The R Word...
Why your University is a powerful tool in a recession

From fresher to fashionista
The Faculty for Creative and Cultural Industries showcases its 2009 graduate talent

Hidden Spaces
Celebrating campus life beyond the prospectus

Announcing the coming season’s Arts and Galleries programme

Strictly Hormonal
Sex, psychology and the way we dance
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For everyone concerned, there is always something very moving about the end of the final academic year.

While friends, parents and staff bask in the poignancy of the end of this incredible year – awash with a sense of both pride and sadness – the student, with all their finals and coursework over, looks towards graduation and a huge sense of achievement. And having been lucky enough to attend the end of year showcases for fashion, art and design, never has all of the above been so visually apparent. Notably professional work, by notably skilled individuals (with notably proud friends and family in tow). Very exciting careers beckon all of our Creative and Cultural Industries graduates – and congratulations to all of those who won awards for their work this year (including our BA (Hons) Fashionista, Arisa Fukumoto, who designed the stunning look featured on our front cover). You can read about the fantastic 2009 shows on page 8...

Also in this issue, we have some great new regular features from UHArts and Galleries, UH Press, and the University’s Business Services – the latter outlining how they can help support small and fledgling businesses in these testing times.

So whether you have just finished your finals, or if that feeling is but a distant memory these days – I hope you enjoy the summer. A time when we of course in the Alumni Association get ready to welcome around 5,000 new friends into our community – so for us, it’s a whole new beginning.

Alison Coles Head of Development and Alumni
Notable results in University League Tables

We are proud to report that the University has done extremely well in the recent round of national (and international) league tables. The Times Good University Guide ranked Hertfordshire 66th out of 114 institutions, while the Complete University Guide placed us in the top 50: 45th out of 113 institutions. In the Complete Guide, the University has risen from 94th in 2008, to 54th in 2009, and 45th in 2010 - now holding the position as the highest ranked of Universities created since 1992 (and ranked ahead of a number of pre 1992 universities). The University has also been ranked in the top 500 universities in the world by the Shanghai Jiao Tong ‘Academic Ranking of World Universities’ 2008. This is a well-respected league table used primarily by the research intensive universities. In this table, the only post 1992 University to appear. A stunning result which is already having a very positive impact on the world stage.

Celebrating continuing success at the Annual Scholarships Evening 2009

Thursday 30 April this year saw the 4th Annual Scholarships evening take place at the Art and Design Gallery on College Lane, celebrating another fantastic year for the University’s Externally Funded Scholarship Programme. An impressive showcase of projects from around the University was on display, including a hovercraft, KASPAR the fully cognitive child-robot, and a recreation of Galileo’s astronomy telescope. Scholars met with their sponsors, giving them a chance to thank them personally. There was also a VIP champagne reception in the ceramics studio, where guests included University of Hertfordshire alumni, while the Complete University Guide ranked the University as the highest ranked of Universities created since 1992 (and ranked ahead of a number of pre 1992 universities). The University has also been ranked in the top 500 universities in the world by the Shanghai Jiao Tong ‘Academic Ranking of World Universities’ 2008. This is a well-respected league table used primarily by the research intensive universities. In this table, the only post 1992 University to appear. A stunning result which is already having a very positive impact on the world stage.

Graduate Scholarships

The University’s Graduate Scholarship offers up to 20% off the normal tuition fee for those students that have graduated from a University of Hertfordshire undergraduate programme. It is available for Home/ EU or international students who are taking a full-time or part-time postgraduate or research degree programme in 2009/2010. For more details of the University’s Graduate Scholarship, how to apply for a postgraduate programme, or for a copy of the postgraduate prospectus, visit the Student Centre at College Lane or call them on 01707 284800.

HEIST AWARDS

Earlier in the year we were thrilled to report that your magazine had been shortlisted for ‘Alumni Publication of the Year’ at this year’s Heist Education Marketing Awards. 7 May saw the Development and Alumni team attend the black tie Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, accompanied by the President of the University of Hertfordshire Alumni Association, Kate Bellingham. Futures was Nominated alongside the University of Oxford, King’s College London, Birkbeck University of London, and City University London/Hudson Fuggle, and congratulations went to King’s College London. We are extremely proud to have been shortlisted as one of the top 5 alumni publications in the sector.

School of Life Sciences leading on drug safety in Europe

Dr Sherael Webley and Dr Chris Benham, Senior Lecturers from the School of Life Sciences have been successful as part of a €3.7 million bid to develop a Europe-wide platform of training in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology. The University of Hertfordshire is the only UK University within a consortium of eleven European partners. Professor Robert Slater, Head of the School of Life Sciences, originally chaired the development of the MSc in Pharmacovigilance at the University, the only course of its type in the world. Professor Slater said ‘The European Community is currently funding an Innovative Medicines Initiative to maintain Europe’s strength in the pharmaceutical industry. Part of the development is to improve medicine safety evaluation. The award confirms our leading position in delivering Pharmacovigilance training to the pharmaceutical industry.’ For more information email Professor Robert Slater, r.j.slater@herts.ac.uk.
Whenever I find myself visiting the Art and Design building on College Lane, it is always a double-edged sword. Walking through any of the hangar-like workspaces—whether past the areas for block or screen printing, illustration, ceramics, model design and special effects etc.—it’s as big a visual feast as it is a pang of regret for not following up that art A Level. And it’s not just the works in progress that are inspiring... the whole space has an ambience that draws you in to its limitless potential for the fertile mind. Amongst the regular inhabitants there’s always a relaxed camaraderie of mutual respect, and creativity liberally coats every surface from floor to ceiling.

