Interview with a vanguard
How alumnus Alistair Spalding has transformed Sadler’s Wells

Tech the Halls
The planning of a Hatfield Tech Christmas Review

RESEARCH
Sustainable futures
A look at the University’s new Centre for Sustainable Communities

A clutch of campus curiosities you may not have heard...

THE FANTASTIC FORUM
RISE OF THE SILVER VENUE...

The community talent show that launched an iconic building
Enterprise Spotlight brings inspirational speakers such as Richard Farleigh, Karren Brady and Rachel Elnaugh to the University of Hertfordshire to share their wisdom, knowledge and expertise.

These FREE motivational sessions are guaranteed to empower you with an enterprising spirit.

To view our next Enterprise Spotlight visit go.herts.ac.uk/enterprisespotlight

For further information contact our Enterprise Events Team on:
Email: enterprise@herts.ac.uk
Telephone: 01707 281128

UH Angels 2010
The Pitch Event
Hosted by Ruth Badger from the BBC programme ‘The Apprentice’

Where: The Weston Auditorium, de Havilland Campus, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9EU
When: Tuesday 16th March 2010 18.00-21.00

Be part of this exciting event and watch entrepreneur’s pitch their business ideas to our Angel Investors live on stage in true ‘Dragons’ Den’ style in a bid to gain financial investment.

To add to the excitement, Ruth Badger from BBC’s The Apprentice will be hosting the event and giving an insight into her time with Sir Alan Sugar.

To take part or attend the next UH Angels event contact the Enterprise Events Team on:
Email: enterprise@herts.ac.uk
Telephone: 01707 281128
January 2010. Welcome to the first edition of Futures to be published in this decade.

And alongside this issue of your alumni magazine starts a whole new era of politics, fashions, trends, cultures, technologies, triumphs and heartaches… those moments in time that will never be forgotten, but no-one could ever have predicted. And how many of you – our graduating classes over the course of the last 6 decades – will be key figures in some of the events that the next ten years will be remembered for?

Universities have always been leading forces in progressing society – and since our doors first opened nearly 60 years ago, our campuses have been instrumental – either directly or through some of the great minds and abilities of our alumni – in developments in areas such as transport, astronomy, pharmaceuticals, artificial intelligence, sport and the arts (to name just a few).

In November of last year, we met many elated grads of 2009 (during the UK Ceremonies in St Albans) - where proud parents took ample snapshots of the bright smiles of our tomorrow. We might not know it yet, but in amongst the thousands of hugs, laughs, squeals and camera flashes taking place that week, we may have witnessed a future political leader straighten the mortar board of one of the most influential artists of the 21st Century… Enjoy your issue.

Alison Coles
Head of Development and Alumni

A huge thank you to all of our alumni and friends who have donated to the University this year.

Your support has enabled us to award ten new scholarships in health and the arts and we now have more scholarships funded than ever before. All those who donated to our alumni fund will be invited to meet our newest alumni scholars at our annual donor thank you evening on the 29th April 2010… so keep it free! We’ve also just produced our first ever annual ‘Donor Report’ which tells you about all of the great projects going on across the University… all thanks to you.

Jo Wearne
Development Manager

If you would like a copy of our Donor Report please email Jo at j.r.wearne@herts.ac.uk
Global Futures

Thanks to members of our Alumni Association across the globe volunteering their time, 2010 will see more international alumni activity than ever before, with new chapters due to launch in their respective countries this year. Following our Kenyan Alumni President Ekta Shah setting up a base for alumni to get together in her area of the world last year (see the summer 2009 edition of Futures), our newest international representative, Mitra Sharifi has kindly volunteered to coordinate a chapter in the Middle Eastern region. We are also in the early stages of setting up chapters in both France and in Turkey – giving those of you wanting to network and socialise with fellow graduates in your home countries even more opportunities to do so. The University’s Alumni Relations Manager, Steve Corbett said “It's a great feeling to be expanding the Alumni Association so much further around the world this year – and to be launching so many new chapters at the same time! We’re really pleased to be helping to bring more alums closer together in their own countries, and I don’t imagine these will be the only new regional chapters to form in the near future. “We are always very happy to help set up International Associations in any way we can, so if anyone is interested in becoming President of one in their area, please do get in touch.” If you would like to get in touch with the President of your country’s chapter, please see the ‘International’ section of the alumni website...

FREE career consultations available from Graduate Futures... Whatever stage you are at in your life/career, if you are facing a period of uncertainty or are considering new options, Graduate Futures are currently offering a career review consultation that leads to helping you assess a new development plan. Their consultants will also link you up with further free or discounted support activities to help you achieve your goal. With a limited number of free consultations still available, register your interest by completing a short form on the alumni website, at: https://alumni.herts.ac.uk/go.aspx?id=182.

THE NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CARD

The new Alumni Membership Card is here and now available for free through the alumni website. The new card was initiated by the University so students who have graduated from the institution can have an ‘identity card’ to associate them with their Alma Mater. The card – which allows swipe-access to the LRCs – symbolises the University’s commitment to promote a lifelong connection with its students after graduation. Membership of the Alumni Association is automatic once you graduate, and all graduates or ex-staff of the University (including its predecessor institutions) are eligible to apply. To get your card – and for more information on related access to campus facilities, services, discounts and further memberships all relating to the University – just go to the Alumni Card page on the website. Make the most of your Alumni status on campus... https://alumni.herts.ac.uk/go.aspx?id=90.

University of Hertfordshire
YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL

Industry-focused courses, state-of-the-art learning facilities, a vibrant student life, support and guidance, and a fertile ground to nurture it all in... These are just some of the great things our campuses have to offer students – and so to allow prospective candidates to get a taste of what it’s like to study at the University of Hertfordshire for themselves, a new recruitment video has been released, and can be viewed in hi-definition on YouTube. The video starring alumni Aaron Song, a (concept designer who studied BA(Hons) Graphic Design) illustrates that whatever you want from your university experience, we offer the perfect modern environment in which you can learn, develop your skills and above all have a great time doing it. Definitively worth a watch if you fancy a glimpse of what your old institution has to offer in 2010... www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3lBrmIE4Xw

New planets found around sun-like stars

Astronomers at the University of Hertfordshire and an international team of planet hunters recently announced the discovery of four new planets orbiting nearby stars like our Sun. These new discoveries were made using the Anglo-Australian Telescope in New South Wales, Australia and the Keck Telescope in Hawaii and include both a mysterious new class of planet that is more massive than Uranus and Neptune and a gas-giant planet in a long-period orbit like that of Jupiter. “Since the time of Kepler, we have been on a journey of discovery that has lead us to a new understanding of the Solar System. “These new findings will add to the number of confirmed planets orbiting stars like our Sun,” said Professor Hugh Jones of University of Hertfordshire. “Compared to the Solar System, most extrasolar systems look odd, with planets in very small or very elliptical orbits. In contrast, this new planet has an orbit that is both large and nearly circular – for the first time we are beginning to see systems that resemble our own.”

