



# Noteworthy



**Keeping  
in touch**

**Alumni Association launched**

Introducing the latest issue

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## From the editor

WELCOME to the Summer 2002 issue of Noteworthy, the University of Luton's alumni magazine.

This edition is special for two reasons. First, the University is now in its 10th year and has plenty of successes to celebrate – not least the achievements of our graduates, some of which you can read about in the 'Where are they now?' section that starts on **page 20**.

And secondly, we are delighted to announce the launch of the University of Luton Alumni Association, creating a formal mechanism for our fast-growing global family of former students to keep in touch with the University and with one another.

Attending university is an experience that stays with you for life. Students form strong friendships and lasting loyalties – and the University is proud to be at the centre of a network that spans many nationalities, ages and occupations.

On **pages 10 and 11** you can read about the new association, how you can become involved and where you can find out more.

Please also take the time to complete the questionnaire that accompanies this issue. Not only will it enable us to keep in touch, but it will also provide valuable information to help us in our efforts to continually improve the University – ensuring our courses and facilities really do offer maximum benefit to future generations of students. I hope you enjoy reading this magazine – and we look forward to hearing from you.

**Patricia Murchie**  
Editor



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Noteworthy is a publication for all graduates of the University of Luton. If you would like to register to receive a free copy – or notify us of a change of address – please fill in the enclosed form. Alternatively you can contact us by phone or email.

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In 10 years, the University has gone from strength to strength

# Many reasons for celebration



University of Luton  
Education that works

AS the University of Luton approaches its 10th anniversary, we have an abundance of things to celebrate.

In just one decade we have earned a tremendous reputation as a global centre for higher education – education that really does work.

The facts speak for themselves: our graduates are better equipped to find employment than those of any other university in the United Kingdom. And not just any employment – in this issue you can read about some of the varied and exciting careers our former students have embarked upon.

There can be no better ambassadors for the University than those who have benefited from studying here. That is one of the reasons behind the launch of our new Alumni Association.

In 10 years our alumni have grown in to a vast family that reaches across every inhabited continent.

In countries as far afield as China, Brunei, Nigeria, Thailand,

Kenya and Pakistan, in commerce and in public service, in management and in media, in education and in industry there are people who can proudly proclaim that the University of Luton provided the springboard for their success.

We believe our alumni are one of our greatest assets and we're delighted to officially launch the Association – which will enable much better communication and promote a community of interest that spans the globe.

Through the Alumni Association you will be able to keep in touch with the latest developments at your University and keep track of former colleagues, regardless of their location or occupation.

We also hope you will use the Association to enable others to share some of the benefits you have enjoyed as a result of studying at the University of Luton.

By acting as an ambassador, you can tell others about the University and what it has to offer. Your experience of life in Luton can prove extremely valuable, particularly if you are from outside the United Kingdom – talking to a young person who is considering leaving home to study for the first time. We hope that some alumni might use their own success to help support future generations, by making a donation to our development fund or even offering to sponsor a student through a bursary or scholarship.

The University of Luton is committed to progress and continual improvement. Any contribution, no matter how large or how small, will be used to enhance our facilities for the students of tomorrow.

But more than anything, we have launched the Alumni Association because we are proud to have been involved in creating such a dynamic global family.

It is my sincere hope that it will develop into a vibrant and thriving community, which each of you will also feel proud to be a part of.

**DR DAI JOHN**  
Vice Chancellor

## ▼ WHAT'S ON

**THE University will be holding a number of special events over the next year to celebrate its 10th birthday. Plans so far include:**

■ **Luton Carnival – The Students' Union will be participating in Luton's award-winning carnival in 2003.**

■ **Caring for our Children conference – The University will be holding an international conference on this theme, a subject area in which the University already has an excellent reputation for its research and expertise.**

■ **Entrepreneurship business conference – Following the success of recent projects such as the 2002 Innovation Lecture, held at the University's Putteridge Bury campus, the University will be holding a special conference in partnership with leading figures from the world of business.**

■ **Music event – Symphonia Academica, the University's resident orchestra, will be holding a special concert at Putteridge Bury.**

■ **Postgraduate ceremony– The date for next year's ceremony has been fixed for Friday, July 18. Special celebrations are planned for this 10th anniversary event.**

**Stay in touch with our website for further news of forthcoming events ([www.luton.ac.uk](http://www.luton.ac.uk)), or contact Patricia Murchie on 01582 489015.**



## Recent developments in and around the University

# University news

## Top criminology prize for Suzella

LUTON student Suzella Palmer (pictured) has overcome enormous odds to attain a first in her BA (Hons) degree in Criminology.

She also wins the University's Gill Blowers Prize, awarded for outstanding research in criminology by an undergraduate, for her dissertation 'Made in the Ghetto: Black Identity, Resistance and Criminality'. Suzella, now 32, grew up on a deprived housing estate in North London. Her parents died when she was young and she was fostered between the ages of 14 and 16. She dropped out of school at the age of 14. "I saw no value in it," she says. "Nobody went to university. The estate was my world and I wanted to make some money."

She hung out with other young people in a similar situation and made money by both legal and illegal means. She became a mother at the age of 22 and again at 26.

Suzella eventually came to Luton with her two children. She said: "I got into higher education almost by accident. With two children and no support I was unable to work. I was persuaded to take an access course at Barnfield College and again persuaded to apply to the University at the end of it."

After her first-degree success, Suzella is now looking towards doing a PhD. She said: "My studies at Luton have transformed me. It's rubbed off on my kids and my son now sees attending university as a normal part of his development."

Her tutor, Professor John Pitts, said: "Suzella has demonstrated a genuine and powerful intellect and has been a delight to teach. She is precisely the sort of student that Luton nurtures and values."

## STATE SCHOOLS

THE University is continuing to win praise for its socially inclusive policy of accepting a high percentage of students from state schools – and keeping them!

A report in The Independent newspaper criticised some of the country's best-known universities, describing them as 'elitist' for enrolling only half their students from state schools. The newspaper contrasted them with Luton's 99 per cent of state

school entrants – six per cent better than its benchmark figure of 93 per cent.

University of Luton Vice Chancellor Dr Dai John said: "The Government has a clear target for UK higher education – to ensure that 50 per cent of young people have a degree by the year 2010. To achieve this, universities need to ensure that students from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to study. "Luton is justifiably proud of its record in recruiting students who come from a wide range of backgrounds – from the UK as well as from overseas. "A student's previous academic record is important, but we also recognise the contribution which determination, enthusiasm and commitment make towards gaining a good degree."

The University has also been praised for retaining a high percentage of its students. Luton's projected drop-out figure was 17 per cent – far below its benchmark figure and in sharp contrast with several other of the newer universities who had projected rates of up to 41 per cent, according to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Luton has the seventh best retention rates of the 41 new universities. Dr John said: "One of our key strengths is that we help students develop and, ultimately, realise their full potential. Many of our students have a career in mind – and we help them achieve it."



University of Luton  
Education that works





## Top for graduate employment

THE University of Luton is top for graduate employment for the second year running, according to The Times newspaper.

