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Now & Then

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON'S ALUMNI NETWORK / ISSUE 12 / AUTUMN-WINTER 2012

New UEL Graduate Internship Scheme – placing smart, dynamic graduates into forward-thinking businesses

Alumni members

Are you looking for help with your business, but don't have the resources to hire a full-time member of staff? The UEL Graduate Internship Scheme will take the stress out of recruitment and selection to provide you with the right graduate to fit your needs. Do you have a Christmas recruitment dilemma? Here at UEL we have been thinking ahead on your behalf. Take on a smart, dynamic graduate intern and we will part-fund their time with you.

What's in it for my business?

This is an opportunity for you to take on a bright graduate who can add value to your business. A recent graduate can help you:

- develop a new customer database or build a new website
- work on a marketing project to identify new business opportunities
- carry out a research and development task to scope some new work
 - support a team or individual during a time of increased workload
 - provide administrative assistance.

How does it work?

We will source fresh, capable recent graduates, shortlist them according to your requirements and send you the best to interview for your role. You get the final say in who you take on as an intern. If you need lots of help, why not take two or more interns? All we ask is that you retain the intern for a minimum of four weeks.

How do I get involved?

For more information please call our main office on **020 8223 7200/2424** or find further details at uel.ac.uk/eet/index.htm – you can also e-mail employer@uel.ac.uk

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Welcome from our Vice-Chancellor,

Professor Patrick McGhee



What a summer! It won't come as a surprise to regular readers that I will be spending most of this introduction talking about the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and I'm sure you don't blame me. When else will I get the opportunity to say that we hosted a visit from the First Lady of the United States of America? Or that one of our sports students, who was bumped up to a new weight category just a few weeks before the Olympics, walked away with a silver medal and the affections of the entire nation? Or that young, aspiring basketball players from around Newham spent an afternoon shooting hoops with their idols from the American NBA? Needless to say that as a community of students, staff, alumni and friends we are incredibly proud of our involvement in the Games and the unique role we played in ensuring their success.

Now that the circus has moved on to Rio and the spectre of creating a legacy hangs over policy makers and government, UEL is once again at the centre of the action. We are already involved in discussions about how we can use our expertise as a hosting venue, as a research hub and as a community anchor to help shape future mega-events in east London and around the world, starting with the World Athletics Championships in 2017. We are also continuing to spearhead initiatives that help more people get involved in community elite sport and we are proud that Paralympian, TV presenter and local hero Ade Adepitan will be basing his new wheelchair basketball team at UEL's SportsDock, in partnership with us and the Newham All Stars Sports Academy.

The Games is not all we've been up to of course, and I hope you read with interest the updates on our work in areas such as employability and enterprise.

As ever, if you want to get more involved in alumni activities please drop an email to Charlie, who has plenty of ways to help you engage with us to inspire and support our students.

Best wishes

Professor Patrick McGhee
Vice-Chancellor

Welcome from the Editor and
Alumni Development Manager,

Charlie Tyce

Welcome to issue 12 of *Now and Then*, UEL's magazine for its Alumni Network and Honorary Award Holders.

UEL has had a really exciting summer. As Professor McGhee mentioned, the University has been heavily involved with the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This issue features a special UEL News section titled UEL: the Olympic Edition, which features stories about our visit from none other than the US First Lady Michelle Obama, as well as news stories about our students who took part in the 2012 Games: Gemma Gibbons, who won a silver in judo at the Olympics, and Ali Jawad, who just missed out on a bronze at the Paralympics in powerlifting.

Of course, we have all the other bits you expect from *Now and Then*, including Alumni Network updates on pages 8–9 and School updates on pages 10–13, as well as all the latest news from our Employability and Enterprise Team on pages 14–15.

You can also catch up with other UEL graduates on page 18 in our 'What we do now section'.

We have recently held the 2012 Annual Fund Awards Ceremony, and on pages 16–17 you can read all about the event and this year's Annual Fund Award winners.

As always we share with you reports of the latest UEL Alumni events on page 19 and don't forget to check out the advert on this edition's back page promoting our 2012 Christmas Party!

We have again included a UEL puzzle, which is really proving to be a popular item in the magazine, so make sure you enter as you could be a winner this time!

On a final note we do hope that you find this issue of *Now and Then* both interesting and informative. We are always looking for alumni to feature, so if you think you have an interesting story please do contact us on alumni@uel.ac.uk and we will do our best to include your story in an upcoming edition of *Now and Then*. And remember, we always welcome feedback – to send us yours, just drop us an email, titled *Now and Then*, to alumni@uel.ac.uk.

Have a great festive period – see you in 2013!

