

U H University of
Hertfordshire, UK



**University of
Hertfordshire
Awards
Ceremony
9 March 2003**

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Message from the Vice-Chancellor
Professor Neil K Buxton MA PhD

It gives me immense pleasure to be visiting Malaysia again. It is, of course, always a time of pride and celebration when our students graduate but the warm and enthusiastic welcome my colleagues and I receive in your country certainly enhances my enjoyment of this occasion. I hope the awards ceremony proves to be a day of enjoyment and celebration for all the students taking part and pride for their families and friends in the audience.

Since my colleagues last visited you notable changes have taken place. Today the University of Hertfordshire stands on the brink of a new era. It has invested significantly in the future and we are beginning to reap the rewards.

In the autumn of this year the purpose built £120 million de Havilland campus will open its doors to students for the first time. High profile research, opportunities for full and part-time study at both undergraduate and post-graduate level, business conferences, arts events and first class sporting facilities will all be part of this thriving centre.

There will, for example, be a 24-hour learning resources centre to mirror the award winning library-computer centre on the main campus, (which is Britain's largest), a £15 million sports complex - the Hertfordshire Sports Village - an auditorium, and 1600 networked, en-suite new rooms.

The de Havilland campus will provide a new home for the University's Business School and the Faculty of Humanities and Education and it is only a short distance from the excellent facilities on the established Hatfield College Lane campus. The two are approximately 1km apart and will be linked by cycle-ways, footpaths and shuttle-buses. This will allow the University to operate for the first time as virtually a single campus institution.

Another ground-breaking development has been the successful introduction of StudyNet, which takes learning to a new dimension. Every student and member of staff now has their own personal StudyNet account, accessible over the internet. All members of the University can access their account no matter where they are and log on to a space full of information pertinent to their university life, from study aids to lecture and revision notes, from academic timetables to social event listings, from personal emails to workgroups. In a very short space of time StudyNet has become embedded in university culture and has been embraced by students as a way of successfully managing their learning.

The University has a strong relationship with its Malaysian friends. I would like to think that we share a mutual understanding of common ambitions. The University recognises that it owes a great deal to our partner colleges in Malaysia. Therefore it is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the University will confer the award of an honorary degree on Mr Tan Yew Sing, the Founding President of INTI College.

INTI College was established in 1986 and in 1996 Mr Tan Yew Sing was appointed Chief Executive Officer of INTI Universal Holdings Berhad, which is the holding company of the INTI Group of Colleges. Today, he will be receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

On behalf of my colleagues here in Kuala Lumpur and those in Hertfordshire I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to Mr Tan Yew Sing, to all those graduating today and to their families who have supported them throughout their studies.

This is the last time I will officiate at this awards ceremony. From the autumn of 2003 I will be retiring but I know my successor, Professor Tim Wilson, and all my colleagues at the University will continue to ensure that the University is dynamic and forward looking and will seize new opportunities, not only to innovate but also to accept responsibility for the attainment and maintenance of quality standards.

I convey the University's best wishes to its many friends and partner institutions in Malaysia and wish you well for the future.