Highly Beneficial...

This year – new for 2010 – we have plenty more exclusive discounts, memberships and entitlements to offer you, so be sure to keep an eye on e-futures every month (and on the website of course) to really make the most of your alumni benefits.

Remember, as an alumni you are entitled to discounted rates for entry to all Merlin Entertainment attractions (like Legoland, The London Aquarium, Warwick Castle, Madame Tussauds…), as well as great deals on things like car hire, conference facilities, beauty products, UHarts events, and magazine subscriptions to major titles (including Vogue, GQ and Time Magazine).

To find out more about your and your full range of alumni perks, just visit the Benefits Page on the website... https://alumni.herts.ac.uk/go.aspx?id=276

www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3lBrmIE4Xw

WINTER 2010
An Appropriate Forum for Talent

When the opportunity to cover the grand opening of the University’s £38 million entertainment facility, The Forum, came up I immediately put my name forward. Perhaps it was my curious mind and journalistic thirst for discovery that attracted me to this grand state-of-the-art building that rose out of the ground, claiming its place on campus and the Hertfordshire skyline? Maybe it was my obsession with reality TV talent shows that enticed me to The Forum’s Got Talent? Or my nostalgic student memory of The Font that drove me to find out what The Forum had to offer? Whatever it was, I found myself at The Forum Fun Day on Sunday 13 September 2009 with an enquiring eye.

by Satpal Kaur Bassan
specific events for them.’ With the recent popularity of reality TV talent shows, The Forum’s Got Talent was then perhaps the perfect way to promote this state of the art entertainment venue to the alumni community. The two day event proceeded with the auditions on Saturday 12 September with the Final opening to the community the following afternoon. After paying £2.50 for my entry ticket and anxiously waiting in the queue to catch my first glimpse of this state-of-the-art auditorium, I can safely say that I wasn’t disappointed. Its contemporary interior had a smell of newness that was an immediate contrast to the paint-peeling, sticky-floored Font. With multiple bars, large screens to broadcast events on the stage, ample seating in the main arena and even an upstairs gallery (with seating), my first impression of The Forum’s auditorium was simply ‘Wow!’ Patiently waiting through the crowds always associated with such a large event we, the audience, were graced with the presence of Babs, from Heart FM, who entertained us with her wit whilst we awaited the main attraction: dance troupe and winners of Britain’s Got Talent - Diversity. Those who had been selected for the Final definitely had a tough act to follow. Nevertheless, the acts that performed in the final show made it one to remember. From the performance poet with a message, the young girls acting a piece from Wicked and the winners of the £1,000 first prize comedy duo Double Trouble, there was something for everyone.

Once the main event was over I took the opportunity to discover more of The Forum. Its impressive interior boasts four new areas which have been advertised as ‘The perfect venue for any corporate event or private party.’ The appropriately named Style Bar on the first floor was elegant with its mirrors, leather sofas, and chic wallpaper. The Coffee Bar and the restaurant on the ground floor continued the bright and airy theme of the building and offered reasonably priced food. With these new facilities at our disposal, maybe we will see The Forum hosting future events by alumni? Yes The Forum is sophisticated, grand and looks the £38 million pounds that was spent on it. Although I am part of the generation of graduates who were exposed to the low-lit, paint-peeling décor of The Font, the shiny newness of The Forum attracted me as a moth would be attracted to light. I can firmly say that The Forum blinded me with its good looks, its choice of themed rooms, the grand auditorium and the opportunities for us alumni and the local community to use its facilities. Perhaps this event was the beginning of even more involvement for alumni in its progression as a leading university?

---

Herts is leaping up the league tables* – and you were there first. Time to show off a little.

*Source: The Complete University Guide, published 30 April 2009 in the Independent newspaper. Placed 45 out of 113 universities, the University of Hertfordshire has gone up nine places since the previous year.
Have you been or are you facing redundancy? Are you currently out of work? These are times in your life that can cause you a great deal of stress. To help alleviate some of this pressure the government has set up a series of initiatives which are designed to help people seeking work get back into suitable employment. These include Shell Step, the Graduate Talent Pool, The National Graduate Development Programme and, the focus of this article, the Economic Challenge Investment Fund.

by Liz Mortimer

Using your initiative: Employment support

As we look into the New Year, there has been much talk in recent months of an optimistically brighter horizon, making the most of the government’s Economic Challenge Investment Fund is a simple, frugal and encouraging way to start 2010.

What is the Economic Challenge Investment Fund?
The Economic Challenge Investment Fund (ECIF) aims to help individuals to deal with the effects of the recession and take positive steps to thrive and survive. It is available to assist anyone who meets the criteria to become competitive in the job market or rethink career options in the current economic climate.

This is achieved through a range of funded or partially funded opportunities including continuing professional development courses and workshops. For example, you might think that you would make a more attractive contender for positions you are applying to if you learnt to speak a foreign language or received a qualification in Management and Leadership.

It might be the case that you just need to talk through your options with a qualified Careers Consultant who can help you identify your strengths and development areas and then together, make a plan of action to move you forward.

How does it work?
A series of steps are in place to ensure that you can get the most from this offer and that the actions decided upon are individually tailored to your own needs.

Step 1: Call Graduate Futures (01707 264791) or come and visit us in the MacLaurin Building (opposite the de Havilland Campus) and discuss the stage that you are currently at in your career. This will help us to determine how we can help you. From this initial conversation we will be able to allocate you a convenient time when you can come in and talk to a Careers Consultant.

Step 2: Attend your initial guidance consultation where we offer professional support. This is a completely confidential appointment where you will have the chance to talk about the direction you see your future heading and create an action plan detailing how to get there or simply have your CV checked. In this appointment you can also discuss development or training options, if any, that you may undertake and how to register.

Step 3: If you have been referred then the next step is to undertake your training, development or necessary up-skilling so that you can achieve your ambitions.

