



## **page 3**

New partnership with  
Santander Universities

## **page 5**

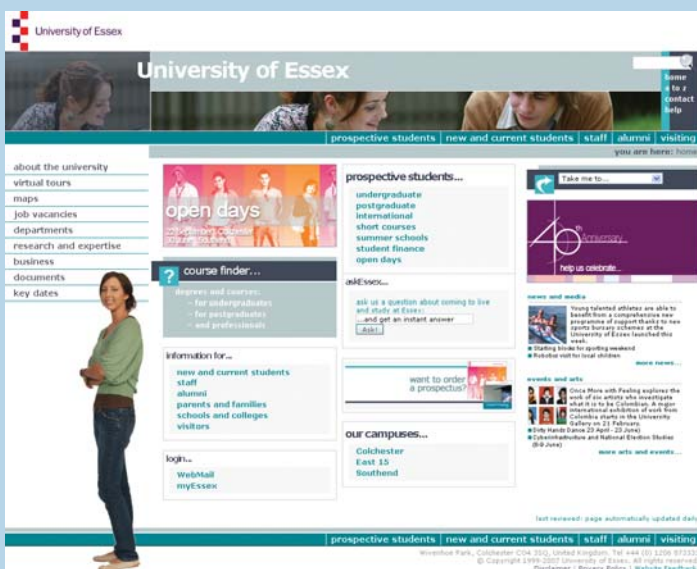
A haven for dragonflies

## **page 10 and 11**

Focus on: Support for  
sporting students







Screenshot of the new University website

## Preview of new website

This is a preview of how the University's new website will look when it is launched next month.

The new website has been developed in conjunction with a wider project to refresh the Essex branding, and takes into account not only the website's visual appearance, but ease of use and maintaining high levels of accessibility for all users.

The main body of the new corporate site will go live on 10 March, with sites on other University servers going live during the course of that week.

Debbie Nicholson, from the Web Support Unit, explained: 'This has been a co-ordinated effort right across the University, with staff from many areas making a huge effort to make this rebuild possible. It has involved gathering ideas on how to develop dynamic content, building new and exciting components, rewriting content, proof checking and gathering information.

'Users will see not only a fresh and modern

feel to the site, but also rich and varied content, with a more intuitive navigation structure.'

Features of the new site include a detailed interactive course finder, providing more comprehensive course details with a marketing focus, dynamic news and events information, targeted information for a wide range of users, visitor information specific to campus and type of user, consistent and relevant multi-campus information, and a 'keylinks' feature which will provide access to departments and services from any corporate page.

Extensive research underlies both the look and feel of the website, and the grouping and positioning of links on the homepage and in navigating throughout the site.

A second phase of website development will continue after March.

## Move to faculty organisation

A new organisational structure is to be introduced within the University to integrate management and budgetary planning more closely with academic decision-making.

The new structure, based around the existing four academic faculties, will also offer an opportunity to organise the University by academic activity rather than by geographical location.

Each of the University's four faculties will be headed by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor (PVC), working with a faculty support team, the dean, the relevant heads of department and their departmental administrators.

A project manager, Sally Conner, has been appointed to oversee the transition to the new structure, which takes effect in August.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Riordan explained: 'The aim is to improve communication and ensure key resourcing decisions are taken on the basis of a close understanding of academic priorities. It will bring administration, decision-making and budgetary planning closer to our front-line activities of teaching, research and outreach.'

The University is currently recruiting four faculty managers who will support the PVCs in introducing and operating the new structures.

The four faculties are: Social Sciences, headed by Professor Rob Massara; Humanities and Comparative Studies, headed by Professor Andy Downton; Science and Engineering, headed by Professor Christine Temple; and Law and Management, headed by Professor Nigel South.

## Student surveys underway

This month saw the launch of both the National Student Survey (NSS) and Essex Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS), giving all taught students at the University the opportunity to rate the quality of their course.

The NSS, for final-year undergraduates, takes place across the country, carried out by research company Ipsos MORI. The results allow the University and future students to compare different subjects at different universities to ensure students get the best quality education and

experience at Essex.

The SSS gives all other undergraduate students, and taught postgraduates, at Essex the same opportunity to rate their degree.

Research students will be contacted in

March, when the University takes part in the nationwide Postgraduate Research Experience Survey for the first time.

For more information, see: [www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/offices/smo/survey.htm](http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/offices/smo/survey.htm).

# New partnership with Santander Universities

The University has signed a new partnership with Abbey National plc, Banco Santander's UK subsidiary, through which it will receive support for students, researchers and entrepreneurs.

The agreement, which represents a significant donation to the University, provides annual scholarships for postgraduates from Iberoamerican countries in the scheme, as well as bursaries for students or staff wishing to undertake study or research overseas.

It also includes awards for non-academic achievement, support for entrepreneurship activities and Excellence in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship awards. Funding for technology research projects will also be available.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Riordan, said: 'The University is delighted to have launched this new partnership with Abbey. Not only will our students and staff benefit from the considerable financial contribution the bank is making, we will also be able to draw on its significant expertise, existing



The Vice-Chancellor presenting Luis Juste, UK Director of Santander Universities with a UECLAA print

relationships with members of the Grupo Santander, and its potential to provide work placements for our students.'

Luis Juste, UK Director of Santander Universities, said: 'We are happy to welcome the University of Essex to Santander Universities. Our agreement covers support for a significant number of ambitious projects. These will include research programmes, international scholarships and awards for students, entrepreneurial initiatives which we are sure will be successfully advanced by the University. This signing marks the beginning of what will be a long-term and fruitful partnership.'

## New research centre opens

The University has opened a new, interdisciplinary research centre focused on advancing the development of intelligent computer systems.

The Computational Intelligence Centre includes experts from a variety of fields including biological sciences, business and entrepreneurship, mathematical sciences as well as computing and electronic systems. It aims to capitalise on the wealth of expertise at the University and use an interdisciplinary approach to pioneer ground-breaking research.

Computational intelligence is a new perspective on what was known as artificial intelligence. It draws on advances in a range of techniques such as neural networks, fuzzy logic and evolutionary computing and combines these with

insights from nature to create programmes that are in some way intelligent.

Professor Hani Hagras, Director of the Centre, said: 'It is believed that by taking an interdisciplinary approach to research, the Centre will break down barriers between the different disciplines and sciences contributing to computational intelligence. In doing so our findings will have the potential to address numerous real world problems that traditional computing methods cannot resolve.'

For further information, see: <http://cci.essex.ac.uk/>.

## 'Pride in People's Homes'

Residential Services has launched a customer excellence and cultural change programme to further enhance the student experience within student accommodation.

Following its success in the International Student Barometer awards, Residential Services has been working with Liam O'Connell, service excellence and cultural change consultant and author of *Don't Feed the Ducks – Inspire your People*. Together they have developed a series of interactive events with staff culminating in the launch of 'Pride in People's Homes'.

Darren Baker, Customer Services and Marketing Manager for Residential Services, said: 'We have developed five core values that underpin what we are about as a service supplier and created the 'Pride in People's Homes' initiative. It is about recognising what we do and the contribution we make to the lives of our students whilst working in their homes.'

During the launch, Liam O'Connell along with the Senior Management team, thanked staff for their hard work and between sessions with flying ducks, flying fish and speed dating, introduced the core values that staff have helped to develop.



Ducks taking a well earned rest





Participants will use a variety of facilities including the climbing wall

# Fit 4 Life

It doesn't take a lot to stay fit and healthy - but a little exercise could go a long way.

The University, together with the Physiological Society, is offering a unique opportunity for members of the public to explore what a healthy lifestyle is, and how it can be achieved.

The free one-day event is spearheaded by Dr Valerie Gladwell from the Department of Biological Sciences: 'We want to welcome people of all ages and levels of health and fitness to the Colchester Campus and tell them the full story about achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Exercise doesn't have to be strenuous and involve gyms - and a healthy diet doesn't mean just eating lettuce.'

Find out what happens to the body during exercise; how to go from couch potato to athlete; what the 2012 Olympics can do for you; and how the University is contributing to knowledge about health and exercise, in a series of information sessions running throughout the day. Or get a chance to question some of the UK's

leading health and fitness experts, along with sporting stars of today and tomorrow.

Participants have the opportunity to get involved and test their fitness levels and health status in a variety of physical challenges and health checks - ranging from how fast you can run, or how flexible you are, to measuring heart rate and blood pressure. There will also be the option to have a go at sports taster sessions, from yoga to climbing, so come suitably dressed.

Fit 4 Life takes place on the Colchester Campus on Friday 4 April. Suitable for the over 12s, the day also links in with the national science curriculum. Individuals, families, schools, sports clubs and youth groups are all welcome to attend. To register your interest, e-mail: [fit4lifeday@essex.ac.uk](mailto:fit4lifeday@essex.ac.uk). The first ten family groups to register will receive a free family health check.

# 200mph on a motorcycle

**Sports psychologist Dr Murray Griffin will be gaining a unique insight into the world of extreme sports when he attempts to break the land speed record on a motorcycle.**

Dr Griffin and his support team will be travelling to the Bonneville salt flats in the US to compete in the annual Bonneville Speed Week in August.

To beat the current record, Dr Griffin will need to reach average speeds of 215mph over two attempts. In the 60 years of the Speed Week, just 80 motorcyclists have reached over 200mph at this event.

Using a Modified 2003 Nitrous injected Suzuki Hayabusa motorcycle, Dr Griffin believes he has a good chance: 'Although this is the first time I have competed at Bonneville, our practice times in training have been very encouraging.'

