“I’ve definitely evolved as a person”
Talking to Professor Tim Wilson on retiring as Vice-Chancellor

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Is Big Brother still watching Sree Dasari?

Brit Award winners Florence and the Machine headline that landmark year-end tradition... the Summer Ball

Announcing the winner of our first ever Alumnus of the Year award

futures
THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE
SUMMER 2010
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I graduated from the University of Hertfordshire in 1996 successfully gaining a BSc Honours degree in Medical Electronics. Since then I’ve really enjoyed reading the alumni magazines. I was amazed in November while on holiday in Kuala Lumpur coming across a University Recruitment Show at the KL Convention Centre. I couldn’t resist calling in and having a chat with staff on the University of Hertfordshire stand. It’s certainly a small world! Thanks again for a great magazine. 
— Claire Verlander

I’m not much into motivational stuff – but you guys seriously brighten up my day! Keep up the fantastic work!!!
— Manu Misra (via Facebook in response to a daily posting)

Excellent work! Thanks for the time and effort that you ‘guys’ spend on putting this together – greatly appreciated by all, even though you may not hear from us!
— Peter Lines (on the last Futures)

Thank you very much for the copy of e-Futures which I have read with delight this morning. I am thrilled at the enormity of the information being transmitted to all alumni of the University. I am very thankful for the regular link you are making – which brings back good memories and keeps me informed about all the developments that have taken place since leaving Hatfield at graduation some 37 years ago. I am a proud parent because my two eldest boys are also alumni of the University - having graduated in 2002 in Engineering Management and Aerospace Systems Engineering (First Class Honours) respectively.
— Olusola A. Kayode

Thank you for your invitation for me to attend the Donor Thank You event on 29 April. I thoroughly enjoyed myself! I was very much engaged in stimulating conversations with the very welcoming and impressive academics and students who were showcasing their wonderful talents. It had been almost twenty years since I was last at Hatfield and I could not think of a better way to re-acquaint myself, by sharing in the celebration of the University’s ongoing successes. You can count on my continued support and I look forward to being asked to attend further events in the future. Keep up the great work
— Gary Nemorin

THE MAGAZINE FOR AND FRIENDS OF UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE ALUMNI

SUMMER 2009

The Faculty for Creative and Cultural Industries showcases its 2009 graduate talent on 29 April. I look forward to being asked to attend.
— Claire Verlander

The University of Hertfordshire is an Enhanced Academic Partner of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). Together we are working closely to help our alumni community make the most of every available career opportunity.

Becoming professionally registered as either a Chartered Engineer (CEng) or an Incorporated Engineer (IEng) is an important career milestone for any engineer or technologist. Get professional recognition today – visit www.theiet.org/herts-alumni for more information and how to apply.

Took us to the heart, we’ll help you stand out

Make it happen with the IET and the University of Hertfordshire

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (the IET) is registered as a Charity in England and Wales (No. 211054) and Scotland (No. SC038698). Michael Faraday House, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, SG1 2AY, United Kingdom.
**Success in the Green League 2010**

The University was recently awarded third place in the People and Planet’s Green League 2010. The People and Planet’s Green League is a unique table, ranking 133 UK universities by environmental performance in the UK educational sector. The University missed first place position by 6.5 points to Plymouth University who scored a total of 51.2 (out of 70 possible points). The University has been recognised as finding new creative ways to go green despite funding cuts and achieved the highest mark in Comprehensive Environmental Auditing. Professor Andrew Starr Director of the Centre for Sustainable Communities quoted, ‘We are proud to have moved up the (P&P) Green League after dedicated initiatives to improve environmental awareness and carbon management.

Our environment and estates team have worked in partnership with student and staff representatives to increase knowledge and participation through campaigns and activities including high-level strategic goals, our Environment Week, and multi-media marketing. Continual improvement of environmental performance is a key aspect of the University’s sustainability strategy.’

**Download University of Hertfordshire media content on iTunes U**

The University has developed a pilot site on iTunes U that it intends to launch in September. The site is designed to showcase material and give a flavour of the learning experience at Hertfordshire. The University of Hertfordshire on the iTunes U site will give you the opportunity to download material (for example a keynote lecture) to watch, listen to or read at your convenience. As a former student this is a great way to keep in touch with what your University is doing - or follow up on things you became interested in when you studied here. Watch out for news of the launch!

**Alumni of tomorrow visit for Open Day**

Saturday 12 June saw over 3,000 prospective new students and visitors descend on campus in the space of seven hours... and representatives from your Alumni Association were there to greet them. Fellow alum and Development and Alumni Assistant David Ameh manned our Alumni Association stand for the day, talking to students and parents about the lifelong support network we have, as well as giving out copies of Futures and our brochure on what it means to be an alumnus. He was accompanied on the stand during the extremely busy day by volunteer alums Steve Phippes and Diane MacLean; both of whom hold seats on the Alumni Association Advisory Board.

Steve currently works as the University’s Data Centre Manager and Diane is an internationally renowned sculptor and environmental artist (who’s large stainless steel creation ‘The Mountain’ sits on the lawn on College Lanel. “It was crazy!” David commented - on the constant buzz that emanated through the de Havilland campus where the stand was situated - “It was so good to be able to meet and talk to so many prospective new students – I just remember that feeling... it was so exciting yet daunting at the same time. It just felt good that as alumni, we were able to be first-hand ambassadors for the University.”