Am I eligible?
To take advantage of this offer you will need to be either a University of Hertfordshire graduate or a graduate from another university but be living or based in Hertfordshire and be one of the following:

• Unemployed
• On notice of redundancy
• At risk of becoming unemployed
• Employed in sector which has risks of redundancy

If you are interested in benefiting from this offer then please get in touch. We can advise you through what is involved and determine your eligibility. Just call Graduate Futures on 01707 264791 or email graduate.futures@herts.ac.uk

http://www.herts.ac.uk/graduatefutures

resource library

Ever wondered where to find the answers to those common career questions? Graduate Futures spends a great deal of time carefully selecting and purchasing the right information resources to help you. These range from books focusing on setting up your own business to literature on volunteering abroad. To give you a taste, you can read the popular Sally Longson’s Life After series, covering your options after studying for degrees in:

• Art and Design
• Biological Sciences
• Business and Administrative Studies
• Engineering and Built Environment
• Languages and Literature
• Social Studies

Not only is this series available here in the MacLaurin Building but also accessible as ebooks on Voyager so you can read them wherever you are. As you can see, we really do have something for everyone.
Stage Flight

Shortly after the last issue of Futures was published, we had a visit in our office from one of our Technical College alums by the name of David Howell. David had travelled down from Scotland, and was visiting his old campus haunts before attending the 60th anniversary of the de Havilland Comet’s first flight (which he later described to us in an email as both “special” and a “great day out”). Whilst chatting to us, he mentioned that he had been the Assistant Stage Manager for the 1960 ‘Student Review’ – the stage performance put together by the ‘Tech College’ students each Christmas. He said that he thought he might still have the old folder containing the set details from the performance in his loft – and that when he got home, he would endeavour to dig it out for us. Sure enough, the following week, the most wonderfully tatty, intricately detailed folder of hand-drawn set designs arrived in our office – with a note from David, saying, “A ‘foosty’ smelling folder for you. It would appear that whoever put the rather battered folder together must have worked in Aircraft Sales, as all the sketches have been drawn on the back of Specification Sheets – presumably Comet!!”
The University of Hertfordshire is nearly 60 years old.
Fact. Ok, so it’s a fact you probably already knew... but did you know any of these interesting nuggets about your institution? Here are a few things to drop into conversation next time you’re in the pub...

The University’s Fielder Centre near the de Havilland campus used to be an ammunition dump and top secret weapons trade stop-over during World War II. It is rumoured that the Centre has a network of underground escape tunnels, running deep underneath Hatfield Business Park that were used during the war...

The Hatfield Technical College first opened its doors in September 1952, to 1,738 students, and was ‘officially’ opened by the Duke of Edinburgh later on in December of that year. Today, the University is teaching more than 13 times that amount of people...

The College Lane campus is home to one of the largest and most advanced Medical Simulation Centres in Europe. The ground floor of the Health Research Building is a replication of a real hospital casualty ward - containing state-of-the-art computerised mannequins that are programmed to react to treatments and procedures like a real human body...

The University’s coat of arms was granted in 1992. The shield is charged with an oak tree taken from the coat of arms of the former Hatfield Rural District, the constellation Perseus and a representation of the letter “H” recalling the emblem of the former Hatfield Polytechnic. The crest, a Phoenix, represents the University’s origin in the aviation industry, and the two harts supporting the shield represent the County of Hertfordshire. The scroll along the bottom bears the motto “Seek Knowledge Throughout Life”.

Building in 1977, The Student Union’s ‘Ele House’ is so-called due to its close resemblance to the design of the Elephant House at London Zoo.

The Hattells Technical College first opened its doors in September 1952, to 1,738 students, and was ‘officially’ opened by the Duke of Edinburgh later on in December of that year. Today, the University is teaching more than 13 times that amount of people...

Myth, Mystery and Materiality...

The University of Hertfordshire
The University of Hertfordshire

The University of Hertfordshire

The University of Hertfordshire
The University has one of the most successful Formula Student teams in the world. The UH Racing cars can accelerate from 0-60 mph in less than 3 seconds. The team has competed in many countries and have won many awards. Students from the Engineering degrees can join the team, with students from the Sports Science, Marketing, Art and Business Schools also playing a vital role. Over 400 universities race at Formula Student events worldwide, with Hertfordshire consistently ranking in the top 10.

The University’s BioPark in Welwyn Garden City was used as a location in Universal Pictures’ The Bourne Ultimatum, starring Matt Damon. Suites of conference rooms, offices and boardrooms in the BioPark – and the University’s Press Team were granted access to the set during the filming of a scene.

In March 2005, University of Hertfordshire was officially certified as a Fair Trade University. The ceremonial mace was produced in 1999 by craftsman Martin Pugh. It’s design symbolises the University’s origins, expertise and associations. Its shape is inspired by the shape of an airplane wing symbolising the University’s aviation heritage. The head of the mace is engraved with zodiac symbols representing the University’s contribution to astronomy and also contains the DNA double helix representing the biological sciences and microprocessor chips representing information and communications technology.

The University’s original Business School – the historic Balls Park in Hertford – is reportedly haunted... Strange, otherworldly noises have been heard in the kitchen of the halls of residence late at night by many students, along with eerie footsteps in the dark, empty corridors...
Weighing up the savings of a university partnership

by Anthony Myers

The University of Hertfordshire has enabled Herbert Retail, a market-leading company to make savings of over a quarter of a million pounds through re-engineering its business processes. This has been achieved by a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) — a joint development project involving subsidised graduate employment.

Each Partnership is a three-way collaboration between a business, a university and a highly talented graduate. The graduate carries out a strategic and innovative project for a business, with expert guidance from a university academic supervisor. The University of Hertfordshire, which is a leading UK business-facing institution, has more active KTPs than any other university in the region and is in the national top twenty of KTP performers.

As part of a two-year project, UH KTP Associate, Liang Zong and academics from the School of Aerospace, Automotive and Design Engineering (AADE) worked with company executives at Herbert Retail to review its supply chain and to develop strategies to increase stock movement and maximise staff time. Herbert Retail is a supplier of weighing, labelling and business solutions to major UK supermarkets. It now expects to save £350,000 per annum through the efficiencies created.

