



The Forum at Hendon opens for business



Nik Roberts and Steve Knight prepare to cut the ribbon in The Forum

President of the Students' Union Nik Roberts formally opened the new Hendon student centre, The Forum on 18 September, ably assisted by Middlesex's Director of Corporate Services Steve Knight. Pointing out that all

the staff and students who attended were "standing on air", Steve explained just how much work had been done on the building by pointing out that the social space is now located halfway up the room that was the old gymnasium.

Our new School of Engineering and Information Sciences

Our new School has been created by joining the previous School of Computing Science with the Product Design and Engineering programme, which was previously part of the School of Arts and Education. This new School offers exciting opportunities for collaboration between departments as it covers the four distinct, but related, academic areas of business information systems, computer communications and networking, computer science, and product

Hatchcroft revealed and Edgar Neufeld honoured



Professor Edgar Neufeld looks at his portrait that now hangs in the Edgar Neufeld Lecture Theatre in the Hatchcroft building in Hendon

On 15 September 2008 the University hosted a reception for Barnet councillors in the

new Hatchcroft building at Hendon. It was an opportunity for the Barnet

Your staff newsletter

Earlier this summer, all staff were asked to complete a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire online giving their views about Middlesex World. The Press Office would like to thank everyone who responded. Your opinions were interesting and thought provoking. As a result, Middlesex World has been redesigned and some new regular features such as news from Schools have been included. It is now available only on the staff intranet, as most staff felt that printing was not appropriate in today's green times. We hope you find it a good read.

Sarah Birdsall

Editor

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On hand at the opening were Sandra Kerton and Kevin Hall from Chartwells (formerly Scolarest). Chartwells is the catering service that is providing all of the delicious food available to students and staff at The Forum.

The Forum will be the home of social and leisure activities for Hendon's students and staff. A number of restaurants offer a variety of meal choices, a bar is open for socialising, brand new gym facilities keep everyone fit and the expanded crèche provides childcare.

Quirky humour and a touch of absurdity

Published by Middlesex University Press, **Rossetti's Wombat** is based on the brief life of Top, a wombat owned by poet and painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Illustrated with 40 original engravings and photographs, author John Simons brings Victorian London to life through Top's eyes, exploring the Pre-Raphaelites' complicated love lives and taking a light-hearted but informative look at the eccentricities of Victorian fads – in particular the keeping of exotic animals.

www.mupress.co.uk

▲ ...Engineering and Information Sciences

design and engineering. According to Dean of School Professor Martin Loomes: "The challenge now is to continue to provide programmes that keep pace with the continually evolving discipline, and also reflect the massive opportunities for applying technology in novel and exciting ways".

Undergraduates in the School of Engineering and Information Sciences are set to face a continually developing working life. They will be taking a fresh look at computing in light of developments in disciplines such as biology and physics or, for product design, investigation of the properties of materials in terms of the physical and environmental demands imposed on them. Other challenges will revolve around new applications, such as medical computing devices that are injected into us, wearable computers that seamlessly integrate knowledge management into our daily lives, or computational sociology where we build artificial communities to help us understand human behaviour. Equally important are the challenges that society faces from the 'information revolution', and

the answers to questions about how we should cope with protecting intellectual property or the social, legal and ethical changes that we are already seeing emerge from widespread use of computers.

With regard to research in the new School, teams are working on projects with leading companies in the UK and with universities around the world. In particular, research is focused on human computer interaction, medical informatics, computer networks, multimedia, artificial intelligence, robotics, cultural impact on product development, mass customisation, behaviour and requirements of older drivers, and the problems of managing complex technological development.



Dean of the School of Engineering and Information Sciences
Professor Martin Loomes

▲ ... Hatchcroft revealed and Edgar Neufeld honoured

councillors to see for themselves not just the outside but the inside of the Burroughs building they have observed being constructed over the last year.

At the event the Vice-Chancellor, Michael Driscoll, announced some exciting news about the Hatchcroft building. It has just been awarded 'excellent' BREEAM status by the Building Research Establishment. BREEAM – the Building Research Establishment Assessment Method – is the world's most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings. It measures all aspects of a building's environmental performance and, as the Vice-Chancellor says: "There's no measure better than excellent".

This event was also an opportunity to officially name Hatchcroft's largest lecture theatre in honour of previous

Middlesex governor, Edgar Neufeld. The Vice-Chancellor explained: "Edgar chaired the Board of Governors in a crucial five years, from 1991 to 1996 when we moved from polytechnic to university status. This was not an easy time. The qualities that Edgar showed then – hard work, wisdom, courtesy and care – are qualities he has shown daily all the time I have known him, and they have helped make Middlesex what it is today. Tonight we pay tribute to one of the University's best friends, and say a very public thank you to Edgar by naming this lecture theatre in his honour".

