

## IoE is a Class Act

**VICE-Chancellor Alexandra Burslem has hailed the BBC's 'Class Act' series as "a credit to the University, the Institute of Education and our trainee teachers."**

The fly-on-the-wall documentary, screened on Monday nights, painted an enthralling picture of life as a student teacher at MMU and proved a hit with viewers and critics.

Not only did 'Class Act' make Lisa, Lee and the others household names, the Vice-Chancellor believes it may have given a timely boost to the profession.

"We hope these very positive images will have raised the status of teaching as a profession," she said.

Praise came also from the Dean of Faculty, Professor Leni Oglesby, who asserted: "No other institution could have pulled this off. We are not only the biggest teacher training centre but the best, too."

Reaction in the media



**BLACKBOARD JUNGLE:** Trainee teachers (from left): Lee Molyneux, Lisa Hughes, Richard Found, Paula Smith and Ged Ellis. Photo courtesy of BBC

was also favourable.

"Compulsory viewing" the Manchester Evening News called it. "Ten out of ten" trumpeted the Bristol Evening Post while even the Telegraph described some of the teaching as "inspirational".

The only slight complaint internally was the lack of time the series devoted to the academic preparation of

teachers, but as producer Roger Courtiouer (Vets in Practice) expected, the real drama was at the chalk-face.

Roger and his team spent around nine months filming at Didsbury under the watchful eye of John Savin (IoE), who was determined 'Class Act' would not follow previous TV adventures into schools, most of which have backfired.

### What the papers said...

“Each one of them came across as caring, thoughtful and motivated. If you're a parent or a pupil you can't ask more than that”

*Bristol Evening Post*

“They were teaching classes of actual children, who did not, on the face of it, appear to be the ghastly little monsters of popular repute”

*London Evening Standard*

“Compulsory viewing for anyone who has ever expressed an opinion about our education system”

*Manchester Evening News*

“Not as sexy as Soapstars, but much more meaningful in the long term”

*Birmingham Evening Mail*

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**Margaret Hodge**

*A visit from the Education Minister*



**Professor Toro**

*Joins the elite Cambridge team*



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Professor Eleuterio Toro



# Staff &

## Professor Eleuterio Toro

**AN MMU mathematician is to join an elite Cambridge team to rework Einstein's famous Theory of Relativity.**

Professor Eleuterio Toro is the only UK-based academic

to be chosen to join the top-level think tank at the Newton Institute of Mathematical Science.

The Chilean-born scientist, based at the Department of Computing and Maths at John Dalton,

will work with some illustrious colleagues – one from Paris and two from the USA – in trying to discover how Einstein's theories could be exploited for the technologies of the 21st Century.

All four, who have different areas of expertise, will spend six months together at the Institute in 2003.

Usually, only Oxbridge dons and the top academics from abroad are chosen to research at the Cambridge institution.

Professor Toro, a leading

researcher of complex hyperbolic partial differential equations, believes the full potential of Einstein's equations has yet to be explored.

He said: "For years nobody did anything with them – only in the last decade have they been reformulated and we are beginning to understand their potential.

"Understanding them may help us understand more about many things, from the flow of rivers and oceans to aircraft and space flight."

## Karen Duggan

Karen Duggan has joined MMU as Foundation Year Development Officer.

Karen will recruit students onto the FY scheme from non-traditional backgrounds, working with local communities and addressing barriers to access.

The post is based at Bellhouse and paid for out of the University's Widening Participation Budget.

## Jonathan Appeal

**Finance staff organised a sponsored slim to boost the Jonathan Pickup "Swim with the Dolphins" appeal.**

More than a dozen workers based in the All Saints Building lost a total of 35 pounds in weight to raise £200 for the Oldham lad who suffers cerebral palsy.

Their contribution nudged the appeal near to the £10,000 needed to send the 11-year-old to the David Nathanson Clinic in Florida, USA where he will undergo specialist treatment including the much-hailed experience of swimming with dolphins.



Jonathan Pickup surrounded by well-wishers from MMU finance

Mum and dad, John and Jill, who will travel to the USA this month with the Parkdean School pupil, said: "We've heard the dolphins can have long-lasting effects which should made Jonathan more relaxed physically and mentally. We are grateful to

the MMU staff as they have helped us to nearly reach our target."

Slim organiser Bev Thomson said: "We all look better for it. We needed an good reason to do it and this smashing boy, Jonathan, is more than a good reason."