodigious quantities of beer.

In the mid 70s, our careers diverged and we drifted apart. 25 years later, in 2001, I got a phone call, "Hello. John French here." Still the same old John, sitting in the centre of a web, organising a get-together for "the Computing Science 16". And meet up we did. And again. And again. I last saw him in September. His health was a serious problem, but he was, as he had always been, unreasonably cheerful. It was fun to know him. It should have gone on longer. Cheers, John!



### Peter Pembleton, Art 1971

I worked for the United Nations in Vienna for 32 years, and have been living in the Philippines since 2007. I've been active in energy, environment and climate change most of the time since leaving: [climatebusiness.net/carbonergy](http://climatebusiness.net/carbonergy).

### Jim Scott, Comparative Literature 1972

After an MA in Education at Southern Oregon College in the US in 1973, I was an English teacher at Crater High School in Ashland, Oregon, for almost 30 years. Now retired, with happy memories of Essex. Teaching *Great Expectations* kept that countryside (and the marshes) alive for me.

### Mike Anderson, Chemical Physics 1973

I joined Fisons as a chemist, and – after it was taken over by Norsk Hydro in 1982, and later floated as a separate company in 2003 – I now work in Yara's European office in Belgium. Happy to hear from anyone on the course from 1970 to 1973.

### Stuart Billingham, Government and Sociology 1973

For the past two-and-a-half years, since retiring as Pro-Vice-Chancellor at York St John University, I have been chair of an international planning committee for a new global initiative – the World Congress on Access to Post-secondary Education – [eanworldcongress.org](http://eanworldcongress.org). We hold our first congress in Montreal in October this year.

### Hasson Tavossi, Applied Physics 1973

I did a Masters and PhD at Paris and moved to the States in 1994. I now teach physics and engineering at the Valdosta State University in Florida. I am currently president-elect of the American Association of University Professors for Georgia State.

### Patricia Foot, Mathematics 1974

I have retired from teaching (although still do some work for the OU) and would love to hear from anyone who remembers me.

### Michael Voss, Sociology 1974

After 18 years with BBC News, I have now joined the Chinese English Language network CCTV as their Senior Latin America correspondent, based in Havana.



**Professor Uduogie M O Iwovi, MSc Quantum Electronics 1973, PhD Solid State Physics 1975**

I retired as Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) in 2000, and now run a consultancy, Foremost Educational Services. I have co-authored textbooks in science, technology and maths and remain active in education.

**David Parratt, Sociology 1977, Sociology 1993**

I worked in social services and on public health for a local authority. I am currently looking for something worthwhile to do in retirement.

**Ron Scott, History 1978**

I manage a legal library at the Department for Transport, and am responsible for publishing secondary legislation and involved in European Union tracking work, making sure directives and regulations are implemented on time.

**Eduardo Wanick, Physics 1978**

I am currently President and CEO of DuPont Latin America. We have been developing low-income polymer/concrete housing that costs just US\$6,000 and can be built in six days by the community – very exciting.

**Jacky Anstee, Language and Linguistics 1979**

I am living in Hanwell, West London, head of modern languages at a comprehensive school.

**Dhanesh I. Gohel, Biochemistry 1979, Biological Chemistry 1984**

I work for MagneSensors in San Diego. My speciality is the uses of nanomagnetic carriers in medical diagnostics.



**Duncan Hudson, Biological Chemistry 1979**

I used to be a secondary school chemistry teacher – now a vagabond sailor/ship's cook in the Antipodes!

**Philip Woodrow, Literature 1979**

I developed a career in nursing and have had two textbooks published: *Intensive Care Nursing* and *High Dependency Nursing Care* (co-edited with Tina Moore). This year, I will be a headline speaker at the British Association of Critical Care Nurses national conference.

## 1980s

**Arni Leosson Sociology 1981**

I'm still playing disc golf and would love to hear from my old frisbee-playing pals. I am a head of PR and marketing in Iceland, and have two children.

**Don Clarke, Computer Systems 1981**

I am still working for BT, heading up research on network evolution. I divide my time between Colchester and Joplin-Missouri. I co-founded 'MicroSoc' in 1978, and (with Laura Russell) the 'Cow Pat Club' to explore short cuts to the pub. I would love to hear from Laura and anyone else who remembers me.

**Frank Anatole ARB RIBA, Literature 1983**

I've been involved in some major public infrastructure projects including St Pancras Station and the new Crossrail project. But perhaps my greatest claim to fame(!?) was being part of the London Eye design team.



**Jacque Lawrence, United States Studies 1983**

After a career commissioning and producing documentaries I left television to have a family with my partner Dawn Airey. I also chair a children's charity called the Elma Trust, which funds and manages an orphanage and school in Cambodia.

**Tanaz Sutaria (nee Patel), History and Literature 1983**

I have been in California since 1990 and have a Masters in Education from San Jose State University (1993). Currently an elementary school librarian, I would love to get in touch with Joanne Walker (nee Buckley), David Watson, Lindi and Bertrand Russell people 1980-83.

**Vicente Aboites, Physics 1985**

I am Head of the Lasers Laboratory at the Center for Research in Optics ([www.cio.mx](http://www.cio.mx)) in Mexico ([researchgate.net](http://researchgate.net)). I love opera and tango. Anyone around willing to dance *La Cumparcita*?

**Waltair Machado, Physics 1985**

I have been Dean for Research and Graduating at Federal University of Amazon, Brazil, and am now Coordinator of the Production Program for 2013-17. I am also member of the special group proposing the strategic plan for the state of Amazon for the next 20 years.

**Dr Waleed Addas, MA Economics 1988**

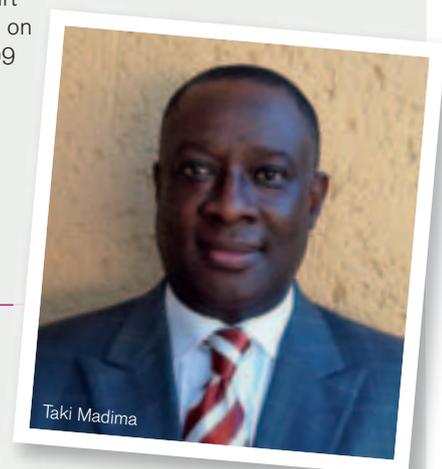
I joined the Ministry of Planning and National Economy in Riyadh after graduation, and later the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). I took a PhD in economics at the International Islamic University Malaysia in 2006, and am now Lead Operations Officer at IsDB in Jeddah.

**Alfred Tayong, Mathematics and Statistics 1988**

I am married with four kids and we are based in Douala, Cameroon. I have worked at Del Monte since 1995, and I would like to get in touch with Nick Palmer, Malcolm Edwards and others who knew me at Essex.

**Taki Madima, Law 1989, Law 1993**

I was Acting Judge, High Court of South Africa, 2008-10, am on the Competition Tribunal, 2009 to date, and Chairperson, Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board, 2008 to date. The proudest moment of my life was when I was back at Essex in July 2012 for my daughter's graduation.



## 1990s

### John Murphy (PhD Literature 1990)

I'm now retired, but have taught English and American poetry and creative writing at Brunel University, St Mary's College University of Surrey and the Open University. I have published poetry in various magazines and journals, and have a book in print now: *The Thing Is* (Upfront Publishing).

### Dejdou Etrin-Ehoussou, Applied Linguistics 1992

I'm still lecturing and have been appointed director of study of engineer classes at a leading state college in Ivory Coast (INP-HB).

### Oliver Ledwith, Latin American Studies 1992

I work as a freelance director/cameraman and am a partner in Thin Film Productions which produced its first feature length film *Sus* in 2010. I live in London with my partner and our two boys. I've been lucky to travel with my job and feed my interest in Latin America.

### Brett F Woods, Literature 1993

I am a professor of history for the American Public University System. My next book, *Abraham Lincoln: Letters to his Generals, 1861-1865*, will be released in late 2013.

### Giles Kilvert, BA Spanish and Linguistics 1994

Currently teaching high school Spanish in Washington State.

### Graham Russell, Economics 1994

I am CEO of CEMEX for the Middle East, living in Dubai.

### Steff Evans, Art History and Theory 1995

In the last couple of years, I completely changed career and am now a professional magician! I do parties for children under 10, earning my living by being silly. [www.steffandnonsense.co.uk](http://www.steffandnonsense.co.uk)



### Fako Johnson Likoti, Government 1995

I am now a PhD holder and commissioner of elections in Lesotho.

### Konstantinos Moschovis, Physics of Laser Communications 1995

I am an airport authority officer at the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA), but still active in scientific research through the Transparent Conducting Materials and Devices Lab (involving the University of Crete and Foundation of Research and Technology).

### Tanja Coeckelbergh, Developmental Neuropsychology 1996

I am living in Duffel, Belgium, a professor in the Ophthalmology Department, University Hospital Antwerp. I'm married to Dr Mark Tant – also an Essex alum – head of CARA department, Belgian Road Safety Institute.



### Dr Mohammed Larouz, Applied Linguistics 1996

I worked as a secondary school teacher for more than 15 years, and now have a PhD in applied linguistics from Fez University, Morocco. I joined the School of Arts and Humanities of Moulay Ismail University of Meknes in 2005.

