

Satisfying outcome in satisfaction survey

Essex students have expressed a high level of satisfaction with their experience of life and study at the University in the first annual University-wide Student Satisfaction Survey which took place in 2003-2004.

All students were invited to complete the online questionnaire with the average response rate for all student groups at 23 per cent. The response rate from research students reached almost 30 per cent.

Students were asked to answer each question using a five point scale ranging from 'very satisfied' to 'very dissatisfied.' The results have been divided into those from respondents on taught courses and those on research programmes.

Results showed 81 per cent of those on taught courses are 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' that the content of their degree programmes enabled them to acquire knowledge and understanding of the subject. The same proportion were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with student IT facilities.

Research students also gave positive feedback with 85 per cent of all respondents being 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with guidance received from their supervisors. Of the same group 83 per cent were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the helpfulness and accessibility of administrative staff within academic departments and

centres.

When asked about areas that most needed improvement, both groups highlighted catering facilities on campus. Of the taught course respondents 24 per cent were either 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' with catering and 39 per cent of research students responded in the same way.

Deborah Doorish, General Manager of Catering Service, said: 'We regard the results of the survey as a valuable aid in our drive to improve standards in catering across the campus. We are working with the Students' Union and together we are carrying out research to identify the areas of dissatisfaction more specifically. This research will lead to an action plan for improvement and change throughout 2005.'

All those who took part in the survey were entered into a prize draw with a prize of £200. Katie Orme, a second year student on the BA Film and Literature programme was the lucky winner.

Katie said: 'It is important for students to see that action is being taken where a concern is highlighted and to see that the University is taking notice of students' views.'

A summary of the results, along with details of actions to be taken, can be found at www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/offices/smo/outcomes.htm. ■



Katie Orme is presented with her cheque by Dr Sam Steel, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Standards)

HE today

Tomlinson recommends major shake-up

A long-awaited report on secondary education has proposed major reforms which, if implemented, will have a significant effect on university admissions.

The Tomlinson report proposed that GCSEs, A-Levels and vocational qualifications should evolve over the next decade into a new diploma system designed to offer more choice to teenagers as well as stretch the brightest students.

The proposed plans would include fewer exams but, at advanced level, tougher questions. Students keen to pursue more specialised, work-related learning would be offered clearer routes, but all pupils would have to complete a core communication and numeracy skills element.

The changes, which if adopted by the government may take a decade to implement, were recommended by the working party on 14 to 19 learning headed by Mike Tomlinson, former Chief Inspector of England's schools.

Mike Nicholson, Head of Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Admissions at Essex, welcomed the plans when he spoke on BBC 1's *Breakfast* programme: 'The University welcomes a system that gives students a broader range of opportunities as well as stretching the most able applicants. We look forward to working with schools and colleges in order to ensure that the new qualification prepares students appropriately for higher education.' ■

London base for University

The University has opened its first London base, with the launch of a new teaching and research centre to advance the understanding of mental health care.

The Belsize Centre, based in Belsize Lane, will cement the growing partnership between the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust and the University in the provision of postgraduate mental health training.

It will also allow for expansion of the Psychotherapy Evaluation Research Unit (PERU), providing new

research opportunities to extend the available knowledge about psychological therapies.

Professor Phil Richardson, Director of the Centre, said: 'The psychotherapies practised at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust are of known effectiveness, yet have remained a Cinderella when it comes to research funding. The Centre will bring together teaching and research expertise enabling Cinderella to go to the Ball.'

The new centre provides opportunities for new Masters and Doctoral teaching and research

programmes. Its seminar room is being used to relocate some Essex-based teaching to London, allowing students from a wider geographical area to enrol.

Partnership study programmes include a new doctorate in educational psychology, and a new Masters degree in refugee care.

The Centre represents an expansion of the University's growing portfolio of health partnerships. Director of Health Partnerships, Professor Nigel South, said: 'Working closely with the NHS, the range of leading-edge health-related programmes offered by the University across the county of Essex and in London is continually expanding.'

The Belsize Centre can also be used by University staff needing a London meeting or seminar venue. For booking information, contact Debbie Stewart in Health Partnerships telephone ext 2638, e-mail dstewart@essex.ac.uk. ■

Essex calling

Throughout November a team of 35 students will be contacting 3,000 alumni as part of the University's second telephone fundraising campaign.

Money raised will be used to support a variety of projects across campus, including student support.

Joanne West, Annual Fund Officer, is managing the campaign and plans to hold two appeals a year to raise funds for causes within the University. 'The students are extremely excited,' said Joanne, 'not only are they helping to raise funds for their University but they are finding out things about Essex that they never knew before. It is a fantastic experience for them.'

Luke Taylor, caller and MA Film Studies student, echoes Joanne's

comments: 'It is a really interesting process, being able to talk to graduates from across the full 40 years of Essex's history. They all have

different stories to tell but what they share is an affection for the University and, for many, a determination to give something back.'

The campaign has been running since 18 October and will continue until the end of November. For more information please contact Joanne West, e-mail westj@essex.ac.uk. ■



Natalie Thompson (foreground) and other members of the student caller team

University promotes innovation

The University was one of just 20 regional venues to host a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Living Innovation event aimed at promoting innovation in business.

Living Innovation is a national scheme aimed at encouraging UK companies to develop new and improved added value products and services. Each year Living Innovation hosts a national discussion event which is broadcast live, via satellite, to regional events around the country.

Prior to the satellite broadcast, visitors to the University heard from Dr Kevin Byron who holds a NESTA (National Endowment in Science, Technology and the Arts) Fellowship. He spoke about 'Creative Leaps and Innovative Bounds' and invited the audience to consider how ideas are generated and developed into

innovations.

Fiona Bruce of the BBC hosted the national event from Liverpool, where the speakers were Sir Christopher Evan, the UK's foremost biotechnology entrepreneur, and Simon Woodruffe of Yo! Sushi. Essex was one of only three venues provided with a telephone link to pose a question to the speakers.

Dr Janice Pittis of the University's RBDO commented: 'The event provided an ideal opportunity for members of the business community and the University to hear the experiences of successful entrepreneurs first hand.'

She explained: 'The University's new iLab was the perfect venue for the networking session as participants were constantly encouraged to think creatively about all aspects of their business.' ■



Business participants during the networking session in the iLab

Getting down to business

Meeting the needs of the region's business community is the aim of the University's new Business and Professional Development short course programme.

The 12 short courses, being taught by London-based consultants and practitioners, cater for new business ventures and for raising skill levels in existing companies.

Continuing Professional Development Manager, Carol Snape, explained: 'These courses are a new departure for the University, which

demonstrate our commitment to supporting and developing stronger links with the local and regional business community.'

Recognising the need for flexible delivery to fit the schedules of busy professionals, the University has also developed two online courses, the Graduate Certificate in Digital Enterprise and Innovation, and the Graduate Certificate in Third Age Entrepreneurship.

For details of the courses on offer, telephone Learning Partnerships on 01206 872446 or e-mail BPD@essex.ac.uk. ■

Early success for new iLab

Hot on the heels of the University's Southend iLab, the Colchester iLab was formally launched in July and has already made its mark.

As well as taking a number of bookings from internal and external customers to work on issues such as teambuilding, quality, process review and planning, the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education has given funding to support an iLab based leadership development programme for the University.

Sara Corcoran and Sophie Lovejoy are job sharing the role of iLab Manager and have worked closely with Dr Janice Pittis from the Research and Business Development Office to bring in teams from the NHS, Colchester Institute, the Chamber of Commerce, and Business Link for Essex, as well as local business networks. Teams from within the University who have already taken work to the iLab include External Relations and the Department of Health and Human Sciences.

Funding from the Leadership Foundation will enable the University to run a leadership programme for the first time, and provide an opportunity to understand better the contribution the facility can make in supporting management and leadership development, option appraisal and decision making.

It is hoped that as well as providing a helpful environment for progressing management issues, the iLab will contribute to a number of research projects. To find out how the iLab might be able to support your work, contact Sophie and Sara, e-mail iLab@essex.ac.uk or telephone ext 3163. For queries about the University's Southend iLab, telephone Julie Jones and Matt Softly on 01702 238637/238641 or e-mail jejones@essex.ac.uk or msoftl@essex.ac.uk. ■

Cardiac training for sports scientists

Staff from the Centre for Sports and Exercise Science have received vital training from the Essex Ambulance Service (EAS) in how to use two defibrillators given to the University by the British Heart Foundation and the NHS.

The trained members of staff make up one of the first Community First Responder Groups to be based at a UK university.

First Responder group leader, Dr Jeremy Shearman, said: 'As far as I am aware, no other university campus in the country has staff who are trained to be first responders so it is very exciting to be offering such a unique service here at Essex.

'As well as staff and students totalling approximately 11,000 we also have many members of the public

who use facilities at Wivenhoe Park. Therefore it is vital that we have the equipment and trained staff on campus to deal with a large number of emergency situations.