Dr Griffin is no stranger to speed, having competed on motorcycles for over ten years, he has reached 200mph no less than five times previously.

There are a number of conditions that the team will need to overcome in order to be in with a chance of achieving their optimum speed. The salt flats provide a loose surface which the bike has to move smoothly over, and high winds, humidity and temperatures of more than 35°C have to be overcome.

Dr Griffin and his team are among just a handful of bikers flying out to the US to attempt the record. As well as needing sponsorship to compete, they will also be raising money for the Riding for the Disabled Association.

To sponsor the team, or to add to the charity collection, visit: <http://www.fourfourzero.co.uk>.



# Musical showcase

**The Classical Music Society will be showcasing its talents next month at a concert in the Lakeside Theatre.**

With a variety of talented musicians drawn from the staff and student body at Essex, this annual concert will include performances of works by Schubert, Poulenc and Mozart.

The concert is at the Lakeside Theatre on 1 March at 7.30pm.

# A haven for dragonflies

One of the dragonflies pictured in the book

**Sociologist and naturalist Professor Ted Benton has published a new book charting the species and locations of dragonflies found in Essex.**

*The Dragonflies of Essex*, co-written with John Dobson, updates Professor Benton's original survey of the county's dragonflies published 19 years ago.

Professor Benton, of the Department of Sociology, explained: 'My long-standing interest in watching and photographing wildlife has taken me to many remote and beautiful parts of Europe, but for many years I've also worked with other naturalists to study and raise awareness of the value - and vulnerability - of our own local wildlife and their habitats.'

'This time, John Dobson and I were delighted to find that all the species present 20 years ago are still with us. Some, indeed, have become more common, and we have two new arrivals. One of these, the small red-eyed damselfly, even chose Essex as its first foothold in the UK. Some species appreciate our county, even though some humans seem not to! The new arrivals, and the much earlier spring emergence of some other species may be evidence of climate change.'

The book includes accounts and distribution maps of all resident and migrant species with colour photographs throughout, and a review of the best places in the county to watch dragonflies.

Professor Benton has also authored a number of books on bumblebees and butterflies. His latest work, published by the Essex Field Club in association with Lopinga Books, is available from bookshops and wildlife outlets or email: [tbenton@essex.ac.uk](mailto:tbenton@essex.ac.uk).

## Holocaust remembered

The University marked national Holocaust Memorial Day with a series of events to reflect and remember.

Commemorations began with a seminar exploring how the Holocaust is represented in public museums, organised by Dr Rainer Schulze, Head of History. Speakers included Wilfried Wiedemann, of the new permanent exhibition at Bergen-Belsen, and Suzanne Bardgett, of the Imperial War Museum, as well as Professor Peter Vergo, Head of Art History and Theory.

The Students' Union organised a series of readings and reflections on Square 3 which culminated with the lighting of candles.

The commemorations ended in the Colchester and District Jewish Community's annual Holocaust Memorial Service, held at the Colchester Campus for the second year.

## Gold medal event

Paralympic athlete Dame Tanni Grey Thompson will be the keynote speaker at the 28th Colchester Lecture in May.

The University and Colchester Institute are among the sponsors of the prestigious event, which will take place at the Mercury Theatre at 6.30pm on Thursday 8 May.

Dame Tanni holds 16 Paralympic medals including 11 gold, and has won the London Marathon six times. Her comprehensive set of British and World records place her second to none in the disability sport arena. Born with Spina Bifida, Dame Tanni will talk about her extraordinary career and athletic achievements.

Tickets are now on sale for £10, £9 concessions, from the Mercury Theatre box office telephone: 01206 573948, or visit: [www.mercurytheatre.co.uk](http://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk).



Dame Tanni Grey Thompson

The Lecture is run by Colchester-based PR agency Mosaic Publicity. Event organiser, Anne Sherer-Broom, said: 'Dame Tanni's international career reaches out as an inspiration to everyone, able-bodied or disabled alike.' Previous keynote speakers at the event include the architect Rafael Viñoly, Lord Robert Winston, Tony Robinson, and the University's Professor Jules Pretty.



# Southend Campus new name unveiled

The University's new Southend Campus building is to be officially opened next month.

The occasion will also see the unveiling of the building's new name, the Gateway Building, at a special event for funders and supporters of the development and representatives of the University and the local community on Tuesday 4 March.

It is now 12 months since the University welcomed the first students into the new building and, in October, Southend's status as a university town took another step forward as undergraduates and postgraduates from many countries came to register with the University.

The £25 million multi-use building, which was largely publicly funded, is now fully-functional and home to three areas of study: East 15 Acting School, the Department of Health and Human Sciences and the School of Entrepreneurship and Business.

Innovative dental and medical skills labs have been developed, and the Gateway Building also houses a working GP and



dental surgery. Used by local residents and students, this provides a valuable service to the local community.

The Business Incubation Centre is supporting the economic regeneration of the area, providing affordable business spaces and professional support to fledgling businesses, while the new iLab provides a venue for business training days.

**It is now 12 months since the University welcomed the first students into the new building**

The building's new name, the Gateway Building, was suggested by a member of the local community, Julian Abel. It was chosen by the University for its significance in terms of its Thames Gateway location, but also for its meaning as a gateway to learning, business and ultimate success.

## Dental treatment to smile about

**A new dental service offering free NHS dental care delivered in state-of-the-art facilities has opened at the Southend Campus.**

Barts and The London Academic Dental Clinic has been developed in partnership between Barts and The London NHS Trust which runs one of the country's top rated teaching hospitals, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, and South East Essex Primary Care Trust.

Dental treatment on offer will include check-ups, routine fillings, simple root canals, extractions, crowns and bridges, and dentures. It will be carried out by senior dental students studying at Barts and The London under the supervision of qualified local dentists. All treatment provided at the clinic is free and there is no need for referral.

The clinic is part of a broader NHS health and dental facility, Southend Health and Dental Care, which also comprises a GP service, an NHS Dental Practice run by a qualified dental practitioner, and a Clinical Skills Training laboratory run by the University of Essex.

The Clinical Skills labs, made possible through funding from the Strategic Health Authority, mean Essex students on the Foundation Degrees in Health Sciences and Oral Health Sciences benefit from a range of high-tech equipment, including a 'simulated man' known as SimMan and 15 work stations, each with a 'phantom head', and a networked computer and camera.

## Partnership to develop intelligent mail server

The Department of Computing and Electronic Systems has launched a new knowledge transfer partnership with an Ipswich-based company to develop an intelligent mail server.

Researchers will work with colleagues at Active Web Solutions (AWS) which develops cutting-edge enterprise

information systems. Together they aim to develop a server to support collaborative management and cross-enterprise projects.

The two-year project will be led by Drs Udo Kruschwitz and Simon Lucas from Essex and Rob Blackwell and Richard Anscombe from AWS.



(left to right) Dr Simon Lucas, Rob Blackwell, Richard Anscombe, James Callaghan (REO), Jan Stringer (KTP Advisor, Momenta) and Dr Udo Kruschwitz

# Aesthesis //CREATE

Dr Ian King and Dr Ceri Watkins, both of the School of Accounting, Finance and Management, along with the University of Warwick, are calling for proposals for a unique international project.

The Aesthesis//CREATE project invites contributions from individuals, groups, societies or organisations from any background to submit an idea, proposal or scheme that employs art/aesthetics to inform or benefit organisational life.

Over the last few weeks more than 10,000 arts-based groups and organisations across the world have been invited to get involved in the project.

The project, in association with partners, Arts and Business, aims to provide resources to develop these proposals for inclusion in a global touring gallery – an exhibition of developed proposals which will reach a broad range of audiences in over 12 countries and four continents.

Dr King, explained: 'This is an exciting opportunity to provide support for new ideas, but it also offers the fantastic prospect of conducting both a longitudinal and comparative ethnographic study with each of the 12-15 projects we select for support. Furthermore, this project will provide the opportunity to examine each of these projects in the contexts of different cultures and audiences.'

The project hopes to reach as many people, groups and societies as possible. For further information and submission details, see: [www.essex.ac.uk/aesthesis](http://www.essex.ac.uk/aesthesis).



(left to right) Mark Savory, Richard Ransom, Tony Jordan, Gordon Lund, Marisa Bostock, Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Riordan, and Colin Paris

## Long service awards

Members of staff who have each clocked up 25 years of service to the University were rewarded at a lunch hosted by the Vice-Chancellor. The following members of staff received awards:

Essex graduate **Marisa Bostock** joined the Department of Computer Science as a Graduate Secretary. Following the merger of the Department with Electronics Systems Engineering, Marisa took on the role of Postgraduate Research Administrator.

**Gordon Lund** initially worked in the Catering Section as a Chef before being appointed Assistant Head Chef. After several years Gordon decided on a career change and took up the role of Patrol Officer.

**Colin Paris** joined the University as a Patrol Officer at a time when the student population numbered just 3,000. Today, as Campus Security Supervisor, Colin enjoys dealing with a wide range of issues on a daily basis.

**Mark Savory** started his career at the University on a work experience programme in the Printing Centre. This led to a permanent position and Mark currently works as a Production Assistant. A keen squash player, Mark regularly uses the Sports Centre facilities.

Two members of staff were also rewarded for 40 years of service:

**Richard Ransom** joined the University in 1967 as Technician in the Polymer Section of the Department of Chemistry. He later moved to the Organic Chemistry labs where he stayed until its closure in 2005 and currently works in Biological Sciences.

