

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON'S ALUMNI NETWORK

Issue 8 Winter 2010-11

UEL
University of
East London

now and then

TRANSFORMATION FOR EXCELLENCE: A NEW
STRATEGY FOR UEL 2010-2020

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FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the Winter 2010 edition of UEL's Alumni Network magazine which I very much hope you will enjoy. The latest issue contains news stories, details of recent and past alumni events, interviews and profiles, a list of membership benefits, and details of the Annual Fund Grant winners and other interesting news about new courses and programmes that you may find useful.

One of the most exciting developments of the last six months is the development of a new UEL strategy for 2010-2020 that informs our development priorities and direction for the next ten years. Please look at page 4-5 for bullet point information about the new strategy. Another highlight of the last 6 months is the distribution of the fundraising money in the form of Start-Up Research and Student Hardship Grants. The news about the Annual Fund Awards Ceremony can be viewed in the section titled 'Developing UEL Together'

Don't forget to look at the list of future alumni events in uel.ac.uk/alumni including our Alumni Christmas Event on 16th December in West Ham Football Club. I hope you are all going to be there and look forward to seeing you. In the meantime, my best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Guy Lawrenson
Alumni Development Officer

FROM THE HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI



Welcome to the Winter 2010 issue of the Now and Then – the magazine dedicated to our alumni. This bi-annual alumni magazine serves as a welcome to our new graduates who graduated in 2010 and provides an update about life at UEL in the last 6 months to the Alumni Network. This is an exciting time for the University of East London, its students and alumni. Congratulations to all our new graduates!

We now have over 50,000 graduates from 122 countries on our alumni database. Over 42,000 of our alumni are from the UK. The university has a new bold vision and strategy for 2010-2020, that amongst other things, places our alumni at the centre of one of our strategic objectives: 'global reach'.

Integral to the future success of our plans, and ultimately to the enhancement and sustainability of our university, is the support of our alumni. Our alumni have been a generous source of support for UEL's development plans. They are also instrumental for furthering our employability agenda by providing job placements, taking part in our Assessment Centres and providing mentoring. We are fortunate to have a growing number of our Alumni to show their interest in and loyalty to the University in various ways.

Thanks to your donations to the Annual Fund, we were also able to award the first set of 10 Annual Fund Start-Up Research and Student Hardship Grants in September 2010 in our first Vice Chancellor's Annual Fund's Awards Ceremony. We also started the building of the Sports and Academic Complex on our Docklands Campus (see pages 12-18).

My gratitude goes to all of you who helped us achieve our goals for 2009-2010. I hope those of you who are still considering to support us, will consider some of the many ways to partner with us in shaping that future. How can you help, you may ask? Simply support us financially, take part in our employability agenda, participate in the alumni network events, or organize an alumni group in your area. To learn more about how you can help continue our tradition of excellence, please contact me. The future depends on what we can do now.

I hope you find this issue of Now and Then helpful in keeping you informed about the latest at UEL and the ways you could be involved. As always do take time to visit uel.ac.uk/alumni for the latest alumni network events. Also give us your feedback and keep us updated about changes in your contact details by writing to alumni@uel.ac.uk or calling +44 (0) 20 8223 2222.

Warm Seasonal Greetings and Happy New Year!

Dr Fariba Salehi
Head of Development and Alumni

TRANSFORMATION FOR EXCELLENCE: A NEW STRATEGY FOR UEL

In the last edition of *Now and Then* we reported news of the appointment of our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick McGhee, who took up his post in February 2010. The months since then have been a very busy period, during which the Vice-Chancellor initiated a fundamental review of the University's mission and strategic objectives, with the aim of producing a bold new vision for UEL. The review process involved staff, students and external partners, and has led to the publication of a new University strategy for 2010–2020, *Transformation for Excellence*. Please find below an outline of the strategy:

Our Vision

To be an enterprising, international university, bringing transformational opportunities to individuals, communities and businesses in our region, through diversity, partnership and excellence in teaching and research.

Our vision means that by 2020:

- Students will be proud of their university and articulate, lifelong ambassadors driven by that pride and their capacity to support, guide and direct future generations of graduates
- We will appear regularly in the top half of published league tables
- We will be widely recognised as an institution that integrates teaching, research and innovation, and which creates opportunity through learning, discovery and enterprise, thereby driving achievement through commitment to the highest academic standards for assessment, dissemination and exploitation of knowledge
- We will be recognised internationally for the quality and impact of our research in key areas that promote our reputation and mission
- We will be recognised as a leading university for employability and enterprise, routinely exceeding benchmarks and providing transformational opportunities
- We will help gifted individuals build jobs and opportunities for their communities
- We will be recognised as Europe's leading university for female entrepreneurship
- UEL will be a diverse, innovative and globally distributed community, contributing to a wide range of relevant academic programmes, projects and enterprises.

Our Mission

- To promote academic achievement for all, and particularly for those seeking to succeed against the odds
- To deliver innovative research and intellectually stimulating teaching
- To promote and provide employability skills for all students
- To provide an outstanding student experience that integrates intellectual, social, artistic and sporting opportunities
- To encourage students and graduates to share their success and promote the success of others
- To support social and economic regeneration in our community
- To maximise the social and financial benefits of business development, employer engagement and knowledge exchange for individuals, communities and society
- To exploit our location in one of the world's leading capital cities for the benefit of all our stakeholders worldwide.

Our Key Objectives

- A strong academic core of excellent research and robust standards
- A distinctive and challenging student experience
- Sustainable student recruitment
- Exceptional employability and enterprise opportunities
- Global reach
- London's leading university for sport by 2015
- Outstanding support for local, national and international businesses
- An outstanding workforce
- A positive reputation.

To get a complete copy of the strategy,
please contact Dr Fariba Salehi on
fariba@uel.ac.uk



NEW APPOINTMENTS

This summer has seen a number of key appointments, many in relation to the University's exciting new strategic development plans detailed on the previous page. Details of some of these appointments may be found below:



Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor John Joughin joined the University in September to take up the new post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). In this role he will be responsible for the development of the academic portfolio of the university. He has joined UEL from the University of Central Lancashire, where he served as Head of Humanities and later Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Professor Joughin studied English and European Literature at the University of Essex before achieving a Master's in English and European Renaissance Drama from the University of Warwick, and then a doctorate from the University of Essex. A scholar of Shakespeare, Professor Joughin was founding Chairman of the British Shakespeare Association and is a member of the International Shakespeare Conference.



Pro Vice-Chancellor: International

John Shaw has joined UEL from the University of Central Lancashire, where he served as Head of the School for Languages and International Studies. As Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) he will work to develop and implement a new international strategy that will extend our global reach. John was instrumental in developing Central Lancashire's network of franchise partners at universities in China, Hong Kong and Europe. He hopes to expand UEL's global

presence by entering into more university partnerships around the world, and believes that alumni have an important role to play in developing the University's profile through a variety exciting opportunities, details of which will be publicised during the coming year.

“My key objective is to realise an international vision for UEL which involves not only the whole University but the wider East London community. A broader international vision will be achieved by showcasing the ethnic and cultural diversity and business acumen of not only the international student intake, but the domestic student intake and the local community.”



Pro Vice-Chancellor: Strategic Planning and External Development

Selena Bolingbroke was appointed to this new post earlier this year. Selena is a graduate of the University and served as President of the Students' Union during her time here as a student in the early 1990s. She returned to UEL in a professional capacity in 2000 and later served as Director of External and Strategic Development Services.



Lord Kamlesh Patel appointed Director of Strategic Partnerships and Senior Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel of Bradford has been appointed Director of Strategic Partnerships and Senior Advisor to the Vice-

Chancellor. Professor McGhee welcomed Lord Patel, saying, “His knowledge and experience in community engagement and social cohesion will be of great benefit to the university.”

Until recently, Lord Patel was a professor at De Montfort University and prior to that Head of the International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion, University of Central Lancashire. Lord Patel is internationally renowned for his high-profile work with communities and social cohesion across a range of issues including mental health, drug and alcohol use, crime and regeneration, including as a ministerial advisor. Lord Patel, Shadow Minister for Communities in the House of Lords, will be creating strategic links between the university, and public and private sector organisations, and will lead on research and knowledge transfer projects in health, social care and criminal justice. Lord Patel said: “I am very pleased to be taking up this exciting, unique and challenging post.”



Dean of the School of Psychology

In September the University welcomed Professor Mark Davies as its new Dean of the School of Psychology. He has joined UEL from Nottingham Trent University, where he was Head of Psychology. Professor Davies studied Psychology to doctorate level at Nottingham University, and has held teaching posts at University College, London and Nottingham University. He is both a chartered psychologist and a chartered biologist, and his research interests include functional sensory processing and evolutionary theory as applied to psychological processes and cybernetics. “I am very excited to be joining the School of Psychology, with its excellent reputation for teaching and research. UEL has an enviable tradition for inclusion, diversity and excellence and I look forward to being part of that”, said Professor Davies on news of his appointment.”

BOLLYWOOD PHILANTHROPIST: PREITY ZINTA IS AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE BY UEL

Superstar Preity Zinta swapped the sweltering subcontinent for icy East London when she crossed the globe to accept an honorary doctorate from the University of East London. The screen icon and tireless campaigner attended a special ceremony at UEL's Docklands campus on Friday, where she received an Honorary Doctorate of the Arts for her contribution to world cinema and humanitarian work.