'I hope that the training my colleagues and I have received from the Essex Ambulance Service will go some way towards saving lives.'

The group have not only been trained to deal with cardiac events but also basic first aid and oxygen therapy. ■



(left to right) Dr Caroline Angus and Dr Jeremy Shearman from the Centre for Sports and Exercise Science with John Nicholls, EAS's North Division Clinical Manager, and David Palmer, EAS Project Lead

Around Essex

Conference to bring together art and agriculture

Writtle College is planning to host a one-day conference in February exploring how farmers and artists can work together for positive economic outcomes, whilst helping to generate new opportunities for diversification within the rural economy.

Agriculture and Art: Cultivating Successful Outcomes will give individuals from land management and production, government initiatives and the arts, the chance to discuss agriculture and arts projects and how they could interact for mutual benefit. Speakers will include farmers and artists who have been involved in diversification, and lecturers from the College and representatives from arts organisations.

Southend students celebrate

Over 200 South East Essex College students received University of Essex degrees in front of 700 family and friends at the College's higher education award ceremony.

This year's graduates included the last students to have studied for their entire degree at the Carnarvon Road and London Road sites.

Guest of honour at the ceremony was Professor Sir William Taylor CBE who was awarded an honorary degree.

Sir William is the former Higher Education Advisor to the Partnership for Higher Education in South Essex between the University and the College. He has enjoyed a long and successful career in primary, secondary, further and higher education and received a knighthood in 1990.

Jan Hodges, Principal and Chief Executive of the College said: 'It is always a great pleasure to be involved in the Graduation Ceremony. It's a real highlight in our annual calendar and

an excellent opportunity to celebrate the success of all our students who have worked so hard and achieved so much.' The evening also marked the launch of the College's new Alumni Association which will help former College students keep in touch, arrange reunions, and keep up-to-date with College news through the alumni newsletter *Making Waves*. ■



Sir William Taylor CBE



College students celebrate at the ceremony held at Southend's Cliffs Pavilion

New home for SU Advice Centre

With a striking window design and new office suite, the Students' Union Advice Centre has relocated onto Square 3 making the service more accessible to students.

Tamoor Ali, Vice-President



The new Students' Union Advice Centre on Square 3

(Academic and Welfare), said the new premises are part of a drive to further improve an already excellent service: 'We are rightly very proud of the service offered to students and hope that they will be as impressed with the new surroundings as we are.'

Dr Sam Steel, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Standards), opened the new Centre at a reception in October. He emphasised the valuable work carried out by the Advice Centre

staff, as well as the importance of the partnership that existed between the University and Students' Union.

The Centre has three full-time staff supplemented by a number of trained, professional student volunteers.

The Advice Centre is open Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm during term-time with reduced opening hours during vacation. ■

Talking archive

During October the Albert Sloman Library received 17 large archival boxes containing the papers of the late Ronald Sturt, MBE, founder of Talking Newspapers.

Ronald Sturt, who died last year, was a librarian who devoted his life to making the contents of newspapers, magazines and

periodicals available to the visually impaired by means of audio tapes and latterly synthesised voice e-mail. In 1970 Ronald Sturt, then attached to the College of Librarianship in Aberystwyth, was impressed by a talking newspaper organisation in Sweden and set up his own version in Cardiganshire. Other local operations sprung up nationwide

and came together in 1974 as Talking Newspapers UK. At various times Sturt, who in his working life went on to become both Chief Librarian and Assistant Provost at the City of London Polytechnic, was both Chairman and President of this association. In latter years he lived in Chelmsford.

Work on organising and listing the collection will commence shortly and it is hoped the Archive will be available for consultation by researchers within a year. ■

Antibodies and allergies

Since 1985, the Department of Biological Sciences has held an immunology conference for sixth-form students from local schools and colleges.

This year was no different with around 100 students and teachers attending an intensive day of study that included lectures on basic and applied clinical aspects of immunology, group discussions and laboratory demonstrations.

Presenters included several of the Department's academic and research staff covering a range of topics from allergies, antibody purification, and

sophisticated microscopy to tissue culture techniques, and transplantation immunology.

All the participating students hope to go on to read biology, biochemistry, and medicine or related subjects at university and the event is valued because it goes beyond the standard A-level syllabus. Richard Jurd and Nelson Fernández, organisers of the conference, explained how the format and diversity of its contents offer a valuable extramural publicity tool that serves as a model for innovative ways of recruiting.

Charity fundraising

Members of the University community have been digging deep recently in aid of local, national and international charities.

Fundraising events have ranged from cake bakes for Macmillan Cancer Relief, a sponsored swim for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund, and a forthcoming trek to the Annapurnas range in Nepal.

For further information about these and other charity projects visit www.essex.ac.uk/wyvern/extra. ■



Princess Margriet (second from left) with Pallas students

One of the ten best LLMs in the world

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands was the keynote speaker at the 9th Graduation and Opening of the Pallas Programme in Amsterdam.

Essex was one of the founder members of the Pallas Consortium which has been ranked as one of the ten best LLMs in the world for the last three years by *Décideurs Juridique*, the French legal guide.

At the ceremony the Princess emphasised the importance of European cultural identity which

resonated in the linking of the eight European universities which form the Pallas Consortium.

The prize for Best Dissertation went to Essex graduate Ossi Niiranen who is now working for legal firm Clifford Chance in Brussels.

Staff from the Department of Law have been instrumental in Pallas' continued success with Professor Sheldon Leader as Chairman; Professors Maurice Sunkin and Steve Anderman as supervisors and

lecturers; and Ann Woodings on the Board of Management in charge of Admissions.

The success of Pallas' graduates is proof of the valuable skills and experiences gained through the partnership. Riccardo Gotti Tedeschi is working with Italian firm Bonelli Erede Pappalardo dealing with competition law issues: 'I'm really enthusiastic about the path, and I realise day after day how useful the LLM was.'

Caleb Raywood another Pallas graduate from Essex has recently been appointed Vice-President and Regional Counsel (South Asia, Middle East, Africa) for MasterCard.

Anyone interested in applying for Pallas in 2005 should get in touch with Ann Woodings, e-mail annw@essex.ac.uk. ■

Enterprise STEPS out

Eight Essex undergraduates took part in the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (STEP) this summer to give their CVs a competitive edge.

STEP provides students with the opportunity to get valuable work-based experience within small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Those taking part spend eight weeks working on specific projects within regional SMEs with the aim of improving the performance of the host company.

A panel of judges drawn from the business community assessed the participants' contribution to the host firm's competitive edge based on a written report and brief presentation.

Essex students who received prizes were: Stephen Hill from Electronic

Systems Engineering (ESE) who was awarded 1st Prize in Information Technology; Morehikeji Oshin from Computer Science who received 1st in Market Research; Ben Bailey from ESE who was awarded a Commendation in Web Design; and Christopher Munro-Crump who received a Commendation in Information Technology.

Speaking after the presentation of the awards at a ceremony in Chelmsford, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivor Crewe said: 'It is great to see Essex students recognised for their performance in STEP and I congratulate all of them especially for the important role that they are playing as ambassadors of the University amongst local firms.'

Other students who took part in

the programme were Emma Derbridge, Andrew Day, Chris Coates, and Jaana Rouvari.

Anyone interested in taking part in the 2005 STEP scheme should visit www.step.org.uk. ■

Towards autonomous robots

Researchers from across the UK, Italy, Spain, Estonia and Australia converged on the University during September for TAROS 2004, the Towards Autonomous Robotic Systems Conference.

The Conference, hosted by the Department of Computer Science, provided a platform for research staff and students to present their work to the scientific community on robotics, artificial intelligence, cognitive science and engineering methods.

The three-day Conference, co-chaired by Dr Ulrich Nehmzow of Computer Science, included presentations relevant to advanced and intelligent control of autonomous mobile robots. These included presentations on mobile robot navigation and new technologies. The keynote speaker was Chris Malcolm of the University of Edinburgh who spoke on 'Robotics: engineering and science?' ■



Morehikeji Oshin, winner of the Market Research award



Stephen Hill, winner of the Information Technology award

Volunteering makes you happy!

New research by the Department of Government suggests volunteering makes you happy and improves quality of life.

The study suggests that voluntary acts, like involvement in a community project, can be good for a person's health, a child's education and reduce the crime rate.

Professor Paul Whiteley said: 'Our results reveal an interesting link between helping others and enjoying a good quality of life. It seems that when we focus on the needs of others, we may also reap benefits ourselves. Voluntary activity in the community is associated with better health, lower crime, improved educational performance and greater life satisfaction.'

The study found a link between communities with volunteering programmes and people who were happy with their life. The research was based on 101 randomly selected district authorities. The district found to have the greatest happiness rating, with high levels of volunteering, was Sevenoaks, followed by Chester and south Cambridge. Places scoring lower grades in the life satisfaction league were Huntingdon, South Derbyshire and Havering (east London).