Surveys for 2001 and 2002 put Luton at the top of the list for careers success – after the Government's Higher Education Funding Council for England awarded the University a 100 per cent score for its employment record.

The University also continues to climb the national newspapers' main league tables. The Times now puts it in 72nd position – a leap of 21 places in just three years.

The Financial Times also records a major improvement in the University's position, moving it up 20 places in just one year to 73rd place. The FT described Luton as a long-term improver which has confounded its critics.

The Telegraph puts Luton in 67th position – a rise of 16 places in two years – and the University came straight in at 69th in the Guardian's 2001 table.

The newspapers' league tables rate academic institutions according to a number of factors, including applications for places, graduates' employment prospects, teaching and research.

### ▼ RESEARCH

THE University has been described as among "the most improved institutions" for research. Following our impressive results in the latest Research Assessment Exercise by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Guardian newspaper lists Luton as the eighth most improved institution.

The research subject areas which came in for the highest praise were History and Tourism. Social Work and Social Policy, Business and Management, Linguistics and Communication and Media Studies were also rated as areas of strength. Pro-Vice Chancellor Tim Boatswain said: "In the three main funding areas that are available to universities, Luton has consistently achieved a high level of performance, demonstrating the quality and maturity of teaching, scholarship and research and the University's role in supporting the local and regional economy."

## MORE MEDIA COURSES

MEDIA-related courses at the University are going from strength to strength, with a large increase this year in applications for courses such as Media Production, Public Relations and Performing Arts. According to statistics from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), these courses, along with certain combination courses such as Psychology and Criminology, were the most popular. Overall, UK applications to the University were down slightly at the initial UCAS deadline of January 15. This can partly be explained by the University's decision to reduce the number of courses on offer. But international applications rose by a staggering 30 per cent.

Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr Steve Pettitt said: "We did anticipate a drop in the number of UK applications this year, due to the fact that we reduced the number of undergraduate courses on offer in order to focus on our strongest subjects and the development of our postgraduate provision.

"We decided to discontinue certain undergraduate programmes which, together, attracted about 1,000 applications each year.

"Of the current applications to Luton, we anticipate a higher average conversion rate this year."



◀ **INNOVATION LECTURE**

**THE** Department for Trade and Industry joined forces with the University's newly launched knowledge hub during the summer when the Putteridge Bury site was chosen as a venue for the DTI's UK Annual Innovation lecture. Senior figures from the business community attended the lecture, 'Living Innovation – Learning from the Best', which was broadcast by satellite to centres across the country.

▼ **PEACEKEEPER**

**GURPREET** Gidda, a graduate from the University of Luton, is doing his bit to secure world peace since achieving his Executive MBA in 2001. The Royal Air Force officer has been promoted to Squadron Leader and is now on a peacekeeping mission with Nato in Bosnia. Gurpreet said: "I received outstanding support and guidance during my part-time Executive MBA studies. Without the dedication and professionalism from the staff at Luton, my graduation would have been a distant dream."

▼ **EVENTS**

**THE** University of Luton's knowledge hub is running a number of events this year which may be of interest to alumni. For people considering going into business, a weekly evening series deals with entrepreneurship. The lectures start on October 3, and run until June 2003. For people already in business, there will be a series of monthly evening lectures on the general theme of competitiveness. These start on September 12 and run until next June. The venues for these events will be the University of Luton's Park Square campus and Putteridge Bury, home of

the University's business school. For details contact Greg White, Manager of the knowledge hub, on 01582 743968, or email [knowledge@luton.ac.uk](mailto:knowledge@luton.ac.uk).

## The sounds of Italy come to Putteridge Bury

THE University's resident orchestra, Symphonia Academica, brought some Italian sunshine to concert-goers in the gardens of the University's Putteridge Bury Conference Centre in July. The alfresco programme of Italian classics included Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' and music by Rossini, Puccini and Albinoni. The professional orchestra, formed in 1995 and resident at the University since 1999, has been acclaimed for its concerts both at home and abroad. Artistic director Peter Bussereau went to school in Luton.



► **AMBASSADORS**

A NEW partnership involving the University has been formed to promote the Luton area – and alumni and supporters are being urged to become ambassadors for the town. Luton First held a reception at Artezium, attended by more than 70 guests representing the civic, community,

education and business sectors.

Dr Dai John, Vice Chancellor of the University of Luton, said: “There are so many good things happening in Luton all the time and our ambassadors can make sure that people know about them. “Anyone can be an ambassador for Luton by finding opportunities in the

course of their work or leisure time to say something positive about the town. We can help them by providing the facts they need.”

Luton First has launched a new website containing an essential guide to what’s great about the town. Visit [www.lutonfirst.com](http://www.lutonfirst.com)

▼ **SAM’S SUCCESS**

**GOLD** medal-winning University of Luton cyclist Sam Barker has notched up another success. The 23-year-old PhD research student was a member of Team Lighthouse, which won the British Senior Men’s 25-mile Championship in the Lake District. Sam, who has been riding with the Manchester-based team for two seasons, took a magnificent 11th individual place in the event, which attracted the UK’s 120 fastest teams. The race gave him an opportunity to turn the tables on old rival Duncan Alexander, from Cambridge University, who won the BUSA 25-mile Time Trial Championships in May in which Sam took bronze. In April, Sam took the gold medal in the four-kilometre pursuit at the BUSA National Track Championships at the Velodrome in Manchester.



▲ **TOURISM TOAST**

Bottom row, left to right, Dr Marcianna Augustyn, Professor Graham Dann, Head of Tourism Department Dr Peter Mason, Dr Andrew Holden. Top row, left to right, Professor Tony Seaton, Dr Keith Hollinshead, Vice Chancellor Dr Dai John and Dr Steve Pettitt.

## Tourism research gains national recognition

THE University of Luton has achieved national recognition for the quality of its research into Tourism. The University’s Department of Tourism and Leisure gained the highest score for any university in this year’s Research Assessment Exercise, carried out by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The assessment covered work done over a five-year period from 1996–2001.

Dr Peter Mason, who heads the Department, said: “We’re delighted. This institution has hired some very influential people in the field of tourism – a policy which now appears to be paying handsome dividends.”

Fifteen students are involved in PhD studies in Tourism and Leisure in the Department, and the University’s BA (Hons) degree in Sport Tourism is the first course of its kind.





▼ **GUEST SPEAKER**  
**PRIME Minister Tony Blair** was guest speaker at a party held for the outgoing Editor of the **British Journalism Review**, the quarterly journal featuring writing and reviews by journalists in the UK, and published by the University of Luton Press. Held at the Reform Club in Pall Mall, London, the event celebrated the achievements of Editor **Geoffrey Goodman**. The Prime Minister gave Geoffrey a fitting and friendly speech, chatted and signed autographs. **Bill Hagerly**, former deputy editor of the **Daily Mirror**, editor of **The People** and a member of the **BJR** editorial board, is the new Editor.