**Tony Jordan** first joined the University as a Senior Technician in Physics before moving to the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering. Following his retirement in 2007, Tony returned to work on a part-time basis in Biological Sciences. A keen golfer, Tony has participated in the University's longest-running sports competition, the Clacton Cup, every year since 1981.

## Prestigious accolade for audio engineer

Professor Malcolm Hawksford, of the Department of Computing and Electronic Systems, has been awarded a Doctor of Science in recognition of his considerable academic achievements.

The award, presented to Professor Hawksford by the University of Aston, is

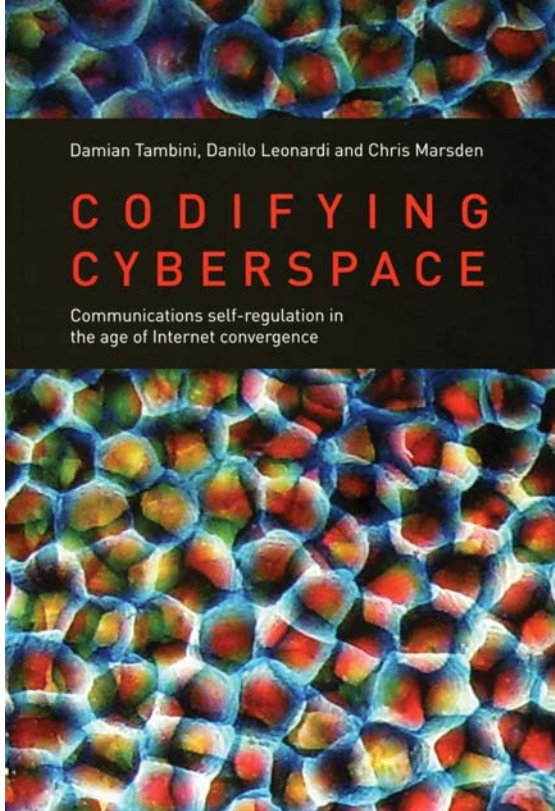
only presented to those academics with a long and proven record of internationally recognised work. Candidates are judged by peer-examination through publications and research.

The honour will be conferred upon Professor Hawksford, who specialises in audio engineering and related electronics, in July.



Professor Malcolm Hawksford





Damian Tambini, Danilo Leonardi and Chris Marsden

## CODIFYING CYBERSPACE

Communications self-regulation in the age of Internet convergence

***Codifying Cyberspace: Communications self-regulation in the age of Internet convergence***

**Damian Tambini, Danilo Leonardi and Chris Marsden**

**Glasshouse Press, Taylor and Francis**

Can the internet regulate itself? Faced with a range of 'harms' and conflicts associated with the new media - from gambling to pornography - governments have resisted the temptation to regulate,

opting instead to encourage media providers to develop codes of conduct and technical measures to regulate themselves.

*Codifying Cyberspace*, co-authored by Chris Marsden of the Department of Law, looks at media self-regulation in practice, in a variety of countries.

It also examines the problems of balancing private censorship against fundamental rights to freedom of expression and privacy for media users.

This is the first full-scale study of self-regulation and codes of conduct in these fast-moving new media sectors.

### ***Developmental Psycholinguistics***

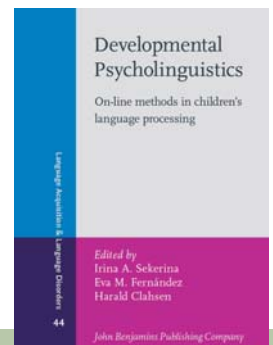
**Edited by Irina A Sekerina, Eva M Fernández and Harold Clahsen**

**John Benjamins Publishing Company**

How do infants and young children coordinate information in real time to arrive at sentence meaning from the words and structure of the sentence and from the nonlinguistic context?

This volume, co-edited by Professor Harold Clahsen of the Department of Language and Linguistics, introduces readers to an emerging field of research, experimental developmental psycholinguistics, and to the four predominant methodologies used to study online language processing in children. The chapters cover event-related brain potentials, free-viewing eyetracking, looking-while-listening, and reaction-time techniques, also providing a historical backdrop for this line of research.

Multiple aspects of experimental design, data collection and data analysis are addressed in detail, alongside surveys of recent findings about how infants and children process sounds, words, and sentences.



### ***Logics of Critical Explanation in Social and Political Theory***

**Jason Glynos and David Howarth**  
**Routledge**

In *Logics of Critical Explanation in Social and Political Theory*, Jason Glynos and Dr David Howarth, both of the Department of Government, propose a novel approach to practising social and political analysis based on the role of logics.

The authors articulate a distinctive perspective to social science explanation that avoids the problem of scientism and which steers a course between law-like explanations and thick descriptions.

Drawing upon hermeneutics, poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, and post-analytical philosophy, this new approach furnishes a particular set of logics - social, political and fantasmatic logics - with which to construct critical explanations of

practices and regimes. While the first part of the book critically engages with law-like, interpretivist and causal approaches to critical explanation, the second part elaborates an alternative grammar of concepts informed by a poststructuralist ontology. In developing their approach, a number of empirical cases are included to illustrate its basic concepts and logics, ranging from the apartheid regime in South Africa to recent changes in higher education.

### ***US-Grenada Relations: From Revolution to Intervention in the Backyard***

**Gary Williams**

**Palgrave Macmillan**

Why did the world's strongest power intervene militarily in the tiny

Commonwealth Caribbean island of Grenada in October 1983?

This book, by Dr Gary Williams of the Research and Enterprise Office, focuses on US-Grenada relations between 1979 and 1983 set against the wider historical context of US-Caribbean Basin relations. It presents an in-depth study of US policy

during the Carter and Reagan presidencies and the deterioration of relations with the Marxist-Leninist People's Revolution Government (PRG) of Grenada. It considers in detail the murderous internal power struggle that destroyed the PRG and the decision-making process that resulted in a joint US-Caribbean military intervention.



# Radical movement explored

A major research project in Biological Sciences has secured more than £470,000 from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to investigate free radicals.

Many enzymes use highly reactive free radicals to perform their catalytic functions. Free radicals are compounds containing unpaired electrons and play an important role in a number of biological processes, many of which are necessary to sustain life.

However, because of their high reactivity free radicals can also participate in unwanted side reactions, causing cell damage that may lead to diseases such as



Professor Mike Wilson

Alzheimer's disease and cancer.

Professors Mike Wilson and Chris Cooper with Drs Dima Svistunenko and Brandon Reeder are leading the research. Professor Wilson explained: 'The way in which enzymes control free radical movement is of important scientific interest and is the focus of our research.'

Using proteins that contain the amino acid tyrosine, the team will be able to track the radicals to discover if their movement is mainly within one protein or is transmitted to other proteins. The test bed for their research is a protein that does not

possess tyrosine using the DNA of the sea-hare (Aplysia).

Professor Wilson continued: 'Ultimately we aim to identify the rules that govern free radical movement. This information will be valuable in understanding the mechanisms by which proteins control radicals and will also be of importance in understanding why these processes go wrong in some proteins.'

'If we can identify how the free radicals move, it may be possible to identify how to stop or remove them in those areas where we know they have a damaging effect.'

## Making reparations for slavery

Two major conferences next month will hear presentations from Fernne Brennan of the Department of Law and Human Rights Centre in relation to her work on making reparations for the transatlantic slave trade.

Fernne's ongoing research addresses human rights principles that victims of rights' violations should be afforded access to justice in line with the guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparations.

She explained: 'There are problems surrounding any claim for reparations for the African Holocaust because the events happened in the past, and it is difficult to assess the consequential damage caused to the descendants of slaves. However, there are issues regarding the development of ex-colonial economies, which are heavily reliant on international markets for a few export commodities. This trade legacy provides the link between the past and current discrimination. I am looking at how a reparative framework

could be built into trading rules.'

Fernne and Sonya Fernandez of Canterbury Christchurch University will chair and provide lead papers to the Socio-Legal Studies Association's Law, Race, Religion and Human Rights Panel at the University of Manchester.

The panel will include papers relating to slavery, reparations, international trade and race discrimination from a number of experts from UK and French universities.

Fernne has also had a paper accepted for Hamline University's Spring Symposium 'The Declaration of Human Rights: A Reality Check', being held in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Entitled 'Exploring a Reparations Framework for Addressing

Trade Inequality', her paper argues for reparations to provide a trump card in changing trading rules.

As part of her reparations projects Fernne hosted contributions from Esther Stanford, Chair of the pan Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe, and Deborah Gabriel, Director of human rights organisation Imani Development at a Human Rights Centre seminar last month.

The project continues with an international conference entitled, 'Colonialism, Slavery, Reparations and Trade: Remedying the 'Past?' in November, at the Brunei Gallery in London. This is an inter-institutional venture between the University, the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies.



# Focus on

# Support for sporting students

This month *Wyvern* takes a look at how the University is encouraging sporting talent and working with local and national bodies to enhance and develop elite athletes' potential.

## Students benefit from new bursary scheme

The sports talent that exists amongst the student body has been recognised by the University for a number of years. This month, however, saw the launch of a comprehensive new programme of support to help talented students combine their academic and sporting achievements.

The 2008 Sports Bursary Scheme offers support to student athletes competing on a national or international stage. Eight awards have been made this year, two scholarships worth £2,500 each and six sports bursaries each worth £1,250.

The bursary award includes support services such as strength conditioning, sports science and sports nutrition, financial assistance with equipment, travel and expenses, educational workshops, personal mentoring and free use of sports facilities.

