Inside stories  
Spring 2008

Alma Mater-in-Chief
Kate Bellingham talks about her career and being the new President of the University of Hertfordshire Alumni Association

KASPAR the Friendly Robot
How the future of robots and the history of ghosts is science-non-fiction here on campus

UH-Factor
UHRecordings launches its new student label, Infuse

Friends Reacquainted
The Alumni Community Website – live and reuniting...
Letter from Alison Coles

The official UH Alumni Association is reborn… A new student recording label is launched… The exclusive, searchable alumni website goes live… And of course our new magazine stretches out to nearly 100,000 fellow alumni all across the globe. Impressive? Just the tip of the UH iceberg. And all in an issue’s work here at the Futures desk of your faithful alumni office.

It really is amazing to hear of, be involved with, and even try to keep up with the myriad of initiatives, achievements, and events happening all the time - both here at UH and by alumni all over the world. Even as I write this, early news of new projects, campaigns and associations about to be launched appear as dots on our radar, all of which will make their way to you through Futures and the alumni website. But for now, just choosing what to cram into this edition has been hard enough!

Since the Autumn 2007 issue, a huge amount has been going on (not to mention another fantastic annual Graduation week, celebrating yet another surge of talent and enthusiasm out into the world and our growing alumni database...) and we have carefully turned every stone in an effort to bring you a varied and engaging selection of newsbeats and articles to keep you abreast of all things UH and beyond.

Speaking of the last issue; we have had an amazing response to your new look alumni magazine, and we will continue to improve it with every new edition (including a wider electronic distribution via email, after positive word from friends overseas). Thank you to all those who have contacted us these last few months – it is nice to receive so many letters and emails with your feedback, ideas, stories and memories of your time here. Please keep them coming. Thanks also to all those who have registered your details on the Alumni community website (see page 31 for more info) – we are pleased to say that very quickly, enough of you have now opted in to the “Find a Friend” section for this service to have fully gone live, so please do log on and see if those you knew way back when are there too...

So what does this Spring 2008 issue have in store? As well as another host of alumni profiles, we talk to engineer, TV presenter and newly appointed President of the Alumni Association, Kate Bellingham, and our ‘Spotlight On...’ article will profile the brand new music recording label set up here at UH to give talented students the start to a great career in the industry. We will look at some more of the groundbreaking and oddly engaging research taking place here, and in our “Global Futures” section we will also report the latest goings on among fellow alumni around the world. I was lucky enough to visit the associations in Malaysia and Thailand again last autumn; the latter excitingly electing their first committee and President in Bangkok. Our congratulations to Sinad – we look forward to hearing of your endeavours.

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Dear Editor,

Looking at my daughter’s copy of Futures I noticed the feature “Do you remember this?” and I have answers to some of your questions:

The photograph – “Did they strike it?” – was taken in the chemical technology laboratory in the Chemical Sciences Department. This was situated in the engineering building currently occupied by the Science and Technology Research Institute. The laboratory was opened in 1962.

The major wind tunnel was an enormous wooden structure. Air went round in a closed loop: once you’d got the air moving, it seemed sensible to conserve the energy of motion. Only trouble was – the air got hotter and hotter! We spent many an hour experimenting on a model of an English Electric Canberra in the tunnel. This was odd, as I never met a student from English Electric.

I never met W Allen Fox who built the tunnel. I never met him, but there was another Mr Fox – who taught mechanics of flight: a fearsomely difficult subject, lightened by a bit of astrophysics! Mr Fox was a pretty mean church organist. There was a small wind tunnel – which could easily fit on a dining room table. We were never allowed to use it as it was for which we had to do calculations. A small wind tunnel I particularly liked was mounted vertically. You put a small model plane in it and it was mounted vertically. You put a small model plane in it and it looked as though it was flying. I could see the smoke fowing past the model.

When I was at the Technical College – most of the students were from the three nearby Hatfield factories. There were few ladies: there were cleaners and cooks, and few young ladies doing secretarial courses. How things change?

Best wishes to you all out there.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Cooper

Letters to the editor

Futures letter of choice

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the autumn edition of ‘Futures’. The picture of a giant hammer run set me thinking. I started studying aeronautical design hammer run set me thinking. I started studying aeronautical design hammer run set me thinking. I started studying aeronautical design hammer run set me thinking. I started studying aeronautical design hammer run set me thinking. I started studying aeronautical design

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Robin Cooper

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I thought I’d drop you an email to say thanks to you and the others at University of Hertfordshire who have helped me get started in my career, to let you know how I’m getting on in my first job, and also I’m sure you’re interested in getting feedback from graduate students to help you form your future plans!

As you can probably tell from the email address I’m working for Mercedes in their F1 engines subsidiary company, where I’m on a 2 year graduate scheme. Currently I’m working in Reliability Engineering, so we’re all doing our best to ensure no problems slip through the net and that McLarens get a 100% finish rate to give us the best possible chance to win the world championship! Apart from the obvious challenge of the work I’m really enjoying myself as I’ve been made feel very welcome, and the guys here are all very enthusiastic and dedicated to supplying the best possible engines we can which is a great environment to work in.

I think one of the key points that I can provide as feedback is that the practical experience I got at Herts was absolutely invaluable. I think I recognised one of the figures in the picture from the ‘Do you remember this?’ article in the Futures magazine for the Hatfield Polytechnic. I do believe that finances were tight in those days!

Best regards,

Jonathan Wingfield

Dear Editor,

On page 7 of the autumn 2007 edition of ‘Futures’, you ask the question “Where was the old library located?”

You say the answer is “Behind the Main Reception in the area which is now Computer Science Labs”. It was situated in what, 10 years ago, was called the CB60 transept. This was some way from the Main Entrance but okay near the then Computer Science labs.

My office was in that transept from 1981 until 1997. My secretary, Mrs Lucy Leahy, had the next door office to me from English and the tunnel. This was odd, as I never met a student from English Electric.

I am not sure that the piece of machinery that he is working on is related to where the bored-looking lady technician is standing because the green machine looks like the kit that we used in the concrete technology laboratory for measuring the crushing strength of concrete cubes.

However, I could be totally and utterly wrong...

Regards,

Michael Northwood

(Civil Engineering 1978-82)
Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Wilson delivered his 2007 Annual Lecture on - End of an Empire: Higher Education in a Global Economy

Professor Wilson revealed that his cultural comfort zone had had a welcome extension beyond his Northern roots during his time at university but as the world changes – so does university life. Professor Wilson said: “People cross time-zones, physically and virtually, they interact on a 24/7 basis. We all expect to be internationally connected. Students, lecturers, researchers are internationally connected.

Professor Wilson highlighted how today’s graduates are entering a different world. He said: “Careers have changed. We must look to develop skills and competencies that can be transferred not only between jobs, but also between sectors and industries, between cultures and countries.” He highlighted areas where we have crossed borders to develop their skills and to collaborate in the discovery of new knowledge.

“This movement creates multicultural campuses, places where students from all corners of the world can learn about each other’s values and perspectives on life.”

He highlighted areas where we have crossed borders to develop their skills and to collaborate in the discovery of new knowledge.

