

# CONNECT



The Alumni Card  
Transforming lives, inspiring change

## FLASH THE CARD

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Alumni Card.

The Alumni Card is available to all our alumni, offering a wide range of regional and national benefits and discounts.

To read about the benefits and apply for your Alumni Card visit the alumni website [www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni)

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First alumni reunion for Chinese students

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# Welcome



Welcome to the latest edition of Connect – our magazine especially dedicated to our large extended family of graduates across the world. There are some interesting news items in this edition which will give you a brief flavour of the wide range of events and activities which have occurred at the University in recent months. In addition, our plans for scholarships and other development-led initiatives are gaining momentum and I hope you may feel able to make your own contribution to this in the not too distant future. The University is changing and growing and we are very proud to have graduates making a real difference in their communities and professions. Do let us know how you are getting on – and how we might continue to support you in the future.

Ann Tate  
Vice Chancellor



# CELEBRATING GRADUATION

Graduation celebrations were enjoyed by over 2000 students, their family and friends during four days of ceremonies at Park Campus.

A Chief Executive Officer and a TV comedian were among the eight honorary award recipients at the July 2008 graduation ceremonies.

**Camila Batmanghelidjh**, Founder and Director of Kids Company, a charity with a unique and pioneering approach to delivering therapeutic services to vulnerable children and young people.

**Hugh Dennis**, TV comedian, was born in Kettering. His most recent TV appearance has been as a panelist on the satirical show 'Mock the Week'.

**Peter Dunkley**, Director of Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service, has been associated with Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service in various roles since 1987.

**Diane Hayes**, former Senior Pro Vice Chancellor and Clerk to the Governing Council at the University Diane retired in 2007 having worked for the University for over 25 years.

**Gary Hoffman**, Northern Rock Chief Executive Officer, has an outstanding national and international record in banking. Gary has recently been appointed a Visiting Professor of the University.

**John Smeathers**, a long-standing member of Northamptonshire Natural History Society, continues to make a significant contribution to the scientific study of natural history in Northampton through individual projects and research interests.

**Lady Juliet Townsend**, HM Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, has made a significant contribution to the life and work of the County and the University, including as Chairman of the University Court until 2007.

**Morcea Walker**, Equalities Advisor/ Supplementary Schools Co-ordinator at Northamptonshire County Council, has made an outstanding contribution to education and training in Northamptonshire over the past 30 years as both an education professional and leading member of the African Caribbean community.

## Connect Editorial Board

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## Keep in touch

### Website

Visit the Alumni website at [www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni) to update your details, alternatively email us at [alumni@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@northampton.ac.uk)

### eNews

To receive your copy of the bi-monthly Alumni eNews, email [SUBSCRIBE to alumni@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:SUBSCRIBE@alumni@northampton.ac.uk)

### Contact the Alumni team

We welcome your comments, letters, photographs or articles to Connect magazine but we reserve the right to edit any contributions.

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## CORIUM CLUB

# Centenary of Leather Education takes shape

Plans are taking shape for the Centenary of Leather Education celebrations in 2009. The celebration relates to the opening in September 1909 of the National Leathersellers' College in Tower Bridge Road, London, which relocated to Northampton in the 1970s where it became known as the British School of Leather Technology (BSLT).

Centenary celebrations will open with a salon fashion show and alumni event in Hong Kong at the Asia Pacific Leather Fair (APLF) and will culminate in a celebratory weekend at The University of Northampton in July.

## Centenary commences

The highlights of the Centenary year celebrations will take place during three days of activity between July 17-19, 2009.

The weekend celebrations start on Friday July 17, when the University will unite with Leather Wise for the second of their very successful 'Beast to Beauty' conferences, dealing with issues and new technologies from all stages of the value chain. A wide audience of key industry figures from raw hide suppliers through to brand representatives and retailers attended the conference in 2008.

On Saturday July 18, there will be opportunities to visit key heritage sites in Northamptonshire. In the evening we will gather for early evening drinks in a marquee, followed by a sumptuous banquet, an awards ceremony and a show featuring leather fashion, accessories and other designs from The University of Northampton.

Alumni, friends, family and colleagues are welcome and, realising that many people will be attending from overseas, we plan to host a full weekend of activities.

We feel sure that walking around the BSLT and meeting staff and other alumni will bring back happy memories for those who studied at the BSLT.

## London in mind

For those who trained in London and for the many others of you who are interested, we have a range of activities planned in London on Sunday July 19. The day will be spent exploring points of interest around Tower Bridge Road and Bermondsey. We have also been invited as guests of the Leathersellers' Company to join them in the Great Hall for lunch in recognition of the strong relationship between the Leathersellers' Company and the University through the BSLT.

To make sure you are available, please put the dates in your diary. If you are travelling from afar you could build your family holiday or business trip around the event. If you have suggestions for elements you would like added, or if you would like to support a part of the celebratory events, please contact Debbie Greaves at [debbie.greaves@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:debbie.greaves@northampton.ac.uk)

Remember that the definition of alumni and Corium Club membership has been extended to include all London, Northampton and Leeds graduates, friends and associates. If you are aware of any Corium Club members who are not receiving correspondence from the University please encourage them to contact Mitch Smith in the Alumni Association at [mitch.smith@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:mitch.smith@northampton.ac.uk)



*Pictured from left to right: Mike Redwood, Shuja-uddin-Siddiqui Director LPDI (Leather Products Development Institute) Sialkot - alumni from 1975, and Malik Asadullah, Director National Institute of Leather Technology Karachi Pakistan, with whom we plan to be teaching the BTEC leather course from September 2009*

### Mike Redwood's Weblog

Visiting lecturer Mike Redwood has a weblog which he keeps updated with regular dialogue on the world leather industry, key events, people and his own personal thoughts and opinions. If you would like to make any comments, offer opinions or suggest topics please email Mike at [mike.redwood@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:mike.redwood@northampton.ac.uk)



Students and guests celebrate at the February and July 2008 Graduation Ceremonies



# Leathersellers' students meet Dr Tilman Taeger at prize giving

The 2008 annual Leathersellers prize-giving took place at Leathersellers' Hall, London, on Friday June 6, where students were received by The Master of The Leathersellers' Company and congratulated for their success in achieving their BSc or Leathersellers' Certificate.



Students with Dr Tilman Taeger, back row, second from left

The Leather International Award was presented by Mark Colyer from Leather International magazine to Thomas Kilee from Kenya.

Guest speaker, Dr Tilman Taeger, Head of Basic Innovation and Technology Management for Leather in BASF's Performance Chemicals Unit, talked about the new innovative Steron finish which BASF launched in 2007.

# Developing donations for the future

Debbie Greaves Head of Development



"Fundraising has never been more important for the University with our ambitious plans for future growth."



Marek Gordon, Chief Executive, SITA Trust

# Celebrating sustainable waste excellence

A celebration event took place at the University's SITA Centre for Sustainable Wastes Management in May 2008, to thank the SITA Trust for their investment of over £1.5 million in support of the Centre.

Guest speaker Marek Gordon, Chief Executive, SITA Trust said:

"The five year plan was an ambitious project in terms of the funding involved and the outcomes it was designed to achieve. Looking back, there can be little doubt the ambition has been realised.

The plan delivered on a wide range of initiatives, ranging from the very successful and popular Waste Awareness Certificate aimed at the waste producer sector, through to the development of WARMNET, a collaborative network of universities involved in waste management research."



Dr Margaret Bates, SITA Centre Manager, added:

"We are extremely proud of our accomplishments and are very grateful to all of our local, national

and international partners. It is with their help that we have grown into the World's foremost centre for education and research in this increasingly important field of study.

"Our biggest thanks go to both SITA Trust and SITA UK who have supported the work of the University for many years, providing the guidance and funding necessary to achieve our goals."

## FRIENDS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

# From Priory Cottage to Park Campus

Over 80 Occupational Therapy alumni and friends attended a reunion and celebration on Saturday November 24, 2007, to mark the launch of the book 'From Priory Cottage to Park Campus', on the history of Occupational Therapy education in Northampton from the 1940s to the present day.



Written by local historian Jane Evans the book contains contributions from past staff and students together with photographs of Occupational Therapy training at St. Andrew's Hospital through to today's Occupational Therapy within the School of Health at the University.

The Vice Chancellor, Ann Tate, welcomed alumni, staff and students to this special reunion, followed by a speech from Professor Annie Turner, professional lead in Occupational Therapy. Former staff and alumni enjoyed reminiscences from

book contributors and an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia.

A buffet lunch and refreshments added to the day with guests having an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the book.

Proceeds from the book support current students and if you would like to purchase a copy at £10 (plus postage and packing) please contact The Alumni Association on +44 (0)1604 892450 or email alumni@northampton.ac.uk

## Alumni Reunion at Harrogate



Alumni and staff took the opportunity to meet over refreshments, at a reunion during this year's College of Occupational Therapists (COT) conference in Harrogate, and heard from guest of honour, Julia Skelton, Head of Practice, COT.

We look forward to meeting you at next year's reunion at the COT conference in Brighton!