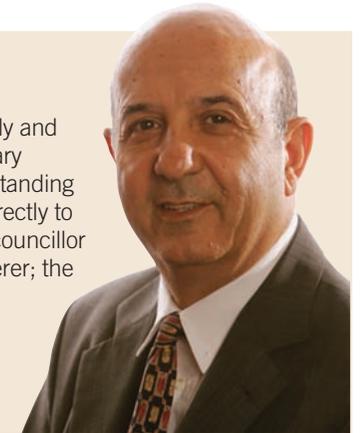
Professor Edgar Neufeld OBE BSc PhD CPhys CEng FBCS FRSA was a member of Middlesex's Board of Governors from 1989 to 2002 and was appointed both Honorary Professor and Pro Chancellor in 2000. Middlesex awarded Edgar an Honorary Doctorate in 2003.

Born in Vienna, Austria in 1933, Edgar escaped from the Nazis with his family, arriving in England in 1938. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Manchester University and began his career as a Research Physicist in Radio Astronomy at Jodrell Bank. His career at IBM lasted from 1961 to 1989, after which he was a business and IT consultant for several years.

Edgar's work for secondary education in north London, and particularly the London Borough of Haringey started as chair of the governing body of Park View Academy from 1999 to 2006, and he went on to become chair of the new Haringey sixth form centre last year. He has also been a trustee and vice-chair of the homelessness charity Shelter, the founding chair of the North London Cultural Diversity Forum and a trustee of the Finsbury Park Community Trust.

Honorary Graduates

This year, our Graduation ceremonies were held from 7 to 11 July and during the unusually rainy week, the University conferred Honorary Doctorates on 14 distinguished people. Recognised for their outstanding contributions to their profession, the Middlesex community, or directly to the University, this year's Honorary Graduates included: Enfield councillor and teacher Andreas Constantinides; Ab-Fab actress Helen Lederer; the founder of Neal's Yard Remedies Romy Fraser; Bletchley Park founder Tony Sale and Chairman of the influential business organization London First Harvey McGrath. A complete list of all recipients of Honorary Doctorates can be found on the [Intranet](#).



Councillor Andreas Constantinides

On the coach

Eight of Middlesex's senior managers recently took part in a new pilot training programme entitled 'Becoming a Coach'. The programme aims to build an internal coaching community to drive progress towards a coaching culture in the University.

Each of the eight coaches has now taken on their first 'client'. Over the next few months they will meet them on a regular basis to have a structured discussion that will help the person being coached clarify their goals, explore options and decide on the best approaches to challenges.

As well as being an independent coach, each senior manager will also incorporate coaching into their working

lives. Steve Knight, who is one of the participants, commented that he "will be blending coaching into my everyday management".

The course is one of a range of initiatives that will be introduced by Staff Development over the next year, in support of the revised coaching and mentoring policy. Hilary Groombridge is responsible for the programme and she says: "Coaching will help the University offer more focussed development solutions and help individuals take greater responsibility for their own learning and development as well as transferring it to the workplace more effectively".

You can find out more about becoming a coach, or being coached, by looking at the [Staff Development Portal](#) on the Intranet.

For events listings click on the intranet at...

www.intra.mdx.ac.uk/mdxworld/index.html

Fun Run funds TreeHouse

Middlesex University has presented a cheque for over £4,000 to TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education. The funds were raised through the 14th annual Middlesex University Fun Run.

Mel Parker, Head of Sport and Recreation, presented the cheque for £4,162 to TreeHouse on 5 August. Mel thanked all of the participants and sponsors of the Fun Run for "showing their support for TreeHouse, and also demonstrating their commitment to their own health and fitness". The Fun Run took place Wednesday 21 May at the traditional venue of the Trent Park campus. Funds were raised from the entry fees of over 300 participants and a group of very generous sponsors.



Mel Parker presents our cheque to Lisa Yiasemides of TreeHouse



Risky Business

Middlesex Professor David Ball has been instrumental in the latest report for Government that tackles the very topical issue of children's play. David was one of the authors of *Design for Play; a guide to creating successful play spaces for the Government departments for children, schools and families, and for culture, media and sport*. The report seeks to help those charged with investing in play provision to aim higher by taking a step back from the sometimes limited stereotype of a public playground. It clearly states that a lot of play equipment is designed with a primary focus on safety and offers little opportunity for play that includes risk and challenge. Recommendations include combining landscaping, planting and community art, along with well-designed

play equipment to allow children the most full play experience. The benefits of this will reap rewards not just for the kids, but for their families and the wider community.