• developing a network of international partners from Malaysia, Russia, and Hungary, to the Caribbean and Canada
• driving international franchise income to exceed £1 million pa
• welcoming 30 percent of students who are bilingual
• enabling students to gain study experience in Moscow, continue in Hertfordshire and perhaps finish as a postgraduate in Malaysia

This culminated in a debate on education and the economy, barriers in recognising international qualifications and issues with work permits.

Hertfordshire’s success in Facebook battle to find favourite university

The University of Hertfordshire has come second in an online battle to find the UK’s favourite university.

The competition was run by mobile phone company O2 on the popular social networking website Facebook. Students posted comments about their favourite university and Hertfordshire got 150,000 points for the positive comments it received.

Donald McLeod from the University of Hertfordshire said: “This is a really positive result for us – the University of Hertfordshire has increasingly become a first choice for students. This result is evidence directly from our students that they are happy with the experience we give them and that our commitment to always put students first is having a positive impact on their time at university.”

The competition saw students up and down the country voting for their favourite university but Facebook commended the University of Hertfordshire for its good performance, especially in the final stages.

Making every child’s music matter in Hertfordshire

With the Hertfordshire Music Service we are launching a strategy to provide primary school children with stimulating opportunities to sing.

At the recently launched Hertfordshire Singing Strategy children came from The Ryde School in Hatfield and Grove Infants School in Harpenden to entertain teachers, parents, university representatives and councillors.

Singing is recognised as a key strand in the Government’s Music Manifesto, which calls on communities to join together to enrich the lives of school children through music. Through this partnership the university makes a valuable contribution to the region.

James Dickinson, Head of the Hertfordshire Music Service said: “We are delighted that the University of Hertfordshire is supporting this project so generously. Together we will ‘make every child’s music matter’. This is an exciting project that spans the whole county and will develop teachers as well as children.”

Whole class workshops will be led by highly skilled vocal animateurs giving a complete musical experience combining singing, movement and performance. A resource pack for a whole range of ages with accompanying CD will be given to all schools in Hertfordshire and ongoing professional development will be provided for teaching staff.

The Hertfordshire Music Service is also working with the School of Education within the university to make the teaching principles of this strategy available to the 700 trainee teachers studying at the university.

Howard Burrell from the university said: “The university plays an active role in the Hertfordshire community and runs many initiatives to enrich the experiences of local people. Singing is incredibly powerful in what it can offer children. It is great for team building, does wonders for self-esteem, concentration and behaviour and above all else is fun!”

Children from The Ryde School in Hatfield and The Grove Infants School in Harpenden entertained the audience at the launch of the Hertfordshire Music Strategy.
Retroprospectus

Following last issue’s theme of archival images from academic yesteryear, this edition we bring you a pictorial history of prospectus covers stretching right back to the Hatfield Technical College era of the 1950’s...

Kate’s World

Despite her seemingly boundless work teaching, promoting and celebrating the world of science and engineering, alumnus Kate Bellingham has recently been named the new President of the UH Alumni Association. To welcome her to the role, Steve Corbett talks to Kate about her commendable career, her time studying here, and why involvement with associations like ours and those in her field is so important to her.
The story of how this young programmer became the accomplished pianist and vocalist) and having lectured on to work as a computer programmer, and took a job at the BBC as a presenter on BBC's flagship science programme, Tomorrow's World. She was presented with incredible filming opportunities, such as standing in the middle of a satellite dish in the Nevada Desert, and venturing deep into the Channel Tunnel. Kate was also able to use her engineering background to put mathematics into real life contexts. She says that her master's degree has been a great tool in showing pupils what they can achieve themselves, and how they can turn what they are learning into important research later on; "I have certainly waved my MSc report to several classes to show the point of algebra!" Similarly, she looks to her latest role as President of the UH Alumni Association with the same outlook – ultimately, putting a message across, "It's all about how you can benefit from keeping involved with your university. Many people think that the only way to give back is by giving donations, but it's not just about the money. It's about how you can make a difference to others by sharing your experiences and expertise." Fresh in her role, Kate has already hosted a UH Aerospace Engineering reunion, and we look forward to seeing her at many more events in the future. "I'm very, very happy to be involved." So, as a mother, teacher, engineer, scientist, presenter, programmer, researcher, speaker, role model, patron... Kate Bellingham's schedule is a busy one - being involved with so many associations on top of her day-to-day work, Kate still feels that it is a good time to get back to learning, and impressed by the marketing material she received from UH, approached the university to find out more about embarking on an MSc in Communication Systems, but with a young family, and commitments to many associations already, she had concerns about taking it on. "Shortly before becoming President of the Alumni Association, I was talking to the V-C, Tim Wilson, and remembering that my unusual background had meant that I wasn't a typical student. But he had absolutely no qualms, saying that diversity amongst the students was exactly what summed (the University of) Hertfordshire up, and that everyone who came had their own story." After a similar conversation with her admissions tutor, Kate was convinced that a four year master's was the right step to take. "I went into it thinking that it was very important to succeed from the onset. Not only was I investing the money, but also the time away from my family. There was a real responsibility to put the work in." Despite being hard work (Kate's second child was due exactly when her second semester exams were happening), and her 2 year old son was often read illustrated course text as a bedtime story!, she found doing original research extremely rewarding. She also enjoyed chatting with fellow students (she was Student Rep for those on part-time courses), and the academics; “David Lee and David Lauder - both tutors in the field – were wonderful. This passion for her subject, along with her involvement with associations such as the IET, Royal Academy of Engineering, Young Engineers (of which she is the President), and the Edge into Space competition (for budding astronauts), lead Kate back to UH again a few years later. This time, for teacher training. Now a secondary school maths teacher, and “proud of my role as ‘Miss’ to my charges”, Kate is using her knowledge to put mathematics into real life contexts. She says that her master's degree has been a great tool in showing pupils what they can achieve themselves, and how they can turn what they are learning into important research later on; "I have certainly waved my MSc report to several classes to show the point of algebra!"

When young computer programmer, Kate Bellingham was discussing her specialist interest in electronic engineering with her mum, she was met with the remark, "...but why, dear?"

To be fair, it’s probably not a direction many parents expect their little girls to grow up and passionately pursue. So far my own two daughters have voiced collective ambitions to become Spiderman, a doctor or Barbiel. Throughout her subsequent career, this has never stopped Kate from pursuing this most unglamorous of disciplines, and not only to become an engineer-savant herself, but also, promote the importance of science and engineering to the young and older alike. In doing this, she has become a role model - particularly for scientifically-minded young women.

Kate admits that when she embarked on her career, it was a very male-dominated field, and looking at things from the inside, little has changed. “When I started it was almost unheard of for a woman to have career in engineering, now, although it’s not quite so rare, women are still not making this choice.” Although glad that her success can serve as an inspiration to other women, this has never been Kate's chosen role, her mission statement is to inspire, and promote science … to everyone.

Starting with a physics degree from Oxford, she went on to work as a computer programmer, and took a job behind the scenes at the BBC. She also embarked on an IEE (Institution of Electrical Engineers, now known as IET) lecture tour, presenting broadcast engineering to children. It was here that her natural presenting style was noticed, and she was asked to audition as a presenter for a new BBC show for kids, called Techno. The rest, as they say, is history - or perhaps more appropriately in this case… science?