“Supplying to customers such as Tesco, Sainsbury and M&S requires us to be leaner and fitter each year. Liang’s project has enabled us to access the University’s help to successfully re-engineer our business processes.” Martin Brown, Managing Director, Herbert Retail Ltd

A KTP Associate is employed by the University, but located at the company premises and directed jointly by the company personnel and their university supervisor. Liang Zong managed the project from beginning to the end. She has improved her interpersonal skills as well as analysis and management proficiency. It has empowered her to play a primary strategic role in realising Herbert Retail’s potential. Following the completion of the KTP, Liang is now employed by the company in the role of Business Process Re-engineering Manager.

“I have played a key role in managing and implementing strategic development in Herbert Retail and transferring knowledge between the business and the University. KTP has provided me with the opportunity to manage a challenging project central to the company’s strategic development and long-term growth.” Liang Zong, KTP Associate and KTP Business Leader of Tomorrow Award Winner

The partnership has also enabled the School of Aerospace, Automotive and Design Engineering to use its academic expertise to develop new processes and solutions in a commercial environment and test whether principles work well in practice.

“Working with Herbert Retail Ltd on this KTP has provided a wealth of real-world examples that can be used in teaching and for further research. It has been an excellent opportunity to understand the difficulties that regional businesses face, develop realistic solutions and see them benefit the business and the development of the KTP Associates.” Dr Rodney Day, Academic Supervisor, University of Hertfordshire

Want to find out more?
Enterprise and Business Development Team, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB
Tel: 01707 284 006 Fax: 01707 285 136 Email: ktp@herts.ac.uk
Website: www.herts.ac.uk/businessservices
**Where are they now?**

Astronomer? Psychologist? SFX-whizz? This issue’s alumni profiles: (or, what those you knew you back then are doing right now...)

---

**Geoff Angel**

Year Graduated: 1989  
Course Studied: BEng(Hons) Mechanical Engineering  
Current Employer: University of Hertfordshire  
Area: Hertfordshire

Since graduating in 1989 as a mature student from Hatfield Polytechnic, I have worked as a Senior Design Engineer in the healthcare, medical and aerospace industries, gaining a wide experience in designing medical related products and aerospace systems. Recently I returned to the University to pursue a career in teaching engineering to undergraduate students. In my current role of Senior Lecturer, I have the opportunity to give something back to the University which originally taught me, by providing undergraduates with guidance and case studies from my own practical design experience. My contribution to the courses adds a practical dimension and realism which is much needed and appreciated by the students. The role is most challenging, but enjoyable, and I really look forward to the yearly graduation ceremonies with the great satisfaction that in my small way, I helped transform the students from fresh faced kids into graduate engineers. It’s quite sad when the students you get to know and befriend over the years, finally graduate and move on. I have now embarked on a course of study leading to a PhD; it’s strange being both ‘Batman and Bruce Wayne’, but it does make me more sympathetic to the students plight, trying to juggle the teaching and learning myself.

---

**Dr Heather Straughan**

Year Graduated: 2009  
Course Studied: PhD  
Current Employer: Founder and Director of the Recovery In-Sight centre  
Area: Hertfordshire

For my PhD I wrote and tested a training called In-sight, which enabled people to recover from mental health distress. Combining this training and research knowledge, and my earlier Postgraduate Diploma in international commerce and BA/MA in business studies gained abroad, I founded the Recover In-Sight centre in May 2009 with the impetus from over 150 members of two self-help groups I started in Watford and Stevenage, 10 trainers I trained in In-Sight, and 10 researchers to form the company. We have a strong recovery value orientation in delivering the research, training and peer support services we offer. We have all experienced mental health challenges at some point in our lives. The aim is to develop as a social enterprise; however we already put recovery values into action in how we run the company. After over 10 years of being involved in user involvement and seeing it fall short of really nurturing and encouraging peoples talents and creativity, the only way to ensure that the project was indeed user oriented, was to create it myself. We have won two awards for best business plan (University of Hertfordshire Flare competition) and recent graduate (federation of small businesses), and have been selected as finalists in the Hertfordshire business awards for creative innovation. www.recoveryin-sight.com

---

**David Ameh**

Year Graduated: 2008  
Course Studied: BA Software Systems for the Arts and Media, and MA Interactive Broadcast Media  
Current Employer: University of Hertfordshire  
Area: Hertfordshire

I’m part of the team that handles Development and Alumni affairs at the University of Hertfordshire. I deal mainly with the media, creative and social networking aspect of the overall structure. After completing a degree with the University, I decided to throw myself in at the deep-end by doing a Master’s degree (also at Hertfordshire) before searching for a full time job. I did this to save myself some time by getting it out of the way and to perfect my skill in the field. I must say, the time spent studying under the programme not only allowed me to sharpen myself for the wider world, it prepared me for the biggest surprise I did not see coming: after completing the Master’s, and various applications, I got a job offer with the University’s Development and Alumni department - and best of all, it was the peak of the recession. I now give back all I’ve learnt and picked up at University back to the same institution that trained me. A win/win situation.
Terry Lynch

Year Graduated: 1988
Course Studied: Social Science (Law)
Current Employer: Ministry of Justice
Area: UK

On graduating from Hatfield Polytechnic, Balls Park and taking the Bar Finals at the Inns of Court School of Law, London, I was called to the Bar of England and Wales as a Barrister in 1989. I secured a pupillage and tenancy at the Chambers of the late Roy Ashton in Northampton where I practised as a Barrister and quickly established an extensive practice in high value matrimonial finance cases. In 1999 I was appointed a Deputy District Judge by the then Lord Chancellor and I was authorised to sit on both the Midland and South East Circuits. Following a nationwide competition I was appointed a full time District Judge in August 2008 by HM the Queen and currently sit on the Midland Circuit at the Coventry group of Courts.

I am married to Susan and we have two children Charlotte and Elizabeth. We live on the Bedfordshire-Buckinghamshire border close to Woburn.

Angela Fletcher

Year Graduated: 1992
Course Studied: BSc(Hons) Computer Science
Current Employer: Thinking Binaries
Area: UK

As a former student of Hatfield Poly, I graduated in 1985 with BA(Hons) 2:1 in Humanities. Whilst at Hatfield, I joined the sub-aqua club, and went from being a novice diver, to instructor. After graduating, I worked as a diving instructor, first in Malta, and then on the barrier reef in Australia.