► **ONLINE FACILITY**  
**THE** University is developing an online facility for students which will allow them to study from any location in the world. Known as a virtual learning environment, the facility is based on the web-based learning tool, **Blackboard**. It enables students to access material relevant to their chosen course wherever they are in the world, send emails to other students, submit work to lecturers, and take assessments online. It also enables lecturers to communicate quickly and conveniently with students. They can even create discussion forums in which students can talk through a particular topic wherever they happen to be.

## Get the T-shirt!

BEEN there, done the degree – now would you like the T-shirt? The University of Luton now offers a range of goods featuring our distinctive logo, all available online through our state-of-the-art souvenir shop.

And wherever you are in the world, it is easy to order souvenirs of your Luton days from the comfort of your computer.

Featured merchandise which may be of interest to alumni include a high-quality rollerball pen, a fold-up calculator and a triple-dial clock, plus a range of stylish T-shirts and sweat-shirts.

The site can be accessed via the University's main website ([www.luton.ac.uk](http://www.luton.ac.uk)). Just click on the Souvenir Shop button on our Alumni pages.



► **PAKISTAN HONOUR**

**THE University of Luton was honoured to receive a visit from Zobiaida Jalal, the Pakistani Federal Minister for Education, who came to discuss creating stronger educational links between universities in the UK and Pakistan. Local councillors met the Minister at a reception at the University's Putteridge Bury campus. Links between our University and educators in Pakistan are already strong, with many Pakistani students choosing to study in Luton.**



## Schools outreach

LUTON is reaching out to local schools to help encourage pupils to consider going to university. The University hosted a visit from senior pupils from two schools in Bedfordshire – allowing them to experience lectures and seminars. As well as having an authentic taste of undergraduate life, they heard advice about making the right choice of university and how to cope financially once they get there. Teachers who accompanied the groups were delighted at the amount of useful information their pupils received.

They were also impressed that the University laid on a special lecture, followed by seminar workshops. Pupils toured the campus, looked at facilities and sampled student fare in the refectory.

One teacher told Noteworthy: "It was the best university visit we have experienced and has been extremely useful for our pupils.

"The University hit just the right note and I think even those who were uncertain about going on to university will now be very keen."

A panel of members of the Students' Union Executive held a question and answer session at which pupils found out first hand about student life in Luton.

One of the visiting teachers added: "What particularly came across was how good the support systems are within the University and how well the SU looks after students."

Lal Joshi, Marketing Manager at the University of Luton, said: "It is particularly important to bring pupils in early in their run-up to A-levels so that they have time to really think about where they want to go and what they want to study.

"It is much more informative for prospective students to come into the University, where they can get a feel for what it is like.

"We have devised a programme we believe will help them approach their UCAS application with greater knowledge and confidence."

**Contact the Education Liaison Team on 01582 743255.**

► **PROFESSOR'S AWARD**

**A UNIVERSITY of Luton professor has won a prestigious £50,000 UK National Teaching Fellowship to carry out a research project.**

**Professor Martha C Pennington's fellowship – one of only 20 to be awarded – recognises achievement in university teaching and learning.**

**A linguist and teacher educator who holds the Powdrill Professorship in English Language Acquisition at the University, Martha was presented with her fellowship at a ceremony in London on July 9.**

**Her project will develop ways to use computers to analyse postgraduate students' writing problems and to build a website that students and university tutors can use to find advice and aids for writing. The project focuses on writing theses and dissertations but will have some application for other university students and their writing in academic subjects.**



Encouraging communication and understanding among our graduates

# University association

## Keeping in touch around the world

THE University of Luton is now in its 10th year – and in just one decade we have come a long way. More than 16,000 people have graduated since 1993 and, as you will see from our ‘Where Are They Now?’ section, our alumni have developed their careers in many different directions.

Our alumni community spans the world, reaching into industry, public service and even government.

Wherever you travel, the chances are that you’ll never be far away from someone who, like you, has benefited from studying at Luton.

Until now this annual magazine has been the main point of contact for our global alumni community – offering information about developments within the University and news of old friends.

But to celebrate our first decade, we have decided to launch the University of Luton Alumni Association as a formal platform to encourage communication and understanding among our graduates.

The University’s Director of Development, Patricia

Murchie, explained: “Time spent at university is precious – you never forget those years. People form friendships there and often keep them for life.

“Across the globe there are thousands of people with a common interest in the University of Luton and among many there is a strong desire to keep in touch.

“The Association will strengthen those ties and will also provide a channel for those who wish to give something back to the University – so future generations can enjoy the benefits.

“That might involve offering financial support, through donations or scholarships, or simply acting as ambassadors and promoting the University.”

Pro-Vice Chancellor Tim Boatswain added: “In 10 years a lot has happened to the institution; we’re growing in terms of our facilities, and our reputation. People are interested in hearing about that, and our new official Association will help them to stay in touch.”



University of Luton  
Education that works





## YOU DECIDE ON HOW ASSOCIATION IS RUN

OUR global Alumni Association will be run by alumni, for alumni – it's up to you to decide how it will work. The University of Luton is putting the building blocks in place by setting up a new website offering support and information, and visiting countries where there is a large alumni community to offer encouragement and guidance.

Senior members of the University have been travelling across the world, meeting alumni and finding out what sort of contact with the University they would prefer. In some areas, alumni groups are already quite well developed – there is a flourishing alumni community in Cyprus, for example. In Brunei, plans for an association are at an early stage but, with a large community of Luton graduates living there, there is enthusiasm for an annual event.

An alumni community doesn't have to be based on geography. There are moves to create alumni groups in professional or business areas – such as the media, where the University of Luton has developed a significant interest.

The first step is to get in touch. Included with this magazine, you'll find a questionnaire which will enable you to tell us about your life now and let us know what you want from the Association. Please take the time to fill it in – the more people who take part, the better service we will be able to offer you.

## KEY ROLE FOR WEBSITE

A NEW alumni website will play a key role in keeping our former students in touch – with one another, as well as with the University.

The site is accessible via the main University pages ([www.luton.ac.uk](http://www.luton.ac.uk)). Just click on the Alumni button to see what's new. On our website you'll be able to find

out about the latest activities of alumni via a regularly updated 'Where Are They Now?' section. You can also get details of forthcoming University events.

The site will also include details of how you can make a donation towards the University's future.

The future content of the website will be very much up to you, so we'd like you to email us

([alumni@luton.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@luton.ac.uk)) to keep us informed about your lives and offer your suggestions about the Association and the website.

We want a two-way dialogue with our alumni, and that means every one of you.

## WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

THE University has helped thousands of people on the road to successful and fulfilling careers – and many are keen to see others enjoy the benefits.

At the University we are constantly working to improve our facilities and the standards of education we can offer to those from the UK and overseas.

As alumni, we value your input. You can help by:

- **Joining the Alumni Association and expressing your opinions.** By hearing of your experiences, at and after University, we can bring about improvements.
- **Becoming a University of Luton ambassador.** The best reference a university can have is from a former student. Through the Alumni Association you can help us to promote the University.
- **Investing in our future.** If your time at the University helped you to achieve success, you can have the satisfaction of helping future students by making a donation to our development fund.
- **Supporting a Scholarship.** As an individual, or through your business, you can offer direct help to a young person by sponsoring them through University. By selecting your candidate, you can even fulfil your future recruitment needs by linking study to a work placement and potentially a job offer after graduation.