**A new Vice-Chancellor for the University**

Professor Quintin McKellar has been appointed as the University’s new Vice-Chancellor. He will take up his role from 4 January 2011. Professor Tim Wilson will retire in December 2010 after seven successful years. For the last six years, Professor McKellar has been the Principal of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), the first and largest veterinary school in the UK, and is the only veterinary school that has a Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Professor McKellar is also the Chairman of the London Bioscience Innovation Centre - a subsidiary company of the RVC which is home to thirty spin-out and start-up companies. Prior to his current role, Professor McKellar was the director of the Moredun Research Institute after holding the post of Professor of Veterinary Pharmacology at the University of Glasgow.

Professor McKellar lives in Hertfordshire and is married with four children. He is a keen sporting enthusiast with a passion for rowing. He competed in the 1986 Commonwealth Games and more recently is an enthusiastic member of the Broxbourne masters team. His other interests are in animal pharmacology and parasitology. In welcoming the new Vice-Chancellor, Chair of the University’s Board of Governors Mrs Jo Connell said: ‘I am delighted that Professor McKellar will be joining us. He will be an excellent and inspiring new Vice-Chancellor who will build on the University’s reputation as innovative and enterprising and ensure that it continues to be seen as an exemplar in the sector.”

**University of Hertfordshire Researcher develops the future of disposing of the deceased**

It may sound like the stuff of Hollywood Sci-Fi, but Dr David Naseby, a research leader in Microbiology at the University and his team have researched and developed the environmental Cryomation device. The device means that a range of cleaner and greener ways to dispose of the deceased will soon be made available. Cryomation freezes the body to -195 degree Celsius through the use of liquid nitrogen. The frozen body is then turned into powder and then a vacuum is used to dry and sterilise the remains. Dr David Naseby and his team have received media coverage from both the new scientist and The Hindu for their research developments. Such research involved a prototype of this device being used on a pig’s carcass. A full-size prototype Cryomator is being built for trials later this year on human corpses.
Professor Tim Wilson is a proud man. And so he should be. Having played an instrumental part in each of the University’s major developments over the course of the last two decades – steering very much from the helm for the best part of the latter – he has moulded the firm but malleable foundations laid out on College Lane into a unique and powerful force to be reckoned with. To use one of his own favoured phrases; a “true exemplar in the university sector.”

In 1992, when the country’s Polytechnic Colleges were collectively thrust into a University system engraved into a long history of tradition and reputation, the new kids on the block had a lot to live up to. Simply attaining university-status did not instantly stand these colleges shoulder-to-shoulder with Russell Group institutions – many of which more than comfortable with a head start of a few centuries to have built their universally renowned empires. These were long shadows being cast – but instead of walking aimlessly into them, Professor Wilson sought a different route for the University of Hertfordshire… one that would literally pave a bright new path through the sector. When I meet up with the Vice-Chancellor on 2 June this year – six months before he is due to pass the baton and retire – as well as a personal look back over his own time here, it’s the retrospective view of this bold journey along the road less-travelled that interests me. The legacy his tenure will always be accredited with.

Having been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University in September 2003, I ask him if he had felt sufficiently prepared for his new role. “Oh yes,” he answers without hesitation, “I’d been here a long time – and most of the problems we had then, I’d caused!” So there weren’t any moments of ‘what on earth have I let myself in for?!’ “Not at all. I’d prepared for it for a very long time. I had a vision, and I’d articulated that vision in early 2002… thoughts from several years had crystallised into what needed to be done”.

At that point, Professor Wilson had been working with his predecessor, Professor Neil Buxton (“a heavyweight academic”) for twelve years, so had been on board since the Hatfield Polytechnic days. “It was a time for reflection and mature consideration. More often than not, quick decisions are not the right ones – you need time to balance the options. Over the years I learned those lessons.” Aptly, Professor Wilson took up the appointment in the very same month of 2003 that the new £120 million de Havilland Campus first opened its doors. Having worked on the project from conception, it clearly signified a new era for the University – a physical, corporeal statement that was very much in line with his progressive vision. “It was the reason I stayed here.” He states, “It was my baby. One of our biggest issues at the time was that the institution lacked a modern identity. How many people get to do that? – construct one of the biggest new campuses the country had seen in thirty years? It was a personal challenge and a professional challenge. I had great pride when it opened.”

It was while ‘de Hav’ was being constructed that all forms of his vision were beginning to take shape. As well as the build, the soon-to-be-VC was looking beyond the traditional approach of UK institutions to form a new idea of what sort of university Hertfordshire wanted to be. He brought a lot back from travelling across America – hugely inspired by the wide range of specialisation their higher education system employs. “In the States they are massively diverse – they have...
different universities for different things. That’s when the ‘Business Facing’ model was born. ’Building upon the University’s long heritage of nurturing and encouraging employability – creating graduates that didn’t just have traditionally recognised letters on their CV, but the real, tangible skills that would enable them to launch themselves into the modern-day workplace – it was this focus on industry that Professor Wilson saw as a new arena for post-’92 universities. An arena not only to compete in, but to trail-blaze and champion – providing a different choice for today’s school-leavers. He remembers epitomising his idea to the Board of Governors as ‘a real ‘people business’.”

Professor Wilson:

“Top left ‘I love graduation. This is a real ‘people business’.”

Above ‘The 213 million de Havilland Campus, “it was my baby”, Top right ‘Professor Wilson, ‘I’ve definitely evolved as a person’.”

And Professor Wilson’s passion is always clear. Which prompts me to ask: if he had to choose... education or rugby? He laughs. “Education. Every time. Rugby is a hobby now – but I still miss it.”

Tim Wilson the rugby player emerged when he was five years old, and hung up his boots eleven years ago, when, as he puts it; “the game became faster and I became slower.” He admits that the fire in the belly never fades however – and anyone sitting near him when watching a Saracens game will concur that he’s still ‘very passionate’ about it.

