#tweeeasy

Social media and the law
The last six months of University life have given me much upon which to update you.

I am delighted to say that since the last edition of Ziggurat we have experienced another successful graduation week; for the first time the ceremonies were streamed on the giant screen in the city centre and I am told that passers-by stopped to join in the applause. In the last issue, I told you of our encouraging application figures for 2011 entry. As this issue reaches you, we will be welcoming 2,838 new students to campus to begin their degrees. Our open days this summer saw more people than ever visit campus to see what the University has to offer and I hope we conveyed to them both the inherent value of higher education and all that makes this University so special. In particular I would like to thank those alumni who gave their time to come and represent UEA.

It has now been confirmed that the University will set its fee at £3,020 per year from 2012. An article on page nine of Ziggurat will tell you more about how we reached this decision as well as taking a look at responses from some of our alumni.

Recognising the challenging times that face us, the University has undertaken a significant project to make its support services less complex, more expensive and, we believe, more responsive. One result of the project has been the development of new “Hubs” across campus from which services such as registration and responses to course queries will be delivered, giving our students the kind of welcome of which UEA is justifiably proud.

The March Budget saw a very welcome fillip when it was announced that the Norwich Research Park was chosen, along with its Cambridge equivalent, to receive investment of £26m to accelerate commercialisation of the wealth of research generated by UEA and its BBSRC and NHR partners. The University had already resolved to update our official address to include the line ‘Norwich Research Park’ in order to underline the importance of the Research Park to us, the significance of our partnerships with the Norwich and Norwich University Hospital, the John Innes Centre, the Institute for Food Research, the Sainsbury Laboratory and the Genome Analysis Centre, and the growing prominence of the NRP’s work both nationally and internationally. The long-awaited White Paper on the future of British higher education appeared in July. Many of you will have heard reports in the media about its impact on the sector and we will have wondered how it will affect UEA. Important details are as yet unsettled, but the impact will be far-reaching, not least because it is designed to intensify competition for students between universities. Two mechanisms are proposed. The first is to hold an auction for some student places in which only institutions whose average fee is below £7,000 are permitted to bid. The second mechanism is to allow universities who recruit students with the highest A level grades to increase their student numbers – at the expense of those who have attracted such students in the past but in future to fail to do so.

The implications for UEA of these two mechanisms are branching. In order to compensate for the number creamed off us for auction below £7,000, we need to increase the number of very well qualified students we recruit in 2012. It is encouraging that that number has been rising fast. Another aspect of Government policy that is set to have a profound impact on the sector is the attempt to curb net migration. You will recall that I touched upon this critical issue in my last letter for Ziggurat. Since then, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has agreed to regular meetings with the Universities UK Group which I chair on the subject, but changes to the student visa system continue to be an area for concern for all UK universities.

If we wish to see our campus communities remain centres of international academic and cultural exchange, and to see our universities serve as key economic engines of growth, we must ensure that immigration policies do not hinder our ability to recruit the best students and staff from all over the world. It is an area upon which I am working closely with UKSA and UKG, and one upon which I shall no doubt report again in future letters.

With very best wishes.
The wilful ignorance that has dragged the US to the brink

The Tea Party version of the American Revolution is not just fundamentalist. It is also Disneyfied, sentimentalised and whitewashed.

Here’s a monumental historical irony: a moment in the origins of the United States that every American school child learns to view with pride, the Boston Tea Party, has now become a symbol of our (inter) national shame. In one sense, it is difficult to know what to say in response to the utter irrationality of the Tea Party’s self-destructive decision to sabotage the American political process—and thus its own economy, and the global economy. Last week, while the US government was locked in stalemate and risked defaulting on its national debt for the first time in its history (and thus also defying the Constitution that Tea Partiers supposedly hold sacred, which declares in the 14th Amendment that it is illegal for Congress to default), Michelle Bachmann instructed her followers not to listen to those who attempted to ‘scare’ them with untruths that the US would default if it didn’t raise the debt ceiling. When, of course, that is precisely what it would have done. But the Tea Party has never let facts get in the way of its belief system, and now that belief system is genuinely threatening the well-being of the nation they claim to love.

Mottos are supposed to express a philosophy: in so far as the Tea Party can be said to have anything so elevated as a philosophy, their motto is quite telling. They are one of the most inaccurately named movements in American political history, but that inaccuracy is its chief emblem of the party’s adamant ignorance. Any American school child can tell you the motto of the historical Boston Tea Party from which they take their name—and they mistakenly believe— their inspiration: “No taxation without representation.” Impotent with those extra two words, evidently, the Tea Party has truncated this proposition to something simpler: “No taxation.” Never mind that the US has among the lowest levels of taxation in the developed world, matched only by Mexico and Chile (are these the nations the Tea Party would like to emulate?). Never mind that the nation’s actual Founding Fathers were perfectly prepared to pay taxes—they just thought those taxes should purchase them a democratic voice in their own government.

The motto that came out of the Constitutional Convention was not “In God We Trust.” It was “E Pluribus Unum,” out of many, one. The phrase “In God We Trust” emerged from the American Civil War, and was imprinted on some coins, but it wasn’t prescribed for all US currency until the Cold War, in 1956. The following year, the same year he signed the Civil Rights bill into law, Eisenhower made it the nation’s motto—two years after inserting the phrase “under God” into the nation’s pledge of allegiance. In other words, In God We Trust is an act of revisionist history and retrospective religiosity, reinserting religion into our national history. But the attempt to create one from many has led to Civil War more than once (the American Revolution was a civil war, with parts of the country regularly seceding the South and other states threatened to walk-out of the Constitutional Congress; the South did secede in the 1860s, and revolted again in 1948, with the so-called “Dixiecrats.”) Texas is forever threatening to secede with my blessing: E Pluribus Unum is clearly not a motto that they are prepared to embrace—despite their supposed reverence for the Founding Fathers and the American Constitution.

