

A close-up photograph of a peacock feather, showing the intricate patterns and vibrant colors of the 'eye' design. The colors transition from dark blue and black in the center to bright green, yellow, and brown towards the edges.

Annual Review

2008-2009

Mission Statement

"Colchester Institute's purpose is to meet the needs of customers through effective learning, teaching and development of skills".

Vision Statement

"Colchester Institute's aim is to be the first choice provider of top quality vocational education and training throughout the communities it serves".

Colchester Institute Centres of Study

Art, Design and Media

Business and Management

Computing and Administration

Construction

Education

Engineering

Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy

Health and Care

Hospitality and Food Studies

Music and Performing Arts

Apprenticeships

Services to Business

- PTC (The Professional Training Centre)
- Centre for Trade Union Studies
- Train to Gain

Widening Participation

- Additional Learning Support
- Skills for Life (Literacy and Numeracy)
- Key Skills
- Functional Skills

Partnerships

- 14-16 year olds
- e2e (Entry to Employment)
- learndirect
- Outreach
- The Learning Shop @ Dovercourt
- Colchester Learning Centre

Our Range of Provision

Colchester Institute delivers a very wide range of full-time and part-time vocationally oriented programmes to both further education and higher education students. As the largest provider of its kind in Essex, the College meets the needs of learners in a variety of curriculum areas.

2008-09 saw a further increase in the number of learners at the College and provision at our Clacton sites continued to expand in Construction, Auto Engineering and Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy. Success rates for our further education learners improved further and, in June 2009, the College held its fourth Further Education Award celebration at which 52 learners received awards in recognition of their achievement.

Links with schools to provide programmes for 14-16 year old learners were maintained, with increasing numbers of these learners on part-time vocational programmes provided by the College. During 2009-10, the College continues to work with schools, not least in the planning and delivery of the new Diplomas.

2008-09 was a very successful year for the delivery of work-based learning (Apprenticeship/Advanced Apprenticeship) programmes. The College is the largest provider of work-based learning in North East Essex and, in 2008-09, continued its successful leadership of the BCT Consortium of work-based learning providers in the delivery of Apprenticeships and other training for employers across the region. As well an improvement overall in partner provision, and an increased number of partners in the Consortium, 2008-09 saw Colchester Institute's own work-based learning successes improve still further.

Higher Education at Colchester Institute continued to develop and grow during this year, with enrolment increasing to over 1,200 full-time equivalent learners. Particularly strong recruitment continued in the Centre for Art, Design and Media and in the Centre for Music and Performing Arts. New programmes were developed by College teams and validated by the University of Essex during the year, including the BA (Hons) Popular Music, the BA (Hons) Photography and the FdA Business Administration all of which recruited well in September 2009.

The BA (Hons) Art and Curatorial Practices was developed jointly by the Art History Department at the University of Essex and the Centre for Art, Design and Media at Colchester Institute and is now receiving applications. This is a particularly exciting joint venture providing students with the combination of expertise and facilities at both the University Campus and at Sheepen Road.

Financial Overview August 2008 - July 2009

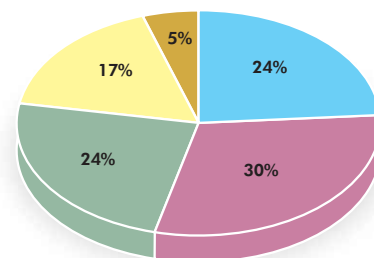
Without doubt, the factor that overshadows all else when reviewing Colchester Institute's performance for the financial year ended 31 July 2009 was the effect of incompetent management of our New Build Project Grant by the Learning and Skills Council. The sudden withdrawal of support when our build was well advanced meant that we were unable to progress the build leading to a write off of £10m and the need to take a bank loan of £17m. These unfortunate circumstances mean that Colchester Institute, instead of warranting a financial grading of "outstanding" will now merely be "satisfactory".