### Alan Donald, Environmental Biology 1997

I have remained in teaching and am now Head of Science at Al Yasmina School in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

### Jonathan Mann, Law 1997

I've been appointed to sit as a recorder (part-time judge) in the Crown Court. Am I the first Essex law graduate to be appointed to this position?

### Jean Pascal Obembo, English and French Law 1997, International Human Rights Law 2003

I am currently working in Afghanistan as a judicial affairs officer for UNAMA, Head of the Regional Rule of Law Unit, South East Region.

### Alison Roddham, Comparative History 1997

I am a history teacher living in the Highlands of Scotland, undertaking a Masters in the history of the Highlands and Islands.

### Mohamed S Elshaari, Accounting and Financial Management 1998

I live in Benghazi, Libya, and am a manager at the National Oil Corporation.

### Tim Keirman, European Studies 1998

In 2009, the *Independent* named me in their 'Happy List' (their alternative to the *Sunday Times*' Rich List) after I – as a NatWest employee – helped people to reclaim their bank charges through the forum at [moneysavingexpert.com](http://moneysavingexpert.com). It has been an interesting time since leaving Essex!

### Dimitris Ieronymidis, Economics 1998

Since 2008, I have been back in Athens as a relationship manager for Eurobank Private Banking. Before that I used to work for JPMorgan Private Bank in London and New York.

### Dr Noel B Salazar, Developmental Neuropsychology 1998

I am a research professor in anthropology at the University of Leuven (Belgium), a senior research fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders and a visiting professor at the University of Bergamo (Italy). I was recently elected president of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).





### **Ed Scott, English Language and Linguistics 1998**

Since setting up a creative agency, Shameless, in 2010 I have worked for clients including ESPN, Al Jazeera Sport, Eurosport, ITV Sport and Sky Sports, and with government agencies rolling out public communication campaigns.

### **Sonny Onyegbula, International Human Rights Law 1999**

I am working in the newest country in the world (South Sudan, created in July 2011), having joined the United Nations mission in Sudan in May 2011, investigating human rights violations, carrying out capacity building activities and advocating on human rights issues.

### **Reinaldo Silveira, PhD Mathematics 1999**

I am at the Meteorological Institute of Parana State, Brazil, and Federal University of Parana, as a research fellow and lecturer of graduate students.

### **John Stevens, MSc Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems 1994, MA Sociology 1999**

Life has treated me fairly well over the years. I live in Colchester and work at Essex. I have multiple sclerosis, and teach students about disability and neuro-rehabilitation. I look forward to hearing from people.

### **Christine Strobel, Contemporary Theatre Practice 1999**

I have been working as an animation production manager/producer and VFX producer for 13 years. My most exciting projects to date were *Cloud Atlas*, *X-Men: First Class* and a German-Irish co-production, *Death of a Superhero*. This year, I will be in Hyderabad, India, as animation producer on a TV series. I would like to hear from people I have lost touch with.

## 2000s

### **Anne-Marie de Brouwer, International Human Rights Law 2000**

I am an associate professor in international criminal law at the Department of Criminal Law and research fellow with the International Victimology Institute Tilburg both at Tilburg University, the Netherlands. I am co-founder and chair of the Mukomeze Foundation, which aims to improve the lives of women and girls who survived sexual violence during the Rwandan genocide.

### **Mercy Mbise, Computer Engineering 2000, Electronic Systems Engineering 2008**

I am now a lecturer and Head of Computer Science and Engineering Department, College of Information and Communication Technologies, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

### **Sajjad Shami, Electronic Systems Engineering 2000**

I am professor and chair, electrical engineering at the University of Management and Technology in Lahore, having previously worked at the University of Northumbria and for Motorola.

### **Bahar Yesim Deniz, European Community Law 2001**

I am currently a lecturer in the Department of International Law at Izmir University. I am also pursuing my PhD in European Union law at the European Union Institute, Marmara University in Istanbul.

### **Thanos Dimitriou, Electronic Systems Engineering 2001**

I run web development and digital marketing company Ox Design Web Services (oxdesign.gr) and am managing partner of Mediterra Holdings (mediterraholdings.com). Life in Athens is amazing – not as bad as the media presents.

### **Brandi Iryshe, Modern Art and Theory 2001**

I am a licensed attorney in the US. This year, I opened Iryshe Immigration, where I practice immigration law and family law.

### **Giulio Tarlao, Sociology of Culture 2001**

I taught sociology for almost ten years at the University of Trieste and am now in my fourth year of work in education for the regional government here. In my unforgettable year in South Courts, I wrote a novel, *Gli occhi lunghi (The Long Eyes)*, published in Italy in 2003.

### **Jennifer Cole, nee Wilson, Humanities 2002**

I live and teach in Cairo with my husband and daughter. Times are interesting post-revolution and Egyptians remain warm and hospitable hosts.

### **Rebecca Dix, Law 2002**

I'm working as a barrister at 2 Bedford Row, London and am currently junior counsel to a bribery and corruption prosecution in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean.

### **Ioannis Papadopoulos, Computer Engineering 2002**

I am now working as a systems developer at CCC (Consolidated Contractors Company), Managing Office Athens (MOA), department of C3D Verticals. Having lived through the worst, I remember Athens as it was before the crisis. I see that quality returning now.

### **Noémie Francheterre, European Studies with Politics 2003**

I'm an EU affairs adviser in Brussels, and still in contact with friends I made at Essex. One of my roommates in my early years in Brussels, who I did not know before, happened to be an Essex graduate too and has become one of my closest friends.

### **Nina Baker, Drama and Literature 2004**

My debut album *Quite Frankly* is due out on 30 April, featuring special guests such as Bellowhead, Jurassic 5 and the Kings Gospel Choir. You can pre-order a copy at: [www.pledgemusic.com/projects/ninabaker](http://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/ninabaker) and you can also find me on SoundCloud and YouTube.

### **Andy Copsey, Environment, Science and Society 2004**

I am lecturing in countryside management and environmental conservation. I am half way to completing an MSc with the Open University related to the earth's systems dynamics.



**Ami M Angell, MA Theory and Practice of Human Rights 2004, LLM Human Rights Law 2005**

I have worked in Iraq on the rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorists and insurgents, and in Lebanon and Singapore on similar projects. I have been in Afghanistan since June 2012, working on the Peace and Reintegration Program to remove fighters from the battlefield and reintegrate them into their communities.

**Artemisia Gove, Economics 2005**

I am currently a researcher and a member of the Central Bank International Reserves Management Committee, at the Central Bank of Mozambique, and have a son. I miss Essex and my best friend Annie!

**Mohamed A Haji, Telecommunication and Information Systems 2005**

I am now Assistant Director, Frequency Planning at the Communications Commission of Kenya.

**Manya Pagiavla, PhD Art History and Theory 2006**

I am now a post-doctoral member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge.

**Milton Hugo Salas Martínez, Economics 2005, Economics 2009**

I joined the Office of Fair Trading as an economist in 2009. In 2011, I started working at Kenexa and helped to develop investment strategies. In February this year, I moved to the Competition Commission, providing advice and analysis on the operation of markets.

**Serdar Arslan, Law 2006**

I am currently doing an MSc in psychology at the University of Westminster and working part-time at Great Chapel Street Medical Centre for homeless people. The patients have mental health, physical and addiction problems, and the work is demanding but rewarding.

**Pasha Abdul Hameed, MSc Accounting and Finance 2007**

I am now Accountant General, Gilgit Baltistan, in the extreme north of Pakistan, one of the most beautiful landscapes on earth. Essex alumni and staff in this part of the world can contact me, and I will help make your stay comfortable here or anywhere in Pakistan.

**Hande Emin Benli, International Business and Entrepreneurship 2008**

I am a PhD student and research assistant at the University of ATILIM (Turkey), SAEL laboratory (Social Sciences Research Methods Education Centre).

**Daniela Bultoc, MA Nation, Citizenship and Human Rights 2008**

Since August 2011, I have been a skills development programme manager at University College London, managing the Graduate School's skills programme for nearly 12,000 postgraduate students. I am also working towards starting up as a freelance skills trainer and coach.

**William Hodgkinson, Sociology and Criminology 2008**

I and another alum, Katherine Goodwin (Law [year]), are both police sergeants taking part in the five-year High Potential Development Scheme (HPDS) scheme, with a view to becoming Superintendents. We're currently taking a PGDIP in police leadership and a Masters at Warwick Business School.

**Arafat Hosen Khan, Law 2008**

I am currently reading MA Global Ethics and Human Values at King's College London, and was awarded the Chevening Scholarship. I am a lecturer in the Department of Law and Human Rights at the University of Alternative Development, Dhaka. I have also worked as a national consultant for the United Nations Development Programme.

**Jennifer Kitchen, Drama 2008**

I've pursued a career in theatre education and am doing a PhD at Warwick. I'm exploring the role of play and playfulness in learning about Shakespeare, doing field research with Shakespeare Schools Festival.

**Aga Zietek, Applied Linguistics 2008**

I'm living in Wrocław, Poland, and after a few years of teaching English I set up my own training business – Lex Anglica providing courses in legal English to law students, practising lawyers and candidates for translators.