Back home, I obtained an MSc in Computer Studies, with which I worked both in the IT industry, and in academia as a lecturer – currently teaching for the University of Portsmouth. However, my dream was always to be a singer, and over the years I have formed various bands, and recorded my songs. Now I’ve got a website, a 6 track CD available early 2010, and have had coverage by 2 BBC radio stations and various newspapers – as an ageing mum of 2 trying to fulfil her dream! www.angelafletchermusic.com

Heather MacRae

Year Graduated: 1994
Course Studied: MA Careers Education and Guidance
Current Employer: Venture Thinking
Area: Hertfordshire

I’m Director of Venture Thinking – an educational consultancy. Following my MA I carried on studying with the Open University and gained my MBA. I have two children and set up my own company in order to achieve a better work life balance. My current projects include developing educational outreach projects for the British National Space Centre – I helped to launch the first newspaper in space which features primary-stage Beatlemania.

My current projects include developing educational outreach projects for its distinctive, captivating success over the last decade; alumnus Alistair Spalding.

With a fairytale heritage stretching back to the 17th Century, today London’s Sadler’s Wells’ theatre is one of the most exciting dance venues in the world. In December 2009, Steve Corbett travelled to ‘London’s Dance House’ to meet the man responsible for its distinctive, captivating success over the last decade; alumnus Alistair Spalding.

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 1988, 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 new 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.

The day I meet Alistair Spalding, on my short journey between Hertfordshire and central London, Sara Cox is relaying – in her trademark-rambling style through the radio - how the evening before, she had taken her kids to see the stage production of Raymond Briggs’ The Snowman. She briefly explains that the show has become an annual tradition for her (and hers) in the pre-ambles to Christmas, and that – as always – it had caused fervoured five-year-old “pogging” in the aisles, and an excitement seemingly akin to a primary-stage Beatlemania.
Now in its 12th consecutive year, this seasonal production of The Snowman is as much a part of the lead up to Christmas as chocolate advent calendars and letters to Santa — a culture and ethos of the arts being integral to people’s everyday lives that is extremely important to Sadler’s Wells’ Chief Executive and Artistic Director, Alistair Spalding (“My son has seen it seven times — and he’s eight!”) And with the show being a mere (snow)drop in its rich and varied programming ocean — from the classical to the subversive — over the course of the last decade, Spalding has been responsible for firmly reanimating Sadler’s Wells as the culturally historic haven that the site’s 300+ year lineage deserves.

Having joined as Director of Programming in 2000, in 2004 Alistair Spalding stepped up to join a veritable line of leading figures — including such renowned individuals as the theatre’s Seventeenth Century founder Richard Sadler, stage actor and manager Samuel Phelps, and Lillian Baylis (who also ran the Old Vic in the 1920’s) — each of whom having given the venue their own unique stamp and respective areas of success.

Referred to in the press as the ‘Lord of the Dance’ however, it is of course as an advocate of all manner of dance forms — with an eye for fresh talent and unconventional approaches — that Spalding has become known for. Since taking the reins, he has transformed the venue into not only presenting performances by touring companies, but also becoming a commissioning production house for dance in its own right. During his tenure so far, amongst many other projects, he has founded Sadler’s Wells’ own production house for dance in its own right. When I ask him what immediately springs to mind when he thinks back to his ‘Poly days’? “Drinking in the Union Bar!” he laughs, “Isn’t that what everyone who’s thought back to his ‘Poly days’? “Drinking in the Union Bar!” he laughs, “Isn’t that what everyone who’s

So called due to entrepreneurial founder Richard (‘Dick’) Sadler discovering an ancient medicinal well on the property of his newly opened ‘music house’ in 1683 (where ‘taking the waters at Sadler’s Wells’ became quite an attraction), the venue has seen many an era of entertainment. Even the building itself has been reconstructed a total of five times since first opening its doors. Across the years, it has seen everything from juggling, rope dancers and stage-fighters to becoming a playhouse, roller-skating rink, prize-fight arena and music hall — and even instrumental in popular theatre legend Joseph Grimoldi’s development of the English pantomime in the early nineteenth century.

Today, the contemporary, state-of-the-art building that truly is ‘London’s Dance House’ provides a premier venue for both new and seasoned talent from all over the world. But its eclectic story goes far, far beyond its current reputation, and would I urge anybody with a passing interest in social history — let alone dance or the arts — to seek out and read more about Sadler’s Wells’ fascinating past. One that through the ages — like most rattling good yarns — has been as artistically resonant as it has deliciously debauched...

From singing ducks to an all-male Swan Lake...

The Specials

www.sadlerswells.com

When I ask if he is still in contact with anyone from the Poly, he responds with no hesitation, “I am. Two people; Paul Harding and Angela Goldberg. I met them on my very first day at the coffee machine in the humanities block, and I still see them both regularly”. An interesting little fact about ‘Alistair Spalding the student’, is that – despite admitting that he didn’t really have any interest in dance or the arts in those days (“I had been a student says?! The engineers were always...

www.breakin

convention.com

“it wasn’t really by choice” he admits, of his sharp exit from his Catholic Comprehensive in Stevenage. “But I went to the careers office in Letchworth Garden City, and told them I wanted to be a lawyer or a journalist!”

2004 Alistair Spalding stepped up to join a veritable line of leading figures — including such renowned individuals as the theatre’s Seventeenth Century founder Richard Sadler, stage actor and manager Samuel Phelps, and Lillian Baylis (who also ran the Old Vic in the 1920’s) — each of whom having given the venue their own unique stamp and respective areas of success.

Referred to in the press as the ‘Lord of the Dance’ however, it is of course as an advocate of all manner of dance forms — with an eye for fresh talent and unconventional approaches — that Spalding has become known for. Since taking the reins, he has transformed the venue into not only presenting performances by touring companies, but also becoming a commissioning production house for dance in its own right. During his tenure so far, amongst many other projects, he has founded Sadler’s Wells’ own production house for dance in its own right. When I ask him what immediately springs to mind when he thinks back to his ‘Poly days’? “Drinking in the Union Bar!” he laughs, “Isn’t that what everyone who’s

www.sadlerswells.com

When I ask if he is still in contact with anyone from the Poly, he replies with no hesitation, “I am. Two people; Paul Harding and Angela Goldberg. I met them on my very first day at the coffee machine in the humanities block, and I still see them both regularly”. After obtaining his degree at Hatfield, Alistair did a postgraduate course in linguistics at Lancaster, and developed an interest in the way children learned to read. But after a false start as a career at a primary school teacher (“It turned out to be more about crowd-control”), a job ab in Time Out magazine for an ‘Arts Programmer’ in 1988 led him to Hawth Arts Centre in Crawley. “It wasn’t even built yet, but they wanted someone to put together a programme of music, art and film... I liked film, but I think it was just my enthusiasm that got me the job!” It was here that Alistair Spalding of today really found his groove...
Community spirit

How the University’s new Centre for Sustainable Communities is helping us to re-think – and re-plan – the way we live our lives...

