UEA turns 50
A day to remember

Early diagnosis in dementia
Meet the Hampshires
Inside Norwich Research Park
Congratulations, UEA! The University is celebrating its 50th birthday in grand style and its well-documented successes are impressive, however you choose to measure them. UEA is ranked in the top one per cent among the 17,000 universities across the globe (Times World Rankings 2013); in the top 100 for research citations in the Leiden Ranking 2013 and 17th in the UK in the and the Times and Sunday Times University Guide. But, most importantly, let’s not show any false modesty about its most extraordinary accolade, which is to be placed at number one for student satisfaction in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2013.

These are only stats in the end, but they do say some very exceptional things about this vibrant campus on the edge of Norwich, UNESCO City of Literature 2012. It says that students here feel respected and valued, that they are able to prosper and experiment and have fun within a dynamic, multi-cultural social milieu, and above all, that they are not only taught by highly rated professionals across all disciplines, but also helped towards sound careers by work placements and internships.

UEA helped to shape my life, too, both as a woman and as a writer. I was a student in the small University Village in the years 1964–1967. There were no societies or clubs, no sports facilities, no magazine. But, for all the limits upon what was available to us, we felt ourselves to be pioneers in a fairer society, where we would help to drive change in social attitudes and in modes of learning – to the benefit of all. We were determined to be part of the ‘do different’ ethos.

Of the graduands who left UEA this summer, statistics show that more than 90 per cent will be able to cross the precarious bridge from education to work or further research without faltering. They will become part of that educated, open-minded elite who will help to shape the future of this country (and the other countries to which they may choose to return) in precarious times. On them we will depend, and UEA has played a fundamental part in making them who they are.

Now, as I take on the role of Chancellor, I would like to suggest that if the next 50 years match the achievements of the last 50, then they will be pretty damn good.
Low carbon fund steps into the arts

The producers of Peter Grimes on Aldeburgh Beach adopted new and innovative low carbon ways of working at every stage of the filmmaking process. It is the first feature film to use BAFTA’s ‘Albert’ carbon footprint tool, which allows producers to calculate the greenhouse gases emitted as a direct result of making a film. By taking simple steps such as using reusable water bottles, streamlining transport and using biofuel generators, the production was able to reduce its carbon footprint by 50 per cent.

Peter Grimes on Aldeburgh Beach was shown in over 100 cinemas on 5 September and will be aired on television in the autumn. It will also be available on DVD and by download.

Run of league table successes

As the Chancellor mentioned in her introduction to this issue, it has been a particularly good year for UEA in a number of league tables.

In UK league tables, the University is number 20 in the Complete University Guide and number 17 in both The Guardian and The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide. This is UEA’s highest ever ranking in The Times or The Sunday Times, which were separate league tables until this year, rising from 28th and 32nd respectively.

UEA has also been nominated for the prestigious honour of University of the Year in the Times Higher Education Awards. The award which will be given to an institution that has demonstrated exceptional performance in the 2011/12 academic year.

The University also shone in this year’s Leiden Rankings for its research excellence, ranked in the top 100 universities in the world. In the fields of social sciences and humanities, more researchers cite UEA work than that of any other university in the UK – illustrating its influence in these areas.

Perhaps even more significantly, the University is number one in this year’s Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey. That students are happiest at UEA out of any university in the UK is a fantastic achievement which caps the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary.

Ziggurat to re-launch

Ziggurat is set to become an annual publication, with extended coverage of University and alumni news.

Results from last year’s alumni survey indicated changes in the way that alumni want to receive news, prompting the rethink. Cutting out the UK-only spring issue, the magazine is due to re-launch in autumn 2014.

The new magazine will continue to feature stories from alumni and around the University, including highlights from the work done by UEA academics.

In the meantime, make sure you get the latest news and events by email – get in touch at alumni@uea.ac.uk to register for the monthly newsletter, eZiggurat.
Life on earth must end in 1.75bn years

Astrobiologists in the School of Environmental Sciences have estimated the habitable lifetime of planet Earth.

The team used the concept of a ‘habitable zone’ – the distance from a planet’s star at which temperatures are conducive to having liquid water on the surface – to make their estimate. They calculate that our planet will reach the edge of the habitable zone between 1.75 and 3.25 billion years from now. After that point Earth will be in the sun’s ‘hot zone’, with temperatures so high that the seas will evaporate.

Leading the study, Andrew Rushby explained: “Conditions for humans and other complex life will become impossible much sooner of course – and this is being accelerated by anthropogenic climate change. Humans would be in trouble with even a small increase in temperature, and near the end only microbes in niche environments would be able to endure the heat.”

A planet’s habitable lifetime is significant because it indicates potential for the evolution of complex life. The team applied the same method to eight other planets, including some of the 1,000 that have been discovered outside our solar system. The planet Gliese 581d was estimated to have massive habitable lifetime, between 42.4 and 54.7 billion years. “This planet may be warm and pleasant for 10 times the entire time that our solar system has existed!” Andrew explained.

However, should humans ever want to find an alternative home planet, Gliese 581d has a major drawback; with existing technology, reaching it would take hundreds of thousands of years. “If we ever needed to move to another planet, Mars is probably our best bet. It’s very close and will remain in the habitable zone until the end of the Sun’s lifetime – six billion years from now.”

Broccoli may protect against osteoarthritis

Eating broccoli may be the key to preventing or slowing the onset of the most common form of arthritis.

Research by Prof Ian Clarke and Dr Rose Davidson (School of Biological Sciences) has shown that sulforaphane, a compound found in broccoli, slows the destruction of cartilage in joints associated with painful and often debilitating osteoarthritis. The team discovered that sulforaphane blocks a key molecule known to cause inflammation.

Sulforaphane is released when eating cruciferous vegetables such as brussels sprouts and cabbage, but particularly broccoli. Previous research has suggested that sulforaphane has anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory properties, but this is the first major study into its effects on joint health.

The researchers found that mice fed a diet rich in this compound had significantly less cartilage damage and osteoarthritis than those that were not. Following this result, researchers are starting a small scale trial in osteoarthritis patients to see if broccoli has similar effects on human joints. If successful, they hope it will lead to funding for a large scale clinical trial to show the effect of broccoli on osteoarthritis, joint function and pain itself.

Leafcutter ants may offer new cancer treatments

Dr Matt Hutchings (School of Biological Sciences) is leading the development of new anti-cancer drugs using ants.

Dr Hutchings’ team have been working with South American leafcutter ants – the species best known for marching in single file carrying leaf sections twice their size. The ants do not eat the leaves fresh, but carry them underground where they decay, forming an edible fungus. To protect this food source from unwanted microbes and parasites and to regulate the growth of the fungus, the ants cultivate antibiotic-producing bacteria on their own bodies.

The team of UEA scientists has identified exactly how the antibiotic is produced, opening up the possibility of using this natural product as the basis for new drugs. Dr Hutchings said: “Although scientists have known about these antibiotics for more than 60 years, we’ve only recently identified two genetic pathways that are involved in making these molecules and we’re looking for still more.”

By understanding the genetic pathways involved in producing the antibiotics, the team aim to tweak the characteristics in favour of anti-cancer action, whilst protecting healthy cells. If their research is successful, the team would make cheap, large scale production of anti-cancer drugs possible.
New technology could help social anxiety sufferers

Newly developed virtual imaging technology could have benefits for social anxiety sufferers, according to new research by Dr Lina Gega (Norwich Medical School).