**Mehnaz Ahmed, Biomedical Sciences 2009**

I am now a policy delivery manager working on energy policy at Ofgem as. It's not the direction I thought I'd take but I love my job. I couldn't have done it without the skills I learnt at Essex.

**Tamer Al-Salah, International Business and Entrepreneurship 2009**

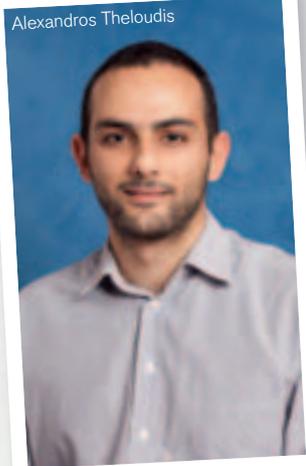
I joined a global non-profit in Jordan called Endeavor that supports 'high-impact entrepreneurs'. I also co-founded a small boxing gym, and a small restaurant in the capital, Amman.

**Enrichah Dulo, LLM International Human Rights Law 2009**

I returned home (Kenya) after graduation and am now a programme manager in charge of policy and legislative advocacy with a national child rights organization called The CRADLE in Nairobi ([www.thecradle.or.ke](http://www.thecradle.or.ke)). The human rights movement in Kenya is vibrant and exciting.

**Alexandros Theloudis, MSc Economics 2009**

I am doing a PhD in structural labour economics at UCL. I am trying to answer how people's/families' economic choices are affected by risk and uncertainty in their incomes: [ucl.ac.uk/~uctpalt/](http://ucl.ac.uk/~uctpalt/)



## 2010s

**Ermina Jersova, Business Management 2010**

I am currently doing my Masters in international sport science at the University of Konstanz.

**Rachael Smith, Economics 2010**

With Hugo Maughan (Philosophy 2011), I have set up a social enterprise called Graduate Rescue, designed to help students and graduate increase their employability: [www.graduate-rescue.co.uk](http://www.graduate-rescue.co.uk)

**Zelda Brutti, MSc  
Economics 2011**

I moved to Florence and entered the PhD economics programme at the European University Institute. It's international, friendly and has high academic standards – just like Essex. I'm working on applied micro-econometrics.



Zelda Brutti

**Sushrut Deo, MSc  
Computer Science 2011**

I am working as an analyst programmer in the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU), School of Cancer Sciences, University of Birmingham. I really benefited from my education at Essex. Our University rocks.

**Dr Muhammad Farooq, Mathematics 2011**

I joined the Department of Mathematics, University of Peshawar, as assistant professor in April 2011. I'm involved in teaching and part of a young research team who have started MPhil and PhD programmes.

**Muhammad Asif Jan, Mathematics 2011**

I am currently working as assistant professor at Kohat University of Science and Technology, Pakistan.

**Nathalie Margi, International Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Law 2011**

I am currently working in Lebanon as country representative for an international NGO called Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, developing programs on Syrian and other refugee protection.

**Ramon Archila Marin, MA Political Economy 2011**

I am working at the Federal Ministry of Economics in Mexico as Director for Regulatory Affairs. Everything's fine, this side of the world!

**Rifai Afin, Economics 2012**

I am chief economist on the Economic Growth Diagnostic project at SEADI (Support for Economic Analysis Development Indonesia).

**Ihab Asafrah, Computer  
Science 2012**

I have been working as a full-time lecturer at the Department of Computer Science at Hebron University in my home country.



Ihab Asafrah

**Mariam Asanishvili, LLM  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Law 2012**

I finished my LLM degree in September, and I am currently working for a human rights NGO in Montenegro on freedom of expression topics, which is what I studied at Essex. Before this, I did a three-month internship at the European Court of Human rights.

**Joanne Bowser, English Language 2012**

I started a job as English lecturer at Chelmsford College in February – I'm over the moon. Thank you Essex!

**Caitlin Cassidy, MA Acting (International) 2012**

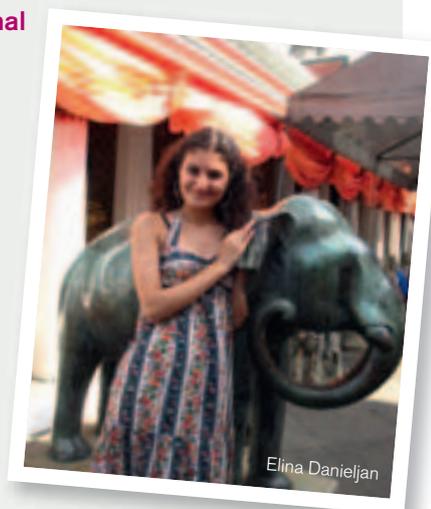
I spent the 2012 pilot season in Los Angeles and recently wrapped an indie film, launched a physical theatre company in New York with fellow East 15 grad Geoff Kanick and developed a play about young Tunisians in the Arab Spring. I'd love to hear from Essex alumni in the US. [www.caitlinncassidy.com](http://www.caitlinncassidy.com)

**Nafsika Chrysargyri, MA English Language Teaching 2013**

I came back to Greece as a teacher of English, working as a private tutor of English to Greek learners of all ages. Looking forward to graduation in July!

**Elina Danieljan, International  
Human Rights Law 2012**

I am a legal intern at ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) in Bangkok. It's going great and I have started applying for jobs and hope to find something soon!



Elina Danieljan

**Miranda Merkviladze, LLM  
International Human  
Rights Law 2012**

I am doing an Open Society Foundation six-month internship in Chisinau, Moldova, researching juvenile justice in the country's Transnistrian region to see if it complies with international standards.

**Rafiu A Olaore, Entrepreneurship and Innovation 2012**

I am a lecturer in the Faculty of Management Studies at Osun State Polytechnic, Iree, Nigeria.

## Alumnus of the Year

It's time to nominate former students who've contributed to the community, arts or sciences, business, sporting, public or academic life, or the lives of others. Go to [www.essex.ac.uk/honorary\\_graduates](http://www.essex.ac.uk/honorary_graduates) and follow the link to Alumnus of the Year



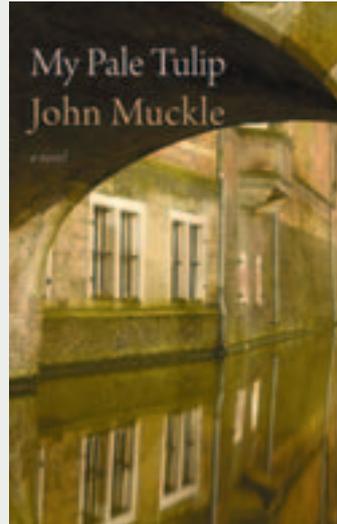
## Books

### Non-fiction



#### Neil McKenna (MA Art History 1981)

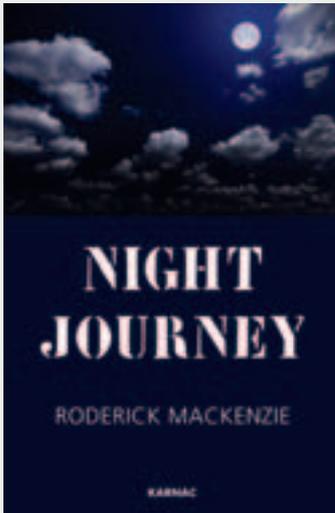
*Fanny & Stella*, about the 1870 scandal which followed the arrest of two young men dressed as women outside the Strand Theatre in London has just been published to glowing reviews from the *Sunday Times*, *Evening Standard*, *Guardian* and *History Today*.



#### John Muckle (MA Literature American Poetry 1982)

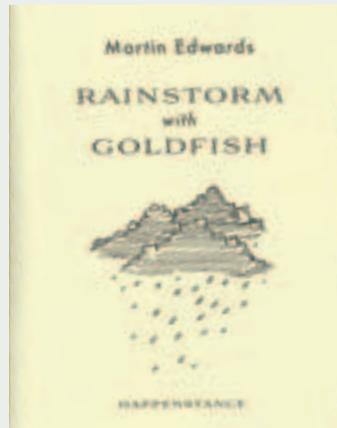
I have published a novel, *My Pale Tulip* (Shearsman, 2012), about teenagers in Jaywick, and their attempt to escape from there. *PN Review* compared it to Terrence Malick's *Badlands*, and called it a "compelling and fast-moving novel ... beautifully realised".

## Fiction



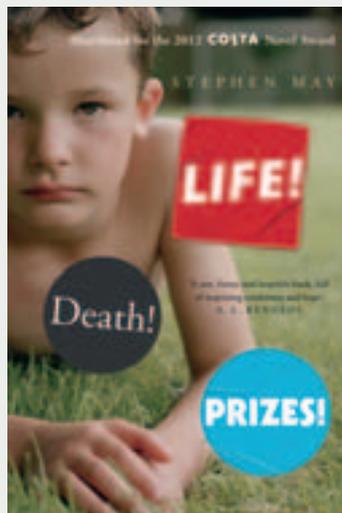
#### Roderick Mackenzie (MA Jungian and Post Jungian Studies 2008)

My first novel *Night Journey* is out from Karnac Books. Set in 60s and 70s South Africa, it tells the story of an army deserter in solitary confinement whose 'night journey' of dreams, visions and memories helps him to find himself.