By Steve Corbett

As conscientious consumers – now entering the second decade of the 21st century - environmental awareness is not a virginal concept it would seem. “Help us help the planet” my Starbucks cup implores... “60% post-it goes on to assure me – which I guess is the term ‘recycled’ just doesn’t cut it anymore?” Is it just expected that everyone we buy is ‘post-consumer fiber’ nowadays? Does anyone still take notice of such statements on their product packaging? Does it affect our buying choices? And - ultimately - do we as a society on the whole really care? “Scientists have described sustainability as the most important issue of time” says Professor Andrew Starr, Director of the University’s new Centre for Sustainable Communities (CSC). “Global population is increasing, but our appetite for energy, and profligate use of food and water, are changing the face of our planet.” In 2009, the University began launching the new CSC project – aimed at bringing together all of its wide-ranging work on researching and tackling sustainability issues, to help communities be supportable and maintainable, while reducing their cumulative carbon footprint. The view is to focus in on using the incredible expertise our campus has at its disposal, for practical application in society.

“The CSC is for people outside the University who are interested in having problems solved” Professor Starr explains. “The Centre will undertake consulting, professional training and qualifications, knowledge transfer, and research, with bespoke teams to tackle multidisciplinary problems.” Some of the main target areas will be energy (carbon reduction), transport, technology, recycling, and town planning and public engagement. The CSC is not only actively working with a wide range of internal partners (from the School of Engineering to UNO Buses), but its external partnerships also include BRE and the US National Charrette Institute.

And the ‘charrette’ will be a key factor in formulating strategic plans for change in our communities. The CSC is currently partnering with the National Charrette Institute (under an exclusive license) to launch the first charrette system training courses to be offered in the UK. Already a very successful method of rehabilitating towns and specific areas in the United States, the charrette process is relatively new to the UK - with one of the only present examples having taken place at the University of North Carolina in June 2008 to address the future development of the county. The way the charrette works is to hold a series of short conferences and workshops across a number of days - where the delegates are not simply a closed ring of high-level decision-makers, but a network of stakeholder groups which incorporate members of the public, as well as experts and officials from the community. The idea is to formulate a cohesive plan for change and regeneration openly and collaboratively, including input from every party that will be affected; residents, landowners, counsellors – small local businesses as well as key business-leaders in the area. “The public engagement process is so important that it cannot be left to chance” says Professor Starr. “A charrette structures the interaction between stakeholders and designers, to optimise the outcomes.” In November of last year, I attended an open-invitation “Sandpit Event”, run by Professor Starr – who is clearly as personally passionate about the project as you could want its Director to be (“I won’t do a straw poll of how many of you drove here today, but it’s always interesting”). The idea was to bring together anyone from around the University with a vested interest in sustainable issues, so that they could give a three minute presentation on the nature/angle of their work. Around forty representatives attended – forming an impressive showcase of how many completely different departments and schools are each addressing sustainability in their own way. Speakers included Reader Dr Rajnish K. Calay from the Sustainable Energy Technology Centre (who are working on energy systems which incorporate the likes of bio-fuels and fuel cells), Moyra Fowler from the School of Engineering and Technology (who is working towards embedding sustainability in all teachings in Higher Education – as opposed to making it a “tick-box exercise”), John Houghton from the Department of Estates (who is looking into how the University can cut back on needless energy waste), and Dr Wei Ping Cheng – a Senior Lecturer from the School of Pharmacy (who is conducting research in metal-based, sustainable nano-technology for use in medicines).

The CSC is very much aware that talking to people/community through charrette systems and public engagement strategies will be a key factor in its work. Julian Lindley - a Senior Lecturer from the School of Creative Arts who attended the Sandpit Event - mentioned at the end of his three minutes that wavering attitudes are a very real challenge in getting whole communities to acknowledge what we need to work together to achieve. He voiced his personal concern, saying that the very word ‘sustainability’ is perhaps becoming “boring”? “Instead of dwelling too much on the word, (society) should instead be asking what are we actually trying to sustain?”

So whether we refer to them as ‘recycled materials’, ‘post-consumer fibers’ or whatever the next trendy buzzword for them will be – as long we leave the rocket science to the researchers, and embrace the use of their sustainable systems, evidence shows that we’ll be onto a good thing in the long run. And this is very much the aim of the CSC – it’s messaging and proactive problem-solving will be all about the easy, practical application of key sustainable research taking place at the University. This, along with the existing technical competences that can be implemented in line with government policy can be used to not only change the way our communities live, but hopefully, really change the way we think as well.
It became very clear to me on visiting the University’s Development and Alumni office, that they access email, course material, an internet connection). Through it, students use StudyNet – the University Library – now the Learning Resources Centre – the Carbon Footprint reduction scheme to name but two...

One of my favourite haunts of the University Library – the Learning Resources Centre – clearly shows now the University has understood how to invest in technology. Twenty years ago, computers were hived off into their own little rooms, and the Library was only just starting to use them. Today, computers are not only central to the key infrastructures of the LRC’s (one per each campus), but they have become the major delivery mechanism for much of the high-quality content created by the University. Students use StudyNet – a web-based portal that gives them access to everything they need via a single login (anywhere they can access a computer with an internet connection). Through it, they access email, course material, forums, social networking, career guidance resources and many other facilities. All University departments and faculties have a presence through this portal, and when I spoke to staff and students about it, they all said what a great facility it is – everything in one clear location, accessible from everywhere. Access from home or halls has clearly made all these great resources accessible to all, and solved the problem I had 20 years ago of having to book resources. It makes me realise that perhaps I might have been one of the early adopters of this concept when I first started to climb into the University computers over a telephone line with a very slow modem!

Every venue that I turned on my guided tour there was evidence of open day visits on their branded web pages. It’s not just the additional technology, but everything about what the University offers today, that makes me realise how well it has kept up with the changing world – such as the integrated sports facilities, investment and support given to the arts, innovative partnerships, such as the transport scheme (through the UNO bus and park-and-ride services), additional off-campus accommodation, and opening up of the facilities to the local community.