Despite operating under these very challenging circumstances the underlying performance was remarkably good. After removing the above exceptional write off and the theoretical FRS 17 pension adjustment an operating surplus of £115,000 was earned even after increased depreciation and interest costs, relating to the new build, of £1.2m. Income rose by 10% and payroll costs were held to 64% when FRS 17 effects are stripped out.

With the benefits of scale available from the merger with Braintree College, Colchester Institute will need to use its firm foundations to build its finances back to the outstanding levels of 2008.

Percentage of enrolments by level of study 2008-09

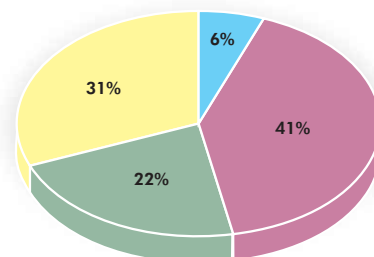
Foundation	2,730	24%
Intermediate	3,436	30%
Advanced	2,754	24%
Higher Education	1,954	17%
Other	642	5%



Enrolments (excluding PTC delegate members): 11,516

Percentage of students by age 2008-09

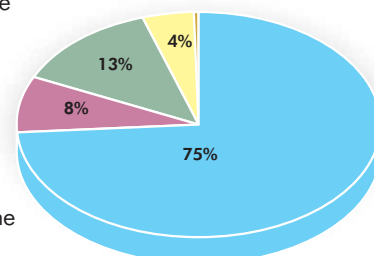
Under 16 years	674	6%
16-18 years	4,273	41%
19-24 years	2,262	22%
Over 24 years	3,246	31%



Students (excluding PTC delegate members): 10,455

Operating Income

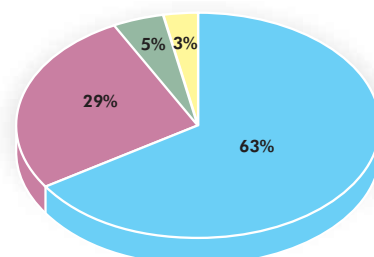
Funding Council Income	£26,430,000	(75%)
Education Contracts	£2,737,000	(8%)
Tuition Fees	£4,542,000	(13%)
Other Operating Income	£1,474,000	(4%)
Investment Income	£45,000	(-)



Income: £35,228,000

Operating Expenditure

Staff Costs	£22,765,000	(63%)
Other Operating Expenses	£10,420,000	(29%)
Depreciation	£1,606,000	(5%)
Interest Costs	£1,075,000	(3%)



Expenditure: £35,866,000

A word from our Principal and Chairman...

2008-09 was an exceptionally challenging year for Colchester Institute. The major building programme for the College, at its main Sheepen Road, Colchester Campus, had to be terminated in March 2009 through a sudden lack of previously assured funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Positively, Stage One construction allowed for the completion of a new West Wing and Engineering Block but, negatively, the College was left with an unavoidable exceptional write-off requirement of £10 million plus against an aborted Stage Two. Colchester Institute managed to enhance the site for a September 2009 intake of learners and students and has sufficient financial management strength in place to deal with the issues but LSC decision-making left much to be desired – both locally and nationally. Apologies from the Chief Executive of the LSC were welcome but the financial pressure remains. It is to the credit of Colchester Institute colleagues that the underlying monetary trend is still one of modest profitability.

A great deal of time and effort was also expended on further partnership work with the LSC, notably preparing Colchester Institute for merger with Braintree College: now confirmed (in late December) as effective from 1 January 2010. The resultant offer in the Braintree area would be marketed through the chosen brand of The College at Braintree. With there being clear signs that the NEET group numbers (NEET being Not in Education, Employment or Training) are growing in this part of Essex, there is an evidenced need for establishing a more appropriate vocational provision from within the Colchester Institute group.