Anyone who followed last year’s midterms and knows anything about American history already realized this. Tea Party candidates kept invoking the hope of the enemy.” As Harvard historian Jill Lepore argued last year in her brilliant The Whites of Their Eyes: The Tea Party’s Revolution and the Battle over American History, none of the people voting for the Tea Party candidates know anything about this because they haven’t studied American History since grade school, when all American school children learn a simplified, cartoon version of the American Revolution (which we would never call the “war of independence”). It is a Sesame Street version of the American constitution and politics, a myth that is being treated as the alpha and omega of our political and legal reality. This is one reason why it has a quasi-religious aspect: it’s a myth of genesis, it’s a creation myth about America that is just as simple as the idea that God created man and woman: the Founding Fathers created America.

The Tea Party version of the American Revolution is not just fundamentalist: it is also Disneyfied, sentimentalized, and whitewashed. It rests on a native, solipsistic and exceptionalist faith that for America it will all work out in the end, because America is “the greatest nation in the world.” They take solace in tautology. America is great, this they know, because Fox News tells them so. (Rupert Murdoch has a great deal to answer for: without the Fox network’s support in 2008, the Tea Party most likely would never have gained national prominence, given that it has neither a leader nor a platform.) Their goal, as others have said, is to roll back the clock a century and more. In 1862, when the robber baron and corrupt financier Jay Gould died, Mark Twain wrote a scathing epitaph: Gould, he said, “reversed the commercial morals of the United States. He had put a blight upon them from which they have never recovered, and from which they will not recover for as much as a century to come. Jay Gould was themightiest disaster which has ever befal len this country.” It has been a century and we have surely not recovered: but we have managed to create an even mightier disaster. It remains to be seen whether we will recover, but it is long past time to stop making declarations of independence. We need to get back to work forming a more perfect union – or any union at all.

Sarah Churchwell is Prof of American Studies and Public Understanding of the Humanities at the University of East Anglia and will be speaking about The Great Gatsby at our January London Lecture. This opinion piece was originally published in The Independent, 2 August 2011.
Inhalers linked with mortality

According to new research from the Norwich Medical School, an inhaler designed to help chronic bronchitis and emphysema sufferers could be significantly increasing their risk of dying.

Published in June's British Medical Journal, the findings are based on the long-term use of Tiotropium Respimat (also known as Spiriva Respimat) increases the risk of death by more than half.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the collective name for chronic bronchitis and emphysema, affects three million people in the UK and caused 24,000 deaths in 2005 – the latest year for which figures are available. COPD is diagnosed as low airflow on lung function tests and, unlike asthma, the condition is non-reversible, becoming progressively worse over time.

Most sufferers use inhalers to help them breathe and more than half a million prescriptions for Tiotropium inhalers were issued in the UK last year.

Tiotropium inhalers have been available internationally for many years but a new device known as Tiotropium Respimat was launched more recently and licensed for use in the UK and Europe. However, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not granted approval for Tiotropium Respimat in the United States citing the need for further testing.

“We analysed five clinical trials involving 6,500 people and the risk of death in patients using this particular inhaler appeared to be 60% higher,” said Dr Yvon Locke of Norwich Medical School. “We estimate that there will be one additional death for every 124 patients treated for a year with Tiotropium Respimat. Some of the risk appears to stem from patients dying of heart trouble, especially for those with existing heart problems that may be worsened because of a potential adverse effect of tiotropium on the heart rhythm.”

While there are other inhalers which can help COPD sufferers, those currently using Tiotropium Respimat are advised not to suddenly stop taking their medication. Dr Loke explains: “I would advise them to make an appointment with their doctor to discuss the possibility of switching to a different drug. As Tiotropium Respimat can have an adverse effect on the heart rhythm, patients with a history of palpitations or irregular heartbeat (fast or slow) should mention such problems to their doctor”.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has announced 88 new grant winners as part of its Grand Challenges Exploration Program, including a UEA recipient.

The Grand Challenges award

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has announced 88 new grant winners as part of its Grand Challenges Exploration Program, including a UEA recipient.

Dr Simon Carding, from the Norwich Medical School, was awarded the grant in April 2011 for his work on strategies to accelerate the end of polio and sustain its eradication.

Launched in 2008, the Grand Challenges Exploration Program seeks to encourage scientists to research innovative breakthroughs in persistent health and development issues. Dr Carding will use the funds to investigate whether live gut bacteria can generate immunity to polio.

He was one of only 88 scientists awarded a grant from this round out of over 2,500 applications worldwide.

Secret world

The University has approved a new name for the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

From 1 August the School will be known as the School of Nursing Sciences (NSC). The name change provides an overarching identity for the School’s family of related health disciplines including Operating Department Practice, Midwifery and all fields of Nursing (Mental Health Nursing, Children’s Nursing, Adult Nursing and Learning Disabilities Nursing).