Not surprisingly the study has received comments in the national and regional press. *The Daily Telegraph* reported that Peter Rogers, Vice-Chairman of the Sevenoaks Society, was not surprised by these findings and said: 'It's a very pleasant place to



Professor Paul Whiteley

Picture courtesy of Van Gols Ltd

live. I feel it does have a good community spirit.' However there has been criticism from those towns described as unhappy. *The Hunts Post*, which covers the Huntingdon area, quoted district council leader, Derek Holley: 'I'm staggered. It's completely at odds with all the research that we see.' ■

Making sense of statistics

Students across the UK are set to benefit from a project based at the University aimed at helping them make more sense of statistics.

The Survey Data in Teaching project has produced a set of teaching and learning materials to help students understand how social science data can be used to address real-life problems.

Led by the UK Data Archive, the

project team has used real data from the British Crime Survey to show how this can be used to conduct research, investigate issues and, ultimately, inform public policy.

More than 800 copies of the learning materials are being distributed on a CD-Rom to every university and further education college in the UK. Modules are available in a variety of formats,

accompanied by a teachers' guide.

They are designed for use in the classroom, or for self-paced learning, at A-level, undergraduate and even postgraduate level.

Funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee's (JISC) Exchange for Learning programme, the project has been carried out in partnership with Colchester Sixth Form College and the Department of Government. For further information see x4l.data-archive.ac.uk. ■

Chimera receives e-learning funding

Chimera, the University's Institute for Socio-technical Innovation and Research based at Adastral Park, has just started a £105,000 Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) funded project to develop new e-learning tools.

The DELTA project aims to develop a new range of tools using open standards and specifications that will allow practitioners and learners to share e-learning resources.

Dr Michael Gardner, Deputy Director of Chimera, explained: 'The

project will use some of the techniques from the emerging 'Semantic web'. Rather than just searching for resources using simple keywords, such as in Yahoo and Google, the system will be able to provide much more sophisticated search and retrieval mechanisms. Ultimately, users should be able to search for any type of e-learning resource by either following a structured question/answer dialogue or by browsing a 'graph' for the domain that they are searching within.

'Initially the project will focus on the sharing of teaching and learning case studies but the system will be designed to support the sharing of any type of online resource, such as teaching plans. The project is also considering the challenge of 'growing context', whereby users will also be able to comment on and annotate any of the resources in the system, and these comments and annotations are then made available to the rest of the user community.'

For more information visit the e-learning tools project website at www.jisc.ac.uk/etools.html. ■

Dr Rainer Schulze from the Department of History is a member of the team developing a new exhibition at the Gedenkstätte (Memorial) Bergen-Belsen in Germany. He is responsible for sections dealing with rescue attempts for Jews held at Bergen-Belsen, and the liberation of the camp by British troops in April 1945.

He has been visiting Bergen-Belsen regularly and recently met there with fellow researchers for five days to discuss the exhibition. Here he recalls the following week in which he endeavoured to go through documents, photos, artefacts, and video interviews, but as usual his week at Bergen-Belsen turned out to involve a lot more.



Dr Rainer Schulze and a model of Belsen as it was in September 1944 which stands in the Gedenkstätte foyer

A week in the life of....

Dr Rainer Schulze

Monday

Mr and Mrs Sagiv arrive from Israel. Mrs Sagiv was deported to Belsen with her family in 1943 and rescued in 1944 as part of the German-Palestinian exchange. She will be interviewed by our video team today. These interviews are stressful for all involved, and even more so if someone is interviewed for the first time, like Mrs Sagiv. The fact that we are at the place where she was detained and where many of her friends perished adds to the difficulty.

In the afternoon, a follow-up meeting to last week's discussions, trying to iron out some problems with the narrative. We still haven't managed to cut the result of the research down to 'exhibition format.'

Tuesday

Another visitor to the Gedenkstätte, Ladislaus (Laci) Löb from Brighton, arrives. He is a (child) survivor of the Kasztner group, some 1,684 Hungarian Jews rescued from

extermination against ransom payment in negotiations with Eichmann in 1944. They were first brought to Belsen and later allowed to travel to Switzerland. Professor Löb has come to Belsen to work on a book on the group and help me address their rescue in the exhibition.

Today Mr Sagiv will be interviewed. He jumped from the train that was to bring him to Belsen and survived in the Jewish underground until the end of the war.

Wednesday

In the morning, a meeting with Michael Grill from the Gedenkstätte Neuengamme (Hamburg) to discuss his recent research trip to Sweden. Michael checked a number of Swedish archives to see what material they hold with regard to Belsen. He returned with a great deal of information and photocopies. There is more material than we will be able to use, and I sense the potential for at least one PhD dissertation.

In the afternoon another meeting, this time in Hannover. There is concern that communication with the exhibition designers is not running smoothly, and that we are in danger of falling behind our work schedule. The pressure is increasing, and tempers flare.

Thursday

Back at the Gedenkstätte I met two researchers from Israel who are working on the 1944 German-

Palestinian exchange.

I finally manage to solve an awkward problem. The son of a British soldier, who was at Belsen shortly after the liberation, had contacted me because he found a couple of 'items' in his father's estate. The son wants them to be returned to Belsen and I had offered to take them. It turned out that one item was a pistol! After making numerous phone calls, the British GSM from the nearby Bergen-Hohne military training ground agrees to transport the firearm as part of one of the regular British Army shipments to Germany.

Friday

My last day at the Gedenkstätte. I did not get half of my own research done and resort to photocopying most of the material to work through when I am back in Britain. A phone call from the exhibition designer: there is less space available for one of my segments than previously assumed. This means I need to make further cuts in a draft which I had hoped I had completed. ■



Dr Rainer Schulze (right) and Klaus Tätzler, the keeper of artefacts of the Gedenkstätte, looking at a pair of mittens knitted by Belsen victims for a child who survived the camp

Law student wins civil liberties case

A Masters student from the Department of Law has successfully argued that a convicted murderer held in a New Zealand jail was held in conditions that amounted to physical torture.

Tony Ellis, who wrote his dissertation on prisoner's rights, represented Christopher Taunoa and eight other prisoners who were kept according to Paremoremo prison's Behaviour Management Regime (BMR).

Under BMR, inmates spent 23 hours a day in solitary confinement, did not receive regular medical checks or changes of bedding and had to wash their toilets and cells

with only a bucket of water and used rag. Mr Ellis told the High Court at Wellington that this treatment breached the Penal Institutions Act.

Justice Ronald Young ruled that detention on BMR, which was introduced in 1998 as an attempt to improve the behaviour of difficult prisoners, was in breach of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act. Justice Young ruled in three cases there had been no breach of the law, a fourth prisoner was found to have been treated unlawfully but was awarded no compensation, and the five other inmates were awarded \$130,000 with Taunoa receiving the greatest

sum of \$55,000.

The case has ended the use of BMR and led to a change to improve conditions for segregated prisoners.

Tony Ellis, speaking after the ruling, said: 'What one forgets is that these prisoners have been victims too, and two wrongs don't make a right.'

Professor Maurice Sunkin, Dean of the School of Law and Tony's supervisor, said: 'There are few things more gratifying for an academic than seeing students using skills and expertise honed at Essex to make a real contribution to the law and to the protection of human rights across the globe.' ■

UN re-election for human rights expert

Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, of the Department of Law and the Human Rights Centre, has been re-elected to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Renominated by the UK government, Professor Rodley was chosen by a meeting of states parties to the Covenant to serve a second four-year term from 2005 to 2008. At present he is Vice-Chair of the Committee.

The principal functions of the Committee are to review reports submitted by states parties and to consider individual complaints against those that have accepted the jurisdiction of the Committee.

The Committee is also responsible for issuing statements, known as General Comments, on the scope of the Covenant's provisions. Professor

Rodley said: 'I am proud to have been chosen as rapporteur of the Committee to prepare and steer through it the most recent General Comment on the legal measures states need to take to ensure compliance with their Covenant obligations in general.'

'I am looking forward to making what I hope will be a greater contribution to the Committee, now that I have the experience of its workings at first hand.'

Professor Rodley also delivered the inaugural William J Butler Lecture at the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights in the University of Cincinnati College of Law. His lecture, entitled 'Torture in the 21st Century: The Practice and The Law,' examined the international law aspects of recent US treatment of certain captives in the 'War on Terror.' ■

US appointment

Professor Lydia Morris, of the Department of Sociology, will be spending the autumn term at one of the United States' oldest and most prestigious universities.

Professor Morris is a Visiting Scholar at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. The Centre is dedicated to the study of European history, politics and society and is the leading site for research about Europe in the United States. Every year visiting scholars are affiliated to the Centre to inform the teaching and research on the latest European perspectives.

During her time at the Centre, Professor Morris will be continuing her research on the sociology of rights, 'The shifting terrain of rights: A sociological approach to the theory and practice of rights'. ■

New faces at Essex

The new academic year has seen an influx of new talent across the University.