So what does the Tim not many people get to see do to kick-back and relax? “The thing about this job is that there’s never a time when you’re not ‘the Vice-Chancellor’.”

Matthew (Martyn – the University’s Head of Advancement and Corporate Affairs) is ruthless! She always tells me when I do!” he laughs. “I always enjoyed lecturing, and rugby coaching helped!” (He was a staff coach for the English Rugby Union team after playing at national level himself). He admits to always being nervous though, even today; “If I had a heart monitor on, it would be racing every time.” And he’s a great believer in ad-libbing during his speeches too – even stepping out of his comfort zone to ad-lib during Graduation for the first time last year. “Leadership speeches that are ad-libbed are far more powerful and passionate – because you can only ad-lib if you really believe what you are saying. You can read something out and not believe it, but...”

So after an eventful nineteen years of guiding the University of Hertfordshire in teaching others, and Professor Wilson’s passion for the students to be treated how I would as a parent I suppose. I want the students to be treated with respect. This is a real ‘people business’. ‘The thing about this job is that there’s never a time when you’re not ‘the Vice-Chancellor’.”

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When I ask him what the most challenging aspect of his job is, the first response is a very practical one. “Diary management. It sounds trivial but it really isn’t. It’s all about managing my time in the right way – getting my priorities right in the time that I have available. It’s also about managing relationships; adjusting your management style and your personal style depending on who you are talking to. Whether I’m addressing my Board, meeting students, meeting politicians etc.”

As he continues, he begins to think less of the day-to-day difficulties, and more about the personal challenges. “It’s self-inflicted, but managing expectations is also a huge challenge... always encouraging aspiration from staff or students who might not recognize that they have huge potential ability or talent.” He also cites the importance of continually expanding his personal ‘comfort zone’ to ad-lib during Graduation for the first time last year. “Leadership speeches that are ad-libbed are far more powerful and passionate – because you can only ad-lib if you really believe what you are saying. You can read something out and not believe it, but...”

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It’s a small world

With our world-wide alumni community continuing to span further and further around the globe, your growing network can now provide support in more countries than ever before. If you haven’t checked to see if a local University of Hertfordshire community exists in your region, what are you waiting for?! (And if there isn’t one – why not start one today?!...) To enable you to get in touch with them, see asked the Founding Presidents of our three most recent International Alumni Chapters to introduce themselves...

France

President: Alexandre Belay
I study at the Ecole de Management, Normandie, and I chose to do an exchange program at the University of Hertfordshire which allowed me to gain a double degree. During my exchange year I studied International Business Administration. This permitted me to both enhance my English skills and my knowledge of business. I especially appreciated the fact that Hertfordshire is a modern and dynamic university, which reflected in the daily student life. This was definitely one of the best years of my life and I would recommend it to everyone. Even though I was only in Hertfordshire for a year, I gained a whole wealth of knowledge and skills which will stay with me for a lifetime. I also grew a lot on a personal level. I made myself a whole network of new friends from all over the world and I even managed to get an English girlfriend! After graduating, I went back to Normandie to get my Master’s degree. I have already finished the first year, and am now taking a year out to do a year-long internship in Paris. I never want to forget my time at there and would love to keep in contact with everyone I’ve met. It is for this reason that I have decided to set up this chapter especially for French alumni of the University of Hertfordshire. I am ready to give back to a uni that has given me so much. You can contact me at: aap.balay@gmail.com

USA

President: Dorothy Conduah
Have you ever been asked ‘where did you go to school?’ - only to respond and hear, ‘Oh! Is that in Connecticut?’ Wouldn’t it be nice to connect with those who actually know where the University of Hertfordshire is located? If you are like me somewhere in Middle America, it’s hard to come across those for whom Hertfordshire is near and dear to our hearts. My years at the University were not only educational, but also left me with a lifetime of memories and friends. So what better way to maintain the connections by grounding ourselves in a US chapter of alumni? What a valuable way to network amongst fellow professionals with whom we have something in common. Contact me at dconduah@msn.com and let’s get networking.

Kenya

President: Ekta Shah
My experience at the University of Hertfordshire was fantastic and I’d definitely recommend it to everyone. Even though I was only in Hertfordshire for a year, I gained a whole wealth of knowledge and skills which will stay with me for a lifetime. I also grew a lot on a personal level. I made myself a whole network of new friends from all over the world and even managed to get an English girlfriend! After graduating, I went back to Normandie to get my Master’s degree. I have already finished the first year, and am now taking a year out to do a year-long internship in Paris. I never want to forget my time at there and would love to keep in contact with everyone I’ve met. It is for this reason that I have decided to set up this chapter especially for French alumni of the University of Hertfordshire. I am ready to give back to a uni that has given me so much. You can contact me at: aap.balay@gmail.com

Kate Bellingham President of the University of Hertfordshire Alumni Association
Summer: glorious sunshine, Pimm's and lemonade... and the University of Hertfordshire Summer Ball. As I entered the College Lane campus I was immediately met with a familiar buzz of music and chattering students. Walking past the rides, the bumper car entertainment with bright lights, and the greasy burger vans – staple requisites which I remember were prevalent at my own final year summer ball – I was stood outside The Forum. This was undoubtedly a far-cry from the outside marquees at previous summer balls. The familiar contemporary design of The Forum was now full of well-dressed students chatting, laughing and enjoying themselves whilst waiting for the evening’s music entertainment to begin in the auditorium. And what entertainment it was promising to be.