The technology uses video capture to project a life-size image of the participant into a specially scripted video scenario. More than 100 scenes have been created, covering social activities such as using public transport and socialising at a party. The virtual environments encourage participants to practice small-talk, maintain eye contact and resist safety behaviour such as looking at the floor or being hyper-vigilant.

A trial was conducted with six young men recovering from psychosis who also have debilitating social anxiety. They took part in the experiment as part of a 12-week Cognitive Behavioural Therapy course.

After the trial, two of the patients described the system as “surreal”, indicating that the out-of-body element of the technology may need more study.

For others, the “staged” feeling of the scenarios was a virtue. “It helped the participants question their interpretation of social cues,” said Dr Gega. “For example, if they thought that one of the characters was looking at them ‘funny’ they could immediately see that there must be an alternative explanation because the scenarios were artificial.”

The main benefit of the virtual scenarios was users being able to identify and change anxious behaviours in a safe, controlled environment. Participants were found to drop safety behaviours and take greater social risks.

Fathers work the longest, but not as long as they used to

Men with a partner and children at home work longer hours than other men in full time work, but the number of hours they work has declined, according to UEA research.

Three in 10 men in this family arrangement work 48 or more hours a week, down from four in 10 in 2001. 10 per cent work a 60-hour week or longer, down from 13 per cent a decade ago.

The same period has seen a significant decline in the proportion of fathers working “antisocial” hours. The share of those who never work evenings has risen from 33 to 52 per cent while those never working nights has risen from 66 to 76 per cent.

The hours worked by mothers who live with their partner and children have seen a smaller change. For mothers whose partners work full time, and who themselves work part time, average hours have slightly increased, from 17.7 to 18.2 hours per week. Mothers working full time, whose partners also work full time, have seen their hours remain stable at 39 hours per week, slightly lower than the average for all women working full-time, at 40 hours.

Prof Margaret O’Brien, co-director of the Centre for Research on Children and Families at UEA, said: “Our research suggests that fathers are spending less time at work and mothers are spending more. There may be a number of reasons for these changes, but the combination of this means that fathers are now more likely to be at home with their children and free to take a greater role in family life.”

Media Watch

Research by UEA academics makes headlines on a daily basis. Here’s a small selection of the stories that have been in the media spotlight in the past few months.

Prof Ian Bateman’s (School of Environmental Sciences) research indicated that current UK land use represents poor value for money, relative to EU subsidy levels. Telegraph, Scotsman, Guardian, Farmers Guardian and online

Dr Paul Bernal (Law School) commented on measures proposed by Prime Minister David Cameron to regulate access to online pornography. Independent, Financial Times, New Statesman, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio Lincolnshire, GQ and online

A research team led by Dr Mette Mogensen (School of Biological Sciences) announced a breakthrough in understanding cell development, with significant implications for cancer research. Radio Norfolk, BBC Breakfast East, Heart FM and online

Prof David S Richardson (School of Biological Sciences) was quoted for his part in a research project which showed that promiscuity can improve genetic quality in birds. Daily Mail online, Independent, The Australian, Yahoo news and elsewhere online

When Jane Heavens (EDU96) left her home town in Norfolk for university in the late 80s she thought it unlikely that she would be able to return. “Back then there were few opportunities for graduates in Norfolk, unless you wanted to go into finance,” she explained.

She read chemistry at the University of Oxford and continued there to do a DPhil in organic chemistry. With a doctorate under her belt she looked for opportunities to develop her career, but she also missed Norfolk. “There is a good quality of life in Norfolk,” she added. “Norwich has a lively arts scene, there are good sports facilities and the countryside and coastline are among the best that Britain can offer. I really wanted to come home.”

She decided to change her plans and retrained as a teacher, studying for a PGCE at the University of East Anglia. Following this, Jane taught chemistry and physics at the City of Norwich School.

At the same time, a number of developments were underway that would position the region as a world class centre of life science research. In 1992, the newly formed Norwich Research Park was officially launched, with the aim of bringing together a number of related research interests. The original members were the UEA Schools of Biological and Chemical Sciences, the John Innes Centre, the Institute of Food Research (IFR), the Sainsbury Laboratory and the British Sugar Technical Centre.

Interest and knowledge of the impact of nutrition on health was increasing and this created a focus and a differentiator for the Park. For example, the first food-health claim to be legitimised by the US Food and Drugs Administration came in 1997 when Quaker Oats successfully argued that ‘oats are good for you’. This was supported by scientific evidence from IFR.

It was again research from IFR which showed the wider benefits of fruit and vegetables on protecting health, providing the science behind the government’s ‘five a day’ campaign.

When the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital moved out of the city and relocated to the Norwich Research Park in 2001 this provided a new dimension, creating a clear pathway from research bench to patient bedside.

For Jane, growth of the Park opened up the possibility of returning to scientific research, this time within a commercial setting. “UEA scores highly in student satisfaction surveys and many want to stay in the city when they graduate. With the creation of the Norwich Research Park opportunities have arisen for the commercial exploitation of research originating from the University and the research institutes and this is providing new jobs for these graduates. Some of these companies are spinouts but others have been attracted here to work with scientists on the Park.”
Alumni and others interested in finding out more about the opportunities on the Norwich Research Park are warmly invited to contact Jane at jane.heavens@norwichresearchpark.com

“I saw the chance to use my knowledge of synthetic organic chemistry to work with one of the first start-ups on the Park.”

With her knowledge of research, academia and the requirements of early-stage companies, it was a natural progression for Jane to join the team managing the growth and development of the Park, and in 2008 she took the position of projects and communications manager.

“In 2011 we had a step change in our plans with a major injection of £26m by the Government to fund the development of a next generation science and research park. This includes an ambitious building programme to provide accommodation and collaborative meeting spaces for nurturing early stage businesses.

“We are also working to develop an entrepreneurial culture across the Park to encourage researchers to look for commercial opportunities for their work,” she explained.

We are also working to develop an entrepreneurial culture across the Park to encourage researchers to look for commercial opportunities for their work”

The new Enterprise Centre on the UEA campus aims to bring together teaching and learning facilities with work spaces. It will house an early-stage incubator for start-up businesses to provide opportunities for UEA graduates and encourage staff on the research park to start their own businesses.

A £1.8m “proof of concept” fund announced in June will provide vital funding to support the early stages of the translation of promising ideas and inventions. And work with investment networks has stimulated interest from high-net-worth individuals – who have previously developed their own enterprises – to mentor and support this next generation of entrepreneurs.

“This is an exciting time as the building programme and the associated economic development also creates opportunities for service industries,” Jane explained. “So we will see a ripple effect across the whole region.”

Alumni and others interested in finding out more about the opportunities on the Norwich Research Park are warmly invited to contact Jane at jane.heavens@norwichresearchpark.com
The pros and cons of early diagnosis in dementia
Dementia is an undeniable concern for ageing societies. If the predicted increases in life expectancy continue unabated, this will lead to a near doubling of the numbers of people with dementia in the UK within a quarter of a century, with a doubling of numbers expected every 20 years globally.

Governments have only relatively recently begun to address the challenge of this ‘failure of success’. In 2012 the US announced a national Alzheimer’s plan to prevent and effectively treat dementia by 2025. In the UK this attention led to a highly influential stocktaking of dementia across the country and to the Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia – a renewed effort to improve care for patients and enhance public awareness and engagement.