Prize-winning author **Professor Marina Warner** heads the prestigious list of new staff in the Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies.

A writer of adult and children's fiction, criticism and history, Professor Warner's works include studies of female myths and symbols. Her fictional titles include *The Leto Bundle*, *Indigo*, and *The Lost Father*. Her non-fiction works include *From the Beast to the Blonde* (on fairy tales and their tellers), *Joan of Arc*, *Alone of All Her Sex* (the myth and the cult of the Virgin Mary) and, most recently, *Fantastic Metamorphoses*, *Other Worlds: Ways of Telling the Self*.

Among her academic appointments, Professor Warner was Visiting Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford in 2001; Tanner Lecturer at Yale University in 1999 and Visiting Mellon Professor in the History of Art at the University of Pittsburgh in 1997. She was a Turner Prize judge in

1998.

Also new to the Department are **Dr Eva-Lynn Jagoe**, who previously taught at the University of Illinois, and **Dr Elizabeth Kuti**, who will teach theatre-related courses. A playwright and actor, Dr Kuti previously lived and worked in Dublin, and has acted with Ireland's National Theatre Society, with the Royal National Theatre, London, the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, and several independent Irish companies. In July 2004, her commissioned play *May Child* was broadcast as an afternoon play for Radio 4.

Yvonne Coppard is the University's first Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow. She is the author of more than a dozen books for children and teenagers but has also published short stories, poetry and non-fiction texts. Working part-time at Essex, her brief is to assist students with improving their writing style and technique.

Joining the Department of History is **Professor James Raven**, formerly Reader in Social and Cultural History at the University of Oxford, and

Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford; Fellow and Director of Studies in History at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and Munby Fellow in Bibliography and Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Professor Raven has published widely on literary and cultural history since the 15th century with particular emphasis, in recent years, on book and communications history in Britain, Western Europe and the American colonies.

More new faces at the University will feature in next month's *Wyvern*. ■



Dr Elizabeth Kuti

New staff in Biological Sciences

New staff with expertise in key modern biological methods have been appointed as part of the Department's research strategy.

They will build on the recent growth in research funding in Biological Sciences, which has more than doubled since the last Research Assessment Exercise.

Professor Phil Mullineaux was appointed to a new Chair in Plant Sciences. Professor Mullineaux was formerly based at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, Europe's premier independent centre for research and training in plant and microbial science.

He brings expertise in

'transcriptomics' - a way of measuring simultaneously all gene expression in an organism. His research interests are in the genetics of disease resistance and stress tolerance in plants.

Dr Metodi Metoidiev has joined Essex from the University of Illinois in Chicago. He is an international expert in 'proteomics', a way of measuring simultaneously multiple proteins in an organism. His research relates to the use of yeast to study the way cells communicate and how this relates to normal and abnormal function. He was recently awarded a prestigious National Institute of Health (NIH) research grant, which will be

transferred to Essex.

Dr Philip Reeves has joined Essex from the Biology department at MIT in Boston, where he worked in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate, Gobind Khorana. Dr Reeves combines modern molecular biology (genetic) techniques with advanced physical techniques (NMR spectroscopy) to study the structure of proteins - work of interest in pharmaceutical product development.

The Department's new lecturer in sports and exercise science, **Dominick Micklewright**, is a former policeman. He is currently finishing a PhD at the interface of exercise physiology and psychology and will teach on the new physiotherapy degree scheme in the Department of Health and Human Sciences. ■

40th anniversary

Douglas Hurd gives first Essex lecture

Eminent political figure, Douglas Hurd, now Lord Hurd of Westwell, was guest speaker at the first Essex Lecture, an event jointly organised by Essex law firm Birkett Long Solicitors and the University.

Lord Hurd became an MP in 1974 and served in both the Thatcher and Major governments, holding cabinet posts as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Home Secretary from 1985 to 1989 and Foreign Secretary from 1989 to 1995. He became a life peer in 1997, and since that time has become a best selling author.

Lord Hurd spoke on 'Is there an international community?' to an audience of 150 in Chelmsford's County Hall during October. His lecture examined the role of the United Nations (UN) since its formation



(left to right) Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivor Crewe, Birkett Long's Managing Partner Philip George, Douglas Hurd, and Birkett Long's Senior Partner, Chris Holmes

up to the present time, dwelling on the present crisis in Iraq, expressing his concerns that Iraq had been invaded without the appropriate UN resolution, and was critical of the decision taken by the government. He then went on to examine the ways in which the UN could play a crucial role in determining

the way forward having regard to the development of India and China in particular and the need, as he saw it to forge regional partnerships across the world.

Following the lecture Lord Hurd answered several questions, many of which were focused on Iraq. ■

A robotic start

A state-of-the-art autonomous robot cut the ribbon to unveil a major new research and teaching facility at the University.

The Networks Centre is a new, purpose built, five-storey building with over 3,000 square metres of research and teaching space. It has been designed to support the research and teaching activities of the Departments of Electronic Systems Engineering and Computer Science. It was formally launched by Sir Robin Saxby, Chairman of ARM. A leading figure in the

electronics and computer industry, Sir Robin was awarded an honorary degree by the University in 2003.

The new building houses the entire academic and research staff of the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering and new research laboratories in the fields of telecommunications, audio engineering, computer vision and virtual reality. It also houses a high-tech robotic arena for land based and flying robots and an intelligent flat, known as iFlat, fitted with tiny computers and sensors which allow it to learn the user's preferences.

The new building will also facilitate inter-departmental research, for example with the cognitive science group in the Department of Psychology. ■



(left to right) Professor Martin Henson, Dr Anthony Vickers, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivor Crewe, and Sir Robin Saxby

Early Day honour

The University's 40th anniversary was commemorated in the House of Commons during September in an Early Day Motion tabled by Colchester MP Bob Russell.

The motion, signed by former member of staff Mr Russell and among others, two Essex graduates, MPs Siobhain McDonagh and John

Bercow, read: 'This House congratulates the University of Essex at Colchester on the 40th anniversary of the admission of its first students in September 1964; notes with approval that the number of students has grown from 122 in its first year to the 9,762 who are expected to be enrolled for the coming academic year; further notes that Essex is Britain's most international University outside London with students drawn from 125

countries; welcomes the recent opening of campuses in Loughton and Southend; pays tribute to the founding Vice-Chancellor, Sir Albert Sloman, his successors Professor Martin Harris and Professor Ron Johnston and current Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivor Crewe for establishing and developing Essex as one of the leading research universities in the UK; and wishes the University of Essex continued success in the years ahead.' ■

40th anniversary sculpture unveiled

To mark the start of the 40th anniversary, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivor Crewe and the Peruvian Ambassador His Excellency Gustavo Meza-Cuadra unveiled a specially-commissioned sculpture at University Quays.

The sculpture, created by Peruvian artist Armando Varela, will provide a lasting 40th anniversary memento. Entitled *Tú y Yo* (You and Me), it is the most recent addition to the University's Collection of Latin American Art.

To coincide with the unveiling, the University's Sculpture Trail was launched. The first visitors to the Sculpture Trail - a route taking in all the sculptures on the Wivenhoe Park campus - were a group of seven to

nine year olds from Colne Engaine School. Members of the public will be able to pick up a leaflet outlining the route and giving details about each sculpture from the University Gallery or Reception, or the Information Office at weekends.

Jessica Kenny, Director of the University Gallery, said: 'Although Varela's work is widely featured in public spaces in his native Peru, this is his first large scale work sited in the UK. His wonderful sculpture is a physical marker of our 40 year history and a representation of our future within the local community. We hope it, and the rest of the Sculpture Trail, will provide an incentive for members of the public who have only ever seen

will include a visit from Father Christmas himself! Join in with the singing in the squares from 6-7pm.

Also for Christmas, the Lakeside Theatre will be welcoming students from East 15 Acting School to perform *Tales from Hans Christian Andersen*. This specially devised piece captures some of the world's best loved stories. *Tales from Hans Christian Andersen* will be in the



(left to right): Sculptor Armando Varela, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivor Crewe, and the Peruvian Ambassador His Excellency Gustavo Meza-Cuadra unveil the sculpture



The artist's grandchildren, Harry and Jonah, climb on the new sculpture

the University skyline from afar, to come onto campus and experience all the University has to offer.' ■

Lakeside Theatre on 16 December at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261.

Visit www.essex.ac.uk/40years to find out what else is coming up or contact the Events Team, telephone 01206 872807, e-mail events@essex.ac.uk. For details of forthcoming arts events turn to page 17. ■

Join us to celebrate

The programme of events to celebrate the 40th anniversary continues over the next month.

A particular highlight will be Christmas carols on 15 December. Staff, students, and their families, are invited to join the Day Nursery and take part in this seasonal event which

Call for walkers and talkers

The University's 40th anniversary artists in residence are appealing to staff, students, alumni, and members of the local community to get involved in an exhibition to celebrate the University's history.