Fitting then, that - being the glutton for punishment that I am - the most painful yet awe-inspiring visits happen at the end of each final semester; when the accomplished works of three passionate years of perfectly honed talent are showcased to the world. And perhaps more importantly—to their coveted industries. This premiersing of the brightest young things to emerge from the heavy glass doors of the Art and Design Gallery is traditionally three-fold. Firstly, a professional invite-only Fashion Show at an exclusive venue in London - followed a few days later by the day-long Digital Animation Showcase (in a packed Weston Auditorium). This then climaxes that same evening with the private viewing of the end of year Degree Show - which goes on to be open to the public for a limited period afterwards.

Model Students
This year, on 26 May the Graduate Fashion Show 2009 – with its stylishly minimalistic white embossed invites – hailed from the opulent environs of Il Bottaccio, in Grosvenor Place, London. The Grand Gallery Ballroom provided the backdrop for two shows; where professional models sternly strutted the collections of 37 BA (Hons) Fashion grads down the catwalk (to a full house of friends, family, staff, students and – all importantly – members of the fashion industry). A heady mix of grandeur and intimacy, it was the largest show to date, with the number of students enrolling on the course growing every year. And for this 2009 show the bar was truly raised in terms of both the quality of the work and its presentation. And to put on such an impressive showcase at one of the finest venues in the capital, the students themselves raised a not insignificant total of over £10,000 towards the necessary funds. But their collections were worth every penny. The ideas were innovative, the overall execution impressive, and not a single line would have looked out of place in London Fashion Week or Bryant Park. The ambitious looks were all about the creative, highly detailed tailoring, and the layering and combining of fabrics. And as
anyone who has ever witnessed supermodel Heidi Klum and her panel of industry experts critique the works of fledgling designers on Project Runway will know – it really is a highly skilled craft and a very competitive industry. As Heidi says; “one day you’re in, and the next... you’re out”.

But those who most definitely were in on the night were the winners of the sponsored awards – kindly donated by Karen Millen, Tesco, BMW and River Island. Gracing our front cover this issue is an outfit designed by Arisa Fukumoto – who received a £1000 prize for ‘Best Commercially Viable Collection’ (sponsored by Tesco). To see a range of works from the winners of the sponsored awards were ‘in’ on the night were the industry reps with an eye for talent. Watching carefully from the stalls are friends, families and peers, with a private view, the end of the evening – conceptualised as ‘Take-Off’ – was only open to the public until 8 June – so if you weren’t lucky enough to catch it, I would certainly recommend pencilling it in for next year.

The Show Must Go on
Premiering that same evening with a private view, the end of year Degree Show – sprawling throughout the labyrinthine Art and Design building – is an annual exhibition of artistic work from across the entire Faculty. Drawing upon the University’s aviation heritage, this year’s show was entitled ‘Take-Off’ – conceptualised by themed promotional literature, with the invitations taking the form of boarding passes (complete with arrival/departure times etc.). A nice touch – and fittingly creative prelude to the exhibition that followed. Encompassing the results of four years of work on the Gupta’s Digital Animation Showcase, Image A range of Level 3 work, by (Clockwise from bottom left) Jemima Dee, Sam Miller, Christa Gillbanks, Robert Hewlett, Gill Banks, and Charlotte Barraquias, Miller, Christa

But inspiring though it was, the ‘Take-Off Degree Show 2009’ was only open to the public until 8 June – so if you weren’t lucky enough to catch it, I would certainly recommend pencilling it in for next year. If you would like to see images from this year’s exhibition however, just go to www.uhcreatives.co.uk/summer-night.09

Highly Animated
With equal spades of vision, passion, skill, and pride, a very different art form presented itself on 2 June however – as the Weston Auditorium played host to this year’s Digital Animation Showcase. With digital animation being an integral part of film, TV, computer games, advertisements, music videos – and pretty much every form of visual media known to man – the futures of these highly skilled artisans are likely to be as exciting as their computer generated creations themselves. Before they even graduate, many students will have worked on film or TV projects (usually as part of a team) already – and by this point, despite the painstakingly hard work and long days involved, wild horses wouldn’t keep them away from the industry. Highlights this year were the noticeable increase in 2D (as opposed to the more popular 3D) films, on show, as well as more from the growing Games Art course. For more (and to view the excellent trailer/showreel...), check out www.uhanaanimation.co.uk/2009/2009-animation-expose

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Fancy getting your hands dirty?
Check out the extensive list of Art and Design/Film and Media degrees and short courses on offer – and maybe even exhibit at next Summer’s Degree Show yourself! Who knows where it might take you? www.herts.ac.uk/courses/subjects/art_and_design/shortCourses.cfm
Getting down to business

Staking our claim as one of the leading ‘business-facing’ Universities in the UK, Futures goes beyond the buzzwords, to let you know both what this means, and how you can be making the most of our expertise. Our new regular Business Services feature kicks off as the first part of two articles this issue, looking at how we can help you to make the most of our expertise. Our new regular Business Services feature kicks off as the first part of two articles this issue, looking at how we can help you to make the most of our expertise.

By Steve Corbett

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he Recession. The Credit Crunch. The Pinch. The Big Squeeze. Ever since our cleverest economists spotted it coming our way – hurtling through the fiscal void like a metaphorical meteorite on a collision course with our pecuniary foundations – the current downturn has been referred to as many things. But whatever you want to call it – and whether you’re somebody who either obsesses over the latest forecasts, or who is sick to the back teeth of hearing these near copyrightable media monikers – it’s something we’re all feeling the effects of. Particularly if you’re running (or thinking of running) your own business.

