



noteworthy



Corene's got the X Factor!

FriendsReunited backs Luton

**Where are they now?
Catch up with your old friends**

Graduation ceremony in Beijing



A message from Helen

WELCOME to the 2005 edition of *Noteworthy*.

It's been a busy year in the Alumni Office, with more success stories than ever flooding in from across the globe. It's wonderful to hear about your successful careers and how Luton has helped to provide the knowledge, skills and experience needed to open doors.

The Alumni Association has played a key role in helping old friends keep in touch. We have also helped to organise reunions. If you would like to find out more about contacting old friends, email us at alumni@luton.ac.uk.

Another new feature on our website is the message board, where you can leave messages if you are trying to find someone you have lost touch with.

We continue to support gifted students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go to university, through our Scholarships scheme. This is funded by small donations, mainly from alumni, and it makes such a difference to these students' lives.

To make a one-off contribution and have the chance to win an iPod, see our competition on page 34!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and please do get in touch and let us know what you are doing now!

Helen Green
Alumni Officer

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cover story

Corene Campbell, of Voices with Soul and *The X Factor* fame, is just one of many who studied at the University of Luton. To find out more turn to pages 4/5 and 20/21.



Noteworthy is the alumni magazine of the University of Luton. For more news and information about the University and its alumni activities, please visit our website at www.luton.ac.uk

Miss Vietnam chooses LUTON

A DESIRE to put her country on the international map has led Miss Vietnam to study at Luton.

We have students here from more than 140 countries, so it's not surprising that we have been attracting high-profile people such as Pham Thi Mai Phuong.

Mai, who comes from Haiphong in the north of the country, was just 17 when she was crowned Miss Vietnam live on national television.

She explained: "It is a big event in Vietnam – initially I was up against 1,000 other girls. My friends couldn't believe it when they saw me in all the national papers and on TV, even though throughout the competition I was getting on with my life, cycling to school every day and living normally."

Mai's reign as Miss Vietnam

meant that she got to travel and carry out charity work.

After continuing her studies, Mai saw a poster about a visit by our International team.

"I went along and really liked what I heard.

"I continued to work hard at school to get the grades that were needed to study a degree in Business Administration at Luton."

Mai settled into her new life here quickly and is impressed with the quality of teaching. She said: "I received a great deal of support from my lecturers. They are so approachable and are never too busy to stop and listen and offer advice."

Mai added: "I feel very passionate about my country and want to work on regeneration and economic development projects when I return there after my studies."

'I received a great deal of support from my lecturers. They are so approachable and are never too busy to stop and listen and offer advice'



Luton student and Miss Vietnam, Pham Thi Mai Phuong.

From the Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon . . .



A UNIVERSITY education is one of the best investments you can make in life. According to the latest research, graduates can earn up to £150,000 more than non-graduates throughout their careers.

And that's timely news. I recently spent a thoroughly enjoyable week shaking hands with and congratulating hundreds of delighted graduates as they received their awards in front of proud families and friends at our Graduation Ceremonies.

But career success is not measured only in terms of earning potential. You will see as you read through *Noteworthy* that fellow University of Luton graduates go on to launch and pursue a whole range of fascinating careers.

The University itself has enjoyed a number of successes during the last year.

First, we saw a 10.2 per cent increase in applications, which we believe is because of our excellent reputation for the quality of our teaching.

Secondly, we were awarded £3.3 million by

the Government to establish a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Again, the award was in recognition of our achievements in this area.

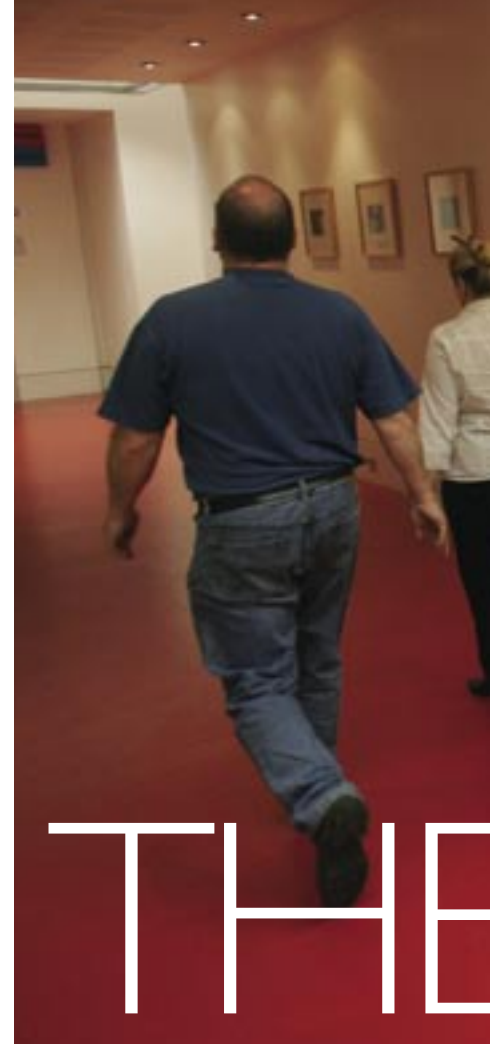
We've also won the largest solo bid in the country to launch a Knowledge Exchange, to enhance our links with businesses and the community. This is worth £1.8 million.

Do check the website to catch up on all the news at www.luton.ac.uk.

And, in the meantime, I wish you every success for the coming year.

Noteworthy turns the spotlight on the fantastic people coming out of one of the UK's top media arts departments

Masters of



THE

- Luton's media studies department was formed in 1991
- Its first 40 students graduated in 1994
- Now it has about 900 students each year
- Awarded an 'excellent' rating by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

media studies • facts

LAST year (2004), the School of Media, Art and Design moved to a new £5.5 million Media Arts Centre within the University's central Park Square campus.

The new location, developed over three floors, includes studios for broadcast television and indoor performances, three digital radio studios and editing suites.

Undergraduate courses include Media Performance, Media Production, Media Practices, Creative Writing, Performing Arts, Video Production and Journalism.

There is also a range of postgraduate courses such as International Cinema, Media Production, Media Arts and Media Management.

■ A FAMOUS face in broadcasting joined our first graduates of the year – Trevor Phillips OBE became an



Honorary Doctor of Arts. Mr Phillips (*pictured above*), the Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, received the award at the postgraduate ceremony at St Mary's Church in recognition of his contribution to community relations as a broadcaster and in political and public life.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon, said: "Trevor's impressive career in broadcasting and his dedication to raising the profile of

Alumni focus

Matt Fisher
BA (Hons) in Media Performance with Radio, 2003. Now a Station Imaging Producer at Xfm London.

From an early age, Matt knew that a career in radio was for

him, so decided to study Radio as part of his degree. Now he's Station Imaging Producer at London's 104.9 Xfm, working with an award-winning production team – and winning awards of his own.

The first show he produced there – Import Export, the Friday and Sunday evening programme – has won Best Weekend Music Show at the New York Achievements in Radio Awards.

Corridors of power! The entrance to the School of Media, Art and Design.

THE MEDIA

race relations is truly astounding.

“Thirty per cent of our undergraduates are from ethnic minority backgrounds, so Trevor’s work is vital in encouraging young people from these communities into higher education.”

■ SOME other famous faces visited our radio station, Luton FM, this year. One of Luton’s best-known female groups, Voices with Soul, paid a visit to the Luton FM crew to talk about their time on hit TV show, *The X Factor*, and their plans for the future.

Mum Grace, daughter Corene and aunt Hildia dropped in to take part in the Dave and Stu lunchtime show.

Stu Pinfold said: “They told us about their experience at the

hands of Simon Cowell on *The X Factor* and about their new album.”

Read more about Corene on page 20.

■ WE are also grooming TV presenters of the future. We’ve been given the task of getting China’s top media people ready for the invasion of the world’s press at the next Olympics. The games attract more media coverage than any other event on the world’s sporting calendar (*see page 12*).



■ THE University said a fond farewell to one of its best-known lecturers – Peter Darling (*left*), who retired after 13 years of

lecturing. The former newspaper reporter began his teaching career at Luton College of Higher Education as a Senior Lecturer in Journalism shortly before it achieved University status in 1993.

There was just one Media Studies course then, but Peter was soon involved in the development of three new degrees: Media Production, Media Practices and Media Performance.

Since then, the department has gone from strength to strength, with an “excellent” rating for its teaching by the Quality Assurance Agency as well as major investment into the expansion of its facilities.

As well as missing his colleagues, Peter will most of all miss working with young people.

Ian Watson

BA (Hons) Media Production & Video Production, 2003. Now a Film Editor.

Ian is wasting no time in carving out a sparkling career in the film industry. Just two years after graduating,

he has finished a Master’s Degree and has released a 35mm feature film, which he edited.

He explained: “The film is called *Ahlaam* and focuses on the lives of three characters living in Iraq before and after the reign

of Saddam Hussein, and the effect the war had on them.

“The film was a dangerous project which put the crew’s lives at great risk. Some were even shot, though not fatally, yet the filming still carried on for several months through all this.”



Breaking BEAT

WE'RE breaking new ground in the field of youth justice and criminology with the launch of a Professional Doctorate in Youth Justice (PDYJ) – and some of our staff have written the book to go with the course!

The PDYJ is an intensive part-time degree developed by the Vauxhall Centre for the Study of Crime and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) Youth Crime Unit.

The professional doctorate is a less abstract alternative to a PhD, but with the same timescales and the same academic rigour as traditional PhDs. It provides theoretical grounding in project management and development, criminal justice, childcare policy and research methods.

The course is aimed at senior professionals and managers with extensive experience of working with youngsters in trouble with the law, and senior professionals in the youth service, the drugs field, education, community

John Pitts.