"The University has the potential to be so much more than a producer of graduates and incubator for business development. With the right level of investment, the University will be able to work in partnership with the community to put knowledge to work for the public good.

I am keen to show what difference a gift can make to the University and I am committed to ensuring that every donation is valued and put to good use – whether it be directed towards individual students through scholarships or for more ambitious projects or facilities to benefit the campus and the community.

### Match making

Unfortunately, turning water into wine isn't yet possible in the Development Office, but we are able to turn £1 into £1.50.

At a time when there is talk of inflation and the pound in our pocket being less valuable, it is exciting to learn about a scheme that makes a pound go further. In July 2008 the University signed up to a new Government Matched Funding Scheme which has the potential to help us unlock £1.3 million over the next three years.

From August 2008, all alumni gifts to the University will be matched by the Government to a tune of 2:1, which means that every pound we receive from our alumni will magically become £1.50. As an 'exempt charity' the University is also able to claim tax relief through Gift Aid, so individual philanthropic gifts could be worth even more.

We propose to use the matched funds to launch a new Scholarship Endowment, to continue to support talented students and help them access higher education.

### Perfect plans

Over the coming year we have a variety of projects requiring support. These include the refurbishment of Kingsley Park – an exciting development that will see a beautiful old school re-modelled as a state of the art technology realm - with plans to install LITE, a 3D Visualisation Centre and create a new home for the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing. In addition we will be supporting the International Film Festival, the redevelopment of education facilities on Park Campus and at the School of The Arts.

2009 marks the Centenary of Leather Education and provides an ideal platform for promoting the University and the unique part it plays in providing education and training for leather technology and leather related academic study, including fashion, creativity, podiatry and waste management.

Looking forward, we envisage the University offering a revised portfolio of educational programmes and significantly enhanced research and knowledge transfer activities. The project will involve capital investment to upgrade and renew equipment and machinery in our tannery, laboratories, design studios and teaching rooms.

As you can see, we are extremely ambitious and we hope you will feel proud to be a part of this amazing institution."



## University signs 'Santander Universities' agreement



The University has signed a three year agreement with Abbey National plc, the UK subsidiary of Banco Santander, to create support for scholarships, research and international collaboration. For the University this partnership means a three year commitment to funding that will see £150,000 awarded.

The agreement is designed to provide an improved level of support for students and researchers at the University, allowing development of exciting new educational projects under the 'Santander Universities' banner. The funding will primarily focus on Masters degree scholarships and support for projects in the fields of Waste Management, Leather Technology, Fashion, and Business - four areas of study in which the University has a long-standing and worldwide reputation for excellence.

Ann Tate, Vice Chancellor and Luis Juste, Director of Santander Universities UK and Portugal, completed the signing of the agreement at a special event that took place at the University on September 19, 2008.

Mrs Tate commented: "This agreement will strengthen our international links, create new opportunities for our students and staff and provide tangible academic and cultural benefits.

"It will further develop our commitment to distance learning initiatives in Spain and Portugal and extending our activities within Brazil and Mexico. I am very pleased that The University of Northampton is now part of this distinguished network."

## SHAPING THE FUTURE



### £100,000 gift helps launch the University Scholarship Endowment Fund

The University launched its Scholarship Endowment Fund at a special event held at the Pavilion Building, Park Campus, on September 28, 2008. Guests had the opportunity to find out more about the University's goals and meet with current and past scholarship recipients.

University Vice Chancellor Ann Tate thanked Guests of Honour Captain John Macdonald-Buchanan and his wife Jill for their generous gifts, which helped fund the original building of the Pavilion.

Mrs Tate further announced the news of a £100,000 scholarship gift pledged by The Wilson Foundation, which will attract an additional £50,000 through the Government Matched Funding Scheme launched in August 2008. Mrs Tate said: "This is a magnificent gift to launch our fund on its way. We would like to thank the Wilson family and we recognise how much this money will mean to the University."

**Christopher Davidge, Chairman of The University of Northampton Foundation supports the University Scholarship scheme.**

#### Why I gave...

"The speed of the growth here and our excellent facilities immediately struck me as extremely impressive, and I found myself wanting to get more and more involved in helping the University flourish and become sustainable.

The Davidge Usher Trust has made a donation of £9,000 as an investment in the University, in our young people and in our community. I sincerely hope our donation will set an example that other people and businesses will follow."

**Christopher Davidge**

To find out how to support a student or to receive a copy of our Scholarship brochure visit [www.northampton.ac.uk/supporters](http://www.northampton.ac.uk/supporters) email [benefactors@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:benefactors@northampton.ac.uk) telephone the Alumni and Development Office +44(0)1604 892842

Investing in our most important asset - minds of the future



Chelsey Howe, BA Graphic Communication, graduate 2008.

"Receiving the Ogilvie Horne Scholarship of £5,000 has been invaluable to me in many aspects. It really boosted my confidence and gave me an amazing opportunity as one of just two students on my course chosen to go on an exchange programme. The scholarship funded my accommodation, equipment and living expenses."

Aaron Mullins, BSc Psychology graduate 2008, benefited from a T D Lewis Scholarship.

"I'm a mature student funding myself through my course. Receiving this scholarship helped me pay for literature and attend seminars relevant to my dissertation."



## Leaving a legacy - the inspirational gift

Friends and alumni can support tomorrow's students by leaving a legacy gift. Thanks to Will Aid it's now even easier.

Will Aid, a charity Will making scheme, takes place annually and offers the opportunity for people to have a Will professionally drawn up by a participating solicitor. Instead of paying the usual legal fee, the fee is waived, providing an opportunity for individuals to make a nominal donation to a charity.

The University welcomes the support that it receives from its benefactors. Leaving a legacy gift will greatly help our talented students and all gifts, regardless of their size, are a reminder to generations to come of the vision and generosity of our supporters.

For further information or to request our Legacy leaflet contact the Alumni Development Office:

Email [alumni@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@northampton.ac.uk)  
Telephone +44 (0)1604 892450



For further information on Will Aid visit [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk)

"Nene College, UCN and The University of Northampton, have all played a major part in my life and I would like to give back to the Institution that has given me so much

by making an appropriate contribution in my Will.

"I have been lucky enough to have been a student as well as an employer of students. As a result I have seen the benefits of the association with the University from both sides. You never leave your University and it becomes a keystone in your life, your career and your business."

David Cooper, Managing Director, LECS UK Ltd

*Pictured above:  
The Senate building at Park Campus*

*Generous donations have enabled the University to design and build a series of unique and striking buildings.*

*A donation of over £1million from The Horne Foundation, provided the funds for the Senate building.*



## Expanding creative new business

Dramatic expansion plans are underway at the University's Portfolio Innovation Centre, which is already home to some of the region's most exciting creative, digital and design industries.

The Centre is based at Avenue Campus and in its pilot two years has supported more than 25 start-ups and young companies. Now, thanks to nearly £3.15m of additional funding from West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC), Arts Council England and Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd (NEL), the Centre is trebling in size. Expansion plans are already underway and by early 2009 the Portfolio Centre will be able to accommodate up to 45 businesses.

Centre Manager, Wendy Nikolaidis, said: "Expansion plans are underway and we are looking forward to being able to support 30 additional businesses from next year. Our current one floor site will be transformed into a three storey Centre, complete with workshops, offices, three meeting rooms, central work stations, printers, photocopiers, expanded kitchen and networking space, the latest technology infrastructure and digital telephony."

Central to the expansion plans will be making the Centre as environmentally friendly as possible.

The building will confirm to BREEM (Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method) environmental standards, and this will include having 'brise soleil' sunshading - which ensures the building does not overheat in summer months, thus reducing the need for mechanical cooling. There will also be ambient, energy and water saving technologies.

Wendy added: "There are more than 1,800 creative industries in Northamptonshire and the sector brings around £610 million into the region's economy. The Portfolio Innovation Centre is at the heart of this success and we pride ourselves on offering young companies an environment which provides all the tools, advice and resources needed to achieve and exceed business potential. The Centre nurtures talent and helps companies succeed."

New tenants are already lining up for space in the newly expanded Centre. Tenants must be innovative and dedicated entrepreneurs from the design, digital and creative sector. Current tenants include photographers, a jewellery designer, a computer games development team, product and graphic designers, illustrators and marketing innovators, and a music agency.

Visit [www.northampton.ac.uk/portfolio](http://www.northampton.ac.uk/portfolio) for further details.

Residents and staff celebrate expansion of the Portfolio Centre



Artists visualisation of the new extended Portfolio Innovation Centre



## 'Green' light for construction hub

A new building, which is expected to be a leading facility in carbon neutral business, research and innovation, is to be constructed in Northamptonshire.

Architect firm Consarc won the contract to design an £8 million 'iHub' building in Daventry, through a design competition led by the University and supported by the Building Research Establishment and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The iHub building is planned as a regional hub to stimulate innovation in the building sector.

The University joined key project partners including East Midlands Innovation, West Northamptonshire Development Corporation and Daventry District Council.