Indeed, who at the moment can’t empathise with Tom Cruise’s sole-business. Known as a ‘Knowledge Transfer Partnership’. The KTP programme utilises government funding to place a highly skilled graduate into a business. Known as a KTP Associate, they then carry out project-based work which gives the company access to the University’s expertise in a new field. A successful programme was recently entered into by Herbert Retail Ltd (a market leader in weighing and labelling solutions for major UK supermarkets), who worked with a graduate from the School of Aerospace, Automotive and Design Engineering to further develop the company’s operating systems. As a result of this partnership, Herbert Retail expect to make a saving of £350,000 p.a. at a time that couldn’t be more beneficial to them.

But Business Services are not just about investing in programmes on this sort of level. In April of this year for example, they drew in both University-wide expertise and external partners to showcase a successful evening event at the Weston Auditorium, pitched specifically for small and start-up companies. Entitled ‘Beat the Recession: Take Positive Action’, more than 200 attendees were inspired by the personal story of keynote speaker Sahar Hashemi – co-founder of Coffee Republic – before she joined a Q&A panel of 5 other business experts (including Roger Levin – Senior Partner at Clydesdale Bank, and alumnus Matt Saunders – MD of the Fat Cat Group and co-founder of the Midface Pub Company). With workshop sessions, stand-holders, and partners including Business Link and Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, incredible feedback from the event has secured the planning of a similar one taking place this October.

Look out for details in our e-futures newsletter in the coming months.

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1959. Four hundred miles, five students, one lawnmower... and a petrol-sodden haggis. This issue, Futures looks back at the anniversary of one of the most sleep-depriving, element-bracing, traffic-congesting, and derrière-numbing tests of engineering to have hailed from the Technical College era... The foolhardy ’Operation Matador’.

Through the ages, ever since the dawn of pedagogy, man has always done crazy things whilst at university. At the same time as the environment nurtures and moulds some of the great minds that will go on to lead and inspire mankind – it also gives them the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to cut-loose, throw caution to the wind, and emboldened with youthful optimism, try things that are just plain bonkers.

Like, say, travelling 400 miles non-stop on a lawnmower for a total of four days and three nights, perhaps?

Wednesday 6 May this year marked the 50 year anniversary of exactly such a feat - when five ‘Hatfield Tech’ students decided to ride a lawnmower on a continuous, 400 mile journey from Edinburgh to London. Being students of engineering – and former employees of the de Havilland Company – the project wasn’t as random as it may seem however. By pushing the machine to extremes; running it through day and night, wind and rain, town and country, the young engineers - John Wilson, Mike Smith, Hugh Tansley, Tom Hudson, and Mike Savage – wanted to test the overall reliability of a small petrol engine. But first, they had to find the right specimen.

After contacting various manufacturers, the mower they decided upon was a Ransomes ’Matador’ – supplied by the company (today known as Ransomes Jacobsen, who still produce a somewhat higher-spec ’Matador’ in their range), along with their backing and support. Advertised as ‘a powerful mower for hard work’, the Matador with its one-piece pressed steel frame, and air-cooled four-stroke engine, provided the ideal combination of power, strength and lightness – with only one minor modification needed to provide enough lubrication to go 400 miles without stopping.

And so, ’Operation Matador’ was set to go. Setting off from Edinburgh Castle – the rest of the team closely following in their Bedford Dormobile – the five students took shifts to sturdily trundle along at a congestion-friendly top speed of 3mph. Re-fuelling on the move, carrying a haggis in the grass-box, the journey took them down the A68, across the border, and down the A1 to London – travelling through most of the town centres (being before the age of the dual carriageway) en-route.

Having travelled through four days and three nights without a single hitch, 99 hours later the Matador arrived at Hyde Park, London, to present the Keeper of the Royal Parks (a Scotsman) with the now petrol-soaked haggis. Greeted by the press and television crews, the triumphant team mowed a ceremonial strip of Hyde Park grass.

And so, on 6 May this year, the Operation Matador crew – now all in their early 70s - were reunited at College Lane to celebrate 50 years since their epic and gruelling journey. Representatives from Ransomes Jacobsen attended, bringing with them a replica of the old 1959 Matador for the team to ride once again. After this, the five returning alumni presented the Vice-Chancellor with a symbolic memento (a haggis, naturally), before going onto Hyde Park to bestow a similar gift on the current Keeper of the Royal Parks.

This time around however, the team’s journey was undertaken in slightly more traditional transport – despite the fact that although somewhat uncomfortable, back in 1959 their trusty mower didn’t let them down once in the entire trip.

Unlike their Dormobile ‘support vehicle’ however – which for the record, broke down four times, 🚗.
The hidden campus

It occurred to me while I was picture sourcing for e-futures a couple of months back, that despite the huge extent of photos we have in our image library, only a fraction of the University is represented there. Don’t get me wrong – everyone loves a good, neon-tinged shot of de Havilland at night – but for many of you, it’s the used and battle-scarred buildings and work spaces that represent what you will always think of as your campus. Walking around some of the older buildings, you get a real sense of timelessness... many locations deep in the College Lane underbelly, structurally unchanged in the past 50 years or so; a tapestry of 20th Century architectures and period history that you will perhaps never have seen unless studying a particular subject. And so, to celebrate those humble and most utilitarian of spaces, here is a snapshot from deep inside the hidden parts of campus...
Returning home to Kenya after graduating two years ago, alumna Ekta Shah spent 12 months travelling all around her homeland and in doing so, experienced all manner of operators from luxury tours to rough and ready backpacking. And viewing the tourism industry through a new, learned pair of eyes – apart from conservation centres such as Daphne and Sheldrick Giraffe Centre – Ekta soon saw a recurring theme continuing throughout her travels. “I quickly learnt of the negative effects tourism is having on the surrounding environment.” She explains. “As a result, I realised I needed to make a change. That is when I started African Sojourn Ltd.”