Walking and talking owes its inspiration to the founding Vice-Chancellor, Sir Albert Sloman and the University architect, Kenneth Capon, who spent time walking through Wivenhoe Park during the University's

formative period creating an architectural plan that would give physical expression to Essex's founding ideals.

Celine Condorelli, an architect, and artist Gavin Wade together form 'Support Structure', and will trace the University's history through a new series of walks and talks in the tradition of Sir Albert and Kenneth Capon. They explained: 'The walks and talks will act as a register of collective memory and experience of

the site from its creation through 40 years of life as a place.'

Celine and Gavin are appealing to everyone who has an association with the University to take them on walks around campus. They hope to create a series of narration lines which visitors can follow. Celine and Gavin explained: 'The exhibition will be created by those who have had an involvement in the University.'

To find out more about how you can get involved, contact the Events team, telephone 01206 872807 or e-mail events@essex.ac.uk. ■

Linguist appears on CBBC

Having undertaken the University's *Mastering the Media Interview* course, Dr David Britain did not realise his first television appearance would be with a pop star and a puppet ferret.

Dr Britain, from the Department of Language and Linguistics, was invited onto the Children's BBC programme *Xchange* to discuss the native languages of the British Isles with former *Pop Idol* contender Darius and CBBC's resident puppet ferret, Vinnie.

Darius's latest single was subtitled into Irish, Welsh and Gaelic, as well as being signed by a BSL interpreter. Also on the show were children who spoke or signed each of these languages and Dr Britain helped organise a quiz in which the children said or signed something in their language, with Darius and Vinnie

having to guess what they had said.

Dr Britain said: 'It made quite a change from commenting on chapters from PhD students, but was just as challenging, given that the *Xchange* audience is mainly 8-13 year olds.' ■



Dr David Britain

Head of OFFA

Former Essex Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Martin Harris has been appointed as the first Director of the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

OFFA, established by the Higher

Education Act 2004, will ensure that bursaries offered by UK universities to offset tuition fees are designed and administered in a way that encourages applications from all sections of the community.

Sir Martin stepped down as Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University in September. ■

Natural role promoting equality

The University's Equal Opportunities Development Officer, Syd Kent, has been elected to the Chair of the Higher Education Equal Opportunities Network (HEEON).

HEEON is an organisation which consists of all those working or interested in equality and diversity issues across the sector.

Syd said: 'Equality and diversity continue to be key to the success of a multinational university such as Essex and since the establishment of HEON the University has always played its part in its activities.'

'Moira Collett, Essex's Academic Registrar, must take much credit for

being one of those involved in the creation of HEON more than ten years ago.' ■



Syd Kent

Obituary

Major G N Capel Cure

One of the founders of the University, former Vice Lord Lieutenant of Essex Major George Nigel Capel Cure TD, JP, DL has died at the age of 95.

Major Capel Cure was one of the local dignitaries present at the conference at County Hall, Chelmsford on 29 March 1960 at which the proposal to establish a University of Essex was discussed.

He was later a member of the Executive Committee of the University Foundation Fund Appeal which was launched in 1963 to raise funds for the new University.

Major Capel Cure was also a prominent member of the University Council between 1969 and 1977 serving on the Finance Committee.

Having been educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, Major Capel Cure was made High Sheriff in 1951 and held the position of Vice-Lieutenant, later Vice Lord Lieutenant, between 1958 and 1978. ■

UK Bologna advisor

Dr Anthony Vickers, Head of the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering, is one of nine senior academics and administrators appointed to help UK higher education institutions comply with the Bologna Process.

The Bologna Process focuses on the establishment of a European area of higher education and the promotion of a European system of higher education worldwide.

Dr Vickers, and the eight other Bologna Promoters, will provide practical support and advice for universities with visits and a helpline. ■

PhD student gives presidential talk

With the US presidential election featuring heavily in the news, Laurence Horton, a postgraduate student in the Department of Government was recently invited to Ipswich High School for Girls to address their Current Affairs Group.

Laurence, who has experience of working in American politics, including a presidential election campaign, gave a short presentation intended to provide an overview of the campaign. It covered the parties' perceptions of the candidates, the issues of concern to voters, and outlined the importance

of 'swing-states' that decide elections. This was then followed by a question and answer session in which the group of around 40 students, aged between 15 and 18, asked questions on a range of issues related to the campaign - from candidate positions on the war in Iraq to why candidates only campaign in certain states.

'It was an enjoyable experience,' Laurence said. 'The students were well informed as to what is going on in America at the moment, and their interest was apparent when it came to their questions which were perceptive



Laurence Horton

Picture courtesy of Van Coils Ltd

and interesting. There really is no bigger spectacle in politics than a presidential election, so it's gratifying to see that interest in it is widespread.' ■

Just Ice

Two postgraduate students have embarked on a short film project that has already provoked interest from industry professionals.

Luke Taylor, an MA Film Studies student and Matthew Carter, who is studying for an MA in Art History and Film, spent the summer working on the project and have now completed the script and storyboards for a short, 15-minute film. The project has been undertaken as both an aid to their current studies and as a possible entrant into a number of international film festivals.

The film, under the working title *Just Ice*, examines the nature and fate of a youth in a materialistic culture. Having accepted an invitation to a party, a young couple quickly find themselves lost and removed from the safety of their home and isolated in the countryside. After meeting with a mysterious and frightful man they are forced to confront the primal instincts that they have long since forgotten. It aims to be a visceral short horror film that is both surreal and disturbing.

The project will be filmed around

Colchester and the cast and crew will be made up of current Essex students and trained professionals. Luke and Matthew have already raised a quarter of the £1,000 budget but are still seeking financial support. Luke explained: 'The money is needed for principal photography, equipment hire, make-up and special effects. We are hoping that local companies and individuals will be keen to invest in such an exciting local arts project.' Once completed it is hoped the film will be screened at the University.

If anyone would like to contribute to the project, either financially or practically, please get in touch with Luke or Matthew on 07967 079104 or 07814 973783. ■



Matthew Carter and Luke Taylor

Mike Leigh wins Golden Lion

Essex honorary graduate and famed British filmmaker Mike Leigh has scooped the top prize at the Venice Film Festival for his film *Vera Drake*.

The nine-person jury, which included fellow Essex honorary graduate Dame Helen Mirren, awarded the film the Golden Lion award for Best Film. ■

Graduate becomes face of BUSA

Essex graduate Faye Barrow has become the face of the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA), with her picture appearing on their posters and website.

Faye graduated from the University in July 2003 with a BSc in Business Management. She was a member of the Essex hockey team.

BUSA provides a wide ranging sporting programme to member institutions all over Great Britain and Northern Ireland. ■

Rwandan business mission

Rwanda captured the world's attention in 1994 when more than half a million of its population were murdered by the government.

Now, ten years on, the country is rebuilding itself and Simon Musgrave, from the Department of Health and Human Sciences, has led representatives of the Colchester Transformational Business Group to Rwanda to find out how they could provide a 'hand-up' to new and established businesses.

The aim of the visit was to identify ways of supporting

transformational business and enterprise, and explore opportunities to use business skills to make a real, lasting difference.

Simon, who has made three previous visits to Rwanda, explained more about the trip: 'During the week we visited local businesses, including a cyber café, health clinic and handicraft business. We also visited charities, including one set up by Rwandans. Many project visits were moving, including a visit to a settlement of child led families at Guhanga. The site contained a church where a scarcely believable 15,000 had been massacred.'

The week-long visit ended with a business seminar attended by 250 people.

Since the visit, the group have developed plans for follow-up activities, including a project to establish a business incubation centre.

Scheme provides steady path

Essex has been awarded three Academic Fellowships under a new scheme to provide researchers with an attractive and stable path into academia.

Following a recommendation in the 2002 report 'SET for Success' an Academic Fellowship scheme was developed to address issues surrounding contract research staff. This was supported in the

government's 2002 strategy for science, engineering and technology and funding was provided to create 1,000 new Academic Fellowships, each lasting five years. The scheme is administered by Research Councils UK.

Essex has successfully been awarded two Academic Fellowships to start this year, in the Departments of Electronic Systems Engineering and

people



A workshop for young people hoping to set up a small-scale sewing business

Simon said: 'It was remarkable how we were able to engage with the impressive local business community and we cannot help glimpsing the possibilities of having real transformational businesses leading Rwanda to a position of dignity and strength.' ■

Sociology, and a third in Biological Sciences next year. Each Fellowship is worth £125,000 over five years. During that period, Fellows will carry out a significant body of research, showing considerable potential and undertake teaching, project management and outreach to schools to help develop skills appropriate to an academic position. At the end of the Fellowship, and satisfactory completion of a probationary period, they will become permanent members of staff. ■

Essex expert curates Dali centenary exhibition

Professor Dawn Ades, from the Department of Art History and Theory, has seen four years hard work pay off with the opening of a major Salvador Dali exhibition in Venice.