Prof Val Lastimina, Head of School, said: “Our vision is to be a leading international school in the fields of nursing and health sciences, improving the quality of health and care through the practitioners it prepares and the impact of its research.”

NSC is currently ranked third in the UK for nursing and paramedic science (Guardian 2012) table and seventh in the Comprehensive University Guide. Together with the School of Allied Health Professions (Ahp) and the Norwich Medical School (MED), the School of Nursing Sciences (NSC) forms the newly named Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

A lastling coalition?

The current coalition government only has a one-in-five chance of making the full five year term, according to research from the School of Political, Social and International Studies (PSI).

Using political science models, Dr Chris Hanretty (PSI) outlines why a Conservative Liberal Democrat coalition was always the most likely option, explains why coalition negotiations concluded so quickly, and predicts the expected duration of the coalition.

While the coalition should last longer than the average British government, Dr Hanretty argues that it has just a one-in-five chance of lasting the full distance unless the Fixed Term Parliaments Bill is passed. Even with that extra guarantee, which will be considered again by the House of Commons in September, it still only has a one-in-three chance of making it.

While coalitions are rare in British politics, they are common in other parliamentary democracies. Dr Hanretty suggests that for the UK, after the Conservative Liberal Democrat coalition, the next most likely option was not a Conservative minority government but rather a “grand coalition” of Labour and Conservatives, which most would describe as unlikely.

“Because coalition governments are so rare in Britain, we don’t have very many good insights into how they behave. Borrowing models used to explain coalition behaviour in other parliamentary democracies can help us make our intuitions more precise – and show the real risk of early dissolution of Parliament,” said Dr Hanretty.

“It was because of this risk, and in particular the risk of a strategic dissolution following invented or real policy differences between the parties, that led the Liberal Democrats to insist on changing the rules for dissolving Parliament, ending prime ministerial discretion over dissolution. Changes to the rules concerning dissolution of Parliament are important – not least because only a minority of post-war governments have ever lasted the maximum possible parliamentary term.”

Dr Hanretty added: “The models of Cabinet duration suggest that the coalition will likely last longer than the average post-war British coalition, at close to four years – but even assuming passage of the Fixed Term Parliaments Bill the chances of the coalition lasting the full five years are not good, at one-in-three.”

For further information on the courses or to book a place, visit www.guardian.co.uk/ueamasterclasses.

Secret world

The School of Nursing Sciences (NSC) forms the newly named Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

UEA teams up with Guardian Masterclasses

The University and Guardian Masterclasses have partnered to offer a series of creative writing masterclasses in the capital.

The courses will be taught by award winning authors, including Gillian Slovo, Geoff Dyer and Adam Foulds (EastEnd), and are designed to appeal to those who have a serious ambition to become a writer, but don’t necessarily have time to complete a Masters degree.

For further information on the courses or to book a place, visit www.guardian.co.uk/ueamasterclasses.
University News

Virtual cities

Skin cancer
A treatment breakthrough

A breakthrough discovery by academics at the School of Biological Sciences and Children’s Hospital Boston promises a major turning point in treating skin cancer. The research, published in Nature, found that a drug, commonly used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, also inhibits the growth of malignant melanoma.

Melanoma is a cancer of the pigment cells in our skin. It is less common than other skin cancers but is the most aggressive and, unlike other cancers, its incidence is increasing with over 10,000 cases diagnosed in the UK each year.

Research recently published in Nature found that leflunomide, a drug commonly used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, also inhibits the growth of malignant melanoma. Dr Grant Wheeler and Dr Matt Tomlinson (BIO) conducted research looking at the concentrations of thousands of compounds, including leflunomide, to discover which ones affect the development of pigment cells in tadpoles. The scientists identified a number of compounds which have an effect and their work with US collaborators, Children’s Hospital Boston, has shown that it is leflunomide which significantly restricts tumour growth.

“This is an exciting discovery, making use of an existing drug specifically to target melanoma” said Dr Wheeler. “We are very optimistic that this research will lead to novel treatments for melanoma tumours which, working alongside other therapies, will stop them progressing.”

The next step is to conduct clinical trials into the use of leflunomide to fight melanoma. As leflunomide is already licensed to treat arthritis, this process should be quicker than usual and a new treatment could be available within five years.

Student Union column

Dan Youmans
Community and Student Rights Officer

The last twelve months have been tough for higher education, but we shouldn’t forget the many successes the Union and UEA students have had over this period.

Whether in sporting, charitable, or a whole host of other areas, 2010/11 saw a wide range of successes for UEA students. Juxtaposed against fierce debate around the future of higher education, it’s most definitely been a year of two halves.

Late March saw Derby Day, the annual sporting face-off between UEA and the University of Essex. This year the competition took place on our campus and brought together more than a thousand athletes across 51 matches. UEA’s sports teams did the University proud, leading us to a resounding 41-10 victory.

So many of our individual clubs and societies have had successful years too. Some stand-out examples include: Men’s Football winning the Junior Cup at Camrow Road, Women’s Rowing having the second fastest qualifying time at Henley and Charlotte Humphreys coming ninth in the British National Championships for the 50m butterfly stroke.

We’ve stepped up our charity work with the Raise and Give (RAG) society raising more than £112,000 through events as diverse as Pimp My Barrow (pictures), November (Moustache November) and a sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro. This money will help local, national and international charities with their important work.