THE team selected to teach the programme, at the University's Vauxhall Centre for the Study of Crime, includes:

- John Pitts – Vauxhall Professor of Socio-Legal Studies and Director of the Vauxhall Centre for the Study of Crime;
- Margaret Melrose, a national authority on social exclusion, drug use and child and youth prostitution;
- Professor Michael Preston-Shoot – national authority on social work and the law, and Dean of Health and Social Science at Luton;
- Tim Bateman – Senior Policy Adviser at

the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) Youth Crime Unit and Visiting Research Fellow at the Vauxhall Centre;

- John Graham – worked in research and policy development at the Home Office and the Audit Commission. Director of the Police Foundation, Scientific Adviser to the Council of Europe on juvenile justice and Visiting Professor at the Vauxhall Centre;

- Alan Marlow (QPM) – formerly of Bedfordshire Police and Visiting Professor at the Vauxhall Centre.

Alumni focus

Gil Marer
LLB Law, 1996.
Now an Entrepreneur.

It's our attitude, not just our aptitude, that will ultimately determine our altitude. That's what

Gil Marer believes – and he's proved it! Gil, who graduated in Law in 1996, is now an 'entrepreneur' and has several motivational companies in the UK and the US that are geared towards inspiring people to get the right approach to life and business.

He can trace his success back to his days at Luton. "The lecturers were phenomenal. They had commercial as well as academic backgrounds. My degree helped me step up the business ladder – now I'm my own best lawyer."

new ground in TALKING CRIME

Leading example

ONE of our criminology graduates stole the show when her story was showcased at a recent conference.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon, spoke about Suzella Palmer who, after taking an Access course at our special partner college, Barnfield, went on to gain a first-class honours degree in Criminology.

She is now studying for her PhD. Suzella was highlighted by the Professor at the Fair Access and Widening Participation in Higher Education Conference as a leading example to encourage others to go to university.

safety and the Connexions service.

John Pitts, Director of the Vauxhall Centre for the Study of Crime, said: "This is a very exciting and busy time for the Centre. We are

anticipating a high level of interest, not least because the team has such a high profile in the field of youth justice."

John and his colleague, Tim Bateman, have also produced a

publication that will serve as a source book for all their youth justice teaching.

The Russell House Companion for Youth Justice has already received excellent reviews from some of the leading publications in its field.

John, who wrote the Community Care Election Special on youth justice, gave a pre-election briefing on the subject at the House of Commons in March.

He also recently presented a paper on Drug Markets and Social Nuisance at the International Drug Policy Conference in London.

→ For more information, visit www.luton.ac.uk/vauxhall/pdyj.

Conference speaker

THE University of Luton's Dean of Partnerships, Professor David Barrett, recently spoke at a national conference – attracting leading figures from UK universities.

The Community Engagement conference looked at ways of increasing links between Higher Education institutions and local communities.

The conference, which took place at the Manchester Conference Centre on November 14, provided an opportunity for senior managers in Higher Education to involve communities in the lives of their universities and colleges, through teaching and research.

Professor Barrett (*above right*) has worked at the University since 1994, and has held positions as Head of Department of Applied Social Studies and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Science. In his present role, he is

responsible for forging links between the University and partner organisations.

He said: "The University of Luton is integral to the community, with a longstanding commitment to access.

"Widening access depends on good local relations with partner organisations and the wider community."

The conference sought to reinforce the view that community engagement should be an integral part of the life of an institution and should be tailored to the community's social and economic needs.

Community engagement activities include community education, cultural activities and involving local people in research results.



Margaret speaks at top crime conference

OUR lecturers' expertise is becoming known across the world, as Dr Margaret Melrose recently experienced.

Margaret, a Senior Research Fellow in Health Services Education, jetted off to Chicago to speak at the American Criminal Justice Society Conference.

She presented a paper entitled *Perishable Goods: Trafficking in Women and Children for the purpose of Commercial Sexual Exploitation*, which looked at the issue from a British and European perspective.

"This was a fantastic forum in which to present my paper," said Margaret.

"The event was attended by some of the leading criminal justice academics and practitioners in the US, who were very interested to listen to our findings.

"They felt our research would generate a great deal of interest. This was certainly the case – the feedback was excellent."

→ To find out more about Criminology at the University of Luton and other related courses, visit www.luton.ac.uk or call 0800 389 6633.

Judie Griffin

BSc (Hons) Psychology, 1999. Now a Teacher of Psychology at Haydon School, Harrow.

After working as an Occupational Psychologist

for Centrex (National Police Training) in Harrogate for four years, Judie moved south to take up a job as a teacher.

Judie teaches AS and A-level students and is loving her new role.

She said: "It was a big change for me, but I really wanted to teach. I was beginning to miss not being near my friends in Luton so when the job came up, I jumped at the chance.

The students are great and want to be here, which makes a huge difference." Judie still visits Luton regularly to catch up with her old university friends who still live locally.

Go GradsEast to find a job

MORE graduates are needed to work in the Eastern region to help sustain recent unprecedented economic growth.

If you want to work close to where you studied, why not take the first step by looking on the GradsEast website, www.gradseast.org.uk?

GradsEast is a collaborative initiative by the East of England's 10 universities working through the i10 organisation (see www.i10.org.uk for further information).

Graduates and students can access information and support for finding full

or part-time work, starting a career or establishing their own businesses in the East of England, which includes Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Or do you want to recruit fellow graduates? Regional employers and national employers with vacancies in the region can enter them on GradsEast free of charge.

→ For more information or to discuss your particular needs, please email gradseast@i10.org.uk.

Helping you to find the JOB OF YOU

AT the end of your degree you may find yourself at a crossroads asking: What now? Where now? What do I need to do? How do I get there? Who can I speak to?

The University of Luton's Careers Service is here to help you find your way through the maze towards graduate employment – and is also open to alumni for up to three years after graduation.

The service is staffed by qualified advisers who can help with your career-related questions and dilemmas. It offers confidential discussions that can help you with:

- Deciding on the right career path

- Weighing up the pros and cons of various options
- Employment or further postgraduate study
- Providing information on your chosen career path
- Designing an effective application
- Assistance with preparing for interviews, answering questions and writing covering letters.

A dedicated team of information staff complement the advisers and can help in:

- Locating up-to-date career-related resources
- Identifying relevant online resources
- Promoting suitable vacancies for graduates, such as vacation, gap year, full-time, part-time and placement

- Access to current employer/vacancy information in the resource centre, which means staff are a prime source of the latest information available.

In addition to the above, there is an online vacancy database, JobsLIVE!, which is regularly updated with opportunities for University of Luton students, recent graduates and postgraduates, and includes:

- Graduate vacancies available now and after graduation
- Work experience and placement opportunities (paid and voluntary, UK and abroad)
- Part-time, temporary and vacation work (UK and abroad).

Alumni focus

Darren Taylor

BSc (Hons) in Geography, MSc in Internet Technologies, 2001. Now an IT Graduate Trainee at Norwich Union.

There were thousands of applicants and only 12 jobs when Darren applied for the Norwich Union IT graduate

scheme – he didn't hesitate in accepting the position when it was offered to him.

"It wasn't as straightforward and as easy as it might sound. The selection process was a tough and rigorous one and the competition was fierce, with applicants from some of the country's most established universities.

However, my time at Luton proved its worth as I was offered one of the sought-after places.

"I have now completed the Norwich Union IT Academy, which involved about 18 months of professional development through a range of on-the-job training and external professional qualifications. "My aim now is to continue



R DREAMS

Annette McCullion
 BA (Hons) Educational Studies, 1996. Now Head Teacher at Greenfield Lower School and Pulloxhill Lower School Federation, Bedfordshire.

Former nursery nurse Annette McCullion can still remember the day when her head teacher approached her about a new course that was just starting at the University of Luton.

The course was part-time and considered those with experience instead of A-levels.

Before she knew where she was, she was well into her BA (Hons) in Educational Studies.

Annette said: "This was the start of more than three years of hard work. The support from colleagues, my mentor at school and other teachers within my school was immense."

To gain Qualified Teacher Status, Annette joined the Licensed Teacher Scheme and qualified at the same time that she gained her degree.

Once qualified, she started teaching as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT).

Annette was promoted to Deputy Head when the school merged with another to form a federation. She then progressed to Acting Head of the federation and was appointed permanently in February of this year.

Getting started . . .

TO help you get started, go to www.luton.ac.uk/careers. There are links to CMS Online (career management skills), which offers an online guidance and information package with access to more than 1,000 links to specific occupations, with job adverts, professional bodies and employers. Email careers@luton.ac.uk for a password and username.

- There are links to prospects.ac.uk, which offers a wealth of information on occupations and postgraduate study, as well as job search techniques and graduate job vacancies.

- There is a link to GradsEast for full- and part-time job opportunities within the east of England.

- You can register online at JobsLIVE! and search for full-time job opportunities in the local area.

As a new graduate in a competitive field, you really cannot afford to miss out on visiting the careers service and taking advantage of its free, confidential information, advice and guidance.

→ For further information, please contact the careers service on 01582 489293, or email careers@luton.ac.uk.

my development and hopefully progress to project management. I would definitely recommend a graduate scheme.

"The support and development provided by the company is fantastic and it really is a great way to get your career

off to a flying start."

Darren would like to help other Luton graduates who wish to apply for graduate schemes.

He has used his experience of applying for such schemes to create some steps to success.

To maximise your

chances of landing that sought-after position:

1. Develop your unique winning formula;
2. Find an appropriate scheme;
3. Get to know the company;
4. Tailor the application – show your strengths!
5. Polish the application;

6. Prepare for the application centre.

He has created a free report which covers these in full detail. To access this, visit www.graduate-success.info.

"It could transform your career prospects. I hope you succeed like me!" said Darren.

Luton provides Faisal's fabric for success



FAISAL Rasheed came to the UK in 2001 and embarked on an MSc in Business Management at the University of Luton, specialising in e-business management.

He's now Assistant Marketing Manager at Ibrahim Fibers

Ltd in Pakistan, where he has been for two years.

He is responsible for marketing the company's products, which include polyester fibre and yarn.