Public Awareness
The many awareness campaigns have been perceived to be successful, although the consequence of heightened population awareness has been increasing fear, particularly for those in later life. This has been fuelled by widely-stated estimates of the proportions of people living in the community with ‘undetected’ dementia. One of the results of this societal fear, as with cancer, is an emphasis on what can be done to prevent and detect the ‘disease’ earlier.

Unfortunately, dementia is not a disease but a syndrome. The clinical features that make up the diagnostic criteria are all continuous and affected by many other factors; in other words there is no magic test. It takes insight to recognise when an individual changes in ways that may herald dementia – either from the person affected or their family. Crucially, there also needs to be the perception that there is a value to seeking help. That value is often clear at the point of a crisis, when what may have been a relatively stable situation is disrupted by an event such as illness of a carer or the person with dementia. Understandably, at this point the health, social, and societal systems see a costly and distressing situation which early detection may have ‘prevented’. The gap between estimated numbers of dementia and the actual number a general practitioner (GP) may diagnose or have on a register. Many reasons have been given for this gap but the most compelling one may also fit the role of the GP: the judgement that, on the basis of evidence and experience, available interventions for that individual will do more harm than good. The harm, for example, of raising expectations of effective treatments which are not there.

Service Changes Lack Evidence
Such discussions bring us into the arena of the introduction of new services or change within the system. The UK has an envied evidence scrutiny system – the National Screening Committee – which has developed an internationally accepted set of criteria. This committee, and its equivalent in the US, has reviewed the evidence for the introduction of dementia screening and has failed at pretty well every hurdle, particularly for the dementia syndrome in the older old.

Given the current attention to and fear of dementia in the population what is likely to happen? What would happen when those who are keen to ‘screen’ systematically do so on a large scale in primary care attendees or particular groups? The first test is usually of cognitive performance – would a test be devised, valid for each particular age group, comorbidity, and educational level? If individuals performing below some threshold are then referred for imaging, which will incur considerable costs and concern, many will have ‘positive’ scans showing atrophy, vascular lesions, and, if advanced scanning, could show build-up of Alzheimer-related proteins. What is to happen to these people? Can we really tell them what their risk is of developing dementia within one, five or ten years with higher probability than we already know based on age? Do we have evidence-based therapies to offer them? How do we handle the increased demand for support; the feature which is most cited as being the reason for early diagnosis, which itself has never been tested in randomised controlled trials over reasonable periods? Will there be a diversion of resource away from other areas with a consequent impact on other services? It is likely that some people will benefit, but others will be harmed.

In the private sector, it is quite possible that a considerable market can be generated through capitalisation of fear of dementia and cognitive decline. Direct-to-consumer advertising already exists for cancer (specific insurance schemes) and stroke (carotid and risk screening). Could this happen with cognition? If test results are positive in some way, where will these individuals turn for support? In a publicly-funded system this will fall to their GP, who will therefore have less time for those who attend with existing concerns. In a private model these individuals may seek help elsewhere, paying for imaging and further tests. These may or may not provide reassurance or further indication of problems, but doing such tests is not, at present, justified on the basis of evidence. For some a remediable condition may be found, but as with general health screening, it will be impossible to say who has been harmed and who helped by such efforts.

Such questions can only be addressed through systematic research, which takes time. The need for this has been clear for a while and requires a strategic approach to where research for ageing populations will really provide tangible benefit over given time scales. There is no high quality research evidence for the benefit in diagnosing patients before the usual point of presentation.

The Need For Research
Surveys which are quoted as suggesting that the population is ready for screening miss an important fact: respondents are not told the state of current evidence and when questioned, many say they believe treatment and screening to be effective in terms of prevention. If a patient’s health is not enhanced by early diagnosis then this should not be forced on them. Now that the cart is rolling along independently there is a critical need to get the research horse out of the paddock and not only aligned but back in the traces. It is not too late to undertake research which could overcome the evidence gaps. Such research must be rigorous and must, if associated with potential commercial or vested interests, be independently evaluated. Only then can evidence presented be relied on and considered in healthcare reorganisation.

* This is not at all the same as reported delays in diagnosis when expressed problems are dismissed or ignored, which is a separate issue.

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Oral Histories

Dr Camilla Schofield
Lecturer in imperial history

Oral Histories is a project devised and produced by UEA students. In my second year of teaching British history at UEA, I asked eight students in my final year module to work together on an oral history project as part of their coursework.

This was 2011, a time when there was a great deal of concern about the coming increases in university tuition fees, and it was in this context that the students decided to research the first ten years of UEA. They wanted to think about 1963 and the years after as a moment when access to higher education greatly expanded due to university grants. They were also interested in what life was like at UEA in the 1960s and the social impact of UEA on the local community.

After training in interview techniques and an introduction to the wider history of the period, the students got underway with the project. They quickly realised that the coming 50th Anniversary was an excellent opportunity for self-reflection within the University. Students Charlotte Hennings (History) and Dolly Smith (History and English) went on local radio to publicise the project. The Annual Fund and the Alumni office provided much needed financial support and publicity. By the spring of 2012, over one hundred individuals had volunteered to be interviewed about their memories of the early years of UEA. Students, construction workers, architects, gardeners, administrators, academics and secretaries all had stories to tell.

In the 2012/13 academic year, new final year students continued the project. As a Springboard intern, James Robinson (International Relations and Modern History) helped organise dozens of interviews. Over forty interviews were completed, but unfortunately we have not been able to speak to everyone who volunteered.

Many of the memories that have been uncovered are surprising and often moving. Through the interviews, it became clear that UEA emerged at a moment when Britain was experiencing tremendous social and political changes. Modern methods in teaching, architecture and interdisciplinary methods were being tested for the first time. There is a sense in the interviews of great expectations. Of course, the cultural markers of class inequality had not totally eroded at this time, but some participants spoke of a sense of possibility and how they navigated their first steps in a longer personal story of social mobility. UEA seemed to represent in many individuals’ memories the optimism and possibilities of a particular post-war moment.

Of course, we relied on volunteers for the project, and found that those with positive memories of the University were more likely to step forward. We are not trying to claim that it is unbiased historical research. Nor was the project devised as a marketing tool for the University. It is a teaching project, a process of students and volunteers coming together to speak across a historical divide, in an effort to reveal the history of UEA from the bottom up.

For me, this process was critically important. As an early career researcher, often working alone, it provided a very special opportunity to collaborate with others in the University. In this sense, I felt that the project managed to capture, in a small way, the spirit of the early years of UEA, when the student population was small and the idea of the University was a shared goal.

In the summer of 2013, graduate intern Holly Butcher (FTM10) worked feverishly on transforming the audio recordings into an interactive website. We decided to create short audio clips, and turned them into a timeline, offering a single layered history out of many personal stories. With the help of the wonderful photographs made available online by such groups as BIO63, we were able to offer images and audio on the site. Along with the permanent collection at the Norfolk Record Office, this is the key output of the project.

We invite you to explore it now, at www.uea.ac.uk/50years/oral-histories

“Helping to develop the Oral Histories project has been both fascinating and educative, especially since the University was already familiar to me as a recent graduate. The most intriguing aspect has been hearing the contradictions between interviewees’ memories – both big and small. It has taught me that history is not just a singular term, but a plural one.”

Holly Butcher
(Film and English Studies)
project intern

“"It was interesting to observe the many similarities and differences between my experiences and those of Jackie, who I interviewed. I feel that the process has highlighted how privileged I was to study at UEA and the value of higher education.”