Priety has starred in countless Bollywood hits and has been an outspoken supporter of many causes in her native India, particularly women's rights, AIDS awareness and campaigns to clean up Mumbai. Preity says of her visit: "I am extremely humbled and excited at the nomination as it really makes me feel that my work has been recognised. I

may not have managed to become a doctor in my younger years but that dream is now being fulfilled".

UEL Vice-Chancellor Professor Patrick McGhee said: "I am delighted that we are able to honour Preity Zinta. We notice her involvement in the Delhi blood donor camps and her tireless work in raising awareness of the challenges over AIDS, human trafficking and the plight of street children in India. Her involvement as Ambassador for the Godfrey Phillips Bravery Awards and the Loomba Trust proves that she is not afraid to stand up for justice and those in need". At the same event Lord Dholakia OBE and Professor Lord Parekh will also be bestowed with honorary doctorates, both in Law.



UEL PROFESSOR RECOGNISED FOR PAY GAP RESEARCH

Professor Len Shackleton, Dean of UEL's Royal Docks Business School, was recently presented with the Institute of Economic Affairs' biennial Arthur Seldon Award for Excellence in recognition of his research paper, Should We Mind the Gap? Gender Pay Differentials and Public Policy, which was published by the Institute in 2008.

Professor Shackleton's work argues that the gap between male and female earnings is far more complex than often thought, and cannot be explained by employer bias alone. Many other factors appear to

determine differing wage rates, and he concludes that further equal pay legislation is unlikely to bring about pay equality without also reducing freedom of choice and the economic prospects of both sexes.

Professor Shackleton, who is recognised as a field leader in labour market economics, received his award from Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Gary Becker of the University of Chicago at a ceremony held in London in June. For more information, please visit the Institute of Economics Affairs' website – www.iea.org.uk ■



IT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM REACHES FINALS OF PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, has named a UEL research team as a finalist in the Research & Development Achievement of the Year category of its annual UK IT Industry awards.

The awards focus on the contribution of individuals and organisations that excel in the development and deployment of IT. Anthony Ijeh, Chris Imafidon and Johnnes Arreymbi, of the University's School of Computing, Information Technology and Engineering, have been nominated as a result of their groundbreaking work in security solutions. Their 'geo-fencing' technology can be used

to provide security to wireless local area networks through the use of predefined borders, such as an office space, which then becomes an authorised medium for designated users and wireless mobile devices.

The same team won the Institution of Electrical Engineers' Award for Security Innovation last year, and is one of just three academic institutions to feature among more than 150 finalists. Within their category the team is up against BT and Portaltech, an eBusiness consultancy that specialises in web-based transactional solutions

for retailers including Royal Mail and Vodaphone. ■



SCHOOL OF LAW LECTURER PUBLISHES NEW BOOK ON ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

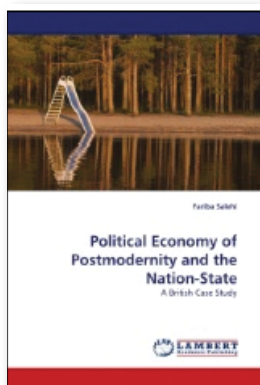
John Strawson is a Reader in Law and has been with the University for 35 years. He also serves as Director of Postgraduate Law Programmes and is a member of the University's Centre on Human Rights in Conflict. His research interests include international law, Islamic jurisprudence and the politics of the Middle East. He has published extensively throughout his career and his latest work, *Partitioning Palestine: Legal Fundamentalism in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*, was published by Pluto Publishing earlier this year. John draws upon his experiences of teaching and researching in Palestine and Israel for the past 20 years, and argues that if the parties cannot come to an agreement then the international community has a duty to enforce a two-state solution which recognises the rights of both peoples to self-determination, respect for human rights and security. ■



HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI PUBLISHES BOOK ON POLITICAL ECONOMY OF POSTMODERNITY AND NATION-STATE

Dr Fariba Salehi completed her PhD thesis at the London School of Economics in 1999 and has pursued her research interests in the field of social sciences on a part-time basis ever since. Her book, entitled *Political Economy of Postmodernity and Nation-State*, has recently been published by Lambert Academic Publishers.

The book is based on Dr Salehi's PhD thesis and offers a typology of postmodern phenomena including postmodernism, postmodern theory, postmodern culture, and postmodernity, before focusing her research on the last of these. This academic monograph offers a critical examination of the objective structures and processes that constitute postmodernity as the micro-electronic phase of capitalism in a global era, and their impact on the cultural and economic boundaries of the institution of the nation-state – as the dominant modern unit of collective identity – and a sense of national identity. ■



UEL HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS

The University's annual sport awards recognise the efforts of our student athletes and celebrate their successes, and the first awards ceremony was held at West Ham United Football Club's Upton Park stadium in June. The event was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick McGhee, and numerous sporting celebrities were on hand to address the audience and hand out



awards – including World and Olympic 400m champion Christine Ohuruogu, and wheelchair basketball player and television presenter Ade Adepitan. Among the award winners were: UEL Football Club (Club of the Year); 200m runner Jeffrey Lawal-Balogun (International Excellence Award); judo champion Louise Little (Mike Brace CBE Award for Achievement of the Year); and boxer Omar Rizeq (Vice-Chancellor's Award for Services to Sport). ■

UEL STUDENT SELECTED FOR ADVISORY BOARD OF WORLD'S LEADING EDUCATION PUBLISHER FOR SECOND YEAR RUNNING

Pearson Education is one of the world's leading publishers of educational texts and, for the second year running, has chosen a UEL student to sit as one of eight Student Advisory Board members. Aliya Nuur is studying for a BA in Accounting, and for the next year she will also play an important part in the publisher's strategic decision making process. Aliya will work with senior executives, editors and marketing managers to influence the direction of existing and future products. Another UEL student, Web Chinduta, was selected last year when the Board was first established, and it was he who first inspired Aliya to pursue a place on this year's panel.

“I met Web when I signed up with the Finance and Investment Society at the University. He recommended me to apply for the post and...I was really happy when I received the letter confirming my place on the Board”, Aliya said. ■

GLOBAL SUCCESS FOR ARTS ALUMNI

Over the past six months several art and fashion graduates have received high-profile acclaim for their work, reflecting not only their own significant talents but also the growing strength of such programmes at UEL.

In June Fine Art graduate **Karen Brummund** was awarded a Fellowship in Architecture and Environmental Studies by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), beating off competition from more than 6,200 entrants to become one of only 115 recipients of grants worth a total of more than \$800,000. Previous recipients include Oscar and Pulitzer Prize winners, such as filmmaker Spike Lee and playwright Donald Margulies.

Textiles graduate **Aimee St Hill** stole the show at the Texprint COMON Scarf competition, which featured work by



▲ Benjamin Ogbobore's self portrait

designers from 19 universities and colleges and which was held at Chelsea College of Art and Design. Aimee won the Gold Award for her entry – a scarf depicting the Trocadéro area of Paris in the 16th century

– and, as a result, she has also been given the opportunity to travel to Italy to work with some of the leading fashion houses and silk mills of Como and Milan.

Benjamin Ogbobor studied Graphic Fine Art at UEL and his oil-on-canvas self portrait, which was inspired by the work of Rembrandt, was recently shortlisted for the prestigious 2010 BP Portrait Award and went on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London during August and September. This year's competition attracted 2,177 entries from around the world, with just 58 chosen for the exhibition.

Over the past year Fashion Design graduate **Bunmi Olaye's** creations have received widespread acclaim from around the world. A successful show at London's Graduate Fashion Week in June was followed by the winning of 'Best Emerging International Designer' at Africa Fashion Week, after which she was invited to meet Nelson Mandela at his home. Bunmi's work has even attracted interest from America's First Lady, Michelle Obama, and she recently displayed her latest collection at London Fashion Week. She has also just won the "Precious Female Entrepreneur" award.

A profile of Bunmi's fashion label, Bumni Koko, may be found on page 25. ■



◀ Fashion design collection by Bunmi

ENTERPRISING GRADUATES RECEIVE £15,000 SUPPORT FROM THE HABERDASHERS' COMPANY

UEL's School of Psychology is leading the way in coaching skills for the driving industry with an innovative course designed to look at new ways of improving driver standards and training. The five-day programme for professional drivers is called Coaching for Driver Development and aims to teach psychological theory with the practical application of 'in-car coaching'.

The driving industry is always looking at ways to improve road safety, especially for groups such as 17 to 25-year-olds, who are the most at-risk group on the roads. UEL has been working with the Driving Standards Agency and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents to examine the benefits of driver coaching, and has been conducting research into this area, with the first study due for publication later this year.

UEL's Dr Jonathan Passmore is one of the UK's leading coaching psychologists and he has been working with the Executive Chairman of Performance Consultants, Sir John Whitmore, to bring coaching skills to driving. Jonathan's research with heavy goods vehicles drivers has shown that coaching can make a significant difference to both the speed with which learners progress and the first-time pass rate.

According to one participant, learner drivers "are likely to take more responsibility for their driving actions when they learn to self evaluate, and this course gave us coaching techniques that we could apply daily". ■

“ For many of our graduates the grant makes the difference between setting up a business or shelving the idea. The support of the Haberdashers' Company has been fantastic over the last five years and allowed many of our students to take their future into their own hands.”

Thorsten Klein Knowledge Dock's Business Incubation Manager

“ The Haberdashers' Company is proud to support UEL's young entrepreneurs. UEL fosters a truly impressive culture of enterprise combined with social conscience. It is refreshing and encouraging to witness the creativity, dedication and community spirit of the grant recipients and we wish them every success.”