David is Professor of Risk Management and Director of the University's Centre for Decision Analysis and Risk Management, which is part of the School of Health and Social Sciences.

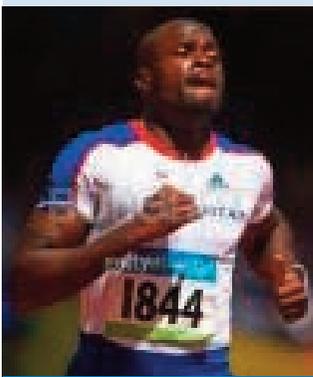
Another 'risky' project for the Centre for Decision Analysis and Risk Management is a piece of research, this time for the Government department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Together with Mike Barrett who is a freelance specialist in public risk management, David Ball is just starting research into the insurance industry, with the aim of contributing to a better understanding of the management of public risk.

They will look at ways in which insurers can, either directly or indirectly, affect decisions about the management of public risk, focussing on the countryside, waterways, sports activities, urban public places, children's activities, school trips, dance halls, fairgrounds, adventure activities and aborigiculture. They will conduct interviews with insurers and people who are insured, asking what is the proper role of insurance in determining the acceptability of public risk; are insurance mechanisms such as pricing introducing unintended consequences and if so what is the remedy; and are there other mechanisms where insurers support or discourage beneficial risk taking or influence behaviour?

A second project will examine the role of 'standards setters' in decisions about the risks to which the public is exposed.

Our Olympic Student

Middlesex Future Gold scholar and Olympic athlete Simeon Williamson had quite an adventure in Beijing this summer. Having sustained an ankle injury shortly before leaving for China, Simeon was unable to train for 10 days before the 100m sprint heats. Despite this setback he did the University proud, getting through to the quarter finals and achieving a respectable time of 10.32 seconds. Team GB was a strong contender for a medal in the 4 x 100 metre relay with Simeon timing his relay leg and baton handover to perfection. Unfortunately the last baton handover was mistimed and Simeon's team was disqualified in their heat. He is upbeat, however, and says that his Beijing experience has made him even more hungry for gold at London 2012. Watch out Usain Bolt – Simeon's right behind you!



Simeon in Beijing

For classified ads click on the intranet at...

www.intra.mdx.ac.uk/mdxworld/index.html

£4 million funding for CESMB

Middlesex's Centre for Environment and Safety Management for Business (CESMB) has successfully bid for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) which will provide nearly £4 million to ensure that businesses across London can continue to receive environmental innovation support until 2011.

The EcoVate project offers practical support for businesses to improve their environmental innovation performance, investigate opportunities for improved waste, energy and water management, and identify cost benefits and options for green technologies and materials. The project builds on successful large-scale contracts previously carried out by CESMB in this area. It will be undertaken in partnership with a wide range of partners

including the Environment Agency, London Sustainability Exchange, Thames and Central Energy Efficiency Centre and the London Borough of Camden.

Following a stringent appraisal process by the London Development Agency, London Mayor Boris Johnson gave his final consideration to the overall fit of projects with London's strategic needs. The CESMB team have subsequently been involved in the contract negotiation stage and commenced activity in September.

The EcoVate partnership will then identify individual organisation opportunities for positive change and support businesses to incorporate environmental innovation improvements. The project will aim to reach a relatively high percentage of equalities-led businesses whilst also supporting behaviour change across the broad range of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in London. EcoVate was designed knowing that environmental change in SMEs takes time, knowledge, energy,

enthusiasm and not least, a great deal of direct face to face encouragement.

Leah Corr who is Deputy Head of CESMB and led the bid said: "This approach is vital to involving SMEs in the environmental agenda and making them a positive force toward realising a low carbon economy. We were successful with this bid because of our delivery track record of effectively working in partnership to deliver what businesses want. Our core business environment remit and expertise means that we can deliver a quality service that maximises practical support for businesses not just to become aware of their environmental impacts, but to make long lasting changes. With its wealth of knowledge, the University is in a fantastic position to offer added value to businesses with opportunities for continual professional development and knowledge transfer. Through this new project, which will have a high profile across London, CESMB will ensure that London's businesses know where to look for help".

Conference focuses on endocrinology research

In early July, Middlesex's School of Health and Social Sciences hosted the second International Conference on Gonadotropins and Receptors (ICGR II). Attended by over 100 delegates from across the globe, the three-day event held at Theobalds Park in Hertfordshire was a platform for discussing continuing endocrinology research and to promote future collaborations.