In addition, students receive physiotherapy services from The Colchester Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic.

The 2008 students are:

Sport and Exercise Science student **Michael Aley** achieved 19th place in the English Junior Squash Open this year, won the Essex Men's Plate, and achieved 21st at the English Junior Grand Prix.

Fourth-year Law and Politics student, **Alexander Dinopoulos** is currently ranked 19th in the men's national tennis rankings in Greece.

**Emma Dunmore** is in her first year of Sport and Exercise Science and currently plays for Colchester United Ladies First Team. She is also Colchester United Under-19s Academy 'Players' Player' of the Year and Colchester United Ladies First Team 'Most Improved Player'.

Table tennis champion and Clinical Physiology student **Abi Embling** is currently ranked fourth in the senior

women's category. Abi achieved silver whilst representing England in September and won bronze in the Under 21s Nationals.

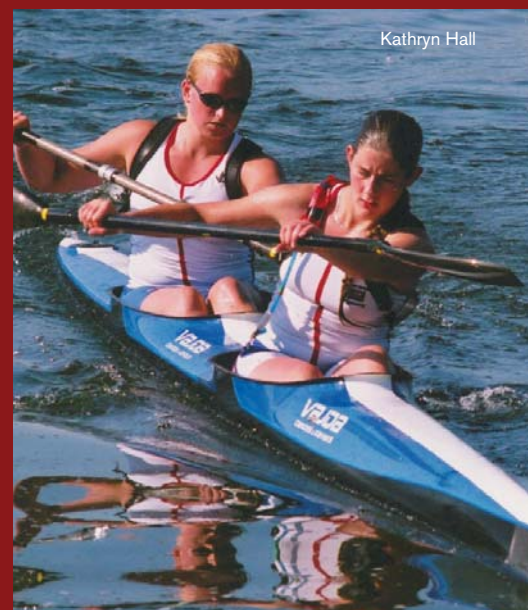
Motorsport driver and Computer Science student, **Martin Galpin** is the 2007 Formula Vee Champion. He was named 2007 Club Driver of the Year by *Autosport* magazine.

Sport and Exercise Science student **Kathryn Hall** won the national marathon kayaking championships in August, and came third in singles.

French and Modern Languages student, **Paul Lillis** is the English Junior Pistol Shooting Champion and achieved 13th place at the English Senior Championships. Paul is a member of the Team England Junior National Squad and the GB Junior Development Squad.

Third year Sport and Exercise Science student, **Abbie Thorington** was selected for the European Senior Triathlon Championships in 2007 and achieved 2nd

place at Blenheim Elite Triathlon. Abbie won the BUSA 2007 Triathlon Championships and was Junior National Triathlon Champion in 2006. She was also selected for the European and World Junior Triathlon Championships.



Kathryn Hall



Abbie Thorington



Paul Lillis



# Essex cricket boost

The University's cricket teams have received a boost with two new stars and several members of the ladies team joining the county side.

The women's cricket team has welcomed Isha Patel to its training sessions after she was accepted onto the University's Academy Bursary Scheme. Through the scheme Isha will be able to draw on the many support services, and expertise offered by the Sports Centre and Human Performance Unit.

A cricketer has also become the most recent young athlete supported by the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) through the University. Matt Everitt, who is deaf, is a member of the England Deaf Cricket Team that placed second at the most recent World Championships.

As well as welcoming elite athletes, Essex's cricket teams have also received valuable recognition from the county club. Three members of the women's squad - Emma Webdale, Hannah Jeffreys and Jamie Newstead - have all won places on the Essex County Cricket Club squad. Their success is a reflection of the hard work put in by their coach Mike Boyers.



Martin Galpin

## Eye on the future

**Whilst the Sports Bursary offers an opportunity for talented athletes to continue their sport whilst combining it with studying for a degree, athletes can only enter if they have undergone years of preparation prior to arriving at university.**

With this in mind the Academy Sports Bursary has been launched with the aim of supporting the development of talented young athletes and sportspeople aged 15-17, in conjunction with their coaches, clubs and schools, and to provide a progression from the school based Talented and Gifted programme.

Worth up to £1,000 per year, the Academy Bursary provides lifestyle mentoring, free access to sports facilities, strength and conditioning coaching, performance lifestyle workshops, and access to expert coaching.

Squash and triathlon are the first two disciplines that the Academy Bursary is focusing on, but the scheme will grow to encompass other sports.

The first triathlon training day for Academy athletes was held recently. University Triathlon Coach, Dave Parry led the activities. He said: 'This is an exciting



Will Meadows

development. We offer an excellent programme of training and real personal attention and support. The more young athletes that experience this and be made aware of it, the better.'

Fifteen year old William Meadows from Woodbridge, is an Academy Bursary athlete and took part in the triathlon training day. He said: 'Having had some success at local triathlons, I have been hoping to compete at the next level. The Bursary Scheme has given me the opportunity to access the level of training I need. It helps improve my skills and technique in swimming, bike and running as well as supporting my training schedules and manage my study, training and racing.

For more information about the scheme, and applications, contact Ruth Owen-Evans, e-mail: rowen@essex.ac.uk.

## National partnership

The University is also working with the national governing body, UK Athletics, to support three young athletes, Olufunmi Sobodu, Louis Persent and Matti Mortimore. The University is working with UK Athletics to support the training and development of the young stars. When on campus they have access to facilities including the gym and coaching and support from specialist Essex staff.



# Financial boost to brainwave research

Communication direct from the brain to the computer is the goal of the latest research by Professor Riccardo Poli and Dr Francisco Sepulveda of the Department of Computing and Electronic Systems.

The pair has recently been awarded a grant of more than £350,000 to cover three years of research on Analogue Evolutionary Brain Computer Interfaces (BCI) where limited movement means that some people are unable to use computer keyboards in their current form. The result aims to be flexible and cheap enough to make a real difference to people's lives.

Through electrodes attached to the head via a simple cap, brainwaves can directly transmit instructions to a computer, moving the cursor across the screen to choose different functions. So far they have developed a prototype Brain Computer Interface mouse capable of full 2-D motion control.

An additional plus is that the user only requires a few minutes training before using the mouse. Dr Sepulveda said: 'Everything we do in the lab is meant to be easy-to-use. Most of the work being done around the world assumes people will be available for months of training.

'We hope to get a lot more disabled people involved in the project to find out the problems associated with each individual.'

BCI could also revolutionise computer gaming with gamers also being able to control their devices without the need for joysticks.

## Gene breakdown

More than 20,000 GeneChips of different types have been accessed by the Bioinformatics Group, a partnership between the Departments of Mathematical and Biological Sciences.

As these chips are thought to record the activity of almost all human genes, investigations into the behaviour not just of individual genes but also of gene components can begin.

As an example of a GeneChip, the image here shows the cross correlation between 11 measurements of a human gene which regulates the activity of other genes. The 11 measurement points are placed in order along the gene. Yellow indicates highly correlated pairs of measurements while red is low (or even negative) correlation. The picture makes it clear that this gene is not acting as a single whole but instead subregions in the gene can be clearly seen.

The Bioinformatics Group has produced many of these heatmaps, showing a wide range of different behaviours, some expected and some new. Many more examples can be found at: <http://bsln11ha/users/wlangdon/HG-U133A/>.

## Art research revealed

Adverse health reactions to artworks can be predicted, analysis by Professor Arnold Wilkins of the Department of Psychology has shown.

Professor Wilkins, whose work focuses on vision and health, investigated concerns that some examples of contemporary art lead to seizures or migraines. In collaboration with local artist Debbie Ayles and colleagues from the Department of Biological Sciences, he set out to discover how these reactions could be anticipated, using works from the University of Essex Collection of Latin American Art and photographs of urban and rural scenes.

More than 100 volunteers of all ages, including University staff and students from St Helena School in Colchester, were asked to judge images both in terms of art appreciation and if they felt any level of discomfort when viewing them.

It has been known for some time that

scenes in nature have a particular relationship between contrast and scale, the smaller the scale the smaller the contrast. Professor Wilkins and PhD student Dominic Fernandez analysed all the images mathematically and showed that uncomfortable images do not have this ratio. Instead they have too much energy where the viewer's visual system is most sensitive. This has led to the suggestion that overloading the visual system can cause headaches and seizures. A simple mathematical formula predicts how uncomfortable an image is likely to be.

It is hoped this formula can be used when images are being chosen for public spaces, particularly in hospitals.