As a student here the Summer Ball was a chance to celebrate the end of my exams and the beginning of an assignment free summer holiday, but on the 28 May 2010 I descended upon the most anticipated event of the University calendar year not as a student, but as an alumnus. Hosted at the brand new shiny Forum (and the re-camped Elehouse), with the Summer Ball 2010 being hailed as the ‘biggest and best event of the year’ I had to see for myself exactly what was being offered by the UHSU this time around...

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from 2010 Brit Award winning act Florence and the Machine, and number one artists Tinie Tempah and The Pigeon Detectives. Once I had made it nearer the front of the main stage, squeezing past tuxes and gowns enveloping a couple of thousand screaming students, I was awed by the performers and how The Forum naturally reminded me of world-class arenas, such as the 02 in London. As a past student I felt proud to be an alum of a University that could attract such world-class performers to its biggest, most exclusive event of the year – a view shared by fellow alum Tarquin Stephenson. Some of you may remember Tarquin as UH-EU President in 2004/05 – now a Deputy Students Activities and Development Officer at the University of Essex. And as a guest coming back to enjoy the occasion, he was duly impressed: “The Summer Ball at The Forum is bigger and better than it ever was at The Font – and it offers great new facilities – but for me the Summer Balls at The Font have history, just as this year’s at The Forum will create memories for the 2010 graduates.”

Whilst watching the entertainers on stage I also felt a pang of nostalgia for The Font – which proudly presented the Ball in my three years at the University. The cramped, sticky-floored rooms of The Font were now replaced by a huge arena with a balcony view onto the stage – undeniably the perfect setting for the biggest and best Summer Ball in the University’s history.

Leaving the arena in between performances I was intrigued by the huge range of entertainment on offer and I courageously took part in a round of crazy golf and got a free dose of pure oxygen at the Oxygen Bar. If there was one thing that hadn’t changed over the years, it was the mass of entertainment available all night.

So did the Summer Ball at The Forum live up to the hype and provide its money’s worth? Ultimately, yes, there were world-class acts in the brand new and improved facilities, plenty of entertainment both on and off stage – and above all, memories that the 2010 alums of the University of Hertfordshire will undoubtedly cherish for years to come.

“Staff were very helpful and gave excellent service throughout - no request was too much trouble!”

KPMG
Do you know a potential Alumnus of the Year 2011? Although there can only be one eventual “winner”, the sub-committee would like to make it very clear that all the nominations it received were of excellent quality and that those whose nominations were unsuccessful this time around should certainly not be discouraged. Indeed, the sub-committee would encourage them to re-nominate their alumnus in another year. If you would like to nominate a deserving individual for the Alumnus of the Year Award 2011, look out for the official launch in futures e-Futures and on the alumni website soon...
What do people do with degrees?

Ever wondered what all the people you studied alongside went on to do? How many people stayed local to Hertfordshire? Did many go onto further study? What salary were the people on your course earning after they graduated?

Each year, every university is required to survey every student who has achieved a higher education qualification. This is called the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. It details what graduates are doing on a specific day six months after graduation.

Trends

At the beginning of 2010 Graduate Futures, the University of Hertfordshire’s graduate jobs and careers network completed the DLHE survey. We have one of the largest graduating populations to survey and are pleased to announce that we received a staggering 87.8% response rate. If you answered a phone call, email or postal form then you contributed to DLHE so a big thank you. From your answers, the following trends emerged:

Location: Most of our graduates opted to work in the East, followed by London and the South East. Thirty graduates were working overseas in the Irish Republic.

Employers: After the NHS and London Probation service, The University of Hertfordshire is the biggest local employer of graduates, followed by Hertfordshire County Council. Most graduates enter larger companies (250+ employees). Participation in voluntary work has increased to 1.22% (0.73% last year).

Sourcing vacancies: 15% surveyed reported that they had previously worked at the company they are now employed by. 10% found their vacancy by looking at the employers’ website and nearly 9% had a personal contact or used networking to find their vacancy.

Remuneration: The average salary band stands at between £20,000 and £24,999.

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If you are looking for ideas of what people studying in your subject area have gone into, have a look at our website www.herts.ac.uk and search for ‘Where do our graduates go?’ – or the Prospects website www.prospects.ac.uk and search for ‘What do graduates do?’

Searching for a job

The statistics presented here show a snapshot of full time, UK graduate destinations. However, not everyone is sure what they want to do post graduation and some graduates, even those in the most established careers, wish to change direction from a chosen path. Graduate Futures is here to support you with all your career planning and employability needs. We offer a lifetime service, with no charge for up to two years after graduation. If you are looking for employment at the moment, try the University’s jobs vacancy board: JobsNetPlus.

To find out more about Graduate Futures and our services to you, email us on graduate.futures@herts.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1707 284791.
Support the future...
...give to the University’s Diamond Scholarship Fund

In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes.” In 1968, when Andy Warhol made his now much-quoted prediction on the all-pervading nature of fame in the decades to come, he can only have been referring to one thing. Big Brother.

Since its prestigious introduction to the annals of popular culture at the turn of the new millennium, the show (in which a generous handful of complete strangers from all walks of life are thrown together in a purpose-built house and filmed 24/7 throughout the summer, in isolation...) has spawned a multi-media-hyped, globe-spanning franchise of regional versions for the whole world to voyeuristically ogle. It made a national TV icon of presenter Davina McCall, reinvigorated an interest in George Orwell’s dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty-Four (from which the show takes its name) and arguably, has also been the single biggest

“"To be honest, I’d never watched the show before and I didn’t know who Davina McCall was!”