Helen Lee
(History)
student interviewer

“"I really enjoyed my interview. I found it fascinating how similar some aspects of life at UEA were back then, and how one man’s student experience and life can be looked upon as a microcosm of the social changes which defined his generation.”

Nathan Willcock
(History and Politics)
student interviewer

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Holly Butcher
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The first undergraduate students arrive.

1963

The School of Environmental Sciences opens with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of the environment, championed by Solly Zuckerman.

1967

Anti-royalists protest when Her Majesty the Queen visits the University. The late Prof Frank Thistlethwaite recalled the Queen noticing a banner reading "No to anarchy, yes to monachy" held by a group of students, and dryly commented “A pity our side can’t spell”.

1968

University House is built and the Student Bar and LCR are opened.

1973

Work begins on the UEA Broad, and continues for the next five years, involving the excavation of eighteen acres of gravel.

1978

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts opens.

1960s and 1970s

In 1963, based upon a prospectus containing only a photograph of a golf course and an intention to provide a liberal education and “do different”, 113 students became the first matriculating cohort at the new University of East Anglia. In September these intrepid students arrived on campus to study in one of the two Schools, Biology and English. However, with an interdisciplinary approach considered key to the new student experience at UEA, all classes were open to all students.

Under the direction of the first Vice-Chancellor, Prof Frank Thistlethwaite, the University of East Anglia also set out to look different. One of the more progressive architects of the era, Denys Lasdun, was briefed to design a university for 3,000 students on a sloping site of 272 acres. A modern set of interlocking concrete structures, the Ziggurats were finished in 1967. Almost 50 years on Lasdun’s completed designs are still greatly admired, their position in architectural history assured with a Grade II listing in 2003.

In 1970 the first Creative Writing course in the UK was established at UEA by Malcolm Bradbury and Angus Wilson, claiming Ian McEwan (EAS70), Kazuo Ishiguro (EAS79) and Tracy Chevalier (EAS93) amongst its graduate successes, as well as rising stars including Adam Foulds (EAS99) and Naomi Alderman (EAS02). Former professors of Creative Writing include UEA alumna and Chancellor Rose Tremain (EAS64), and Andrew Motion who went on to become Poet Laureate. Twice-yearly literary festivals continue to attract many distinguished writers to the University, and have welcomed Gore Vidal, Fay Weldon, Doris Lessing, Iris Murdoch and Harold Pinter.

In 1972 the Centre for Climatic Research was opened, founded by climatologist Hubert Lamb who gained attention during the 1970s for his warnings about global warming and climate change. UEA continues to be a leading figure in climate research.

The University continued to grow as The Street and Union House opened, along with the Student Union Bar and the LCR. Adding to the evolving campus, the Sir Norman Foster-designed Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts opened in 1978, providing a permanent home for The Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, which had been gifted to the University. The new and innovative building united the eclectic art collection, the School of Art History, a restaurant and senior common room all under one roof.

UEA students were determined to find their own voice, and in 1973 Concrete, the student newspaper which is in circulation today, made its first appearance (it was re-launched in 1992). Other student publications that have appeared over the years include Skop, Decanter, Phoenix, Chips, Can Opener, Mustard Magazine and Kett.
By the 1980s the University was establishing its reputation for excellence in arts and science. In 1989 The British Centre for Literary Translation was founded by WG Sebald, and the Arthur Miller Centre for American Studies was opened to encourage and facilitate the study of the United States. In 1995, honorary graduate Arthur Miller spent his 80th birthday at UEA. In spite of serious financial cuts to higher education in the early 1980s, UEA student numbers grew by some 50 per cent over the following ten years. In spite of the difficult financial climate, biochemistry, health education and environmental sciences flourished. Bolstering this success The Sainsbury Laboratory opened at the John Innes Centre in 1989, paving the way to the foundation of the Norwich Research Park (NRP), of which the University is a leading member. The work done by institutions across the NRP has secured the area’s reputation as one of the foremost centres for scientific research in the UK.

Extra-curricular activities have always been important to the student body, and in 1990 DJ and UEA honorary graduate John Peel opened Livewire, the University’s student radio station. It is now one of the longest running student radio stations in the country and helped to kick-start the career of presenter and BBC Radio One DJ Greg James (DRA04).

Continuing to widen the disciplines on offer to students, the UEA Drama Studio was opened in 1993, providing the campus with a professionally-equipped 200 seat, fully working theatre building and teaching space. The Studio was officially opened in 1994 by acclaimed actor and honorary UEA graduate Timothy West.

Prof Shirley Pearce leads a successful bid for a new medical school.

1980s, 1990s and 2000s

1981
The University merges with the Keswick Hall College of Education to form the School of Education.

1984
The Law School moves into Earlham Hall, former home of prison reformer Elizabeth Fry.

1984
Arthur Miller is made an honorary graduate of UEA.

1993
The Norwich Research Park is formally opened by local MP John MacGregor.

1994
The Queen’s Building is opened by Her Majesty the Queen. It is now home to the School of Rehabilitation Sciences.

1998
Prof Shirley Pearce leads a successful bid for a new medical school.
In 2007, the University of East Anglia launched a pioneering partnership with INTO, creating new opportunities for students wanting to improve their English ahead of applying to university. A £30m, five storey study centre opened on campus, comprising lecture theatres, classrooms, IT and science laboratories and 415 en-suite study bedrooms.

In 2008, the School of International Development was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education – the most prestigious higher education award in the UK. The honour came to UEA again in 2011, this time taken by the Creative Writing programme. A year later, Norwich became England’s first UNESCO City of Literature, one of only six in the world.

UEA is also a partner of the Norwich Writers’ Centre, which actively promotes and produces writing from the region.

The University continues to innovate and invest, building on its successes. In April of this year proposals were released to build a new medical research facility to be operated in partnership with the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital on the NRP, focused on finding new treatments for diseases affecting ageing populations. The building will be managed by UEA and provide state of the art laboratories for new research teams to undertake world class research into prostate cancer, antibiotic resistant disease, musculo-skeletal disease and gastrointestinal diseases.
Over 50 years, three generations of the Hampshire family have attended UEA, totalling seven students, two marriages and an engagement. What does the UEA connection mean to the Hampshire family?

What brought you to UEA?

Tricia: I chose UEA because the course was more exciting and innovative than those at traditional universities. Norwich offered seminars, language labs and the opportunity to learn a Scandinavian language – quite different from the old fashioned lecture system!

David: A friend of mine knew the Bishop of Norwich, Lancelot Fleming, and suggested I talk to him about the new university. I really liked the sound of it, went for an interview with Ian Watt and was duly accepted.

James: I’d heard so much about UEA from my family, it was a simple decision.

Clare: I was so pleased when James decided to go to UEA. As we were living overseas at the time, it was a great comfort to know both the University and the town, and we knew he would be happy and safe during his three years there.

Tell us about your time at UEA

David: I got involved in a lot, and became Vice-President of the Students’ Union with John Morrissey as President in 1965, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I even acted in The Crucible, the first play put on by the UEA dramatic society, alongside John Rhys-Davies and Geoff Lewis.

Clare: I have extremely fond memories of my time at UEA. The sometimes extreme weather of Norfolk played its part in our activities, with Pooh sticks and Pimm’s beside the lake in the summer, and freezing winds along the walkways and mulled wine in the Adam and Eve in the winter.