March saw our annual Union Awards ceremony, celebrating our greatest achievements in representation, campaigning, and in clubs, societies and volunteering. More than 25 awards were given out on the night, with Society of the Year (Music Society), Club of the Year (Men’s Football) and Student Rep of the Year (Liz Biscoe, FMH Student Representative) all shining stars.

On average, it has been calculated that it costs £11,000 a year to put a full-time UK/EU student through an undergraduate degree at the University of East Anglia. This includes the cost of tutors, student services and facilities, research funds, administration and maintenance.

Higher education, in general, was already suffering owing to a withdrawal of funding for Arts and Business subjects and this situation has been compounded by a further 76% cut in capital funding. After taking these losses in both our teaching and our capital grants, and with a desire to maintain the world-class education we offer, the University had little choice other than to charge the maximum fee of £9,000.

For degree courses starting in 2012, UEA is proposing to set a tuition fee of £9,000 a year for UK/EU undergraduates.

Why are we charging the maximum fee of £9,000?

In order to continue delivering a world class service, most English universities have been faced with a complicated decision: face a dramatic reduction in academic staff (therefore cutting courses and decreasing the staff/student ratio) or charge a maximum fee to study at the institution.

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What do alumni think?

Andrew Forth (PS02)
Tuition fees are never going to be popular, but I don’t see any alternative. We need to invest more in our education system, asking the people who are going to get the most benefit to pay seems like the least worst option. That being said, leading universities need to up their game. If in five years time nothing has changed, except the fees then we’ll need to look again at the system. It can’t be business as usual and a lot more needs to be done to make sure the leading universities are more successful in encouraging students from poorer backgrounds to apply to top universities.

Peter McKernon (AHPS02)
As an alumnus of UEA and the LSE, I am truly appalled at this level of fee, and absolutely despair for the future of education as a resource available to all in the future. My 16 year old son, if he now decides to go to university, will be faced at the beginning of his working life with debts of £30,000 plus, a debt which it is widely acknowledged will never be paid off in many cases. All this inflicted by a generation who had the benefit of free education, and who will in their later years, be relying on being financially supported by the generation that they are now financially financing.

Alex Scott (PS00)
A system where education is free at the point of use, where those who benefit financially from their education pay essentially a graduate tax, is a far fairer system than we are currently operating. Support this and hope potential students will see beyond the politically motivated scaremongering. Ultimately, the student movement should gain real authority to demand better services which support and reflect the culture and aspirations of the student body.

Opinion

The changing face of higher education

In December 2010, parliament voted to raise tuition fees for full-time UK/EU undergraduates from £3,350 a year to up to £9,000 from 2012. The policy was introduced in the midst of considerable budget cuts for higher education and led to large scale protests across the country. Here, we present the University’s position on the 2012 fees increase and ask alumni what their thoughts are.

In order to ensure that raising tuition fees does not act as a barrier, UEA has developed a funding package to both reward those with excellent qualifications in the form of scholarships, and assist those from lower income backgrounds in the form of bursaries.

Scholarships to those students who achieve straight A grades at A level (or the equivalent score through a range of alternative qualifications), worth up to £1,500 to help offset the cost of studying at the University.

The University will offer bursaries in the form of fee waivers (based on household income), worth up to £3,000, to lessen the size of student debt incurred.

The government has made provision for a range of grants and additional support from 2012. Many students will not actually end up paying the full £9,000 fee so widely discussed in the media.

There are numerous scholarships and prizes which will be coming from University alumni and friends who have generously and kindly supported the ongoing education of many UEA students.

Will everyone have to pay the full fee?

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The term “social media” is now commonplace in our day to day activities with online applications such as Facebook and Twitter paving the way for global communications. With such rapid technological development are our laws up to the job of policing these systems? Should we even attempt to police social media? Dr. Daithí Mac Síthigh, from UEA Law School, looks at what social media means for 21st century rule of law.

**Cover Feature**

#tweeteasy

Seeing the topics from your syllabi and exam papers pop up on the online bookstores, auction sites and all that – but others mourned the loss of the more treehugging, self-governing culture of the early internet.

By the time of the dot-com boom and bust, at the turn of the century, the principle that law would continue to play a role was well established. The debate shifted to the most appropriate method of regulation, particularly when the number of users connected and the number of cross-border transactions continued to grow each year. Methods of tracking and surveillance improved, but so did techniques of anonymity and circumvention. The music industry tried to take on illegal downloading with varying degrees of success, major names from the early days such as Napster came out on the wrong side of legal battles and parliament passed new laws, such as the Digital Economy Act in the UK, that would ultimately disconnect users who violated copyright law. However, sharing and downloading continued, not just for music but for movies and games too.

### Attitudes to the internet can vary too.

Take, for example, the use of social networking sites as a tool of organisation and communication in various revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East. In Spring 2011, you could not open a British newspaper without seeing praise for the disruptive impact of technology as a tool against oppression – with Western governments and politicians sometimes doing the praising. In a situation where media may be controlled by the state and rights of protest and speech subject to restriction, the ability to get past these barriers was a ‘good news story’ for some, even if the role of technology was sometimes overstated by commentators looking for a simple explanation for complicated events.

Yet when it came to thousands of documents published on Wikileaks, the reaction was much more cynical. It is tempting to think that Wikileaks is just a few weeks, and so we now have two specialised Masters projects, one in Media Law, Policy and Practice and the other in Information Technology and Intellectual Property Law. I am starting a new research project this year (with support from the British Academy) on systems for complaints about media content, with a particular focus on new services, where I will try to understand how these systems have handled technologies, such as the introduction of cable TV or the birth of the dreaded phone-in competition. More widely, the high-profile launch of Lord Justice Leveson’s review of the regulation of the press, as a result of the News of the World affair, means that there will be a significant public debate on how far law should go in controlling or influencing the media. But there are no easy answers.