The highlight of ICGR II was an engaging presentation by Professor Lord Robert Winston, the eminent obstetrician and gynaecologist. With stem-cell research and gonadotropins as a theme, Lord Winston's presentation focussed on the importance of science education.



Professor Lord Winston chats to Middlesex's Ray Iles

Soul, sequins and social change

A new book from Middlesex University Press, Laurence Cole's *Dusty Springfield – in the middle of nowhere* explores how the star contributed to popular culture through her disregard for social divisions and norms. Cole skilfully draws upon Dusty Springfield's music, appearance and celebrity, setting these against the musical and social background of her times to chart both her career and her changing role as a cultural icon.

Drinking and driving

Exploring advertising campaigns that have captured our imaginations, *Driving it Home: 100 years of car advertising* by Judy Vaknin and *Drink Talking: 100 years of alcohol advertising* by Penny Dade tell the story of the economic, political, social and cultural history of the twentieth century. The latest additions to the Middlesex University Press Library of Historic Advertising series, each book contains more than 100 full colour reproductions of historic advertisements.



All Middlesex University Press titles can be viewed on the website: www.mupress.co.uk

Middlesex Employees and Middlesex Graduates

Throughout graduation week, the Middlesex University Press Office is usually busy meeting with recent graduates who have distinguished themselves by earning particularly high grades or winning a prize. It was a special treat this year to find that two of these exceptional graduates were also Middlesex employees.

Both Maria Aristidou in Alumni Relations and Sophie Ball in BIR0 graduated at the top of their respective classes. Maria earned a First Class BSc in Complementary Health Science and won the Ellis Snitcher Memorial Prize for Integrative Medicine. Sophie earned a Distinction in her Masters degree in International Relations.

Maria is Head of Alumni Relations at Middlesex and has

been working at the University since 1994. This is actually her second degree from the University. She completed a BA in English and History in 1990. Maria hopes to eventually teach complementary therapies to adults and already runs her own private business offering complementary health services.

Sophie is the Student Exchanges and European Projects Manager in the British Isles Regional Office. She enjoyed her MA experience so much that she is now embarking upon a PhD at Middlesex while still continuing her full time job. Sophie was particularly pleased with the lecturers in the Politics department whom she refers to as "fantastic".

Middlesex is extremely proud of these exceptional staff members.



Sophie Ball and Maria Aristidou

middlesexpeople

Joshua Castellino

This month we ask Middlesex's Head of Law, Joshua Castellino, about his life at work and at play.



We know your job title, but what does that find you doing, day to day?

My work day usually begins between 8 and 8.30am and I spend the first half an hour or so checking and responding to my emails. This is important since I work offline after that, until half an hour before leaving, when I re-check my mail. Much of my time is taken up looking for and responding to opportunities that will take the law department forward and will give us a chance to make an impact in a field that is dominated by bigger and more experienced, though in my opinion less exciting, players. I also spend a considerable amount of time on research. I am involved in an ambitious research project that examines the constitutional systems of different states in a bid to understand the extent to which they provide protection for the most vulnerable communities within that state. In this sense I feel that my job at Middlesex brings my intellectual and practical

interests together for the first time.

What campus are you based on?

The fast growing Hendon campus!

How long have you been at Middlesex?

I only arrived in late November 2007.

What was your job before?

I worked as Professor of Law at the Law department and Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster for a few months. Before that I started as a lecturer at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland in 2000.

What attracted you to Middlesex?

Having preached the value of inclusion and social diversity in my research, writing and through training programmes in different settings all over the world, the ethos that drives the University was fundamental to my beliefs. The idea of being able to lead a law department, traditionally one of the most conservative departments in universities, with these values

as central was a significant element in my attraction to the job. I like 'who' Middlesex is, and especially relish the challenge of showing that universities such as ours can hit the highest notes in terms of research output and third stream activity while also playing a socially responsible role in terms of ensuring that society is a more inclusive place. And I believe that one crucial route to this is to ensure that there are more lawyers from different backgrounds, who are rigorously trained but also imbued with and committed to values of social inclusion.

What is the best part of your job?

Working with people. It is always an unknown when moving to a new job as to how you will be received and what your new colleagues will be like. But since I have arrived at the Business School and the law department in particular, I have really enjoyed this aspect of the job. The reason for this is probably down to the sheer professionalism of the staff and their innate ability to respond to challenge.

And what is the worst part of your job?

Administration. I am often overwhelmed by the amount of paper that keeps flowing the way of every academic.

In an alternate world, what job would you do?