Dr Frank Burdett, University Pro Vice Chancellor, said: "The University is really proud to have led the consortia which created the iHub initiative in Daventry. It is vital we reduce energy consumption, use less water and generate less waste. The construction industry is the largest producer of waste - some 36 million tonnes of landfill every year.

"This iHub will become the home of innovation to help reduce that waste, improve energy consumption and cut water use. Innovation depends on creating and implementing new techniques, technologies and processes and the best way to make this happen is through universities and businesses working together. The iHub provides the perfect platform to make that challenge a reality."

## Reaching out to schools and colleges across the region

Understanding the importance of a student's decision to go to university is top of the agenda for the University's Schools and Colleges Liaison team.



The team provides higher education (HE) guidance and support to students in Years 10-13 across the region, in addition to their parents, teachers, tutors and advisors. Aiming to ensure students receive the encouragement they need to access university, regardless of their personal circumstances, the team provides information on options and offers assistance through the transition from further to HE.

The Schools and Colleges Liaison team delivered more than 400 activities, workshops and presentations, working with over 100 schools and colleges during the academic year 2007/8.

### What teachers say...

"Always relevant, useful and pitched at the right level for students"

"Absolutely brilliant, a real help, really positive feedback from parents"

"Hugely valuable session - wish I'd known about this last year!"



### University experience

Of course the best way to encourage students to continue to university is to offer them the chance to experience life on campus. For younger students, a university visit can encourage them to achieve better grades and consider university as a realistic option. For older students, visits can help them make informed decisions about their futures and open their eyes to course and career options.

Events are run on campus for school and college students so they can take part in activities, meet Student Ambassadors to hear about university life first-hand, and discover the benefits of continuing their education. Students can experience academic 'taster' sessions: Business, Psychology, Education, Health, Design and Environmental Science, to name a few of the sessions run during the year.

Around 2,000 school and college students experienced life at The University of Northampton during 2007/8, thanks to 46 campus visits organised by the team.

### What students say...

"It was a great day and I am really considering going to uni now"

"The student helpers were really easy to talk to - very understanding"

"I'm more interested in coming to uni now and more excited!"



### Be. For University

'Be. For University' is an HE web-based guidance resource for Years 12 and 13, further education students, teachers, tutors and advisors.

Covering everything from starting to think about university as an option, choosing courses and applying, to arranging finances and accommodation, the website is inclusive and inspiring. A study skills area features downloadable information packs and activities to help students make the most of their time in school or college and beyond, together with a section especially for teachers, tutors and advisors with resources including guides, information and worksheets.

Melanie Fowler, Recruitment Liaison Manager, explains: "Be. For University is all about becoming who or what you want to be: we aim to make people's educational aspirations a reality. Our website is the only resource of its kind that comprehensively answers important questions about the transition between leaving school and going to university."

For further information about the University's Schools and College Liaison activities email [schools.liason@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:schools.liason@northampton.ac.uk)

[www.be4university.com](http://www.be4university.com)





# A FOND FAREWELL

Diane Hayes bade farewell to colleagues as she retired after 28 years as Senior Pro Vice Chancellor of the University. Ann Tate, Vice Chancellor, and well wishers from across the Institution gathered to thank Di for her years of sterling service.

Di joined the University in 1979 and became a member of the Directorate team in 2000. During her time at the University she witnessed the Institution transform, firstly from a college, then to a university college, and finally to a University with full research degree awarding powers in 2005.



From left to right: Diane Hayes and Ann Tate

## First University Chancellor appointed



February 10, 2008, saw the Installation of the University's inaugural Chancellor, Kishwer Falkner – Baroness Falkner of Margravine.

The Installation Ceremony marked a significant point in The University of Northampton's history. In her first official role as Chancellor, Baroness Falkner gave a wide ranging inaugural speech, touching on areas of society including race, gender, religion, welfare, education and politics.

## Linking across the world

The University played host to representatives from both Shaoguan University in China and the University of Madras in India, when two agreements were signed to further international links and offerings around the world.

A collaboration agreement was signed with Shaoguan University for its students to complete their final year of study in Northampton. A memorandum of understanding was agreed with the University of Madras, focusing on areas of strength and benefit to both parties, specifically the protection of the environment and health.

Students raised £3,232 in just two days to help victims of the earthquake in China. The money raised will support the China Earthquake Appeal launched by the British Red Cross.

## STUDENT SUPPORT FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS



Students from the Chinese community at the University rallied over 50 participants to take part in the 'Bucketeeing' money collections around Avenue and Park campuses and local Chinese restaurants and takeaways to raise vital funds for the devastation left in the wake of the Sichuan Earthquake.

They were joined by academics and individuals wanting to get involved and were supported by the University's Student Services Department, International Office and the Centre for Community Volunteering.

Following the disaster, the British Red Cross immediately launched an emergency appeal to support the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's relief response. Thomas Farmer, Area Fundraiser for the British Red Cross, said:

"Thank you to all the students and staff at The University of Northampton connected with this fantastic fundraising effort for the Red Cross China Earthquake Appeal. To mobilise such a strong team of enthusiastic volunteers in such a short space of time is a brilliant achievement, but to raise so much money is outstanding!"

Ann Tate, Vice Chancellor, praised the efforts: "I am immensely proud of our Chinese students for taking time out from their studies, particularly during exam time, to raise such a significant sum of money for the Chinese community."

More than 35,000 Red Cross staff and volunteers and 87 rescue and medical teams distributed tents, food, water, clothes and medicine around the clock to survivors in the earthquake-affected areas.

## Sponsoring student rugby scrum



Ann Tate (Vice Chancellor, the University) hands Tom Andrews (left) and Graeme Spencer (right) their cheques

The University and the Students' Union donated £2,000 of sponsorship to two Year 3 rugby players, Graeme Spencer, BA (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science, and Tom Andrews, BA (Hons) Criminology. The two were respectively selected for the national Ireland and England rugby league student squads, for the Rugby League Student World Cup competition held in Australia in July 2008.

Both Graeme and Tom had to raise sponsorship for their trip and the donation from the University and Students' Union helped towards travel expenses and accommodation.

## Shadow Minister visits International Office



Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister, David Lidington MP, visited the University during October 2007 to find out more about advances being made in the support of international students.

Almost 1,000 overseas students from 100 countries study at the University, collectively contributing £6 million to the local economy each year.



## University teams celebrate sporting success



Celebrations were in abundance when the University women's football team achieved a first ever win against Loughborough. Women's captain, Emilie Harbottle received Captain of the Year, and Elidh Cameron was awarded the Players' Player of the Year.



With the women's hockey team celebrating their win as the 'Team of the Year', receiving the wooden spoon award didn't dampen the spirits of the women's volleyball team. (Pictured above)



Gold awards for students and staff volunteering over 200 hours

## University volunteers celebrate achievements

University volunteers have clocked up 17,687 hours so far this year, which equates to an impact on the local economy of around £89,000 (based on national average minimum wage) and student and staff volunteers were thanked for their hard work at an award ceremony at the University in June 2008.

Linda Davis, Manager of the University's Centre for Community Volunteering, said: "The awards celebrate the fantastic volunteering work students and staff have been doing this year. The important thing is not how many hours a volunteer works, but the quality of the volunteering done."

Volunteering is spreading into the curriculum showing that academic lecturers, students and University support staff all recognise the importance of the extra skills and experience needed on CVs today."

Vice Chancellor Ann Tate commented: "These awards show how much the University values student and staff volunteering. Our

volunteers reach a wide variety of groups in the community and access people who have never had contact with our University before."

Anastasia-Lee Haromony, an art student won a top award for the voluntary work she did during her first year at University. Anastasia volunteered at both St. Andrews's Hospital and Playtimes, completing more than 280 hours.

"Throughout all my volunteering I've been committed to helping people through art. For Playtimes, I built a theatre stage to help vulnerable children overcome their inhibitions, it was a real privilege and very exciting to see art therapy making such a difference to the children. At the hospital I worked with occupational therapists to help people of all ages with a range of mental health issues. I've gained a range of skills, including time management, problem solving and assertiveness and my volunteering has opened up a whole new area of interest for me."

The University's advertising shown on the back of bus and on billboards

## WITH YOU ALL THE WAY

Following the award winning success of its first ever television advertising campaign in August 2007, the University has embarked on a second campaign.

The TV advert focuses on the intrinsic value of the lifelong relationship between the University and its students and graduates. A shadow in the form of the University's distinctively recognisable logo follows students on their ongoing journey through graduation and then onto a successful career.

The advert is targeted at all adult audiences, helping to raise awareness of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional courses at the University.

The marketing campaign also included ambient media, such as advertising at Milton Keynes train station over an eight week period, and national and regional press advertising.



## Landmark for Northampton graduates

### Some of the first MSc IT Service Management students graduated in February 2008.

Part-time students Jonathon Traer-Clark, Manisha Champaneri and Gayle Dellow started the course in October 2005, juggling their busy careers with study. Full-time student Salman Mahmood also achieved the accolade.