After 10 years of rampantly taking over our screens and pop-culture consciousness, 2010 sees Channel 4 present it’s eleventh and final UK series of the mother of all reality TV shows. At the time of writing, it has just begun to air (‘Day 5, 10.24am...’), so 12 months after one of last year’s most memorable contestants entered the house himself, Futures asks alumnus Sree Dasari if Big Brother is still watching him...

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Since its prestigious introduction to the annals of popular culture at the turn of the new millennium, the show (in which a generous handful of complete strangers from all walks of life are thrown together in a purpose-built house and filmed 24/7 throughout the summer, in isolation...) has spawned a multi-media-hyped, globe-spanning franchise of regional versions for the whole world to voyeuristically ogle. It made a national TV icon of presenter Davina McCall, reinvigorated an interest in George Orwell’s dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty-Four (from which the show takes its name) and arguably, has also been the single biggest
The Futures eviction interview...

Q Sree – so what made you apply for Big Brother?  
A Well, my friend Lee (ENT’s Manager for the Forum) watched the show in the UK, and when my sister (a Bollywood actress from India) participated in it, it was so popular in India due to the Religion allegations involving another housemate (R.I.P Jade Goody). So to find out more, I researched the UK ‘BB’ show through YouTube clips and by reading George Orwell’s book, 1984 etc. – and finally I found the open auditions date and where they were taking place etc. and decided to go along…

Q What was the audition process like?  
A The audition was held on Feb 2nd 2009 at Excel Arena O2. More than 10,000 people attended just on that day. Some people from the production team were interviewing people in the queue, and they asked me quite simple questions like ‘where are you from?’ ‘How did you hear about the BB auditions?’ etc. In first round they selected only a few people – and I was not one of them and was quite upset. But then we were told that those were actually the people that were not selected – and I was happy to get to the second stage. Then I knew it was genuine by filling in nearly 100 pages in a questionnaire, and I came back home that day. After 14 days I got a call from the production team, asking me to take part in various activities, like a face to face interview, group games and team building exercises etc. Around May 15th 2009 I got a ‘Big Pack’ from the BB team. Also I got a call from them saying that I am going on holiday (to Cumbria, Lake District) for 20 days which is called ‘hiding’ with two producers – and they kidnapped me! It was an amazing experience actually. Finally I got a call from the Boss of BB on 2nd June 2009 that I was going into the house I’d only seen her in some YouTube clips before. Davina etc. Was the experience as you expected it to be?  
A To be honest, I’d never watched the show before and I didn’t know who Davina McCall was! Before I entered the house I’d only seen her in some YouTube clips of previous shows. Also, I never expected that many people will be watching.

Q How aware of the cameras were you? Did you simply forget they were there after a while?  
A Yes, I felt very strange with that many cameras all over the house, but to be realistic we are used to living with CCTV’s everybody in our daily life and I always try to ignore them.

Q Did you still feel like you were being filmed all the time for a while when you came out?  
A Yeah I did feel like I was being filmed a lot after I was evicted from the house – and I was always thinking that I was still there with everyone. Even in my dreams I thought I was still being filmed etc. It took me about 3 months to get back to feeling like a ‘normal person’ – and now I am back in India I still sometimes dream about the BB house.

Q You famously clashed with quite a few of the housemates during your time on the show! What...
do you remember as being the worst argument/incident for you?
A *Laughs* Arguments are evitable in our daily life – with friends, housemates and with family – so, it was quite obvious (it was going to happen) in the house too. Especially the ‘Garlic argument’ with Freddie… and with Marcus about him mimicking my accent… and finally with Noirin regarding the missing alcohol.

Q When you came out of the house, much of the focus was obviously on your relationship with Noirin. You’re obviously not the first guy to have been disarmed by a beautiful girl – but most are not on camera 24/7 when it happens! How do you deal with the scrutiny you received afterwards?
A To be frank with you guys, I totally noticed Noirin’s (real) character the day before I got evicted – because she is a manipulative person, her attitude ruined so many people in the house. I never focused on her after I left the house.

Q Are you still in contact with anyone from the house?
A Yes I do still contact a lot of the other housemates – Beinazir, Lisa, Sophie, Rodrigo, Kris, Charlie, Safia… But the people I contact most are Lisa, Charlie, Safia, Beinazir and Rodrigo.

Q What did your family and friends think of the whole experience?
A In my family only my Dad knew that I was going into the house, and later on my Mum did as well. They have always given me full choice of freedom since my childhood – and moreover they do trust me a lot so, it’s an experience to them also. I treat them as my living god’s because they have given me life and social status. Regarding my friends – they were all really shocked when they watched me on the show!

Q So one year on, has Big Brother changed you? Has it had a big effect on your life?
A Yes, Big Brother changed me a lot with (people recognising) my name and fame etc. Sometimes it makes me uncomfortable, in having privacy with personal things like having a relationship, clubbing and partying etc. But of course, it has had a big effect on my life.

Q What are you doing now?
A At the moment, I am living in India, enjoying hot summer with 45 degree temperatures! I am working as an Assistant Professor for the Communication Skills department at my local university in India. Also, I am planning to come back to the UK again to do my research methodology course soon.

Q And finally, do you regret your decision to go on the show at all?
A No I’ve never regretted my decision regarding going into the BB house. Can I just say, thanks for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be in Futures, and a message to all my Sree Fans – hope you are all doing well! I am missing you all here in India and hope to come back soon! Till then… Sree u later x x x x 

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**face to facebook**

Due to the wonders of modern technology – the cyber revolution that over the last few years has become as commonplace in many of our daily lives as getting dressed in the morning – these days we get the chance to meet and chat to generations of our alums from all around the world every single day. So with the promise of immortalising your little square profile pics in a more traditional form of media, we asked all those of you on our official Facebook page to post something up about your time here! And this is what you said...