Colchester Institute continued and continues to follow the theme of taking “learning to the learners” rather than placing undue emphasis on taking “learners to the learning”. While it is appropriate to view the Sheepen Road facility as the heart of collegiate operations, it is worth reflecting that being a student or learner at Colchester Institute can mean a connection with any of the following:

- Colchester Institute (Sheepen Road, Colchester Campus)
- The College at Clacton (Church Road and Thomas Road, Clacton Campuses)
- The Learning Shop @ Dovercourt
- Colchester Learning Shop
- The Professional Training Centre (PTC)
- Art, Design and Media at The Minorities
- The Engineering Training Centre at Colchester
- Every Step Ltd

Not only has The College at Braintree joined the fold, so could the projected vocational centre in Maldon (with a likely title of The College at Maldon).

2008-09 was the first full year of Colchester Institute operation of The Minorities, Colchester’s Art Gallery resource. Not only has it proven to be a popular venue for Art, Design and Media activity, it also provides a further example of the College establishing “niche provisions” for “niche markets”. The Minorities is a useful base for Higher Education, notably Postgraduate, programmes in this field and provides a visual reminder that HE is growing at Colchester Institute. The College has reclaimed its status as a College of Further and Higher Education or, as some would say, a mixed economy College. Alongside promising levels of recruitment are strengthening success rates; success rates reflect a combination of retention and achievement measures.

To support external inspection regimes, Colchester Institute is a keen proponent of self-assessment reviews, the latest of which is being undertaken for 2008-09. As well as positive feedback being noted for recruitment, retention, achievement and success for HE, the overall picture for Further Education (FE) tells much the same story. However, disaggregation of those overall figures and statistics reveals some pockets of only satisfactory performance rather than good or outstanding. As the College aims to move “From Good to Outstanding”, to quote the title of the current Strategic Plan, further work needs to be done over the coming year or years. Given the Braintree merger already noted, it is likely to be the latter rather than the former.

Another key element of quality improvement is to check, directly, on what is happening at the “chalk face”. Two key mechanisms come to mind. Firstly, teaching and learning observations provide for a measure to deal with class management and attainment while, secondly, the so-called “learner voice” – seeking the views of students and learners through, for example, surveys – would seem entirely apposite. Both of these featured strongly in the operations of the past year.

In anticipation of Machinery of Government changes, Colchester Institute has worked closely with likely successor agencies (to the LSC) that will be associated with funding, planning and, to use the fashionable word, commissioning. Although the forthcoming General Election could affect the ways in which the FE sector functions, those changes already mooted are likely to move forward during 2009-10 and come to fruition for 2010-11. Beyond that, the Labour Government’s view of a Machinery of Government mechanism could be replaced (by a possible future Conservative Government) with a returning FEFC (Further Education Funding Council for England) style framework.

The opportunity was taken during 2008-09 to reflect on the appropriate make up of the College’s Senior Leadership and Management Team (SLMT) to deal with growth. The Team expanded in membership from six to seven, allowing for a separation of duties associated with either the management of Eastern-facing operations or of Westward-facing operations. This should prove helpful for dealing with the post-merger situation, given that an enlarged Colchester Institute could produce an annual turnover approaching £45 million in 2009-10.

Colchester Institute confirmed its growing status through hosting the annual International Conference of SIEC-ISBE (la Société Internationale pour l’Enseignement Commercial - The International Society for Business Education) during July 2009. Following earlier Conferences in Ireland, Austria, The Faroe Islands and America, this was a well-attended, prestigious and genuinely successful activity. It is also but one example of the international involvement developed by the College with partnerships ranging from Chiang Mai in Thailand to Kutztown in the USA and from Kungsbacka in Sweden to Brussels in Belgium.

To conclude this commentary, thanks should be given to all those learners and students, teaching and support staff, Governors and employers and other stakeholders, who have supported the efforts of Colchester Institute throughout the passing 12 months of 2008-09.