Twenty years ago, Hatfield Polytechnic was well recognised as one of the top Polytechnics for computing, which was why I chose it. In the early days of the University of Hertfordshire’s name was not well known, and I used to have to remind people of its heritage – but over the years through investment, partnerships, and hard work, it has become one of the top two institutions worldwide. This is clearly evident from how the University of Hertfordshire’s format is successfully franchised throughout the world, and the fact that everyone I speak to has heard of it and has a good impression. While seeing 20 years of building development all at once was quite a shock to me, in other ways it was reassuring to find out that the physical changes do not denote the full story of life on campus today. What I think is important is that the growth of the University of Hertfordshire has been based on the core values and motives that were around when I attended - those of appropriate and quality learning. Today the industrial placement schemes that launched me into my career still continue to support students through their transition into the workplace, and the figures still highlight that those with Hertfordshire’s name are more successful at getting the jobs and salaries that they deserve.

Today, the University has grown to be a huge eco-system, with many partnerships and links, embedded in the local community; actively marketing and seeking two-way collaborations between education and Industry through many schemes such as placements, knowledge transfer partnerships and business workshops to name but a few. I for one am looking forward to re-acquainting myself with the establishment that helped me launch my career 20 years ago, and the resources it offers to me as an Alumni, and how – in return for these world-class resources – I can find a way to contribute something back to the University. It’s not just a list – it’s a driving force that can help them fast-track and avoid some of the mistakes that the rest of us made!

Graduate Futures have invested significant time, money, and energy into building a base of resources to help with career planning and access. Twenty years ago she careers office was a small office tucked away in the corner of a building, and barely given a mention. Today, Graduate Futures has completely integrated itself into the University through StudyNet, their regular road shows and market stall events, links into teaching programmes, and even presence on social networking sites such as Facebook and Delicious, and they willingly open up all these resources for Alumni too.

There are many events taking place at the University such as art exhibitions, talks, sports and social activities, lecture series, short courses, business advice sessions, and these are key to bringing people back to the University. Because once you see what the University has to offer, you will wonder how you ever lost touch. Today, the University has grown to be a huge eco-system, with many partnerships and links, embedded in the local community; actively marketing and seeking two-way collaborations between education and Industry through many schemes such as placements, knowledge transfer partnerships and business workshops to name but a few. I for one am looking forward to re-acquainting myself with the establishment that helped me launch my career 20 years ago, and the resources it offers to me as an Alumni, and how – in return for these world-class resources – I can find a way to contribute something back to the University. It’s not just a list – it’s a driving force that can help them fast-track and avoid some of the mistakes that the rest of us made!

Graduate Futures have invested significant time, money, and energy into building a base of resources to help with career planning and access. Twenty years ago she careers office was a small office tucked away in the corner of a building, and barely given a mention. Today, Graduate Futures has completely integrated itself into the University through StudyNet, their regular road shows and market stall events, links into teaching programmes, and even presence on social networking sites such as Facebook and Delicious, and they willingly open up all...
Skepticism is an approach to inquiry that goes back to the ancient Greeks and the teachings of the ‘Skeptikoi’, a school of philosophers of whom it was said that they ‘asserted nothing but only opined’. In science, skepticism encompasses a very widely practised set of approaches closely allied to empiricism: skeptics suspend judgement, or, going further, maintain an attitude of doubt or even incredulity until objective and impartial investigation has categorically proved something to be so.

In the world of paranormal investigation (often referred to by skeptics as a ‘pseudoscience’) because of the apparent lack of convincing evidence of phenomena such as extra-sensory perception, telepathy and psychokinesis feelings can run high and those who believe in the paranormal are sometimes exasperated by the constant rejection of their research by skeptics.

The skeptics, in turn, claim it’s often the very desire to believe in paranormal phenomena (or ‘psi’ as they are often collectively referred to) that causes people to discount the strong likelihood that such things just don’t exist. Many factors can influence the outcome of an experiment or skewed analysis of a large number of experiments, including selective reporting, random number generating that is not actually random, flawed set-ups, cognitive bias and even fraud. The most influential body of skeptics was originally known as CSI (Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal), but its detractors tended to refer to it disparagingly as ‘Psico’ and since 2000 it has been renamed CSICOP (Committee for Skeptical Inquiry).

The University’s Professor Richard Wiseman is a Fellow of CSICOP and co-author of several key skeptical texts published by UH Press. Guidelines for Testing Psychic Claims (co-authored with Robert L. Morris) and Guidelines for Extrasensory Perception Research (co-authored with Julie Milton) cover every conceivable way in which an experiment in these particular areas of the paranormal might risk being flawed – the idea being to get trustworthy results if humanly (or supernaturally) possible.

Magic in Theory, co-authored by Professor Wiseman and Peter Lamont, gives invaluable insights into the psychology underlying magic. Those who find themselves astounded by conjurers’ ability to make objects vanish or appear, or even to read minds, will find food for thought in the analysis of misdirection, concealment and other strategies. Budding magicians, on the other hand, will find a wealth of cool tips for improving their acts.

Our latest book in this area is The Psychology of Paranormal Belief by Harvey J. Irwin. Dr Irwin has an international reputation as a researcher into the reasons why people believe in many different paranormal phenomena such as extrasensory perception, psychokinesis, the power of prayer, communication with the dead and the existence of aliens. So his book is not so much about whether these phenomena can be proven to exist but why some of us believe in them, whether or not proofs are forthcoming.

Some researchers have sought to depict the paranormal believer as essentially logical, irrational and foolish. Others have suggested that such beliefs are most prevalent among people on the margins of society. Another view is that paranormal belief is simply one facet of a broader worldview characterised by a highly esoteric outlook on the world. Finally, some researchers propose that paranormal beliefs are best understood as serving significant psychological needs of the individual. Dr Irwin considers these particular beliefs as a way of trying to reduce anxiety. Dr Irwin’s fascinating analysis of thousands of pieces of research truly deepens our understanding of why humans are prone to believe in UFOs, superstitions, mind-reading, lucky numbers and all the myriad other things that add colour to our non-magical lives.

If you do believe in fairies, you may be fascinated by Dr Irwin’s integrated theory: the lack of control over our lives that we experience in childhood can lead to a lifelong need for a sense of mastery over life’s events – this can drive the formation of beliefs which seem to explain the inexplicable. Such beliefs are also affected by one’s information-processing style and socio-cultural circumstances. Stressors in one’s life can activate particular beliefs as a way of trying to reduce anxiety. Dr Irwin’s fascinating analysis of thousands of pieces of research truly deepens our understanding of why humans are prone to believe in UFOs, superstitions, mind-reading, lucky numbers and all the myriad other things that add colour to our non-magical lives.