Sally Dyson of the Haberdashers' Company at the awards ceremony



RESEARCH CENTRE UPDATE: THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFLICT

A very productive year has seen the team undertake fieldwork in Kenya, Cambodia, Serbia and Croatia, as well as the publication of a new book titled Peace-building and Rule of Law in Africa: Just Peace? Two new policy papers have also been published. These are: A Breakthrough in Justice? Accountability for Post-Election Violence in Kenya (by Chandra Lekha Sriram and Stephen Brown); and Reaching for Justice: The participation of Victims at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (by Johanna Herman).

Also, following the awarding of a grant from the United States Institute for Peace, Johanna Hermann and Olga Martin-Ortega are working with researchers from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo on

a new project entitled Transitional justice as peace-building?

The project will examine the role and limitations of transitional justice in peace-building. If properly designed and implemented, transitional justice may support victims' rights and the reintegration of ex-combatants and victimisers while promoting reconciliation and stability. Olga was also awarded a British Academy Small Grant to study the role of hybrid courts in the institutional and substantive development of international criminal justice, which will take her back to Bosnia and Herzegovina next summer. Our EU Framework VII Project on Just and Durable Peace is coming to an end in January 2011. The last conference of the project, on Justice and Peace-building in the Middle East: Exploring the Role of Third-

Party in Mediation Processes and Chances of Reconciliation in Regional Conflicts, was held in Amman in August.

The coming year is filled with a range of events open to students, staff and alumni. Details of all of the Centre's activities can be found at uel.ac.uk/chrc. ■



OBITUARIES

TRIBUTE TO RUDI VIS



Dr Rudi Vis, former MP for Finchley, died from cancer earlier this year at the age of 69. A popular local political figure he was able to win former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's old constituency in 1997 for Labour and held on to it for two subsequent elections. Dr Vis was previously an economics lecturer on UEL's BSc Applied Economics course from 1973 to 1976 at the University of East London, a role that was interrupted by his surprise triumph in Finchley. A loving family man, it was some consolation for his wife and family that, after his death, tributes came from far and wide revealing just how much Rudi had enhanced the lives of so many people, including hundreds of his students.

It was typical of Rudi that, after the 1997 General Election, he continued teaching to

support his students, especially his final-year students, only taking his parliamentary seat, when the summer exam period was over. Rudi was an urbane, warm and witty person, who was always there to help his students. People knew that if they wanted sound, supportive advice, they could always talk to him, even if it was many years after your graduation. Rudi would always be there to listen and point his students in the right direction, usually with some funny comment. He memorably told one former student, who was at a professional crossroads: "Don't explain or complain to people – the upper classes never do!"

A talented economist, Rudi's doctoral research took him to Indonesia and his lectures were often illustrated with interesting insights gained from his 'green revolution

economics' research. However, he also maintained a keen interest in things non-academic, especially through his lifelong passion for football.

Rudi was always the students' champion and not afraid to challenge the University establishment, especially when defending contact teaching hours for students.

It was no surprise to those who knew Rudi that he was such a successful constituency MP, a job into which he put his heart and soul. The Leader of Barnet Council's Labour group summed up his work ethic: "He was tremendously committed for fighting for local people, so a lot of his work was often unsung because it was about fighting for local causes, individuals and groups he worked with."

John Prescott, the former Deputy Prime Minister, described Rudi at his funeral as a "formidable campaigner". Rudi did not always toe the party line; for example, he voted against the Iraq war. Mr Prescott said the party could never be sure how Rudi would vote on key issues, but if he was opposed to the party line it would be articulated in a measured and polite way. He quoted a retort from Rudi that in many summed him up: "I have tried not to be a rebel, but it has not always been possible."

Our condolences to Rudi's family and friends. The above is quoted from one of Rudi's students.

TRIBUTE TO GILDA O'NEILL

Best-selling author and historian Gilda O'Neill passed away on 24 September 2010 following a period of hospitalisation. She was 59.

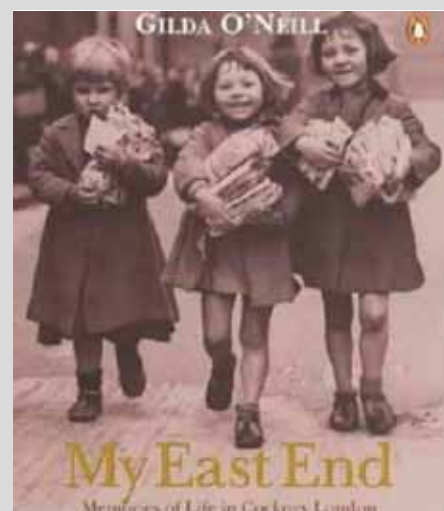
Gilda, born in 1951 in Bethnal Green, left school aged 15 and returned to university as a mature student. She took three degrees before becoming a full-time writer in 1990. UEL awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 2002.

The granddaughter of a Thames tug skipper and a pie and mash shop owner, Gilda based many of her novels in the East

End, including the best-selling *My East End*, *Our Street*, *The Good Old Days* and *Lost Voices*.

Gilda was generous, loving and popular. Our sincere condolences go to her husband John, and her family and friends.

► *'My East End'* a book by Gilda O'Neil



UEL LAUNCHES ITS FIRST ANNUAL FUND AWARDS CEREMONY



▲ From Left: Vice-Chancellor: Professor Patrick McGee, Baroness Prosser: event host, Dr Fariba Salehi: Head of Development and Alumni, Kate Hunter: Executive Director of CASE

UEL's Annual Fund provides an exciting opportunity for the Friends of UEL to support and invest in the University's development plans. Thanks to the generous support of our alumni and other Friends of UEL we were – for the first time – able to award the first set of Annual Fund Grants in September 2010!

The Annual Fund currently supports four areas of development:

- 1) A new Sports and Academic Complex at Docklands Campus
- 2) A new Library at Stratford Campus
- 3) Start-Up Research Grants
- 4) Student Hardship Grants.

Hosted by UEL alumna, Annual Fund donor and Honorary Award Holder Baroness Margaret Prosser OBE, and UEL's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick McGhee, UEL's first Annual Fund Award Ceremony took place on 29 September 2010. Over 100 of our alumni donors and other Friends of UEL attended the ceremony to celebrate the success of the Annual Fund and take part in the celebrations. The evening was informative, inspiring and great fun, and guests enjoyed our vibrant and united university.

Guest speaker, Kate Hunter – Executive Director CASE UK:

“ In the rest of the world, being a university benefactor is not that unusual; there is a culture of stewardship between a university and its alumni and business partners – a lifelong association of mutual support. As the university develops and strengthens, so too will our work with our alumni and friends. You are the beginning of a process that I hope will result in a strong network that can champion UEL and east London as a whole. There is no greater testimony to the value of a university education or to the value of a working relationship with a university that those who have already succeeded know the importance of turning round and helping those who would follow.”

Professor Patrick McGhee

“Many of today's universities and higher education institutions were founded by the generosity of previous generations, and today giving to higher education has never been more important. With challenging economic times ahead, it's vital that universities engage with supporters, alumni, donors, stakeholders. Giving to universities supports research, scholarships, access and a host of other initiatives. Universities need to steward their supporters and donors well, to

communicate the benefit and impact of their gifts. Universities and donors can work together to build a meaningful culture of philanthropy in higher education.”

We are now raising funds for the 2011 Student Hardship Grants and Start-Up Research Grants, and are aiming to increase both the value and number of these grants. We are also raising £1 million towards Dockland's Sports and Academic Complex and £3 million towards Stratford's library.

BE A FRIEND OF UEL

- Go online and donate on www.uel.ac.uk/development/donate



THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR ALUMNI: THE FIRST SET OF ANNUAL FUND STUDENT HARDSHIP AND START-UP RESEARCH GRANTS (2010/2011) WERE AWARDED ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2010

The winners of the Five Start-Up Research Grants each worth £2,000, receive their grant from the Vice-Chancellor:

DR STUART CONNOP:

School of Health and Bioscience



Stuart is an environmental biologist who completed his postgraduate studies at UEL. His research seeks to understand the habitat management requirements of invertebrates in relation to landscape-scale planning decisions and sustainable development.

Research title: The incorporation of invertebrate conservation into urban ecology and sustainable development.

"I am very pleased to have been awarded this grant – it will make such a difference to my work. The £2,000 Start-Up Research Grant will be used over several different areas, all of which are directly related to advancing my research within the university's research strategy and plans." Said Dr Connop, receiving his award from the Vice-Chancellor.

Research field: Environment and Sustainability – our Sustainability Research Institute is a regional leader in a number of important ventures, including invertebrate conservation, that will help to ensure the policy priority for green ventures in the region.

CHRISTIAN VAN NIEUWERBURGH:

School of Psychology



Christian is module leader for Coaching and Mentoring in Education on our postgraduate Coaching Psychology programme. He is involved in the delivery of coaching interventions in schools with both staff and students. The aim of Christian's research is to explore the perceptions of school leaders from black and minority ethnic backgrounds who have received coaching.

Research title: The impact of coaching on the development and career progression of aspiring school leaders from black and ethnic minority backgrounds

"I plan on using the £2,000 Start-Up Research Grant to employ a research assistant for 24 days to help with my data collation. Having this help will really allow my research to progress to the next level, which I am truly grateful for."