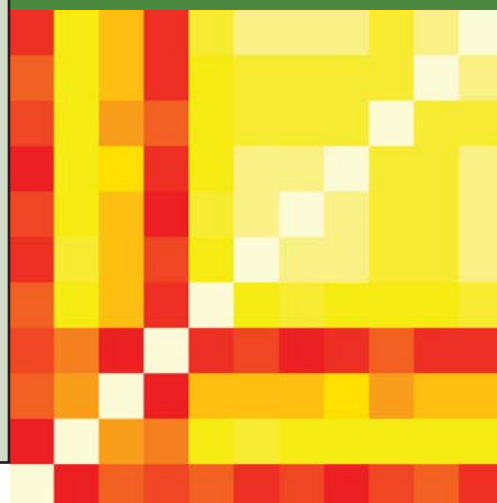
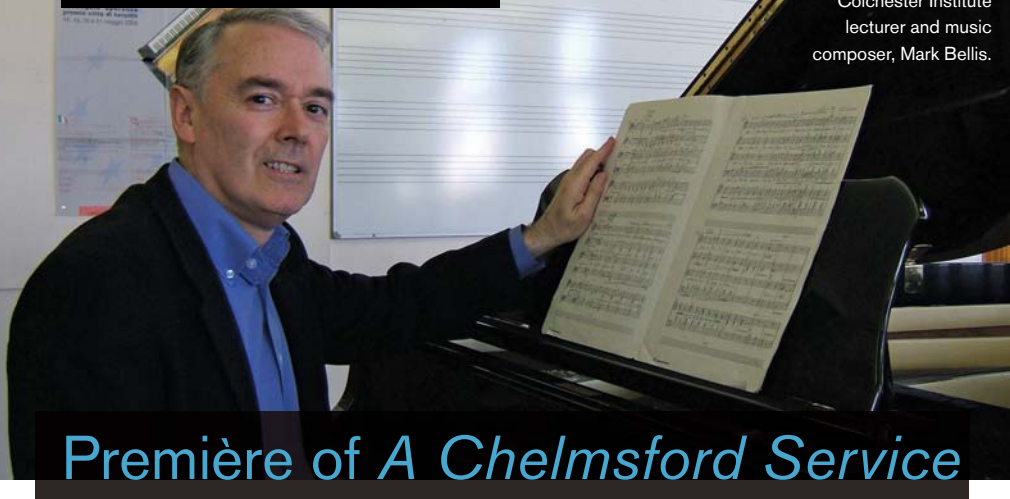


Image illustrating how gene components work together



Colchester Institute lecturer and music composer, Mark Bellis.

## Première of *A Chelmsford Service*

Mark Bellis, course leader for the BA Music programme at Colchester Institute, has composed a spectacular new music piece for The Chelmsford Cathedral Consort, which received its première at the Cathedral last month.

The work was specially written for the Cathedral's small girls' choir, which consists of nine sopranos, aged 13-17 and is directed by Robert Poyser, the Cathedral's Assistant Organist. The choir was joined by the men of the Cathedral

choir to perform the piece.

Mark Bellis said: 'It has been a privilege to work with the Cathedral to create this piece. The men and women of the choir performed it beautifully at the première performance.'

The composition was supported by Colchester Institute's Research and Scholarly Activity Committee and it is hoped that this will be the first of several collaborations between the Cathedral and Colchester Institute.



Splash, ridden by Marcus Roberts, in competition

## Splash makes Olympic bid

A horse owned by Writtle College lecturers has won a place on the 2012 World Class Equine pathway which could culminate in an appearance at the 2012 Olympics.

Splash, owned by Pennie Wallace and Marcus Roberts, will benefit from five years of world class equestrian training that could win him a place in the Olympic team.

Ridden by Marcus, the eight-year-old bay horse was up against 12,000 other British entrants.

Marcus said: 'It was clear to see that Splash from an early age showed great talent. For a horse to be selected at this age is fantastic.'

## UCS plans further development

Building work at University Campus Suffolk (UCS) continues to gather pace as the consultation process for the second phase of development gets underway.

With the phase I building on the waterfront now taking shape, and on schedule to open in September, Neil Jackson, Director of Estates and Facilities, has turned his attention to the next stage of development. Following a successful community consultation process in advance of the phase I development, Neil and his team are once again seeking to inform, engage and involve the local community in the run-up to the planning application for the next phase of building work.

UCS is again working with RMJM Architects who are leading the team of professionals, master planning and developing the conceptual designs for the phase II site. The campus will develop further along the waterfront into Orwell Quay. This second, larger site will house a mixture of student accommodation, teaching buildings and private residential buildings.

Ipswich Borough Council will consider the phase II planning application this spring.

## Coming to a cinema near you...

What have Indiana Jones, James Bond, Batman and a group of south Essex students' work got in common? They're all coming to an Essex cinema this year.

Ten Media and Performing Arts students from South East Essex College were commissioned to make a 30-second cinema commercial to promote Essex based training scheme, *Train for Your Future*.

The students were involved in every aspect of the production from acting, directing, sound, music, location scouting and editing, and the advertisement received its première at cinemas across the county last month.

The initial creative concepts and scripts were conceived by trainees on the *Train for Your Future* initiative before being worked into production and shot by the students, many of them on degree courses, at South East Essex College.

Lecturer Steve Sadler said: 'It's fantastic to see further and higher education students come together to work as professionals on such a high profile and unique project.'



The commercial premièred in cinemas last month



## International speakers at conference

Speakers at the Islamic Society conference this month have been announced.

Amongst those contributing are: Dr Jaafar Sheikh Idris, considered to be one of few Muslim Scholars who comprehend both Islamic and western ideologies; Khola Hassan, author and an outspoken figure on the position of women in Islam; Professor of Economics at the University of Durham, Rodney Wilson, whose research interests include the Middle Eastern political economy, and Ahmad ibn Saifuddin, Associate Professor at Al-Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University in Saudi Arabia.

The conference, 'A Journey into Islamic Values' will be held at the Colchester Campus on Saturday 23 February. For more information, visit: <http://ueic.essex.ac.uk>.

## Kazakh culture

Kazakh students on a mission to dispel myths about their homeland recently hosted an evening of Kazakh music at the Colchester Campus.

The infamous Borat, created by comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, has certainly put Kazakhstan on the map in recent years but students from the country now want the University, and local, community to learn about the true culture of the country.

Well-known Kazakh musicians, Bulat and Botagoz Tynybekov and Sophia Rahman, performed a selection of works by Kazakh composers to a packed audience of more than 130. Bulat and Botagoz are former pupils of the Baiseitova Music School in Almaty and are now studying at the Royal College of Music in London.

Organised by the Kazakh Society, the event was the first in a programme of events which also includes a comedy night and screenings of Kazakh films.

For further information about the Kazakh Society please contact President of the Society, Vladislav Afimin, e-mail: [vafimi@essex.ac.uk](mailto:vafimi@essex.ac.uk).

## Eggstatic about poultry

An Essex student is doing his bit to support Jamie Oliver's campaign for better treatment of battery hens through a new booklet entitled *Very Important Poultry*.

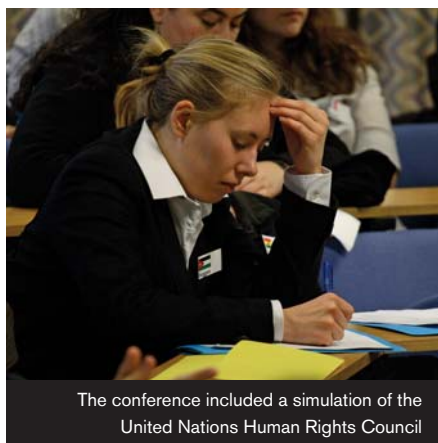
The book, by PhD student John Ashdown-Hill, has been published by the Battery Hen Welfare Trust (BHWT) which works with farmers to improve conditions and rehoming ex-battery hens.

The 35-page book is a light-hearted survey of chickens who have made history, and every penny of its £3 price goes directly to the BHWT. To obtain a copy e-mail: [ljfash@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ljfash@essex.ac.uk) or see: [www.bhwt.org.uk](http://www.bhwt.org.uk).

## MUNex debates international issues

Human trafficking was the topic for the first international conference organised by the Model United Nations Society (MUNex) last month.

Organised in partnership with the Human Rights Centre, around 50 delegates attended the conference from across the UK, Europe and beyond.



Workshops were held by some leading figures in the human rights world, including Jean Lambert MEP; Zarin Hainsworth, President of UNIFEM UK; Claudia Agresta, from International Organisation for Migration; Christine Beddoe, President of ECPAT UK; Nadine Finch, a leading human rights barrister; Archana Sinha from

Stop! Trafficking; and Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, Chair of the Human Rights Centre.

The event, sponsored by University departments, the Vice-Chancellor, Essex County Council, and Café Direct, included a two-day simulation of the newly formed United Nations Human Rights Council.

Plans are already underway for the second annual conference in 2009. For more information about the Society, visit: [www.munex.org.uk](http://www.munex.org.uk), e-mail: [mshiet@essex.ac.uk](mailto:mshiet@essex.ac.uk).

## UN speaker for 25th anniversary

The first President of the recently-formed United Nations Human Rights Council, and Mexican Ambassador to the UN, Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora, is to give the Human Rights Centre's 25th Anniversary Lecture next month.

Entitled 'From United Nations Commission on Human Rights to Human Rights Council: Reflections on the Transition', the lecture takes place on Friday 7 March at 5pm in LTB 8.

Ambassador de Alba has been Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva since 2004. He was Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament and International Security of the United Nations General Assembly (First Committee) in 2004; President of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration from 2005 to 2006; and President of the United Nations Human Rights Council from June 2006 to 2007.

## Commissioner to give lecture

Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green, will be the speaker at this year's Essex Law Lecture.

Sir Albert was appointed as the first Children's Commissioner for England in April 2005. Prior to this, his roles included National Clinical Director for Children and Chair of the Children's Task Force at the

Department of Health, as well as Nuffield Professor of Child Health at Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Institute of Child Health, University College London.

He will be speaking on '11 million concerns over children and young people in conflict with the law' on Wednesday 12 March at 7pm in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall. Admission is free. For more information contact Gail Chapman, telephone: 01206 873484.

## CCFEA appointment

The Centre for Computational Finance and Economic Agents (CCFEA) has welcomed Dr Nick Constantinou as HSBC Senior Research Fellow in Risk and Insurance.

HSBC, one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations, sponsored this position at CCFEA and attached will be up to three student internships at HSBC for the 2007-2008 academic year.