African Sojourn Ltd is a tour operator with a heart and a wider purpose – specialising in personalised and eco-friendly tourism around Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa. “My goal is to incorporate aspects of tourism planning and development to ensure that this industry is sustainably developed without exploiting the resources which allow tourism to exist. I also want to promote and develop tours which help to conserve the surrounding environment and wildlife.”

And as well striving to change the way in which the tourism industry operates, Ekta has also volunteered to start the latest international graduate chapter, as President of a new official Kenyan Alumni Association. “Today, I see how my experiences at the University of Hertfordshire have prepared me. From the students to the lecturers, everyone I met had some sort of a positive impact on me.”

If you are a graduate who is living in or will soon be returning to Kenya, and would like to join your own chapter of the University’s Alumni Association, Ekta would love to hear from you. Please contact her at ekta@africansojourndltd.com to help grow a social network in your country.
The Psychology of Performing Arts, or PoPA, is the study of dance, music, magic, humour and improvisation, and all aspects of the performing arts, from a psychological perspective. In a very funky experiment the School of Psychology teamed up with University of Herefordshire Students’ Union and Maverick TV to turn the Font into a research laboratory. My research team and I wanted to test the hypothesis that the way people dance at a nightclub is influenced by their hormones. From the 800 or so people at the Font, 100 were asked to fill in a questionnaire, which asked them about their personality, feelings, sexuality and relationship status. Crucially, the researchers also measured the pre-natal testosterone and oestrogen levels of the volunteers. The women also provided information about their menstrual cycle. Once the club was hot and sweaty (you could almost taste the pheromones!) participants danced individually on a special dance floor where they were filmed dancing for about 30 seconds.

A few weeks later the films of people dancing were shown to a group of 50 people, who were asked to rate the attractiveness of the people dancing. So that people focused only on the dance moves and not facial or clothing features, the videos were blurred out so that all people could see were arms and legs moving in a misty haze.

The first finding was that people dancing were shown to access to thoughts, feelings and forms of expression that leads them to be great poets, or it is the case that the endless soul searching and introspection that poets engage in contributes to the onset of bi-polar symptoms. The course also looks at the different causes of, and treatments for, stage fright and performance anxiety. Indeed, the work that the School of Psychology has done on stage fright has become so well-known that when contestants are on the TV show Britain’s Got Talent suffered from stage fright it was the PoPA team that the BBC called to discuss and explain it live on air.

My research into the psychology of dance has a broad and international appeal. One of my recent studies examined the dancing styles of over 13,600 people, and another examined the link between hormones and dancing ability across the life span. Although the PoPA course covers a wide range of topics it is the search for the scientific understanding of dance that drives me. This is because I was a professional dancer before I became an academic psychologist. I trained in dance and musical theatre at the Guildford School of Acting and after graduating worked in most of the UK’s number 1 theatres and on the international dance circuit. I am currently engaged in several research projects that try to understand the way we interact with and are influenced by dance. I, together with Russell Maliphant (who is an internationally renowned dancer, choreographer and a resident artist at Sadler’s Wells), and Marina Wallace (an art historian and director of ArKt at Central Saint Martin’s College in London), have recently been awarded a research grant by the Wellcome Trust to examine people’s psychological and physiological response to dance. It is an ambitious study in which we hope to create a provocative dance piece, which will be performed in London.

Peter has been interviewed about his research extensively and his findings have been reported in serious and mainstream magazines (e.g. Scientific American Mind, Psychologies), in the broadsheet and tabloid press (e.g. The Sunday Telegraph, The Sun), on television (e.g. The Graham Norton Show and GMTV), and on radio (e.g. Good Morning America, in Europe, Russia, India and Australia). Videos of Peter discussing his research have been very popular on YouTube, a clip of his appearance on the Graham Norton Show has been watched tens of thousands of times. Peter is actively engaged in the public understanding of science. He has given lectures at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the Science Museum, the Edinburgh International Science Festival and at the Science Museum. Peter has just finished filming a televised dance study to be broadcast on The One Show on BBC1 in the summer of 2009, and is currently writing a book on the relationship between dance and human nature.

For further information on Dr Lovatt’s research into the Psychology of Performing Arts, or to take part in one of his many on-line dance studies, visit his website at www.dancedrdance.com or email him at P.J.Lovatt@herts.ac.uk.
Herts is leaping up the league tables* – and you were there first.

Time to show off a little.

Since disabled badminton champion Gobi Ranganathan graduated in 1999, the University has transformed. He believes: “The facilities are amazing now. The buildings are more modern and accessible. The whole place is wheelchair friendly and looks like a well-run university”. Gobi, a Computer Engineering Graduate from Stevenage, returns to the University on a very regular basis as he is able to train at Hertfordshire Sports Village several times a week for free. This is indeed a great help as he is self-funded, competing in the sport that has taken him Europe-wide for two years.

Gobi first started playing badminton at school and joined the badminton club at UH. He also played socially, but it wasn’t until his discovery by coach Philip Gray that Gobi was encouraged to play competitively. “Philip spotted me with a view to setting up a badminton club for the disabled, but then realised I was just as good as able-bodied players, so I joined the Knebworth Badminton Club.”

Since then, Highways Engineer Gobi has entered numerous tournaments, including representing England at the 4 Nations Disabled Championships, for which he is the current Men’s Singles Title holder. In addition to this he has also won...
the Men’s Double event three times. Indeed, he hasn’t lost a domestic game in over a year. His last defeat was in Dortmund, Germany, last May at the European Disabled Badminton Championships, where he was beaten by the world number one Dutchman Quincy Michielsen.

“A lot of wheelchair-users who play the sport come from Holland, Germany and Israel. Many Israeli’s are ex-military, who have suffered accidents and injury and take up the game. But it is disabled tennis and basketball that are considered more glamorous and popular. In order to promote the profile of badminton, Gobi visits the large club based in Nottingham. There, he helps young players to improve.