Research field: Widening participation – UEL has a broad commitment to widening participation that permeates into the work of all our academic Schools. UEL also hosts the research centre Continuum, the centre for widening participation policy studies, which is the first research centre of its kind in the UK. The aim of Continuum is to provide a focus for critical understanding of widening participation policy and practice.

DR USMAN NAEEM:

School of Computing, Information Technology and Engineering



Usman's research interests include activity of daily life (ADL) recognition, RFID sensors, reliable task recognition through object usage data within the home, intelligent/ambient environments, and smart homes. Smart environments can be used to help recognise activities and provide context-sensitive services and assistance – for example, automatically switching on music when the person being monitored is having an evening meal.

Research title: A hierarchical framework for activity recognition in smart environments

"I currently lack vital equipment to carry out my research. The £2,000 from the Start-Up Research Grant will allow me to purchase this equipment and enable me to carry out complex experiments."

Research field: Technology and Applied Informatics – The ability to monitor everyday activities in a ubiquitous environment is a key approach for tracking functional decline among elderly people. To limit the level of intrusion into personal privacy, this research will monitor activities

using simple RFID sensors, like those used in library books, and a range of wearable devices. The motivation of the work is to allow patients with early Alzheimer's disease to have additional years of independent living.

DR TIANJUN WANG:

School of Health and Bioscience



Dr Wang graduated and worked as a medical doctor in Nanjing, China, and joined UEL in 2007. Dr Wang's research will investigate patient satisfaction and experience at the Clinic, thereby benefiting the practise, its quality of training and the whole BSc Acupuncture programme. An acupuncture-specific measuring tool will be developed to evaluate the effectiveness of acupuncture.

Research title: A survey of patients at the University of East London Acupuncture Training Clinic

"BSc Acupuncture is a new programme in UEL which has run less than three years. The Acupuncture Training Clinic has been open for two years. Both the acupuncture research programme and I are fairly new to UEL, so it is important that research is undertaken to enhance the entire area. The £2,000 Start-Up Research Grant will help me to do that".

Research field: Health and Wellbeing – Health and Wellbeing research occupies a strong place at UEL. The School of Health and Bioscience offers a wide range of programmes

in scientific, medical and health subjects, including physiotherapy, podiatry, health studies, acupuncture, herbal medicine, sports science and a wide range of bioscience subjects. The research base includes conservation ecology and public health. The School incorporates the London Centre for Podiatric Education, which is unique in London, and offers NHS treatments for local patients. This Centre also houses our Acupuncture Clinic and the Stratford Centre for Herbal Medicine.

ELAINE BULLOCK:

Royal Docks Business School



Elaine possesses a wealth of experience in human resources management and joined UEL from the Metropolitan Police Service. Her research will examine how organisational development roles have expanded within HR departments.

Research Title: The Resurgence of Organisational Development: Human Resources' Added Value

"As a new researcher in my first academic role the Start-Up Research Grant will provide me with the opportunity to focus on developing my research and writing skills. The financial support for transcribing activities will provide valuable time to focus on analysis whilst balancing my other work requirements such as teaching, consultancy and programme management' Said Elaine

FRIENDS OF UEL: DEVELOPING UEL

The winners of the five Student Hardship Grants, each worth £500:

OLALEKAM DAHUDA BRAIMOH: BA (HONS) HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

“Combining education with a family life is not easy, and it is also very hard to find work to supplement my student loan at the moment. I will use my Student Hardship Grant towards paying my bills to make sure my family is secure whilst I study. It is a great honour to have been chosen to receive this award. It really will make a world of difference to me.”

TONI CHALMERS: BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY

“I believe that the Student Hardship Grants are a fantastic initiative. It can be very hard working part time, studying and looking after my child; the Student Hardship Grant will go towards helping me complete my studies so I can further my career and go on to do what I want to do with my life.”

ADNAN HASSAN: BSC (HONS) SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

“I am so happy that I have been chosen to receive a Student Hardship Grant. In my first year I really struggled to buy text books. Thanks to the Annual Fun donors, in my second year this will not be the case! I am so thankful to the University’s donors for making my experience at UEL a more enjoyable one.”

MARIA JAMES: BA (HONS) EDUCATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

“I currently study Education and Development within the Cass School of Education at the Stratford Campus. I travel to university by public transport from quite far away. My Student Hardship Grant will allow for me to buy a travel card, so I can travel to the University every day and make use of the fantastic resources available within the School. I count myself very lucky to have received this grant, and I hope one day I can give something back to the University. Thank you.”

ROSE MUNENE: BSC (HONS) COMPUTER NETWORKS

“As a single mother, I have many responsibilities. The Annual Fund Student Hardship Grant will give me much-needed extra funds which I will put towards paying my rent, buying food, transport and also paying bills. It will take away some of the worry and make it easier for me concentrate on my studies. I am really grateful to have received this grant, and would like to thank all the people who have made it possible.”



DONOR INTERVIEW: BARONESS MARGARET PROSSER OF BATTERSEA, OBE

Baroness Prosser has a distinct and impressive public service profile: On 5 December 2006, Margaret Prosser was announced as Deputy Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. As an active international trade unionist and equal opportunities lobbyist, Margaret previously held key positions as Deputy General-Secretary of the Transport & General Workers' Union, President of the TUC, an Equal Opportunities Commissioner, chairing the World Women's Committee of the International Chemical & Energy Workers' Union, and being a member of the Women's National Commission.

In 2004 Margaret was asked by the Prime Minister to chair the Women and Work Commission, looking at the continuing reasons for the gender pay and opportunities gap. The Women and Work Commission reported in 2006 and Margaret continues to work with Trades Unions, the business lobby and non-governmental organisations to promote its recommendations. Margaret became a member of the House of Lords in July 2004, and in November of that year she was appointed as a non-executive director of the Royal Mail. Baroness Prosser is also a UEL graduate and an honorary award holder.



Interview...

Q: "Why did you choose to study at North East London Polytechnic (NELP, now UEL) and what did you get out of your time here?"

A: The course which I took at what was then the North East London Poly (NELP) was a Postgraduate Diploma in Advice and Information Studies. This was designed specifically for NELP, I think in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service, and all students worked in either the CAB or local advice centres. Studying, for example, the legal framework for welfare rights or employment protection was hugely valuable to me. Putting individuals' queries or claims into the wider legal context enabled me to think of different solutions or ideas to solve those problems.

Q: You have since achieved a great deal in the fields of government, politics and equal rights. From what age did you know that this was what you wanted to do, and what factors motivated your success?

A: There was never an inspirational moment, which set me on the path of political or public life. I felt the impact of an unequal

society when I moved on a scholarship from a primary school which had absolutely no facilities to a private convent which had tennis courts, a lake across fields, a swimming pool and of course countless indoor facilities. Money can buy privilege, I decided at the age of 11.

Q: What do you consider to have been the most significant achievements of your career?

A: It is hard to determine how success comes about. When told that he was lucky to be successful Frank Sinatra once said: "People say I'm lucky. The funny thing is the harder I work the luckier I get". There is no substitute for hard work in whatever field of endeavour. Moving up the ranks of a very male-dominated trade union required hard work, a thick skin sometimes and a sense of humour always!

Q: What advice do you give anyone considering a career in public service?

A: Obviously becoming a member of the House of Lords has to be one of the highest

accolades. I think, though, being elected over and above three male contenders by the membership of the Transport and General Workers' Union to be the Union's Deputy General-Secretary is close to my heart. It was the result of many years working with the Union's membership at all levels, taking an interest in their issues and vigorously promoting their causes.

Those of us who have been lucky enough to benefit from education should, where we can, try to help others coming along. An educated population is good for us all.



▲ Vice Chancellor Professor Patrick McGhee and Baroness Prosser at UEL's first Annual Fund Awards Ceremony

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

Our alumni have been a generous source of support for the Annual Fund since its establishment in 2008. In every issue of the Now and Then we list the names of our donors and acknowledge their contributions. The following alumni have donated to the Annual Fund since March 2010. Thank you to our new and existing donors. Without your support, we will not be able to do the work we do. Your support is invaluable to us. If you are still considering to support us, please go to uel.ac.uk/development/donate/index.htm to donate online.

Abolghassem Golestani
Adeola Sokunbi
Alwarsamy Rengamannar
Beatrice Akwaboah
Chantal Bardouille
Christos Chikas
Chritina Styhann
D & C Moore
David Crew
Dr S Roffey
Francis Alexander Burns Hearne
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J Dingle
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L Yahyaoui
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Natalie Campbell
Patrica Clarke
Prashant Shah
Ricardo Weeks
Sarah Pawlewski

Sean Kerrigan
Shanaz Begum
Sudha Lau
Tracey-Jane Reynolds
V Patel
Virgina Guellal
D Datta
Dr C Ververis
Lavina Brown
Charalampos Ververis
Michele Navinder Kaur
Benedicta Offen
Mr Abu Ahmed
Mrs Nicola Jane Scavolo
Rob Hammond
Ms Tracey Mcclean
Ms Helen Aigbogun
Ms Hilary Laundon
Mr Frank Oti
Mr Malcolm Taylor
Mr Rais Ahmed
Dr Gordon Fey
Ms Morag Bocarro
Gary Dalton
Mrs Esther Grillon
Ranjit Najran
Miss Jane Heard
Mr Ronnie Bourkadi
Miss Pauline Dron
Mr Marvin Anderson
Melanie Bullock
Mr Robert Larkin-frost
Mrs Susan Ford
Mr Ryan Williams
Mrs Alison Farmer
Mrs Deborah Perryman
Mr Zaid Hanif