He supervises the sales team; plans and budgets; co-ordinates with production, finance and technical departments; develops new markets in line with the company's existing profile; co-ordinates with management regarding strategic issues, and generates management reports. He is also working on an Oracle e-Business Suite.

Faisal has plenty of fond memories of his time at Luton, particularly the beautiful Putteridge Bury campus.

He said: "Studying at Luton was a unique experience. You get the opportunity to meet lots of different people from all over the world. The University provided us with the platform to understand different cultures."

He thought the course was well designed and the content interesting and practical. It covered all the areas of

business management, from traditional marketing to web-based marketing.

He said: "The standard of teaching was excellent. All the lecturers were very co-operative and knowledgeable in their respective fields and we learnt a lot from them. I was also particularly impressed with the quality of the facilities, including the Learning Resources Centre and computer labs."

Faisal feels his degree has helped him to enhance his managerial capabilities. "Businesses are now online and have a presence on the web.

"My degree has helped me to understand the latest technologies and tools essential for modern business. It also equipped me with the knowledge and skills to manage a wide range of e-business opportunities."

For now, Faisal is enjoying his job and the challenges it brings and in the future hopes to study for his PhD at the University of Luton.

'I was also particularly impressed with the quality of the facilities'



Students from the Accession states

Summer

WE were delighted to welcome several hundred students from the European Union this year.

Being members of the European Union makes it possible for students in the 10 new EU countries to attend summer school at the University of Luton and to stay on to get a degree.

This year more than 125 students from eight of the 10 new EU countries came to the Summer School, and

Alumni focus

Tristan Fernandes
MBA International Business, 2003.
Now an Operations Manager at
Syntegra Trans Services India Ltd.

Tristan has been working for
Syntegra Trans Services India

Ltd as Operations Manager for
the last year. The job involves the
transition of projects from the US,
UK and Australia to India.

Tristan graduated from the
University of Luton in 2003 with an
MBA in International Business.

He said: "I loved the location
of the postgraduate campus at
Putteridge Bury. All the lecturers
were extremely helpful and always
on hand to give advice. The course
was well structured and delivered
to a very high standard."



enjoyed this year's summer school.



Lisa finds the love of her life

STUDY abroad – and find the love of your life. That certainly wasn't what was advertised when Lisa Whiting saw the posters enticing her to study in America.

But when the University of Luton student went to North Carolina in 2002 on a student exchange programme, she met the love of her life, Will, and that was the beginning of a great love story.

Lisa was studying for a BA (Hons) in Sport Management at Luton and, encouraged by a friend's experience of studying abroad, went to North Carolina State University (NCSU) in the autumn of 2002.

"It took a while to get used to the class set-up, assignment structures and so on. In fact, the only thing on my mind, was Will who lived in my hall!"

At Christmas, the American proposed to her on a beach at her home in Herne Bay, Kent, and when they graduate next year, it's wedding bells in May.

School proves popular

many of them were then offered places on three-year degree courses at Luton.

The University's Regional Director, Dr Alec Charles, said: "Many of the students prefer Luton to other English universities because it's relatively cheap and has good travel links. Polish students can fly to Luton Airport with easyJet and Wizz Air."

Clive Hedley, a visiting

lecturer in journalism at the University, said: "I think this new raft of students will enrich the University enormously.

"Students learn a huge amount about each other's cultures from each other, and Eastern Europe has a very rich culture."

Magda Salapa is a 19-year-old from Poland. She attended Luton's summer school and is doing a degree in Criminology and Psychology. "I am looking

forward to studying here and getting my degree so that when I return to Poland, I will get a good job," she said.

Vaiva Adomaityte is a 19-year-old Lithuanian who came to the Summer School and is now doing a degree in Business and Psychology.

She said: "A UK degree gives me a chance to be independent and see other parts of the world."

Denise Xiao

MSc Internet Technology, 2002. Now a Teacher.

Denise has been teaching in her native Shanghai, but not in her home language.

She teaches international students in English at a Sino-Canadian high school and has enjoyed the experience so much, she is emigrating to Canada, where she will be studying for

a Canadian teacher's licence. "Looking back, I really benefited from my studies at Luton, and I'd like to thank all my teachers for their help and support.

"I would really like

students from the class who studied the MSc Internet Technology from October 2000 to April 2002 to get in touch," she said.

To contact Denise, visit the alumni website.

John proves popular in FINLAND



John Sentinella.

THE high standard of John Sentinella's teaching earned him an invite to Finland for the third time – to take part in an international student programme.

The University Project Manager spent three weeks of his summer holidays teaching a module on business ethics at Mikkeli Polytechnic in eastern Finland.

John taught 50 international students on the successful programme. In addition to learning all about the current worldwide issues of business ethics, the students also improved their English language skills.

John said: "The students worked so

hard, and they came up with some really good work. All the assignments related to business and social responsibility and required the students to research areas which can be controversial, such as promoting smoking and unhealthy foods, child labour, bribery and corruption. I am looking forward to returning."

John is Project Manager of the Building for Success in the Community programme, which provides free training for the voluntary sector in Bedfordshire. He also works as Senior Trainer/Consultant for the Creative Arts, Technologies and Sciences department.



Graduating in Beijing

MORE than 100 media and public relations professionals from across China have been learning how to handle the world's press for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

In a special graduation ceremony in Beijing, Luton's Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon, presented Masters degrees in Media

Management to the third cohort of delighted graduates.

The degree was designed exclusively for Beijing professionals in a unique agreement with the Beijing Municipal Government, the International College Beijing and China Agricultural University.

Alumni focus

Aradhana Sobti

MA, Human Resource Management, 2004. Now an HR Executive (Recruitments) at GE (General Electric) IT Services, India.

Aradhana had always dreamed

of working with General Electric, ranked number one in the world and number two on the US list of the world's most admired companies.

She said: "I would like to thank my parents, tutors and my best

friends for making my dream true."

Before doing her Master's degree at Luton, Aradhana graduated with her first degree in Law, a five-year integrated course from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, in 2001.



Celebrating New Year Chinese style

MORE than 200 Chinese students from the University, along with staff and local business people, celebrated New Year in style – in February.

It was, of course, the Chinese New Year, and the Thistle Hotel was the venue for the first celebration of its kind in Luton.

Organised by the Luton branch of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA), the event featured traditional singing and dancing, martial arts performances and a Chinese banquet prepared by staff from the Man Ho restaurant in Luton.

Jing Li, president of the CSSA Luton, said: “We couldn’t have asked for a better turnout and it was great to see so many people from the local Chinese business community in attendance.

“Their support of events throughout the year means a great deal to the Chinese students at the University of Luton.”

Oman honour

OUR links into the local economy were the subject of a recent meeting – in Oman.

Oman’s Minister for Manpower, Jumaa bin Ali al Juma, was so impressed with the University’s excellent work with the business community that he asked for a special meeting with our Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon.

Professor Ebdon was in Oman for a special graduation ceremony for 311 students who had studied for University of Luton awards at Majan College (University College), Oman.

Professor Ebdon said: “The Minister was interested in our expertise and experience, and the ways in which the University contributes to the local economy.

“He was impressed with our entrepreneurship record and the way in which it is embedded into the curriculum.

“He quizzed me in some detail about our Innovation Awards scheme, Innovation Centre and our Basics of Building a Business lecture series, and was very impressed with our results.

“We certainly have a track record worth boasting about,” added Professor Ebdon. “I was also delighted to be able to reel off some excellent case studies about our young entrepreneurs and how they are contributing to the local economy.”

German college deal signed

THE University has signed a new deal with a German Management and Business College.

The agreement will allow German business administration students from the Management and Business Akademie Mainz, to study for their final year at the University of Luton.

Professor Paul Burns, Dean of the University’s Business School, said: “This is another step forward for the University in building links with other colleges and

universities around Europe. We are really looking forward to working with our German partners and welcoming their students to Luton.”

The University already has strong links with an advertising college in Hamburg, whose students come to Luton to complete their final year.

For further details on business and marketing courses at Luton call 0800 389 6633 or visit www.luton.ac.uk.

Sarah Britton

BA (Hons) Media Practices with Journalism, 2003. Now an Editorial Assistant at William Reed Publishing.

Sarah is working as an Editorial Assistant on the magazine *Food*

Manufacture for William Reed Publishing.

The magazine has won Best Business and Professional Monthly 2005 at the Periodical Publishers Association Awards for publishing and editorial excellence.

“These awards are widely regarded as the magazine equivalent of the Oscars, so the team was overjoyed when the results were announced,” said Sarah.

Sarah is already attending seminars across the UK, reporting on the latest industry news.

Librarian Alan is one of the University's

MANY graduates will recognise the face of Alan Bullimore – getting to know students is the best part of his job as Academic Liaison Librarian.

Based in the University's Learning Resources Centre, he is responsible for ordering materials for the Centre, helping students and staff make the best use of

resources and generally liaising with everyone about library matters.

He said: "The best bit about the job is the face-to-face contact with the students – I have got to know so many of them over the years and the majority of them are extremely keen and grateful for the assistance we can give them."

Alan started working at the University in 1990, when he was responsible for humanities subjects such as English literature, history and media studies. Since 1998 he has been law librarian and is also responsible for library provision in accountancy and business, systems and operations.

The country's youngest PROF?

CARSTEN Maple is our newest – and indeed youngest – professor. We think he might be the youngest in the country. The 33-year-old Professor of Applicable Computing gave his inaugural lecture on computer authentication



techniques this summer. Carsten joined the University of Luton as a junior lecturer in 1998.

"I was born in Germany and actually flew into Luton Airport in 1977. But that was my only experience of the town until I came to work at the University," said Carsten, who lived in Chorley, Lancashire, before moving to Hitchin.

Carsten gained his degree in Mathematics at the University of Leicester and stayed on to complete his doctorate (PhD) in Numerical Analysis. He saw the potential to develop his career further and he joined the University of Luton straight away.

"It was great being able to put my knowledge into teaching so quickly," said Carsten, who is also Head of Department for Computing and Information Systems. After just six months of working at the University, I was promoted to senior lecturer within the Department, which gave me more responsibility and an opportunity to develop my skills and knowledge."