### ▲ AMBASSADOR

**TOBY Friedner is one of the original Media Performance class of 1997. Now a high-profile presenter on the BBC's Three Counties Radio, he is an enthusiastic ambassador for the University.**

**He told Noteworthy: "The University of Luton served me so well. What I learned there allowed me to get started in a fiercely competitive industry. My course gave me the confidence to aim for a job in local radio. So now I take every chance to talk about the University and promote what it offers." But you don't have to be a radio star to make a positive contribution to promoting the University. Toby added: "There are lots of people out there in different careers who owe their success to Luton. If they meet anyone who's thinking about going to University, they can advise them to consider Luton – it all helps to spread the word."**

**For more information, please visit our Alumni Association website, contact Patricia Murchie on**

**In its short lifetime, the University has built a powerful reputation and launched many glittering careers**

# Milestones

## 10 years of success

WHAT a difference a decade makes! In October 1993 the University of Luton officially opened its doors for the first time and welcomed its first intake of 1,200 undergraduates.

Now we have entered our 10th year, with more than 12,400 students and a global community of 16,000 alumni spanning 120 different countries.

Since it was awarded university designation, Luton has provided a springboard for many glittering careers. It has gained a powerful reputation in the business world – and has attracted visits from royalty, showbusiness, commerce and politics.

Many leading figures have been proud to accept honorary degrees, while leading companies have chosen to partner the University in research and other projects.

But above all, the first decade is significant for the tremendous number of students whose lives have been shaped by time spent at the University of Luton. Towards the back of this issue of Noteworthy you can read some of their stories. Here we look at some of the milestones the University has achieved so far in its brief but dynamic history.

### ▼ FACILITIES:

**YOU only have to look at the way the University's state-of-the art buildings have transformed the look of Luton town.**

**Our Learning Resource Centre, originally opened in 1993 at a cost of £3.2m, was updated and extended four years later, trebling the work space for students and providing the latest hi-tech computer and library facilities.**

**In total, the University has**

**invested more than £60m in resources and facilities since 1993 and is due to invest several more millions in a new building to house Creative Arts.**



◀ **THE LAUNCH:** THE history of the University goes back to 1908, when the Luton Modern School was established. Luton Technical Institute was founded in 1937 and after various changes of name became Luton College of Technology in 1958. In 1976, the college merged with Putteridge Bury College of Education to become Luton College of Higher Education. The college then became the University of Luton in 1993, after receiving university designation. The University was launched with a garden party held at Putteridge Bury, now home to the University's Business School and Conference Centre.

Left: 1957 aerial view of the old Modern School and the new Technical College, in Luton's pre-University days.

Right: The University's £8.2m Learning Resources Centre, extended in 1997.





Right: Honorary degrees for Luton's celebrity supporters and friends – comic poet John Hegley (right), Trevor Baylis (far right), inventor of the clockwork radio and Cleo Laine (above right).



◀ **CELEBRITY VISITS:** THE University has been honoured to receive many VIP guests, particularly at its graduation ceremonies, and each year a number of the University's celebrity friends and supporters have received honorary fellowships, doctorates or other awards. The diversity of people who have been honoured by the University of Luton reflects the University's own academic and cultural range. People who have received honours include comic poet John Hegley and international singing star Cleo Laine. His Excellency Dr Laxmi M Singhvi, the High Commissioner for India, is among those who have received an honorary doctorate of Laws from the University.



◀ **RECOGNITION:**

THE University has shown itself to be academically gifted. Its performance in

the national newspaper league tables grows ever stronger, and the Government's watchdog, the Quality Assurance Agency, has awarded the University of Luton six 'excellent' scores in a row for its teaching. The University also has a

proud record in establishing centres of excellence, such as the new Centre for Competitiveness based at Putteridge Bury.

Left: November 26, 1993 – inauguration ceremony for the new University of Luton.



◀ **ACCOMMODATION:**

OUR student population has grown, too. The University now has more than 12,400 students and 1,000 staff, with about 10,800 studying at undergraduate degree

level and 1,800 more studying for other awards, including postgraduate and professional training. In response to their needs, student accommodation, once in short supply within reasonable distance of the University, has improved massively. Since 1993, the University has constantly invested in its facilities so that now it can guarantee all first-year students a place in halls with more than 1,600 study bedrooms available.

Left: A place to live... New student accommodation under construction and Vice Chancellor Dr Tony Wood and Cecil Parkinson MP declare the new accommodation open.

▶ **FUN:**

IT'S certainly not all work and no play. Remember those May Balls? Could that really have been you? The Students' Union's annual events have featured star bands, top DJs, a funfair, circus performers and a casino, all helping to make Luton's May Ball one of the largest events of its kind in the country. Completing the picture are 10 years of graduation ceremonies. Our alumni have gone on to succeed

in many walks of life and Luton's record of graduate employment is second to none.

Right: Party time... Grand Ball, July 1993 and celebrating the new University at the Putteridge Bury Garden Party.



**The University has made a significant investment in its facilities over the years, with much more to come**

# Investing in the future



The Park Square site as it is now (right) and (below) how the new Plaza could look.

## Progress is key to our success

CONSTANT progress has been a key theme throughout the University of Luton's first decade – and the drive to improve has never been more dynamic.

To date, more than £60m has been invested to transform the University from its basic beginnings to the well-equipped institution it is today.

Now exciting plans have been unveiled to enhance our facilities even further, with a large-scale redevelopment of the Park Square campus.

The new Student Plaza represents a further investment of between £3m and £4m. Central to the plan will be a glazed atrium spanning the car park at the front of the main Park Square campus building. Not only will this provide a spacious new communal area, giving students a meeting place and visitors better access to information points, but there will also be improved retail and commercial facilities to include a new restaurant.

The scheme also includes provision for an exhibition



area to serve both the University and the wider community.

Several options are now under consideration as to the details of the design of the new Plaza, but whichever is chosen will both improve the entrance to the University and make it more welcoming to visitors.

Computer-aided design images of the scheme show contemporary buildings with clean, modern lines, enhancing the look of the whole town.

The new development will bring students and University staff back into the town centre, rather than being scattered in various buildings around the town. Detailed planning and design issues are still to be settled, but the University's Head of Estates, Matthew Fletcher, anticipates that work on the Student Plaza will begin in the New Year.

**► MAKE A DONATION**  
**YOU can join forces with the University of Luton to build an even better future for students by:**

- Contributing to the future development plans.
- Sponsoring a student.
- Sponsoring an event.
- Supporting the University's general development fund.

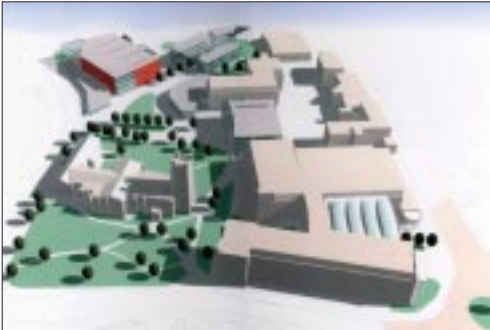
Please check out our web site for more information, or send your cheque to: Development Office, External Affairs, University of Luton, Park Square, Luton LU1 3JU.