On one hand, we saw widespread defence of the injunction regarding Ryan Giggs by individual Twitter users and even by some members of parliament. On the other hand, a number of newspapers have recently been found in contempt of court for their actions that violated the right to a fair trial, including publishing prejudicial photographs of a defendant with a gun (the websites of both the Daily Mail and the Sun) and the coverage of the killing of Joanna Yeates in Bristol (the print editions of the Daily Mirror and the Sun). So the law has not been sidelined, but there are many issues where the balance between different rights needs to be debated, as does the problem of enforcing the law when it only takes a few seconds to send a message to a global audience.

I suspect that our reading lists and exam papers pop up on the front pages of the newspapers isn’t something that happens to every university lecturer. I teach a module in Internet Law in the UEA Law School, while my recent research deals with the approach of the legal system to new forms of media and entertainment. This includes everything from B2B demand services, ranging from the BBC’s Player to YouTube to LoveFilm, to casual games, like the fam...
Amanda Hodgkinson

Alumna Amanda Hodgkinson (EAS00) talks to alumnus Will Gibbons (LIT07) about her debut novel, life in France and memories of UEA in the snow.

Tony Award nomination

Having starred in two Tony Award-winning Broadway plays, alumna Charlotte Parry (EAS96) recently took on the role of Cecily Cardew in the Tony Award nominated revival of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Now based in Manhattan, Charlotte studied Drama at UEA from 1996 to 1998. Talking of her role in this unique revival, with Lady Bracknell played by actor Brian Bedford, Charlotte said: “I was proud to be a part of such a successful show, especially one that was filmed and aired at cinemas across the world so that various distant friends and family could enjoy it too.”

Charlotte has had very little time for breaks since graduating and the list of her roles contains many notable successes, including appearing on Broadway in the Tony Award winning *The Real Thing* and *Coram Boy*. Charlotte was also part of a world tour and then on Old Vic, London, sell-out run of *The Winter’s Tale*. Now that the Importance of Being Earnest has closed, Charlotte is preparing for the American premiere, in New York City, of a new British play called *Bluebird*. She’s starring alongside Simon Russell Beale and although they haven’t started previews yet the play has already sold out. Talking of her role Charlotte explains: “Having gone from playing a sweet innocent 18 year old country girl circa 1895 in Earnest, I am now portraying a hard, beaten up prostitute from Sunderland in Bluebird. Ah, the perks of the job!”

Making a difference

Justine Mann (LIT07)

Students often contemplate the transition from university to the world of work with trepidation. It can undermine confidence and stifle decision making. Who better to act as a critical friend and sounding board than someone who has been there?

In January, Careers and Employability recruited eight alumni from across the public and private sector for a pilot mentoring scheme. Mentees have access to six hours of mentor time either online or face to face. It’s the first half way point and we caught up with one pairing to find out what transpired.

Current UEA Career Mentor, Sean Henry (HS), has been working with Georgi Gill (EJRA8) who works as a staff development officer at UEA. Commenting on his experience as part of the mentor programme Sean said: “I’m so grateful to the Mentoring Scheme. The amount of panic I’ve done over ‘need to pick a career, need to find first contacts, need to get relevant experience, need to do X, Y and Z’. Georgi’s taught me I’ll be fine. At the moment I’m volunteering with the Kent Association for the Blind. I’m trying to do as much as I can to add to my CV, admin, research, working with the HR and finance managers and (on my own suggestion) helping them to set up a branch within the University of Kent.”

To register an interest in mentoring visit www.uea.ac.uk/careers/mentors.

ENV 30 years on

Nick Allen (EN78) and Petra Brown (EN78) recently organised an ENV 30 Years On symposium and reunion at UEA London.

Over 30 graduates attended the event which saw the afternoon filled with research and careers information and an evening social. In addition to details on latest research and the University in general from faculty members, an alumni panel were asked to present and discuss their careers from three distinct perspectives:

1. How their career had developed since leaving ENV?
2. What were the key environmental or global issues impacting them?
3. How they thought ENV careers would develop in the future?

Organiser Petra Brown said: “This was a special gathering, charged with energy and enthusiasm for ENV, and such a surprising cross section of careers and life experiences, we shouldn’t let it go unappreciated.”

Nick said: “Getting alumni re-engaged with the University is a key plank in maintaining the UEA relevance and position as a leading research and teaching institution. The more we can get the alumni involved the better for everybody.”

For a full report, including photos, of the event please visit www.uea.ac.uk/alumni and view the events webpages.

Queen’s Birthday Honours 2011

With the announcement of the Queen’s birthday honours earlier in the year, we’re pleased to report that several alumni have been recognised for their outstanding work in our communities.

This year’s recipients come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but all have made an impact on others or in their communities. We’d like to congratulate all alumni who’ve received an honour and look forward to hearing of more successes in the future.

Joseph Greenwell (EAST0) CBE
Chairman, Ford of Britain For services to the automotive industry.

Dr Peter Batchelor (SOCT7) CBE
Head of Electronics and Photonics, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Ms Tamara Ingrasm (EAST0) OBE
Chair, Visit London For services to tourism industry.