Being a musician and a performer (Kate is also an accomplished pianist and vocalist) and having lectured in front of thousands of students for the IEE, television wasn’t too daunting. “It was”, she noted “more stressful attempting live demonstrations on stage, I often said - no, what should have happened there, is...” The story of how this young programmer became the acceptable face of science is not without a Cinderella-style twist to the tale. A natural talent for presenting had been spotted, but as quickly as she was swept away, her carriage turned back into a pumpkin, and following Techno, she retreated behind the scenes. Not that this was any great disappointment to her, and she continued with her training as an electronic engineer.

In 1999, Kate proved that the glass/media slipper still fitted, when she was offered a role as a presenter on the BBC's flagship science programme, Tomorrow’s World. She shocked the producers when she voiced a strong reluctance to take on the job because she hadn’t finished her training. They refused to take no for an answer, arranging for her to complete her studies during the summer months. Although the majority of Tomorrow’s World was aired live, Kate still remembers the look on a fellow engineer’s face that summer, when he realised he was sitting in the same room as the presenter of the episode they were watching! “Yes, that is me!”

“It’s all about how you can benefit from keeping involved with your university. Many people think that the only way to give back is by giving donations, but it's not just about the money. It’s about how you can make a difference to others by sharing your experiences and expertise.”

Tomorrow’s World went out to millions of viewers, and Kate still recalls her “disbelief at actually being paid to do it!” During her time on the show, she “never stopped being an engineer”, and repeatedly got to cover the topics that were of interest to her. She was presented with incredible filming opportunities, such as standing in the middle of a satellite dish in the Nevada Desert, and venturing deep into the Channel Tunnel. Kate also remembers the sense of responsibility she felt to represent science and technology accurately and make the subjects engaging to the millions of people or small groups. And interacting one-on-one is just as rewarding in its own way, if not more so.”

Kate’s world. Who says science and engineering can’t be glamorous?
Maybe your degree was employment-focused, but you feel that you need even better skills for the next job? Or perhaps you did an academic course? Whatever your degree, whatever you are doing now and no matter what you want to do next, we may just have the answer!

The University of Hertfordshire is developing a package of courses and other support that is designed to:

- Help you do better in your current job by offering realistically priced short courses that you can do without affecting your work or home life, and that can lead into Master's degrees. Ultimately many will be offered online using StudyNet for support.
- Help you develop the essential business or management skills that you may lack.
- Enable you to social network with people just like you.

Also, if you tell us what you need – which could be anything from a foreign language, to creativity in business – we will do our best to help you!

To launch the new service, we will be offering short courses that can lead to a MSc in Management and other services after Easter. Look out for further information on the new university website or express interest on the form below.

Expression of interest for business-relevant short courses and related university services

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Telephone number

Company (if employed)

Job title

Please tick as appropriate

I am interested in short courses leading to a MSc in Management

I am interested in short courses in the following areas (please state)

I am not interested in short courses but would like to have other business-related skills:

- Careers development support
- Support to generate new business ideas
- Support in setting up a company
- Access to business networking
- Research opportunities
- Other (please state)

Thank you for your help! Expressing interest does not imply you are committing yourself.

Completed forms and enquiries should be sent to:

UHEvolve@herts.ac.uk Web: www.herts.ac.uk/courses

Expression of interest form

In 1992, Karin Hale graduated with a degree in English with Historical Studies. Passionate about her time here, she accepted the request to join the UH Development Committee by Lady Parkinson in 1995. Little did she know that her relationship with the institution had only just begun.

2008, February. Karin and I sit in the Development and Alumni office on the top floor of the MacLaurin Building. In great spirits, she tells me that later on that day, she is off skiing with her four grandsons. “Excellent!” I smile. “Well… we’ll find out when we get there!” she jovially replies. Clearly though, she genuinely cannot wait.

Karin Hale’s involvement with the Development Committee was born from having spent most of her adult life fundraising. It was all self-taught, but invaluable nonetheless; with no provisions for the support of her autistic daughter in Hertfordshire, many years beforehand Karin had set about campaigning for a charity called HACT (Hertfordshire Autistic Community Trust). By the time she came on board at the university, fundraising events were in her blood, and she was soon decreed Chairman of the Special Events Committee – which also had a remit to raise the profile of the County’s ‘new’ university.

Back in the Development and Alumni office, asking Karin about the projects she has worked on during her time at UH is like opening a particularly large set of floodgates… exchanging and mulling over dates and details with her long-time cohort, and our mutual colleague, Frances Elliott, I can barely scribble fast enough to keep up. Regular lunches and bridge afternoons at Knebworth House (courtesy of Lord Cobbald), supper at the Henry Moore Foundation (where an original sketch was donated for auction), a Lord Mayor Mansion House Reception (for the Key Centre Fund), a concert hosted by David Laing at his house (where it rained in torrents the whole time!), an Antique Day at the Fielder Centre in association with Sothebys - and of course the North Mymms Park events (which are among the biggest fundraising events in the university’s calendar). She reels off these reminiscent highlights with all the fervor she no doubt had at the time and it is clearly something she still remains very passionate about.

And being an alumna herself, championing the university’s connection with its former students is something Karin has seen as an important necessity right from the beginning. She has been the unofficial president of all things alumni for many years – lending her time and her name to this role as readily as that of the Development Committee and Special Events Committee. Recently, she travelled out to Athens to co-host the official alumni reception in Greece.

Karin – who will continue to give her support as Vice-President of the Alumni Association – could not be more pleased with the way things have evolved since she started. “After 14 years, it is time for me to step down,” she smiles, “but I am thrilled that the Alumni Association is really taking off. Kate (Bellingham) is going to do a fantastic job”.

From the Development and Alumni team, and on behalf of the university and all her alumni, thank you for your invaluable work and continuing support, Karin. See you at North Mymms Park!
Alumni Events around the World

Reunions, graduations, fund raisers... how international UH events are stretching out across the globe...

Aerospace Engineers Reunion
November 2007

Some 60 alumni gathered to celebrate the official launch of an Aerospace Engineering Alumni Association. Among the attendees were several who studied when the university was called the deHavilland Aeronautical Technical School, back in the 50s. Guests of honour were Frank Doyle and Kate Bellingham.

Computer Science Reunion (1967 Intake)
October 2007

A 40th anniversary reunion for Computer Science 1967 intake was held on October 6 and 7. Organised by Graham True, 22 of the 25 graduates from 1967 plus former members of staff attended the reunion which was held in South Devon. Attendees came from as far as Hong Kong and Philadelphia.

Alumni Reunion Athens, September 2007

The Acropolis of Athens was the backdrop to the Greek alumni reception in September. Hosted by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ieva Leinonen, among the ninety guests were Kate Hall, Vice-President of the UH Alumni Association and John Koutsouparas, President of the IST Alumni Association. The reunion was preceded by the IST graduation ceremony.

Alumni Christmas Party
December 2007

Fifty guests braved a chilly winter’s evening in the Big House in December for the Alumni Christmas Party. There was a warm welcome when alumni and the Development and Alumni team took to the dance floor! There is no pictorial evidence, but Frances Elliott has assured us that the dancing was out of this world!

A Career in Marketing
February 2008

Over 100 alumni and prospective students heard the Head of Marketing and Communications at HSBC and Shad Khan (President of the Thai Alumni Society) share their experiences of studying and practising marketing.