“My work cut-out.” Yet a triumphant “I on the other hand hadn’t been training hard, his serves were so good that he had a score to settle. He had been playing well and knew I had an amazing 1 year at university. I wouldn’t change it for the world!’

The facilities are amazing now. The buildings are more modern and accessible. The whole place is wheelchair friendly."

The amount of hours the gold medalist trains equals a gruelling 16 hours a week. “My trainer Keith, has recently ramped up my training, to the extent I often feel sick. I circuit the court as fast as I can in order to enhance endurance and speed. Then, I’ll do shot practice.” Fortunately, the hard work is paying off as there’s been a noticeable improvement in Gobi’s all-round play. Despite all the training, competing, working, travelling to and away matches with QPR and writing a column for the football club’s programme, Gobi is off to Dortmund again this month and hopefully - if he can raise the funds - to Seoul for the World Championships in September. We wish him all the best.✨
Gemma Harris
Year Graduated: 2005
Course Studied: Digital and Lens Media
Current Employer: Webcatch
Area: Nottingham
During my BA (Hons) in Digital and Lens Media, we were taught the basics in a range of media, including photography, film and interactive media. With my underlying interest in the interactive I chose to concentrate on this, establishing myself as a new media designer. In 2008 I decided to take the plunge and co-manage a young and upcoming web agency; WebCatch. With most web agencies offering either great design or amazing functionality we decided it was time the two were brought together as one complete package. As a company we offer everything you would expect from a web agency, from web design and development, to our in-house e-commerce solution with all the trimmings. UH played a great part in where I am today, through encouragement and guidance from tutors, to experiencing life and of course making lifelong friends. www.webcatch.co.uk.

David Whale
Year Graduated: 1992
Course Studied: BSc (Hons) Computer Science
Current Employer: Thinking Binaries
Area: UK
On joining Hatfield Polytechnic, I gained access to the degree programme via HND first year top grades. My industrial placement was developing software at Neotronics, and I returned as a graduate for 3 years. In evenings I taught computer courses at local establishments, and turned this into a full-time role for 4 years. I returned to industry, first working for Wavesider developing software for electric vehicles, and then 8 years at TTPcom in Cambridge. Here, I set up a worldwide training division, was part of a large team developing software, and also developed in-house databases. In 2006 I set up a software company allowing me to share my experiences and knowledge with a wider customer base. I recently joined the UH Alumni mentoring scheme and hope that through this I can give back a little to the establishment that gave me the confidence and experience to launch into what continues to be an exciting and rewarding career.

Siraj Al Islam
Year Graduated: 1999
Course Studied: LLB (Hons) 2 Year Accelerated Programme
Current Employer: Baker Botts LLP
Area: Saudi Arabia
After graduating, I went to Saudi Arabia and spent about a year, teaching English. On my return to the UK, I ended up doing a credit reconciliation job at a company called ISS UK Limited. ISS sponsored my block learning LPC course which I did over two years and successfully completed in October 2002. I started my MA and secondment to Blake Lapthorn in October 2002, and my daughter Aisha was born then as well. It was a great challenge. I completed my training in May 2004 and went back to ISS, as it’s General Counsel and then moved to another role of a major international organisation. I joined Baker Botts in October 2004. I stood up for the UH Alumni mentoring scheme in order to receive help from those that are a little more experienced. I really think the mentoring scheme is a good idea. University, however, has set me up for the new challenge called, ‘life’.

Terry Sadler
Year Graduated: 1988
Course Studied: Fine Art
Current Employer: Volunteer on visual arts projects
Area: Hertfordshire
After a career in advertising and raising a family, Terry enrolled in 1984 on the first Hertfordshire Fine Art degree course, then located at the Herts College of Art and Design in St Albans. On graduating in 1986, the training and enthusiasm for the visual arts resulting from the course, combined with administrative experience from earlier days in advertising, led to a virtually full time involvement as a volunteer on various visual arts events and projects. First she set up ArtWorks with a group of fellow Herts graduates, and became involved in the organisation of the Hertfordshire Visual Arts Forum, setting up and running the Herts Open Studios event for 9 years. In 1995 and 2000, she ran two Art at Work in Hertfordshire Awards with UH, and became project manager on several sculpture commissions in the county.

John Gynen
Year Graduated: 2006
Course Studied: Business Administration
Current Employer: Macmillan Cancer Support
Area: London
When I first left University with a BA Honours in Business Administration, I was caught in two minds: whether to start a business or whether to find a job. I love business, but with bills to pay, I decided that accounts would be the best field for me, and found a job through an agency. After seeking some advice, I started an ACCA accounting course. I am now into my 2nd year, and am currently working within accounts for Macmillan Cancer Support. I have also finally started my own business: www.indymiouse.co.uk (selected to pitch at the Lady Angels entrepreneurial event this year). Indymiouse is not an estate agent but we provide access to high quality accommodation to undergraduates, postgraduates and young professionals working primarily around the area of Hattfield. I thought the hard grafting was in university but that was evidently, just the beginning. University, however, has set me up for the new challenge called, ‘life’.

Neil Hamilton Barrie
Year Graduated: 1970
Course Studied: Computing Science
Current Employer: Kioke Europe
Area: Norway
After failing almost all of my ‘O’ levels, I moved to a Civic College in Ipswich, where one year I achieved grade A, ‘A’ levels. I had a very progressive teacher, who recommended ‘Computing Sciences’. I will never forget my first day at Hatfield College of Technology. We had a computing fair for freshers, but what was most important were the 2 industrial experiences. When I graduated in June 1970, I had 8 jobs to choose from! Hatfield College of Technology helped my career, by giving me the real basics in Systems Management. I have always been very proud to state I am from Hatfield College of Technology and one of the first to achieve a Degree (Honours) in a period that was very explosive! Even, today, the knowledge I obtained during 1966 - 1970 has been of great help, and provided me with the necessary understanding for the future. Clearly, the best educational years of my life! Thank you Hatfield College of Technology!!!