The most memorable professors for me were Diana Wood, who introduced me to the fascinating area of medieval history, Robert Ashton, terrifyingly expert on the English Civil War and of course John Charmley with his evening receptions with the “good” wine hidden under the table.

James: I thought UEA was a fantastic experience. We lived in Botswana until recently, so coming to UEA was a big change. It gave me a lot of freedom and life was very different – especially nightlife. There are a lot of pubs in Norwich and plenty of really good ale.

What did you make of nightlife at UEA?

David: For much of our entertainment we would go into Norwich. There was a memorable pub called the Jolly Butchers where a large lady called Anna used to sing some ribald songs to crowded and smoky rooms. It was a very enjoyable time.

Clare: Of the bands who visited I most clearly remember seeing the Pogues and, off campus, the wonderful Rowan Atkinson in his one man show. Discos at the Barn were also a memorable feature of our first few terms.

Kirstie: They had some excellent bands play during my time, and it was the start of the ABBA resurrection with the tribute band Bjorn Again. My most memorable night out was in final year, when I went to the Law Ball with a whole group of friends.
What were the big issues of the day?

David: The University wasn’t that radical in the first few years. I speak as someone who became Chairman of the Conservative Club, and hosted a meeting with Edward Heath which was very well attended. It was very ‘rational’ – people listened, asked questions and whether they agreed or disagreed, it was all good natured.

Rupert: I was there in the Thatcher years, and there was a very strong left-wing feeling at the University at the time. The Socialist Workers Party were very vocal on campus trying to convince us communism was the best way to go. But the major issue was that the University used to supply the dreadful toilet roll that was some sort of slimy plastic. There was a huge campaign called the ‘comfy bum’ campaign, which actually did result in the University providing some proper paper!

David, what was it like being one of the first students at a new University?

It was exciting because you knew you were starting something completely from scratch. The relationship with the staff was very close and there was a feeling that we as the new students, and they as the faculty of a new University, all had a very genuine and positive interest in how this University was going to develop. For me, professors like Robert Shannon, Bob Ashton, Nicolas Brooke and James Jones were all important. We had very warm relationships, and very productive ones too, both in terms of social and academic life.

What's the future for the Hampshire family at UEA?

Kirstie: I made friends for life at UEA and am still in touch with most of my best friends and housemates.

Rupert: I thoroughly enjoyed my time at UEA, and met my wife there of course. Now James has finished his course at UEA and as for our other son, who knows?

James: UEA was a great experience for me and I really enjoyed my time there. I’ve still got friends who are planning on staying in Norwich, so I’ll visit as often as I can.

Read the full interview at: https://netcommunity.uea.ac.uk/meet-the-hampshires
Where are they now?

Have you ever wondered what happened to those friends and acquaintances from the University of East Anglia?

To send us your update, use Where Are They Now online at www.uea.ac.uk/alumni or complete the enclosed form. You can also email us at alumni@uea.ac.uk.

1960s

Jill Arnold née Slaney (EAS65)
I had a varied career in museums, lecturing and textile art, and recently gained an MA in Textile Culture in Norwich. I left London for Norfolk in 1999 and am married with one daughter.

Nikki Bennett (EUR67)
Retired and living in Winnal, supporting creative arts for wellbeing, local poetry events and women's issues. See www.nikkibennettpoems.com.

Ken Rignall (EUR67)
I am in semi-retirement from what originally we called HM Customs & Excise. I am in my 39th year on the job and have been involved in nearly every aspect of the work. I am married with two children, Usha, 29, and Paul, 26.

Dick Banker (SOC68)
I’ve worked 40 years for the civil service, and am now semi-retired. I’ve been active in the union, do amateur writing and brought up my daughters.

Sheila Greenacre (EUR72)
After leaving Norfolk Constabulary, having three children and working for Natwest for a while, I retrained as a accountant, then project manager, then active underwriter of a Lloyd’s syndicate. Bizarrely, thanks to industry regulations, quite helpful for this!

Clare Bolithe (BIO70)
I went on to do a veterinary degree after 1970s and brought up my daughters.

Clive Jones (SOC89)
I was a freelance writer for LOCOG (London Olympics 2012), and scriptwriter for a short film screened at Cannes, Short Film Corner. I’m working on a feature film script with a US film production company.

Rob Tarry (SYS83)
After qualifying I became a chartered accountant, then project manager, then freelance for 10 years and am now a training provider and very happy!

1970s

Clare Green (EDU83)
I’m happily settled in Guernsey; married, four teenaged kids, run my own small financial services business and overall fairly content!

Michael Lancaster (EDU87)
Part time primary school teacher and professional artist www.mikelancasterportraits.co.uk.

Karen Hollingdale (EUR74)
I retired from teaching after 32 years, now living in Devon by the sea and pursuing lots of different activities.

Simon Leather (BIO77)
I’m now professor of entomology at Harper Adams University, heading up the new Centre for Integrated Pest Management.

Dave Food (ENV79)
I am now a European business development director for a supply chain at Oracle. I’m enjoying the cut and thrust of the marketplace, evangelising on the supply chain and bringing a prophetic edge to solution processes – whilst also leading a church in Egham.

Christopher Hale (DEV80)
I’m working for UKTI to attract foreign direct investment into the UK. My specialisation is advanced engineering.

John Waite (EUR80)
I am a caretaker for Norwich City Council, due to retire in November 2018. I have lived in Norwich since graduation.

Simon Withers (EUR81)
I have been a cycling journalist for nearly 20 years, initially employed by Future Publishing. I test bikes, write features and interviews. For the past 18 months I’ve worked as a cycling journalist in a freelance capacity.

David Wiles (ENV82)
I am an environmental consultant in the Infrastructure Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Public Works, implementing World Bank and other donor funded road infrastructure projects in Liberia.

Gillian Attwood née Hughes (EAS73)
Recently retired from being a head of English, I moved to Hastings, to do all the things I’ve not done, and care for my elderly mother.

Stephen Sklair (EAS73)
I am a producer/director/camera/editor, and have just finished directing a feature documentary.

Ann Whiting (EAS89)
I took up the post of head of the tourism academic group at Bournemouth University in June 2013. I remember my time as a ‘mature student’ in DEV with great fondness and appreciate that this set me up on an academic career.

Kate Williams (AHM84)
Working as a freelance jazz pianist and composer, teaching at the University of Middlesex. See www.kate-williams-quartet.com.

1980s

Philip Long (EAS84)
I took up the post of head of the tourism academic group at Bournemouth University in June 2013. I remember my time as a ‘mature student’ in DEV with great fondness and appreciate that this set me up on an academic career.

Michael Lancaster (EDU87)
Part time primary school teacher and professional artist www.mikelancasterportraits.co.uk.

John Bainbridge (EUR89)
Still writing and visiting Norfolk, published two books this year: Rambling - The Beginner's Bible and The Compleat Trespasser and working on my novel which will hopefully be out by Christmas.

Karen Hollingdale (EUR74)
I retired from teaching after 32 years, now living in Devon by the sea and pursuing lots of different activities.

Liz Withington née Peters (EDU83)
After several years teaching in Germany, I have returned to Sheringham. My two boys are now in high school.

David Wiles (ENV82)
I am an environmental consultant in the Infrastructure Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Public Works, implementing World Bank and other donor funded road infrastructure projects in Liberia.