Dr Hugh Milroy (SWK34) OBE
Chief Executive, Veteran’s Aid For services to ex-Servicemen and Women.

Marcelle Speller (EN59) OBE
Philanthropist – for services to the voluntary sector.

Alumni News

WG Why did you choose UEA for your Masters degree?

AH First of all because it’s got such an incredible reputation, a genius, this is the place to come, and secondly, I was living in St Ives Market, and I was living in East Anglia, had two young children and I knew I was going to have to do a daily commute.

WG What do you remember most about UEA, apart from the commute?

AH Meeting amazing people, incredible writers on my course, the other students and making friendships who I have still got today. I left school with no qualifications whatsoever but went back to school when my first child was born and took a degree in literature and history. For me it was a validation of my creativity and an extraordinary thing on a personal level, to be in that milieu with published writers, so generous with their time. I remember really distinctly standing in a group of students, being told we were important and we were maybe the future of fiction. It was probably overwhelming things slightly but I felt good.

WG On your website you mention that you fall in love with books, age 10, around the time your family opened a second hand book store. As a successful writer do you still find the time to read as avidly as you did when you were younger?

AH I read all the time. One of my lecturers said to me you should read first thing in the morning when your eyes open and you should read last thing at night before you close your eyes and I do always. I wake up and I reach for a book. I don’t know what I want to write, don’t start thinking “oh you know books about angels are selling well at the moment, for a sample story I had, ‘I’m not going to do that’”. I think you have to really sincere in your intentions when you write a novel and if it sells itself, if it doesn’t it was a great project and worthy of the work in any case. Be sincere, be true to yourself and write what you want to write.

WG If there is one word that would remind you of UEA, or that UEA reminds you of in particular, what might that word be?

AH I’ll say snow. I have a very strong memory of standing in a lecture room looking out at the snow. I was in one of my units, European philosophy towards post structuralism. I could have done the publishing option or all these other ones that were hands on but I really wanted to do that unit and it was wonderful. I stood in this room and we’d been asked this really difficult question. Everybody had gone very, very quiet and I was thinking what am I doing here and I just looked out of the window at the snow. When the tutor asked me what I thought she was so encouraging.

As a mature student and a woman with young children, a woman who had not gone through a normal education system at all, to be there talking to this amazing tutor who I really admired and for her to be so encouraging was amazing.

WG Obviously you are now working on the recent release of 22 Britannia Road. Looking forward, what will you be working on next?

AH I’m working on a second novel at the moment. It is a story about two families in East Anglia and moves through three different generations.

WG What advice would you give to someone looking to write their first book?

AH One word after another and tenacity, ah, and I really think you have to write the book you want to write, don’t start guessing the market.

Wendy Goodwin (LIT78) is a student photographer. The photo of Amanda Hodgkinson is by Jack Siddons.
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 or complete the enclosed form. You can also email us at alumni@uea.ac.uk

Where are they now?

After 20 years of marriage, was it a mad moment that drove UEA graduates to abandon suburbia and choose a life less ordinary running a holiday business in Devon? This is exactly what Leoni Antoniazzi (EAS80) and Steve Carefull (SOC80) decided to do in 2008, moving the family and establishing a successful holiday business and smallholding in Devon.

AO: What inspired you to make the move to Devon?
LA: We had spent ten happy years in Solihull commuting, schooling and taming our three kids around. Then in 2008 a conversation about our future sparked a hunt for the opportunity to change lifestyle.

With more people holidaying in the UK we set out to find a self-catering business. We had some capital from buying and selling our family homes, but the business plan made it clear that Steve would need to cut out his working full-time. I hoped to combine freelance executive duties with running the cottages. I knew that the new business would have to take priority and I worried about losing my contacts and getting rusty. However, working on our web site drew on experience from past roles (in management consultancy) and kept my skills current.

AO: What has been the biggest challenge with setting up Devon Barns?
LA: There is no question that the biggest challenge was getting the financing in place to make the move. We had found a complex of five cottages with swimming pool and family home and sold our house in July 2008 – just before the market collapsed. But the banking crisis changed attitudes to lending and mortgage offers were withdrawn, so we rented until securing a suitable deal. We finally purchased in December 2008, with two weeks to prepare for Christmas and New Year guests.

Another challenge is dealing with the issues that arise on my own, Steve’s work takes him away a great deal, so I have had to keep a watchful eye on every ounce of knowledge and experience to put our business on the map. Those initial disciplines of clear writing, persuasive skills and lateral thinking, which we both picked up as undergraduates, have earned their keep in this new work context.

Other challenges? The unfortunate flooding of a newly refurbished cottage, coping with bored French guests and writing off a car!

AO: Do you have any advice for other alumni, thinking of setting up their own business?
LA: Do your research thoroughly. We wrote multiple versions of the business plan as our ideas and insights developed with running the cottages. I knew that the new business would have to take priority and I worried about losing my contacts and getting rusty. However, working on our web site drew on experience from past roles (in management consultancy) and kept my skills current.

AO: Given the challenges you’ve faced would you you have now for your previous lives?
LA: Not! For every challenge we have so many high points, like the absolute tranquillity; many high points, like the pitch black starry skies and raising piglets. No! For every challenge we have so many high points, like the pitch black starry skies and raising piglets.

Back to the future

Nick Backhouse (BIO68 and HIS09)

Why on earth am I doing this I ask myself as I wait to enter Congregation Hall on a sunny May afternoon.