#### Martin Edwards (Literature 1981)

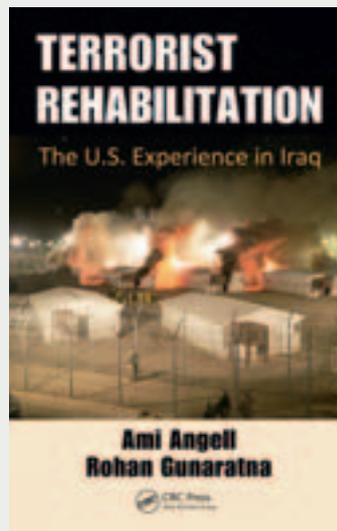
A poetry pamphlet, *Rainstorm with Goldfish*, was published last year by Happenstance. The poems were described by Whitbread prize winner, Selima Hill as "tough, stubborn, intelligent, like knives". [www.martinlloydedwards.com](http://www.martinlloydedwards.com)



#### Stephen May (Literature 1986)

My first novel *Tag* was published in 2008, shortlisted for Welsh Book of the Year and won Media Wales Reader's Prize. My second novel *Life! Death! Prizes!* in 2012 was shortlisted for Costa Novel of the Year and described by A L Kennedy as "a raw, funny and heartfelt book, full of surprising tenderness and hope – a fine achievement". (I thought no one would like it.) My third novel *Wake Up Happy Every Day* will be out in January 2014. [sdmay.com](http://sdmay.com)

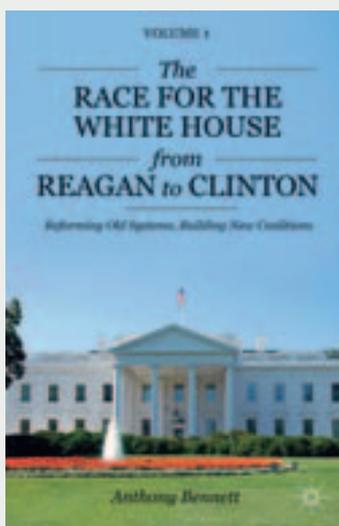
## Academic



#### Ami M Angell (MA Theory and Practice of Human Rights 2004, LLM Human Rights Law 2005)

I have published a book, *Terrorist Rehabilitation: The US Experience in Iraq*, based on my experience in Iraq on the rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorists and insurgents.





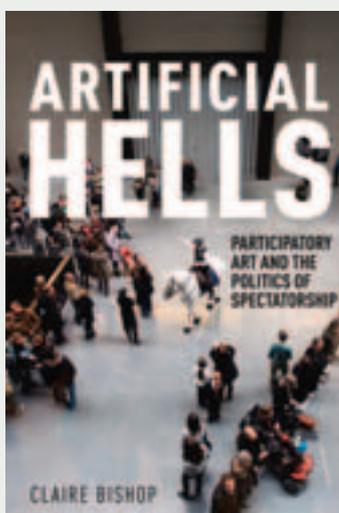
**Anthony J. Bennett (MA Government 1980, PhD 1983)**

After a 35-year teaching career, my wife (Sue) and I have retired to Dorset. Still lecturing and writing on American politics – just published my first book in the USA, *The Race for the White House from Reagan to Clinton*. Volume 2 – from Bush to Obama – is due out by the end of the year. Much gratitude to David McKay who taught my Masters course, and to Tony King, my PhD supervisor.



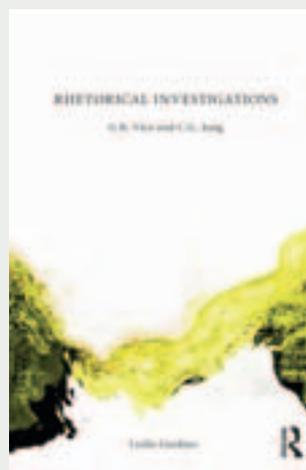
**Özgür Ünal Eri b (PhD Government 2005)**

My book *Germany's Support on Turkey's Quest for EU Membership: 1990-1999* has just been published by Lambert in Germany. I work as an assistant professor in the Department of EU Studies in University of Bahcesehir, Turkey.



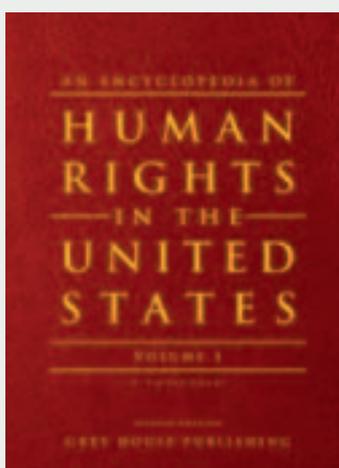
**Claire Bishop (MA Art History and Theory (Distinction) 1996, PhD Art History 2002)**

The US-based College Art Association has awarded Claire Bishop one of its 2013 Frank Jewett Mather awards – recognising 'significant published art criticism' – for her *Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship* (Verso, 2012).



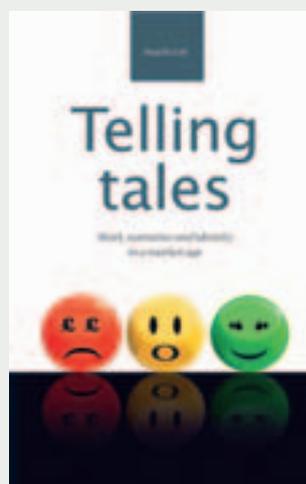
**Leslie Gardner (PhD Psychoanalytic Studies 2008)**

Leslie's book *Rhetorical Investigations: GB Vico and CG Jung* is out in April 2013 from Routledge, and is based on the PhD she did at Essex. It follows an earlier book Leslie co-edited with Luke Hockley: *House, the wounded healer on television* (Routledge, 2011)



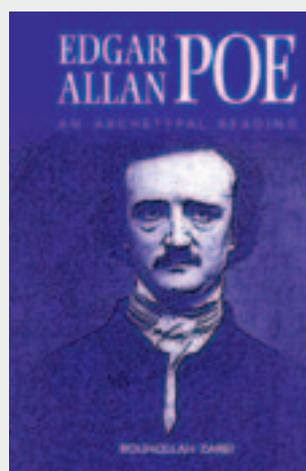
**Harold 'Skip' Conde (International Human Rights 1995)**

Grey House Books has just published Professor Conde's two-volume *An Encyclopedia of Human Rights in the United States*. He writes and speaks on human rights and recently taught legal English and human rights administrators from the EU Schengen Information System Center in Strasbourg, focusing on Protection of Personal Data.



**Angela Lait (Literature 1988)**

Last December, Manchester University Press published Angela's book *Telling tales – Work, narrative and identity in a market age*, which suggests that corporate communication which aims to bring employee behaviour and attitudes in line with market values is having a harmful effect. Professor of Sociology Richard Sennett called it "a brilliant analysis of the rhetoric of business-speak".



**Rouhollah Zarei (PhD Literature 2007)**

Currently the head of the English Department, Yasouj University, Iran, Dr Zarei's *Edgar Allan Poe: An Archetypal Reading* will be out in 2013 (Cambria Press, US). Forthcoming works include a translation of Ramon Llull's *The Book of the Lover and the Beloved* into Persian and, with Dr. Roger Sedarat, the translation and analysis of a selection of poems by a modern Persian poet, Nader Naderpour.



# Your support today



In just a decade, the Essex Fund has given out more than £400,000 to projects that focus on students. Here's a look at what that really means



Alumnus and donor Neil Serougi meeting members of the St John Ambulance LINKS Society

"A university should, I believe, provide an experience of living as well as an opportunity for learning." Depending on your vintage, these words from Albert Sloman's 1962 Reith Lectures might provoke a variety of responses: fond memories or a wry smile, perhaps. You might even just think, "Isn't he the guy the library's named after?" But he was right.

Your degree should be the most practical, useful thing you take away from here, but when you remember Essex, the first thing you think about is probably the life you lived – and that's the idea of the Essex Fund. In the first half of 2012-13, it gave out over £26,000 to the societies, sports and culture that make campus life special.

## Why I give

"I remember my time at Essex with great affection," Neil Serougi (Government, 1978) says today. "Many of us arrived not quite knowing what to expect, but it turned out to be a great experience, socially and academically. Part of that was the new activities on offer – and they relied on the energy and passion of the societies, whether they were recreational, political or sporting.

"Making a donation now means I can help new Essex students enjoy the same opportunity to meet others and try things out – and it recognises the time and effort that students invest, voluntarily. When I saw how the money had been used, I couldn't help but

be impressed by the groups' enthusiasm, and by what they'd all achieved – and had planned for the future.

"I thought it was important to make a contribution, because Essex is a relatively small university, so I guess it has to rely on a smaller number of alumni helping. Seeing my gift in action made it all the more worthwhile."

Neil is pictured here meeting the St John Ambulance LINKS Society, who received funding in 2012-13 to buy specialist equipment and to train all Sports and Societies Officers, increasing first aid skills across our Students' Union.