Linda Radford
Year Graduated: 2008
Course Studied: PhD Mathematics
Current Employer: Self-employed
Area: Hertford
I graduated in 1971 with a BSc (Hons) as a pharmacist, and this has been my permanent career. An interest in astronomy prompted me to apply for an MSc course at Hatfield Polytechnic in 1979, but I was told that my mathematics knowledge was inadequate and that I should join the Open University. It was during that time that I met Professor Alan Davies (of UH), I completed my BSc (Hons) degree in mathematics in 1982 and was employed by the Open University as an associate lecturer. My interest in mathematics grew and I was awarded an MSc in 1986, through part-time study at Kings College London. Alan and I had remained friends and in 1996 he suggested I should consider applying to undertake research for a PhD at the University of Hertfordshire. The final year was tough as I was writing my thesis at the same time as being Mayoress of Hertford, but I was awarded my PhD two weeks before the Mayoral year end.

Jan Dowman
Year Graduated: 1986
Course Studied: BA Fine Art
Current Employer: UH Faculty for the Creative and Cultural Studies
Area: Hertfordshire
Looking back now I realise just how much my life changed as a result of the years spent as a student on the very first BA Fine Art course at what was then the St Albans School of Art and Design. For me not only was it a challenging and fulfilling period, it was also the start of a new career both as artist and teacher, continuing still at Chesfield Studies in Bow, London, and teaching at UH on the Open Studies course, in which I really believe and have many fond memories of. One of the reasons we all became so close must surely be that we were embarking on a whole new enterprise, facing the problems together as a team, and we were determined to overcome the challenges and criticisms. I would really like to once again thank all our tutors who believed in us, especially Graham (Boyd), without whom it would not have happened.
midst all the topical scaremongering - fervently fuelling both conversational opinion and panic decision-making - we’ve all heard this said more than a few times in recent months. But this brush, sweeping statement is of course not wholly true. The AGR’s in-depth vacancies survey in February showed that employers predicted just a 5.4% decrease in the number of graduate jobs for 2009 - proving that somewhere in-between cold, hard facts and tepid, woolly media reports, lies a reality that while many employers have indeed had to tighten up their recruitment campaigns for a while, jobs do still need to be done. And although undoubtedly more of a challenge than it was around a year ago, equipped with the correct advice, the sharpest tools and the right attitude, there are still plenty of career options out there. Fear not; all is not lost, and despite an economic downturn, the nation hasn’t relinquished the need for its economic downturn, the nation hasn’t relinquished the need for its entire workforce just yet. What it definitely does mean however, is that the job market is a far more competitive place to enter into at the moment – demanding that applicants really step up their game when entering into the fray. Which is why the Graduate Futures team have been focusing on providing both students and alumni with a far deeper support programme during the current recession period. And as usual, they haven’t been slow off the mark. Because the team work closely with employers from companies across a large breadth of sectors, they are riding every wave in the market like the Kelly Staters of the careers ocean... ready to tackle and counter any swell or break ominously rolling in over the horizon.

Fair Game
Even as you are reading this, a host of support initiatives are already running; many of them since late last year, with the last Autumn Careers and Recruitment Fair in November (2008) welcoming nearly 400 students and alumni. Attended by a range of different companies – including OMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants), Royal Mail, United Playground (a charitable organisation for African communities) and Setex Galileo (electronic sensors and airborne systems) – this was a fantastic networking event for both exhibitors and visitors. The good news is that Fair will run again this coming autumn, when it is expected to be even bigger success, so be sure to look out for this year’s line up...

Conference Call
Another recent highlight was the Careers and Alumni Conference, which took place in the Weston Auditorium in February. Run jointly by Graduate Futures and the School of Humanities, a 2 hour line-up of keynote speakers – many of them alumni of the School – gave talks on their career paths into the popular areas of media, recruitment and education. Among them were alumni Hashi Mohammed (BBC journalist and producer), Alyx Hall (of Drummond Recruitment), Kelly Boreham (Verulam School in St Albans), and the University’s Humanities MA Programme Tutor, Dr Jane Singleton. It’s all in the preparation
A great way many of you have been utilising Graduate Futures expertise is by attending one of the many hands-on workshops they have been running – and will continue to run – throughout the year. Examples of areas covered include advice on being successful in an interview, how to make your CV effective and impactful, how best to utilise online search engines, and guidance on writing that most daunting of job-seeking prospects; the perfect application form.

Been There... (Bought the SU T-Shirt...) The team have also been instrumental in setting up the Alumni Mentoring Scheme (and e-Mentoring Scheme), working with those of you who are in a position to advise students following in your footsteps on the best practice to launch their careers. Providing imminent grads with a professional sounding board like this (either face-to-face or purely via email) has created some great success stories – and your experience has made all the difference to fresh minds with bright futures ahead of them.

Raw Materials
But perhaps the most effective way that Graduate Futures can provide support is through the resources they can provide you with at their base camp in the MacLaurin Building (on Hatfield Business Park, opposite the de Havilland Campus). The team offers one-to-one consultations with a Careers Consultant at “significant points in career planning” – and also hosts a resource library which includes careers and employment coaching DVDs. The range of specialist texts they can provide covers all aspects of the employment market, such as ‘Turn Redundancy to Opportunity: Proven Techniques and Programmes for Taking Charge of Your Own Future.’