Gbolahan Esuruoso
Miss Victoria Colbourne
Miss Joy Mccalman
Miss Gifty Annan
Mr Richard Croucher
Ms Catherine Wass
Ms Nicola Moulton
Mr Ian Hepworth
Mrs Lynne Chadwick
Miss Maxine Ellis
Miss Sarah Scott
Christine O'sullivan
Miss Farzana Kobir
Miss Gemma Harding
Mr Benedict Otoo
Mary Fincham
Miss Sally El-kashef
Adnanul Jaigirdar
Ms Lillian Amongi
Mr Juhel Alom
Miss Vida Obeng Anokye
Miss Hayley Bent
Miss Malenia James
Miss Joanna Corns
Miss Subrena Joseph
Mr Nicholas Chrispin
Mr Kwaku Amponsah-abedi
Mrs Karin Foster
Mr Andrew Shum
Mr Paolo Valenziano
Mr Errol Strachan
Miss Charlotte Till
Miss Hannah Wilson
Miss Abinash Soora
Annette Quinn
Miss Nasreen Somauroo
Miss Claire Rugman

Mr Pericles Vassilopoulos
 Ms Janet Preston
 Grazyna Maczkowska
 Graham Clarke
 Begonia Ng
 Mr Andrew Palmer
 Clyde Baker
 Mr Robin Mann
 Ms Lyn Packer
 Mrs Evelyn Agyeman
 Miss Marie Anne Chattaway
 Dr Gali Gold
 Mr Afsar Asad
 John Fitt
 Lennox Drayton
 Mrs Sharifa Patel
 Mr Imran Younis
 Mrs Sally Strong
 Sylvia October
 Mrs D Sheril
 The Trust of Laurie and Gillian Marsh
 (on behalf of Laurie Marsh)
 Mr A A R Nwabude
 P C Ogun
 J C Jewell Esq
 Miss F O Ekwebelem
 Mr Jimi Bolusire
 Ms A J Beckles
 Maynora Petra Jopnes
 Mr A Stylianou
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 Mr Ian Appleton
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 Mr Frederick Odutola
 Mr Erivestine V Dalgety
 Mrs S T Balzer

Mr Sathi Ludhianvi
 Mr Ted Parker
 Mr Detlef Stoebe
 Miss Honor Blackman
 Dr Peter Blower
 Gilbert Sim
 Miss Ava Cooke
 Rita Sharma
 Mr William Golden
 Mr Saghir Ahmad
 Mrs Shelley Deutsch
 Mrs E A Somoye
 Anon
 Mr Kevin Bailey
 Mr J Alam
 Mrs R Basten
 Mr B Ngabu
 Mr Hafiz Mohsins
 Ms E M Butler
 Miss Diana Daniel
 Anon
 Mr B Gemmell
 Mr D Irakiza
 Miss S Perwiz
 Miss C n Hydes
 Miss D Lester
 Miss Thamimnisha Saidullah
 M I Ali
 Mrs S Askew
 Ms Stella Bamgboye
 Miss P Z Buddington
 David A Cook
 Anon
 Mrs E L Sheikh
 Mr Mark W Eves
 Miss E Foster

Mr Chris Jesty
 Mark Kirwin
 Mrs Maguy K M Kodi
 Fatoumata Koulibali
 Mr Jason Kutosi-kulongo
 Mr S Milki
 Miss K A Murphy
 Michelle Nathan-Keene
 Sham S Rashid
 J W Roach
 B Tarplett
 Claudette P Uzoeshi
 A Vargese Sobhana
 Mr Trevor R Weeks
 B Willingham
 Mrs E J Wingrove
 A J W Golden
 K Phillips
 P Berko
 Mr G J Bolland
 F A Fahmi Jama
 Peter Schulz
 Dr Roberta Babb
 Mr Stephen Cockerton
 Mr Martin Durina
 Sinja Hiller
 Mr S G Whaymand
 Lise Egenes
 Ms C M Downes
 Dr Terry Parlett
 Mr R M Forster
 S Lickfold
 Denis Laurence Farmery
 Tracey Barber

BE A FRIEND OF UEL

- A donation form is enclosed for you to fill in and send back
- Go online and donate on www.uel.ac.uk/development/donate

Thank you!

WORK BEGINS ON SPORTS AND ACADEMIC COMPLEX

Thanks to our funders, we are delighted to announce that most of the funding needed is now in place for the work to begin on the construction of the Sports and Academic Complex at our Docklands Campus, details of which were included in the last edition of *Now and Then*. A commemorative 'turning of the turf' ceremony was held on 30 September and was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick McGhee, our Director of Sport, David Cosford, and many of our student athletes.

The Centre will open in early 2012 at a cost of £20 million, and will feature a wide range of state-of-the-art facilities, including: a sports hall for basketball, volleyball, netball, football and cricket; a health and fitness suite; a dance and aerobics studio; two outdoor multi-use games areas; educational suite and laboratories; and a large sports café. The new facilities will be used by 1,000 athletes, coaches, medical practitioners and support staff when the United States Olympic Committee uses the Docklands Campus as its primary base for athlete performance services and logistical operations during the Olympic and Paralympic games. Looking beyond 2012, the University is working closely with the Olympic Park Legacy Company to ensure that the local community benefits from the project, and will be encouraging community

groups, schools, sports clubs and individuals to make use of the Complex's range of facilities.

"Our goal is for UEL to be recognised as the number one university for sport in London. Our commitment to this momentous building project is indicative of how seriously we take this ambition", said Professor McGhee at the ceremony.

"When the Complex opens in 2012 it will

put the University at the forefront of sport in higher education and serve as a flagship facility for both the University and the local area", added David Cosford.

Thanks to all of you who have supported this development through your donations to the Annual Fund!

Visit uel.ac.uk/sports to find out more about UEL's current sporting activities and future plans.



SPONSORED EVENTS UPDATE: LONDON TRIATHLON

On Saturday 7 August staff from throughout the University pushed their bodies to the limit at the London Triathlon, held at London's ExCeL exhibition centre, in order to promote UEL and raise money for the Annual Fund. Five teams of three athletes competed in the event's sprint and Olympic distance races, with each competitor completing the swimming, cycling or running stage of the triathlon. John Fry (Royal Docks Business School), David Watkinson (School of Health and Bioscience) and Steve Holt completed the Olympic distance event course in the fastest time of any of the University's entrants. Stephanie Lynch (School of Psychology), Roger Carpenter and Deidre O'Kelly (both School of Health and Bioscience) were the fastest UEL team to complete the sprint distance event.

One of the Annual Fund's four key fundraising objectives is the University's new Sports and Academic Complex, which will open at our Docklands Campus at the end of next year. It will feature a wide variety of sporting facilities and will be open to students, staff, alumni and members of the local community. Additionally, the Complex will also be used by the United States Olympic Committee for athlete performance

services and logistics operations during the build up to, and throughout, the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"I am delighted at the level of commitment and enthusiasm that the team brought to taking part and succeeding at the event. The team was energetic, upbeat and very impressive. The sun came out and we had real fun. We are going to make a tradition of this and look forward to growing the team and raising more money each year. Well to done to all involved", said Dr Fariba Salehi, Head of Development and Alumni, at the end of the event.

"There was a really good team spirit amongst the competitors and it was great to see other UEL staff supporting us on the sidelines. We're all really looking forward to doing it again next year and I would recommend it to anyone. You don't have to be an elite athlete, but it gives a real sense of achievement and team work at the end of the day", added Professor David Watkinson, who competed in the Olympic distance relay event and who is Field Leader in Professional Health Sciences.



RECENT EVENTS

GUEST LECTURE BY PROFESSOR ANTHONY HEATH, FBA DOCKLANDS CAMPUS, WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER

On Wednesday 20 October the University welcomed distinguished Oxford Professor of Sociology, Anthony Heath, who delivered a stimulating lecture on research carried at the recent general election into the political engagement, voting behaviour and national identity of black and minority ethnic groups throughout the UK.

In addition to being Professor of Sociology at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Nuffield College, Professor Heath will shortly be taking up a new role as a Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester. He also serves as Co-Director of the Centre into Elections and Social Trends, and his research interests include class and educational opportunity, social mobility, and nationalism and identity. He has published extensively and is a senior advisor to the Government on matters of citizenship, identity and ethnic inequalities, as a member of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Group, Equality Office, and the Equality & Human Rights Commission.

In his presentation Professor Heath detailed the method and results of the Ethnic Minority British Election Survey, which is one part of his wider research into ethnicity, class, politics and national identity. He went on to explain what he believes to be the causes for the differences found in political participation and party preferences between the different ethnic groups surveyed, as well as their political implications. He also chose to address the topic of the success of multicultural integration, a topic recently raised by the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

Professor Heath was welcomed and



▲ Prof Heath (centre right) with Prof Molly Andrews (left), Prof Steve Trevillion & Dr Fariba Salehi

introduced by the Dean of our School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Professor Steve Trevillion, and our own Professor of Sociology, Professor Molly Andrews, chaired the question and answer session that followed Professor Heath's main presentation. This proved to be very popular with the audience, who also enjoyed socialising and networking with each other during the buffet reception that followed.

"We are privileged to learn about Professor Heath's latest research findings in respect to one of the most complex and topical issues of our age: the issue of ethnic identity and its relationship with national

identity. It is also reassuring to learn from these findings that 'multiculturalism is not dead'. There are so many different religions, ethnic groups and cultures in the world, and there is only one way to reflect on this reality, and that is by positively incorporating it into our cultural and political agenda", said Dr Fariba Salehi, Head of Development & Alumni.