Cathy Garner (BIO83)
After graduating, I did a couple of years in a lab, but decided to leave science mainly because bacteria don’t stop growing at weekends. I’m now the active underwriter of a Lloyd’s syndicate. Bizarrely, thanks to industry regulations, a knowledge of genetics was actually quite helpful for this!

Rob Tarry (SYS83)
After qualifying I became a chartered accountant, then project manager, then freelance for 10 years and am now a training provider and very happy!

Karen Hollingdale (EUR74)
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Rob Tarry (SYS83)
After qualifying I became a chartered accountant, then project manager, then freelance for 10 years and am now a training provider and very happy!

1990s

Lynda Williams née Wright (EDU02)
I was a freelance writer for LCOOG (London Olympics 2012), and scriptwriter for a short film screened at Cannes, Short Film Corner. I’m working on a feature film script with a US film production company.

1960s

Jill Arnold née Slaney (EAS65)
I had a varied career in museums, lecturing and textile art, and recently gained an MA in Textile Culture in Norwich. I left London for Norfolk in 1999 and am married with one daughter.

Nikki Bennett (EUR67)
Retired and living in Winnal, supporting creative arts for wellbeing, local poetry events and women’s issues. See www.nikkibennettpoems.com.

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Mentoring programme sees success

UEA students are turning to alumni for careers tips through the mentoring programme, with benefits for both sides.

Taking part in the UEA mentoring programme has given BSc Management student Ella Ferguson a head start on her dream career in human resources.

“I was after some basic tips and information on the sector, including different career paths” she said of her motivation to join the programme. “However, I ended up gaining so much more. I feel that I stand out from my competitors now when I go for a job interview, as I know so much on my favourite subject area and I am much more aware of my strengths and weaknesses.”

Being a mentor also brings rewards, as Helen Band (HIS05) explained: “I remember the difficult time after graduation trying to find the right career direction – easing that transition for someone else is very worthwhile.” Helen helped her mentee, a second year student, in communicating her strengths: “The students often already have skills and experience, but need support translating academic study into skills appreciated by employers.”

Solicitor James has also enjoyed mentoring and encourages other alumni to get involved: “If you’re someone who enjoys helping people to get onto the career ladder or find their direction in life, it’s definitely something you’ll find rewarding.”

The programme is currently recruiting mentors for this academic year. All alumni are invited to take part, as are non-alumni professionals.

For more information, visit: www.uea.ac.uk/business/students/student-mentoring

Friend finder

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following people, please could they ask them to contact the Alumni office at alumni@uea.ac.uk, as one of their University friends would like to get in touch.

Janine Ainscough (AHM87)
David Burton (ENV79)
Karen Garrett (ENV79)
Richard Hart (EUR66)
Ian King (EAS71)
Philip Minns (EAS68)
Fatima Muhhammed (SOC96)
Amanda Norris (EUR82)
Clement Smith (EUR88)
Grant Urbani (BIO79)
David Willshire (ENV79)

Ella Ferguson, BSc Management student

2010s

David Hayes (LAW10)
After obtaining my LLM from UEA in International Business and Commercial Law I moved to Atlanta, Georgia and began practicing law. I maintain a general litigation and corporate practice, and I am particularly interested in developing an international business specialty. In the last year I have become involved in representing corporate interests before Georgia’s legislature, or as we call it in the US “lobbying”.

Jenny Corser (EDU03)
I’ve been teaching for six years. I recently got married and we have a baby called James Miles.

Helen Mandley (BIO03)
After graduating in ecology in 2006 and my Master’s in Applied Ecology and Conservation in 2010, I now have a fantastic position at the Norfolk Rivers Trust as a farming and water projects officer. I work with the farming community on the River Nar helping to improve water quality through river restoration.

Sarah Caston (MED04)
I have been working as an A&E doctor in a government-run hospital in KwaZulu Natal, north of Durban in South Africa. I got married in September to a fellow doctor.

Simon Rees (ECO07)
I’m a financial adviser based in Suffolk and Cambridge. I manage wealth for a range of high net worth clients, private and corporate.

Lara Bailey (BIO08)
I am currently studying BSc Adult Nursing at the University of Worcester. I’m in my second year and enjoying the interaction with my patients.

Laura Brockway (MUS09)
Having completed my music undergrad and going into the primary PGCE, I take up my first teaching post in London in September – living my dream!
Alumni News

Alumni collaborate for The Difference Campaign film
Joyce Griffin
Development Manager

To celebrate the launch of The Difference Campaign, the Development office decided to produce a film in collaboration with a number of alumni.

A head of the official launch on 17 September at The Century Club in Soho, we commissioned a film to explain the aims of the ambitious new fundraising campaign and capture what’s special about UEA. Considering the University’s ‘do different’ motto, we felt that a serious monologue might not do the trick.

With the ‘do different’ brief in mind, we decided to involve UEA alumni at every stage of the making of the film. John Skinner (LAW97), freelance graphic designer, and Graeme Byrne (DEV98), director of development at UEA, met with Alex Morris (FTV06) and Saunders Carmichael Brown (FTM10) of Norwich-based production company Lambda Films, and it was clear that as alumni they quickly grasped and shared our vision for the film.

However, before they could get on with making the film they needed a script. Not having made a film before, we were advised to contact Val Taylor, director of screenwriting at UEA. Val quickly agreed to get involved and drafted in the help of Tom O’Sullivan, a talented postgraduate student in the School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing, to write the script. As soon as Val suggested that the UEA rabbits might help to capture our character we could see things taking shape.

With a script in hand we turned to some of our better-known alumni to bring it to life. Fortunately, UEA has a great many wonderful alumni to choose from and we quickly enlisted the help of Carol Bundock (EAS86), Greg James (DRA04), Philip Mould (FAM78), John Rhys-Davies (ENG63) and Martin Tyler (SOC64). Philip kindly allowed us the use of his Mayfair gallery to make the recordings and the highlight of this part of the process came when we were fortunate enough to witness John and Martin’s reunion, both of whom were at UEA in its earliest days. Stories, the majority of which cannot be published, were exchanged and we felt privileged to share that time with two of our best known alumni.

Simultaneously, the team at Lambda were putting together the animation, and we began looking for suitable background music for the film. This was made easier by the help of Shabs Jobanputra (SOC86) at Sony who, through Ugly Truth Records and Newton Faulkner, was able to arrange for us to use what we felt was the ideal sound.

With everything in place, and hours of hard work from the excellent John Skinner, it was left to Lambda Films to complete the film, which can be found at www.uea.ac.uk/difference. We hope you’ll take a look! To all those alumni who were involved in making the film, an enormous thank you, and we look forward to working with you in future campaigns.

Cartoonist Stephen’s take on UEA 50

Stephen Collins (SOC98) is a cartoonist whose work regularly appears in The Guardian and other publications worldwide.

His debut graphic novel The Gigantic Beard That Was Evil was published earlier this year and has been nominated for Waterstones Book of the Year 2013. He drew the cover for our Anniversary magazine (right).

“University was an academic theme park, where each course unit was a different ride (‘Ooh let’s go on the Creative Writing!’), and you never had to go home. The whole time was an enormous privilege,” said Stephen. He worked on Concrete during his time at UEA and said: “It was a need to prettify the pages I was editing that made me produce my first proper illustrations, and this hobby later became my career. Concrete, and UEA in general, was a great place to try vocations on for size.” Stephen added: “There’s no degree in being a ‘graphic novelist’ at UEA, but it’s turned out that all the writing, reading, thinking, editing and drawing I did there was essential training for what I do now. I had the best time and made lifelong friends. My abiding memory of UEA is laughing. It was a wonderful time.”