Jonathon Traer-Clark

Jonathon Traer-Clark commented: "The mix of experienced professionals and graduates working together provided an intensive learning experience. I enjoyed the content so much I've offered to come back and guest lecture where appropriate! Overall, I found it to be very challenging and I'm now looking for a new challenge in a similar field."

Gayle Dellow added: "The University was the only place I was able to reinforce business experience and requirements in the form of a recognised academic qualification. The MSc was well rounded and has provided me with the knowledge to advance my career."

The course is aimed at students wishing to develop a career within IT Service Management and is available through full time, part time and distance learning study options.

For further information email [business@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:business@northampton.ac.uk)



Professor Gary Hoffman presents his inaugural lecture

## Northern Rock Chief Executive Officer honours NBS with two visits

Northampton Business School welcomed Professor Gary Hoffman for his Inaugural Lecture on January 10, 2008.

Professor Hoffman, former Group-Vice Chairman of Barclays, delivered his lecture to over 60 guests, including the Vice Chancellor. Entitled 'Building Business Reputations' he discussed issues including brand leadership (and the trust that it inspires) and his role as a leader and protector of the Barclays reputation.

Professor Hoffman returned in May 2008 as a guest speaker at the inaugural MBA dinner. He provided a stimulating insight into the nature and development of the global credit crisis, its origins in the United States and the reasons for the contagion that has affected the UK financial markets.

MBA students were able to discuss their ideas with Professor Hoffman and Business School lecturers.

## £200,000 award to investigate 'internationalisation'



The University has been awarded £200,000 from the Higher Education Academy (HEA) to research international collaborative agreements at universities

throughout England, involving particular liaison with international universities in China and New Zealand. Dr David Burnapp, Senior Lecturer in Languages will lead the project team. He explains further:

"In 2007, I was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy. This allowed the University to then bid for NTFS monies as the project team must include a National Teaching Fellow."

Internationalisation is a hot topic for the future of the higher education sector as it becomes an increasingly global marketplace. The University of Northampton is grasping it firmly in both hands."

## NBS ranks highly in table

Northampton Business School was ranked 56th out of 111 university Business Schools in the country in the Guardian League Table 2008 and Guardian Student Guide 2009.

This achievement was highlighted in the Business and Management Studies category of the annual tables, which ranked NBS joint sixth place in the country for 'value added', eighth place for the percentage of students who are satisfied with teaching, and joint seventeenth for students satisfied with assessment.

Dr Ian Brooks, Dean of Northampton Business School, commented: "We are very excited about our justified rise up the annual league tables – we now rank exactly half way in the 111 UK university business schools and will continue to work towards strengthening our position further."

## Accounting Awards



Sixteen undergraduate and seven part-time professional students from Accounting and Finance courses had their hard work recognised at a prize-giving ceremony in February 2008.

Cheque prizes were presented to students who have shown an exceptional standard in their work by prize sponsors Grant Thornton, BPP, Hawsons, Hays Recruitment, BRI Ltd, PQ Magazine, McIntyre Hudson, Nationwide Building Society, Pearson Publishing and The University of Northampton Alumni Association.



## Fashion students collections showcased at the Graduate Fashion Show

An audience of nearly 3,000 attended the annual Graduate Fashion Show on June 18, 2008. 25 collections by BA (Hons) students in Fashion, Textiles for Fashion and Footwear and Accessories were modelled on the catwalk at the Royal and Derngate Theatre. The following awards were presented to students in recognition of their outstanding work and designs:

- The Leslie Church Memorial Award was presented to Year 2 students Charlotte Di Cataldo and Onyedika Tate
- Leatherseller's bursaries, were presented to Year 2 students, Charlotte Di Cataldo, Alice Parry, and Onyedika Tate

- The Leigh Cooke Colour in Design Award was presented to Craig Fellows, Year 3 BA (Hons) Textiles for Fashion for his striking collection based on farmyard poultry. Craig was a runner-up in the Society of Dyers and Colourists annual awards in 2008. Leigh Cooke is a Textiles Designer for Hermes (scarves) and Visiting Lecturer in Fashion at The University of Northampton
- The Hensmans Award for Creative Commitment was presented to Catherine Neville in recognition of the work she has put in over her three years of study. Catherine's final year collection was based on the life of Princess Diana and was modeled recently by Pixie Geldof in Grazia magazine.

The 2009 Fashion Show will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009. For more information about sponsorship of the 2009 Fashion Show or how this event can enhance your corporate calendar email [fashionshow@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:fashionshow@northampton.ac.uk)



A selection of shining design from the 2008 Graduate Fashion Show

# Hot off the catwalk



## Broadcaster Andrew Collins lectures Arts students

The School of The Arts welcomed journalist and broadcaster Andrew Collins back to Avenue Campus in January 2008, 24 years on from when he was an art student at Nene College.

Andrew an Honorary Fellow of the University, returned as Visiting Lecturer to talk to Fine Art and Graphic Communication students about his journey from student to journalist, and to address the topic 'art V commerce'.

Andrew explained: "It took me 24 years but it was an important moment to be invited back to what I still think of as 'Nene College' as a Visiting Lecturer. I have a great deal of respect for full time teachers and lecturers who would, I'm sure, think of me as something of a fly-by-night amateur, but I really enjoyed the experience of meeting and speaking to students.

Because I haven't actually earned my living from art since 1989, when I first made the switch from design and illustration to journalism at the NME, it was particularly nice to revisit my art education and, hopefully, to give those currently doing their degrees at Northampton a glimpse into how things can pan out afterwards.

As a Fellow of the University, I did promise to come back and contribute. Having been asked to open the Heyford Building last summer, I now feel I have my feet back under the desk at Avenue Campus. It still smells the same as it did when I first walked through its doors to attend Saturday morning art classes as a schoolboy, back in 1979. Although it's changed a lot, the spirit remains. Students, of course, look very young to me now - when I was a student, I felt I was very mature and ready to take on the world.

I hope they'll have me back."



Andrew Collins

## 'PASSED' GRADUATES RETURN

Past Fine Art students were welcomed back to the University in an exhibition entitled 'Passed' at Avenue Gallery, coinciding with the 2008 annual degree shows in June:

**Claire Jarvis, BA (Hons) Fine Art graduate 2006**, is currently in the first year of an MA in Painting at the prestigious Royal College of Art in London.

**Helen Perkins, MA Fine Art graduate 2005**, took part in a range of solo and group shows, travelled to Tibet and China and is now studying for a PGCE in Art and Design.

**James Smith, BA (Hons) Fine Art graduate 2000**, specialising in photography, won a commission in 2006 to document three housing estates in Corby before their demolition, culminating in a well-received solo exhibition at Fernywoods Contemporary Art.

**Sally Verrall, BA (Hons) Fine Art graduate 2003**, successfully completed a Masters at the Royal College of Art in London and in 2007 received the Photographers' Gallery Graduate Award for work made as part of her studies.



'Meral' by Joanna Yates

### Picture perfect

Joanna Yates, BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting graduate 2007 has a portraiture entitled Meral on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Selected from 1,727 entries, it is amongst 55 portraits on display at the Gallery until September 14 as part of the Portrait Award, sponsored by BP. The competition is aimed at encouraging artists to focus upon and develop the theme of portraiture in their paintings.

### World class act

Internationally acclaimed drama therapist, Professor Robert J Landy, was one of the highlights at the University's 'Inspiring Transformations: The Arts and Health' conference.

Robert who is a Professor of Educational Theatre and Applied Psychology and Director of the Drama Therapy Programme at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, led a six hour inspirational drama therapy workshop entitled 'The function of the guide in therapeutic dramatisation'.



## Ofsted and TDA success for School of Education

The School of Education is celebrating achieving the highest award from Ofsted - Grade 1 - for outstanding management and quality assurance and for its quality of training, after an inspection in April 2008 which looked at the School's Primary and Early Years Initial Teacher Training provision.

The School has also been awarded the Training and Development Agency's (TDA) highest grade for quality - Category 'A' provider status as a result of the Ofsted success. The University has moved from a Category B (good) to a Category A (very good) status with the TDA, reaffirming the School's continuing commitment to its trainees.

Joanna Moxham, Head of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) commented: "We are delighted with this outcome and such a positive endorsement from Ofsted and the TDA. We feel it reflects the hard work and commitment of all the stakeholders in our partnership; mentors in over 250 schools, University tutors, administrative staff and our students. The Ofsted report clearly identifies the various contributions which they all make to our ITT programmes."

The University is one of only nine higher education institution providers where the results are significantly above average.

## Education welcomes back alumni

The School of Education hosted a lecture for graduates of the Foundation Degree and the BA (Hons) in Learning and Teaching in March 2008.

The event was chaired by Professor Philip Garner who has taught in a wide range of schools and universities and is Director of the National Behaviour4Learning project.

Professor Richard Rose, Director of the Centre for Special Needs Education and Research (CeSNER) in the School of Education, was the keynote speaker. Well known for his work in the field of special and inclusive education, Richard's address focused on 'Changing Schools – Looking to the Future' drawing upon his experience and research to give an overview on the ways in which schools have changed to meet the demands of Government and society.

