



**WELCOME** to the third edition of the Newsletter of the Entertainment Technology Centre at Southampton Solent University. About once a term we hope to bring you news about our courses, teaching team and students.



## VIDEO FACILITIES BOOST

Following the completion of the Sound Dubbing Studio and Post Production, attention has turned to the video facilities on the 7th floor. The University has taken the bold step of investing £100k in production facilities for the Video Lab, allowing broadcast video technology to be taught more in context. Highlights include an Evertz mutiviewer to work with the vision mixer, full camera control facilities, a Pixelpower graphics engine and an Ultimatte blue/green-screen processor. The team is installing all this around a Philips router kindly donated by MTV Europe.

To get full benefit from these facilities, one of the nearby electronics labs is being converted to a general-purpose studio space with raised ceiling, blackout blinds and lighting grid. "I am really excited by what we can do with these new facilities" said Sean Lancaster, specialist lecturer in Broadcast Systems. "Most of our students go on to work in the broadcast sector and this allows us to give them even better experience with the very latest top-end professional technology."



## Media Tech Student awarded Solent Women's Prize

A student graduating from the BSc Media Technology in the Faculty of Technology has been awarded the Solent Women's prize. Overcoming her dyslexia, Rebecca Barfoot maintained a very high standard in both written and practical work across her entire degree, gaining a 1<sup>st</sup> class honours degree with an average of 76%, and getting 80% for her final year project, designing and building a remote controlled camera vehicle for use in wildlife documentary recording.

"This is a superb achievement and well deserved by a student who constantly put in 100% effort on everything she did at university" says Dr Chris Barlow, Programme leader for the Entertainment Technology programme.

Since finishing the course, Rebecca has been working for the British Forces Broadcasting Service as a Broadcast Engineer.

## Degree Show Job Offer!

Visitors to this year's Technology degree show were so impressed by a student project that they offered the 3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc Media Technology student a job on the spot.

John Wardropper's final year project involved building an automatic pan and tilt head for a camera tripod. The unit tracks a subject and moves the camera angle to automatically keep them in shot even if they move around, making it ideal for webcasting lectures or presentations where a camera operator isn't available.

Ritchie Roser from Arqiva Outside Broadcast, himself a Solent Media Tech graduate, was so impressed that he interviewed John on the spot and offered him a job in the Satellite Media Transmission department, based at Crawley Court in Winchester.



"The Media Tech course at Solent Uni led directly to a job." Says John. "Whilst demonstrating my final year project on poster day I was given an informal interview. The week after I did some work experience with Arqiva to see what the job was like and then I started working as an SNG Engineer. Since then I have been to Amsterdam, Lille, Nigeria, Edinburgh and Madrid, doing a variety of satellite broadcasts including HD Digital Cinema."

John's project also impressed Dr Rhodri Harris from Tandberg Television, who awarded it the Tandberg TV prize for best project.

## Double Success for ET Courses

The Entertainment Technology group has received excellent feedback from both students and external examiners. The independent National Student Survey results for the courses showed a student satisfaction rating of 5% above the national average at 88%, the highest in the Faculty. The external examiner's report was described as "the best in the University" by Professor Van Gore, Solent's Vice-Chancellor. "It is fantastic to be given such a positive clean bill of health" said Sean Lancaster, Academic Leader of the ET group.

## Classic Tunes

A CD recorded and produced by Dr Chris Barlow, Programme leader for the Entertainment Technology programme, was played in full on Classic FM's 'The Full Works' programme on November 18. Chris also acts as a freelance recording engineer and producer, specialising in classical music.

The recording was made over a three day period in 2007 in a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Italianate Chapel at Everingham Hall in North Yorkshire. "The building design is lifted straight from the Venetian Churches - full of marble and amazingly resonant acoustic, which is perfect for this style of music," says Dr Barlow. "However recording in winter in North Yorkshire in a building like this was freezing!!"

Boreas Music is a brand new independent classical record label based in the north of England. Chris is their key recording engineer and producer, in addition to recording for his own label 'Cloister Records'.

"This is fantastic exposure for a young, specialist record label, and also for me as an engineer and producer," says Dr Barlow. "I think it is really important that lecturers are seen to be actually engaging in the industry - it is very motivational for students to see that their lecturers are still actively involved and not just theorists."