I started off as a journalist, enjoyed the buzz of that job but resented the lack of time and the pressure under which all work had to be conducted. At the same time the attraction of that job was being able to speak to the wider world about the challenges that face our societies. It would still be my alternate world job now.

How do you spend your non-working hours?

With my wife and with two wonderfully opinionated and loving children, aged 3½ and 1½.

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

Assuming that preparations for this dinner party would have to start after we had the kids bathed and put to bed, and that it would need to end at a relatively reasonable hour (of significantly lower priority!), someone who is relaxed enough to live with the modern realities of a couple to whom children are important, but who can then relax and engage in stimulating conversation.

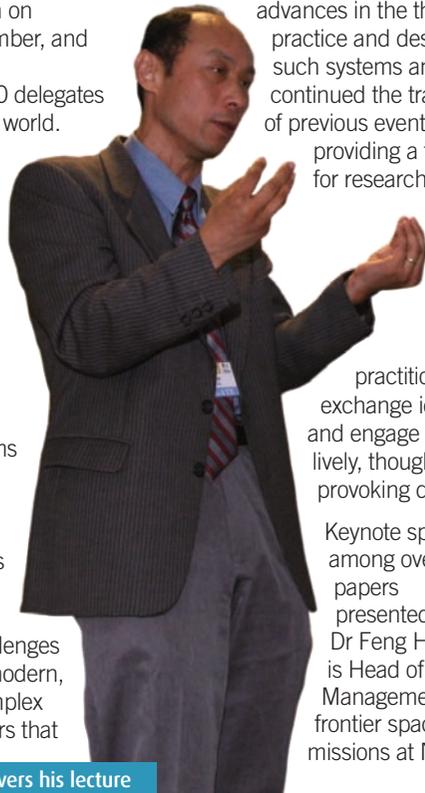
[SCHOOL OF] ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

Cybernetic Intelligent Systems conference

The new School of Engineering and Information Sciences was proud to host the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' seventh annual conference on Cybernetic Intelligent Systems last month.

The conference was held in the Quad at Hendon on 9 and 10 September, and was attended by approximately 80 delegates from all over the world.

Richard Comley, Associate Dean for Research in the School jointly chaired the two-day conference. He says: "Research into cybernetic intelligent systems continues to make major advances, offering solutions to many of the most demanding challenges we face in our modern, increasingly complex world. The papers that



Dr Feng Hsu delivers his lecture

were presented detailed advances in the theory, practice and design of such systems and continued the tradition of previous events in providing a forum for researchers and

practitioners to exchange ideas and engage in lively, thought provoking debate".

Keynote speaker, among over 70 papers presented, was Dr Feng Hsu who is Head of Risk Management for frontier space missions at NASA.

He spoke on 'Introducing the Triple-triplet conceptual framework – an integrated risk management process for system safety'. His presentation made it clear that it is critical that more systematic risk management approaches are adopted, especially in early stages of system design and project concept studies. This is to make sure that uncertainty is intelligently dealt with, available resources are capitalised on and involvement of risk communications is increased, all leading to better decisions being made. He introduced a systematic, integrated and practical approach to risk management of safety and mission assurance applications for space programmes and projects. Dr Hsu has over 25 years of experience in the field of risk assessment, safety and mission assurance management for complex engineering systems.

Middlesex PDE graduate wins Vicon prize

One of this year's Product Design and Engineering (PDE) graduates Robin Read has been awarded the coveted Vicon Prize for Best Project involving the Design or Development of a Medical Device. The award is part of the 20th annual Medical Engineering Student Project competition presented by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Robin was awarded the prize for his final year project entitled 'The Design and Development of an End-Effector for a Wheelchair-Mounted Robotic Arm'. Robin's project was inspired by his aunt who suffers from multiple sclerosis. He has designed a robotic gripper to use with a wheelchair mounted robotic arm, which

runs off the electricity on an electric wheelchair. Says Robin: "I have an urge to do something for my aunt. My final year project let me do this, using mechatronics and robotics. It brings independence and individuality to severely disabled people. I've even found a way to open jars with just one hand".



"I HAVE AN URGE TO DO SOMETHING FOR MY AUNT. MY FINAL YEAR PROJECT LET ME DO THIS, USING MECHATRONICS AND ROBOTICS."

Robin Read at Trent Park

Being a Brit

Back in June Professor Rosemary Sales of the School of Health and Social Sciences delivered her inaugural lecture, 'What is 'Britishness' and does it Matter?' Making the event even more significant is that it was the very last inaugural lecture given at the Enfield campus before it closed and most of the School's programmes were relocated to the

Hatchcroft building at Hendon.