We will, of course, keep you up-to-date by letting you know exactly how your contribution has helped.

And, don't forget, if you are a UK tax-payer, your contribution could qualify under the 'Gift Aid' scheme. This means that the University can reclaim tax on your gift from the Inland Revenue.

Right: Computer-aided design images prepared by consultant architects Scott Brownrigg & Turner.

Below: The site of the new developments.



**▼ FUTURE PLANS**  
**LOOKING even further ahead, the University has exciting plans to build a 600-seat theatre and redevelop the area just off Park Square, in partnership with Luton Borough Council.**

Providing a theatre would realise a long-standing ambition for Luton and reaffirm the University's place at the heart of the cultural life of the town. The plan will regenerate the area just off Park Square into the town's cultural quarter. Total investment required for the scheme has yet to be finalised, but there are plans to include retail and commercial units within the scheme, which will help finance the new theatre.

Plans include the development of the area adjoining the new theatre and performance venue as an 'accommodation village' for students. These facilities could then also be used for residential courses and summer schools.

University Vice Chancellor Dr Dai John said: "Our aim is to open the University to a wider community – and this exciting project demonstrates our commitment to that aim. We take seriously our role in providing high quality teaching and we have an excellent track record for getting graduates into employment. "We would welcome the opportunity to have more involvement with the cultural and social development of the community, too."

**A quarter of our students come from overseas – and the University makes them feel at home**

# International

## ▼FACT FILE

**ALMOST** a quarter of all University of Luton students are from overseas – more than double the average for international recruitment to a British university. Between them, our international students represent 140 countries. The University has more than 1,500 students from other countries in the European Union. Some of these come through EU-funded exchanges, others apply directly. There are about 1,500 students from countries outside the EC. All our international students are highly valued members of our community who make a positive contribution to University life. The International Foundation Programme is a popular opportunity for students who need to improve their academic level and study skills, as well as improving their English, before starting on a degree programme. We offer English language programmes at all levels throughout the year. There is the option to do a full year's course or just to study for a couple of weeks in the summer to get a flavour of England and the University. Luton is more flexible than most British universities in that it can start many degree programmes in February, as well as the traditional September. The University is particularly well equipped to support students from other countries: we offer guaranteed accommodation in single rooms in our own halls, most of which are only a few minutes' walk from the main teaching buildings and we have two dedicated International Student Advisers there to cater for all welfare needs.

## Reaching out to the world

At the University of Luton, we are proud to reach out to the whole world. Our students come from every corner of the globe – helping us to gain a reputation as a truly international centre for education.

Each year about a quarter of our new students come from overseas and in its first decade the University has established a healthy tradition of turning out graduates skilled in languages.

Our global reach involves much more than simply recruiting students from outside the UK. The University has developed the skills and facilities to make sure overseas students feel welcome and at home – and to help them overcome any special problems they might experience through being in a different country.

Pro Vice Chancellor Tim Boatswain plays a key role in the University's international affairs, travelling the globe to spread the word about what Luton has to offer.

He explained: "Our success in attracting overseas students is partly down to the promotional efforts we make overseas. Senior people from the University

have been out to different locations, building up contacts and raising our profile."

The University also regularly plays host to distinguished visitors from overseas. The Pakistani Federal Minister for Education, Zobaida Jalal, recently dropped in to discuss possible links between the University and Pakistan.

Luton's location is also an important factor. As well as excellent transport links by road and an airport on our doorstep, Luton is also close to London, but not as expensive.

Tim said: "Word of mouth is another important factor and this is where our new Alumni Association can be particularly helpful. A few people come from a certain country, and they take the message home – so we build up a good reputation."

## WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY...

IN 10 years, more than 5,000 students from overseas have completed their studies at the University of Luton. Many have gone on to achieve great things in their home countries, enjoying successful business careers or taking important roles in public service. Noteworthy asked some of them what they thought of their experiences in Luton:

**Italy:** Gianni Leone graduated from the University of Luton in 1998 with a BA (Hons) degree in Travel and Tourism. He is now working with Alitalia, his national airline, as a Pricing Manager – having recently secured promotion.

Gianni said: "What I particularly liked about the course at Luton was the practical focus. I took the International Air Transport module in my final year and I found this gave me a distinct advantage as I entered the airline industry. The University's close proximity to London Luton Airport enabled me to work at Debonair during my studies.

"The post I have now is varied and challenging, involving a lot of international travel."

**China:** Yixin Chai arrived in Luton from China six years ago after completing a foundation course and



“  
Demand for  
higher  
education  
is enormous  
in China  
”

**Tim Boatswain**  
Pro Vice Chancellor



has subsequently been training as an accountant at Ernst & Young – she expects to qualify next September. Known as Grace to her friends, she studied EFL (English as a Foreign Language) and took a BA (Hons) Accounting course, graduating in 2000. She said: “My impression of the University of Luton is very good. Accounting is one of the Business School’s strong subject areas.

“I really enjoyed my time at Luton. The support from lecturers was great. They gave me so much help, as they did to all the students who were willing to learn. The programme is flexible as Luton has a modular degree scheme, which gave me the option to choose modules from across the University’s provision. “My studies at Luton have undoubtedly given me a solid foundation in accounting.”

**China:** Crystal Zhao (pictured), from Shanghai, is doing a one-year course at the University, working towards an MSc in Marketing Management, which she is due to complete in April 2003.

Among many of the positives of her time at Luton has been the chance to work in the University’s own marketing department and she hopes to gain further work experience in the UK before returning to China, or perhaps

working elsewhere in Asia when her degree is finished.

When Crystal was looking for a university in the UK, she considered a range of options at a British Council exhibition in her native country. She was impressed with what Luton had to offer and noted the additional benefits that the University was close to London and “the tuition fees were reasonable”.

But there were a great many unknowns. She said: “I was used to living in a big city and had no idea of what an English town was like.”

As well as the culture shock, Crystal encountered a few short-term headaches to do with accommodation when she first arrived. However, the University’s international office was on hand to help and she is now enjoying life in the town.

She has also found the University’s careers service particularly helpful in enabling her to organise work experience while she is here.

Crystal likes the traditional style of Putteridge Bury, the University’s business school, where she is based. And the best thing of all about studying at Luton? “My colleagues – they’re lovely.”



**▲ GLOBETROTTING SENIOR** members of the University have visited almost every corner of the globe, creating links with other academic institutions, and reaching out to potential new students.

Two recent visits for Pro Vice Chancellor Tim Boatswain (pictured above) were to Nigeria and China. He said: “China is a huge market for us.

Demand for higher education is enormous in China and lots of students already come from there to study with us. We are now moving on one step from pure recruitment drives and setting up collaborative arrangements with other institutions.

In Nigeria, Tim’s mission was about reaching out directly to potential students. “There are lots of bright young people there who are desperate to get into higher education, but in many cases the funding is lacking.