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http://www.bigbrother.com/
Maxine Bromyard
It gave me a degree, a career, a husband and many memories both good and bad. Working all night in the Computer Centre in those days! (1979)
Oh and all night drinking in the cricket club.

John D Brownlie
1966-1969 excellent. Best university in the universe!

Susie Winter
1988 to 1991. Had an amazing time and even got a decent degree at the end of it.

Stella Butt
Applied Biology 71 - 76 - probably patchy!!!!!

Duncan Smith

Cindy Bernard
An experience I will not soon forget, which produced excellent results, a university I'll recommend to anyone... but I do!
all nighters at CTS, my first taste of red bull ... I literally saw stars, lol. The coursework increased my interest in networking and software development.

Janette Marshall
1986-1989 fabulous! Then again 2003-2006...

Jay Mick
2006 - 2010. Wish I could do it again.

Dafni Deva Milioni
Held the space for the most amazing course: Dramatherapy! That literal space doesn’t exist anymore (the old British Aerospace building that was brought down), but in our hearts, of course!

Lisa Syne
89-92 happy days, the shock of finding myself in Pembroke Hall, noisy as hell, boiling in summer/freezing in winter! At least it was near the Font

Manu Misra
University was an experience - from the first day nervousness to the hurried all nighters at the LRC followed by a refectory breakfast waiting for the assignment submission desk to open. Besides academic learning, 4 years of mental and intellectual development into a person who “Seeks Knowledge Throughout Life”.

Frances Noble
1996-1999, best years of my life...!!

Inran Ali
Best time at university... was great
Blue-sky guidance

From reuniting a WWII airplane Beacon with its spiritual home, to helping a graduate launch his entrepreneurial future, this issue we look at two examples of how the Enterprise and Business Services Team are helping both individuals and community projects soar...

“The University has helped me progress from an initial stage of having a business idea to a phase where I am now just a few months away from running my own business.”

Student, Alexander Bracq, is one such individual that has benefited from our enterprise programmes. When Alexander entered the Flare business ideas challenge, his business, Go2clubs was only an idea. He had no concrete plan of how to transform the idea into the viable business he dreamt it could be. Attending the enterprise workshops, business advisory sessions and the Flare bootcamp provided him with the knowledge and skills he needed to write a good business plan, and consequently a credible platform to approach potential sponsors and partners with.

“I always knew that I wanted to run my own business and work for myself but like any other business in life, I came across hurdles. Attending the enterprise initiatives such as Enterprise Wednesday and Enterprise Spotlight helped me overcome these obstacles by providing me with relevant and useful workshops and information. These included ‘how to write a business plan’, ‘Finances for Business’ and listening to successful entrepreneur speakers which helped to revitalise my passion and kept me motivated in pushing forward with my business idea.

These events helped me to further understand and develop my concepts of the business and what is involved in creating and running a successful business. One of the most valuable and helpful events that helped me develop my business idea into a fully viable business, was Flare. Flare acted as a driving force for me and enabled me to speed up the process of my business by accomplishing specific tasks such as completing by business plan by a set date.’

Alexander was one of the 2010 Flare finalists, his business idea Go2clubs aims to provide students with much needed night entertainment options. Backed with sponsorship from strategic partners providing Go2clubs’ clientele with attractive freebies, free and safe transport to venues and no entries fee, Go2clubs is set to take student experience to a new level of fun. Alexander received an honorary award from Julie Meyer, a leading champion for entrepreneurship in Europe for his performance at the Flare finals. Go2clubs will be launched in September 2010 during fresher’s week and Alexander can be contacted at a.bracq2@herts.ac.uk for further information about Go2clubs.

Discover how the Enterprise and Business Services Team can help you today. Visit go2clubs@herts.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1707 285866 and speak to one of our expert advisers.

Helping to guide the beacon home

Satpal Kaur Bassan reports on the University of Hertfordshire community project that’s returning the favour to one of the aviation industry’s guiding lights...

Walking around the de Havilland Campus there are signs of the historic aerodrome that once occupied the land: the openness and even the name are reminiscent of the legacy that will always remain akin with the University of Hertfordshire. After all, the campus (which opened in 2003) was named after Geoffrey de Havilland – founder of the de Havilland Aircraft Company in Hatfield which produced the first passenger jet.

As an alumnus with memories of living and studying at the de Havilland Campus I was intrigued to find out more about the University’s Heritage Lottery Fund Grant which is helping raise funds to bring a piece of history back to the campus.

The £37,000 grant received in 2009 is being used for the de Havilland Aerodrome Reminiscence Project which aims to preserve the history of the de Havilland campus by researching and writing the last remaining pre-World War 2 beacon (those lights that helped pilots find their way back to base before the use of radars). The project also aims to raise a total of £50,000 towards the cause.

So why do this now and not place the Beacon in a museum? The Beacon will be a public monument to the contribution Hatfield and its people have given to Britain’s aviation industry - presenting a focal point for the achievements of the community. The Beacon also provides a unique opportunity for the University to give something back to the people of Hatfield. The University’s Professor Owen Davies, who is leading the project, says that “We have had a fantastic response to the project and it has already brought a lot of local people together and begun the process of giving residents, students, local businesses and former employees a shared appreciation of the heritage of the area.”