For more information please visit the Graduate Futures website: www.herts.ac.uk/graduatefutures, email graduatefutures@herts.ac.uk, or call them on: 01707 284791.

A

...But nobody’s recruiting at the moment.”

Steve Corbett

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_K-Yu2yGBY

By the Way, that last joke was a bit of a dick move...
**UHArts and Galleries Programme**

**Autumn 2009**

### Visual Art
- **Majority Approaches 2009**
  - Curated by Roger Hargreaves
  - Wed 21 Oct – Sat 21 Nov
  - Margaret Harvey Gallery
  - 01707 284290 / uhgalleries@herts.ac.uk
- **Eastern Approaches 2009**
  - Wed 20 May – Wed 30 Sept
  - Hatfield House
  - 01707 287010 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Courants – confère – courants**
  - Wed 2 Sept – Sat 3 Oct
  - Margaret Harvey Gallery
  - 01707 284290 / uhgalleries@herts.ac.uk
- **Tasmin Little: The Naked Violin**
  - Fri 23 Oct 6.00pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Films**
  - **The Adders Youth Film Festival and Awards**
    - Sat 24 Oct
    - The Weston Auditorium
    - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
  - **German Expressionism and Silent Films**
    - With pianist Neil Brand
    - Sat 30 Nov 6.00pm
    - The Weston Auditorium
    - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **James Mayhew: Children’s Concert**
  - Sun 8 Nov 1.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **The Big Draw**
  - Sun 8 Nov 1.30pm and Mon 9 Nov all day
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk

### Music
- **Tasmin Little: The Naked Violin**
  - Fri 23 Oct 6.00pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Tasmin Little: The Naked Violin**
  - Fri 23 Oct 6.00pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Still Breathing**
  - Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Ravel Violin**
  - With pianist Neil Brand
  - Wed 21 Oct – Sat 21 Nov
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk

### Drama
- **At War with Churchill**
  - SCAMP
  - Fri 2 Oct 7.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Young Film Critics’ Award**
  - Sat 2 Oct 11.00am
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Resonet in Laudibus**
  - Wed 24 Nov 6.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Britishness: Britten and Marks**
  - Wed 8 Dec 7.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Familiy Film Club**
  - Wed 24 Nov 6.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **The David Mapp Quintet**
  - Tue 24 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **The Plaxtol Scholars**
  - Thu 26 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **The David Mapp Quintet**
  - Thu 26 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk

### Film Festival and Awards
- **The Adders Youth Film Festival and Awards**
  - Sat 24 Oct
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Still Breathing**
  - Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Family Film Club**
  - Wed 24 Nov 6.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
- **Family Film Club**
  - Wed 24 Nov 6.30pm
  - The Weston Auditorium
  - 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk

### Our venues
- **The Weston Auditorium**
  - de Havilland Campus
  - Hatfield
  - Herts AL10 9EU
  - Phone lines open: Mon – Fri 9.00am – 4.00pm
  - Visit the Box Office: Mon – Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm (during term time)
- **Margaret Harvey Gallery**
  - 7 Hatfield Road
  - St Albans
  - Herts AL1 3RR
  - Open: Wed – Sat 11.00am – 5.00pm

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  - Piano Music: Images and Impressions
- **The Plaxtol Scholars**
  - Resonet in Laudibus
- **John Hopkins**
  - The Music of John Hopkins
- **The David Mapp Quintet**
  - On Sex and Suicide

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Welcome to the new section of Futures devoted to the activities of University of Hertfordshire Press®, the University’s publishing company. We currently produce around fifteen new books a year and we sell our titles around the world. In future issues we’ll be looking at some of the different areas we publish in, from local population studies to theatre history, but the subject for which we’re probably best known is Romani Studies – in other words, books about Gypsies and Travellers...

The road most travelled

Gypsies first arrived in England and Scotland around 1500 and were soon the subject of hostile decrees by the state in an effort to expel them or put an end to their migrant lifestyle. Wandering bands of foreigners were viewed with the utmost suspicion and heightened people’s fear of vagrants who were outside economic and social control systems. All over Europe, Gypsies were hounded from place to place and viewed with extreme prejudice, culminating in the Nazi race laws of the twentieth century and the extermination of around twenty-five per cent of the total population of Europe’s Gypsies, estimated at 220,000 individuals. UH Press has recently published Gypsies Under The Swastika, which details the fate of the Gypsies during Nazi rule.

Where the Gypsies had actually come from is much debated and seems unlikely ever to be fully resolved because there is so little hard and fast evidence. What is not in doubt is that the Gypsies originally left northern India about 1000 years ago – the similarities between Romani and Hindu dialects have been known since the eighteenth century and the gradual dispersal of the Gypsies out into the Middle East and across Europe can be tracked by linguistic analysis. Today Gypsy Westyles have changed with the times, although their culture is remarkably resilient. Many have settled in permanent houses, sometimes in order to enable their children to get a stable education, sometimes due to a lack of stopping places where they can stay without continual harassment. Such settled Gypsies often talk about their sense of dislocation and unease within four walls. Others live in trailers on permanent sites or continue to travel around the country, even though the seasonal work, mostly agricultural, which once dictated their movements has largely dried up. This recent history is movingly told in Stopping Places, our bestselling Gypsy title. In the UK today, English Gypsies and Irish Travellers are the two main groups, alongside Roma people who have come from Eastern Europe. Our latest title, Nomads Under The Westway by Chris Griffin, is about the community of Irish Travellers living under the A40 flyover in West London.