“The University is helping to meet the needs of students in Africa, but we would welcome help from alumni who might be able to fund bursaries and scholarships so we can help even more.”

Could you help to provide funds for an overseas student? To find out more, contact Patricia Murchie on 01582 489015 or email [alumni@luton.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@luton.ac.uk).

**The University of Luton has forged exceptionally successful links with the business community**

# Business connections

## ▼ COMPANY LINKS

**MANY** companies which are household names have chosen to take advantage of the excellent facilities the University of Luton has to offer.

**The University has forged links with locally-based multinationals such as AstraZeneca, which has provided generous scholarships for students and benefited from the University's supply of young talent.**

**Interbrew UK is another locally-based multinational which has strong links with the University.**

**Language training has been especially important for the brewer, which has Stella Artois, Boddington's and Hoegaarden among its brands. The University has helped by providing language training for senior management.**

**Along with other companies, Interbrew UK has also chosen to invest scholarships or bursaries, supporting students in their studies. More than 40 of our students are receiving support from businesses.**

**For many companies, the benefits are two-way. As well as finance, they offer students the chance to work for them during vacations. Joanna Webb, for example, is studying BA (Hons) Marketing and Advertising Communications. She won a scholarship from Luton-based Royal Mail worth £1,500 over three years and also has the chance to work within the company's marketing department. Joanna said: "This will really aid my studies and give me an insight into the world of work."**

**If you or your company would be interested in funding a scholarship, contact Patricia Murchie on 01582 489015 or email [alumni@luton.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@luton.ac.uk).**

## Top for graduate employment

THE University of Luton has an excellent record of engaging with the business community – which is one reason why it is top of the league for graduate employment.

We're at the cutting edge in management training and the drive to make business more competitive, working with local firms as well as a long list of major blue chip companies including AstraZeneca, Interbrew and the UK lottery operator Camelot.

The University can also boast a prestige Business School and Conference Centre at Putteridge Bury. This historic building, set in 500 acres of countryside yet only four miles from Luton town centre, offers an impressive range of facilities for businesses of all types. As well as welcoming thousands of delegates for sales and training conferences and business meetings, it is a centre of excellence for business training and development.

The Business School also houses the University's Centre for Competitiveness, headed by Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas. His latest book, *Transforming the Company: Manage Change, Compete and Win* (Kogan Page), draws on research by the Centre. It addresses the issue of corporate communication and

sets out what needs to be done to replace rhetoric with genuine dialogue.

During his keynote speech at the recent International Conference for Corporate Reporting, Colin pointed to events at Enron, Worldcom and Xerox, to illustrate the need for companies to act urgently to develop a more transparent culture.

He said: "The prospects of struggling companies can be transformed by putting the critical success factors required for winning in place. Achieving success is often easier and is invariably more satisfying than rationalising failure."

The Centre for Competitiveness was founded only a year ago, in partnership with the UK's Department of Trade and Industry and companies including Ernst & Young, ntl and JVC. Its main aim is to encourage business to compete in the global marketplace.

As well as becoming an increasingly respected centre for research into the workings of industry and finance, the University has developed a strong reputation for reaching out to local business.

It runs workshops and seminars aimed mainly at small and medium-sized businesses under the brand name 'Toolkits for Competitiveness'. The series



**Greg White,  
Project  
Manager  
of the  
knowledge  
hub.**



enables business people to learn about such vital tools as benchmarking, best practice and customer care.

Funding secured by the Centre means seminars can be offered free of charge to anyone in business, however small their enterprise.

More than 100 companies have already been involved and, with a second batch of courses due to launch in October, many more could potentially benefit.

The Centre's Chairman is businessman Derek Ludlow, himself a Luton alumnus and a generous donor to the University. He explained: "For a company to be truly competitive, it has to make never-ending improvements to its quality, price, value and innovation.

"In the past year, Britain has slipped in the world's league table of productivity from ninth place down to 16th. It has never been more vital for companies to make improvements."

Companies already involved in the Toolkits series come from a wide range of industries including manufacturing, printing, advertising, public relations and accountancy.



University of Luton  
Education that works

**AstraZeneca (below left) and Interbrew (below) are just two of the companies which have forged successful links with the University.**

## knowledge hub's unique service

THE knowledge hub is a unique new channel that allows the University to reach out to businesses of all sizes. Launched in April, it is designed to promote the University's services and facilities and create stronger partnerships with companies.

As well as acting as a central point of contact for those interested in what the University can offer, the knowledge hub offers a physical space and dedicated support for people with bright ideas, helping them form new companies.

Project Manager Greg White said: "Traditionally, universities haven't been good at working with businesses. But the University of Luton is proud to rank among the best and the knowledge hub takes our efforts to a higher level. By bringing all our services into one central 'shop window', users of the University will be better informed about what we do and how we can help them."

Services offered by the knowledge hub include management training, off-the-shelf or tailored to a company's needs. Recent clients have included easyJet, General Motors and Camelot.

The knowledge hub also encourages businesses to partner with the University in research projects – and offers direct access to a whole range of facilities, from academic services to conference hosting.

**For more information on the knowledge hub, contact Greg White on 01582 743968 or email [knowledge@luton.ac.uk](mailto:knowledge@luton.ac.uk)**



## Spotlight on the success of University of Luton graduates

## Where are they now?



**Terry Yearley: BA (Hons) Linguistics with TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) (2000). English teacher, Tokyo, Japan**

TERRY is working in two English schools in Tokyo – yet before he came to Luton he was working in a factory and wondering what he should do with his life. He originally started on an electricians' course but found his age, combined with lack of experience, made it hard for him to get work.

A careers adviser suggested he should do a degree and consider a career (such as teaching) where his age would be in his favour. Terry says teaching didn't hold much appeal for him until he realised a TEFL skill could take him around the world.

In addition to his linguistics degree, Terry also wanted to learn a language, to help him understand what his students were going through. He completed six Japanese modules during his time at University and after a year spent teaching at a university in Beijing, took his skill to Tokyo.

Terry says his time at Luton was excellent preparation for his current job. "I was able to tailor my degree to do exactly what I wanted," he said.

He is also in touch with many of the Japanese people he met at Luton, which has been a great help, he says.

"I'm working with Japanese people all day, every day which is a fantastic opportunity to get to know them and their culture," he said. "My youngest students are three years old (some of the other teachers have classes of children who are just 18 months old). My oldest students are in their fifties and I teach all age groups in between."

Terry has immersed himself in the Japanese lifestyle but says it's not for everyone. "Some people come here because they think they will make a lot of money in a short time. It's not as simple as that. You have to be willing to adjust to the food, the customs, the finances, the lifestyle, etc. Many teachers stay for just a year and then go home, but there are also many who get bitten by the Japan bug and stay much longer."

## 1994

**Richard Knowles**

*BSc (Hons) Mapping and Environmental Science*

"I work as a telecoms design engineer for cable and telecoms company ntl. I have also recently qualified as a Red Cross first aid officer."

**Amanda Wolfe**

*LLB (Hons) Law*

"I eventually qualified as a solicitor in December 2000 and now work as an employment solicitor for Securicor. I really enjoy my job, which involves travel all over the UK. I would like to hear news from my course friends and housemates."