Danny Clough

Principal and Chief Executive



David Priest

Chairman
Colchester Institute Corporation

Highlights of the Year

Graduation 2008



Colchester Institute was delighted to welcome back over 400 graduands in October, for what is one of the many highlights of the academic year. Students celebrated the end of their studies during the prestigious event and gained their awards in style.

The event was attended by Guest of Honour, David Parsons - Chief Executive of the Institute of Customer Services (ICS) - who presented a wide variety of awards. The College also welcomed hundreds of friends, family and staff to the ceremonies.

Colchester Institute also congratulated the 28 students who gained a First Class degree; an increase on last year's achievements and a fantastic testament to the hard work put in by these students.

In addition to her BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy degree, Helen Cruickshank was awarded the Ede & Ravenscroft prize. This is awarded to one exceptional student each year in recognition of their academic achievements at the College.

This year also saw one student from each Centre receive a Colchester Institute Award for their hard work and dedication throughout their studies.

Students film Auschwitz documentary



In March, two students from Colchester Institute got the chance to make a unique film documentary about the former Nazi extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Nikki Jordan, 20, from Halstead and Seanders Cowie, 18, from Colchester, filmed their one-day visit to Auschwitz on Tuesday 3rd March, as part of a Government funded project, 'Lessons from Auschwitz'.

The documentary followed Nikki and Seanders' entire visit to the concentration camp and was edited by the second year National Diploma Video Production students upon their return. The finished documentary was shown at the College as part of the end of year show in June 2009.

Seanders explained, "I was nominated to take part in this project by my lecturer and am so pleased to be involved with the Auschwitz documentary. I hope the film helps other young people to better understand what life was like in the concentration camp."

Nikki continued, "The basic idea behind the film was to try and capture our 'ordinary lives' in contrast to those at the camp and allow people to see what it was actually like there. I am grateful to have had this fantastic opportunity to make a documentary that will educate other people my age about a significant period in modern history."

Colchester Institute student wins "Royal" place

Musical Theatre degree student Ben Mann beat thousands of hopefuls to gain one of only 30 places at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London.



Ben started the postgraduate Musical Theatre course in September 2009. Many of the Royal Academy's previous students (including Sir Elton John and Myleene Klass) have gone on to lucrative careers in show business, and Ben is hoping to follow in their footsteps.

Charles Hine, HE Curriculum Manager for Music and Performing Arts at Colchester Institute, says: "We are always proud of our students who gain postgraduate places and Ben is to be congratulated for this notable achievement."

Chefs work with Indulgence and Waitrose



Two budding student chefs from Colchester Institute got the chance to work with one of the biggest names in the retail industry, Waitrose, after winning a tough cookery competition.

The competition was judged back in February, by Neil Nugent, Waitrose Executive Chef, Stuart Allan, Indulgence Patisserie, Sarah Norman, Milsoms, and Jason Sant, Colchester Institute.

The four panel members listened to the 35 promising chefs talk about their dish and then were presented with a 'taste test', where the industry experts scrutinised in detail the flavours and suitability of the dish for the tough commercial world of supermarkets.

James' winning plate of 'Mediterranean Sardines with Celeriac Puree and a Citrus and Chive Dressing' consisted of boneless butterflied sardines with a crisp bread crumb and parmesan

crust, creamy celeriac puree and a citrus, chive oil and vinegar dressing. Amy was also crowned a winner with her 'Dark Chocolate and Amaretto Truffle'; a creamy chocolate torte with an Italian amaretti biscuit base and a rich chocolate glaze.

Waitrose Executive Chef, Neil Nugent said: "I was very impressed with the well thought out and thorough marketing and packaging concepts produced by the students, all of the dishes I tasted were of an excellent standard as well."

Chef lecturer, Jason Sant, explained, "Over all, the product ideas and dishes, which the students presented to the judges, were of a good standard. The two winners thoroughly deserved to win as they put a great deal of effort and thought into their products. James created a truly unique and original dish. Amy was also chosen to be a winner because she created a quality dessert, her presentation was second to none and her costings were excellent."

