

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WE CAN RAISE
ASPIRATIONS, TRANSFORM HORIZONS, AND
MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

▼ Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visit our Docklands campus



Standing in front of our magnificent new waterfront Business School on a spring-like February morning, surrounded by distinguished guests and partners, cheering crowds of students and flag-waving well-wishers, press photographers at a respectful distance - first days in a new job don't get much more exciting than this!

The visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to open our new Business School, Library and Knowledge Dock Centre marked the best possible start to what has turned out to be a wonderful year for our whole community. I came to UEL because it is renowned in the sector as an innovative, dynamic university with an excellent track record in widening access to higher education and working in partnership to contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of our region.

In the short time I have been here so far, I have been impressed by so many aspects of our university: the quality of teaching and learning, the depth and relevance of research in key areas, and our work with business. However I believe there are three qualities here that immediately make our community stand out, and are a source of tremendous strength and pride to us all. First, there is the unstinting commitment to students that is at the heart of everything we do. In January 2007, we became one of only three universities in the UK to be awarded the Charter Mark award for excellence in customer service across the whole of our provision, and this was reconfirmed in December.

Our success in helping students prepare for future careers is reflected in the official statistics – for the second year running, 94% of UEL students are in work or further study 6 months after completing their studies, among the highest rates in London.

Secondly, there is the quality of our facilities. Over £130 million has been invested in new facilities at

Docklands, including a state-of-the-art Library and Learning Centre open 24 hours a day, our new waterfront Student Village, the Business School and Knowledge Dock Centre. At Stratford, the Centre for Clinical Education is formally opened in January 2008, and a new lecture theatre and computing centre is now under construction, to be completed this year. This summer we welcomed our first students at the new Barking Learning Centre, set up in partnership with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Barking College and Barking Adult College, as a centrepiece of Barking's redeveloped town centre.

This investment has been matched by a rapid expansion in student numbers, which have almost doubled over the last six years to well over 20,000 today. We are increasingly seen as a first-choice university, not only in London but nationally and internationally. In 2007, we once again exceeded our targets for student recruitment, and attracted record numbers of applicants for full-time study. We launched a new part-time and short-course initiative under the banner of UEL Extra, and it is our entrepreneurial, 'can-do' attitude which underlies our growing success.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly for our continued long-term success, is the strength and quality of our engagement with numerous partners locally and globally. It is only by working in partnership that we can hope to raise aspirations, transform horizons, and make a real difference for the people and communities we serve. Our greatest asset is the goodwill and growing links with hundreds of organisations across east London and around the world who share our vision and values.

Partnership is also the key to unlocking the full potential of exciting opportunities ahead, not least the advent of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which is already making a tremendous impact in our region. The challenge



for all of us involved is to learn from the experiences of previous host cities, and to co-ordinate efforts locally and globally to ensure not only that the Games are the greatest show on earth, but that they create a sustainable legacy of long-term social, cultural and economic benefits for our communities.

It is thanks to the tremendous support of all our partners that the University of East London is well equipped to face the future with great confidence. We are still very ambitious for our region, with many exciting developments and projects in the pipeline. The following pages highlight just a few of the many achievements we have made over the past year, and look forward to continued success in the year ahead.

Professor Martin Everett,
Vice-Chancellor

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT



JANUARY

UEL awarded Charter Mark for excellence in customer service, becoming one of only three universities in the UK to hold the award for its entire provision. Participants in the year-long Youth Leadership Programme run by the British Council and World Economic Forum visit for talks with staff and students.



FEBRUARY

Royal opening of our Business School, Library and Knowledge Dock Centre. The London East Research Institute at UEL wins a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to develop the Ports of Call project, a heritage trail in the Royal Docks.



“I’m especially impressed by how many UEL graduates from such diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds go on directly into employment and achieve career success.”

Lyn Brown, MP for West Ham and now parliamentary secretary at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, on the occasion of our Summer Open Day, 16 June 2007.



MARCH

Ministers launch a series of education, training and enterprise events for Asian women across London; Young Person’s Guide to the Royal Docks launched. UEL becomes the first UK university to provide free-access rental bicycles on campus.



APRIL

The British Sociological Association (BSA) hosts its biggest ever annual conference at UEL; nine graduates are each awarded £1500 from the Haberdashers’ New Entrepreneurs Fund. The London Health Commission launches the Health in London report at UEL, as a partner in the £9.4 million lottery-funded Well London project.



MAY

Mayfest 07, UEL’s art and cultural festival, attracts hundreds of visitors to the Docklands campus. The event, part sponsored by the Newham’s 2012 Unit and Celebrating Enterprise, an initiative part funded by the EU’s EQUAL programme, also marks the launch of the East London Theatre Archive, part of a £22 million national archive programme. School pupils from around London and Essex come to Stratford for Salters’ Festival of Chemistry.

JUNE

Over 1,200 visitors including Lyn Brown MP attend UEL’s biggest ever Summer Open Day and the launch of UEL Extra, an innovative, flexible portfolio of part-time programmes. The AVA Showcase, a summer-long series of exhibitions of new work from our School of Architecture and the Visual Arts, is opened by George Iacobescu, Chief Executive of Canary Wharf Group and leading art critic Sacha Craddock.





AUGUST

Kiyoaki Takeda is named in 'Class of 2007' Architecture Diploma Graduates by Building Design Magazine. A record 4,900 enquiries are received by our admissions team on A-level results day. Leading Chinese education officials visit UEL for a leadership course in partnership with Oxford University.



JULY

Julie Baldry Currens, and Sharon Brown awarded National Teaching Fellowships by the Higher Education Academy; Prof John Smith is the subject of a major retrospective at the Venice Biennale. A major international conference, Cultural Studies Now, is organised by Professor Mica Nava (left) and colleagues in our School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies.



SEPTEMBER

UEL takes part in Open House London, a celebration of London's finest architecture; Martin Slark announces the launch of the Molex Inc Award for outstanding MBA students; the International Centre for the Study of the Mixed Economy of Childcare is opened by business minister Stephen Timms MP. A pioneering Aquatics Legacy Partnership is signed with the Amateur Swimming Association.





OCTOBER

Black History Month celebrations at UEL include an exciting programme of events, exhibitions, film screenings, debates, public lectures, poetry performances and artistic projects in partnership with Diversity Arts Forum and The Big Draw. Our Victims of Internet Crime Europe (VoICE) project is short-listed in the inaugural Nominet Best Practice Challenge.

NOVEMBER

Health and Wellbeing: the legacy challenge conference to maximise benefits from London 2012 Games held at Docklands; our graduation ceremony season opens with the award of Honorary Doctorate of Education to Rolf Harris; Baroness Scotland QC, the Attorney General, visits our Law School to address an audience of students and staff; Strictly Come Dancing professionals undergo intensive testing on sports science equipment at our new Centre for Clinical Education; our SMARTlab Digital Media Institute is highly commended in Times Higher Awards.



DECEMBER

UEL student multimedia designers triumph in the British Interactive Media Association Awards; Minister for Students Lord Triesman meets our students. SMARTlab launches Future Factory, an interactive exhibition and workshop at the Science Museum.