Professor Heath has kindly given us permission to make available his presentation slides. You may view and download them from uel.ac.uk/alumni

ALUMNI RECEPTION, NEW DELHI, INDIA TAJ PALACE HOTEL, SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER

University officials visited Delhi in early October as part of the University's efforts to expand its presence on the Subcontinent, and while there they took advantage of the opportunity to meet with some of our alumni who live in and around the city. Catherine Downes, Director of Corporate Marketing, hosted a dinner on the evening of Saturday 9 October at the Taj Palace Hotel. Alumni and their guests were able to enjoy each

other's company and learn about the many exciting projects that are developing out of the University's ambitious new strategy for 2010-20, Transformation for Excellence. The Development & Alumni Office hopes to build on this and other previous events by returning to India next year for a series of

► Catherine Downes, Director of Corporate Marketing hosting an alumni event in India-Delhi.



RECENT EVENTS

continued...

HONG KONG ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

KAU SAI CHAU GOLF COURSE, WEDNESDAY 21 JULY

The annual general meeting of UEL Alumni Association (Hong Kong) was held in May, and was attended by twenty members. Ludwig Chau Shing has stepped down the chairmanship, and we wish to thank him for his contribution to the Association over the past two years. The composition of the new committee is: Ms Winnie Shiu (chair); Ms Connie Tang (vice-chair); Mr Kelvin Li (honorary treasurer); Mr Theseus Cheung (honorary secretary); Mr Esmond Yu; Mr YS Wong; Mr Lionel Thang; Mr TM Koo; and Mr Peter Tam.

The first meeting of the new committee was held in June, and the following activities were planned for the coming year: a golf tournament; a recreational cycle and barbeque; a Chinese dinner gathering; and a drinks reception.

The Association's annual golf tournament for alumni and their guests was held at the HK Jockey Club's Kau Sai Chau Golf Course in Sai Kung on Wednesday 21 July. Mr Henry Chan was victorious in the alumni competition, with Mr TN Wong and Mr Dominic Siu finishing second and third

respectively. Master Martin Wu won the non-members competition, finishing just in front of Mr TC Ng and Master Jason Wu. After the tournament committee members, players, friends and family came together to enjoy a delicious seafood dinner at a popular local restaurant.

CASS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ALUMNI SUMMER PARTY STRATFORD CAMPUS, THURSDAY 17 JUNE

The Cass School of Education's first alumni summer party took place in glorious sunshine on The Green, located just outside the School's fantastic new building, which was formally opened in October 2009. Guests were welcomed by the School's Dean, Ann Slater, and were able to enjoy a delicious variety of food and refreshments while socialising with fellow alumni and members of staff. A steel drum

band – featuring a member of staff from the Cass School of Education – provided excellent entertainment, and guided tours allowed guests to view the range of facilities contained within School's new building. The School will hold another alumni party in June 2011, and we hope to see many of you there.



THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SUCCESS: SECRETS OF SERIAL ACHIEVEMENT STRATFORD CAMPUS, THURSDAY 10 JUNE

More than 150 alumni, students and staff gathered to hear acclaimed consultant Judith Leary-Joyce to share inspirational insights into the secrets of personal and professional success. Judith encouraged the audience to think about their "success equation" and discover their "core talent" as a guide to career choices. Hosted by the School of Psychology and the Alumni Network, the event also included a buffet, careers fair and networking skills workshop, which allowed participants to put into practice some of Judith's lessons.

"It was fantastic to see so many of our graduates return to UEL to reconnect

with their old classmates and share their experiences with current students. Judith is a very inspirational speaker and I'm sure that everyone has come away with some valuable tips to guide their personal and professional development," said Dr Fariba Salehi, Head of Development and Alumni.

Judith's book, *The Psychology of Success: Secrets of Serial Achievement* (Prentice Hall Life, 2009) is available for purchase at UEL's Stratford Campus bookshop, and her "Key2Success" app is available from Apple's iStore.



CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Location	Event
Wednesday 24 November 6pm – 9pm	Stratford campus	Occupational, Business and Coaching Psychology Reunion Graduates, students and staff of the MSc Occupational & Organisation, Business and Coaching Psychology courses are invited to the reunion which will include topical presentations, a buffet and ample opportunities to share contacts, experiences and ideas.
Thursday 25 November 6pm – 9pm	Docklands campus	How to Win from the Start...and Get the Right Job! Guest speaker David Royston-Lee, former Head of Career Management Services at KPMG, will provide invaluable advice on career management and guidance on how to answer three important questions: Who am I? Where am I going? How am I going to get there?
Tuesday 30 November 6pm – 9pm	Cologne, Germany	Alumni Reception Alumni living in and around Cologne are invited to join representatives from the University and current students at our partner institution, Rheinische Fachhochschule, for an evening of social and professional networking.
Thursday 16 December 7pm – late	West Ham United Football Club, Upton Park, London	Alumni Christmas Party The Alumni Network's 2010 Christmas party will be held at West Ham United Football Club's Upton Park home. Join your fellow alumni, governors and members of staff for an evening of socialising, dancing, games and festive celebration.
Wednesday 16 February 2011 6pm – 9pm	London, Islington, Metal Works	Visual and Performing Arts Showcase Current and former students will showcase their work during an evening of festive celebration.

For further information about alumni events please visit
uel.ac.uk/alumni/events/index.htm

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT?

If you have an idea for a possible Alumni Network event, or would like to help organise one, then the Development and Alumni Office wants to hear from you. To get in touch you can either call us on **+44 (0)20 8223 2222** or send an email to alumni@uel.ac.uk

An up to date calendar of events may be found on our website - www.uel.ac.uk/alumni/events

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Wherever possible we would like to send event invitations and other notices by email rather than by post, as it is both more environmentally friendly and cost effective. If you do not currently receive Alumni Network notices by email, please send a message to alumni@uel.ac.uk and let us have your email address or text ALUMNI followed by your name and email address to 88020.

Thank you!

JOIN THE ALUMNI NETWORK FACEBOOK GROUP

The Alumni Network's Facebook group allows former students to contact their fellow alumni and keep up to date with news and events. Join today by searching Facebook for **"University of East London Alumni Network"**.

Membership Benefits

A wide range of benefits and discounts is available to the University's former students. Brief details of each are listed below and an up-to-date list and details may be found on our website – uel.ac.uk/alumni/benefits.

- **Postgraduate fee discount:** Anyone who completes their undergraduate degree at UEL and then undertakes one of our full-time postgraduate or part-time postgraduate research programmes within three years is entitled to a 10% discount on the course fee. Contact study@uel.ac.uk for more information.
- **Library access:** The alumni swipe card grants access to the University's libraries, Students' Union facilities, prayer rooms and other communal areas at the Docklands and Stratford Campuses. The card costs £15.88 and conditions apply – see uel.ac.uk/alumni for more details.
- **Conference and accommodation facilities:** As a former student you may be eligible for preferential rates on all services provided by UEL's conference and events team. Outside of term time our student residences are available for group bookings, and our classrooms, lecture theatres and other rooms can be hired for meetings and events.

For more information please consult the uel.ac.uk/conferences

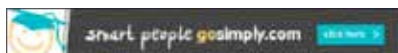
THIRD PARTY BENEFITS AND DISCOUNTS

- SeaFrance offers discounts on Dover – Calais ferry services
- Save 10% on the Nelsons online legal services
- Save an extra 10% on UK storage at Big Yellow
- gosimply.com offers a range of discounted travel services
- Enjoy a wide variety of benefits with discounted membership of the Royal Commonwealth Society
- CD WOW! offers alumni a 10% discount on all products which have not already been discounted
- Show your affiliation to UEL with our Bank of America affinity credit card
- Save 10% UK and European holiday cottage bookings with cottages4you
- Save money at Avis Rent-A-Car outlets worldwide
- InterContinental Hotels Group's Green Room offer discounts on worldwide hotel and resort bookings

Details of how to take advantage of these discounts is available on our website – uel.ac.uk/alumni/benefits



nelsonsonline.co.uk



Get Involved: Volunteering

Volunteering your time and expertise is one of the most valuable contributions that you, as a graduate, can make to the University. Alumni have a lot to offer our current students – from giving careers advice to mentoring students and providing work experience placements – and sharing your own experiences in this way can be a richly rewarding experience for all concerned. As a former student of the University you are uniquely placed to offer advice to our current students, and they also benefit from the affinity created by your common bond – UEL. Your support and guidance can help inspire them to pursue and achieve their own ambitions.

There are many different ways in which you may support our current students and staff, and you may use the form on the next page to tell us about our preferences. If you would like speak to someone about how you can help your University then please feel free to contact the Development and Alumni Office – +44 (0)20 8223 2222 or alumni@uel.ac.uk.

A BIG 'THANK YOU' TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The Development and Alumni Office is very grateful to those alumni who have donated their time and expertise during the last year. Without their support we would not be able to do what we do.