Beauty students recycle waste into fashion



Beauty Therapy students put on a special fashion show just before the 2008 Christmas break to celebrate the completion of their make-up training. The students worked to a brief entitled 'recycled' and produced an array of outfits made from materials such as cola cans, plastic bags and train tickets, with complementary hair and make-up designs.

The level two beauty therapy students worked hard within their teams to produce the final recycled designs. Roles taken on by the students consisted of hair and make-up artistes, fashion designers, costume designers, lighting, models, music, narrators and catwalk design.

The 'Trash in2 Fash' team were crowned the winners for their take on the seasons and inspirational use of recycled waste items. The students in the team were rewarded with a free massage and hot stone therapy treatment.

Samantha Lowe, beauty therapy lecturer at Colchester Institute said, "I was really impressed by the creative skills on show and hard work put in by all the students across the four classes that took part. We felt the students who worked in the 'Trash in2 Fash' team thoroughly deserved to win due to their extremely colourful show and their fantastic effort that went into the models' hair and make-up."

All in the name of charity



Supported by course leaders Karl Delaine and Hayley White, the Pre-Foundation learners at The College at Clacton were encouraged to raise funds to support increased enrichment activities.

During the previous academic year, learners on Pre-Foundation programmes (14-19 years) in Clacton managed to raise a fantastic £720.

The students were responsible for planning, organising and participating in special events as part of their basic skills programme. Events have included a Christmas Fayre, Easter Egg Tombola and an eight mile walk from The College at Clacton to Walton and back.

Following a talk from Darren Couchman - a survivor of testicular cancer - the learners suggested a 'Balls Week' to raise vital funds for the Everyman charity.

Highly Commended for Construction at East of England Construction Training Awards

The Centre for Construction received a Highly Commended Award in the 'Outstanding Training Provider' category at the East of England Construction Training Awards 2008.



Members of staff from the College were presented with this prestigious accolade at the awards ceremony on Friday 10th October at the SAS Radisson Hotel, Stansted Airport.

The Highly Commended Award was presented to the Centre due to its impressive entry for the Colin Harvey Award for the Outstanding Training Provider of the Year. A number of staff members from the College attended the event, and got the chance to listen to guest speaker, Kate Adie OBE.

The Centre currently employs over 50 full-time staff and has approximately 1,600 students. It's developing and improving work with employer engagement, along with its impressive testimonials, ensured it was Highly Commended at the awards.

Head of Construction, Steve Dale, said: "I was extremely pleased to receive this award for the Centre, as it reflects the high level of training we provide. I would like to thank the staff for their commitment, and the students for their consistently high levels of work."

Colchester Institute Corporation Board (as at 31.07.09)

Mr Christopher Bridge LLB
Councillor Michael Dew BEd MA
Ms Samantha Drummond
Mr Tony Fisher MBA LLB
Mr Ron McKay
Mr Patrik Minder
Mr David Priest CEng FIMechE Honorary Fellow,
South Bank University (Chairman)
Mr Kevin Prince MA
Councillor Gaye Pyman
Mr Graham Randall FCA
Dr Tony Rich BA PGCE PhD
Mrs Elizabeth Smith MBE BA (Hons), MA, Dip.Ed. FRSA
(Vice Chairman)

STAFF MEMBERS

Ms Carole Favre BA (Hons)
Dr David Rodwell BA PhD

STUDENT MEMBERS

Mr Adam Butcher
Mr Nathaniel Edoo

PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mr Danny Clough BSc (Econ) MA FCMI MCIPR FRSA

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Mrs Hazel Paton ACIS

Colchester Campus

Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LL
Telephone: (01206) 712000
Facsimile: (01206) 712800

The College at Clacton

Church Road Campus

Church Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 6JQ

Thomas Road Campus

Thomas Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 3JL

Clacton Reception: (01206) 712234

Facsimile: (01206) 712802

Website: www.colchester.ac.uk

Email: info@colchester.ac.uk