Alan Schmidt commemorative poster

When Alan Schmidt (AHM68) arrived at UEA in 1968 his ambitions were threefold: “get a great band together, design as many posters as possible and endeavour to make time for a little art history on the side”.

He began designing posters for bands booked by the Student Union and has gone on to a career in art and design spanning four decades. ‘Hazy Days and Strange Scenes at the Culture Factory’ is Alan’s commemorative poster for the 50th Anniversary.

Limited edition prints of the poster and a set of 10 postcards of original Alan Schmidt 1970s gig posters are available to purchase online at: http://netcommunity.uea.ac.uk/alan-schmidt-anniversary-artwork.
Clockwise from bottom left:
Malcolm Bradbury,
Kazuo Ishiguro (EAS79),
Baroness Amos (ARE78),
Ian McEwan (EAS70),
Gurinder Chadha (DEV79),
Benedict Allen (ENV78),
Rose Tremain (EAS64),
Sir Paul Nurse (BIO70),
Matt Smith (LIT02),
Karen Jones (EAS75)
The rise of digital publishing
Rachel Hore

Many writers and publishers, however, are beginning to move beyond the jaded argument of paper versus pixels. This year, with The Kills by Richard House, the Man Booker Prize judges have for the first time nominated a novel with digital origins. It’s actually four novels intertwined and first appeared as multimedia content on Twitter and Facebook, experimenting with the boundaries of the book and taking its audience into the lives of its characters beyond the page.

For new writers digital possibilities offer invigorating and liberating challenges to the creative imagination. Moreover, although the resources and distributive reach of traditional publishers are still a crock of gold for many, self-publishing on social media, dedicated forums, in ebook or plain old print is easy and comparatively cheap, and also beginning to lose the stigma of the vanity publishing label. But significant challenges remain. Making one’s voice heard amongst the cacophony and making a living out of writing are foremost amongst them.

Rachel Hore is a tutor in creative writing and publishing in the School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing. Her new novel The Silent Tide is out now.

Alumni find new opportunities through digital publishing

The rise of digital publishing has opened new doors for creative writing graduate Johnny Rich (EAS98) and publisher Caroline Goldsmith (SOC97). In April of this year, Johnny’s novel The Human Script was launched, the first publication under new digital imprint Red Button Publishing.

Johnny wrote The Human Script whilst completing the MA in Creative Writing at UEA in 1999. The book was met with high praise from Ian McEwan, Malcolm Bradbury, WG Sebag and Andrew Motion and upon graduation Johnny was signed up to the Curtis Brown Literary Agency. When Johnny approached the new company with his manuscript, it was an immediate ‘yes’ from the team.

Visit www.redbuttonpublishing.net to download The Human Script.

Bookshelf

Here is a selection of works by alumni and staff which have recently been published.

Fiction
Steve Clough (SYS81)
Bubbles
Lulu (Kindle version)
April 2013

Alix Hawley (EAS01)
All True Not a Lie In It
Knopf (Canada)
March 2015

Rachel Hore (LDC)
The Silent Tide
Simon and Schuster
September 2013

Janette Jenkins (EAS94)
Firefly
Chatto and Windus
June 2013

Johnny Rich (EAS98)
The Human Script
Red Button Publishing
April 2013

Poetry
Richard Bonfield (DEV77)
Wildness, Animals in their Habitats
Coypu Publications
July 2012

Jenna Butler (LIT04)
Seldom Seen Road
NeWest Press
April 2013

Andrea Holland (LDC)
Broadcasting
Gatehouse Press
April 2013

Nicolas Hundley (EAS99)
The Revolver in the Hive
Oxford University Press
March 2013

Michael Miller (EAS02)
The First Thing Mastered
Tebot Bach
September 2013

Megan Young and Merrilyn Thomas (EUR66)
Wordsmith: The Gift of a Soul
Mediar Tree Publishing
July 2013

Non-Fiction
Mark Cocker (EAS78)
Birds and people
Jonathan Cape
August 2013

Eileen Crawley (SOC70), Stephen Swales and David Walsh
Introduction to international human resource management
Oxford University Press
March 2013

Simon P Hammond (PSY)
and Neil J Cooper (PSY)
Digital life story work: Using technology to help young people make sense of their experiences
British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF)
February 2013

Rosemary Irish (EAS71)
From her own correspondent
Janus Publishing
August 2013

David Rawlins (EAS81)
Occasions
Kimblewick Press
October 2012

Martin Rose (CHE81) and Alwyn Fernandes (CHE83) (eds)
Persistent organic pollutants and toxic metals in foods
Woodhead Publishing
May 2013

Neil Storey (HS80)
Little book of death
History Press
March 2013

David Wilcock (EUR77)
Collaborating for results: Silo working and relationships that work
Gower
July 2013
Alumni Events

Founding cohort reunited after 50 years

For the students who took the brave step of enrolling at a brand new university, a special reception was held on Friday 27 September, the eve of the Anniversary Festival. A panel discussion was held to ask whether the University has held true to its founding values, and a dinner was organised to give the original UEA students a chance to catch up. “The reunion and the Festival were truly memorable and exceedingly well organised and I am sure will go down as a milestone in the University’s history” said Simon Littlejohn (BIO63).

Read more online at: https://netcommunity.uea.ac.uk/1963-alumni-reception

Global 50 Years Reunion

The 50th Anniversary celebrations were truly global, with over 50 reunions planned around the world. Alumni got together in cities from Sydney to Shanghai, San Francisco to Singapore, catching up and sharing memories of UEA. “UEA was the greatest life experience. I’m grateful for all the wonderful memories and friends from all over the world. Happy 50th Anniversary UEA!” said one Mexico City guest.

None of it would have been possible without the generosity and dedication of the alumni who volunteered to organise a party.

Read more at https://netcommunity.uea.ac.uk/sslpage.aspx?pid=1430

Upcoming events

The UEA London Lecture series

Alumni are invited to UEA London to hear from some of the University’s leading researchers on their fields of expertise.

30 JANUARY
Prof David Russell (School of Chemistry) will discuss his work using gold nanoparticles to fight cancer.

3 APRIL
Prof Yvan Guichaoua (School of International Development) explores Saharan politics, taking the example of the takeover of northern Mali by Islamists in 2012.

10 JULY
Prof William Fraser (Norwich Medical School) will examine the importance of vitamin D, which is linked with preventing problems such as multiple sclerosis, cardiovascular disease, cancer, auto-immune disease and mental health problems.

All events are free and open to alumni and guests. Book online at https://netcommunity.uea.ac.uk/uea-london-lecture-series.

ThoughtOut project

‘Humanities for humanity’s sake’ is the motto of the ThoughtOut lecture series, which returns this autumn.

10 DECEMBER
Guardian journalist Luke Harding will discuss his new book on Edward Snowden, while the spring season will include talks on ethics and nursing, fascism and cults.

Visit www.thoughtoutproject.com to find out more and buy tickets, which are £5. All events are held at UEA London.

Open days

Prospective students are invited to visit campus to find out what makes UEA special. Next year’s undergraduate open days will be held on 21 June, 5 July and 13 September. A huge range of open days for individual courses, postgraduate study and UEA London are held throughout the year.