Dali, at the Palazzo Grassi, opened its doors to the public on 12 September to commemorate the centenary of Dali's birth.

The exhibition, which runs until 16 January 2005, is a retrospective look at the Spaniard's work. The exhibition celebrates his work as a painter, but

also as a writer, film-maker, poet, designer, object-maker, and sculptor.

Professor Ades, who has spent four years working on the exhibition, explains: 'It hasn't been easy, museums are understandably reluctant to let go of their most popular paintings. But we have succeeded in bringing together a magnificent exhibition with works coming from all over the world.'

'The project would have been quite impossible without the support of the two greatest

collections of Dali in the world: the Gala-Dali Theatre-Museum in Figueres, Spain, and the Salvador Dali Museum in St Petersburg, Florida. Many of the paintings have never been seen outside Spain before, and some haven't been exhibited since their first public appearance in the 1920s.'

More than 150 canvases are exhibited in the Venice show. For further details see www.palazzograssi.it/eng/index.html. ■



El Hijo del Santo (left) shakes hands with Blue Panther after the match at the Students' Union

Photographed by Sebastian Stephens

El Hijo triumphs over Blue Panther

Mexican wrestlers El Hijo del Santo and Blue Panther entertained a crowd of 400 in a heated contest at the Students' Union in October.

The match, programmed as part of the *Arena Mexico* Gallery exhibition, drew a large contingent of Mexican students as well as staff and members of the public. After almost 40 brave minutes Blue Panther bowed to the weight of his

famed rival.

It was the second time in a week that El Hijo had proved his superiority over Blue Panther. An earlier match at Colchester Arts Centre attracted a similar sized crowd and ended in the same result.

Arena Mexico, which features prints inspired by the culture of Mexican wrestling, will be at the University Gallery until 10 November. ■

Packed arts schedule

The Lakeside Theatre and University Gallery are offering arts enthusiasts a packed schedule in the run up to Christmas.

The Gallery's forthcoming exhibition by Birmingham-based artist Ruth Claxton looks set to get audiences thinking. *I thought I was the audience and then I looked at you* features excessively painted tables and mutilated domestic ornaments.

Performances at the Lakeside Theatre will be equally thought-provoking with a presentation of one of the greatest love stories ever told along with a one-woman comedy about women.

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* opens on 17 November with a cast

of just three. The Shifting Sands company will tackle the pitfalls of Shakespearean English, scale the dizzy heights of adolescent passion and plummet to the depths of a lover's despair.

The tragic love story will be followed on 1 December by *Honor Blackman's Wayward Women* in which the famed British actress recounts stories of some of the world's most influential women. The actress is best known for her role as a Bond girl in *Goldfinger* which, like the University, is 40 years old this year.

For further details about these, and other arts events, see www.essex.ac.uk/Arts or contact the Arts Office on 01206 873261. ■

Literary debut for plays

Three plays, which premiered at the Lakeside Theatre, have been published by Britain's main publisher of drama, Oberon Books.

The author of the collection, *Three War Plays*, is Roger Howard who recently retired from teaching in the Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies to become a Visiting Fellow. He wrote the plays for Theatre Underground, a company he set up at the University in 1979 to produce new work related to the department's MA in Drama.

Included in the volume is his most often produced play, *A Break in Berlin*, set in the last few days of the Second World War. The other two plays are *White Sea*, a play with songs about the digging of the White Sea Canal in the Soviet Union in the 1930s, and *Partisans*, a satire on Britain in the 1960s during the Cold War. ■

Call for actors

A postgraduate student is calling for actors and crew for a production of the Joe Orton comedy, *What the Butler Saw*.

Samantha Read, an MA in Theatre Studies student, will be directing the play which will be performed at the Lakeside Theatre in March 2005. Anyone interested in taking part should attend one of the auditions on 17 November at 5pm and 20 November at 2pm in the MA room below Barclays Bank. For more information about the play contact Samantha, e-mail snapt@essex.ac.uk. ■

November

Monday 8

Careers Advisory Service

Overview of legal profession. 5pm.
Book online at
www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Tuesday 9

Tuesday Taster

Dr Janice Pittis (Research and Business Development Office): 'Knowledge transfer.' Room 4N.6.1. 1-2pm. To book a place telephone ext 2458 or e-mail staffdev@essex.ac.uk. **U**

Careers Advisory Service

International students. 2.30-5pm
Government economic service. 5pm.
Book online at
www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Department of Psychology Seminar

Professor Alan Wing (University of Birmingham): 'One or two sensational things about touch.' Room 4.722, Square 1 Building. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Government Seminar

Professor Anthony King and Professor David McKay (University of Essex): 'Why Bush/Kerry won.' Room 4N.6.1. 5.15pm. **U**

International Film Club

Respiro (2002) by Emanuele Crialese. Italian with English subtitles. Admission free. LTB6. 7.15pm. For further details e-mail danic@essex.ac.uk. **P**

Wednesday 10

Centre for Theoretical Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr Mark Devenney (University of Brighton): 'Finitude, death and the politics of life itself.' Room 5B.202. 5pm. **P**

Department of Electronic Systems Engineering Postgraduate Seminar

Professor George Pavlou (University of Surrey): 'Issues on network management.' Room 1NW.4.1. 2-3pm. **P**

Multi-Faith Chaplaincy

Christianity Explained.
First in a series of six talks about the Christian faith. Venue tba. 4pm. **U**

Performing arts on campus

The Theatre Arts Society present *Das Rheingold* based on the libretto by Richard Wagner, directed by Nat Miller. Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm. Tickets £6 (£4). Wednesday £3 available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261, e-mail arts@essex.ac.uk. **P**

Thursday 11

Performing arts on campus

Lunchtime concert by the Aurora Duo. University of Essex students free. Tickets £2.50 available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261, e-mail arts@essex.ac.uk. Lakeside Theatre. 1pm. **P**

Department of Biological Sciences Seminar

Professor Ken Timmis (University of Essex): 'Functional genomics open a chink in the complexity armour of cellular networks to give new insights into determinants of growth/survival (biogeography) windows of organisms: Cold tolerance and *E.coli*.' Hosted by Dr Terry McGenity. 1-2pm. LTB9. **P**

Department of Mathematical Sciences Seminar

Dr David Branson (University of Essex): 'Introduction to CALMAT.' Room 5A.324. 2pm. **P**

Department of Language and Linguistics Seminar

Richard Breheny (University of Cambridge): 'Existential closure as pragmatic presupposition.' LTB3. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Art History and Theory Postgraduate/Staff Research Seminar

Dr Anna Malik (Slade School of Art): 'The vicissitudes of the metonymic: Alia Syed's 'Fatima's letter' and the contentious spaces of hybridity.' Room 5A.108. 4pm. **U**

Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies

Dr Robert Mills (King's College London): 'Sexuality, sovereignty and bare life: Agamben with Villon.' Room 5A.120. 4.30pm. **P**

Department of Economics Seminar

Raquel Fernandez (London School of Economics): title tba. Room 5B.307. 5pm. **U**

Centre for Computational Finance and Economic Agents Seminar

Dr Roel Oomen (Warwick Business School): 'Properties of realized variance for a pure jump process: Calendar time sampling versus business time sampling. Room 5N.7.21. 5-6.30pm. **U**

Department of Sociology Seminar

Professor Peter Townsend (University of Essex): 'The fortunes of Sociology at Essex 1963-82 and the prospects today?' Room 6.345. 5pm. **P**

Department of Philosophy Seminar

Jimmy Lenman (University of Sheffield): 'Neo-Aristotelian naturalism in metaethics.' Room 5B.126. 5-7pm. **P**

Careers Advisory Service

Psychology panel. 5pm. Book online at www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Friday 12

Careers Advisory Service

Application and CV briefing. 1-2pm. Book online at www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Department of Electronic Systems Engineering Seminar

Professor Mike Parker (Fujitsu Labs of Europe Ltd): 'Photonic crystals, bandgaps and defects: a light guide to their properties and uses.' Room 1NW.4.1. 2-3pm. **P**

Student Support Awareness Day

Student Emotional Health Day. Information about mental health issues will be distributed in the squares. **U**

what's on

Monday 15

Careers Advisory Service

Interviews briefing. 1-2pm. Book online at www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Institute for Social and Economic Research Seminar

Dr Rene Boheim (University of Linz): title tba. Board Room 5.609, Rab Butler Building. 4pm. **P**

Tuesday 16

Tuesday Taster

Dr Tony Rich (University of Essex) and Kath Wood (Firstsite): 'Visual arts facility.' 1-2pm. Venue tba. To book a place telephone ext 2458 or e-mail staffdev@essex.ac.uk. **U**

Department of Psychology Seminar

Professor Andy Smith (Royal Holloway, University of London): 'fMRI studies of visual reference frames.' Room 4.722, Square 1 Building. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Economics Seminar