Alumni reunion in India
February 2008

A Delhi Alumni Association gathering was held in the China restaurant at Claridges Hotel in New Delhi. The dinner was hosted by the University’s Head of the School of Pharmacy, Professor Douglas Dilton. Our alumni welcomed the opportunity to catch up with old friends and find out what’s going on at UH today.

Global Futures

If your event isn’t here, apologies – we probably didn’t know about it! But we would love to include (and even be of help in organising) your future reunion events. Please inform us at alumni@herts.ac.uk.
An Infusion of Talent

With the cutting edge facilities of the new media building opening its doors to talented student musicians, UHRecordings – the only university-owned record label in Europe – is helping those with true ability to plug into the industry, and gain their professional chops through their new student-only division, Infuse.

Sometime towards the end of the last Millennium (remember back then?), Thomas Edward Yorke of an upcoming band called Radiohead sang the words “anyone can play guitar, and they won’t be a nothing anymore”. On the one hand, it was a personal attack on Jim Morrison - and the mythical status that has long outgrown his music since his death - whilst also commenting on the wider notion that if presented the right way, good looks and a flamboyant lifestyle can bring far more success than gifted composition and songwriting. A notion never more pertinent, it seems, than today.

With the contemporary music industry becoming more controlled and contrived with every year that passes – the original MTV generation now all grown up and running the show in a world never more obsessed with celebrity – getting onto the scene and recognised for genuine musical talent is perhaps harder now than ever before. Even with annual X-Factor auditions. OK, so there’s MySpace, a useful tool for some, but also an uncontrolled, free-for-all for anyone and everyone to self-publish literally anything from the comfort of their own bedroom - and tell the world they’ve recorded their own album. Or seven. But of course as always, raw, budding talent is out there... writing, playing, gigging – in the midst of an increasingly competitive field where most may never get the chance to develop their skills effectively, or learn how to make the most of them.

So, what can be done to help counter such an endemic situation? On 12 November last year, UH’s Emeritus Professor of Music, Howard Burrell and his fellow professionals at UHR (University of Hertfordshire Recordings) launched a subsidiary division of their – until now - essentially classical record label. This new division, Infuse, is aimed just at students (from any university or college in the country – not just UH), and geared up for more mainstream, chart-bound acts. The idea; ‘to infuse students into the professional music industry’, allowing deserving, gifted young songwriters and performers the chance to fully produce and release their work. The promising artists will be nurtured by music business professionals, with the label hopefully acting as an effective bridge between education and industry.

But the initiative is not only designed to help kick-start careers from a writer/performer’s point of view. The emergence of digital recording software packages over the last few years has seen anyone with an iota of computer literacy become able to record decent multiple track, full band demos with nothing more than a laptop to hand, and while this technological advancement has its obvious advantages, it also makes the skills and nuances of professional sound engineering on a larger scale in far less demand. Being signed to Infuse not only gives artists the chance to work with industry professionals in a full recording studio environment, but part of the deal is to also give them the opportunity to develop the skills of sound technicians, and get involved in all aspects of production. From recording to mixing, editing, designing, marketing, management - the idea is to expose talented, passionate individuals to the many elements undertaken by record producers, giving them valuable experience to take with them into the wider industry.

Professor Howard Burrell said of the label’s launch: “Infuse will showcase the best student talent from performers to those involved behind the scenes - not just from the University of Hertfordshire but throughout the UK.” Although currently the overall manager of UHR, Professor Burrell acts as Executive Producer for Infuse, with the division being managed by UH alumnus, Adrian Walker. Adrian was instrumental in many music initiatives during his time studying here, and had accomplished a great deal in both live sound and studio-based work for many professional acts, even before graduating with an honours degree in Music Technology. The team also comprises Chief Engineer, Daniel Halford (who has applied his sound design technology know-how to the likes of the BBC, Spitalfield’s Festival and the Cambridge Handel Opera Group) and Head of Press, Marcus Carboni (former Head of Press and Promotion at Decca Records and EMI).

And so, who are the newly discovered, spearhead acts, freshly signed to Infuse? Currently there are two; Luke Armitage and David Mapp – each a solo artist, and both of whom performed to an invitation-only audience at Beales Hotel in Hatfield for the label’s launch party in November. Luke, who has opened for acts such as Billy Idol, the Red Hot Chilli Peppers and McFly, said “This is a great opportunity for me to start my career in the industry with a backbone of professionals assisting me along the way. With the support of the new label, I look forward to recording, releasing and touring my debut album.” A great opportunity indeed.

So can anyone really play the guitar and become as legendary as Jim Morrison? Who knows. But what’s certain is that Luke Armitage and David Mapp are two extremely talented songwriters, worthy of the chance - and with the support of Infuse, are undoubtedly names to look out for in the future. And hopefully, Thom Yorke would agree.
Friends in High Places

Chairman of the UH Development Committee for two and a half years. Governor for four years. Friend of the university for six years before that… Over the last decade, Lady Staughton has been instrumental in helping to realise many UH fundraising campaigns. Friend? Joanna Staughton and the University of Hertfordshire are nigh on inseparable.

When we approached Lady Staughton to ask if she would mind being interviewed for a piece in Futures, she was certainly taken aback, but agreed. Grateful as we were, we were also totally unsurprised… as talking about the university, and the benefits of getting involved with all-things-UH is something Joanna has been doing indefatigably for nearly ten years – and not only that, she’s been doing it extremely well.

“I open my mouth and speak to people. I’m a ‘people person’. I love to meet people, network, introduce people to one another – and of course to the university. I am always interested in what people have to say, especially about UH.” And Lady Staughton’s own introduction to the University of Hertfordshire happened in much the same way. “I was persuaded into it by Ann Parkinson!” she jests speaking of course of Lady Parkinson, “who is an old friend. It was around ten years ago. I’d just retired from chairing a Health Authority, and had enjoyed a fascinating year as High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, so I had a little time on my hands.”

Bold, eloquent and with a natural, personable wit, Lady Staughton assumes her role as an ambassador for the University with ease. Proactive and highly respected, she has invited many notable figures in the region to become involved. And not only does Joanna enjoy lending her time to supporting UH, it is also something she really believes in.

Having an Honours degree in the arts from the Open University (graduating with a higher class degree than her extremely disparaging school teacher, “who said that I was useless and would amount to absolutely nothing”), when approached about UH, Joanna was excited to see the growing prominence that universities were having among school leavers, particularly compared to when she herself was in her late teens. “When I was 18, going out and getting a degree really wasn’t the norm, and it’s absolutely wonderful to see how things have changed, and why higher education must be supported in society.”

When she introduced Joanna to the university, Lady Parkinson was chairing the UH Development Committee, and obviously saw her friend as a worthy successor: “Ann did an amazing job… she galvanised people, made it a really hard working committee.” Although Joanna explains that as head of the Committee herself (she became Chairman in September, 2006), she does things very differently, it is clear that she too believes in that hard working ethos. It was a very large committee when she came on board, and one of her first decisions was to streamline its membership to a far smaller, very committed group. “I wanted ten really hard workers”.