In her lecture, Rosemary explored the current preoccupation with 'Britishness' and examined the ways in which being British has been defined and implemented through policy. She looked at the contradictions in current immigration policy, the ways in which certain groups are included and excluded and new meanings of citizenship in relations to rights, duties and ideologies

of belonging. Finally, Rosemary posed more general questions concerning the ethical and practical basis on which 'Britishness' is understood and used to exclude some from membership.

Rosemary Sales is Professor of Social Policy and the Joint Head of the Social Policy Research Centre at Middlesex. She is the author of *Understanding Immigration and Refugee Policy: Contradictions and Continuities*, published in 2007.



Professor Waqar Ahmad, Professor Rosemary Sales and Dean of School Jan Williams

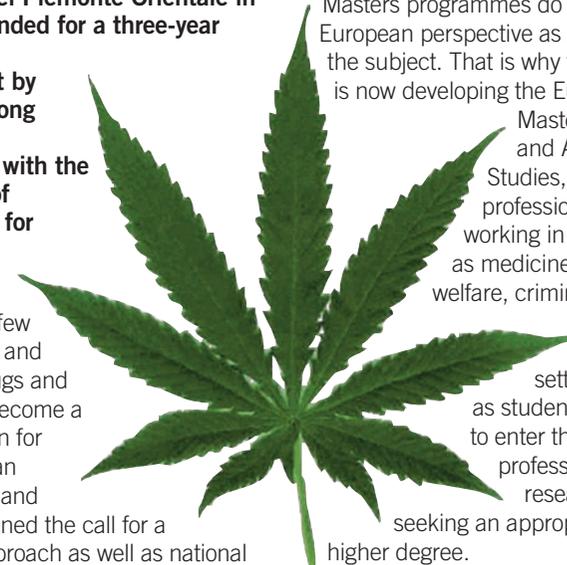
European Masters in Drugs and Alcohol Studies

The first London meeting of a European group who have got together to develop a Masters in Drug and Alcohol Studies took place at the Archway campus on 17 and 18 September. This innovative new Masters programme is a collaboration between Professors Betsy Thom and Tony Goodman at Middlesex with the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, Aarhus University in Denmark and the Universita del Piemonte Orientale in Italy. It is funded for a three-year period of development by the EU Lifelong Learning programme, with the first intake of students set for September 2010.

Over the last few years the use and misuse of drugs and alcohol has become a major concern for most European governments and has strengthened the call for a European approach as well as national

responses to tackling the problems. There has been a considerable expansion of research and data gathering in many countries and European level action plans and strategies have been produced. But so far there have been few opportunities for students and teachers to participate in research and policy outside their own country. Indeed comparative European research is an under-developed area and existing Masters programmes do not adopt a European perspective as a focus of the subject. That is why this group is now developing the European

Masters in Drugs and Alcohol Studies, targeting professionals working in fields such as medicine, social welfare, criminal justice and policy setting, as well as students preparing to enter these professions and researchers seeking an appropriate higher degree.



[SCHOOL OF] HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Middlesex researches young Muslims



268 of Barnet's young Muslims completed questionnaires provided by Middlesex researchers. 39 were interviewed and eight took part in a detailed focus group.



Most Muslim young people living in the London borough of Barnet feel at home in their borough. This was one of the findings of a recent research project carried out by Dr Louise Ryan, Professor Eleonore Kofman and Pauline Aaron of Middlesex's Social Policy Research Unit. The research – entitled 'Engaging Muslim Youth: a study in the London Borough of Barnet' – was commissioned by Barnet Council's Muslim Youth Engagement steering group in order to find out more about the lives, beliefs and aspirations of young Muslims in the borough.

The survey respondents had a lot to say about some very topical aspects of being a Muslim young person. 77 per cent said they had never felt discriminated against, but 21 per cent had. And in keeping with this statistic the majority had never experienced or witnessed any form of abuse, while a minority of 20 per cent described incidents where they had observed anti-Muslim abuse, usually in public places such as on the street or on public transport. The majority of Muslim youngsters felt that the reason for this anti-Muslim feeling stems from the creation of stereotypes in the media and coverage of the 'war on terror'. In fact the majority feel that Muslims are not fairly represented in the media.