Alongside the grant, the University has managed to raise funds from the generosity of local Hatfield companies including Porsche, David Lloyd and the Galleries. So how will this money be used? The University will be launching an exhibition in conjunction with the Digswell Arts Trust which will showcase the multi-media work of local schoolchildren and students, and will focus not only on the history of the site, but its present and future. Or - if you are more the outdoors type - perhaps you would be interested in taking a walk along the forthcoming heritage trail? Either way, the diversity of planned projects will ensure the legacy of the aerodrome is securely embedded in both the University and the local community.

Who knows, maybe next time you visit the de Havilland site you will have a chance to see a pre-WW2 beacon proudly standing in the grounds it was constructed on? If you are interested in being involved in the project or would like to contribute to the fund to bring the Beacon back home, please email uh.heritage@herts.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1707 285887.
How Hatfield survived the Black Death and other Hertfordshire stories

Welcome to the section of Futures devoted to the activities of University of Hertfordshire Press, the University’s publishing company. We publish books in a number of different subject areas. This issue’s focus is on History, including our imprint, Hertfordshire Publications, devoted to the history of Hertfordshire.

Most of us would probably have a rather romantic idea of a ‘deserted village’, imagining the medieval equivalent of a ghost town, perhaps with some tumble-down cottages and a picturesque church ruin. In some cases, such as the deserted village of Layston near Buntingford, in the north of Hertfordshire, the church has survived, but in many other instances there is very little left to see, unless there are ancient scars in the landscape visible only from the air. There are dozens of deserted villages and hamlets in Hertfordshire, as elsewhere in Great Britain, and the explanation of how they came to be abandoned is fascinating. Until relatively recently, many historians doubted the existence of all but a few deserted villages and could not agree on the reasons for their desertion. It was only after a group of respected historians, including the great W G Hoskins (author of The Making of the English Landscape), went on a field trip in 1948 to look at deserted villages in Leicestershire that the phenomenon began to gain credibility more widely. Also joining the field trip was another historian, Maurice Beresford, who went on to write the seminal book on this subject, The Lost Villages of England. Beresford also pioneered the use of aerial photography which brought many more abandoned sites to light.

At first deserted villages were thought to have been an exclusively medieval phenomenon, brought about by the terrible onslaught of famine and plague, but a new book published by UH Press, Deserted Villages Revisited, suggests that in fact it is part of the normal ebb and flow of society for settlements to shrink as well as grow at all periods. Sometimes villages and hamlets also move location, as was the case with the old village of Stevenage which relocated closer to the Great North Road some time between the Saxon and Medieval periods in order to make the most of the passing trade. Stevenage also absorbed the Saxon villages of Boxley, Wittenwick and Chefs, the latter surviving only as the name of a district in Stevenage New Town (founded in 1946).

Other settlements simply withered away, finally reaching a critical point when there were no longer enough residents to keep a place going as a community: in medieval times ploughing was a shared responsibility, so if there were no longer enough people to plough the fields, that could sound the death knell for a village or hamlet and force the last few families to relocate. The closing down of the alms house or chapel could also be the final straw. Later, a village could perish if the lord of the manor enclosed the land around it so that his sheep could graze, thus forcing the inhabitants out.

From the thirteenth century onwards, Britain’s growing population was forced to cultivate marginal land and it was increasingly difficult for everyone to be adequately fed. By about 1300, many villages were struggling. Add to already difficult circumstances a sequence of terrible harvests thanks to freak weather conditions, plague devastating outbreaks of ‘murrain’ in sheep and cattle (thought to have been either anthrax or foot and mouth disease) and the stage was set for famine in the early part of the century. Large areas of land in Hertfordshire fell fallow, including the greater part of Hatfield parish. When the Black Death reached epidemic levels in 1348, death rates hit unprecedented levels. Exact figures for deaths in Hertfordshire are not known although most historians estimate fatalities nationally, mortality rates were around one-third of the population (a St Albans monk recorded that the plague had ‘hallowed all flesh’).

Ironically, the Black Death actually relieved some of the pressure on land and, because there were fewer of them left, labourers could command higher wages and even start to demand some rights. But the continued presence of plague into the fifteenth century caused further population decline; a spate of deserted villages date from that century.

In the end, Hatfield may have been saved from complete oblivion by the fact that the land it lay on was second-rate and it was much more prone to desertion. In those areas, the Black Death often finished off aling settlements but, happily for us, Hatfield survived.

Deserted villages continue to exert a sense of melancholy and mystery even if the reality is often less evocative. It has become much easier to search for evidence of deserted villages since the advent of Google Earth and Google Maps: you can scour the fields for traces of vanished buildings and tracks from the comfort of your desk.

Archaeological investigations of deserted villages are also especially valuable because they are free from the evidence of later periods. Why not go online now and see if you can find one no one has spotted before?

For more information on all UH Press books visit www.herts.ac.uk/uhpress.
Where are they now?
Product designer? Solicitor? IT specialist? Let us know what you’ve been up to since posing for photos in your mortar board and gown...

Nicki Combarro (nee Smith)
Year Graduated: 2001
Qualification: BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy
Current Employer: Bodybalance
Career: Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinics Ltd
Area: Hertfordshire

I qualified in 1996 in the first cohort of Physiotherapists from the University and have maintained professional links with the University ever since. My initial employment was with the NHS where for five years I focused on musculoskeletal physiotherapy, including outpatient clinics, orthopaedic surgical wards, specialist burns and hand rehabilitation unit and hydrotherapy. After completing my MSc in Sports Injuries in 2002 I left the NHS and went to work for the MOD at RAF Halton for three years as a civilian physiotherapist. In 1999 Bodybalance Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic was established. With the move to the Hertfordshire Sports Village facilities in August 2003 and the more recent expansion into the Sports Performance and Development Centre, the clinic has continued to grow and offering services to the students, staff and wider community. I am also a Consultant Physiotherapist for the English Institute of Sport treating Elite International athletes within the East Region. Over the past eight years I have been fortunate enough to be part of a variety of major sports events including the Commonwealth Games, Manchester 2002 and Melbourne 2006, World University Games in South Korea 2003 and Turkey 2005 and in September I am flying out to New Delhi as part of Team England for the Commonwealth Games 2010. 