And their hard work - along with that of the Development Team - has been rewarded by the successful campaigns that have seen projects such as the Key Centre (an ecumenical centre of worship, run by the UH Chaplaincy), the Health Building (including the largest, cutting edge Medical Simulation Centre in Europe), the Clinton-Baker Pinetum (a pine tree conservation on the Bayfordbury Campus), and of course the Weston Auditorium (£3 million theatre-like venue) become a reality. Joanna’s role in each of these successes was instrumental, and each one holds particular memories and achievements for her; “The Health Building was a ten year project, and took a long time to get to fruition. It’s an amazing building, and the simulation centre is an extraordinary facility. It was really exciting to see it up and running”.

But Joanna also notes that one of the biggest successes of the Development team to date, is that of the UH Scholarship programme. With 130 scholarship students being sponsored by external sources (from companies such as Willmott Dixon and Eperian Integrated Marketing, foundations such as the Hertfordshire Educational Foundation, to individuals like Astronomer and Queen guitarist, Brian May), the programme is more successful than ever before. “Jo Wean, (UH Development Officer) has done a fabulous job with the programme, ably assisted by Professor Michael Elves and the scholarship subcommittee. What is exciting is the growing number of endowed scholarships we now have, such as the Jarvis Centenary Scholarship, Sir Gerard Newman, Jack Fielder, Howard Burrell – and, as an aside, Tim Wilson has set one up in the name of his mother, supporting a primary school teacher.”

Most of the scholarships are supported by regular donations of £1,000 each year, but endowed scholarships require a £25,000 donation (£19,500 if ‘Gift Aided’), which will sponsor a student on any chosen course in perpetuity. Something that Lady Staughton and her husband Sir Christopher Staughton have recently set up themselves. Joanna believes that “if leading, lead by example”, and despite all the time and effort she devotes already, felt it only right to show support in the way she asks many others to do. “Young people are our future. It’s very important to support them, and endowing a scholarship seemed like a fine way to do so.” With Sir Christopher, a retired member of the Court of Appeal and barrister since 1967, and Joanna, a Magistrate for thirty years, the Staughton Scholarship will be awarded to students in the field of law. And the great thing about it being an endowment is that it will continue to do so forever.

At the end of our conversation, we ask Lady Staughton what she would consider to be the biggest highlights of her work here at UH. Somewhat aptly, Joanna lists almost every element of her experiences; from the Graduation ceremonies, to seeing the Development team’s successes grow with every year… from such advances as the huge improvement in the quality of alumni data, to the opening of new buildings after so much work has gone into the campaigns. But to conclude, she echoes the sentiment she began with, of how the ‘people’, and the human element of her role is what gives her the most enjoyment and satisfaction; “Apart from how welcoming everybody (at UH) is, and how everyone works together, for me the biggest highlight has to be the ‘Donor Thank You’ event. Seeing the students and the donors together makes you realise how worthwhile it all is”. A friend indeed.
Do Androids Dream of Electric Ghosts?

How UH research into cognitive robots and modern day perceptions of ghosts in society is making such stalwart sci-fi subjects that much closer to being a part of our reality...

More than half a decade ago, visionary writers such as Philip K. Dick and Isaac Asimov were writing groundbreaking and imagination bending fiction on the moral implications of humanoid robots integrating into society. Very human societies - where despite the fictional and futuristic nature of these story-worlds, the cognitive processes of the human mind had been perfectly replicated in artificially intelligent beings, allowing them to think, act, and interact like everyday people.

Long before that, the likes of Charles Dickens, and even William Shakespeare were penning timeless yams of immortal souls communicating with the living – sending moralistic and downright scary messages to the very much alive protagonists of their tales.

But rapid advancements in technology and changing perceptions of the ‘afterlife’ in our contemporary world have allowed these two fascinating subjects to become not only more pertinent here at the beginning of the 21st century, but also the specialist studies of researchers here at UH. And who are these Sci-Non-Fi revolutionaries? Professor Kerstin Dautenhahn, and her computer science team, and social historian, Dr Owen Davies respectively.

Cognition is the term given to perception, reasoning and importantly learning capabilities as part of intelligence. Not just the ability to remember and carry out programmed tasks – like computers, machines and robots as we have known them until now are able to do – but to react, interact and learn, with a growing ability to adapt, sense, understand and communicate with environments and companions. Basically, having such mental processes as awareness, intuition and conception would make a robot’s AI function in the same sort of way a human mind would do (much less sophisticated though) – allowing them to interact with people, and develop and exhibit social behaviour. Which is exactly what is happening in the School of Computer Science at the University of Hertfordshire.

Professor Kerstin Dautenhahn, along with a team of researchers and designers, form the Adaptive Systems Research Group, which is the UH leg of numerous European projects into cognitive robotics. These are, namely, Cognitron (the development of a cognitive robot companion functioning in a home environment), Robot-cub (developing the interactive psychology of a cognitive robot in humanoid form), and Iromec (robots as social mediators for children who cannot play) which is associated to the Aurora Project (the oldest of the studies – since 1998- looking into how cognitive robots could act as a remedial tool for autistic children). With each of the European Projects teams specialising in particular areas of the research, the team at Hertfordshire is mainly involved in the social interactions of the robots - both with their environments, and of course with people. Studying the psychological development and behaviour of such a system is as integral a part of the research as the technology and hardware it took to build it. And in terms of its cognitive capabilities, perhaps even more so. “My research goals are the investigation of social intelligence and individual interactions in groups of autonomous agents,” Professor Dautenhahn states, “including humans and other animals, software agents and robots.”

The Robot-cub project has facilitated the building of KASPAR* (Kinesics And Synchronisation in Personal Assistant Robots) – a humanoid robot (or ‘embodied cognitive system’ to use a more correct term), designed to both look and act like a human child**. KASPAR (who’s appearance is eerily similar to that of the robot character ‘Sonny’ in the 2004 film adaptation of Asimov’s novel ‘I, Robot’) has been created this way for use as a common tool for scientists to study the ‘growing up’ and learning capabilities of a cognitive human-machine interface. Professor Dautenhahn explains, “These systems will not be copies of humans or animals, they will always be different because of the different organisation of the material their bodies consist of. But they should behave in a way which is compatible to humans... I want them to be integrated in human society; a ‘multi-species’ society.”

The team’s long-term view of robots living alongside humans in society, although with its obvious benefits to those with disabilities and impairments, does of course (as all good groundbreaking scientific research has a tendency to do...) raise a host of moral issues. All of which forming a part of the psychological studies being undertaken here at UH. After all, there is not just a question of whether or not robots are ready to be integrated into our society, but also whether our society is ready to welcome robots? The university’s Computer Science Research Colloquium holds regular open lectures and discussions, based around topics related to this phenomenological issue. How will people relate to them? On what sort of levels will they interact? And perhaps most pertinent, will they perceive and treat robot companions as people or objects? Humans or machines? Wider studies have already indicated that the more humanoid an object is in appearance, the more the human psyche develops a tendency to abuse it – raising questions of what we would consider to be acceptable behaviour towards robots, morally and consequentially?

“We think in terms of building robots as ‘friendly’ partners, showing interesting behaviours and/or dynamic types of movement” Professor Dautenhahn concludes, “robots as toys to entertain people and help handicapped children to relate to the...
and not show the merest hint of fright whilst doing so.

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But before we go any further, let’s get some background atmosphere… after we die.