Carsten is an outstandingly successful academic. His research is at the cutting edge of applicable computing and has attracted collaborators from universities around the world, as well as research-intensive universities in the UK.

→ For further information about computing courses available at the University of Luton, please call 0800 389 6633 or visit the University's website at www.luton.ac.uk.

Alumni focus

Laura Stevens
BA (Hons) Media Production with Video Production, 2003.
Now a Freelance Researcher.

Laura has done everything behind the scenes on some

well-known TV programmes, from sourcing free furniture for shows to developing storylines.

After she finished her degree at Luton, Laura took on work experience with London News Network on the *London Tonight*

programme. Since then she's been a runner at The London Studios and has worked as a researcher for *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* and as a researcher for *Naked Celebrity – Royal Wedding Special* on Channel 5.

y's most familiar faces

"One of the most memorable times for me at the University was the move to the new Learning Resources Centre (LRC) at Park Square.

"Also, when we received University status in 1993, student numbers rocketed and new courses were being introduced."

Alan particularly enjoys being involved in delivering Personal Development Planning (PDP) skills modules. These modules aim to teach students transferable skills such as doing research and evaluating information. Alan believes this makes a huge difference to the students' learning experience.



The golden touch!

FOOTIE is student Ollie Monksfield's passion – and it's won him a gold medal at the 2005 Deaflympics in Melbourne.

Ollie, studying for a degree in Coaching Science, joined his British teammates in Australia to beat a strong Iranian squad 2-1 in the football final.

"It was an amazing experience, but it was a tough contest," said Ollie.

"We beat Ireland in our first game and then went on to knock out Germany, Turkey and Greece before meeting a really strong Iranian squad in the final.

"I couldn't believe it when we made it to the final – it was a fantastic feeling."

Ollie hasn't allowed the fact that he has only 20 per cent hearing to come between him and his love of football.

When he's not studying, he coaches deaf, disabled and able-bodied youngsters with Tottenham Hotspur.



DEVICES team goes international

AN international flavour has been added to a project at our Luton and Dunstable Innovation Centre.

Lillian Iruene, from Nigeria, and Dimitra Vitsa, from Greece, are the faces of the Telework Centre – part of the DEVICES project which aims to help and support anyone setting up or running a small business from home.

They offer help in particular to the disabled, people who live in rural communities, anyone who has been made redundant, carers of children or the elderly or those who can't afford to retire.

→ For further details visit www.innovationcentre.co.uk.

'Powerhouse of medical expertise'

PATIENT care in the area has had a major boost with the launch of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Postgraduate Medical School.

The Universities of Luton, Hertfordshire and Cranfield have joined forces to create the school as part of the Government's £1 billion 'Investing in your

Health' programme for the two counties.

More than 300 health professionals and guests, including Government Chief Medical Officer Sir Liam Donaldson, were at the launch.

Ian White, Chairman of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority, said that

the new school would create a "world-class health service" for the region.

Professor Duncan Empey, Dean of the Postgraduate Medical School, outlined the impact of the school on the NHS Changing Roles agenda and highlighted its uniqueness in enabling doctors and nurses to train together.

Nish Nathwani

BA (Hons), Media Practices with Media Performance, 1997. Now a Broadcaster.

"I look back on my time at Luton and realise it gave

me a new lease of life. I'd recommend it to anyone. I'd left school with hardly any qualifications, had my own business but then studied to get qualifications to go to university as a mature

student," said Nish. "It taught me to be analytical and to broaden my horizons."

When Nish left Luton, he gained voluntary work experience and then joined BBC Three Counties Radio.

One of his key projects has been encouraging members of the Bangladeshi community to produce and present their own programme on BBC Three Counties Radio.

Bilal's date with SUCCESS

Bilal Ahmed Surahyo proudly displays his prize cheque awarded for his date drink idea.

AN energising drink made from dates was a 20-year-old accountancy student's recipe for success in this year's Business Concept Competition.

The launch of the new drink won Bilal Ahmed Surahyo a £1,000 prize for the best business idea in the competition, sponsored by Chamber Business and e-Financial Management.

Bilal said: "Winning this award is such a brilliant start to taking my idea forward. When I studied in Bahrain I noticed that people ate large quantities of dates on a daily basis. Back home in Pakistan, date drinks are widely sold, but there didn't seem to be any on sale in Bahrain. I realised there was a market for such a drink.

"In the Arab world, it is well known that dates have particular health benefits such as helping with weight loss, speeding up the recovery of convalescing patients and also helping to increase energy levels. To have dates on sale as a drink would mean they could be sold in a wide range of locations, including small shops, supermarkets and restaurants."

Bilal will finish his degree before he continues with his business plan.

→ To find out more about workshops and networking events, plus the nationally-praised Basics of Building a Business (B3) lecture series, call the knowledge hub on 0800 328 5334 or visit www.luton.ac.uk/businessservices/entrepreneurship.



Alumni focus

Iona Evans
BA (Hons) Business Studies,
1998. Now an International
Project Manager for Luton
Business School.

Iona can't stay away from

Luton! After her first degree
in business studies, she
came back to the University
for a second time to study a
part-time course until 2003
and followed that with a
part-time Executive MBA.

She's juggling her dissertation
with working full-time as an
International Project Manager
for the Luton Business School.
"I really enjoyed studying
for my first degree and the
teaching here is brilliant."

Germinating budding entrepreneurs!

THE B3 lectures, designed to 'germinate' budding entrepreneurs, are open to anyone in the region as well as to all students, researchers and academics within the University of Luton.

This includes the B3 business concept competition, run alongside the lectures, for the most promising and well-presented idea.

Successful entrepreneurs, who have been through the process of

starting up and running their own business, deliver the lectures.

The University is extending the reach of B3 by going out into the local community.

The team now hopes to find future entrepreneurs in districts like Dallow and Biscot in Luton, which are part of neighbourhood regeneration programmes.

"These will be targeted at ethnic minority groups – and will include

local entrepreneurs sharing their expertise," said Karen Wood, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Manager for the University.

"We are also looking to develop B3 for 16- to 19-year-olds so that we nurture our youngsters through the Connexions service," she said.

B3 was used as a case study in a recent national survey of how universities and businesses are uniting to succeed.



Dawn Jordan, fourth left, with the women taking part in the MBA programme for Developing Businesses.

Putting businesswomen ahead

WE'RE leading the way with our pioneering project – the Centre for Women's Enterprise (CWE).

The new centre, headed by Dawn Jordan, is spearheading women's enterprise in the UK, and has launched the country's first women-only Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

The MBA programme for Developing Businesses is being offered at a quarter of the usual fee for the first year of study,

thanks to a grant from the European Social Fund (ESF).

The 23 women already recruited are a real mix of ages and backgrounds – they include a publican/manager, procurement manager, change management consultants, an organic café owner and a personalised wines business owner.

They come from both local counties and as far away as Plymouth.

Dawn said: "The Centre's aim is to ensure that women get access to the skills, support, inspiration and contacts needed to succeed in their chosen careers.

"This MBA is the first of a number of services that will do just that.

"The Centre itself is great for the University, for Luton, for higher education, for women, and for the men with whom they work."

Peter Paddon

BA (Hons) Media Production, Video Production and Animation, 1997. Now a Systems Security Administrator at Walt Disney.

Immediately after Peter graduated,

he moved to Los Angeles to look for work and now he's the Systems Security Administrator for the Walt Disney Company.

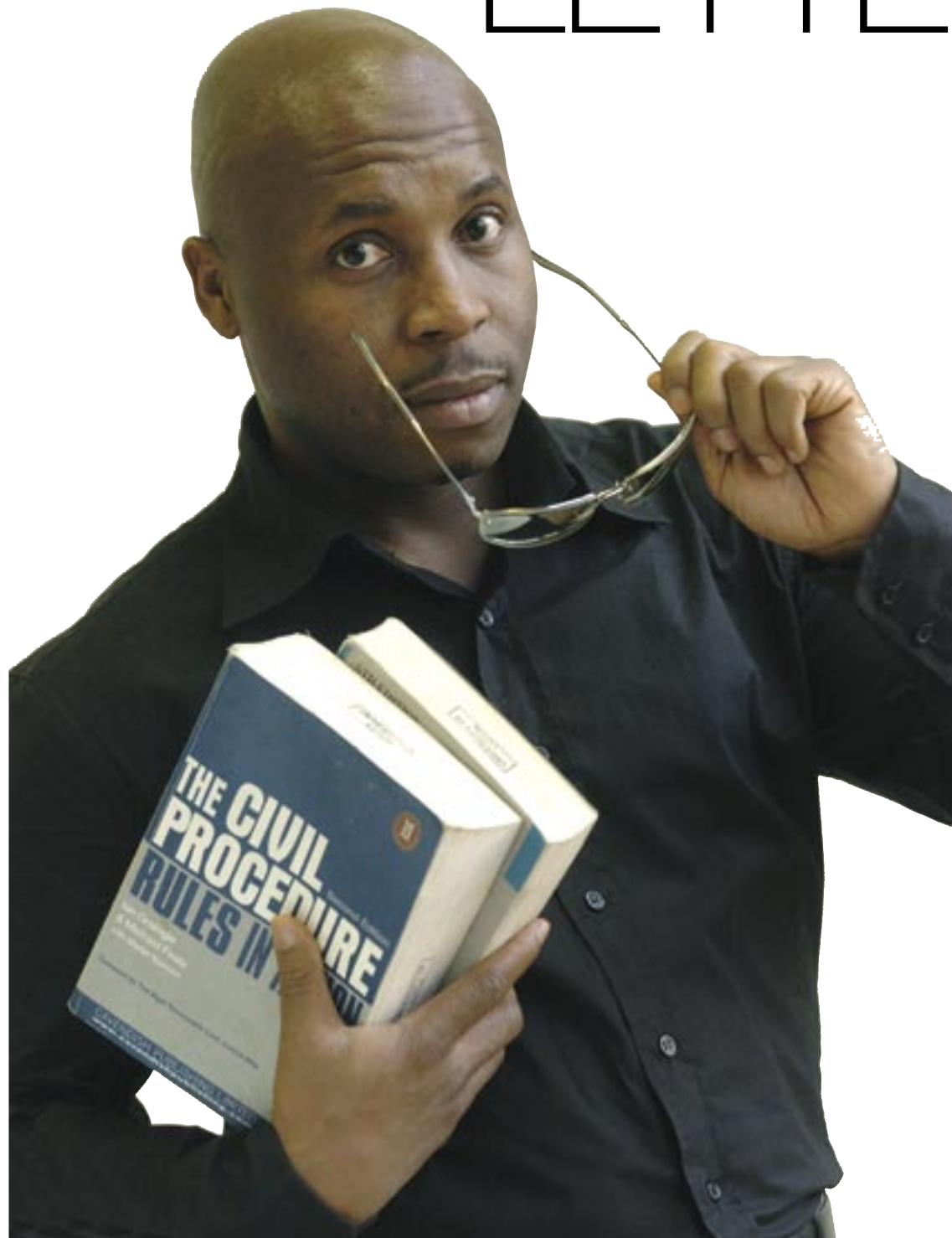
He looks after the development and access to web-based software used in the planning

and production of DVD releases.