Professor Rose considered the ways that teachers have had to adapt and change their thinking and teaching styles to meet the needs of pupils in modern inclusive schools. Acknowledging the 'Every Child Matters' and 'Extended Schools' agenda, Professor Rose concluded with one possible vision of the way forward for schools - as the hubs of their communities, providing

integrated children's services in one accessible centre. He detailed one of his research projects to show how this kind of holistic approach is already being put into practice and the benefits it offers to the whole community.

Graduates welcomed the chance to catch up with each other and their tutors to share experiences, before a lively and thought provoking discussion on the effects of change in their own schools and what can be done to move things forward.



## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION WINS £60,000 OF RESEARCH CONTRACTS

The School of Education and its Centre for Special Needs Education and Research (CeSNER) has won three research contracts totalling £60,000, supported by the Training & Development Agency (TDA).

One of the projects focuses on the national initiative to provide extended services through schools. This will consider multi-agency working and the provision of services such as homework clubs, breakfast clubs and counselling services.

Another project will provide educational psychologists and tutors skilled in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to train professionals working in schools and after school clubs on the 'Growing Talent for Inclusion' approach.

The third project will address the underachievement of boys compared with girls in both curriculum and social behaviour, by providing accessible resources for teacher trainees, tutors and school-based mentors in order to identify a set of teaching strategies.

These projects will see the further development of the School of Education's relationships with local authorities, partner schools and higher education institutions.

"The success of CeSNER in gaining these three bids is indicative of the increasing national and international esteem in which the Centre and School is held."

Professor Richard Rose Director of CeSNER



From left to right: Ann Tate and Dr Sheila Shribman

### DoH speaker addresses Education

The School of Education's annual Children and Young People lecture in July 2008, welcomed high profile speaker Dr Sheila Shribman to an audience of academics, students, local authority representatives, education and health contacts.

Dr Shribman is National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services at the Department of Health and an Honorary Fellow of the University. She was appointed National Clinical Director in December 2005, following 22 years as a Consultant Paediatrician with diverse experience in children's health services.

## Lecturer graduates in Education

Congratulations go to Estelle Tarry, Senior Lecturer in Professional Education, School of Education, as she graduated in July from The University of Bath with a Doctorate in Education (EdD). Estelle's thesis was entitled 'Thai students and their reasons for choosing to study in United Kingdom universities'.



## Education launch DVD for teaching assistants

The School of Education has produced and released a DVD aimed at teaching assistants who want to find out more about the courses offered at the institution which could help further their career.

The DVD focuses on the Foundation Degree in Teaching and Learning (FDLT), BA (Hons) Learning and Teaching (BALT) and the Certificate in Higher Education Supporting Learners (CHESL).

With two DVDs already launched for the Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) programme, the production team from the School of Education has captured the essence of the Foundation Degree's success - fostering a mutually supportive professional network of talented people who are going on to achieve an academic success that many felt was not possible for them.

To obtain a copy of the DVD email [education@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:education@northampton.ac.uk). For information on courses contact 0800 358 2232 or email [study@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:study@northampton.ac.uk)



## Waste management sector vote for Margaret

Margaret Bates, Manager of the University's SITA Centre for Wastes Management, was listed at number 48 in Resource magazine's annual 'Hot 100' list of the most aspiring 'agents of change'.

Each year Resource magazine, an environmentally-targeted publication offers its readers the chance to vote for the leading 100 figures working in the sustainable waste arena.

## Successful launch of foundation degree in Non-Destructive Testing

The distance learning foundation degree in non-destructive testing has recruited successfully in its first year of operation and underpins the relationship with the Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT)

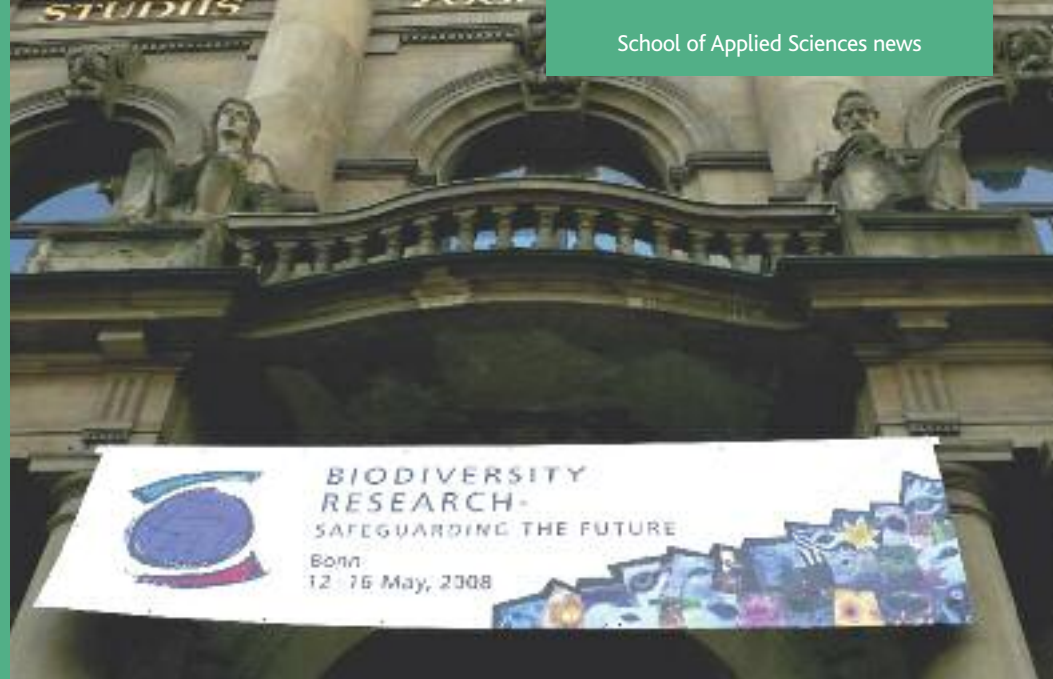
The course is aimed at providing an opportunity for people already working in the NDT industries to study for an academic qualification which complements their current job, updates their knowledge and skills and improves their career prospects.

For further information telephone 0800 358 2232 or visit [www.northampton.ac.uk](http://www.northampton.ac.uk)

## Visiting Professor of Geophysics delivers Inaugural Lecture

On June 19 2008, Professor Frédéric Perrier of Université Paris 7, Denis-Diderot and l'Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, delivered his inaugural lecture titled "Radon-222: A Tool to Track Environmental and Geodynamical Processes".

This was the culmination of a three-day visit to the Radon Research Group and the School of Applied Sciences and marks the start of a research collaboration which will see Dr. Robin Crockett, and others, visiting Paris as well as Frédéric and members of his group visiting The University of Northampton in the coming years. This collaboration is at the cutting-edge of international research into radon as a diagnostic of geophysical processes.



## Ecologist's steps to influence international policy on biodiversity conservation

Dr Jeff Ollerton, Senior Lecturer in Ecology, was one of 30 international research scientists invited to speak at a conference entitled: "Biodiversity Research – Safeguarding the Future" at the University of Bonn, Germany, to an audience which included 260 scientists from 36 countries.

Speaking on the topic of "Pollinators as critical ecosystem service providers: the biodiversity of species interactions", the main aim of the meeting was to draw up a set of recommendations which were presented to the Convention on Biological Diversity - Conference of the Parties (CBD-COP) to provide a more scientific focus to international policy in relation to biodiversity conservation.

The CBD is the foremost international treaty for the conservation and preservation of genes, species and ecosystems. It emphasises the

importance of biodiversity to the ability of the planet to support life and the continued existence of human beings. Administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the CBD has been signed by 168 countries since its launch at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and is the basis for much of the national and international law relating to species actions plans, habitat conservation and the equitable exploitation of biological resources.

## Farewell to Dean

The University said farewell to The Dean of the School of Applied Sciences, Dr Nick Boutle in December 2007. Nick joined Nene College as Principal Lecturer in the Division of Mechanical Engineering in 1988.



From left to right: John Sinclair (Acting Dean of Applied Sciences), Ann Tate and Dr Nick Boutle

## Research into waste and hospital infections

A team of scientists, led by researchers from the University, is studying whether there are any potential links between the way in which waste is managed and the risk of the spread of infections in NHS hospitals.



Dr Terry Tudor

The project is led by Dr Terry Tudor, Postdoctoral Fellow in Wastes Management, and includes researchers from the School of Applied Sciences and The School of Health, as well as a team from The University of Surrey and Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The study, 'Determining the link between healthcare waste management practices and the risk of healthcare associated infections within three case study NHS Trusts in England', has received £70,000 of funding from the National Institute for Health Research.

Dr Tudor explained: "Within the NHS in England and Wales, despite some recent reductions in reported incidences, the numbers of healthcare

associated infections (HCAIs) such as meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Clostridium difficile (C. diff.) are still unacceptably high. Using a combination of microbiological techniques, interviews, questionnaire surveys and structural systems methods, the study will examine the risk of the spread of four main HCAIs, at three case study sites.