THE MAJORITY OF MUSLIM YOUNGSTERS FELT THAT THE REASON FOR ANTI-MUSLIM FEELING STEMS FROM THE CREATION OF STEREOTYPES IN THE MEDIA

Radicalisation of young Muslims turned out to be a significant issue and was discussed at length in a focus group. Participants spoke about the circumstances in their shared lives that can lead to their peer group becoming radicalised, as well as the activities that certain people undertake to deliberately encourage radicalisation. Those circumstances include: anti-Muslim stereotyping in the media; being labelled a 'terrorist'; feeling under unfair scrutiny by the police; feelings of frustration about the ongoing war in Iraq; lack of opportunities for young Muslims and high levels of poverty and deprivation.

When asked what they like and dislike about the Borough, respondents described it as a clean area to live in and also that the people are friendly. On the other hand, the most common complaint was about gangs and crime. Their suggestions for improving Barnet for Muslim young people were: more leisure facilities for young people; more facilities that cater for Muslims such as mosques as well as leisure facilities that Muslims feel comfortable using and reducing crime and improving transport.

In fact the verdict on Barnet's leisure services was an interesting split. 38 per cent considered leisure services to be good, whilst the exact same figure – 38 per cent – said the opposite. Most Muslim youngsters meet friends, use green spaces, go out to eat and attend Mosque activities. The majority do these solely with Muslim friends, while 23 per cent said they are friends with both Muslims and non-Muslims.

[SCHOOL OF] ARTS AND EDUCATION

Middlesex's HALO competes in MoD Grand Challenge

A group of Middlesex Product Design and Engineering students were selected as finalists in the Ministry of Defence Grand Challenge competition to create intelligent robots to support ground troops in war-

torn areas. The Challenge aims to uncover new ideas to counter threats faced daily by armed troops around the world. The final took place at Salisbury Plain in August. Dr Stephen Prior tells us about his experience there.



The I-Spy team was made up by Dr Stephen Prior, Dr Mehmet Karamanoglu (not pictured), Sid Odedra (PhD Student), Mehmet Ali Erbil (UG Student) and Tom Foran (UG Student)

Arriving at a disused army camp in the middle of Salisbury Plain at dusk, we began to realise the scale of the task ahead of us. For the past 15 months, our five-member team had been battling against the odds to create a system with a high degree of autonomy that could detect, identify, monitor and report on a range of military threats in an urban environment.

Ten other teams had been shortlisted for the final, to be held at the Copehill Down Village (a mock East European urban training area complete with 84 buildings and 2000 rooms), this being the British Army's main urban training site in the UK.

We were one of the smallest teams in the competition and also one of the least funded; some of the other competitors had 30 members and a budget of over £300k. Our budget was a mere £15k.

The system that we developed consisted of a patented design of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that we called HALO, which contained thermal, video and stills cameras. All signals being transferred to our ground control station via microwave wireless downlinks.

Due to the very tight timescale of the project we had been left with

very little time to integrate our flight control system with our platform. Ultimately this proved to be our downfall, after four days spent in an ISO container trying to configure the system we considered our options and decided that we would create a positive out of a negative by building an Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) out of our existing kit and compete with this.

"ARRIVING AT A DISUSED ARMY CAMP IN THE MIDDLE OF SALISBURY PLAIN AT DUSK, WE BEGAN TO REALISE THE SCALE OF THE TASK AHEAD OF US."

On the media day we demonstrated both systems to the guest presenter Philippa Forrester, in front of a large crowd of reporters, military personnel and senior government figures. We were fortunate to feature on the BBC website covering the event.

We competed with our UGV in the final and won a lot of hearts and minds. Many serving officers commended us on our work and encouraged us to complete the project. This has been a truly great experience for all the team and we intend to capitalise on this over the coming weeks and months by seeing our system through to completion.

Japanese art and contemporary dance comes to Middlesex

At the end of last month, Middlesex's ResCen (Centre for Research into Creation in the Performing Arts) hosted *Artists Open Doors: Japan/UK* to celebrate and investigate the state of art and contemporary dance in Japan and England. One of the largest gatherings of Japanese dance specialists ever held in the UK, *Artists Open Doors: Japan/UK* included performances, panel discussions, workshops and presentations attended by artists, academics and students from the UK and Japan. Leading Japanese artists Kentaro!!, Un Yamada and Natsuko Tezuka joined UK-based artists including Saiko Kino, Chisato Minamimura, Shobana Jeyasingh and Rosemary Lee.

This event is part of ResCen's current Japan-focused research projects that forge new connections with Japanese

artists and agencies by examining their engagements with audience and their policies. It was funded by the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, the British Academy, the Sasakawa Foundation and the British Council.



Shobana Jeyasingh

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Middlesex shares £1 million for social enterprise research

Middlesex is one of three universities that has been awarded a joint £1 million research grant for social enterprise.