The last time I was in this situation was exactly forty years ago when I started my finals in Biological Sciences. Today, I’m doing exams again but this time it’s History. Entering Congregation Hall is like going back through a time warp. The atmosphere is a heady mixture of fear and anticipation; I could swear the doors are the same, even the invigilator looks familiar. Fill in your personal details on the answer sheet, wait for the clock to tick and then gingerly turn over the question paper. Eight questions to choose from. Relief, there are two I can answer. Now the difficult bit, engage brain and at the same time try to write legibly. Yes, write, No cop and paste-no spoil check. It’s me versus the blank sheet with no support system; it’s as though Bill Gates had never existed.

1 Hour 50 minutes later there is nothing more to write. I’ve done my best but will it be good enough? But what is good enough? I’m only doing this for fun, I’ve nothing to prove, the grades don’t really matter. Really? But now the adrenaline rush is advising to fail and there is a sense of having survived this ordeal a second time around. Anyway, I am finished. Go to the bar with my fellow examiners (They’re young enough to be my grandchildren). Alternatively I could go home and have a green tea and read the Guardian. Forty years, what would you do?

P.S. For all those who studied Sciences I can now advise that Humanities isn’t the holliday camp we all thought it was!
Legacy supports music

The University was most grateful to receive a recent bequest from Rosamund Strode, an Honorary Graduate of the University, who had always shown a great interest and enthusiasm for the School of Music since its inception in 1968.

Rosamund was assistant to Benjamin Britten for many years and after his death in December 1976 she became the archivist for Britten for many years and after his death in November 1976. After the death of her husband in 1978, she became an assistant to Benjamin Britten for many years and after his death in 1976. She became a part of the Britten Archive in the Royal Opera House, and was a part of the Britten Archive in the Royal Academy of Music. After his death in 1976, she became the archivist for Britten for many years and after his death in November 1976.

Britten’s music Manager, on 01603 592114, by email at music@uea.ac.uk. The event will take place on Tuesday 29 November 2011.

Obituaries

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

- David Alexander (MAP69)
- Richard Webster (EAS69)
- Mordecai Omer (FAM71)
- Maureen Bolton (EDU69)
- Coral Bryant née Hughes (EDU69)
- Alison Watts (SWK68)
- Stuart Ballantyne (LIT08)

If you are interested in attending please contact Joyce Griffith, Development Manager, on 01603 592114, by email at j.griffith@uea.ac.uk or by visiting our website www.uea.ac.uk/supportus.

New Scholarship established for prospective English Literature and Philosophy students

A new Scholarship has been established to enable an undergraduate student to study for a BA (Hons) degree in English Literature and Philosophy.

The Wilkinson Scholarship, generously donated to the University by James Wilkinson (SOC35) and his wife, Helen (EAS92), will contribute to part of the recipient’s course fees for up to a maximum of three years, subject to satisfactory progress.

The Wilkinson Scholarship is designed to set up the Scholarship as they felt their years at UEA were some of the most memorable of their lives. “We relished the opportunity to study subjects that we loved and that challenged us. We also made some lifelong friends, as well as meeting each other on our first day, so without UEA our lives would be poorer in so many ways.”

Students who pay fees at the Home/EU rate and have a total household income of less than £25,000 will be eligible to apply for the Scholarship with the first being awarded in September 2011 (then every three years thereafter).

James and Helen were particularly keen to support students reading these subjects. “Through studying and enjoying literature you can learn so many things that enrich your life. Hopefully our support will enable those who may not have been able to continue their study in these areas to do so.”

Annual Fund 2011/12

As the 2011/12 academic year gets underway, our new team of student callers will soon be picking up the phone to thousands of alumni in the latest Annual Fund Call Campaign.

The Annual Fund is an opportunity for friends and alumni of the University to support students and projects across campus. There is a wide selection of important areas to choose from this year including the 50th Anniversary Building, Andy Ripley Memorial Fund, the Student Experience Fund and Scholarships.

Our student callers are looking forward to speaking with many of you from October 2011 onwards.

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Music for the people

Gareth Malone (EAS94)

Congregation 11 saw the return to the University of a much loved national figure, Gareth Malone. Not content with just one degree from UEA, the Drama alumnus was back on campus to receive his honorary doctorate.

A recipient of two BAFAs, a Broadcast Award and the Freedom of the City of London in 2010 (for his work on music education in the capital), music has always been a part of Gareth’s life. While he studied Drama at UEA in the 90s, he was in the University choir and composed music for several theatre productions. A postgraduate course at the Royal Academy of Music saw him receive a distinction and success didn’t stop there. Gareth’s first book Music for the People was released in April 2011. Talking about his decision to write a book Gareth said: “I wanted to write a book, I’ve always wanted to write a book, I loved writing and loved doing essays while I was here... to a point. I just didn’t quite know what I wanted it to be.”

He went on to explain that when it was initially suggested that he should write a guide to music he felt “under-qualified” and that it turned out to be the opposite. “It’s for the People really felt right as it is an attempt, in a book, to do everything I was doing when I was working with the London Symphony Orchestra, which was outreach. Trying to persuade people to listen to classical music or to go further with classical music than perhaps they would otherwise do because I think there are many barriers to that further and success didn’t stop there. Gareth’s first book Music for the People was released in April 2011. Talking about his decision to write a book Gareth said: “I wanted to write a book, I’ve always wanted to write a book, I loved writing and loved doing essays while I was here... to a point. I just didn’t quite know what I wanted it to be.”