"We hope the findings from the project will go towards the development of sound evidence based policies and practices for more effective wastes management and infection control within the NHS."

## MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Ecologist Dr Janet Jackson's passion for environmental issues has grown so significantly that her research is now influencing the UK in its quest to achieve sustainable development planning for the future.



resource for the students in the School of Applied Sciences and offered to monitor and evaluate its progress.

Upton is one of the UK's leading sites encouraging the construction industry to implement environmental technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of development and the University now has a team of experts working on the project.

Dr Jackson, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science, quickly realised that the Northampton Upton development could be a valuable teaching

Within the development an innovative way of managing rain water run-off has been installed. The Sustainable Urban Drainage System collects water from roofs and roads and temporarily stores it in a series of retention ponds before it is released in the River Nene.

The installation reduces the additional risk of flooding down river and creates opportunities for wetland habitats to develop. As Northampton has a long history of flooding, Dr Jackson's data and research findings will be invaluable.

Dr Jackson graduated in 1993 with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science and was the University Court Award winner for 2008.





Podiatry students keep  
Marathon running



The School of Health’s Podiatry Division provided an invaluable service at the Flora London Marathon for the 20th year in a row. A team of 23 students, three graduates and four members of staff treated acute injuries of weary marathon runners. The team are used to treating sports personalities, celebrities (and their entourages!) and people dressed as giant gorillas or chickens... it’s all just part of the job!

PM praises overseas  
nurse tutor



Pauline Byers (centre) with the Prime Minister and his wife, Sarah

Pauline Byers, who delivers the University’s School of Health Overseas Nurses Programme (ONP), was selected as a finalist in March for the 2008 Nursing Standard ‘Nurse of the Year Awards’ for her work around the indigenous African Caribbean diet in the management of type II diabetes. She was proclaimed the winner of the prestigious ‘Diversity in Health Award’, sponsored by the Royal College of Nursing, at a ceremony at the Royal Opera House in London. Pauline rounded off the celebrations with a visit to 10 Downing Street for a reception with Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Since winning this award, Pauline has been invited to join a Department of Health working group on structured education in diabetes. Approximately 50 overseas nurses have completed the University’s programme through the Practice Development Unit over the past 18 months, and have entered the Nursing and Midwifery Council Register making them eligible to practice as nurses in the UK.

OT Visiting Professor welcomed

The University’s ‘Health Through Occupation’ Research Group welcomed Professor Doris Pierce, Endowed Chair in Occupational Therapy at Eastern Kentucky University and Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association, on campus as a Visiting Professor.

Professor Pierce has accepted a Visiting Professor position in the School of Health from 2008–2011, to assist the development of the occupational science research and programming, as well as initiating a collaborative research project examining international variations in occupational therapy theory and practice.

Dr Susan Corr, Reader in Occupational Science, commented: "I am delighted to welcome Professor Pierce, a prestigious scholar and researcher of international standing. Her expertise will contribute to our development, enabling us to pursue our aim of becoming an international, interdisciplinary centre of excellence, specialising in the study of engaging in occupations and relationship to health."

Role as external examiner at the  
University of Mauritius



Annie Turner, professor of Occupational Therapy in the School of Health, has been fortunate enough to be offered the role of external examiner to the Occupational Therapy programme at the University of Mauritius.

As a small island most programmes at the university bring in their external expertise from around the globe, although many come from the UK due to the historical links between the two countries. As one of a small handful of professors within her discipline Annie felt privileged to be awarded this role alongside a range of UK professors in other disciplines. Being an external examiner is never an easy task and certainly taking on board not only a different culture (particularly important in a people based profession), but also a different education system was quite a challenge. Additionally the health and social care systems are very different from the UK.

While students studied in English for the majority this was neither their first, nor for some, even their second language. Annie was privileged to be shown occupational therapists at work in a range of work settings and also to listen to students presenting their dissertations. Such a demanding schedule clearly required some recuperation time and Annie was lucky enough to be able to stay on for a few days and explore the island. Not only that, but her role will take her back next year; she already has a long list of volunteers to help carry luggage!



Left to right: Anna Cywinska, Eamon Lindsell and Chloe Civil

The beginning of Westminster’s summer recess for MPs marked the end of a three-month long Internship for three BA (Hons) Politics undergraduates.

Second years Eamon Lindsell, Chloe Civil and Anna Cywinska gained valuable experience by working as research assistants for three MPs, splitting their time between constituency offices and Parliament as part of the programme. The Interns had to apply directly to MPs of their choice as part of the module ‘Democracy in Action’. The course helped prepare them for the Internship application process, including interview, CV presentation and extensive research into the backgrounds of their shortlisted MPs.

Eamon Lindsell worked with Sally Keeble MP (Labour) for Northampton North: "My first week in Westminster was really exciting – seeing Big Ben from my office window and quickly getting involved with a campaign against binge drinking. It’s amazing how you can get involved and make a difference. "Sally would like me to work with her throughout the next year while I’m still at University. When I finish my studies next year I’d like to run for President of the Students’ Union. As for becoming a Member of Parliament – it’s a lot of work, so we’ll see." Chloe Civil worked with Gary Streeter MP (Conservative) for Devon South West: "I’ve watched Select Committees where all three parties work together as a team and this happens in a lot of cases. I believe this is what politics is all about – working together to make a difference for the rest of us. I’ve developed excellent skills in

research but just being here is something I’ll take away with me." Anna Cywinska worked with Tom Brake MP (Liberal Democrat) for Carshalton: "I never expected I would be here to see things that people read about in the papers the next day – it’s a real buzz. I didn’t know what I wanted to do career-wise but now I know for a fact that I want to come back here and do research full time." Sally Keeble MP praised all the students: "The Internship students have been phenomenally good. Their skills in dealing with the practical work have been excellent and they are also acting as impressive ambassadors for the University."



Race relations legislation

In November 2007, Professor Andy Pilkington gave his inaugural lecture as Professor of Sociology, ‘From Institutional Racism to Community Cohesion’. The lecture was presented in front of an audience of over 100 members of the local community. The presentation focused on the topical and emotive subject of race relations legislation, and the UK’s place in the World as a country which traditionally takes a proactive and sympathetic approach to multiculturalism.

Historian visits Yale

Dr Matthew McCormack, who teaches British history in the School of Social Sciences, won a prestigious Visiting Fellowship from Yale University in America to study at the Lewis Walpole Library during July 2008. The grant is to conduct his research for a new book on the militia in Georgian England. The Lewis Walpole Library houses the famous private library of the eighteenth century ‘man of letters’, British politician and writer Horace Walpole. The Library holds over 30,000 items including books, artworks and manuscripts, and is internationally recognised as a centre for eighteenth-century studies.



# Sound advice from business guru



From left to right: Sir Richard Needham and Trevor Baylis OBE

Over 200 business exhibitors, visitors, academics and research experts attended a Partners4Innovation event at Sunley Management Centre on May 1, 2008. During the event guest speakers Sir Richard Needham and Trevor Baylis OBE, addressed over 100 regional company directors and representatives.

Sir Richard, Sir James Dyson's right hand man at leading vacuum cleaner manufacturer Dyson, addressed the unique challenges of innovation alongside creative design. He explained: "Innovation needs to be carried out against a clear design framework to manage what you're doing to a successful conclusion."

Sir James spent an enormous amount of time patenting his product and creating a hugely effective management structure in terms of

manufacturing, PR and marketing. In 14 years Dyson has grown from a novel idea to being the largest manufacturer of vacuum cleaners in the World, with a 30% share of the global market.

He advises: "The most important lesson I have learnt is to worry what the customer wants. Too often in business you can think internally about what your organisation requires and not put yourself in the shoes of the customer or your competitors."

**Trevor Baylis OBE**, world renowned inventor of the clockwork radio and media personality, added: "If you can solve a problem you're on your way to being an inventor. This nation is brilliant at invention, but it is absolutely appalling when it comes to bringing those inventions to market. We've got to stand behind the lone inventor and against the huge corporations that mug inventors for their ideas."

## Leading business into tomorrow

The University celebrated the work of one of its Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associates (KTP) in March 2008. Stewart Betts, a KTP Associate employed by the University, won the prestigious Business Leader of Tomorrow award, making him the second of our KTP Associates to win one.

KTP is a national programme established in 2006 by the Department of Trade and Industry, where academics provide solutions for business while putting their research into practice.

Stewart was congratulated for transforming the retail trading subsidiary of charity Sue Ryder Care Direct Ltd and re-energising the company's attitude towards its product range, increasing its margins and market share for greater profitability.

The University's Business Development Manager, Research and Knowledge Transfer, John Jones, said: "Stewart's drive, vision and enthusiasm has re-energised the company's attitude towards its product range and the impact his actions have had on staff at all levels, including senior

management, has been astonishing. Stewart has also inspired and motivated the University's students by sharing his work with them and setting student projects, alongside holding lectures and presenting papers."