Sun going down over Wivenhoe fields



Injured American footballer at a cup match



Fundraising event, Square 3

## What it means to us

Another grateful group of recipients was the Photographic Society. “We’ve really been able to expand our volunteering”, says their President, Lewis Butler, who’s in his third year studying History of Art. “We’ve created bridges between our society and others, as well as staff members and the SU, so they can use our services as photographers. We get practice, and the society gets a solid foundation to build on. In fact, we’re very much in demand, with at least three volunteering opportunities a week.”

The Essex Fund paid for their Canon 550D and accompanying volunteers’ kit (including

bag and lenses). “Having the camera means everyone can be a part of the society, even if they can’t afford the equipment themselves, and we all use it to practise with. We now have a lot of interaction with the sports clubs on campus, and take shots for *The Rabbit* student newspaper. We’re all very grateful for the funding.”

As a measure of how useful the Essex Fund money was, all the photos on this page come from that camera.

**Can you support the Essex Fund?**  
**Find out more at:**  
[www.essex.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.essex.ac.uk/alumni)

Referees coming onto the pitch at American football game

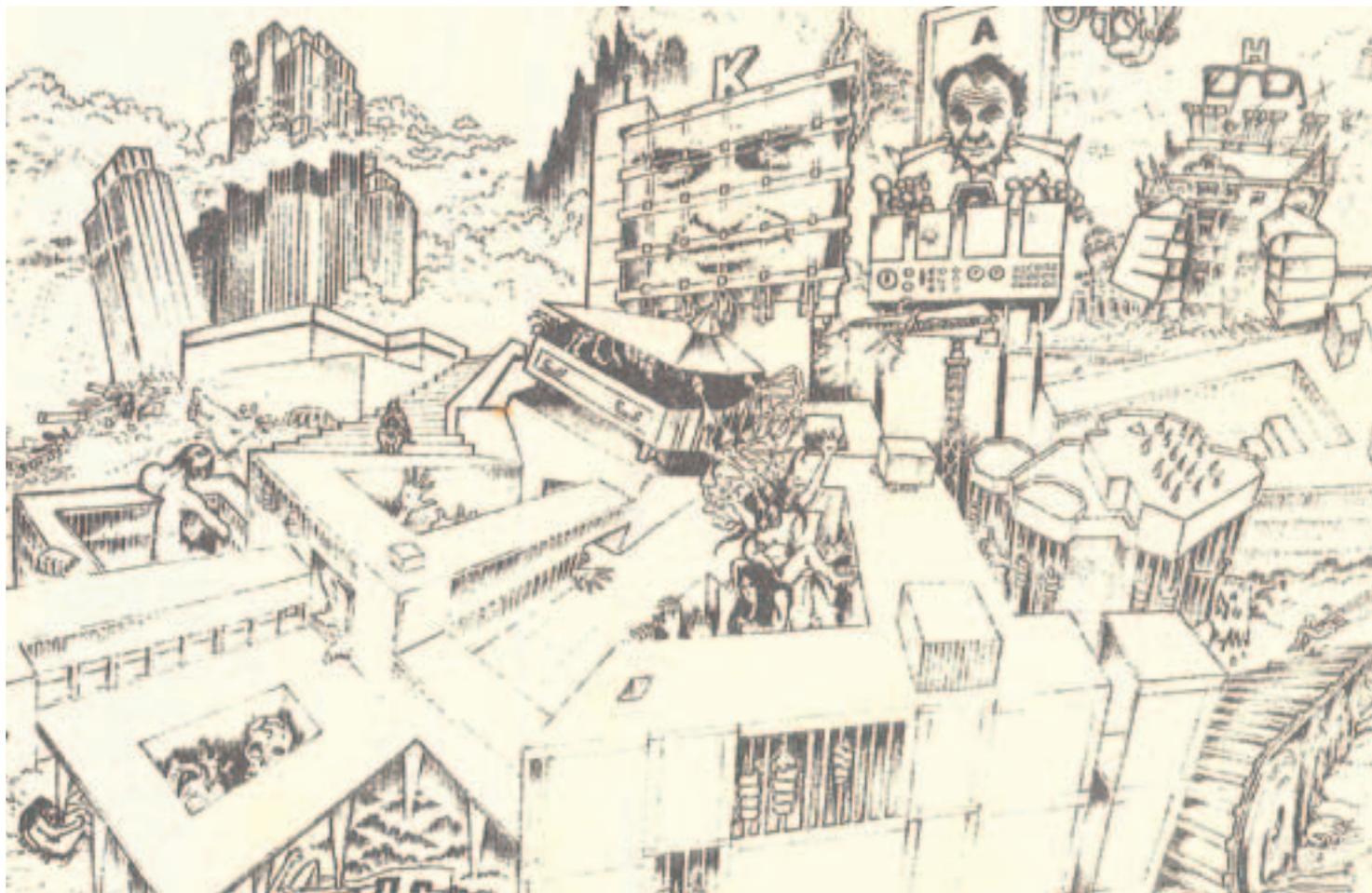


# My Essex

Penny Frost (Literature 1972) kept this cartoon vision of the University safe for over 40 years. Looking at it again now prompts memories of another era



Cartoon entitled 'Christmas 1969', signed 'Clare' (we think)



**It's apocalyptic**, with the towers blasting through the clouds and imprisoned hands clutching at barred windows. I have no idea of the authorship, though, or any recollection of how I came by it!

**My time at Essex was life-changing.** After I left, I went to Teacher Training College near Brighton, but I really missed the buzz of campus life. To be honest, I have never found a job which has given me the excitement I experienced then.

**They were building the university around us.** Square 4 existed, and they were working on Square 3. I had never seen anything like the architecture before – completely baffling. Half the seminar rooms were underground, and you needed a Pathfinders badge and compass to find them.

**The University population was very small**, about 2,000 when I first arrived – smaller than the school I came from. It meant that

everyone, staff and students, needed to get involved with the clubs and societies to make them work, and there was a great sense of comradeship.

**I took comparative studies.** It opened up links between literature, history of art, sociology and political thought, and I have never been able to compartmentalise subjects since.

**My professor of literature, Philip Edwards, was very supportive** when I put on an Irish festival, with an Irish play, folk music and poetry. That was the sort of thing you could do at Essex, and I have never found another experience like it.

**The music was terrific.** Gordon Crosse took us all on a coach to the Aldeburgh Festival one year, to take part in his composition *The Way of the World*. I caught up with him recently, and reminded him. My boyfriend had made some hash cookies for the journey,

which went down very well. Gordon was surprised to hear why we were all so jolly in the coach.

**I wonder if anyone remembers 'Brighten Your Campus'?** A small knot of creatives used to sneak out at night and paint flowers on the concrete walkways, and spray the lighting on the steps with colours of the rainbow. The letters BYC would be painted alongside the artwork. We would get up in the morning (or afternoon) and the campus would look quite magical until it was all cleaned off!

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



# Stay in touch



We hope you liked the magazine, but there are plenty of other ways to keep in touch with old friends and Essex.

 [facebook.com/essexalumni](https://facebook.com/essexalumni)

 [twitter.com/Uni\\_EssexAlumni](https://twitter.com/Uni_EssexAlumni)

 go to [linkedin.com](https://linkedin.com) and search for University of Essex Alumni & Friends (Official Group) and University of Essex Alumni Jobs & Opportunities

 [flickr.com/photos/universityofessex/](https://flickr.com/photos/universityofessex/)

 [vimeo.com/uniofessex](https://vimeo.com/uniofessex)

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[www.wivenhoehouse.co.uk](http://www.wivenhoehouse.co.uk)



## Have you seen it...?

15,000 photos, five months, one campus. First-year business management student Morten Rustad's time-lapse video of the Colchester Campus has gone viral on Facebook and Twitter – and made news on *BBC Look East* and *BBC Essex Online* and in *Times Higher Education* magazine. Have a look for yourself at [vimeo.com/uniofessex](https://vimeo.com/uniofessex).



[vimeo.com/uniofessex](https://vimeo.com/uniofessex)



# Unofficial history



With our 50th anniversary approaching, this seemed a good time to have a look back – with a difference. There’s plenty of official history on our University’s website, but what about the quirky, rebellious and just less-well-known bits...?

## 1961

### A gift for understatement

In May 1961, Lord Alport declared that “The decision to found a university in Colchester is the most important thing since the Emperor Claudius built his temple.” The town’s former MP was clearly pleased that his lobbying had succeeded in bringing the University here, instead of Warley Barracks in Brentwood (now home to Ford in the UK) or Hylands Park, Chelmsford (now best known for the V Festival).

The same day’s paper reported that “The sales of cigarettes and confectionery will boom” and struck a blow for feminism with the observation: “Another thousand or so girls wanting a hairdo regularly will keep several new salons fully occupied.”

National Media Museum / Science & Society Picture Library



## 1963

### ‘The loneliest student in Britain’

The very first student arrived not in 1964, but in summer the previous year – and he never left. Then 23, John Dowden joined his Cambridge tutor Ian Proudman, Essex’s founding Professor of Mathematics, as his research student – looking into fluid dynamics. When he had completed his PhD, he stayed on. John became a professor of mathematics and was head of department from 2001-05. He officially retired in 2004, during our 40th anniversary, and is now an emeritus professor.