Visit www.uea.ac.uk/study/open-days to find out more.

More events

For all upcoming events at UEA visit www.uea.ac.uk/events or email events@uea.ac.uk to join the What’s On mailing list.

Obituary dates

The Alumni office is sad to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

Andrew ‘Snoo’ Wilson (EAS66)
Moira Walker née McCredie (SOC67)
Peter Armstrong (EAS71)
Nick Rayns (DEV76)
Gordon Simpson (EUR76)
John Withington (ENV83)
Ann Kerr (EDU84)
Gail O’Rourke née Clucas (EDU87)
Susan Forrest née Gore (LAW89)
Emma Bolton née Swift (EAS94)
Jonathan Cook (NAM00)
David Holmes (SYS00)
Carlos Almaraz-Calderon (CHE04)
Adam Savory (FTV05)
Sean Barrow (MED06)
Tristan Clark (LAW09)

The University also regrets to announce the deaths of the following members of staff:

Emeritus Prof Peter Aston
Former head of the School of Music.

Emeritus Prof Sandy McKillop
Former professor and head of organic chemistry.

Emeritus Prof Michael Sanderson
Former professor of history and a leading authority on the history of UEA.

Emeritus Prof Hassell Smith
Former professor of English history and founder of the landscape history programme.

Walter Tyack
Former director of the Audio Visual Centre at UEA.
Feature

The 50th Anniversary Festival – A day to remember

A landmark as significant as the 50th anniversary should be celebrated in style.

An estimated 10,000 people came to the Anniversary Festival on Saturday 28 September. With over 100 activities on offer, campus buzzed as students, staff, alumni and the public enjoyed panel discussions, science demonstrations, hands-on activities, drama, music and even a bake off. For alumni, the day offered reunions and reminiscence as well as a chance to learn about life at UEA today. At the Big Top Party celebrations went on into the small hours with comedy, cabaret and music on the bill. The Festival showcased what the University does best and gave UEA friends and supporters a wonderful day. Here is a small selection of the highlights.

Alumni activities

Hundreds of alumni flocked to the Council Chamber, where reunions for each decade’s graduates were underway throughout the day. The Alumni Zone was particularly busy for the 1960s and 70s reunions, with guests able to catch up with their former classmates, share their memories of UEA days on the ‘memory board’ and browse the archive of photos, magazines and memorabilia from the University’s history. Each School also threw an informal reception for alumni, allowing graduates to find out more about the work going on at UEA today.

Other daytime activities

A full day’s programme of alumni drama, comedy, poetry, readings and rap delighted audiences at the Fringe Festival. The eccentric John Kearns (DRA05) reprised his absurd comedy show Sight Gags for Perverts, which won him the title of ‘Best Newcomer’ at this year’s Edinburgh Fringe Festival. A masterclass in storytelling came from Molly Naylor (LIT07), performing her show My Robot Heart. After regaling the crowds with tales from his own days as a UEA student, comedian Arthur Smith (EAS73) took on a dramatic role in a French rendition of Beckett’s Fin de partie as Hamm.

The star of the show, however, had to be honorary graduate and comedian Eddie Izzard, who performed an intimate show in the Drama Studio in the evening. Eddie raised the roof in the 160 seat venue, with his show Stripped performed exclusively in French. Despite the show being a late addition to the programme, tickets sold out in a matter of hours.

Dr Stephen Ashworth (School of Chemistry), delighted audiences with his interactive show Kitchen Science, bringing scientific principles to life using everyday household items.

Student societies demonstrated their activities in the Square, with everything from ultimate frisbee to trampolining. It was also a perfect opportunity for them to show off their skills to the new students, who arrived on campus the week before.

A team from the School of Environmental Sciences presented their interactive exhibit A Pinch of Salt, demonstrating the role of salt in the oceans.

In the Little Big Top, children learned how to make puppets and design gory zombie wounds and even had the chance to dress up as a UEA graduate.

The LCR played host to two very special
performances during the day. Visitors were invited to join the UEA Choir and the UEA Symphony Orchestra and given 45 minutes to rehearse before performing to the assembled crowds. Audiences were treated to a rendition of the finale of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, and to a poignant performance of the 50th Anniversary Composition by Emeritus Prof Peter Aston, who had sadly passed away only weeks earlier.

The School of Biological Sciences opened up its labs for a variety of hands-on activities. Visitors had the chance to extract and examine their own DNA, learn more about evolution and find out how crystals grow. Guests were treated to a screening of films made by International Development and History students in collaboration with Postcode Films to showcase Norfolk life. From Cromer crabbing to bell ringing, the films highlighted unique aspects of the region’s culture. “I’ve lived in Norfolk all my life and am a UEA graduate, yet I gained a lot of insight into both Norfolk and UEA from the beautiful films today” commented one viewer.

The Inspiring Ideas activities offered visitors a chance to hear about the latest academic thinking from experts in the field. Prof Corrine Le Quéré presented the most up-to-date academic thinking on climate change in a 15 minute session, with one attendee describing the talk as “cutting edge, straight up informative”. Prof Yvonne Tasker chaired a panel featuring distinguished alumni from the world of television to discuss the future of the BBC with questions and comments from the audience. “The panel was excellent and most of the questions from the floor were thought provoking – many opposing opinions were expressed” commented one visitor.

Firework volcano
The Norfolk Firework Volcano heralded the end of the daytime activities with a truly spectacular blaze of pyrotechnics. Summoned to Waveney Mound by Japanese taiko drummers, the gathered spectators then heard from actor John Rhys-Davies (ENG63) who read from the Philip Pullman novel The Firework Maker’s Daughter, as the Norfolk Firework Volcano began to rumble into life. Fireworks were used to recreate the stages of an eruption, complete with “lava” and culminating in a huge display.

Evening activities
In the evening, alumni, staff, students and other friends of UEA got together in the Festival Big Top, decorated with larger than life pink sparkly flamingos and an eight-foot-tall pineapple glitter ball. Comedian and alumna Nina Conti (SOC92) had the crowds in stitches with her ventriloquist act, calling on volunteers from the audience to help bring her puppets to life. DJ and presenter Mark Lamarr got the crowds warmed up and ready for the headline act, 80s funk wonders Kid Creole and the Coconuts. Meanwhile in the cabaret tent, Norwich favourites the Bo Nanafana Social Club organised a night with everything from hula-hooping to burlesque.
Selections from the 50th Anniversary Memory Wall

“Placed sixth at the 2011 Intervarsity dance competition doing waltz and quickstep for UEA with my girlfriend Amy during my PhD. Great feeling to be representing UEA nationally.”

Paul McNaughter (CHE03)

“Going to Venice with Sandy Heslop in 1985 for FAM course (now would be ART). Fantastic!”

Maggie Whiteley née Evans (AHM84)

“Oh UEA is wonderful!”

Anonymous

“I remember several years working in the Union bars – cracking company and some excellent gigs!”

Mary Potsig née Forsyth (EUR88)

“They say that university is among the best days of your life… and they’re not wrong. I will always cherish my time at UEA.”

James Mower (LCS07)

“Meeting friends for life and my lovely boyfriend – LCRs, film screenings and meeting the world and its wife in the Hive!”

Stacey Armes (ART05)

“I was one of the second year to live in the new University Village. I always remember ‘Alan’s van’ – a gentle entrepreneur selling staples from his converted ice cream van”

James Phillips (EUR95)