Led by Middlesex, in partnership with London South Bank University and Durham University, the consortium will use the grant to fund training for new researchers on social enterprise. The project will last for the next five years. Fergus Lyon, a Professor in the Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research (CEEDR) at Middlesex will be the director of the Social Research Cluster.

Social enterprises are organisations that are trading with a social purpose. They include charities, cooperatives and other organisations that do not distribute profit to shareholders. The successful research bid has come at a time where social enterprise is attracting a lot of interest from the Government and those looking to start their own enterprises. It is hoped that the research will identify the reasons why there is an increasing interest.

The funding is being provided by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Government's Office of the Third Sector and the Barrow Cadbury Trust which is a charitable foundation.

Middlesex has ten years of research experience on social enterprises with substantial work coming out of the University's Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development and Social Policy Research Centre.



Fergus Lyon

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Vital Differences – a brand new leadership programme

Starting in January 2009, Middlesex University Business School will offer a new global programme in cultural intelligence designed for business leaders to enhance their ability to work in culturally complex organisations. Vital Differences is a programme for leaders and key thinkers in private and public sector organisations or international organisations and NGOs who have a commitment to bridging differences and benefiting from them.

The Vital Differences programme will be based around three workshops located in three different countries – Cape Town in South Africa, Copenhagen in Denmark and Mumbai in India. Participants will benefit

from access to international experts and local knowledge through lectures, visits, discussions and group projects. The programme will challenge and broaden perceptions of culture and provide new models, new tools and new ways of thinking about the world we live and work in. Vital Differences will give participants access to a new network of global colleagues and professionals working in different fields and contexts around the world.

The Programme Director for Vital Differences is Elisabeth Plum, a Visiting Professor at Middlesex University Business School, whose book *Cultural Intelligence* has just been published in Denmark and is in its second printing. It will be published in English this month.



www.mdx.ac.uk/vitaldifferences

RESEARCH AND BUSINESS

The new...

Research and Business Office

The Research and Business Office (RBO) is a new Middlesex service that has been created by bringing together the Hendon-based Schools' research and business development offices, Middlesex University Research Office (MURO) and staff from the central Finance department. It takes on all the duties of these previous services as well as extending the service to meet the needs of the University's research and business engagement ambitions.

The service is made up of three different teams:

The Finance team provides financial support including monitoring and reporting for all research and business engagement activities from high level reporting to project finance. The team supports project managers with detailed reporting and regular meetings to ensure spend within budgets and regulations and includes the ability to highlight problem areas at an early stage.

The Grants and Contracts team helps academic staff to develop and deliver income-generating projects, identifying suitable funding opportunities, supporting applications with advice on guidelines and costing proposals and

providing suitable staff development.

The Student Support team works with both staff and research students to provide administrative support from initial enquiry through to award. The team works with Associate Deans for Research, Schools' Research Committees and supervisors as well as overseeing the administration of the whole research student cycle including PhD and DProf, from initial enquiry to MISIS conferment.

The senior management team consists of Amanda King who is Research and Business Finance Director, and Steven Lane who is Research and Business Grants and Contracts Director.

The new...

Knowledge Transfer/Continuing Professional Development Office

The Knowledge Transfer / Continuing Professional Development (KT/CPD) Office provides strategic support to Waqar Ahmad, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise as well as to Schools so that the University can develop its 'third stream' or business and community interaction (BCI) work.

The Office provides intelligence on new funding developments in BCI, coordinates strategy for future BCI development and activity, coordinates support to Schools in all forms of direct and indirect knowledge transfer, assists Schools with large, novel BCI projects, coordinates partnership work in BCI with others, prepares and analyses the

results of statistical returns and performance metrics on BCI work, and assists Schools in making cases for new BCI activity alongside colleagues in the Research and Business Office.

Mark Gray is the Director of the KT/CPD Office.

New books explore cultural diversity and global union federations

Globalisation impacts on every aspect of the world of work. Two of these – cultural diversity and global union federations – are explored in new books from Middlesex University Press.

Cultural Intelligence by Professor Elisabeth Plum (translated from Danish) is aimed at helping leaders and specialists to develop the skills to get the best from cultural differences. Using multiple examples, the book approaches thinking about culture in a progressive way that aims to provide the reader with a better understanding of what goes on when people from different cultural backgrounds meet.



In *Global Unions, Global Business: Global Union Federations and International Business*, to be published in December, Professor Richard Croucher and Elizabeth Cotton of Middlesex University Business School explore a fascinating but little understood aspect of globalisation – global union federations. A unique contribution to the literature on globalisation, the book uses detailed examples to examine the way that global union federations interact with international business.