Gypsies are often unjustly vilified and discriminated against. They are the last ethnic group whom it seems can be insulted and criminalised without restraint. Contrary to the popular view that Gypsies are dirty and promiscuous, in fact they live according to strict self-imposed rules of cleanliness and carefully controlled sexual behaviour, ostracising those members of the community who break their strong taboos and prohibitions. Gypsies consider non-Gypsies, or Gadjos, to be unclean and many of their attitudes towards wider society, including their wariness of the education and health systems, are tied up with a strong reluctance to be polluted by non-Gypsy practices. They are an ethnic minority whose very sense of identity at the deepest level depends on keeping themselves separate, and yet they are also economically dependent on providing goods and services to non-Gypsies, which necessitates a degree of contact with them. The ensuing tension reinforces the need for constant reaffirmation of their separateness. Thus well-meaning efforts to assimilate them into the dominant society are often met with hostility.

The Gypsies have often been seen as valuable subjects for anthropologists to study and have the advantage of being conveniently close to home. But, increasingly, academics are aware of the political dimension of studying Gypsies and can find themselves negotiating an awkward line between exploitation and support, it’s vital that Gypsies are given their own voice and the opportunity for self-expression, instead of always being the object of other people’s studies. At UH Press we publish books written by Gypsies as well as books about them. The title of Hancock’s forthcoming collection of essays, Danger! Educated Gypsy!, encapsulates the widespread fear and suspicion of Gypsies who find their voice and use it. Professor Hancock is director of the Romani Archives and Documentation Centre at the University of Texas at Austin, where he has been a professor of linguistics since 1972. In 1971 he was the first Romani in Britain to graduate with a PhD.

Another book in the pipeline is Maggie Smith-Bendell’s moving autobiography, Our Forgotten Years, which records her life on the road with her family over many decades. Mrs Smith-Bendell is well-known as a campaigner for Gypsy rights. We also currently have a call out for contributions to an anthology of work by young Gypsy writers and plan to publish Young Roma Voices to coincide with GRT History Month. GRT History Month is a relatively new initiative supported by the government which aims to educate people about Gypsy history and culture and politics. Once you find out the facts behind the trailer sites and roadside encampments, it’s difficult to see the Gypsies in purely black and white terms any longer.
From 1952 to present day, if you’ve walked through any of the sets of doors on our campuses in the name of erudition, then you are an official, fully-fledged ‘alumnus’ of the University of Hertfordshire. (And yes Wall Hall-ers, Hatfield Tech engineers, ex-staff, Bayfordbury star-gazers etc., we are talking to you!) But what exactly does that mean?

All across the globe, once any student has graduated, their university instantly begins to talk about the automatic, lifelong membership of their very own ‘Alumni Association’. A seemingly exclusive and elusive sect of worthy individuals - perhaps akin to the likes of the Knights Templar, and about as fathomable as the Da Vinci Code itself. Ok, so you may have studied – or indeed worked – here, but you didn’t ask to be an ‘alum’, an ‘alumnus’, or even an ‘alumnae’ for that matter! You didn’t undertake any sort of initiation? Didn’t go to Harvard or UCLA? You don’t even have a secret handshake that you’re aware of? So what exactly is this antiquated-sounding ‘association’? – and why would you want to be a part of it anyway?

Well firstly, being one of our alumni is what each of us has in common with each other. It doesn’t matter what you studied here, when you studied here, or what the logo said or looked like at the time – the learning experience stemming from these Hatfield campuses has always been the same; preparing students not just with the knowledge, but with the ‘soft’ skills that are key to success in any chosen industry. Working closely with organisations in all sectors – to give the future workforce hands-on experience – has been a strong element of our learning ethos from the outset; from the first apprenticeships with the de Havilland Company, to vocational courses with the Council’s Social Work teams, and even students undertaking special effects work on major Hollywood blockbusters (such as the Harry Potter and Batman films). In this respect, absolutely nothing has changed across the years.

And continuing to make the most of these links with business after graduation is one of the main benefits of being a part of your Alumni Association. The Association gives you a support network of more than 100,000 fellow graduates, and a wide breadth of professional expertise to tap into here on campus. It’s about making the most of the events constantly taking place around the calendar - talks, concerts, careers fairs, lectures, reunions, short courses, plays, film screenings, networking opportunities – and of course it’s also about becoming a part of your on-line alumni community… an easy way to stay regularly connected.

Being part of the Alumni Association is about exclusivity, reminiscence and pride. It’s about being an important part of the University’s lineage, with benefits both to you, and to future generations of students who you may be able to advise and inspire from time to time. It is indeed about an ‘automatic, lifetime membership’ - which you have rightly earned from your time studying with us. But perhaps most importantly, it’s a celebration of what you have gone on to achieve since graduating – and the successes you will undoubtedly continue to see in all of your futures.

Kate Bellingham
President of the University of Hertfordshire Alumni Association
Laura Oldfield Ford
Britannia: States of Emergency
Drawings that map the social and economic faultlines of East London’s transformation for the 2012 Olympics.
20 Nov 2009 - 9 Jan 2010
Art and Design Gallery

At War with Churchill
SCAMP
‘At War with Churchill’ challenges us to decide what we really feel about the man consistently voted Britain’s greatest Briton, seventy years after the outbreak of World War II.
Fri 2 Oct 7.30pm
The Weston Auditorium

Still Breathing
2FaCeD DaNcE Company
Stunning athleticism, explosive abstract breaking and masculine vulnerability combine to explore the space we occupy in a dance piece suitable for the whole family.
Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm
The Weston Auditorium

Discounts for all alumni!

More information:
Art and Design Gallery: 01707 284290 / uhgalleries@herts.ac.uk
The Weston Auditorium: 01707 281127 / uharts@herts.ac.uk
www.herts.ac.uk/artsandgalleries

Image: Abandoned London 1-4 (undated) Laura Oldfield Ford
Felt tip and acrylic on paper detail