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will be lost in time, like tears in rain. Time to die.”

a rooftop in sheet acid rain, gives an iconic monologue, the gun a little here! - but having discovered he is an android, and finally giving up on his quest to extend his 4

I may be being a touch sentimental, and perhaps jumping you think that only a 5th (of the British population today)

impulse left behind by the living.” This seems far easier to
dead’ anymore” he explains “rather an electrical, magnetic

ideas. “Not many people think of them as ‘souls of the

perceive a ‘modern day ghost’. Gone it seems are the

perform tasks in, adapting to their social surroundings in a

horsemen or electronic pulses communicating through an

was currently happening in society at that time?

“A lot of people think researching ghosts is a waste of time” he explains, on Radio 4 programme ‘Thinking Aloud’, “and that they simply don’t exist, so (the subject isn’t) important anymore.”

So with ideas such as ‘warning ghosts’ (telling living family of events in the future), ‘revenge ghosts’ (of suicide or murder victims coming back to set the record straight), and American myths of ‘treasure ghosts’ (where pirates would murder slaves so that their ghosts could guard their buried treasure), such scary apparitions have always been strong in popular culture, and likely always will be. People like to be scared – particularly through horror books and films – and whether they’re deemed to be headless

As I close on this part of my article, being a child of the late seventies, and the post ‘Star Wars’, sci-fi generation, I just can’t help but recall Rutger Hauer’s stirring speech at the end of Ridley Scott’s 1982 neo-noir film, ‘Blade Runner’. Adapted from Philip K. Dick’s 1968 book, ‘Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep’, the story is set in a future in which androids (or ‘Replicants’) have become so infused into society, that neither they nor humans know who is real, and who is artificial; one of the main themes addressing what it really means to be human. Granted – I may be being a touch sentimental, and perhaps jumping the gun a little here! - but having discovered he is an android, and finally giving up on his quest to extend his 4 year lifespan, Rutger Hauer’s broken character, poised on a rooftop in sheet acid rain, gives an iconic monologue, ending with the very human sentiment: “All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain. Time to die.”

So if electrical impulses can become close to being human, how close can humans come to becoming electrical impulses? According to opinion polls and social histories being studied by the university’s Dr Owen Davies, many of us believe our electronic impulses remain in the atmosphere… after we die.

But before we go any further, let’s get some background context. Dr Davies’ research*** proves that ghosts, in story, myth and legend have been in our society since the eras of the Pagan Romans and Ancient Greeks. Belief in the afterlife in one form or another pre-dates Christianity. In the 18th century, a common trial to test whether or not an individual believed in ghosts was to have them walk from one end of a graveyard to the other in the dead of night, and not show the merest hint of fright whilst doing so. But changing perceptions of ghosts, and what they really are or represent, has seen people’s ideas and belief in the phenomena peak and trough considerably through the ages. And it was these constantly shifting perceptions that lead Dr Davies to conduct an exhaustive study into the social history of the subject – and whether there was any correlation between a particular period of belief, and what was currently happening in society at that time?

But Davies also attributes a modern day rise in spirituality to the increase in believers – whereby such historical notions of people’s spirits coming down to our earthly plane are not so reliant on scientific explanation. In terms of religious connotations, Dr Davies’ wider interest and research into popular religion helps to explain why some periods in western society (particularly across Europe), were more open to believing in such phenomena than others. Ever since the advent of the Church, it’s been “a tricky question for Christians” – and through the ages, the Church has never come to any real conclusion as to where ghosts fall within their belief system. Since the 14th Century, Catholics on the other hand have whole-heartedly embraced the notion, deeming ghosts to be souls awaiting final judgement, and therefore a lynchpin for the idea of purgatory. They felt that this provided a rationale for ghostly accounts, and as a result, the purgatorial ghost has been a classic theme in early modern literature, such as ‘Hamlet’.

Dr Davies very much believes that this high percentage of those believing in ghosts today is down to how people perceive a ‘modern day ghost’. Gone it seems are the romanticised days of the white shrouded figure floating through the shadows (until the 20th century, this was the most common description given by believers), making way for more contemporary, almost scientifically explained ideas. “Not many people think of them as ‘souls of the dead’ anymore” he explains “rather an electrical, magnetic impulse left behind by the living.” This seems far easier to swallow than translucent spirits floating around. One case in point being the current trend of EVP (Electronic

Voice Phenomenon) believers in today’s society. People all across the world devote their time and technology to listening to apparent messages from the dead being channeled through electronic devices such as televisions and radios (explored in the 1985 Don DeLillo novel, and 2005 film adaptation, ‘White Noise’).

**KASPAR (along with its more traditionally biological researchers) has appeared on a plethora of BBC television and radio shows, and articles have been written for numerous local and national newspapers and magazines. Also featured in the press on various occasions, has been the Robot House – a regular home environment based in a nearby house in Hertfordshire, which was set up by the team for their Cogniron robot helpers to live and perform tasks in, adapting to their social surroundings in a cognitive manner.

***Dr Owen Davies latest book “The Haunted: A Social History of Ghosts” has recently been published by Palgrave Macmillan. He has also published work on the social history of other specialist interests, including witchcraft, magic and folk medicine.

Story by Steve Corbett.
What some of you are doing now...

Send us your profile with your photograph and may see yourself in a future edition of Futures.

Dimitris Georgiou
Year Graduated: 2007 Course Studied: Computer Science
Current Employer: Hellenic American Educational Foundation
(Athens College-Psychico College) Area: Greece

After having watched the presentation of an early software project that I had delivered, an otherwise bright programming professor said to me: "Did you do that by yourself??!

The most significant turning point of my life was when I decided to make a career change to IT – hence the MSc in Computers. I knew that career change comes at a price. Yet, I have enjoyed "following my heart" all the way, and I cannot imagine myself if I had done otherwise.

Working with computers had been my joyride since childhood, and as a matter of fact, it still is.

For a living, I am administering network resources and computer systems, I develop programming solutions, I investigate security issues, I tackle challenging problems, and I offer consulting and training. The fun part is that I have made a profession out of what was once my hobby! I am currently working on a project to establish a web-based learning platform for teachers and students.

Caroline Green
Year Graduated: 2007 Course Studied: Marketing
Current Employer: University of Hertfordshire Area: Hertfordshire, UK

Being one of the first to pilot "marketing @ UH", was brilliant. We worked on a real life marketing problem and the competitiveness between the teams built to a crescendo, finally my team won and the sense of achievement was better than any exam result! The friends I made are still my closest university friends.

Doing a placement year was the biggest influence in my life. I was able to experience the type of things I would like to pursue as a career, and those I did not! It really built my confidence and enabled me to understand my marketing studies in the context of a real business.

I started working for the marketing and communications department at the University of Hertfordshire on a casual contract and shortly after a permanent position arose which I applied for and got!

Erno Hannink
Year Graduated: 2000 Course Studied: Business Administration
Current Employer: Self Employed Area: The Netherlands

I am an expert in building online communities. I help small and medium businesses to apply the internet in order to get more customers.

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Networking changed my life two years ago, and I regularly post on my popular marketing blog: www.enhousiasmener.nl

We have an Alumni of MBAAZ (Arnhem Zwolle), meeting twice a year. Also our graduation year is a separate social gathering every year. We have great catch up talks all evening during these events.