1960

1961

1962

1963

1964

1965

## 1964

### ‘Beatle-headed blokes’

On 21 February, the *Essex County Standard* quotes Colchester MP Antony Buck saying the university would bring “a couple of thousand Beatle-headed blokes battling around the town on bicycles ... I shall be glad to see [them]. Beatles earn a lot of dollars – but we are going to need a considerable degree of tolerance.” He was decisively proved right four years later.

### Not so rousing?

The *Daily Telegraph* had the temerity (and pedantry) on 5 May to question the University’s new motto: “Thought the harder, heart the keener”. Taken from Anglo-Saxon poem, *The Battle of Maldon*, it sounds good, they suggest, until you know that the next line is: “Courage the greater as our strength lessens”.

You could argue that this is hardly surprising, since the battle, in 991, was so comprehensively won by the Vikings that it was the last time the Anglo-Saxons put up any real resistance to them – but it does raise a question about taking quotes out of context...

### Grenades in the lake

In June, a delegation from Essex County Council visited Wivenhoe Park. Vice-Chancellor Albert Sloman and architect Kenneth Capon showed them the site under construction. Whether they witnessed the discovery of two live grenades during the dredging of the lake (both events appeared in the same day’s *Evening Gazette*) was not reported.

### ‘Anti-hunt clash was most polite’

The newly launched Essex Anti-Blood Sports Association

attracted a lot of attention in November. Reminiscing 48 years later, Francesca Greenoak – described by most of the papers as the society’s leader – says, “Adrian Fox truly led it, but I was closely involved.” The *County Standard*’s description of her as “a glamorous 18-year-old blonde student” perhaps explains why the newspapers chose to focus on her. As a result, “I was invited to have lunch with the Registrar, who said we had caused a bit of

a stir and that many of our local sponsors hunted and weren’t pleased. Having delivered his reprimand, he relaxed and we had a nice meal. I think he hadn’t much liked his task and said he understood my reservations about the hunting fraternity. We were entirely non-violent, but Colchester at that time was not used to protest.” This was not to remain the case for ever, of course...



Image courtesy of the Essex County Standard; copyright retained

## 1968

### It all kicks off...

Much has been written before about 1968 and all that – see the official history on the University website or visit:

[www.essex68.org.uk](http://www.essex68.org.uk). Here at *Essex Effect*, we thought we'd ask the crucial question: was that telegram *really* from Jean-Paul Sartre? Charles Posner, now an emeritus professor at the Institute of Education in London, was its original recipient – but can't be certain...



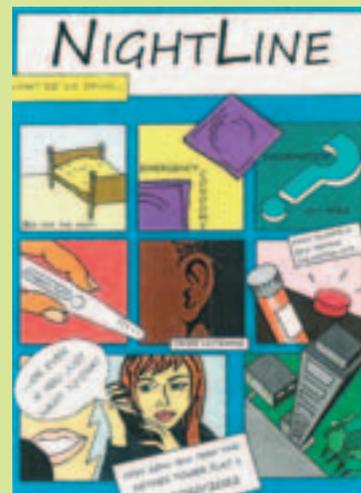
"The telegram was engineered by Jean-Henri Robert, one of Jean-Luc Godard's assistants [the French director filmed at Essex for a 1968 documentary]. Jean-Luc thought a message from Sartre would not go amiss, and I posted it on my door – but I can't remember the wording, and it has disappeared over the years. Many people doubted it was from Sartre and I can't confirm that it was or if Jean-Luc or Jean-Henri acted in his name. They engineered the burning of a car in the podium – and tried to blow up the front door to the French Embassy in London. I have an image of him crawling along the pavement outside the embassy at 4am to 'case the joint!'"

## 1970

### Sharing the load

Nightline now operates at 90 universities, its listening service available to around a million students – not bad for something which started with 12 student (and two staff) volunteers "in a prefab hut on the perimeter of Wivenhoe Park," as one of its founders, Geoffrey Hosking, remembers. "We had two rooms for sleeping, a small sitting room, and an office with a telephone. It had no toilet – so that was al fresco! I thought we would get only a handful of callers and might have to abandon the initiative at the end of the summer term. After a week or two, there were calls or visits almost every night, and it was clear we were meeting a real need.

"The University was worried that it might attract bad publicity about 'suicidal students', but it speaks well of them that they gave us the go ahead. I now think Nightline is an important part of the student experience – learning the art of talking through one's problems honestly, and of listening attentively and sympathetically."



1966

1967

1968

1969

1970

1971

## 1965

### Reading the papers

5 May saw the University announce a grant from the Leverhulme Trust for a sociological study of journalists. "Public concern about the state of the press," the release said, "has centred on the ownership of newspapers, but

there has also been considerable interest and confusion about how journalists operate." The researcher concerned, Jeremy Tunstall, went on to become one of the founding fathers of media studies, and 47 years later Lord Justice Leveson studied the very same subject.

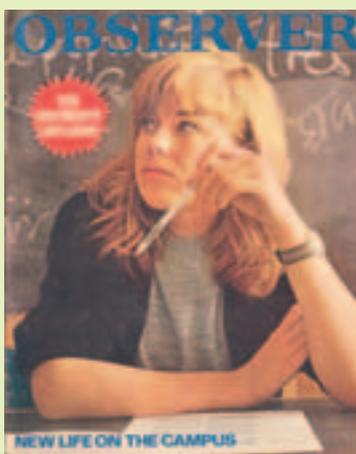


Photo: Marvin Lichtner

Three days after that press release, student Jenny Simms graced the front cover of *The Observer* magazine, and was the subject of a three-page feature inside. The fact that she, like Francesca Greenoak, was blonde and photogenic was surely a complete coincidence, and not an indication of how the media operates.

## 1971

### We're here...

Four years after homosexuality was finally legalised in the UK, and two years after New York's Stonewall Riots, which marked the beginning of a worldwide movement campaigning for gay rights, the Gay Liberation Front was founded at Essex. Over 40 years later, the award-winning LGBT and Friends Society provides safe spaces for LGBT students to socialise.

Julian Smith studied mathematical computation from

1971-74, and says, "The booklet for students included a list of officially recognised student groups. I remember my elation on seeing that one was the Gay Liberation Society. I accepted my attraction towards my own sex at 16, but the exhilaration of that soon gave way to a feeling of isolation; now I had the opportunity to end that isolation.

"I finally made contact at the start of my second year, and became treasurer to the group – apparently, my maths background made me suitable. I take pride that we were fighting for a society in which gays and lesbians and

other sexual minorities had equal rights, despite the fact that in those days such a cause seemed impossible to achieve."



## 1972

### Towering reputation

In September, the *Architect's Journal* kindly noted that "for the first time after a decade or so, Essex University no longer looks like a building site". (They also reported on one record which "has been in the coffee bar juke box since the university opened, and students will not let it be removed: *We've Got to Get Out of This Place by The Animals*.")

The towers were not only finished, in fact, but also named – after philosopher Bertrand Russell, designer William Morris, historian R H Tawney, astrophysicist Arthur Eddington, economist J M Keynes and John Strutt, third Baron Rayleigh. There was much debate behind the scenes before the final list emerged, though, as shown by a memo from the then Registrar to Albert Sloman in May 1970: "Ian Proudman thinks that no-one would really know who [Alan] Turing was. He died young almost twenty years ago and is now little known." Some things have changed for the better in the intervening four decades, then.



Fox Photos Ltd

## 1974

### 'Back to trouble!'

That's how *The County Standard* described the result of a proposed rent rise. The demonstrations resulted in 90 arrests, with fears that having to appear in court at exam time could be somewhat disruptive. There are no reports of how students reacted two months later when the *Times Higher Educational Supplement* settled on "Sloman 'right to discipline students'" as the headline for their front-page coverage of the Annan Report.

## 1981

### Beauty contest sabotaged

In February, student protesters got Essex into the national papers again when 200 of them occupied Wivenhoe House, forcing Anglia TV to abandon a planned beauty contest heat. The reigning Miss Colchester hit back with the brilliantly argued: "I don't want to sound sour grapes, but my Dad said not one of the demonstrators could have got up on that stage – and I agree with him. They were ugly."

For its part, *The Daily Mirror* reported that, "Angry glamour girls scratched back yesterday at women's lib demonstrators who ruined their big night" – their choice of words rather proving the students' point about how women are portrayed in the media.

A week later the *County Standard* reported "no protests from local feminists or Essex University students" at a topless women's mud wrestling event at Dedham's Birchwood Hotel, indicating that proximity might just be a factor in student demos.

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

## 1977

### 'I hear those voices that will not be drowned'

It began life as the Wyvern Singers, but the University of Essex Choir, says founder member Prof Stephen Smith, has become "probably the premier choir in the district for large-scale choral pieces. We've

performed Mahler's *8th Symphony* in Canterbury Cathedral, at the Albert Hall and at the Lille Festival, and we did the first performance of Britten's *War Requiem* at Snape Maltings."

Former student, and now the choir's chairman, Jan Cullum Nasta adds, "Students get to sing in prestigious venues under our professional conductor Richard Cooke, and new singers

are guided and supported. This year, we provided lessons in reading musical notation. Many continue to sing in the choir after they graduate or take their experience to new choirs. There is also the opportunity to win awards – including singing lessons to develop a 'promising young voice'. This year, all three awards went to Essex singers."