**Paula O'Donnell**

*BA (Hons) Business Studies with Japanese*

"After a spell at IBM, I joined Hampshire Constabulary. I'm now working for the vice squad out of Southampton and studying for a Masters degree in Criminal Justice Studies. If I could spend the rest of my life studying (full time) I would! But I enjoy my work and it's hugely interesting."

## 1995

**Sarah Everitt**

*BA (Hons) Public Policy & Management*

"I work in Buckinghamshire for a video production company – and it's great. I'd love to hear from fellow PPM students to find out how they are, what they are up to, and their news."

“  
I'm working for the vice squad out of Southampton  
”

**Paula O'Donnell**  
*BA (Hons) Business Studies with Japanese*



**Debbie Randle: BA (Hons) Modern English (2000). Broadcast journalist, FM103 Horizon**

AS a presenter on the award-winning local radio station in Milton Keynes, Debbie has a job that would be the envy of many. Like most glamorous-sounding careers, though, radio presenting takes discipline and lots of hard work. When she's on duty, it's her job to produce and read the hourly news bulletins for the station. She also presents an evening news magazine show and, for variety, works as a field reporter in and around Milton Keynes.

Debbie did journalism modules as part of her course at Luton but she says most of what she did was more relevant to print. "I always knew I wanted to be a journalist, but hadn't thought about radio before I did work experience at Chiltern Radio."

This was the 'foot in the door' that allowed her to make personal contacts in radio and eventually to land the presenter's role at Horizon.

"Radio journalism is so different from any other kind," she said. "Every hour, you've got just a minute and a half to present the news. So everything you do has to be short, sharp and snappy. If it's not, people will turn off or turn over."

Debbie says one of the best parts of her job is going out and meeting people. Another highlight is the chance to try out things you wouldn't normally do – taking part in a local It's A Knockout contest, for instance.

And the worst moments? "You're going out live, so if things do go wrong it really shows," she says. "Like the time I rushed in having just downed a can of fizzy pop. The first sound I made on air wasn't quite what the audience was expecting."

“

*They taught us to work and get on with things on our own – we weren't wrapped up in cotton wool*

”

**Becky Jago**  
BA (Hons) Media Performance

**Areena Birdi**  
BA (Hons) Business & Psychology  
“I was formerly Areena Phalora. I now work as a trainer for Burger King.”

**Richard Hotchkin**  
BSc (Hons) Computer Science  
“I am now IT manager for a manufacturing company in East Sussex.”

## 1996

**Maureen Morgan**  
BSc (Hons) Computer Science  
“After graduating, I went to work for the National Trust as a system administrator. I have now returned to Luton and work for a local company as a senior technical analyst.”

**Matthew Cooke**  
BA (Hons) Literary Studies in English  
“I'm working as a student nurse at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, West Midlands.”

**Geoff Sarney**  
BA (Hons) Marketing  
“I work as a product marketing manager for telecommunications firm Siemens. After completing my first degree I went on to do an MSc at Cranfield. I'm now considering doing a part-time PhD.”

## 1997

**Stephen Roach**  
BA (Hons) Psychology with Social Studies  
“After leaving Luton, I went on to study for a

Postgraduate Diploma in Careers Guidance, and Postgraduate Certificate in Youth Work. I'm employed as an outreach careers adviser and also work part-time as a youth worker for Slough Borough Council and as a mentor for Slough Race Equality Council.”

**Diana Lee**  
BA (Hons) Law with Social Studies  
“I'm working in financial services as a share plan administrator. To think I was once allergic to computers!”

**Rachel Sutton**  
BA (Hons) Modern English Studies  
“I am working as a human resources liaison officer for Barclays. I have also just completed my postgraduate diploma in personnel management.”

**Steve Sludden**  
BA (Hons) Literary Studies in English  
“I am employed as an education inclusion officer working with disaffected young people at Corby Community College. I also run a youth café on Friday nights in Uppingham. My ambition is to become a published writer.”

## Becky Jago: BA (Hons) Media Performance (1997). Presenter, Newsround

“WE were the guinea pigs,” said Becky Jago, one of the first students to take the University of Luton's pioneering Media Performance course. And a very successful group of guinea pigs they proved to be. People who launched media careers on the strength of their time at Luton include Toby Friedner, the presenter on BBC local station Three Counties Radio and Becky herself, who last November became a presenter on the BBC's children's news show, Newsround.

For Becky, the most valuable part of her course at Luton was working on Luton FM, the RSL (restricted service licence) station run by students at the University.

“This is where I learned how to write scripts and how to work to tight deadlines. Five minutes late was too late, just as it is now.”

Becky also did a lot of acting while at Luton, performing at the University with the One Night Only group. In fact, she says, she first took the course intending to become an actress. But, by the time she left Luton, she knew she wanted to be in broadcasting and was fortunate to land her first job presenting travel bulletins and co-presenting the breakfast show on the East of England's dance radio station, Vibe FM. Later Becky moved to Anglia TV, presenting the local weather, and last November came the opportunity to become a presenter on Newsround. Becky says her student days were great preparation for working in media. “They taught us to work and get on with things on our own – we weren't wrapped up in cotton wool.”

## 1998

**Donna Bryan**  
BA (Hons) Leisure Studies  
“I've been teaching at my local college and saving to go travelling. I hope everyone's doing well and enjoying life.”

**Fiona Gehring**  
BA (Hons) Sport and Fitness Studies  
“I spent a year travelling after completing my degree, then worked for two years supervising gym facilities for a London company. Last year I landed my dream job as a physical training instructor with the Metropolitan Police, based at Hendon police training college. I'm enjoying life in Hertfordshire, and in my spare time I am goalkeeper for a women's football team.”



“

*I am employed as an education inclusion officer working with disaffected young people*

”

**Steve Sludden**  
BA (Hons) Literary Studies in English

“

*I learned writing skills, how to deal with the public and about human resources*

”

**Samantha Day**  
HND Public Administration

**Samantha Day: HND Public Administration (1995).  
Public Relations Executive, easyJet**

SAMANTHA has worked for easyJet for seven years in different roles, starting off, like many Luton students, in the airline's call centre. She was then promoted to supervisor, later moved into recruitment and training, and finally ended up as part of the company's PR team.

Samantha has found that much of her Public Administration course has been relevant to her career at easyJet. "It was there I learned writing skills, how to deal with the public and about human resources. All these things have been useful over the years.

I also learned about marketing and, since I joined the PR team, that's been useful background, too."

She has been with the airline almost since its launch. As a company that needs bright people, often with language skills, easyJet has always worked closely with the University.

It's also well known for its presence on TV and, as part of the PR team, Samantha is involved in managing the film crews from LWT who come to make the popular docu-soap, Airline. She has

occasionally been followed by the film crews but prefers to stay behind the camera.



**Julienne Arden-Rose**

*BSc (Hons) Sports and Fitness Science*

"I live in China, working as aerobics and gym co-ordinator for the prestigious and expensive new Shanghai Racquet Club."