An Essex graduate, Dr Constantinou will spearhead the development of applied risk management at CCFEA. His research interests cover applied risk management encompassing asset and liability management in insurance, market and credit risk of structured products as well as the capital implications that arise in manufacturing these complex products.

## New catering initiatives

New catering initiatives launched recently aim to improve services and encourage new customers.

Customers can now buy University-branded thermal mugs from all outlets at the Colchester Campus. The mugs, which cost £2 (including the first drink), allow customers to save 10p every time they purchase a drink with the mug. The popularity of the scheme is such that the first 500 mugs sold out in the first week.

Customers wanting a taste of the Orient are now in for a treat thanks to the new Fusion Noodle Bar in Food on 3.

Customers in the outlet can choose their raw ingredients and watch as the chefs cook their stir-fry in minutes.

New focus groups and a questionnaire also mean that students, and staff will be able to contribute to Catering's ongoing improvements. The focus groups, run in collaboration with the Students' Union, will give students the chance to give valuable feedback on the catering services provided. An online questionnaire will precede the groups and will later be made available in all outlets.



(from left to right)  
Danny Farrow, Tony Wall and James Ford

## Culturenomics

Art and culture in the economic life of cities was the focus of an international conference attended by Dr Thomas Scotto of the Department of Government.

Academics from countries including Japan, Italy and the US explored the economic value of culture during the two-day conference. Dr Scotto was one of nine academics to present case studies on sustainable development and the quality of life in their cities.

Held in Seoul, culturenomics is at the core of the city's strategy, developed by the Mayor, to enhance its competitiveness and create value by promoting the culture industry.

## Sociology taster

A-Level sociology students will be enjoying a day at the University on Wednesday 26 March on the annual A-Level Conference organised by the Department of Sociology with Colchester Sixth Form College.

The Conference offers students an

opportunity to sample university life, to improve their A-Level performance and to gain an insight into what Sociology involves at degree level.

The day also includes talks from University staff, examiners and representatives from the Students' Union and alumni.

## Alan retires

Alan Thomas, of the Estate Management Section, retired last month after more than 15 years at the University.

Alan, a Maintenance Craftsperson (Mechanical), joined the University in 1992 with responsibility for gas appliance servicing and safety. As Duty Engineer he was often called upon to respond to out-of-hours emergencies, and as a mentor for less experienced colleagues.

At a presentation to mark his retirement, attended by friends and colleagues, Mark Vinter, Deputy Director of Estate Management (Maintenance) presented Alan with a cheque, thanking him for his work and wishing him and his wife Brenda a long and healthy retirement.

A letter from Alan will appear in next month's *Wyvern*.

## Promoting equality and cultural diversity

The next meeting of the University of Essex International and Ethnic Minority Staff Forum takes place on Wednesday 27 February from 1pm to 2pm in Room 4SA.6.17.

The aim of the Forum is to promote equality, multicultural diversity, awareness and good practice in dealing with issues relating to race, ethnicity, nationality and xenophobia.

If you would like to attend, please contact Karen Stephenson, e-mail: [kasteph@essex.ac.uk](mailto:kasteph@essex.ac.uk) or telephone: 01206 873507.

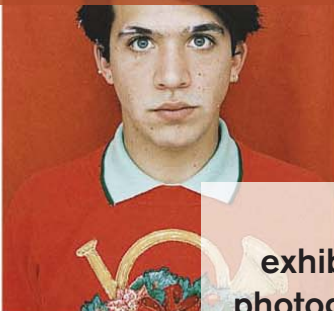
See next month's *Wyvern* for more about the Forum.



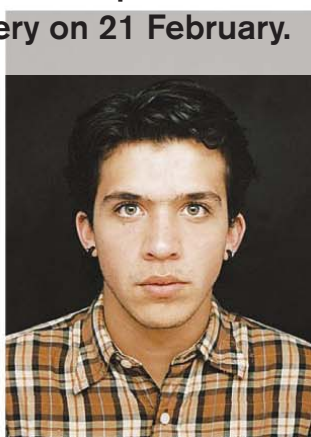


# What's On

February 2008



A major international exhibition of contemporary photography and video work from Colombia opens in the Gallery on 21 February.



*Once More with Feeling* explores the work of six artists who investigate what it is to be Colombian. They explore issues of identity, memory and living with violence.

One of the works shows artist Juan Pablo Echeverri's ever-changing identity through a series of photo booth photographs taken over a period of seven years.

There will be a diverse programme of events to accompany the show, including gallery tours, talks, film screenings and educational events for schools. For further information e-mail: [arts@essex.ac.uk](mailto:arts@essex.ac.uk) or telephone: 01206 873162.

The University Gallery is open Monday to Friday 11am to 5pm and Saturday 1pm to 4.30pm. Admission is free.

## Monday 18

### Institute for Social and Economic Research Seminar

Josef Zweimueller (University of Zurich): 'Cultural Determinants of Unemployment Duration'. Room 2N2.4.16, Social Science Research Centre. 4pm.

### Department of Health and Human Sciences Seminar

Professor Jonathan Smith (University of London): 'Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis'. Room 6.300. 5pm. To attend, contact Lucy Brown, e-mail: [brownl@essex.ac.uk](mailto:brownl@essex.ac.uk), telephone: 01206 874856.

## Tuesday 19

### Department of Art History and Theory - Work in Progress: The Essex Research Seminars

Professor Catherine Hall (University College London): 'Remembering 1807: An Historian in the Museum'. Room 5A.108. 4pm.

### Department of Psychology Seminar

Professor Tom Ormerod (University of Lancaster): 'The Importance of Failure for Insightful Thinking'. Room 4.722. 4pm.

### Arts on 5

Paths to Playwriting Workshop. Over five Tuesday evenings. £25 (£20, UoE students £15). For further details, e-mail: [arts@essex.ac.uk](mailto:arts@essex.ac.uk).

## Wednesday 20

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Finance Seminar

Dr Stephan Kessler (Morgan Stanley): Title tba. LTB 4. 2pm.

### Human Rights Centre Speaker Series Seminar

Jan Hessbruegge (UNMIS): 'Human Rights Work in a Complex and Integrated Mission: A Perspective from Sudan'. 1pm.

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Centre for Global Accountability Seminar

Melina Manochin (Aston Business School): 'Group Identity and Trust Discourse in a Negotiation Setting'. Room 5N.4.7. 2.30pm.

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Management Seminar

Dr Diane Skinner (Warwick Business School): 'Organising Organic: Self-regulation in a Headless Organisation'. Room 5N.4.6. 4pm.

### Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies Seminar

Marie Bridge (University of Essex): 'Psychoanalysis and Literature'. Room 4N.6.1. 5pm.

### Arts on 5 (until Friday 22)

Centre for Theatre Studies presents *Vinegar Tom* by Caryl Churchill. Tickets £6 (£4, £3). Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm.

### East 15 Acting School (until Saturday 23)

BA Acting students present *Afore Night Come*

by David Rudkin. Studio Five, Roding House, Loughton. 7.30pm. Matinee on Friday 22 at 2.30pm.

Third-year BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) students present *Julius Caesar*. The Corbett Theatre, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 3RY. 7.30pm. Matinee on Friday 22 at 2.30pm.

For more information, and to book tickets for all shows at The Corbett Theatre or at Studio 5 at Roding House, contact the Box Office, telephone: 0208 508 5983.

## Thursday 21

### Visual Arts on Campus (until 22 March)

*Once More With Feeling* - Contemporary Colombian Photography. University Gallery. To find out more visit: [www.essex.ac.uk/arts](http://www.essex.ac.uk/arts).

### Centre for Computational Finance and Economic Agents Expert Lecture Series

Kyriako Chourdakis (Fitch): 'Introduction to Credit Modelling and Structured Finance'. Room 4.304. 2pm. Contact CCFEA for details of registration/fees, e-mail: [juliep@essex.ac.uk](mailto:juliep@essex.ac.uk).

### Department of Mathematical Sciences Seminar - PhD Student Seminar Day

Juhasz and Yousaf (University of Essex): 'Algorithm for Constructing a Partially Ordered Set with a Given Convex Subset'. Room 6.314. 2pm.

### Department of Art History and Theory - Work in Progress: The Essex Research Seminars

Professor Dawn Ades (University of Essex) and Katie Kroll-Knight (AHRC Collaborative PhD, Tate and Essex): '*On Duchamp, Man Ray and Picabia* - Current Exhibition at Tate Modern'. Room 5A.108. 4pm.

### Department of Language and Linguistics - Linguistics Seminar

Professor Paul Kerswill (University of Lancaster): 'Phonological Innovation in London Teenage Speech: Ethnicity as the Driver of Change in a Metropolis'. Room 4S.6.28. 4pm.

### Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies Seminar

Dr Hal Gladfelder (University of Manchester): 'Sentimental Machines: Sexed and Unsexed bodies in *Cleland* and *La Mettrie*'. Room 5A.118. 4.30pm.

### Department of Philosophy Seminar Series

Dimitris Platchias (University of Essex): 'Does Perceptual Experience have a Non-conceptual Content?'. Room 5B.202. 5pm.

## Friday 22

### Department of Computing and Electronic Systems Seminar

Dr Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze (University College London): Title tba. Room 1N.4.1. 3pm.

### Arts on 5

Spotlight on Latin American Art with Dr Joanne Harwood, Assistant Director of UECLAA. Foyer, Albert Sloman Library. 1pm.