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A fine city

Norwich apparently has a pub for everyday of the year and a church for every Sunday, but that isn’t all this fine city has to offer.

In Medieval times, Norwich was one of the greatest cities in England and historical sites such as a Norman Cathedral and 12th century castle combine with the city wall remains to make it the most complete Medieval city in Britain.

Norwich is also the only place in the UK, outside of London’s Oxford Street, to have four national department stores, as well as the independent stores Jarrolds. The city is listed as one of the top 10 places to shop in the UK.

In addition to high street stores, Norwich Lanes are home to independent boutiques, bars and restaurants. Based in the city’s historical quarter, The Lanes offer a fantastic mix of fashion, beauty and leisure, many of which offer discounts for alumni.

For peace and tranquility, you can head out to the North Norfolk coast, by car, train or coast hopper bus, but you can also find this in the city. In the heart of Norwich you will find the lovingly restored Victorian Plantation Garden. Set in three acres of 19th century landscaping, the secret garden is the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. For picturesque walks or bike riding, travel to Thetford Forest. Established in the early 1900s, this is now the largest lowland forest in Britain (covering an area of 85 square miles).

To access some great deals across the region, apply for an Alumni Benefit Card. Alumni recently voted ‘eating out’ and ‘things to do’ their favourite deals from the card in our Facebook poll.

Events

Spring/Summer 2011

We’ve had a busy spring and summer and wanted to share some of the many events alumni, and staff, have attended and organised. If you’d like to host a reunion or attend alumni events simply keep an eye on the calendar at www.uea.ac.uk/alumni.

MAY

Shanghai Alumni Reception
Alumni gathered in the prestigious Shanghai World Financial Centre for this special reception, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and colleagues.

JUNE

Court 2011
Alumni were joined by University staff, local dignitaries and regional business leaders for this year’s annual general meeting. Following a series of talks on the University’s year and current research, all guests gathered for an evening reception in the beautiful Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

JULY

Hong Kong Alumni Cocktail Evening
Alumni based in Hong Kong met for this special reunion, kindly hosted by fellow graduate Ayaz Ebrahim (SYS82). The cocktail evening, held at the prestigious Hong Kong Club, was attended by over 120 alumni and was the largest gathering of former students outside the UK for many years. UEA’s Prof Andrew Coats gave a brief update on developments at the University and the Norwich Research Park.

Senior members of the Development Office were also in attendance along with Careers & Employability. David Street, Head of Development, said: “We are immensely grateful to Ayaz for hosting this event. It is truly wonderful to see so many former UEA students from UEA’s first 48 years sharing their experiences and we very much hope that events such as this will help to build a stronger and even more vibrant alumni community in Hong Kong”.

ENV Reunion-Symposium
Organised by ENV78 alumni, this well attended event saw alumni, staff and current students gathering at UEA London. See page 13 for the event report.

UEA London Lecture
The fourth in our successful London Lecture Series heard from Prof Aedin Cassidy from Norwich Medical School. If you’d like to know more about our upcoming lectures, including talks from Prof Sarah Churchwell (AMS) and Prof David Stevens (Head of MTH) sign up to the mailing list.

Grad Ball 2011
The biggest alumni event of the year saw thousands of new graduates and their guests gathering for the final LCR. The celebrations went on until 5.00am with the remaining alumni gathering for their Survivors Photo in the Square, buoyed up on early morning provisions of tea and pastries.

Women’s Rugby Football Club (WRFC) Reunion
UEA WRFC 2007 and 2008 graduates met for their annual reunion in July. Alumna Julie Price (LIT04) said: “We book a cottage every summer and gather a group of us together to reminisce about the good old UEA times”.

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Public lectures and events

29 SEPTEMBER
Global Pub Reunion 2011
Various locations worldwide
Help us celebrate the University’s 48th anniversary worldwide. Each year, hundreds of alumni get together across the globe to celebrate the UEA’s anniversary on 29 September.
Locations range from Norwich (where we’ll be hosting a Student versus Alumni Pub Quiz on campus) to Bratislava and on to Chennai.

Most events are free to attend. Visit www.uea.ac.uk/alumni for more information or to sign up for the Norwich and London reunions.

20 OCTOBER
UEA London Lecture: Tweeteas? What does social media mean for the rule of law?
6.30pm UEA London Free
Dr Dalith Mac Silhig (LAW) explores questions surrounding law and technology. This event is free to attend but places must be booked in advance. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception. Book your place online at www.uea.ac.uk/alumni or by calling 01603 593815.

PRESENT – 4 DECEMBER
Special Exhibition – The Face of the Artist: Photographs by John Hedgecoe
SCVA £2 – £4

20 SEPTEMBER
NRP Annual Public Lecture 2011 ‘Environment, Politics and Policy’
5.30pm Thomas Paine Study Centre Lecture Theatre Free

21 SEPTEMBER
Hard-Fi
7.30pm Waterfront £17.50

27 SEPTEMBER – 4 DECEMBER
Link Display: Griff Rhys Jones’ Ghanaiian ‘Fantasy Coffin’
SCVA Free

28 SEPTEMBER
The power of Japanese society in the face of the earthquake and the chaos of domestic politics
6.30pm Thomas Paine Study Centre Free Booking is required www.uea.ac.uk/cjs

When you have finished with this booklet please recycle it.

The University of East Anglia is a Fair Trade university.