But he's also a man of many other talents. He explains: "I'm an enthusiastic maker of things – currently it is hand-carved furniture. Last but not least, I'm a published author of two books on Ancient Egypt."

Kingsley sticks to the

LETTER



Alumni focus

Dr Amir Reyahi

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Psychology, 2000, BA Psychology with Biology in 1997. Now a Doctor of Medicine.

If you are in Luton and need a

doctor, you might bump into an old friend at the hospital – especially if you need an operation.

Amir Reyahi, now Dr Reyahi, is at the Luton and Dunstable NHS Trust and is pursuing a career in surgery.

After gaining his first degree at

Luton, Amir continued his medical studies with a Master's course in Health Psychology and was awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in 2000. He then went to medical school in St Lucia and graduated with a degree in Medicine in 2003.

R OF THE LAW

ONE of our law graduates found himself headhunted after fighting his own legal battle in court – and winning.

Kingsley Ogunmiloyo was flooded with job offers after the publicity on his case and now works for law firm Nathaniel and Co in London.

Kingsley was in the final year of his LLB course when he took a minibus driver's insurance company to court. The man drove into his car while it was parked outside his house in July 2003.

"I was understandably angry, but the driver admitted fault and agreed to pay for the repair to my car and the cost of a hire car while it was being repaired," explained Kingsley, who lives in Watford.

"I went ahead and hired a car and the next thing I knew, the driver's insurance company was offering £500 for it to be settled without hearing the case."

This posed a problem,

because, if Kingsley had refused to accept the £500, and the subsequent court award was even £1 less, then Kingsley would have become liable for both sides' costs.

Thanks to his perseverance and belief in what he was doing, the judge ruled in his favour.

"I was awarded £3,000 for representing myself and more than £6,000 damages and court fees. Challenging the small amount that was offered and risking my financial situation, I came out on top," said Kingsley.

David Meltzer, a law lecturer who taught Kingsley on a Human Rights module, explained: "This works on the basis that the plaintiff shouldn't be greedy if he has a valid claim. Fortunately this actually made it easier to take the decision to go to court, although no case is a certainty.

"Unfortunately I was unable to accompany Kingsley to the trial, though I advised him as best I could, and a friend of

mine generously offered free advice regarding technicalities of court procedures."

Kingsley is also now working in the humanitarian field overseas, where he is in the process of establishing a citizens' advice bureau in Nigeria. "This is a massive project and I am really excited by it. There isn't anything like this at the moment and we are looking to provide free legal advice to people of all ages and all backgrounds."

The project, which is funded by the European Union and the United Nations, is looking at three cities in Nigeria and Kingsley is hoping to develop the project into other countries, including Zimbabwe.

Kingsley added: "I am so glad I decided to study at Luton. I had an amazing time and the town has a lot of activities going on and the people are fantastic. The lecturers also really helped me with my court case, and I haven't looked back since."

University backs European grading system

AN agreement to bring the qualifications for all universities into line across Europe is being backed by the University of Luton.

The Bologna Agreement aims to standardise the education grading system of all European universities so that higher education qualifications are recognised all around Europe. This would result in greater freedom to work throughout Europe for all involved.

Luton's Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon, attended a meeting at the Houses of Parliament about the agreement. More than 50 representatives from UK universities and members of the House of Commons attended the meeting, which updated them on its progression.

Professor Ebdon is a strong supporter of the agreement. "University of Luton graduates could go and work anywhere in Europe with this agreement in place," he explained.

"The European market is there for labour as well as goods – and this is a great way to bring it all together."

'I was awarded £3,000 for representing myself and more than £6,000 damages'

Katy Scrivener

BA (Hons) Media Performance with Scriptwriting, 2003. Now a Programme Administrator for Vertex at Westminster City Hall.

Katy's fondest memories of her time at the University are designing costumes out of cleaning accessories for her Costume module and the media student parties!

After graduating, Katy

worked for a European Social Fund project at the University before taking a year out in Norfolk to work as a mental health support worker.

Katy now works for Vertex, a subsidiary of United Utilities,

as a contractor. She is the Westminster Programme Administrator for the Vertex Westminster Partnership, primarily on the Wireless City Project. The job combines administration and PA duties.

Corene's date

WITH FAME



HAVING dinner with Ozzy Osbourne and partying with Sir Elton John were just two of the social events that University of Luton graduate Corene Campbell has enjoyed over the last 12 months.

The Luton-born singer managed to balance the fame game with university life during her time on ITV's gruelling talent show, *The X Factor*, where she performed with mum Grace and aunt Hildia as part of soul group Voices with Soul.

"Thankfully I received amazing support from my tutors and my fellow students.

They didn't give up on me, even at the height of the show," she said.

The 26-year-old has now graduated with a BA (Hons) in Advertising and Marketing.

"It certainly has been a rollercoaster ride," said Corene. "I've met some famous people along the way.

"I can remember pinching myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming."

Corene was also driven by the fact that fame can often be a short-lived experience. "I kept reminding myself that fame sometimes doesn't last long. Education is one thing that can't be taken away from you."

Joining for a celebration

GRADUATION – it's such a popular day! Students, staff, friends and family come from all over the country to celebrate our successes in a colourful, spectacular ceremony that will be remembered with fondness throughout their lives.

Thousands of students have graduated from the University of Luton recently –

500 from the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences last November, and in April this year more than 380 students were presented with postgraduate degrees from Luton Business School and the faculties of Creative Arts, Technologies and Sciences and Health and Social Sciences.

Another 1,500 graduated this September. Many

students graduated with first-class honours, including Sue Malherbe, 38, originally from South Africa, who completed a degree in Health Studies. Sue has also been nominated for the University's Noel Parry prize for academic excellence.

Another 660 students will graduate from Nursing and Education later this year.

Alumni focus

Stephan Croft
BSc (Hons) Biology, 2003.
Now a QA Microbiologist for
Cobra Biopharmaceuticals.

Stephan was awarded the special
memorial prize for achieving the

best overall performance in his
University department for 2003.

But what the first-class honours
student noticed in his first job
since leaving University was
that even the simple computer
skills he had learned here

stood him in good stead.

He said: "All the skills have
directly underpinned my new
job. In my initial interview, my
seniors were astounded at how
relevant the course material
and practical skills were."



Graduation is an event for all the family to celebrate.

More from our MBA programme

LUTON Business School now offers three MBA programmes – a full time MBA, a part-time Executive MBA and a part-time MBA for Developing Businesses.

Both part-time courses are delivered via supported learning, using a combination of traditional teaching methods and online and new media support. This includes Blackboard – a virtual learning environment – and VIPER online voice-to-voice conferencing, which allows participants to have online tutorials with University staff in real time.

Rob Townsend, Academic Programme Director, said: “Students find the interactive element of our programme to be extremely useful – it allows them to conduct study sessions with lecturers and their fellow students to discuss assignments and different aspects of the course.”

The programme is open to graduates with a minimum of two years’ middle management experience.

→ To find out more about the University’s MBA programmes, call 01582 743253 or e-mail mba-admin@luton.ac.uk.

Dr Adam Davis
BA (Hons), MPhil, PhD History, 2004. Now an Historian and Outreach Officer, ICT, University of Luton.

It was a big step returning

to higher education as a mature student for Adam Davis.

Now he’s got three degrees, works in IT and builds cars in his spare time.

Adam explained: “My first,

second and final degree were all done at Luton.

“I gained a place in the careers service, then progressed to my present post looking after IT for the University’s nursing sites.

Adam’s interest extends to motor vehicles – he builds his own rally cars. He recently rebuilt a rally-prepared MGB for the Carrera PanAmerica in 2006. “I’m a glutton for punishment!” said Adam.

Julie joins us in call to REUNITE!

HAVE you signed up yet? Our Alumni Association is here to help you find out about people you went to University with.

And we couldn't find a better person to be partnered with than former Luton student Julie Pankhurst – who is co-founder of internet giant FriendsReunited.

She has joined forces with us to call for more graduates to sign up and find old friends.

Julie, who studied Software Engineering at Luton in the 1980s, when it was Luton College of Higher Education, is calling on graduates to join the University's Alumni Association and FriendsReunited itself – and get the latest news on former friends, colleagues or even family members.

Julie said: "It was curiosity about the people I had been to school or college with which inspired me to launch FriendsReunited.

"I was on maternity leave and I started wondering what the people I had known during my school and college days were doing now. I searched the internet



FriendsReunited's Julie Pankhurst and husband Stephen.

and found message boards scattered everywhere and thought that a database was needed where all the information was stored centrally. My husband Stephen wrote the database

in just three weeks and we launched it in July 2000. In January 2001 it was chosen as 'website of the day' by Miles Mendoza on the BBC's Steve Wright Show – and the site collapsed under the pressure!"