Find out more at: [www.essex.ac.uk/life](http://www.essex.ac.uk/life) > arts > get involved.

### 'The most pelted politician of modern times'

Newspapers across the country reported on the eggs and flour bombs that greeted Sir Keith Joseph's appearance at Essex on 10 February. When the nationals followed up the next day, the eggs had mysteriously become 'rotten' and Sir Keith

was being quoted as saying his reception "was not worthy of a university at all... I assumed civilised behaviour would occur."

Top marks for a proportional response, though, must go to *The Sunday Times* of 13 February for its carefully measured editorial entitled 'Shut down Essex'. Fourteen heads of department subsequently wrote to the paper to call this "an example of just the sort of extremism and irrationality you seek to condemn". Four years later, after a similar incident at Cambridge, *The Evening Standard* described the architect of Thatcherism as "the most pelted politician of modern times". *The Sunday Times*, however, did not call for Cambridge University to be shut down. Should we be offended or proud?



# 1983

## First in the country

It's not every day that activities at Essex are reported in the *Methodist Recorder*, but the launch of our Human Rights Centre in March received that unusual accolade. The first centre of its kind in the country, its graduates have gone on to work for organisations such as the United Nations, Amnesty and Human Rights Watch. Its academics have been UN Special Rapporteurs and Special Advisors, and in 2010, the University received the Queen's Anniversary Prize for 'advancing the legal and broader practice of international human rights'. Human rights are now a focus for the University's 50th anniversary fundraising programme.



# 1990

## The exuberant archbishop

The 1990s saw extraordinary change in South Africa – and, as a result, some distinguished visitors to our University. The forerunner of the one everyone remembers was the Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu, who spoke at a meeting of our University's Centre for the Study of Theology. (We would argue that this was a greater honour than the freedom of Lewisham, bestowed during the same UK visit.) While here, he made headlines by asking those who opposed economic sanctions – on the grounds that they would hurt black South Africans – to, “spare us your crocodile tears. Where were these philanthropists when apartheid was uprooting and dumping three and a half million blacks as if they were rubbish, in poverty-stricken, barren... resettlement camps where there was little work and hardly any food?”



Image courtesy of the Essex County Standard, copyright retained

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

# 1985

## No eggs for Her Majesty

Careful planning and strict security in May made sure the Queen's first visit to our University went off without any trouble. Joanna Symons, then head of the Careers Advisory Service, put it down to “large numbers of policemen dressed as ‘students’ that stuck out like a sore thumb. They looked too hippy to be true for 1985, but I expect it was how they thought students dressed.” The visit was to celebrate our 21st anniversary – and she must have enjoyed herself, because she was back 19 years later for our 40th.



# 1987

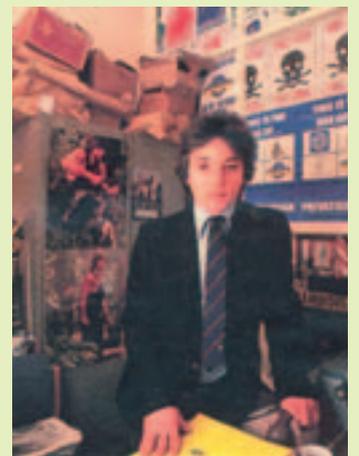
## Students then and now

Two familiar Essex faces appeared in *The Observer* in March, in a feature looking at students then and now.

Comparing the students of the 1980s with those of two decades

before, they profiled David Triesman, now a Labour spokesman in the House of Lords – whose past includes stints as a suspended Essex student, a member of the Communist Party and Chairman of the Football Association – and John Bercow, then “Norman Tebbit's chosen one” and now Commons Speaker, and considered to be on the socially liberal wing of the Conservative Party.

*Essex Effect* thought it best not to ask either of them if they minded us using these photos.



© Jane Bown / The Observer

## 1991

### Ben Okri floats on a dream

Almost a decade after he had to leave our University for lack of funds, Ben Okri won the Booker Prize for his novel *The Famished Road*, declaring at the ceremony that he was “floating on a dream.” Dr Roger Moss in our Department of Literature (now LiFTS) described his former student as “extraordinary, interesting, magnetic and creative”, but added that he was also “a very bad student in the conventional sense. His essays were always late.”

A few years later, Okri himself told readers of *The Daily Mail*, “I was slightly arrogant and free-spirited. I think I rubbed a lot of people up the wrong way. Then the grant stopped.” A change of government in Nigeria brought his scholarship to an end before he could finish his degree. He spent some time sleeping rough in London, but never stopped writing, publishing his first novel when he was just 21. In 2002, with a further seven novels under his belt (and five other books), he returned to Colchester to attend to some unfinished business: picking up an honorary degree.

## 1997

### Not your average degree ceremony

Thirty-six years after he sent that telegram (see 1961), Lord Alport received an honorary degree, but was rather overshadowed by the fact that the same graduation season saw Graça Machel receive the same honour – and she brought someone with her... Professor Carolyn Hamilton recommended Ms Machel, having worked with her on the UN's groundbreaking study of the impact of armed conflict on children – in which Professor Francoise Hampson also had a hand “Graca Machel is a real star in her own right”, Professor Hamilton said, but her guest was the first black president of South Africa.

Richard Lister, who later set up the Southend Campus, was quoted in *The*

*Independent*: “It's strange – do you expect one of the great figures of the twentieth century to drop in on you at work?” But perhaps Nelson Mandela himself struck the best tone when he told *The Guardian's* reporter, “It's not about me, it's about Mrs Machel. It's her day today. She's the boss.”



Image courtesy of the Essex County Standard, copyright retained

1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997

## 1993

### Townsend takes on Bottomley

In October 1992, then health secretary (and alumna) Virginia Bottomley said in a Commons debate that emphasising the links between poverty and ill health was “defeatist talk”. Her former tutor, and our founding Professor of Sociology, Peter Townsend disagreed (to put it mildly). He wrote her an open letter in the *British Medical Journal* the following January, reminding her that she had written a “sensitive” report in 1971 for the Child Poverty Action Group, of which he was then chairman. “Far from regarding such evidence as ‘defeatist talk’, you not only accepted it but added to it.” In fact, the measured tone he adopted only added to the exhortation: “Your statement misrepresented the educational influences on you in your early career and sought to excuse your failure to deal with the established links between poverty and ill-health.”

The bell rang for round two of Essex v Bottomley the following year, when a *Harpers & Queen* profile of Bottomley saw another former tutor, Professor Peter Abell “pronounce himself amazed that his student had risen to Cabinet rank, something which he said he never imagined would happen in ‘a million years.’” Ouch.

## 1996

### The Queen's men

A 1996 British Army report on homosexuality in the military recommended that the ban on their joining remain in place. (It was finally lifted four years later.) One of the best-informed responses to this came from sociology alumnus Nick Elwood – he began writing his memoir, *All The Queen's Men*,

which, er... came out in 1999, detailing his 14 years as an openly gay guardsman. *The Guardian* reported that his sexuality was public knowledge to such a degree that he “got ‘engaged’ to a paratrooper in the Rhine army” and an inquiry into his conduct by the military Special Investigation Branch “was swiftly called off when the branch found that 20 per cent of the band of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards was gay”. For his part, Elwood added a little local colour to the article by reminiscing about his days at Essex: “It was common knowledge in the campus gay society that if you wanted sex you went to the toilets near the barracks in Colchester.” *Essex Effect* does not know if things have changed, but if you have any reminiscences to share, please get in touch.



# 1998

## Troubles revisited

Looking back three decades, *The Gazette* profiled "Essex University's darkest hour". Those who wonder what became of student radicalism might not need to look further than former Government professor Anthony Barker's assessment: "It was a 1960s' phenomenon. The economy was growing year after year. Students seemed to get a good job when they graduated and so were much more relaxed about taking time off from their studies." Some things certainly have changed in the intervening years.

An entertaining, if not illuminating, feature of the article is one of the old *Gazette* headlines used to illustrate it: December 1972's "Landlord tells of cottage orgies". As ever, if anyone has any memories they'd like to share...



Image courtesy of the Essex County Standard, copyright retained

# 2004

## A brace of Queens

*Essex Effect* can only assume that no-one has told Her Majesty The Queen about *that* cartoon\* in a 1968 edition of *Ginger*, because she came to Colchester again to mark our 40th anniversary. On the day, she met some of our longest-serving members of staff – including John Dowden (see p 14) – and narrowly missed meeting another of that year's distinguished visitors, who went on to be her chief imitator.

In 2004, Helen Mirren was probably best known as DCI Jane Tennison in *Prime Suspect* – just one of many roles in the already distinguished career which earned her an honorary Essex degree. Perhaps there was something mysterious in the air, though, because two years later, she gave an Oscar and BAFTA-winning turn in *The Queen* – and she's reprising the role in the West End as we go to press in *Queen* writer Peter Morgan's play, *The Audience*,



about the weekly meeting between the Prime Minister and the Queen.

The *Southend Echo* interviewed Mirren when she was about to visit Colchester in 2004, and she said of her formative years in Southend that the town gave her "a great sense of the vulgar" and she loved the "razzmatazz of the place". The real Queen's view of Essex is not known – and if she's coming yet again for the 50th, word has not yet filtered down to the windowless bunker where we work on *Essex Effect*.