Dan Green
Year Graduated: 2007
Qualification: BSc (Hons) Sports Studies with Business
Current Employer: Holiday Comparisons
Area: Hertfordshire

My Master's degree at the University of Hertfordshire was in marketing - somewhat daunting at the time, as I'd switched from a legal background. I like to think that a combination of some fantastic tutors, being a little cheeky (my classmates remember this fondly… I hope) and doing something that I love has gone a long way towards defining the direction of my career. On graduation I worked for the University Business School's Graduate Consulting Unit - a pioneering consultancy unit. I subsequently went over to the Students' Union in time for the launch of the Forum – a £38 million refurbishment of the Students' Union (University) Business School’s Graduate Consulting Unit - a pioneering consultancy unit. I subsequently went over to the Students’ Union in time for the launch of the Forum – a £38 million refurbishment of the Students’ Union. For the duration of my time, the Forum, the best way of describing the venue is a bit like watching an episode of Glee – you’re not sure where it came from but it’s pretty damn amazing. I primarily focus on the public side of the marketing, which ranges on a day-to-day basis from the promotions for an upcoming gig (Black Eyed Peas, Bonfire, Florence and the Machine the list is pretty endless), writing out a sponsorship bid or general PR – to working with design agencies, developing links with community groups and local businesses and even jumping the A1 roundabout barrier to put up an event banner (very occasionally and with caution of course).

Izzu Hussain
Year Graduated: 2008
Qualification: MA Marketing
Current Employer: Forum
Area: Hertfordshire

I was employed by the University straight after I had finished my studies, and currently work within the Business School. Using entrepreneurial skills I gained while studying, working and travelling, I am about to launch my own company – Holiday Comparisons online. The business is the result of months of website development and liaison with top UK tour operators including Virgin, Thomson, Thomas Cook, Expedia and over one hundred others. Essentially this is the UK’s largest database of holidays and lets the user find any holiday with one simple search based on the customer-preferred criteria. The site is due to be launched officially by the end of July, and I am now developing a series of online short films to promote the business through viral networks. www.holidaycomparisons.com

UHArts and Galleries Programme
Autumn 2010 Highlights

Friday 10 September – Saturday 16 October (Visual Arts) Kiss Kiss Kill Kill: The Graphic Art and Forgotten Spy Films of Cold War Europe
Saturday 10 October 7.30pm (Music) de Haviland Philharmonic
Wednesday 13 October – Saturday 20 October (Visual Arts) Taking Time: Craft and the Slow Revolution

Tuesday 16 October 6.00pm (Film) Suspiria
Saturday 30 October 7.30pm (Theatre) Orocsmia
Tuesday 2 November 7.00pm (Film) Bad Film Club: Toll 2
Sunday 7 November 3.30pm (Music) Stories from the Ballet: A Children's Classical Concert
Sunday 21 November 1.00pm, 3.00pm (Children's Theatre) The Butterfly Ball: A Poem on Six Legs
Tuesday 30 November 7.00pm (Film) Persopolis

Friday 3 December 6.00pm (Theatre) Farm Boy
Wednesday 8 – Thursday 23 December (Visual Arts) Open Exhibition 2010
Thursday 23 December 7.30pm (Music) Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra

Current Venue: The Forum
Opening Times:
De Havilland Campus
Wed to Sat 12.30pm – 5.30pm
Mon to Fri 9.00am – 4.00pm
Sat 9.30am – 3.30pm
Herts AL10 9AB
www.herts.ac.uk/artsandgalleries
Marketing@forumhertfordshire.co.uk
More Arts and Galleries Events at The University of Hertfordshire

Visual Arts
Kiss Kiss Kill Kill: The Graphic Art and Forgotten Spy Films of Cold War Europe
Friday 10 September – Saturday 16 October 2010
Centred on the spectacular kitsch graphic design produced during the heyday the European Spy Film (1964-1968), Kiss Kiss Kill Kill curated by Richard Rhys Davies puts a collection of newly restored posters on public display for the first time.

Gallery opening hours:
Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 5.30pm.
Saturday, 9.30am – 3.30pm

Price: FREE
Venue: Art and Design Gallery

Film
Vertigo
Tuesday 8 November, 7.00pm
Hitchcock’s classic tale of obsession and voyeurism is presented on a gloriously enrapturing grand scale. The nightmarish tale of spellbinding spectatorship sees retired detective Scottie (James Stewart) enraptured by a seemingly possessed lover Madeleine (Kim Novak) who, unbeknownst to him, is part of a devious plot of lust and deception.

Ticket price: £4 full price/ £3 concession
Suitable For: 15+
Venue: The Weston Auditorium
Box Office: 01707 281127

Children’s Theatre
The Butterfly Ball: A Poem on Six Legs
Sunday 21 November
Workshop: 12.00pm – 12.45pm,
First Performance: 1.00pm – 2.00pm, Second Performance: 3.00pm – 4.00pm
A dance-music theatre piece for children and their grown-ups about the little world in the grass. The Butterfly Ball is a heart-warming story in miniature about love, friendship, reaching for the moon and dancing leaf to leaf.

Ticket price: £8 full price/ £6 children
Suitable For: 4+
Venue: The Weston Auditorium

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