Toyota's secrets revealed!

ONE of our former students, who was recently knighted, has been passing on the secrets of top-class business competitiveness to local companies.

Sir Alan Jones, who is Chairman of Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd, spoke passionately

about Toyota's philosophy and work ethic at the University's M1 Knowledge Exchange event.

The M1 Knowledge Exchange is a joint project between Cranfield and Luton Universities aimed at helping small and medium-sized enterprises in the

Alumni focus

Dr Mark Glaister
BSc (Hons) Health, Sport and Fitness Science, 1998. Now Senior Lecturer, Exercise Physiology, University of Surrey.

Mark came to the University of

Luton through Clearing and says it was the best move he made.

He said: "I can't praise the University, and my particular course, enough. The subject area was perfect for me, the lecturers were superb and I can honestly

say that it changed my life."

He has been at St Mary's College at the University of Surrey as Senior Lecturer in Exercise Physiology since 2002 and has had six scientific research articles published.

Marjorie goes back to her roots

MARJORIE Stoneham couldn't believe the changes at Park Square when she visited recently.

She reached the grand old age of 100 and wanted to return to where she went to school almost 90 years ago, when it was Luton Modern School.

The Luton-born grandmother reminisced about life at school, long before it became a university.

"The University is bustling with activity. It's wonderful to come back to the site of my former school and see so many young people studying here," she said.

Marjorie, originally from Belmont Road in Luton, remembers her schooldays well, including the day when the First World War came to an end. "I recall being in art class and the town crier came out of St Mary's Church to announce that the war was over. All the children cheered. We were given the rest of the day off. It was such a wonderful moment," she said.

After the war, all the female pupils were moved from Park Square to tin huts in Alexandra Avenue. They used trams to get from the town centre to their new school.

She recalled: "I didn't like studying in the tin huts. In winter the rain would bang on the roof and make so much noise we couldn't hear the teacher. In summer it got so hot that we couldn't concentrate. The heat was unbearable. I longed to be back in Park Square."

Aged 16 she took a job in one of the local hat factories, where she

worked for several years. Her father, a keen Luton Town Football Club fan who came from Inkerman Street, also ran a small hat factory in Luton.

Today Marjorie lives in Cambridgeshire, where she moved in the mid-1930s with her late husband Richard. But she keeps in touch with her 90-year-old brother Alec Brown, who still lives in Luton and keeps her up to date on all the developments in the town.

She's delighted that Luton is on the up. "I'm hearing good things about Luton's future. I'm very impressed with how the University has grown and I hope the town continues to go from strength to strength."



Marjorie, pictured here with Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon.

Town's top man

HAJI Abid gained a BA (Hons) Public Policy in 1994 and is now Luton's newest and



youngest-yet Mayor.

He said: "I had a fantastic time at Luton. I enjoyed my subjects, the lecturers were superb and I got to meet students from all over the UK and Europe."

"Some of my fondest memories are of this time. This experience really did change my life."

Haji's involvement in local politics goes back a number of years to when he became a local councillor.

"So many people encouraged me to get involved in local politics because I had such a keen interest in the issues affecting my community," he said.

"I became an independent councillor and it developed from there."

"Now I'm Mayor of Luton and feel very proud to represent the town."

"The University has come a long way since the mid-90s. The facilities have improved enormously and I have read about its continued excellence in teaching. This makes me very proud."

science, engineering, technology and manufacturing sectors.

Sir Alan provided expertise on improving worldwide competitiveness through education and training. He began his career by studying mechanical engineering at Luton,

before it became the University of Luton.

He told delegates: "Every company should strive to be the very best at what it does and remember that the customer is its first priority."

"We also have respect for our

staff members. It's all about teamwork. Once this is in place, success follows."

Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon, said: "Sir Alan gave us an excellent insight into how Toyota has maintained its success."

Russell Hurn

BA (Hons) Psychology, 1999. Now a Psychologist at the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust.

Russell was a mature

student when he started at the University of Luton in 1996. His course was British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited, which was a definite plus point, he says.

"I was fortunate enough to

gain a place on an exchange programme during my second year and spent six months in Florida.

"I also received an academic award at my graduation for the best

performance in psychology, and a cheque for my hard work. My time at Luton really helped me kick-start my career and helped me to discover the direction that I wanted to take."

A leader in DIVERSITY

WE are one of the leading universities when it comes to diversity in the workforce. The latest statistics reveal that we have twice the number of academic staff from ethnic minority backgrounds – and we have more women than most universities.

The figures, published by the University's Human Resources Department, show that the number of staff from ethnic minority backgrounds at Luton stands at 19 per cent, while the sector average is 10.5 per cent, according to Government statistics. Women make up 40 per cent of academic staff at Luton – again, higher than the sector average at 35 per cent.

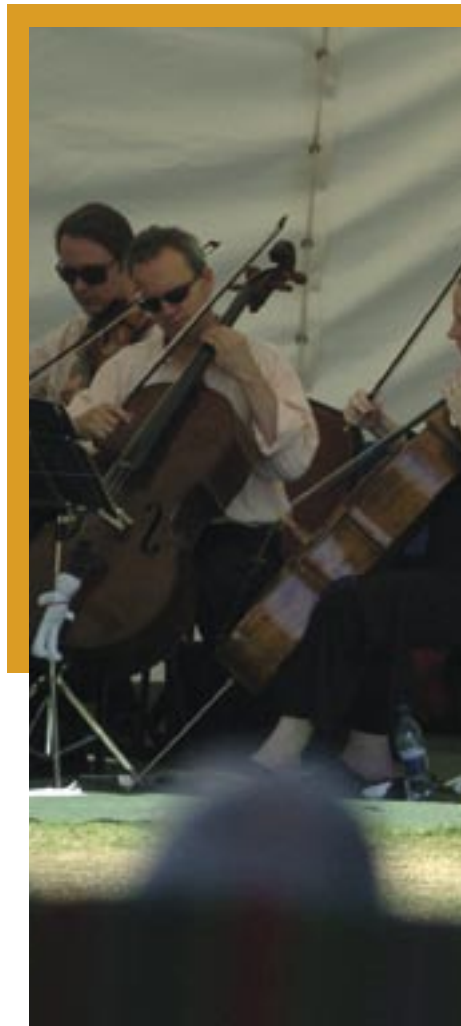
University Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon, said: "I was pleased to see the evidence which proves that the University of Luton is leading the field in workforce diversity. We are proud of our

record in attracting academic staff from different genders, cultures, backgrounds and experiences. This gives our students a wonderfully varied educational experience."

The University also has one of the most diverse student populations, with more than one third coming from ethnic minority backgrounds and more than a quarter of the student population from outside the UK and EU.

Professor Ebdon added: "While we are proud of our record and achievement to date, we have set ourselves a tough target to increase the diversity of our workforce.

"This year, we aimed for a two per cent increase in the recruitment of staff from ethnic minority groups – and achieved it. But we will continue our efforts to lead the field in equality and diversity issues. This is part of what it means to be an opportunity University."



Michael Preston-Shoot.

Staff presented with teaching awards

OUR reputation for teaching excellence received a major boost after two members of staff were presented with national teaching awards.

Michael Preston-Shoot, Professor of Social Work and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Science, and Arti Kumar, Senior Careers Adviser in the University's Careers Service, won awards worth £50,000 each from the Higher Education Academy in recognition of their outstanding contribution to teaching and learning. The pair were shortlisted from 187 nominations from higher education institutions around England and Northern Ireland.

Professor Preston-Shoot was praised for

his approach to teaching and his belief that tutors should empower the learner. He said: "Teaching, learning and assessment at their best create a dialogue between students and their teachers. It's not right to ask students to engage in learning if teachers are not prepared to do the same."

Professor Kate Robinson, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), said: "Michael has made an enormous impact on the department through extending links with practitioners, enhancing the quality of teaching and learning through his own work."

Also celebrating was Arti Kumar, who won her award in the learning support category for her commitment

Alumni focus

Sharon Ingham

BA (Hons) Educational Studies, 1997. Now Head Teacher at Hadrian Lower School in Dunstable.

Sharon is now Head Teacher – at the same school where

she started her first job as a nursery nurse!

Sharon was a qualified nursery nurse, but also had a family, and had been away from full-time education for 16 years when she started her course at Luton.

She started working at Hadrian Lower School as a Foundation Year Class Teacher, progressing to Senior Manager, Foundation Leader, Numeracy Co-ordinator and Deputy Head, before becoming Head Teacher in 2004.



Concert success

A LIVE concert in the grounds of Putteridge Bury provided a great day out for all the family in July, with face-painting, pass the parcel and a teddy bears' picnic alongside the musical talents of the University's resident orchestra.

The 12-piece Symphonia Academica played a selection of classical pieces, conducted by Musical Director Peter Bussereau.

He said: "Putteridge Bury is the perfect setting for a summer performance and we love playing there. There is so much space and the scenery is beautiful."

The orchestra performed a piece by its Composer in Association, Richard Sisson, who had worked with local schoolchildren to put music to a poem by Luton poet, John Hegley. There was also a performance of Haydn's Toy Symphony which featured parts for toy instruments, including trumpet, triangle, drum and rattle.

→ For more information about concerts, contact Peter by visiting www.symphonia-academica.co.uk.

Second MCCE conference

THE University of Luton will host the second Multicultural Conference on Competitiveness and Enterprise on November 23, 2005.

The University's Centre for Competitiveness is organising the conference, which boasts high-profile speakers from all over the world. An awards ceremony in the evening will celebrate the successes of individual entrepreneurs, including leading international companies, organisations and former Luton students. For information check out www.mcce.org.uk.

Top national awards

to curriculum initiatives and strategies aimed at helping the personal and career development of undergraduates.