Olumide Adeyeye (2009, BA Business Administration)
Justice Adu-Adjei (2009, BSc Electrical and Electronic Engineering)
Onyebuchi Amuchie (2009, MSc Information Technology)
Rebecca Armstrong (2010, BA Special Educational Needs)
Godwill Bindeeba (2009, BA Accounting and Finance)
Felicity Gower (2007, Fashion Design with Marketing)
Declan Henry (1999 BA Education and Community Studies)
Paul Hynes (1985, BA Law)
Wendy Jackson (2005, BSc Psychology with Marketing)
Monica Kessie (2009, BA Legal Studies)
Leroy Logan (1980, BSc Applied Biology)
Jean Paul Nizeyimana (2007, MA Refugee Studies)
Edith Nwachukwu (2008, MBA)
Michael Piercy (BA Computer Game Design)
Hasan Riaz (2006, MSc Information Security and Computer Forensics)
Denice Sealy (1997, BA Social Work Studies)
Taiwo Sodeyi (2009, BSc Sport Exercise and Science)
Daren Timson-Hunt (2000, LLB Law)
Debra Wilson (2003, MA Fine Art)
Onno Reiners
Chris Koenig
Baroness Margaret Prosser, OBE
Joy White
Andrew Cranmer
Honey Kalaria
Hament Patel



ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING FORM

Dear Graduate,

Please let us know if you have extensive experience in any of the following fields and wish to offer your voluntary expertise to UEL, by ticking the relevant box.

Please send the completed form to Alumni Development Officer, Docklands Campus Room WB 2.14, University Way, London E16 2RD

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING OPTIONS (Please tick)

EMPLOYMENT

- Becoming an assessor at Employment Assessment Centres
- Offering paid job placements to our students
- Offering unpaid work experience to our students
- Becoming a Mentor
- Giving a talk on employment-related issues to students
- Giving careers advice to students either in person or online
- Placement schemes for our students from Primary PGCE alumni.

presentations and interviews on leadership skills

- Curriculum Achievement Days – for those who are linked to a particular curriculum area
- Family Awareness – for alumni parents to share their experience and give a 'real world view' of the progression pathway to other parents

ALUMNI AND STUDENT EVENTS

- Helping in Open Days for Student Recruitment, Recruitment Fairs (UK and International), Alumni events, Graduation Ceremonies or other events
- Giving a speech at alumni events
- Setting up alumni associations in your locality or country

- Offering venue for alumni or corporate events

- Participating in a focus group

ADMINISTRATION

- Helping out with admin tasks in the office
- Data entry

FUNDRAISING

- Supporting us in our campaigns
- Donating
- Fundraising for us

OTHER

- Is there another way you would like to offer your help not listed above?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Leadership Summer School – for leaders and successful alumni to make

Please give details below of any other activity you would like to get involved in.

Yes! I am interested to help and have ticked the relevant boxes.

YOUR DETAILS

Title: First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Email: Telephone:

Degree title and year of graduation:

Which UEL School:

Current job title:

Company name and website address:

Area of expertise (please explain):

Other comments:



ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Bunmi Olaye

2010, BA (Hons) Fashion Design

NIGERIAN-born, British based designer Bunmi Olaye who graduated in Fashion Design from the University of East London's School of Architecture and Visual Arts in 2010 launched her fashion label Bunmi Koko in March 2009 and recently showcased her designs at this year's London Fashion Week. The recipient of the 2010 International Emerging Designer of the Year award, awarded at the highly praised Africa Fashion Week in South Africa, Olaye's fans include former Spice Girl Mel B and Nelson Mandela's wife, Graça Machel.

This is what Bunmi says about her work:

"I decided to come to UEL because of the curriculum and what it offers. I really value the Pattern cutting and the making skills that are part of the course as they are really hands on and helped me to start fresh. UEL also has a good marketing course that supports the design part. That is really vital to new graduates, a lot of designers do not know what to do after they finish their degree, and I think it is really good to know who to contact, who your customers might be, and how to market your products afterwards. That is an essential part of making money when you graduate.

Hands on teaching with Pattern cutting skills and making skills as well as just having an overall overview of general marketing side of fashion industry are all very helpful aspects of the Fashion Design course at UEL. I think I would suggest to just really focus and work hard. What worked for me was Pattern cutting over the holidays and taking extra time to do business studies and learning about how to set up a business. Also, as a lot of students struggle with funding themselves, look for extra money during your studies. I always kept myself in jobs that I thought would be relevant to what I wanted to do. So getting good work placements and having good connections with suppliers are very important. So when I set up to do my own business, I knew a lot of relevant corporate contacts and fabrics and trims.

I met Nelson Mandela in South Africa before attending the African Fashion Awards. Currently I am still getting over the fact I met Nelson Mandela, as that was a huge highlight of my time in South Africa. He is just the greatest legend and such an awesome experience to be invited to see him. We took pictures and it was just so nice to meet him. It was really great because the day we met him we were going for the Africa Fashion Awards and he gave me his blessings. We thought we would be nominated to win, and then we won!

Planning for the future we are just trying to continue with my business and marketing and selling the current collection which I showed a preview of at Graduate Fashion Week in London. It is all back in London now. To date I have had so many stylists contacting me, so we are just trying to get the garments photographed and marketed over here in London. And also in South Africa we have had a few stylists working with me, and Cosmopolitan is doing a feature on the brand as well. So we are marketing and trying to sell the collection. I am now working on spring/summer 2011 we are just working to carry on with the business and expand and hopefully develop into an international brand".

Q. Tell us about launching your label

A. Bunmi Koko was first established in March 2009. That was when we first started the groundwork for the brand and we have really come a long way since then. We have been developing the collection and trying to get people to know what the brand is about, which is fashion, art and engineering.

Q. What's the story behind the name Bunmi Koko?

A. Bunmi is my first name, it's a Yoruba name from Nigeria. And Koko is the pet name given to me by my partner (Francis Udom). Bunmi means 'God gave me' and Koko means 'my other half'. So the name means 'God gave me my other half'. It's quite a romantic title.



ALUMNI NETWORK

Q. What was the inspiration behind your Geisha Reform collection?

A. The Japanese Geishas mainly inspired the collection. I watched the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha* and I just loved the cinematography of the movie. So I began to research the Japanese Geishas and the way they put on their garments. I then linked that with architect structures as well, which I have used on sleeves and on the hems of the garments as well.



▲ Bunmi Olaye meeting Nelson Mandela in South Africa

Q. What would you say the inspiration is behind your collection *Matriarchy*, which you unveiled at Africa Fashion Week this year?

A. My present collection is a fusion of Nigeria and the UK. It is a mixture of mine and Francis's culture. He's from Calabar in Nigeria and at one time in Calabar, Ekpe masquerades were used to police people and keep them in order. It was quite taboo as women were forbidden from seeing it or being around it, as it was for men only. This tradition is coupled with the fact that Francis's great, great grandmother was Mary Slessor, a Scottish missionary who was in Nigeria in the 19th Century. She was appointed as the first female judge by Queen Victoria and she's actually on the Scottish 10 pound note. Through researching her, I began to pick up on themes of Victorian empowerment, which I coupled with Ekpe masquerade and royalty. That sums up the collection.

Q. You did your first show last year and have since enjoyed plenty of success and exposure. How have you managed to get so far so fast?

A. I was really encouraged by Francis to just take the bull by its horns and start working on the business plan. Some people are afraid to take the risk, but you have to act now because tomorrow might be too late. We developed a strategy, aimed very high and worked towards our goals every day. We worked steadily and didn't take our eyes off the ball.

Q. How did it feel at the end of your show at London Fashion Week, when you could see that all your hard work had paid off?

A. It felt absolutely amazing to walk out at the end of the show, knowing that the months and months of hard work from myself, Francis, all the volunteers and the PR team really paid off. I felt relieved to just see everything coming together.

Q. What advice would you give to aspiring designers?

A. Don't give up on your dreams and believe that you can do it. Don't cut corners, just keep working towards your goals. Take feedback but keep focused and I think you will get there



▲ From Bunmi's fashion design collection



THE EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTERPRISE TEAM: GENERAL INFORMATION

THE EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTERPRISE TEAM offers a range of services to help students and recent graduates of the University develop key employability skills and improve their career prospects – including advice sessions, CV clinics, mock interviews, and work placement opportunities with local companies. The Team's services are available to all alumni who have graduated within the last two years.

Visit uel.ac.uk/eet to find out about all of the Team's services, or contact the Team on **+44 (0)20 8223 2424** or employability@uel.ac.uk

KNOWLEDGE EAST GRADUATE INTERNSHIP SCHEME

The KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme offers unemployed graduates the opportunity to take part in a paid internship within local SMEs or larger businesses that can provide valuable working experience to graduates in their chosen field. The scheme provides a valuable first step into the workplace for graduates who are seeking employment in a challenging economic climate. The scheme ensures that graduates are 'employer-ready' and matched to an internship opportunity where they have the greatest chance of success.

Employers have used the scheme to assess the value that a graduate can bring to their business by providing a specialist skill or area of expertise to support business growth in a new market, or by bringing a new perspective to an existing business problem. The scheme pays the employer £1,000 to cover the intern's salary whilst on their internship.

The application process is very competitive but if applicants are successful then they are required to attend a one day Preparation for Employment Event, followed by a one day Assessment Centre which will help develop their employability skills and prepare them for the internship. To date 230 successful applicants have been matched to an internship opportunity.

If you would like either apply for or to offer an internship as part of the Scheme then please contact KnowledgeEast team on +44 (0)208 223 7383 or via KnowledgeEastinterns@uel.ac.uk.

Case Study: **William Mak (2009, BSc Architecture)**

"Working in a client facing role has developed my understanding of working in partnership with clients. I found that the employability training offered as part of the Scheme was extremely useful. In particular, I learnt a lot about how to prepare for an interview and how to improve my presentation skills. It was also useful to work with and share ideas and experiences with other graduates who were in the same position as me. By taking part I have gained more self confidence and I now have a more positive outlook", said William of his experience.