## Saturday 23

### Islamic Society Conference

'A Journey into Islamic Values.' 9am-6pm. To register and for more information visit: <http://ueic.essexisoc.com>.

## Monday 25

### Institute for Social and Economic Research Special Policy Seminar

Gillian Parker (University of York): 'Care 'Closer to Home' Policy and Research Evidence: Is There a Link?' Room 2N2.4.16, Social Science Research Centre. 4pm.

### Arts on 5

Film Screening: *Maria, Ilana Eres De Gracia* (Maria Full of Grace). Admission free. Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm.

## Tuesday 26

### Department of Psychology Seminar

Dr Emily Holmes (University of Oxford): 'Mental Imagery - its Impact on Emotion, Cognitive Bias and Psychological Disorders'. Room 4.722. 4pm.

### Spirit of Enterprise event run by the Research and Enterprise Office

Babs Moore (BoldOak): Supersize your Sales. Open to all University of Essex students and staff with free drinks and pizza. Networks Centre foyer and seminar room. 6pm. Booking required, visit: [www.essex.ac.uk/reo/SpiritCal08.htm](http://www.essex.ac.uk/reo/SpiritCal08.htm).

### Arts on 5

Segue Productions presents JAZZ at the Lakeside *Basquiat Strings* (featuring Seb Rochford). Tickets £10 (£6). Lakeside Theatre. 8.30pm.

## Wednesday 27

### Arts on 5

UECLAA presents *Baño en el cañito* (Bathing in the Stream), a short video by Colombian artist Wilson Diaz. University Gallery. 2pm. No booking necessary. Admission free.

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Centre for Global Accountability Seminar

John McKernan (University of Glasgow): Title tba. LTB B. 2.30pm.

### Department of Health and Human Sciences Seminar

Professor David Armstrong (King's College London): 'The Origins of Health Behaviours'. Room 6.348. 4pm. To attend, contact Lucy Brown, e-mail: [brownl@essex.ac.uk](mailto:brownl@essex.ac.uk), telephone: 01206 874856.

### Centre for Theoretical Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences Seminar

Dvora Yanow (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam): 'Fitting Space in: Against Placeless Policy Analysis'. 5S.4.11. 5pm.

### Arts on 5

*The Dumb Waiter* by Harold Pinter. Tickets: £6 (£4, Students: £3). The Studio. 7.30pm.

## Thursday 28

### Centre for Computational Finance and Economic Agents Expert Lecture Series

Ian Lyall (IDEA Group Ltd): 'Straight Through Processing via Nova Case Study'. Room 4.304. 2pm. Contact CCFEA for details of registration/fees, e-mail: [juliep@essex.ac.uk](mailto:juliep@essex.ac.uk).

### Department of Mathematical Sciences Seminar

Dr Dimitrii Vinogradov (University of Essex): 'Least Unmatched Price Auctions'. Room 6.314. 2pm.

### Department of Art History and Theory - Work in Progress: The Essex Research Seminars

Dr Wolfgang Brückle (University of Essex): 'Feature Films and the Shock of the Real: Aspects of Wartime Documents in Art House Cinema and Beyond'. Room 5A.108. 4pm.

### Department of Language and Linguistics - Linguistics Seminar

Ray Wilkinson (University College London): 'Formulating Actions and Events with Limited Linguistic Resources: Direct reported speech and enactment in agrammatic aphasic talk'. Room 4S.6.28. 4pm.

### Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies Seminar

Vincent McInerney (Royal Literary Fund Fellow, University of Essex): 'A Bank-note Not to be Imitated or How I 'Saved the Lives of Thousands of Men'. George Cruikshank's Anti-Hanging One Pound Note; and the Literature of the Streets'. Room 5A.118. 4.30pm.

### Department of Philosophy Seminar

Dr Ken Gemes (Birkbeck College, University of London): 'Nietzsche, Nihilism and the Paradox of Affirmation'. Room 5B.202. 5pm.

### Department of Sociology Seminar

Professor Chulanee Thianthai (Chulalongkorn University): 'Changes in Body Image Perceptions of Bangkok Youths: What Does it Tell us About Gender Differences and the Future Effects on Health'. Room 6.345. 5pm.

### Arts on 5

Limbik Theatre Company presents *The Harbour*. Tickets £8 (£5, £3). Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm.



## Friday 29

### Department of Computing and Electronic Systems Seminar

Dr Damien Coyle (Ulster University): 'Advancing Brain-computer Interface Technology with a Prediction-based Preprocessing Framework'. Room 1N.4.1. 3pm.

## Saturday 1 March

### Arts on 5

The University of Essex Classical Music Society presents *Our Music*. Tickets £8 (£5, £3). Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm.

## Monday 3

### Institute for Social and Economic Research Seminar

Ana Rute Cardoso (IZA, Germany). 'Big Fish in Small Pond or Small Fish in Big Pond? Money and Status in the Labour Market'. Room 2N2.4.16, Social Science Research Centre. 4pm.

### Arts on 5

Film Screening: *La Estrategia Del Caracól* (The Strategy of the Snail). Admission free. Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm.

## Tuesday 4

### Department of Psychology Seminar

Dr Guy Brown (University of Sheffield): 'Perceptually-inspired Strategies for Robust Speech Recognition in Reverberant Environments'. Room 4.722. 4pm.

## Wednesday 5

### Department of History Research Seminar

Dr Clodagh Tait (University of Essex): 'Jumping Churches, Wandering Graveyards and Lone Protestants: Devotion, Sectarianism, and Problematic Corpses in Irish Folklore'. History Common Room. 1pm.

### Human Rights Centre Speaker Series Seminar

Mervat Rishmawi (Legal advisor for the Middle East and North Africa, Amnesty International): 'The Protection of Human Rights in the Arab World'. Room 4SA.6.19. 1pm.

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Finance Seminar

Professor Bart Lambrecht (Lancaster University): Title tba. LTB 4. 2pm.

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Centre for Global Accountability Seminar

Warwick Funnell (Kent and Wollongong): 'Accounting for Liberty'. Room 5N.4.7. 2.30pm.

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Management Seminar

Professor David Sims (Cass Business School): 'Looking for the Key to Leadership under the Lamp Post'. Room 5N.4.6. 4pm.

### Department of Health and Human Sciences Seminar

Professor Patrick West (Medical Research Council): 'Is the Mental Health of Young People Really Getting Worse and Why Might that be?'. Room 5A.101. 5pm. To attend, contact Lucy Brown, e-mail: brownl@essex.ac.uk, telephone: 01206 874856.

### Centre for Theoretical Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences Mini Course (until 6 March)

Alan Finlayson (University of Wales, Swansea). Title tbc.

### East 15 Acting School (until Saturday 8)

Third-year students on BA Acting present *The Machine Wreckers* by Ernst Toller. Corbett Theatre, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 3RY. 7.30pm. Matinee on Friday 7 at 2.30pm. For more information, and to book tickets for all shows at The Corbett Theatre or at Studio 5 at Roding House, contact the Box Office, telephone: 0208 508 5983.

### East 15 Acting School (until 8 March)

Third-year students on BA Contemporary Theatre present *Attraction to Atrocity*. The Space, 269 Westferry Road, London E14 3RS. 7.30pm. Tickets for this production are available from The Space Box Office, telephone: 0208 858 7755.

## Thursday 6

### Centre for Computational Finance and Economic Agents Expert Lecture Series (also 13 and 20 March)

Richard Olsen (Olsen Associated and Visiting Professor, CCFEA, University of Essex): 'Forex Electronic Markets and Experiments with Olsen Routes Programme'. Room 4.304. 2pm. Please contact CCFEA for details of registration/fees, e-mail: juliep@essex.ac.uk.

### Department of Art History and Theory - Work in Progress: The Essex Research Seminars

Professor Peter Vergo (University of Essex): 'Something like a Fugue in Colours: Visual Artists' Love Affair with Music, 1885-1925'. Room 5A.108. 4pm.

### Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies Seminar

Martyn Waites (Royal Literary Fund Fellow, University of Essex): 'Less Cake, More Blood – The CSI-ification of the Modern British Crime Novel'. Room 5A.118. 4.30pm.

### Department of Philosophy Seminar

Professor Howard Caygill (Goldsmith's College, University of London). Title tbc. Room 5B.202. 5pm.

### Department of Sociology Seminar - International Women's Day Lecture

Professor Bev Skeggs (Goldsmiths): 'The Incitement and Response to 'Governing the Soul' Produced by 'Reality' TV'. Room 6.345. 5pm.

### Arts on 5

Shams Theatre Company presents *The Black Stuff*. Tickets: £8 (£5, £3). Lakeside Theatre. 7.30pm.

## Friday 7

### Arts on 5

*Spotlight on Latin American Art* with Dr Joanne Harwood, Assistant Director of UECLAA. Foyer, Albert Sloman Library. 1pm.

### School of Accounting, Finance and Management - Finance Seminar

Professor Giorgio Consigli (Bergamo University): Title tba. LTB 4. 2pm.

### Department of Computing and Electronic Systems Seminar

Dr Ben Azvine (BT): 'Novel IT Applications: Case Studies from BT'. Room 1N.4.1. 3pm.

### Human Rights Centre 25th Anniversary Lecture

Luis Alfonso de Alba (First President of the UN Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN): 'From United Nations Commission on Human Rights to Human Rights Council: Reflections on the Transition'. LTB 8. 5pm followed by a Reception in the LTB Foyer.

### Arts on 5

Segue Productions presents *Zoe Rahman Trio*. Tickets £12 (£7). Lakeside Theatre. 8.30pm.