To find out more, visit the UH Press website.*

For Richard Wiseman’s blog and lots more besides, visit www.richardwiseman.com/
UHArts and Galleries

Spring 2010

20 Nov 2009 - 30 Jan 2010
*Exhibition - Visual Arts*
Laura Oldfield Ford
‘Britannia 1933 – 1981’

29 Jan – 27 March
*Exhibition - Visual Arts*
Clemens Stecher
‘Charade II and IV’

29 Jan – 12 March
3.00pm
*Course - Visual Arts*
Art Talk Series 2

7 Feb 7.30pm
*Musical Theatre*
de Havilland Philharmonic

9 Feb 6.30pm
(Film)
Writer Chills: ‘Let the Right One In’

18 Feb 7.30pm
(Musical Theatre)
*Community Event*
FAME The Musical

19 Feb 7.30pm
(Musical Theatre)
*Community Event*
FAME The Musical

19 Feb – 24 April
*Exhibition – Visual Arts*
Paul Teigh and Martin Russell
‘Beyond the Plenum’

20 Feb 2.30pm, 7.30pm
(Musical Theatre)
*Community Event*
FAME The Musical

24 Feb – 24 March
6.30pm
(Course)
Out of the Crypt: Understanding Horror Film

2 March 6.30pm
(Film)
The Age of Stupid

21 March 7.30pm
(Music)
de Havilland Philharmonic

26 March 6.30pm
(Film)
Film Fatales ‘Double Indemnity’

27 March 11.00am
(Weekend Course - Film)
Understanding Film Noir

27 March 3.00pm
(Music)
My Mother Told Me Not To Stare

30 March 7.30pm
(Film)
Songwriter Competition

1 April 8.00pm
(Children’s Theatre/Dance)
*Community Event*
SLAM Night

3 April 11.00am
(Weekend Course - Film)
Understanding Film Noir

6 April 1.00pm and 3.00pm
(Film)
Family Film Club: ‘Fantastic Mr Fox’

14 April – 5 June
*Exhibition – Visual Arts*
Group Show: Seriously…?

20 April 6.30pm
(Film)
Bad Film Club: ‘Megashark Vs Giant Octopus’

22 April – 25 Apr
(Festival)
‘UniComics’ Graphic Novel and Comic Festival

27 Apr – 6 July
6.30pm
(course - Film)
Understanding Film 2: An Introduction to Film Studies

7 – 21 May
(Festival)
Mayfest

9 May 7.30pm
(Music)
de Havilland Philharmonic

27 May – 3 June
(Fashion)
End of Year Degree Exhibition and Fashion Show

1 June 6.30pm
(Film)
Stanley Kubrick Season: ‘Barry Lyndon’

13 June 7.30pm
(Music)
de Havilland Philharmonic

26 June 1.00pm
(Workshop)
Kubrick film/model workshop

Booking
Phone: 01707 281127
Email: uharts@herts.ac.uk
Online: www.herts.ac.uk/artsandgalleries

Visit the Box Office:
Mon to Fri 9.00am – 4.00pm
Phone lines open:
Mon to Fri 9.00am – 4.00pm (during term time)

Margaret Harvey Gallery
7 Hatfield Road
St Albans
Herts AL1 3RR
Open:
Wed to Sat 12.30pm – 5.30pm

Art and Design Gallery
College Lane Campus
Hatfield
Herts AL10 9AB
Open:
Mon to Fri 9.30am – 5.30pm

www.herts.ac.uk/artsandgalleries

Our venues
The Weston Auditorium
de Havilland Campus
Hatfield
Herts AL10 9EU
Phone lines open:
Mon to Fri 9:00am - 4:00pm
Visit the Box Office:
Mon to Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm
During term time

Margaret Harvey Gallery
7 Hatfield Road
St Albans
Herts AL1 3RR
Open:
Wed to Sat 12.30pm - 5.30pm

Art and Design Gallery
College Lane Campus
Hatfield
Herts AL10 9AB
Open:
Mon to Fri 9.30am – 5.30pm

www.herts.ac.uk/artsandgalleries

New releases from UHR and Infuse
UHR, the University of Hertfordshire’s professional record label, has a growing reputation for pairing fantastic composers with talented musicians to produce new and interesting recorded works. Infuse, a division of UHR, is a record label designed to infuse students into the professional music industry through working with people already in the business.

Build up your collection of UHR and Infuse works with these fabulous new album releases...

Noël – The Plaxtol Scholars conducted by Marius Carboni

UH Brass Ensemble conducted by Robin Browning

Sonnets without words – Richard Uttley (Piano)

Available from:
www.uhrecordings.co.uk

UH Recordings Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Hertfordshire Company
Reg. No 05846643
More Arts Events at The University of Hertfordshire

Exhibition by Paul Teigh and Martin Russell
Beyond the Plenum
Questioning contemporary art's internal dynamics, modes of reception and mediation this often humorous conjunction of high art and disposable contemporary kitsch, is beautiful, enigmatic, visually enthralling and participatory.
Friday 19 Feb – Saturday 24 April
Art and Design Gallery, College Lane Campus
More info: 01707 284290/uhgalleries@herts.ac.uk

Film Fatales: An Evening of Film Noir
Double Indemnity (Billy Wilder, US, 1944)
Would you like to inhabit a twilight world of gangsters, shadows, dangerous men and even more dangerous women? Dress up and enjoy a pre-film cocktail accompanied by the live, smoky jazz vocals of chanteuse Katie Buckhaven, followed by this Film Noir classic.
Friday 26 March 6.30pm
The Weston Auditorium, de Havilland Campus
More info: 01707 281127/uharts@herts.ac.uk

Children’s Operetta presented by Theatre Hullabaloo and Action Transport Theatre
My Mother Told Me Not To Stare
Told in an operatic, gothic style, ‘My Mother Told Me Not To Stare’ presents children with the rules that must absolutely not be broken …and then absolutely breaks them!
Saturday 27 March 3.00pm
The Weston Auditorium, de Havilland Campus
More info: 01707 281127/uharts@herts.ac.uk

Discounts for all alumni!
More information: www.herts.ac.uk/artsandgalleries