The University of Northampton is the County's sole provider of KTP activity and companies who participate in these types of projects can increase their profits by an average of around £227,000 per year (source: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Annual Report 2006/07).

For further information on how KTPs can help solve your business problems, email [john.jones@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:john.jones@northampton.ac.uk) or telephone +44(0)1604 892598



Stewart Betts



Rona Cant (third from left) with University staff

### Business events a hit

At a Business Breakfast event at the University, international yachtswoman Rona Cant told company leaders that fighting the challenge of mountainous seas in the Southern Ocean demands the same skills needed in today's business world.

Rona, a round-the-world yacht race competitor, inspired delegates at the event when she described how her Global Challenge team had to make better use of each others' talents to produce an improved result, in the same way that leaders of struggling businesses should.

Rona's key message to delegates was to trust their employees, continually review success and to celebrate when things go right.



Mark Palmer

### Marketing chocolate success

In September 2007, Mark Palmer, Brand Director of Green and Black's Organic Chocolate, shared his dynamic vision on niche product marketing to an audience of over 150 company leaders at a Business Breakfast. The event at the Northampton Saints Rugby Club acted as the opening ceremony for the 'Inside-Ex' business exhibition and networking forum.

Discussing the drive behind this success, Mark explained: "Some people joke that our marketing plan can be summarised as having spent the last six years giving away free chocolate! However, it has been vital for us to adopt a 'tasting is believing' or 'discovery marketing' approach with our target customers. Keep it simple – do what you believe is right and you can achieve your goals."

## Cosworth CEO makes a pit-stop

Tim Routsis, Chief Executive of motor sport engineering company Cosworth Ltd, was guest speaker at the Manufacturers' Business Breakfast in January 2008 where he talked about managing significant change in business.

Tim and his management team successfully created a new vision, strategy and business execution plan designed to position the business in new markets after restructuring in 2006. Cosworth has since secured over £25 million of new long-term business, and is growing at over 30% per year.





Arti Lukha, BSc Combined Honours Energy Management, Law and Politics graduate 1995, shares her experiences as a News Editor with ITV News.

## itv ...ARTI LUKHA ... ON THE FRONT LINE ...

"In my career what I do is less of a job and more of a lifestyle.

Driving home from the January sales, my mobile phone started bleeping texts – Benazir Bhutto dead... suicide bomb attack. "An hour and a few frantic phone calls later, I was at the Pakistan Embassy picking up visas for myself and my team, sorting out satellite feeds and arranging a local fixer who could help us when we landed in Islamabad.

On landing in Pakistan I could never have imagined that just eleven hours earlier I had been in Selfridges, but there I was in the middle of a riot in the heart of Rawalpindi. Cars and trucks blazed and missiles rained down as heavily armed police moved in. Tear gas was fired among us but we kept on filming, gathering dramatic images that so vividly illustrated a country in meltdown. As I moved through the chaos I couldn't help notice the quizzical looks on the rioters faces as they saw a woman in the thick of the action.

Aside from the chaos, I had to secure hard-hitting interviews from leading political figures: these have to be fought for. I'm not someone to be palmed off - as President Musharaf's right hand man, General Rashid Qureshi, remarked: "This girl does not give up until she gets what she wants".

Glamorous locations aren't always the rule – I may have been to the Oscars, but I've also trawled the red light district in Ipswich trying to find street workers who would talk to me after the Suffolk murders.

My life as a student in Northampton seems a distant memory now, but the people I met and experiences I encountered made me the person I am. I remember my first day vividly as if it was yesterday – the campus seemed intimidating and

the students queuing to register appeared to be so confident. The students I met during the first few days at Nene College became my best friends and I'm still in touch with many of them now.

During my three years the campus saw huge changes. We were able to benefit from the brand new Students' Union buildings, a new refectory and a modern library. I remember using the new computers to type up my assignments, but using the Internet was unheard of! There was no such thing as email or googling something, it's hard to imagine life today without the web, especially in journalism.

My lectures in Energy Management have so much relevance in the work that I do now. Climate change is the biggest challenge of the Century and a massive story for us. Everything I studied, from the potential of renewable energy in the UK and how to improve energy efficiency to biofuels and the demands from the developing world, are on the news agenda virtually every day.

I always knew I wanted to be a journalist and worked towards that goal. I had my first article published in my local newspaper when I was 12 and regularly contributed news and sport articles to Northampton's Chronicle and Echo and Nene Scene, the college magazine.

After graduating I did a postgraduate in journalism which gave the right qualifications to start my first traineeship at the Press Association in Leeds as a sports journalist. However, whilst I loved sport, I realised it was just a passion not a career - I wanted to work in News.

As a reporter on the Burton Daily Mail I covered horrific murders and my first election. I then moved to Southampton to become a Senior

Reporter at the Daily Echo and I covered some fantastic stories, interviewing some A-list politicians and celebrities.

Being a Londoner, I joined regional news programme London Tonight in 2001. I was lucky to be spotted by ITN, was offered a job as Deputy News Editor and promoted soon after. I feel privileged working for one of the best news broadcasters in the World and I'm lucky to have covered some amazing stories. It's my responsibility to set the news agenda, target the right stories and direct our resources accordingly.

With competition between broadcasters at a fierce level, there is no margin for error. If ITN misses a story it's my head on the block. With fewer resources than the BBC and Sky News, we have to punch above our weight and I am the person driving our news agenda for the day.

I've just won an award as Media Professional of the Year for Asian Woman of Achievement. It's a testament to my dedication and determination over years of long hours and not the best pay. I'm not sure what the future holds, but I'm planning a three-month trip to Uganda at the end of the year, and perhaps a trip back to Northampton for the first time in more than ten years!"



Arti Lukha (right) receiving her award

## Remembering Nene

### David Bywater, Combined Studies graduate 1995

"I went to Nene College in 1992 having enrolled for a Combined Studies Degree in Psychology, American History and Law. I never quite knew which subject I wanted to be my major, but I realised I was on course for completing my exemptions in Law if I stuck with it. When I graduated, I had a Combined Studies Degree with my major subject as Law. My next step was to go to the College of Law in Chester.

Nene was undergoing many changes and development when I was there, there were new Halls of Residence, new Business School buildings and a new Students' Union building. As it continues to develop the University has grown to be something special.

The social side of Nene was great, it was such a friendly place both on and off campus with regular haunts that we visited on Tuesday and Friday nights. I remain in touch with friends I met even though some live miles away and we still manage to meet every few months.

My career started when I was lucky enough to land a training contract with a small firm in Lancashire, but I ended up qualifying in a law firm in Surrey specialising in personal injury law. It felt time for a

change and I managed to secure a job with Morgan Cole solicitors, one of the top 25 law firms in the country that year. Now I work at Weightmans in the City of London specialising in defendant personal injury. I find the job fascinating, dealing with a mix of minor and major claims, investigating claims, taking statements and running some cases through to trial from county courts to the Royal Courts of Justice.

I certainly wouldn't be where I am now without the opportunities and experience that Nene gave me."



From left to right: Rachel Butterworth, Sandra Duerden and David Bywater

## Becoming a people person

### Sandra Duerden, Combined Studies in Business and Psychology graduate 1995, reveals to Connect her route into HR management.

"After graduating from Nene in 1995 I spent two years working in offshore planning for a company in Lancashire. The Managing Director thought this role would give me the challenge I was looking for and it certainly did! I worked in manufacturing units in Tunisia, developing my French language skills amongst others.

I decided to take a year out to specialise in Human Resources and completed an MA in Personnel and Development and CIPD which led me to a job working for a London-based company specialising in recruitment. It was a fantastic experience, and I soon became HR Manager developing the company's policies, procedures and HR function.

In August 2004, I accepted a role as HR Manager at the Recruitment and Employment Confederation. Four years later I'm still there. The role has been varied, initially looking after 50 staff and now 86. I've had the opportunity to write HR articles for magazines and advise on employment law queries to our members, as well as providing a full HR service to the business.

I don't know where my career will take me, but I've been lucky to meet the people I have and explore the opportunities I have had to date."

*Sandra would like to hear from friends from Nene, email [Sandra.duerden@btinternet.com](mailto:Sandra.duerden@btinternet.com)*

## Fashion world toasts graduate

### Gavin Douglas, BA (Hons) Fashion graduate 2004, tells Connect about his booming career.

"Two years after graduating I set up my own fashion label 'Gavin Douglas'. I thoroughly enjoy my work: designing the main line collection each season, production management, fabric sourcing, and buying and liaising with a variety of different people including staff, PR and work experience students.

I have won several awards including The Originator Award, The Avant Garde Designer of the Year Award and the Fashion Fringe award. Fashion Fringe is an award which takes place annually and is a huge initiative to find the strongest new fashion design in the UK. I won in 2006 when the competition was chaired by Tom Ford, the saviour of Gucci, and the other members of the judging panel included Hillary Alexander, Sarah Mower and Giles Deacon.

Since winning this Award I have personally collaborated with The Royal Opera House, Tom Ford, Elie Saab, IMG, The Sunday Times, The Prince's Trust, Paris Fashion Week, London Fashion Week and the Mayor of London, amongst others.