William has a passion for architecture and design, and a desire to work on building and refurbishment projects. He applied to take part in the KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme and was partnered with an architecture company. Working as an Assistant Architect he shadowed an experienced architect

whilst completing site surveys and refurbishment and internal design work. William was also involved in both internal and client meetings, which helped him to strengthen key transferable skills such as written and oral communications, and organisation. The scheme allowed him to put his academic learning to use and

gain first hand experience of the work of a practising architect, while his employer gained a productive employee to work on an important project. As a result of William's hard work he has been offered an extended position with the company.

KNOWLEDGE DOCK PARTNERSHIP PROFILE: **POWERCHEX**



Alexandra Kelly used to work in the financial services sector, and founded Powerchex in 2004 after identifying the need for pre-employment screening services among the capital's financial institutions. Only a few months later Alexandra discovered Knowledge Dock and its range of business support services. Since then the two organisations have worked closely and Powerchex has gone from strength to strength.

Powerchex began life with two employees, and during its first year of working with Knowledge Dock Alexandra was determined to use every available service, and especially those that would place talented students and graduates within the company to allow it to expand, such as the national Shell Step Programme and Knowledge Transfer Project. Since then Alexandra has taken part in such programmes every year.

“I wanted to take part in every programme UEL had. It worked both ways –I gained visibility and they were associated with a growing business. UEL provides students with the skills you need”, says Alexandra.

Many of the students who have gained a placement through Powerchex have gone on to work there permanently, including Andrew McIntosh.

“I wanted to do something in PR and marketing. The aim of the placement was to get as much free advertising in as many publications as I could. I managed to get a lot of publications to agree, including the Financial Times, The Times and the Guardian. Working for a small company is the best way to build your experience...you are expected to help in a variety of areas”, reflects Andrew.

The company now employs more than 60 people, and in 2009 took on former student and University researcher Miao Kang through the Knowledge Transfer Project.

“It has been a huge success and has directly resulted in winning a large client. We wanted to create an up-to-date, well constructed online form – a customised tool for all clients. It can reduce the work load of financial companies by 50%”, explains Alexandra of Miao's work, adding, **“Miao is a fantastic, technically minded person, and I'm glad we are able to give her an insight into working for a company like this. So far we have got everything and more, I would recommend these programmes to everyone”.**

Miao had a variety of work to undertake to complete the system, including analysis, development and implementation of the new system.

“It meant a lot as I've got so much from the company and university. The process has included innovative procedures other companies do not have. This is a really good opportunity for graduates to get industry experience”, says Miao of her experience.

“There are no negatives. As a small business you have the ability to use the University, and we have got so much out of it with so little cost. The standard of help is really good; business owners should get involved with Knowledge Dock. They need to find out what is available; it will give them a good, competitive edge. Everyone at Knowledge Dock is commercially driven – it is a key aspect of making it all work”, says Alexandra of her experience with Knowledge Dock.

To find out how Knowledge Dock can help you and your business, visit www.knowledgedock.com. To find out more about Powerchex, visit www.powerchex.co.uk.

UELCONNECT

UELCONNECT offers a wide variety of flexible learning opportunities which are ideal for those who want to fit their studies around work or family life. For example, undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes can be studied by distance and e-learning, while many short courses are run during the evenings and can lead to additional academic and professional certificates and diplomas. Additionally, the part-time Foundation Degree in Professional Development offers professionals the opportunity to gain a recognised university qualification directly related to the activities of their job, and enables them to fit study around work.

Visit uel.ac.uk/uelconnect to find out about all of the Team's services, or contact UELconnect on **+44 (0)20 8223 2161** or distance.learning@uel.ac.uk

PG Certificate in **International Humanitarian Psychosocial Consultation**

This course was launched last year and is aimed at graduates working, or looking to work, with humanitarian organisations and non-governmental organisations.

"Studying this course has helped immensely with my volunteer work resettling refugees. It has adjusted my perspective. The material is relevant, helpful and critical as the backbone impacting the development and delivery of international aid." Angie, volunteer and current student.

For more information on this programme visit uel.ac.uk/uelconnect/distance_learning/programmes.htm



New Postgraduate Programmes

Three new postgraduate distance learning programmes were launched in September.

MSc Business Information Technology

This fully online course is designed to provide students with the latest cutting-edge business IT skills. Tutors have extensive experience in both teaching and industry, so students are taught by those who have practical knowledge as well as an understanding of concepts and theories.

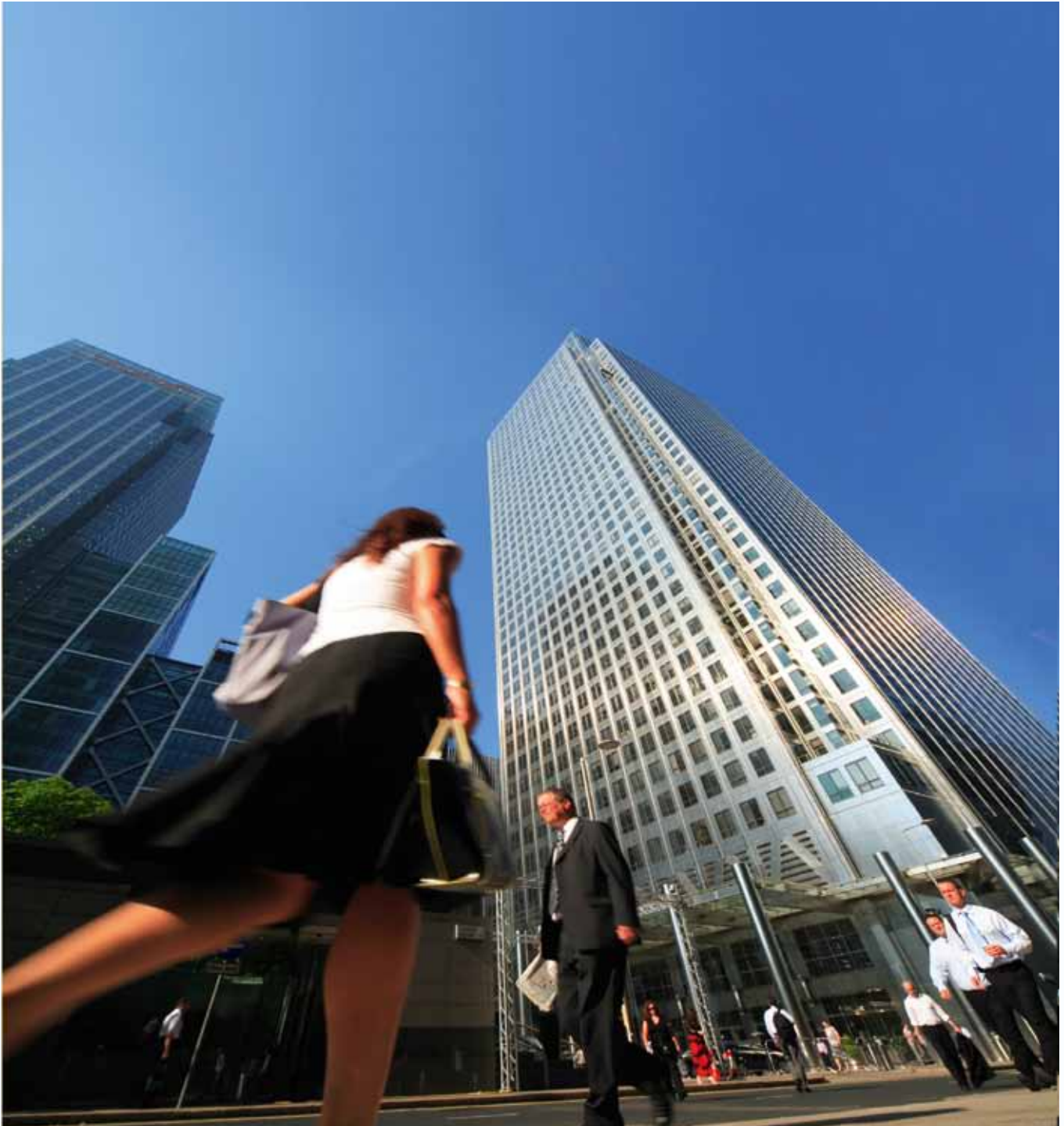
MSc Coaching and MSc Coaching Psychology

These programmes are for those who wish to take forward a career in coaching or consulting. With particular focus on coaching in health or in education, these programmes, offered by distance learning, are the first of their kind in the UK. Students can update their understanding of theory, research and wider psychological knowledge of coaching to complement practical skills and thus gain a competitive advantage.

For more information on these courses visit uel.ac.uk/uelconnect/distance_learning/programmes.htm



IMMIGRATION ON YOUR MIND?



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Telephone: **+44 (0)20 8911 8886**
Text '**visa**' to **60777** for a call back

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON'S ALUMNI NETWORK

For further information about all alumni matters and enquiries, please contact:

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THE ALUMNI NETWORK provides a global platform, and a calendar of annual events in the UK and overseas for you to remain in touch with your university, maintain your relationships with former classmates and stay connected to our UEL family for years to come.

The mission of the UEL Alumni Network is to create and sustain lifelong and mutually beneficial relationships between UEL and its alumni.

The aim of the UEL Alumni Network is to provide our alumni with a range of discounts, services, and an interesting programme of events and communication that encourage our alumni to be closely involved with the UEL community and its aspirations for the advancement of higher education in our communities.

uel.ac.uk/alumni