Mrs Kumar's achievements have led to the University adopting a unique approach to Personal Development Planning (PDP) and she has become a dedicated PDP coordinator. This programme played a key role in helping the University clinch £3.3 million in funding to become a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Over a seven-year period, she has advised on curriculum development projects and developed materials

and methods to enable effective learning in both real and virtual environments.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Les Ebdon, said: "Arti has worked hard to ensure students see the relevance and connections between theories and how they are applied in real life."

Mrs Kumar plans to use her funds to create an online skills resource which will enable students to get to grips with key employability skills. Professor Preston-Shoot will use his award money to evaluate outcomes of different approaches to the teaching and learning and assessment of law in social work education.



Arti Kumar.

Experience is our strength, says Bob

ROBERT Anderson, or Bob to his friends, believes the diversity of experience of the tutors in the department of Sport and Exercise Science is one of its strengths.

"They have such a broad network linked to outside sporting organisations that the students cannot fail to benefit in terms of work placement," he says.

Bob, Undergraduate Field Chair in Sport and Exercise Science, began working at Luton as a guest lecturer in March 1993.

Later that year he was appointed a Visiting Lecturer and then, in 1994, a full-time Lecturer in Psychology. At that time there were some 1,200 undergraduates studying in the department. Bob remembers it was a very busy time, with only about 12 teaching staff.

In 1995 Bob and colleague, Dr Tony Fallone, started a level three course in Sport Psychology. It was hugely successful and soon expanded.

After moving to the Department of Sport and Exercise Science in 1999, Bob was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Bob said that one of the highlights for him was when the department attained British Psychological Society (BPS) Accreditation for the psychology degree. More recently the Sport and Exercise Psychology BSc degree was given the same accreditation.

Debbie Randle

BA (Hons) Modern English Studies, 2000. Now a News Editor at Chiltern FM.

Tight deadlines are Debbie Randle's speciality. As News

Editor heading a team of 10 reporters at a busy local radio station, they're a must.

Debbie has worked her way up from a Trainee Broadcast Journalist to her current role. She and her team supply

the news bulletins for five local stations – Chiltern FM, Classic Gold, FM103 Horizon and two digital stations.

Debbie studied journalism modules as part of her course at Luton, which made her

realise that she wanted a career in journalism.

She hadn't considered working in radio until a placement at Chiltern FM gave her the chance to work in its busy newsroom.



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Alumni focus

Laura Nelson
BA (Hons) Advertising and Marketing, 2004. Now studying for a Master's Degree in Fashion Marketing.

Laura Nelson, from Belfast, has

always been interested in fashion. Her degree has given her the opportunity to pursue a glamorous career in this field.

Laura, who graduated with a first-class degree, is now completing a Master's Degree in Fashion

Marketing at the prestigious London College of Fashion.

"I was interested in advertising and marketing, but few universities offered a combined degree in both subjects at that time, so I decided to go for it," said the 23-year-old.

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Calista Hindler
BSc (Hons) Psychology, 2003 & MSc Health Psychology, 2004. Now a Clinical Data Analyst at Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust.

Calista started working as a Research

Assistant for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service after graduating from Luton. She said: "I believe that my research experience and qualifications were essential in securing this position."

In January 2005, Calista started her current job as a Clinical Data Analyst at

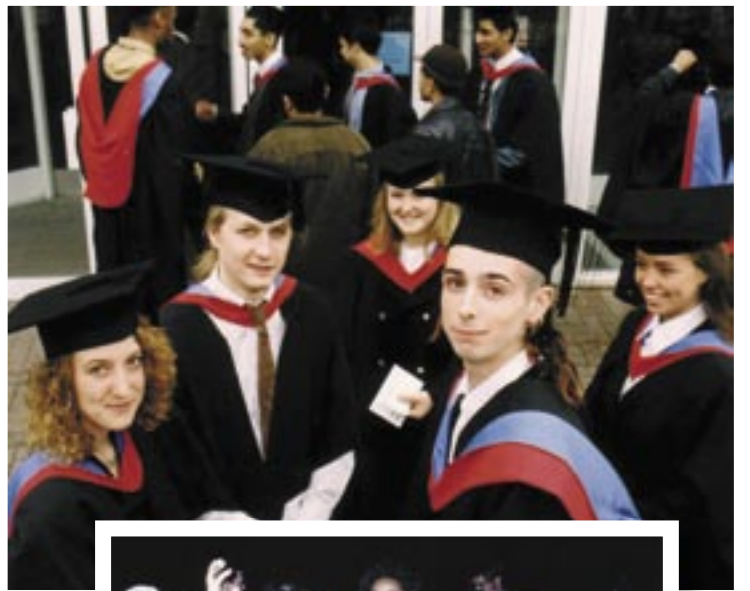
the Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust. She has found that her analytical, statistical and report-writing skills proved extremely useful for this job.

Calista would like to study for a PhD. She then hopes to find a job specific to her training.

caught on camera!



Journey with us down Memor



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y Lane and see if you can spot yourself!

where are they now?

Charlie George
BA (Hons) Media
Performance, 2002.
Now a Presenter on MAX TV
shopping channel.

Charlie has always had a thing for gadgets and, with her new job in television, she now has a larger collection

than Inspector Gadget!

She has just landed a job as a presenter on MAX TV, a new shopping channel which caters for anyone with a passion for games and gadgets.

Launched in 2005, MAX TV can be found on Sky Digital 669 or on the web at www.max.tv.



Charlie's job involves researching and testing new products and then preparing and presenting them for TV.

She graduated from the University of Luton in 2002 with a 2:1 in Media Performance.

Charlie said: "I really enjoyed the course and I met some great people. It also helped to build my confidence and changed my mind about the industry being strictly about who you know."

A high point was presenting on the University's own radio station, Luton FM, which gave her great live performance experience. She also enjoyed acting in her special project performance, 'The Ivory Tower'.

After graduating, Charlie moved back to her home town of Wolverhampton, and for the next year modelled freelance for Pirelli tyres. This involved travelling around the world with the World Rally Championships.

Charlie was then promoted to event media officer for a year, but decided that she still really wanted to work in TV, so went back to freelance modelling.

After another year of freelance work and voice-overs, she got a small part in a drama for ITV. Shortly afterwards she saw an advert in *Stage* for MAX TV and hasn't looked back since!

Asam Mahmood
BSc (Hons) Business Decision
Management, 2005.
Now Editor/Sales Executive.

Three years ago, Asam wasn't sure if university life was for him and wondered if his A-level grades were good enough to secure a place on a degree programme.

Now the 23-year-old from Hemel Hempstead works as a high-flying sales executive and is Editor of a student magazine, thanks to his BSc (Hons) in Business Decision Management.

The highlight of his degree was researching for his dissertation in his final year, which focused on the business theory behind boxing

promotions. Asam got the chance to interview several top names in the boxing world, including Frank Warren and Audley Harrison.

"My dissertation was so enjoyable," he said. "I wanted to look at boxing as a business rather than a sport and I was delighted that Frank Warren and Audley Harrison gave up their time to speak to me."

Alumni focus

Helen Layton
BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science,
2004. Now a Registry Project
Officer, University of Luton.

When Helen emigrated from South Africa in 1998, she wanted to

fulfil her dreams of studying for a degree, so after working for three years in Luton, she enrolled on a course at the University.

The 25-year-old is now reaping the rewards after graduating with a first-class honours degree

in Biomedical Science with commendation, by securing a job at the University. "It's been a fantastic journey for me," said Helen. "I loved studying at Luton and I'm delighted to be working here now."



Caroline Lindsay
BA (Hons) Sports Therapy,
2003. Now an Equine Sports
Therapist.

Caroline has turned her passion for caring for injured horses into a full-time career after receiving a first-class honours degree in Sports Therapy from the University of Luton.

She discovered some amazing similarities between humans and her favourite four-legged friends.

Caroline, 42, from Aston, near Stevenage, now works as a full-time freelance Equine Sports Therapist.

She travels to Ireland every month to resolve chronic postural conditions in horses, and enhance their competitive performance.

“Some of my clients call me ‘the horse whisperer’ because horses always relax, despite being in pain, when I’m around!

“I have found that I don’t need to advertise because my unusual job attracts a great deal of attention.

“People are curious to know why I chose to study human sports therapy, when it’s horses that I work with.

“I have worked with horses all my life and had successfully completed a course in equine athletic performance and rehabilitation, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

“However, I realised that in order to become a top equine therapist, it was essential to graduate as a human therapist, since most of the techniques originate from that field.”

She added: “The sports therapy degree at Luton offered the flexibility of some independent study modules, which meant that I could focus on equine sports medicine alongside my main subjects.

“My research revealed some surprising similarities between the treatment of human and equine injuries, particularly with tendons in the lower limbs, which can be damaged by sprinting in both species.

“I’m particularly proud of the fact that I have achieved a treatment success rate of virtually 100 per cent to date, often saving horses from euthanasia where others have failed.”

Anne Marie Andrews
BSc (Hons) Psychology,
2003. Now a Police
Officer.

Anne Marie is not the kind of person to let things stand in her way – which is what you’d expect from an Officer with the Metropolitan Police.

Responding to 999 calls, comforting victims of crime, dealing with drunken late-night revellers and patrolling London Underground stations are all in a day’s work.

She is proof of how a University of Luton degree can lead to different careers.

Anne Marie, from Welwyn Garden City, admits to crying with disappointment when she received her A-level results.

However, University of Luton admissions staff talked her through her options and advised her to study a degree that she felt she would be interested in.

And she made the right choice, graduating in 2003 with a 2:1 in Psychology.

Anne Marie took a succession of temporary jobs before setting her sights on the police.

A fitness test and four-month training course followed, at which she studied the practical and legal responsibilities of a Police Officer.

Now a PC in Romford, Essex, she admits it was her Luton degree that helped get her into the force.

It was during this period that Asam realised he had a flair for writing and after placements with *The Sunday Telegraph*, *The Times* and *The Observer*, decided to set up *Youth* – a monthly student magazine.

In addition, he is waiting to hear if he has been accepted on to a graduate journalism scheme with a national newspaper.