**1999**

**Clair Carney**

*BA (Hons) Media Production with Video Production*

"I work as a freelance TV production assistant and have been lucky enough to work on shows including reality TV phenomenon Big Brother and children's TV channel Nickelodeon. I'd love to hear from anyone from the Media Production class of '99 – email me at claircarney@hotmail.com."

“

*I have been lucky enough to work on shows including reality TV phenomenon Big Brother*

”

**Clair Carney**

*BA (Hons) Media Production with Video Production*

**Russell Hurn**

*BA (Hons) Psychology*

"I have just completed an MSc in Counselling Psychology at London's Guildhall and am working towards chartership. I am married, with one small daughter."

**Catherine Rushton**

*BA (Hons) Social Studies*

"I work as an assistant team leader for an organisation supporting adults with learning disabilities."

**Jeff Mills: BA (Hons) Business Studies (1998).  
Studying Aikido in Japan**

JEFF last year left his career as an account manager for a London fashion distributor to become the UK's first Uchi Deschi – apprentice student – at the country's leading Aikido training school, the Kobayashi Dojo.

Jeff started studying Aikido when he was a fresher at Luton and achieved his black belt about a month before he graduated. He continued to practise three times a week while pursuing his career in fashion distribution.

Then, in a complete career change, he applied through his instructor to the leading Aikido training school in Japan. After being granted formal permission to join, he travelled to Tokyo to start his new life.

For the first 90 days and nights after his arrival, Jeff lived in the Dojo, even sleeping on the tatami (woven

straw) floor.

He said: "At night the other students and I put futons on the floor with blankets over the top. In September this was fine, but as November and December arrived I had to buy thermal T-shirts, fleeces and winter coats

because the temperature in the Dojo sank to near freezing.

"The first week was the hardest. Adjusting to the strict regime really took it out of me. I was dragging myself off the floor at dawn and finding a suitable light under which to inspect my latest cuts and bruises. Some of the injuries dogged me for days, but amazingly, the body does get used to such mistreatment after a while."

Jeff returned to the UK to spend Christmas at home.

He said: "I don't think I've ever appreciated a Christmas quite as much as that one, although I did miss the friends that I'd made out there and the incredible manner in which they lived their lives.

However, I can say – without any reservations – that I didn't miss the tatami floor of the dojo, especially after the first night back in my own bed!"



“  
It’s easier now  
I’m doing it  
for real – the  
deadlines  
aren’t so rigid  
”

**Ramon Marrett**  
BA (Hons)  
Media Production

## 2000

### **Elana Ormonde**

BA (Hons) Psychology with  
Sociology

“I work as a mental health  
carer for the NHS.”

### **Samantha Parsons**

BA (Hons) Sport & Fitness  
Studies

“After a year studying hard  
for my PGCE, I have now  
qualified as a primary  
teacher.”

### **Ioannis Poullaides**

BA (Hons) Media Production

“Since returning to Cyprus, I  
have been working in a TV  
production studio. It’s a  
really great working  
environment. I’m also  
planning to do an MA in  
Media.”

“  
I have been  
working in a TV  
production  
studio  
”

**Ioannis Poullaides**  
BA (Hons)  
Media Production

### **Ramon Marrett: BA (Hons) Media Production (2000). Editor and cameraman, Tristar Television**

RAMON is one of a number of Luton’s Media Production graduates who are building successful careers in TV. He took on the job just after leaving University and works for an independent production company based in Luton which works on a range of projects, mainly advertising and corporate work. Ramon says that what he learned on his degree course has turned out to be excellent preparation for what he’s doing now, although, unusually, he said: “It’s easier now I’m doing it for real – the deadlines aren’t so rigid. When I was at University everything had to be in at 5pm on the dot. Now I’ve got a bit more flexibility.”

One of the areas Ramon would like to develop is computer-generated 3-D animation such as that used for films like Toy Story.

He said: “I worked on this sort of project at University and now I’m starting to bring those skills to my work here. We did a corporate video for one client showing a kitchen that builds itself.”

Ramon admits that he’s been lucky to go straight into editing. A more usual route for aspiring TV production professionals is to start as a runner. “But I was well taught at University and by the time I’d finished I had a great showreel that I could present to potential employers to prove I could do the editing job.”

Ramon would love to have his own production company, but for now he’s happy to work for a great company in Luton that’s growing all the time.

### **David Golding: BA (Hons) Marketing (1994). Account Manager, Sharing the Caring**

SHARING the Caring handles and promotes payroll giving (Give As You Earn), the tax-efficient scheme that enables employees to give a proportion of their earnings to a charity of their choice. As account manager, David looks after a number of large companies that are involved in the scheme and often organises special promotions with them.

David moved to the voluntary sector after spending a number of years in sales. He found he was good at selling but became ‘tired of the whole corporate thing’ and wanted to put his skills to better use. Apart from the fulfilment that he gets from working in the voluntary sector, David says the best thing about his current role is that he never knows quite what the day will bring.

There’s also the bonus of meeting all kinds of people, and recent assignments have included a visit to the House of Commons and meeting the Princess Royal. David says his degree course in marketing has proved invaluable since he moved out of sales and into his current role. “All the things I’d learned at University about planning and strategy, campaigns and target markets were really useful to me for the first time.”

### **David Bryant: BA (Hons) Media Performance (1997). Freelance camera assistant/TV researcher**

DAVID has been trying out a wide range of roles in TV production. His most recent assignment was as a camera assistant on the Children’s ITV news programme Stuff and other credits include runner for Channel 4’s Blunt and TFI Friday, where he met a lot of celebrities. He’s also been a postal runner for LWT, which doesn’t sound so glamorous, but was a great way to get to know TV people.

The Media Performance course at Luton gave David an excellent grounding in all aspects of TV production. He told Noteworthy: “I came out with a good idea of what it would be like and was realistic enough to know that if I wanted to work in media I’d have to start at the bottom.” His first job was as a ‘handyman’ – the first step on the road towards his ultimate goal of directing his own TV programmes.

## **Noteworthy**

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Noteworthy

# Alumni questionnaire



University of Luton  
Education that works

Please help us to help you by taking the time to fill in the questions below

Has your name or address changed? If so, please amend address box or write new details here


Telephone  E-mail

Date of birth (dd/mm/yy)  Nationality  Marital status

Partner's name  Was you partner also at the University of Luton? Yes  No

## University details

Subject of study  Level

Year of graduation  Other course/University information

## Career details *(please tick one only)*

Employed  Self-employed  Seeking work  Retired

Studying (where )  Home maker  Other

Please note any memberships of professional bodies

Please describe your business/employer sector (e.g. Marketing, IT, etc)

Job title

Employer name

Employer address in full (including postal code)

Work telephone  Work e-mail

Please indicate your level of annual income (please tick one only)

Less than £20,000  £20,001 to £30,000  £30,001 to £50,000  £50,001 to £100,000  £100,001 to £200,000  £200,000+

## Additional information

Are you still in touch with other Luton graduates? Yes  No

Please list their names and graduation year so we can check our records


What would you like the Alumni office to do? (e.g. organise events/reunions, careers networking/mentoring)