Gilat Levy (London School of Economics): title tba. Room 5B.307. 5pm. **U**

Department of Government Seminar

Dr Aletta Norval (University of Essex): 'Seeing aspects: Rethinking the formation of democratic subjectivity.' Room 6.02. 5.15pm. **U**

Careers Advisory Service

Careers in journalism and radio. 5-7pm. Book online at www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

International Film Club

Buffet Froid (1979) by Bertrand Blier. French with English subtitles. Admission free. LTB6. 7.15pm. For further details e-mail danic@essex.ac.uk. **P**

Wednesday 17

Careers Advisory Service

Aptitude tests workshop. 2.30-4.30pm. Book online at www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Department of Electronic Systems Engineering Postgraduate seminar

Dr Manooch Azmoodeh (BT Exact): 'Telecommunication operational support systems: A model driven integration environment.' Room 1NW.4.1. 2-3pm. **P**

Centre for Theoretical Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Kate Soper (London Metropolitan University): 'The enchantments and disenchantments of nature: Implications for consumption in a globalised world.' Room 5B.202. 5pm. **P**

Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies Seminar

Professor Renos Papadopoulos (University of Essex): 'The concept of refugee care.' Room 4N.6.1. 5-6.30pm. **P**

Performing arts on campus

Shifting Sands present *Romeo and Juliet*. Tickets £7.50 (£5.50) available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261, e-mail arts@essex.ac.uk. Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm. **P**

Thursday 18

Department of Biological Sciences Seminar

Professor Noel Ellis (John Innes Centre): 'The evolution of genome size and diversity in legumes.' Hosted by Professor Phil Mullineaux. 1-2pm. LTB9. **P**

Department of Mathematical Sciences Seminar

Dr Ralph Bailey (University of Birmingham): Title tba. Room 6.314. 2pm. **P**

Department of Art History and Theory and the Centre for Theoretical Studies Lecture

Professor John Welchman (University of California, San Diego): 'Faces and powers.' Room 5A.108. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Language and Linguistics Seminar

José Antonio Flores Farfán (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social): 'On Nahuatl sociolinguistics: Purism, language contact and ideologies.' LTB3. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies

Professor Gabriel Josipovici (University of Sussex): 'Goldberg: Variations.' Room 5A.120. 4.30pm. **P**

Centre for Computational Finance and Economic Agents Seminar

Dr Sam Howison (University of Oxford): 'Continuity corrections for discretely sampled barrier and Bermudan options.' Room 6.02. 5-6.30pm. **U**

Department of Language and Linguistics 3rd Annual Lecture on Language and Human Rights at Essex

José Antonio Flores Farfán (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social): 'Performing for the future: The power of art and the media in language and cultural revitalization.' Room 4N.2.3. 1-3pm. **P**

Department of Philosophy Seminar

Arto Laitinen (University of Jyväskylä): 'Struggle for recognition.' Room 5B.126. 5-7pm. **P**

Department of Economics Seminar

Dean Karlan (University of Princeton): 'Observing unobservables: Identifying information asymmetries with consumer credit field experiment.' Room 5B.307. 5pm. **U**

Careers Advisory Service

Law panel. 6-8pm. Book online at www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Department of Sociology seminar

Professor Sylvia Walby (University of Leeds): 'The risk of domestic violence: Interpreting the patterns and perceptions found in the British Crime Survey and their implications for social theory.' Room 6.345. 5pm. **P**

Performing arts on campus

Lunchtime concert by Francis Angell and Jan Schmolck. University of Essex students free. Tickets £2.50 available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261, e-mail arts@essex.ac.uk. Lakeside Theatre. 1pm. **P**

Friday 19**Careers Advisory Service**

Interviews briefing. 1-2pm. Book online at www2.essex.ac.uk/careers. **U**

Department of Electronic Systems Engineering Seminar

Professor Nick Doran (former CTO Marconi Solstis): 'Ultra-long capacity optical systems: From university to commercial operation.' Room 1NW.4.1. 2-3pm. **P**

Department of Computer Science Seminar

Dr Dave Cliff (HP Europe): 'Adaptive trader agents and automated design of auction markets.' Room 4B.531. 3pm. **P**

Visual arts on campus (until 18 December)

Ruth Claxton exhibition: 'I thought I was the audience and then I looked at you.' University Gallery. Monday to Friday 11am - 5pm, Saturday 1- 4.30pm. Admission free. **P**

Tuesday 23**International Film Club**

Balseros (2002) by Bosh/Josep Maria Domenech. Cuban with English subtitles. Admission free. LTB6. 7.15pm. For further details e-mail danic@essex.ac.uk. **P**

Department of Psychology Seminar

Dr Tom Dickins (University of East London): 'Mother Nature's tolerant ways: Why non-genetic inheritance has nothing to do with evolution.' Room 4.722. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Economics Seminar

Chris Tyson (University of Oxford): title tba. Room 5B.307. 5pm. **U**

Department of Government Seminar

Harold Wilensky (University of California, Berkeley): 'Political economy, public policy and performance: comparing 19 rich democracies.' Room 4N.6.1. 5.15pm. **U**

Thursday 25**Department of Biological Sciences Seminar**

Dr A Matthews (De Montfort University): 'The science and technology of underwear.' Hosted by Dr Alan Osborne. 1-2pm. LTB9. **P**

Department of Mathematical Sciences (CompComb) Seminar

Dr Alexei Vernitski (University of Essex): 'A new way of using NP-hard problems in encryption.' Room 6.314. 2pm. **P**

Department of Language and Linguistics Seminar

Christian Dobel (University of Münster): 'Action, meaning, and coherence in complex events.' LTB3. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies

Professor Marina Warner (University of Essex): 'Our zombies, our selves.' Room 5A.120. 4.30pm. **P**

Department of Philosophy Seminar

Hans-Johann Glock (University of Reading): 'The normativity of

meaning made easy.' Room 5B.126. 5-7pm. **P**

Department of Sociology Seminar

Dr Janet Fink (Open University): 'Every picture tells a story? Institutional care the shifting construction of childhood.' Room 6.345. 5pm. **P**

Performing arts on campus

Lunchtime concert by Tom Hannah's Trilogi. University of Essex students free. Tickets £2.50 available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261, e-mail arts@essex.ac.uk. Lakeside Theatre. 1pm. **P**

Department of Art History and Theory Postgraduate/Staff Research Seminar

Dr Laura Jacobus (Birbeck, University of London): 'Giotto's installation art.' Room 5A.108. 4pm. **P**

Friday 26**Department of Computer Science Seminar**

Dr Graham Kendall (University of Nottingham): title tba. Room 4B.531. 2pm. **P**

Monday 29**Institute for Social and Economic Research Seminar**

Pedro Martins (Queen Mary, University of London): 'Firm-level social returns to education.' Board Room 5.609, Rab Butler Building. 4pm. **P**

Tuesday 30**Department of Psychology Seminar**

Professor Peter Bryant (Oxford Brookes University): 'How important are morphemes in reading and spelling?' Room 4.722, Square 1 Building. 4-6pm. **P**

Department of Government Seminar

Professor David Farrell (University of Manchester): 'The representative role of MEPs.' Room 6.02. 5.15pm. **U**

International Film Club

Estorvo (2000) by Rui Guerra. Brazilian Portuguese and Cuban Spanish with English subtitles. Admission free. LTB6. 7.15pm. For further details e-mail danic@essex.ac.uk. **P**

independence numbers of Paley graphs.' Room 6.314. 2pm. **P**

Department of Language and Linguistics Seminar

Ian Marshall (University of East Anglia): title tba. LTB3. 4-6pm. **P**

December

Wednesday 1

Performing arts on campus

Professional production. *Honor Blackman's Wayward Women*. A one-woman show bringing to life women from history including Eleanor Roosevelt and Elizabeth I. Tickets £9.50 (£7.50) available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261, e-mail arts@essx.ac.uk. Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm. **P**

Department of Economics Inaugural Lipsey Lecture

Professor Debraj Ray (New York University): 'Game-theoretic perspectives in group formation.' Room 4.722. **P**

Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies

Professor Dr Sarah Colvin (University of Edinburgh): 'Where is a revolutionary women's space? The case of Ulrike Meinhof.' Room 5A.120. 4.30pm. **P**

Department of Electronic Systems Engineering Postgraduate Seminar

Dr Mike Froggatt (Sony Computer Entertainment, Europe): 'PlayStation to go: The PlayStation portable.' Room 1NW. 4.1. 2-3pm. **P**

Department of Sociology Seminar

Professor Barbara Hudson (University of Central Lancashire): title tba. Room 6.345. 5pm. **P**

Friday 3

Department of Electronic Systems Engineering

Dr Nigel Newton (University of Essex): title tba. Room 1NW.4.1. 2-3pm. **P**

Department of Computer Science Seminar

Dr David Barnes (University of Wales): 'Aerobots (flying robots) for future planetary exploration.' Room 4B.531. 3pm. **P**

Thursday 2

Performing arts on campus

Lunchtime concert by Alexander Porter (piano). University of Essex students free. Tickets £2.50 available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261, e-mail arts@essex.ac.uk. Lakeside Theatre. 1pm. **P**

Department of Biological Sciences Seminar

Dr Carol MacKintosh (University of Dundee): '14-3-3 proteins connect signalling pathways to diverse cellular processes.' Hosted by Dr Christine Raines. 1-2pm. LTB9. **P**

Department of Economics Inaugural Lipsey Lecture

Professor Debraj Ray (New York University): 'Game-theoretic perspectives in group formation.' Room 6.02. **P**

Department of Mathematical Sciences CompComp Seminar

Eleni Maistrelli (University of Essex): 'An observation on the

Olympic progress

Earlier this year the Centre for Sports and Exercise Science, the Conference Office and the Sports Centre published a document indicating how the University could support the London 2012 Olympic bid. This document was subsequently sent to the London 2012 team and Sport England. As a direct result of this the Director of Sport, David Williams, was invited to join an Eastern Region Working group consisting of a variety of different agencies supporting the bid in the east.