Jessica Jackson
BA (Hons) Media Practices,
2005. Now working at
Chichester College before
going to the USA.

Jessica was busy settling

into her first year of a Media Practices degree at the University when she was diagnosed with dyspraxia. The condition can affect concentration levels, as well as reading, spelling and co-

ordination, explained Jessica, 21, from Chichester.

“I wasn’t sure how to deal with it at first and contemplated moving back home to finish my course, but the Learning Support Team

was terrific. I wanted to work on the management team at the University’s own radio station, Luton FM, which no other university offers, and I knew that with the help of the team, I could do it.”

Tom White
BA (Hons) Media
Performance, 2005. Now
a Runner for Sky Sports.

At the age of six, Tom watched his first football match on television – and he knew instantly what he wanted to do with his life.

Tom set his heart on becoming a sports commentator – the next John Motson. And now he's well on his way.

While studying at Luton on the Media Performance degree course, he worked two days a week at Sky Sports, in Isleworth, West London, as a Runner, which became a full-

time job after he graduated this summer with a BA (Hons) 2:1.

Now, aged 22, he has his sights fixed on becoming a professional sports commentator within the next five years.

"It is a really interesting job. I get to meet lots of

Ian Holohan
BA (Hons) Graphic Design,
2003. Now a Graphic Designer.

Ian can boast of having HRH Prince Charles as one of his first customers – though he is unlikely to, as he's quite modest.

He is now working from his Luton home as a 'virtual tenant' of the University of Luton's Innovation Centre following a slight hiccup in his planned career.

Ian did a foundation course at Barnfield College, followed it up with an HND in Graphic Design and did his degree at the University of Luton.

But after working full-time for an advertising agency, Ian was made redundant. "The company was sold and our part of the organisation was shut down," explained Ian.

Following a business planning course at Business Link, he decided going it alone was the answer.

"Following my own path was a little daunting, but I'm glad I went for it," he said.

One of his former clients was delighted Ian was back in business. The trustees of The Castle of Mey, the former holiday residence of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, have asked him to work on their new literature. Prince Charles is the president of the Trust involved in opening it up to the public.



Ian is also working on a website and brochures for another historic site, Castle Sinclair Girnigoe.

His other clients have included P&O, the Yorkshire Tourist Board, The Environment Agency and London Luton Airport.

"People have said to me that I have had some great customers and I am trying to be less modest," Ian joked.

Ian said he wanted to get his degree while he was living and working in Luton.

He said: "It was very handy and allowed me to study without incurring a lot of expense. Ed D'Souza, Senior Lecturer in Graphic Design, helped me a great deal personally, and I think he has worked hard to put together a very respectable graphic design course at Luton.

"My degree has proved

both relevant and useful, the Professional Practice element in particular. It showed that the University and course lecturers recognise the fact that more and more people are choosing to set up on their own, and that with new technologies it is becoming easier to do successfully.

"The facilities were good, but since I have left they have replaced everything. I have been down to have a look and I have to say, even compared to working in a fully-equipped design studio, they are excellent!

"The University must now be one of the best-equipped in the country.

"As graphic design is generally such a London-centric industry, Luton could perhaps make more of the fact that it is only 30 minutes away."

Alumni focus

Brett 'Blioux' Hodgson
BA (Hons) Business with
Psychology, 1998. Now a Senior
Cost Engineer with Bechtel.

Brett, known as Blioux to his friends, joined Bechtel straight

after leaving Luton and has never looked back.

"With Bechtel, I have not only travelled extensively in the US and the rest of the world, but have also gained valuable experience of working on major

construction projects, including the Channel Tunnel and the new terminal at London Luton Airport," he said.

"I'm now working as a Senior Cost Engineer for the Nanhai Petrochemical project in China."

ex-football, cricket and rugby players, carry out jobs in the studio, and work the autocue for the presenters.

"I am also gaining valuable experience, which will help me climb the ladder to becoming a Sports Commentator," said Tom.

"I'm not sure why commentating appealed to me.

"I suppose that even at the age of six

I realised I wasn't good enough to play – and that commentating was the next best thing!"

As part of his job, Tom has already met such sporting legends as footballer Gianluca Vialli and cricketers Graham Gooch and David Gower.

"As a sports lover, it's a great job.

There is a great atmosphere at Sky Sports and we have a good laugh.

"It is also good to see what famous sports people are really like."

Tom, who lives in Twickenham, West London, says his ambition is to commentate on a match involving his beloved Sunderland FC – and then at the World Cup being held in South Africa in 2010.

"That gives me just over four years," he said, "which is something to aim for!"

Vladimir Maric

BA (Hons) Media Practices with Television Studies, 1999. Now a Public Relations Officer with BBC World Service Trust.

Vladimir loves his job with the BBC World Service Trust in the Sarajevo office.

His recent PR campaign went extremely well and now there are about 1,100 visits a month to the website – which is well over the average for Bosnia.

The BBC World Service Trust is the independent international charity of the BBC which uses the media to advance development worldwide.

Vladimir really enjoyed his time studying at the University of London.

"It was great because I was only 40 minutes from London, and yet I wasn't paying London prices for accommodation and other expenses," he said.

"I made great friends during the first year of living in the Halls of Residence with whom I spent most of my social time.

"The course was very inspiring and left plenty of space for creativity. I enjoyed having some of my lectures delivered by real experts in the field of TV journalism.

"Straight after graduation I worked for Marks & Spencer in London as a Deputy Department Supervisor and a year later moved to Bosnia-Herzegovina to work on PR campaigns to encourage interethnic dialogue. I then became a Public Relations Officer. My degree helped me develop a lot of transferable skills needed to work in PR.

"Apart from looking at the roots of communication and the way different methods affect different audiences, it taught me how to use all sorts of desktop



publishing and multimedia software. Three years into my PR career I completed a three-month London School of Public Relations course in Sarajevo. It updated me on all the latest developments in PR.

"I am now considering coming back to Luton to study for an MSc in Marketing Communications."

Leah O'Mahoney

BA (Hons) Media Performance, 2004. Now a Tour Guide at Chelsea Football Club.

Leah, from Croydon, has her sights set on Premiership glory after getting her dream job at Chelsea Football Club.

She is working as a Tour Guide to thousands of visitors from around the world. Speaking about her new role, Leah said: "I have no doubt that my Media Performance degree helped me because being a tour guide is all about giving a performance to a different audience every day.

"I'm a lifelong Chelsea fan, so this is the perfect job for me. I've even met all the players."

Leah is looking for stardom on the pitch, but not as a footballer!

"I would like to work for Chelsea TV and I have already met the crew," said the Blues fan.

"We got on really well, so hopefully one day I can perform in front of the camera. In the meantime I've lined up some work experience at Sky Sports to learn the necessary skills."

'I enjoyed having some of my lectures delivered by real experts in the field of TV journalism'

Lucy Tricker

BA (Hons) Media Performance 2004. Now a Producer for Chiltern FM.

Since graduating, Lucy has been working as a

Producer for Chiltern FM on the Saturday morning show. Now she is working towards becoming a Presenter too.

Lucy said: "My degree really helped to secure my job. Luton was my first choice,

and a large part of the reason was Luton FM. Working at the station gave me first-hand knowledge of how everything runs, from the mixing desk to programme planning. Throughout my studies

I worked on demo tapes and sound mixing and this really gave me a competitive advantage."

In her spare time, Lucy works in event management for a local hotel.

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– and then on to gifted students. You will then automatically be entered into a competition to win an iPod player.

In the next edition of *Noteworthy* we can then tell you more about the students who have benefited from your donations.

One such student who benefited from a company's scholarship was Javeed Hussain – see below. (You will have read about him in previous editions of *Noteworthy* – but we simply couldn't resist featuring him again, just to keep you up to date with his latest career move!)



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Texts cost £1.50, of which 90p will go to current students in the form of scholarships. The winner will be notified by 31 March 2006.

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Alumni focus

Javeed Hussain
MSc Human Resource Management, 2003.
Now an HR and Training Adviser for Kent County Council.

The recipient of a University scholarship, Javeed completed his first degree in Business Management in his native India, before coming to the

University of Luton to study for a Master's Degree.
After graduating, Javeed was appointed by Sainsbury's as Human Resources Co-ordinator

Visit our new Alumni message board

NEXT time you visit the Alumni page of the University's website, make sure you have a look at our new message board!

The Alumni team regularly receives requests from those looking to re-establish contact with old friends from their University days.

Unfortunately, due to data protection we can't give out any contact details, but, to date, we have been more than happy to pass on messages.

Now it's been made easier with our new message board, which is designed to help you and old friends get in touch and leave messages for each other.

Simply post a message on the board and you will receive an automatic email alerting you to check the message board. Visit www.luton.ac.uk/alumni. Happy chatting!



Help us to keep your contact details up to date

WE are gradually developing a global network of Luton Alumni and already have some 26,000 members on our database, who represent some 140 countries worldwide.

As a graduate of the University you are automatically on our database, but as many of you move away from home after graduating, it's easy to lose touch.

By completing our online questionnaire you can make sure we have all your up-to-date contact details.

Simply visit www.luton.ac.uk/alumni/join. Thank you for your time!

Don't forget . . .

- To send us your email address so we can keep you updated on all the latest news about the Alumni Association and the University
- To visit the 'Where Are They Now?' section to find out about the people you studied with and to add your own profile
- That you can send University of Luton e-cards to your friends anywhere in the world – just visit www.luton.ac.uk/cards
- You can download *Noteworthy* from the Alumni website.



and relocated to Kent. After gaining valuable experience within the role, Javeed moved to his current job. He said: "The job involves managing all aspects of the recruitment and selection process, as

well as supporting the Head of HR in the delivery of people strategies."

Javeed won his £500-a-year scholarship funded by large Luton employer, Interbrew UK Ltd.

He explained: "I worked within Human Resources so I was able to learn and develop new skills, shadowing people and seeing how the theory we were taught at University was used in the workplace."



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