\* If you don't know the cartoon we mean, apologies – even after 45 years, we still can't get away with printing it, although we can tell you that it does not show our Head of State in a dignified light.

# 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006

# 2000

## Constable comes home

In around 1996 or 1997, Neil Cox, professor of Art History, had an idea for an exhibition to mark the new millennium: why not show



Constable's painting of Wivenhoe Park in a gallery which just happens to stand in Wivenhoe Park? The first answer to that question was: because the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC said no, but Professor Cox persisted. The next hurdle was the US gallery's insistence that the painting have a 24-hour armed guard. ("It was quite amusing having to explain to them that the police aren't armed in this country," Professor Cox said.) Finally, after CCTV, air conditioning and extra strength window shutters had been installed, the painting was flown over and the exhibition opened by John Constable (the painter's great-great-great-grandson) and... er, John Constable (great-great-great-great-grandson). Ten thousand people came to see it.

## A growing university

In 2000, East 15 already had a reputation as one of the UK's best acting schools – having grown out of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop, and boasting alumni such as Alison Steadman. That year, it became part of our University – which seemed to be the first milestone on an era of expansion. 2002 saw a new partnership with South East Essex College in Southend and the creation of the Department of Health and Human Sciences. In 2005, Essex and UEA got the funding to develop University Campus Suffolk. The following year, there was a new partnership with Colchester Institute and a new lecture hall, the Ivor Crewe. Two years later, The Gateway Building in Southend opened.

2010 saw a remarkable transformation on our Colchester Campus as the old boiler house became a new teaching centre (which, in 2012, was named after the late Tony Rich, the remarkable registrar who oversaw this time of development). Since then, the Wivenhoe House hotel has been painstakingly restored and Southend's Clifftown Theatre has been created in a Victorian gothic church. As if all that wasn't enough, 2013-14 will see the arrival of the new building to house Essex Business School, the Meadows student flats and the Student Centre and library extension – at which point the staff in Estate Management will presumably heave a collective sigh of relief.



## 2007

### Naming the nameless

In October 2007, a permanent exhibition opened at the site of the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany – thanks, in no small part, to the

work of Rainer Schulze, Professor of History at Essex and one of the project's leaders. "Bergen-Belsen is one of the best-known concentration camps, but it is often misremembered. It was also a prisoner-of-war camp and, after the war, a camp for displaced persons. The exhibition tells the history of all three, as far as possible, from the perspective of those who were imprisoned there. As almost all German records were destroyed before the camp's handover to the



Bergen-Belsen Memorial: Memorial stone in the grounds of the former camp

Photo by Andreas Jäger. Lower Saxony Memorials Foundation

British Army in 1945, the exhibition makes extensive use of non-traditional sources."

Many of those non-traditional sources are the fruits of research which Professor Schulze began six years earlier: tracing and speaking to survivors "to individualise them by painting a fuller picture of their whole lives". It also aims "to give dignity back to those who did not survive". 300,000 people a year now visit Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen.

## 2009

### Art, history

In July, a lecturer in art history became art for an hour in Trafalgar Square. *Angel of the North* creator Antony Gormley's work *One and Other* was occupying the square's fourth plinth for four months, with 2,400 volunteers from across the UK appearing on it for an hour each, 24 hours a day for 100 days.

The aim was to create a portrait of the UK in the twenty-first century, and Dr Natasha Ruiz-Gómez said, "When I heard about the project, I registered immediately. I moved to the UK from New York less than two years before to join the University. I had the opportunity to be woven into the history of British art and of Trafalgar Square, one of the most culturally important sites in my new country. It was incredibly peaceful up there – and the most appealing aspect for me was behind all the media hype: a celebration of the quiet heroics of quotidian life."



## 2007

## 2008

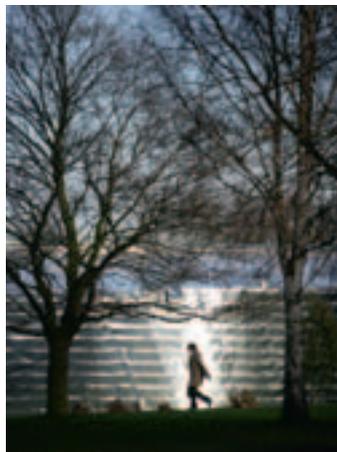
## 2009

## 2008

### 'Dustbin' decorated

Clearly, we can't keep Royal visitors away. Prince Charles came in March 2008 to meet 500 members of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and their families, before the soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan. They all trooped in (sorry) to the still-new Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, where the heir to the throne told them they were "cramped into what looks like a dustbin from the outside".

A few days later, the building won a Civic Trust Award – which recognise projects that make an outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment. The views of its patron – one Charles Windsor – were not recorded, but then Director of Estate Management, Andrew Nightingale, said, "Many people have strong opinions about modern architecture. The Lecture Theatre was designed as a striking modern building to

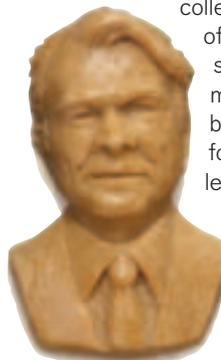


complement the existing strong architectural form of the campus. The stainless steel reflects both the historic parkland and the 1960s architecture." Remarkably, he was not said to be stifling a smirk at the time. It's also had awards from the Royal Institute of British Architects.

### Millionth book

In May, our Albert Sloman Library added its millionth book to the shelves. You could be forgiven for thinking the three-volume *Andy Warhol Catalogue*

*Raisonne* of wider interest than the first acquisition, *A Catalogue of the Harsnett Library in Colchester*, but at least you can say there's something in there to cater to all tastes (hardly surprising when we add 20,000 volumes a year).



The library also houses collections such as the Mary Whitehouse archive – which gave rise to last year's book, *Ban This Filth!* – and (at the other extreme?) the Sigmund Freud collection. Oddest of all though, surely, are the marzipan busts of former SDP leaders David Owen and Roy Jenkins, which came into

our possession the day we took charge of the party's archive. They're pictured here for what we think is the first time...

### But can it climb stairs...?

One of the perils of being head writer for *Doctor Who* must be the obsessive fans. In 2008, the man in the top job was Russell T Davies, whose Halloween appearance on *Richard and Judy* saw him come face-to-face with a robotic Dalek pumpkin.

It was the creation of Dr John Woods and some of his colleagues in our School of Computer Science and Electronic Systems, who defended his frankly bizarre idea with the words, "This was a bit of fun for Halloween, but the University of Essex was an ideal place to turn to, as we have one of the leading and best-equipped robotics research groups in the country." So, you can't fault his marketing sense. He added, "Russell was surprised, to say the least."

# 2010

## ...for a fish tank?

The headlines were, perhaps, predictable. It did cost £50,000, but it's not a fish tank. Our Coral Reef Research Unit's aquarium, unveiled in December, is a unique facility in which we can create different environments and work out how reefs are likely to respond to climate change.

Dr Dave Smith, the unit's director, said, "We now have total control over coral growth conditions and can answer questions from the molecular to the ecosystem level. It's a new era of research for us and UK coral science." The facility will also pay for itself by allowing

researchers to bid for wider sources of funding, and it will make collaborative projects easier. More to the point, with 500 million people dependent on coral reefs for their livelihoods, finding out what climate change might do to this natural resource is pretty important work.



PhD marine biology student Sarah-Jane Walsh at work in the unit

2010

2011

2012

2013

# 2012

## "Talk to the people who remember"

Founding Professor of Sociology Peter Townsend gave this advice to his early recruit Paul Thompson, who went on to pioneer oral history. As a result, you can now hear first-hand accounts of the early days at Essex from the students, staff at all levels and Wivenhoe residents who were there.

Paul initiated the Wivenhoe Oral History Project in the 1990s, and the resulting 60 interviews can now be heard in 11 podcasts at: [www.essex.ac.uk/fifty](http://www.essex.ac.uk/fifty), covering everything from architecture to Pink Floyd. One highlight for Paul was the maintenance staff: "I always thought they disapproved of the students' behaviour, but for many of them the 'troubles' were one of the high points of their lives – having to rescue famous politicians and smuggle them out through the boiler rooms was very dramatic and exciting."



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# 2013

## Zombies – making science fun

Dr Edward Codling, from our Department of Mathematical Sciences, spent a weekend investigating the behaviour of the undead at the Science Museum in London in January. The ZombieLab festival explored the science of consciousness by imagining the world in a grip of a zombie outbreak.

With the help of Nikolai Bode, an AXA postdoctoral fellow in his research group, Dr Codling developed a live participation experiment, *Zombie Horde*, to demonstrate the science behind collective behaviour, predator-prey dynamics and group decision making. "People find it really

fun," Dr Codling said. "But what's important for us is that they find the science behind it interesting as well. We are exploring whether there is a form of 'group consciousness' when many individuals – zombies or humans – make group decisions without any one individual being in control. This research is important to improve our understanding of how human crowds behave and our results could be used to design more efficient evacuation procedures or to improve crowd management at large events."



Edd with the undead (Edd is on the left)