Sheng Hu
Year Graduated: 2006 Course Studied: Law
Current Employer: Shanghai Zhong Cun Law Firm Area: Shanghai, China

I am a partner and lawyer at Shanghai Zhong Cun Law Firm, and I specialise in company law and intellectual property. My experience at the university was different to most, as an 18 year old, I joined the army, and then as a 36 year old I joined the law school as an international student.

The Shanghai Justice Bureau influenced me to come to UH, but I am disappointed I haven’t had any relations with the university since I left, and I am enthusiastic about doing things with UH in any capacity in Shanghai.

David Powell
Year Graduated: 1970 Course Studied: Computer Science
Current Employer: Creekwood Digital Solutions (Self Employed) Area: Ontario, Canada

After graduating I immediately left for Canada, and I am still here today, semi-retired running Creekwood Digital Solutions. I divide my time between commercial enterprises, working with charities and home projects. Some weeks there will be more than another, but I like to address all three. I like to work with people and enjoy the feeling of making a difference to the way they work; saving them time and effort showing someone a handy tip. I don’t want just four hour commute, the excessive politics, or the 10 hour days, but I do want to make a difference.

John Christopher
Year Graduated: 1971 and 1972 Course Studied: Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering and then Electronics
Current Employer: Business Link East Area: Hertfordshire, UK

My early jobs were as a Design Engineer with people like Hawker Siddley Dynamics, Marconi Space and the Dowty Group. Further CPD, a Diploma in Management Studies and Marketing Diploma studies led to international Project Management, NATO programmes and a spell in the USA with Martin Marietta.

Two years with micro-focus X-Rays ended my industrial apprenticeship where upon I moved into business support with Business Link Herts as the Innovation Technology Counsellor. Five years on and I went to Cranfield University to start the Manufacturing Advisory Service, East, helping manufacturers throughout the East of England for four years before joining Business Link East, as the adviser for Hi-Tech and Advanced Engineering Companies. If you want my help just contact j.christopher@businesslinkeast.org.uk. In my spare time I Chair the East of England Engineering, Science & Technology Association www.eesta.org.uk

Dr Stephen Ankier
Year Graduated: 2001 Course Studied: Medical Law/Masters of Laws
Current Employer: Retired Area: Middlesex, UK

After leaving UH, I wrote a book: ‘Medical Law and Research’ which is now on its 2nd edition, and I am also making plans for a 3rd edition. Since I was a mature student when I studied medical law, most of my career had already happened. I worked in academia and with the pharmaceutical industry (new medicine research, discovery, development and authorisation/registration) at a senior level. My most inspirational lecturer was Gill Korgaonkar who I still keep in touch with. If you would like to find out more about my book series, please visit my website: www.medreslaw.com

Marisa Morgan
Year Graduated: 2005 Course Studied: Applied Arts
Current Employer: The Walt Disney Company Area: London, UK

When I left school, (after my A-levels) I worked for two years doing in office based roles. In my spare time I kept working with textiles and costume when I could. Some people didn’t think I would go back to education, I believed I would but needed a break from learning to experience the world a bit. In 2000 I decided to do an HND course in 3D Design which was a great way to get back into learning and gave me faith in my abilities.

After finishing in 2002, I felt confident enough to stay in education and do a degree as well as pursue a job as a Puppet Designer. 2003 was the year when I started to think of myself as a Designer. I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do for a career but I knew what I liked and my enthusiasm for creativity was my driving force. I haven’t stopped believing in myself and I am still very enthusiastic about everything I do! I look back on my experiences fondly and don’t regret any of my choices. My brief is now to design compelling product for Disney to reinforce Disney values in the toy industry through my designs. I specialise in girls’ products and role play.
January 1, 1970 and I start my new post as a Lecturer at Hatfield Polytechnic, full of enthusiasm and some apprehension. However arriving at the Applied Biology Department at Hatfield, I am told that I will be stationed at the Polytechnic Field Station, Bayfordbury. No problem, in fact elation, because after seven years in Central London, Bayfordbury provided the ideal surroundings for an ecologist. So I headed out for Bayfordbury, just as the snow began to settle in earnest.

The first, second and third attempts at getting up the Bayfordbury In-drive failed, so I abandoned the car, put on my wellies and trudged up to the Science Block. I found that I was one of only about four people who had made it in and after a good lunch it was decided to leave before the snow became too deep. Returning to the car I found it blocked by another car and covered in snow, but help was at hand in the guise of Jim and Charlie, two groundsmen on their bikes who helped me get back on the road and so off home. This was an example of the camaraderie that I found throughout my 37 years at the Poly/UH in both Applied Biology and Geography and Environmental Science. A friendly atmosphere where a young lecturer could put their point of view as freely as the Head of Department and there was no strict hierarchy between lecturers, support staff and post graduates.

So what of our ‘customers’ a dreadful introduced phrase of more recent derivation for the students. There have been some noticeable changes as in 1970 a large class for the ecology area of Applied Biology would be 15 students! Now, in the first year module with some ecology content the number is expected to be around 60 and in other areas of biology, well over the 100 mark. I think the smaller groups were more intimate and gave all the students a chance to participate and the lecturer a better chance of judging the grasp of the students for the topic. Now throughout my time as a lecturer, I was also known for the occasional practical joke and this included delivering spurious information during a lecture to see who was actually off autopilot for note taking. As long as you deliver with a straight face the students still treat you with god-like reverence, at least in the first two years, but by the final year or after two or three field courses the students realise that perhaps they are expected to challenge some of the lecture material. Hence the spontaneous generation of a new form of hominid after each Ice Age, Silbury Hill being visible from the moon or the extinction of the dinosaurs due to elongated guts leading to total constipation might just be questionable.

Away from the lecture room is the real world of ecology and it is there in the environment, that carefully planned practicals do not always go according to plan. The collection of water samples as the tide retreated by Mersea Island road-bridge saw the gallant Gavin wading through the mud and eventually getting stuck some 100 yards out. Also a colleague who was so busy lecturing as he walked along narrow planks over the mud at Blakeney Marsh, he failed to stop at the end and went up to his waist in mud. He was also noted for pacing back and forth on the lecture room stage until one day he walked off the end and his foot became wedged in the waste bin. Little quirks of the lecturing staff have brought joy to the heart of students and hope and anticipation of the next little accident. Each April first brought expectation from the students and an element of fear from colleagues as to the nature of that year’s ‘April Fool’; the tractor in the lake, the room stripped of all furniture, or just the knowing smile each time I passed the Head of Department, who then spent the whole morning trying to discover what prank had been played on him!

The field and residential courses have always been the greatest fun and staff and students get to know one another well. The communal dormitory of my first field course in Wales proved that snorers always get the best night’s sleep. After breakfast we faced a 750 foot climb to the ‘experimental area’ and some students would set off early to avoid having to carry the equipment. By the third day they were slowed down by the surreptitious placing of rocks in their back-packs by our gallant leader Dave. A student returning to the hostel from a Bovey Tracey pub lost his way and stumbled into a midden where he spent the night. The need every year to make sure the quality of Devon Cream Teas had not diminished. And of course, not forgetting the residential course when we were banned from Butlins at Rottingdean because a technician and lecturer were caught rolling a barrel of beer down a corridor at 2am – oh the ignominy!