The London 2012 team was invited for a two day visit to the eastern region so that various sites could be showcased. In the presence of Olympic athletes Steve Backley, Karen Pickering, and Isabel Newstead and the 2012 team David outlined what HE/FE institutions in the east can offer in relation to sports facilities, accommodation, expertise, conference and, volunteer opportunities.

Essex is in a prime position to offer its facilities as a venue for the National Olympic Committee to utilise the campus as a training venue in preparation for the games. ■

P= open to the public

U= University community only

Tickets for theatre productions are available from the Arts Office, telephone 01206 873261.

For events and services held at the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Centre visit www.essex.ac.uk/wyvern/events.htm#chaplaincy.

You can receive a daily electronic version of the Diary by e-mailing majordomo@essex.ac.uk with the text 'subscribe daily'.

An electronic version of this diary, updated daily, is available on www.essex.ac.uk/wyvern/events.htm.

New car parking scheme in force

The beginning of the new academic year saw the implementation of new car parking regulations at the University.

Under the new scheme the annual registration fee has been increased to £17.50 for students and 0.15 per cent of salary for members of staff. From the start of the spring term a pay and display charge is also planned requiring all registered vehicles to pay an additional 10p per hour between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm. From the summer term it is hoped that a CCTV number plate recognition system will be introduced to enable the appropriate daily pay-and-display charge to be deducted directly from staff salaries only.

However, following the announcement of the proposals, the University and the campus Trade Unions have been in discussions over how they will affect members of staff. As a result it has been agreed that alternative payment options to the salary deduction for registration will be introduced for the start of the next academic year. The University and the Unions will continue to discuss proposals for the pay-and-display scheme, and look at ways to regulate, and reduce demand for, car parking on campus. ■

Your chance to try Wing Chun

When Buddhist nun Ng Mui taught a young girl to defend herself using Kung Fu 300 years ago in southern China, it probably never crossed her mind that the same art would be taught thousands of miles away at Essex.

The University of Essex Wing Chun Kung Fu Club holds sessions

twice a week at the Sports Centre, taught by Master Frank Roach of the European Traditional Wing Chun Kung Fu Association. Often described as a no nonsense martial art, it is the only martial arts system in the world to have been created by a woman.

If you would like to try Wing Chun, the Club holds two sessions a week in the activity hall at the Sports Centre on Sundays from 2-4pm, and Tuesdays from 8-10pm. For more details contact Club Vice-President Verity Hunt-Sheppard, e-mail vhunts@essex.ac.uk. ■

Essex Human Rights Review

The Essex Human Rights Review is looking for new members to join its team. In particular it needs people who have editing experience, to work as editors, copy editors and proof readers. The Review also needs fundraisers to organise small events such as film showings. Everyone is welcome, as there is always something to do! If you would like to find out more please e-mail ehrr@essex.ac.uk. ■

University ski trip

Each year the Sports Centre organises a ski trip. This year's trip is to Schladming in Austria. Schladming is a classic, medieval Austrian village with varied après ski and excellent non-ski activities. Four major areas connect to make Schladming one of the biggest linked circuits in Austria with enough variety and scope to satisfy every ability. The Dachstein glacier is also included on the lift pass and is only 45 minutes away. The main area of skiing closest to the hotel offers heavily wooded, north facing slopes groomed to perfection. Schladming itself is a

World Cup resort and you can be timed on the world cup run. There is also a 7.5km toboggan run.

Price

£524.00 - Based on 4 in a room

£544.00 - Based on 3 in a room

£577.00 - Based on 2 in a room

Deadline for £100 deposit – Friday 12 November. Discounts are available for people with their own insurance (£15), ski equipment (£32).

Included in the price:

7 nights half board 3* hotel accommodation

Six day lift pass and six days skiing

Hire of skis, boots and poles

6 days guiding

Beginners lessons 3 x 4 hours lessons

Flights and transfers

Ski insurance

Date of trip

Depart: from Colchester, Saturday 8 January 2005.

Return: to Colchester, Saturday evening, 15 January 2005.

Flight times to be confirmed

Travel Details

A coach will transfer to/from the University to Gatwick Airport. The flight is to Salzburg and the transfer time to the hotel is 1.5 hours.

Accommodation

Hotel Schladmingerhof is a pleasant, quiet, newly refurbished 3-star chalet hotel with sauna, games room, 'stuberl' and bar. The bedrooms are spacious, usually 3-4 bedded with en suite facilities and cable TV. Many rooms have a balcony with views over Schladming and the slopes. The hotel is a short (3-4minute) bus ride from the slopes and a 20 minute walk from the centre of the village. More information can be found at www.essex.ac.uk/sport. ■

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Transforming Southend

The University is pressing ahead with plans to create a vibrant educational and cultural quarter in the heart of Southend.

Demolition of the town's derelict Odeon cinema got underway in September to make way for the new University of Essex Southend campus.

The new campus will be architecturally and physically linked to South East Essex College's £52 million new state-of-the-art building, which opened for the start of this academic year.

Building on the University's unique partnership with the College, the new campus will provide educational opportunities at Foundation degree, Honours degree and postgraduate level, as well as continuous professional development and business incubation facilities.

Wyvern is produced by Jenny Grinter, Sarah Pratt, Kate Cleveland and Jan Briggs of the Public Relations Office

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Design / Production:
University of Essex Printing Services

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Issue no. 2

Front cover: Photographed by Sebastian Stephens

Read *Wyvern* on-line at
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Advertising rates are available from Jan Briggs, telephone 01206 873270

The next edition of *Wyvern* is due out on **Monday 6 December** The deadline for receipt of all material is **Monday 15 November**.



University of Essex

Due to open in 2006, the campus will house Schools of Health, Education, Business Enterprise, and Performing Arts and Creative Industries.

Linda Jones, the University's Development Director at Southend, said: 'Our vision is to put Southend on the map as a new and vibrant university town.'

'The Odeon was very much a part of Southend's cultural and social fabric: the new Southend Campus will be at the heart of the local community, providing innovative, relevant services to improve the social and economic well-being of the people of Southend.'

Negotiations are also nearing completion to convert an empty seven-storey office block adjoining the new campus into student accommodation.

The former Prudential building in Elmer Approach would be transformed to house 270 students.

The University's Council has also given the go-ahead for negotiations over the renovation of Southend's landmark Palace Hotel with a view to establishing a top-class conference and professional development centre.

If the ambitious plans for the Palace Hotel come to fruition, the development would include:

- Conference facilities, including two large auditoria accommodating 150 and 250 people
- Various-sized meeting and training rooms



Artist's impression of the transformed Palace Hotel

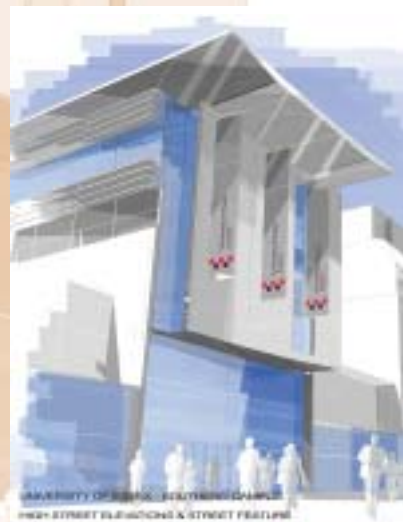


The University's Development Director in Southend, Linda Jones, helps with the demolition of the derelict Odeon cinema. The Prudential building can be seen in the background

- Hotel with approximately 100 bedrooms
- Rooftop restaurant and bar with views over the estuary
- Art gallery

Linda Jones explained: 'The Palace is more than just a hotel: its location at the bottom of the High Street and at the top of the pier makes it a focal point for the people of Southend.'

'With the redevelopment of the Pier Entrance, Pier Hill and the High Street, the restoration of the Palace will complete the picture and give the people of Southend something they can be proud of.' ■



Artist's impression of the new Southend campus