## Monday 10

### Institute for Social and Economic Research Seminar

Matthijs Kalmijn (Tilburg University, Netherlands). 'Explaining Group Differences in Ethnic Inter-marriage: A Comparative Analysis of Immigrant Children in the United States'. Room 2N2.4.16, Social Science Research Centre. 4pm.

All events listed are open to the public.

A web version of the What's On diary, updated daily, is available at: [www.essex.ac.uk/comms/events/whatson.htm](http://www.essex.ac.uk/comms/events/whatson.htm).

Staff and students can receive a daily electronic version of the diary by e-mailing [majordomo@essex.ac.uk](mailto:majordomo@essex.ac.uk) with the text 'subscribe daily'.

For further information about arts events and tickets see: [www.essex.ac.uk/arts/office/](http://www.essex.ac.uk/arts/office/).

University of Essex

## Printing Services Unit

design | copy | print

The Printing Services Unit offers a fast high quality service at competitive prices to all users both on and off campus.

### For all your printing/copying requirements

Our experienced staff are available to offer advice on all aspects of your print and copying requirements including:

- Creative design and artwork
- Four colour offset litho printing
- Volume laser printing
- Black and white and colour digital printing
- Full finishing and bindery service
- Delivery service
- Friendly black and white and colour copying service
- **NEW SERVICE** large format poster printing

### Some of the products we produce are:

Leaflets • Posters • Brochures • Booklets • Postcards  
Stationery • Multipart NCR • Flyers • Folders • Envelopes

#### For further information contact:

#### Printing Centre

Off Square 2  
Telephone: 01206 873141  
E-mail: pcentre@essex.ac.uk

#### Copy Centre

On Square 4  
Telephone: 01206 872376  
E-mail: ccentre@essex.ac.uk

[www2.essex.ac.uk/printing](http://www2.essex.ac.uk/printing)

## HYPNOTHERAPY

"Helping You Find Inner Balance"

### Caring, Confidential Help

For a wide range of issues: Fears, Habits, Worry, Phobias, Exam nerves, Relationships, Stress, Natural Childbirth, Inconfidence.....

Anne Bryson, M.A.Psychology,MAACT

Phone: 0800 026 3549

The Health Store, 58A Rosemary Road, Clacton

Beautiful two-bedroomed cottage for sale in picturesque square in Wivenhoe, close to the river. Charming roof terrace with gorgeous views. Cellar.

Please contact  
Desne Harrington on  
01206 824229  
for further information and  
appointments to view.

#### HOUSE TO LET - ALMA STREET

Furnished, 2 double bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and toilet, downstairs toilet, small backyard. Mature, non-smoking tenants required.

£650 PCM Telephone: 01206 823788

Read *Wyvern* on-line at:

[www.essex.ac.uk/wyvern](http://www.essex.ac.uk/wyvern)

# LTU News

## What's on?

For more information on any of the events or resources below, visit the LTU website, which is updated daily – [www.essex.ac.uk/ltu](http://www.essex.ac.uk/ltu).

## TALIF

Two rounds of TALIF funding are available each academic year as financial support for the design and delivery of innovations in teaching and learning. The following projects have received funding from the first round of TALIF this year (a number of other projects are still pending):

- 'Cities in context: out-of-classroom learning' – Literature, Film and Theatre Studies
- 'Student self-submission to TurnitinUK' – various departments covering all faculties
- 'Student-run speech and language therapy groups' – Health and Human Sciences
- 'SCRUPAC: Scientific Concepts Revealed Using People As Components' – Computing and Electronic Systems

## mySkills Logo – Competition Winner

The LTU is pleased to announce that the winner of the competition to redesign the logo for the academic skills website, mySkills, is Damian

Moore from Computing and Electronic Systems, who will be working with experienced staff to develop his design concept. Look out for further improvements to the website as Damian's work develops.

## FirstSteps

The two-day workshop event for PhD students in the early stages of study was a success again this year. Participants were given the opportunity to develop a range of practical skills and consider the importance of research skills training, while networking with colleagues from other departments. Feedback on the event was extremely positive: 'What was good? Topics, lateral thinking, how to plan and manage time, experiences, knowing challenges faced by others. Taking steps to overcome weaknesses. Information on the regulations IT and supervision...'

## GTA Survey

In order to keep training for Graduate Teaching Assistants and Graduate Demonstrators fresh and relevant, those who have attended the induction programme since 2005 have taken part in an online survey. Results will be published on the LTU website.

## 'Smart Guide' on Student Engagement

Student engagement is the topic of the next quick-read Guide for busy academics that is being produced by the LTU to promote the launch of the Good Practice Database – [www.essex.ac.uk/goodpractice](http://www.essex.ac.uk/goodpractice). The booklet follows 'Feedback' and 'PDP' and is in the process of being circulated. Additional copies are available from Richard Yates (ryates / 4141).



## World première at East 15

As part of its exciting spring season, East 15 Acting School offers drama enthusiasts a world première in March.

Third-year BA Acting students are performing the first translation, by Alan Raphael Pearlman, of *The Machine Breakers* from Wednesday 5 March to Saturday 8 March (2.30pm matinee, Friday) in the Corbett Theatre. The play, directed by John Gillett, charts the fight of the Luddites against the new steam machines introduced to the Nottingham weaving industry in the early 1800s.

BA Acting students are also performing *Afore Night Come* from Wednesday 20 February to Saturday 23 February (2.30pm matinee, Friday). It will be the first production in a new studio at Roding House, just five minutes from the Hatfields Campus.

Third-year BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) students will put their skills into practice by staging a modern day version of *Julius Caesar* from Wednesday 20 February to Saturday 23 February. Later in March, BA



Contemporary Theatre students take two productions to The Space on the Isle of Dogs. *Attraction to Atrocity*, which looks at war crimes, and *Round Round*, a modern re-telling of Arthur Schnitzler's cautionary drama *La Ronde*, will run from Wednesday 5 March to Saturday 8 March and Wednesday 12 March to Saturday 15 March respectively. Each will have a 2pm matinee on the Saturday.

For more information, and to book tickets, please contact the East 15 Box Office, telephone: 020 8508 5983 or e-mail: east15@essex.ac.uk.

## Lakeside highlights

The spring arts programme includes three interesting professional productions in March which it is hoped will draw in audiences from far and wide.

The month's events get underway on 6 March with the Shams Theatre Company production *The Black Stuff*. This funny, touching and provocative play takes comedy to physical and emotional extremes to ask: just how far would you go to defend your lifestyle?

On 12 March f.a.b. – The Detonators present *Extraordinary*, putting the 'extra' into an ordinary life with their intense, energetic dance-theatre. It is a comic, dark and unorthodox take on reality, fantasy, dull jobs and Hollywood glamour.

Shortly before the end of term Mem Morrison, a second generation British Turkish Cypriot, presents *Leftovers*, a heart-warming and poignant work that explores cultural differences as expressed through food.

For more information, or to pick up a full programme of Arts on 5 events, drop into the new-look Arts Office, now located on Square 4.

## Tango classes help Argentinean children

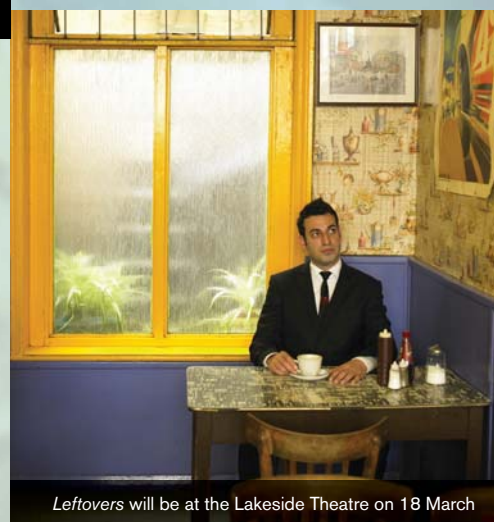
Tango dancing has been brought to Essex to help children with HIV in Buenos Aires.

Language and Linguistics student Michael Aidan is running classes on the Colchester Campus, supported by the Latin American Centre. Tango is an Argentine dance originally danced between men in the brothels of La Boca district of Buenos Aires.

Proceeds from the classes go to the charity Casa Manu, which provides a home for up to 12 children with the HIV virus who do not have immediate family to take care of them.

The classes, costing £1, run on Tuesday evenings in the Sports Centre. In the first term they raised £443 for Casa Manu. This term a show is being choreographed and will be performed on campus, with proceeds going to the charity.

Michael explained: 'The children often have complicating factors in their lives beyond the virus, and therefore require a special level of care and attention which they receive in Casa Manu, until leaving in permanent adoption.'



*Leftovers* will be at the Lakeside Theatre on 18 March



This issue of *Wyvern* was produced by Kate Clayton, Jenny Grinter, Heather Leathley, Sarah Mills and Holly Ward of the Communications Office

Photographic assistance by Michael Sansom and Van Cols Ltd

Telephone: 01206 873529 E-mail: wyvern@essex.ac.uk

Design / Production: University of Essex Printing Services © University of Essex 2008

Issue no. 5

Front cover: Image from *The Dragonflies of Essex*. Photographed by Professor Ted Benton

Read *Wyvern* online at:

[www.essex.ac.uk/wyvern](http://www.essex.ac.uk/wyvern)

Advertising rates are available by telephoning: 01206 873270

The next issue of *Wyvern* will be published on Monday 10 March 2008. The deadline for receipt of all material is Wednesday 20 February 2008.