The students were great throughout my 37 years and it has given me enormous pleasure to see students from the 70s and 80s in positions of responsibility helping to shape the environmental policy not only for the UK, but several other parts of the world. It was great to see many of them at the 40th Anniversary bash at Bayfordbury in the summer and of course I can keep an eye on their progress through the Alumni Association and my email contacts. And so, into retirement with many activities, as I have become a student in U3A, but still at the moment able to pop over to Bayfordbury and give some advice on the management of that wonderful site.

Dr Allen-Williams retired in July 2007.
In The Know…
With Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Taking an opportunity to enhance his career development through a UH business initiative, Russell Fenner is currently working for the university as a Business Development Co-ordinator. And he hasn’t looked back since...

Embarking on a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) scheme with TES Consulting Ltd and the University of Hertfordshire, Russell successfully completed the scheme through working as an associate for the partnering company - an IT solutions provider for the management of intellectual property and licensing.

In an attempt to find out more about the ‘KTP’, ‘TES’, and how invaluable the experience was, we caught up with him and initiated an effective little synonym ourselves… the good old ‘Q&A’.

Q. For those of us who don’t know, what are KTPs?  
A. “Basically, a KTP is a collaboration between a company and an academic institute which is part funded by government. This involves graduates (known as Associates) who are employed by the academic institute but work in the company and are jointly supervised by company personnel and a senior academic.”

Q. Why did TES Consulting Ltd need a KTP?  
A. “The aim of a KTP is for a company to have access to skills and expertise that will result in a step change within their business as part of a strategic long term plan. In my case a strategic marketing plan for extending the customer base overseas.”

Q. What attracted you towards a Knowledge Transfer Partnership?  
A. “Well, qualification, fast track to management, making a difference within a small business.

Q. How has your KTP enhanced your career development?  
A. “Qualifications, level of responsibility, range of experiences in short period of time.”

Q. How did your contribution help TES?  
A. “Before my KTP, TES had minimal marketing activity, so there was incredible scope for improvement. Implementing the new strategic marketing plan resulted in new CRM systems being created and fresh marketing collateral to name a few changes. There are now a number of potential clients at various stages of the life cycle.”

Q. What memorable experiences did you encounter with TES?  
A. “Satisfaction of seeing development through.”

Q. What advice would you give to anyone considering a KTP?  
A. “Research further, look into the full range of benefits, get post grad qualifications.”

KTPs at UH
KTP is a nationwide scheme that has been in existence for over 30 years (originally known as the “Teaching Company Scheme”) and UH has been involved throughout. There are currently 21 partnerships approved and in progress covering a wide range of areas including product design, manufacturing, technical innovation, business processes, commercial development.

For more information
Graduates: Attained your most recent degree within the last five years? Looking for a job change? A KTP Associate role could be what you are looking for. Look for vacancies at www.ktponline.org.uk

Employers: Running your own company or working within a company? A KTP could improve competitiveness and profitability. Find out if you could be eligible for government funding. Contact Carole Linnell at c.linnell@herts.ac.uk in the first instance.

Academics: Working in an academic environment? Enhance the business relevance of your research and teaching and support regional industry and commerce. Talk to your KT office or Business Development Manager and find out more!
**Future events**

**APRIL 2008**

*Ex Members Of Staff – Wednesday 16 April, College Lane*

Ex members of staff are invited to meet up and enjoy a buffet supper followed by a tour of the new Health Building.

Contact Frances Elliott f.v.elliott@herts.ac.uk or tel 01707 284035.

*China Reunions – Beijing 3rd, Shanghai 5th and Hong Kong 8th April 2008*

If you are in China we would be delighted to meet you. In Shanghai the Alumni Association (UHCSU) has organised career development seminars immediately before the reception.

Details on https://alumni.herts.ac.uk.

**MAY 2008**

*Rock The Kazbah – Friday 9 May 2008*

For everyone who was at Balls Park - join us for a reunion at Castle Hall, Hertford. The event will have a North African flavour with great food and music!

Please contact Frances Elliott f.v.elliott@herts.ac.uk or tel 01707 284035.

**JULY 2008**

*One Year On – 12 July 2008*

Graduates of 2007 are invited to the ‘One Year On’ reunion BBQ. You are very welcome to bring friends from other years.

Please contact Frances Elliott f.v.elliott@herts.ac.uk or tel 01707 284035.

*15th Anniversary For The KDS*

The Karate-do-Shotokai club is celebrating its 15th year and still alive and kicking, they would like to contact previous members (old and not so old) about holding a reunion. Please contact Alistair Woodward on ali@uhkds.co.uk

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

*Greek Alumni Reunion – Athens, September 2008*

Everyone in Greece is welcome to join the next alumni reception, which will be held as usual in a glamorous venue.

Please contact Frances Elliott f.v.elliott@herts.ac.uk or tel 01707 284035.

**Our connection with you**

After you leave UH... you haven’t left UH! You automatically become a member of the UH Alumni Association and can benefit from:

- An online Web Community that you can access 24-7 – https://alumni.herts.ac.uk
- Discounted magazine subscriptions – www.alumni-subscriptions.co.uk
- Up to 20% off car hire with National Car Rental
- Up to £12 off Merlin Entertainment Group venues
- Discounts on UH postgraduate study courses
- Careers advice and mentoring programmes
- Opportunities to find your old friends – at our re-unions, online or by contacting us
- Support with organising reunions
- Free subscription to the UH Alumni magazine: Futures
- Discount at selected Saracens home rugby matches

With a one-off £10 payment, Alumni Card holders also benefit from the following great offers:

- Discounts at UHArts events
- Free entry to the university’s Learning Resource Centres
- Discounts on external borrowing
- Discounts at UH Sports Village on the deHavilland campus
- Discounts at Next Generation Sports Clubs
- Associate membership of the UHSU Bar Club
- 5% discount on conference facilities at the Fielder Centre and deHavilland Sports & Social Club

Applications for the Alumni Card, which costs only £10 can be made at https://alumni.herts.ac.uk

For details of these benefits visit https://alumni.herts.ac.uk or Contact us on +44 (0) 1707 284035 or at alumni@herts.ac.uk

Registered users are able to:

- Add a profile to share
- Update contact details, upload a photo and in general tell the UH world what you’ve been up to
- Search for other alumni
- Check event listings
- View photos of past events.
- Keep track of everything alumni related

So don’t miss out, sign up today and get your profile activated to use the full functionality of the UH Alumni web portal.

**Coming soon ...**

- Online registration to events and ability to view attendees
- Discussion boards
- An easier-to-view site
- Photo Gallery

**Reunion Support**

If you are planning a reunion (your year-group, your School or even your Hall of Residence), not only do we want to know about it, but also offer assistance. We can search our records for contacts and possibly offer a venue on campus.

Please let us know your plans: alumni@herts.ac.uk or 01707 284035.

**Introducing The UH Alumni web portal**

https://alumni.herts.ac.uk

How to Register?

If you would like to register*, or if you have questions; contact John and Lindsay - the Alumni web team: alumniwebteam@herts.ac.uk who would love to hear what you’ve been up to and any suggestions.

*emails should include: Full Name, Student Number (if known) and Date of Birth.
A brand with a difference

For the latest range of UH merchandise and clothing go to www.uhshop.co.uk

If undelivered, please return to Development and Alumni Office
University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield AL10 9AB England
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