I was invited to work with Elie Saab in Lebanon for two weeks in December 2007. This involved working within Elie Saab's couture atelier and assisting with the developments of the couture Spring/Summer 2008 collection.

In March this year I was recognised by Prime Minister Gordon Brown at the Black Britannia exhibition as one of the most influential black role models in the UK, alongside Naomi Campbell and other prominent figures.

The main suppliers of my clothing brand currently are Harrods and Italian website Yoox.com. My career is going from strength to strength and I'm very excited by future prospects."





## From Nene to Silicon Valley

Duncan Jackson (BA Hons Business Studies graduate 1996) is the founder and CEO of Clubspaces Inc, a social networking company for youth sports and family organisations.



Twelve years on from graduation, Duncan lives in San Francisco with his wife Lisa and two children. Looking back at his time at Nene College and his Business Studies course, he firmly believes that the support and leadership he received at Northampton was the foundation on which to build the thinking and curiosity that developed his successful career.

Following his graduation from the Business School, Duncan completed a Diploma from the Chartered Institute of Marketing at Northampton's Sunley Management Centre, followed by a European Business Diploma from a Business School in Holland.

Prior to launching Clubspaces, Duncan held several senior roles including Head of Marketing at TradeBeam responsible for driving strategic alliances, corporate planning and all aspects of the company's marketing. This led to recognition for TradeBeam as the leading provider of Global Trade Management solutions. He was also Head of

Marketing at British Telecom, managing a variety of on-demand technology products and services, including the launch of BT as an Internet Service Provider and the introduction of innovative web-based EDI and intranet solutions.

Clubspaces was created by Duncan and friend Steve Viarengo – both dads with energetic families who commiserated over their struggles to manage all their family activities. A steady stream of disconnected phone calls, emails, paper schedules and in-person meetings with scout troop leaders, coaches and parents, seemed to be the only way to manage it all.

While these technology industry veterans clearly saw the value of an internet-based tool that brought all the disparate parts together, they also wanted to make the service free so clubs and families wouldn't have to incur the cost. In June 2006, Clubspaces was born.

Today US-based Clubspaces has grown to more than 1 million members. Parents, players, coaches, administrators and club organizers from all walks of life use Clubspaces to manage their clubs, communicate with members and connect with other Clubspaces members.

[www.clubspaces.com](http://www.clubspaces.com)

## BA Business Studies graduate 2007

"My four years at The University of Northampton went quickly and suddenly I had to make choices: do I start applying for graduate jobs, look at specific jobs relating to my career or just go travelling? Luckily a placement job during my sandwich course gave me some experience to bank on so I decided to take some time out and enjoy working abroad.

Travelling by itself would have been nice but with student debt behind me it didn't seem to be the right option. This being the case I decided to combine work and travel together. I had heard that one of the easiest jobs to gain abroad is teaching English as a foreign language. I therefore decided to complete a short Teaching English as a Foreign Language course in Egypt.

It was only a four week course, but was intense! Although doing homework on the beach and having fresh smoothies brought to me was quite amazing. Egypt was such a fun experience and gave me my first insight to teaching. Egyptian culture was truly astonishing. I had time to travel across the country with some of my new friends and I even undertook some volunteering in a childrens' home.

After returning to the UK I was offered two jobs - teaching English in Italy or Bahrain. I decided to go to Bahrain, a small island in the Persian Gulf about an hour from Saudi Arabia, so I could continue to learn Arabic which I had started earlier in the year. I didn't have a lot of knowledge about Bahrain, but I had heard excellent reviews on the quality of living there from ex-pats.

I worked for an international school with ages ranging from the very young through to high school. Teaching was challenging, especially as I didn't have any experience. However, most international schools abroad will hire staff as long as you are a native speaker of English and hold a degree from a British, American or Australian university, regardless of your degree subject.

My housemates were American, Lebanese and Australian and it was fun learning about their cultures too. Settling into the Bahrain life was easy - the nightlife was amazing. There were big shopping malls as well as traditional 'souks' (markets), which can be fun to shop at if you like bartering.

Living and seeing a different side of the world is extraordinary. Experiencing a different culture is truly captivating and has given me the travel bug. I'm off next to India to learn Hindi. Hopefully I'll have more travelling to come!"

## THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND STELIANOUR SANI LINK UP ON FASHION SHOW BROCHURE

A former student and 2004 BA Graphic Communication graduate, Stelianour Sani, returned to work with colleagues in the School of The Arts when he was commissioned as photographer for the 2008 fashion show brochure. His photos displayed the exceptional talents of students, highlighting the creativity of the design, the quality of the fabrics and textiles and the vibrancy of the colours in the fabrics and leather garments.

Since graduating Stelianour has become a leading photographer and has received various awards including; 2003 Trophy Winner for the National Business Calendar Awards, Highly Commended for the Migraine Awareness Week Campaign and Highly Commended for the British Design and Art Direction Award in 2004.

Stelianour's work has been exhibited at the London Design Exhibition and published in the annual D&AD Award book and the RSN Magazine.

## Cutting edge of fashion

Stephanie Tsang, BA (Hons) Fashion graduate 2007, tells Connect why she is a cut above the rest.

"I've had a very successful year since graduating in 2007, winning the 'Most Creative Designer' title at the UK Urban Fashion Awards and showing my graduate collection FUTURE8FORM on the catwalk at London's Alternative Fashion Week.

I enrolled on a Postgraduate course 'Creative Pattern Cutting for the Industry' at the London College of Fashion and alongside the course I organised a work placement at Mulberry. A pattern cutter works closely with designers: the designer will give the pattern cutter an image of a garment style and the pattern cutter's role is to determine the various fabric shapes needed to create the style required with the correct fit and

then to produce a pattern. It's a combination of technical and creative abilities, which is why it appeals to me.

After completing the course, Mulberry offered me a job as their Assistant Pattern Cutter, for the women's RTW (Ready To Wear) collection. My role is varied, I make amendments to patterns as a result of style changes and fittings, prepare patterns to be sent out to factories, and track the progress of each style, working as a team with the designers.

I'm really happy that I've managed to get the position I wanted with such a well-known and respected luxury brand, and obviously the money has come in very handy!"





## First alumni reunion in London

The first reunion took place at the Pitcher and Piano, London, on April 24, 2008 where alumni met friends and remembered their time at Northampton with fond memories of the Students' Union and nights out in Northampton town. Look out for our next reunion in 2009!

For information on how to host a reunion visit our alumni website [www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni)



## ALUMNI REUNION IN CHINA



University Vice Chancellor Ann Tate attended an alumni reunion with over 100 former students at the Landmark Hotel in Beijing, organised with the support of the British Council.

She remarked: "There are more than 500 graduates of The University of Northampton based in Beijing alone and it was a huge pleasure to speak with so many of them again. By retaining strong links with the University they are all acting as true ambassadors for Northamptonshire in the wider world."

## Dates for your diary

<b>October 2008</b> >>	<b>Thursday 30th</b> Inaugural Address, Professor Annie Turner >	<b>November 2008</b> >>	<b>Saturday 8th</b> Open Day >	<b>Wednesday 12th</b> Graduate Recruitment Fair >	<b>February 2009</b> >>	<b>Sunday 8th</b> Graduation Ceremony >
<b>March 2009</b> >>	<b>Wednesday 4th</b> Postgraduate Fair >	<b>April 2009</b> >>	<b>Date to be confirmed</b> Alumni London reunion >	<b>June 2009</b> >>	<b>Tuesday 9th</b> Leather celebration event >	<b>Sunday 14th</b> Open Day >
<b>Wednesday 17th</b> Graduate Fashion Show >	<b>July 2009</b> >>	<b>Friday 17th</b> Leather Conference >	<b>Saturday 18th</b> Centenary of Leather Education awards and dinner >	<b>Sunday 19th</b> Centenary of Leather Education London visit >	<b>August 2009</b> >>	<b>Date to be confirmed</b> Open Day >



## Wear your Northampton colours

The Alumni merchandise and gift shop has an extensive range of high quality branded products exclusively for The University of Northampton which are an ideal way of remembering your time here.

For a full range of products visit our online shop at [www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.northampton.ac.uk/alumni). Alternatively contacts us by post, email or telephone. +44(0)1604 892450 or email [alumni@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@northampton.ac.uk)

**Please send orders to:**  
The Alumni Association, Park Campus,  
Boughton Green Road, Northampton  
NN2 7AL

We accept payment by cheque, credit and debit card. Cheques should be made payable to The University of Northampton.



## Congratulations...

**Naj Mistry (School of The Arts graduate 2006)**

Naj was a student ambassador for the University and now works as a Development Officer for Aimhigher. He married Kirsten Roberts (School of Education graduate 2006) in April 2008.

**James Nolan (School of The Arts 1999)**

James studied an HND Media and now works as a Senior Technician for Rathbones. James attended the London alumni reunion and told us about his wedding to Jodie and the birth of their son.



James Nolan

Naj Mistry and Kirsten Roberts