Charlie Tyce

Charlotte Tyce
Alumni Development Manager

UEL News: the Olympic Edition



Seconds out, round 2012 as 1948 Olympic hero hands torch to UEL student

In the week when the Olympic Torch Relay finally reached the streets of the capital, the University of East London (UEL) staged a symbolic handover ceremony in which an official torch from the 1948 London Olympics was handed over by an East End boxing legend, who competed in those very Games.

Ron Cooper, who represented Great Britain as a lightweight boxer at the 1948 Olympics, passed on the torch to Astijus Kazlauskas, a UEL law student and up-and-coming boxer at West Ham Boys Amateur Boxing Club. During the ceremony, held at the University's SportsDock, Ron was joined by West Ham Boys Head Coach, Mickey May, and Wes Barnett, who is a two-time United States Olympic team member in the sport of weightlifting.



First Lady Michelle Obama visits UEL en route to Olympic Opening Ceremony

The First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, paid a special visit to the University of East London on Friday 27th July 2012.

As part of the visit, she greeted members of Team USA and UEL's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick McGhee, at a breakfast briefing in UEL's SportsDock in honour of the athletes. Speaking to the Vice-Chancellor before the event, Mrs Obama described SportsDock as a great example of an Olympic Games legacy. They also discussed UEL's work in supporting local children to become more active in sport.

Professor McGhee said: "We were honoured and excited to welcome the First Lady to our campus during the Olympic Games. She is an inspirational figure with a track record of promoting better health through sporting engagement and raising aspiration generally. We were delighted to host Team USA during the Games and thrilled that the First Lady joined us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience."



Young East End basketball player meets his NBA idols

Stars of USA men's basketball LeBron James and Kobe Bryant invited one young East End local to watch them train at SportsDock.

Sam Kato, 12, who plays for Newham All Star Sports Academy (NASSA), was selected along with his teammates to watch his idols train as part of Team USA and UEL's commitment to Olympic legacy and developing sports stars of the future.

Sam, who trains at UEL with NASSA, said of his opportunity: "It was really exciting and a great chance to meet the world's best basketball players. This day will live with me for a long time, and it will definitely spur me on to keep playing basketball."



The Paralympics came early to SportsDock

The London 2012 Paralympic Games were only a matter of days away when a bumper crowd turned out in force at SportsDock to watch 2008 women's wheelchair basketball gold medallists, United States, take on Great Britain in a thrilling warm-up game.

In what was a nailbiting encounter, with end-to-end action, USA emerged victorious with a narrow 52-48 final result.

GB Women's Head Coach Garry Peel said: "It was great to be based at UEL, and really helpful for the team to have the use of such fantastic facilities in the run-up to the Paralympics."



Olympic Spotlight

Silver lining for UEL student at London Olympic Games

Gemma Gibbons, a postgraduate student at the University of East London (UEL), won a silver medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Gemma, an MSc Exercise Science and Health student, and one of UEL's elite athletes, reached the final of the -78kg category in women's judo.

In what was a tense and thrilling encounter, Gemma took on Kayla Harrison from the United States. While Gemma more than held her own for most of the contest, Harrison emerged victorious to win the gold medal by two yukos – the technical term for throwing an opponent onto their side.

In her first match, Gemma beat Portugal's Yahima Ramirez. Her second opponent, Mongolia's Lkhamdegd Purevjargal, proved much stiffer opposition for Gemma, who had to dig deep to secure a dramatic last-gasp victory.

Gemma then took on the Netherland's Marhinde Verkerk to progress to the semi-final, which was undoubtedly the high point of the contest and Gemma's judo career to date.

Cheered on by a deafening crowd in London's North Greenwich Arena (the ExCeL Centre), Gemma went head to head with France's Audrey Tocheumeo. Despite a cagey start, the Team GB athlete finally managed to see off her

French opponent by ippon (pinning an opponent on their back), sparking tears of joy from Gemma and jubilant celebrations among the packed home crowd. Speaking to BBC News immediately after the final, Gemma said: "This is absolutely fantastic. I've trained so hard, so it's great to see that work pay off. I think everyone else in the team has also trained really hard and some probably deserve more than they actually got."

UEL Vice-Chancellor Professor Patrick McGhee said: "Gemma's astonishing performance is testament to her incredible skill and talent. At UEL, we've supported her and closely watched her progress over the years, but even we are gobsmacked by the sheer scale of her victory, literally toppling giants. The entire University was brought to a standstill as we cheered on Gemma during the stages of her competition. Needless to say, we're all so proud of Gemma and I think we'll have to throw a party very soon."

Elizabeth Egan, High-Performance Sports Manager at UEL, also added: "Both the staff and students at the University of East London are absolutely thrilled that Gemma won the silver medal. Her inclusion in the final was far more than we ever expected, so marks a fantastic day for British judo."



UEL sports student Ali Jawad does us proud!

UEL sports student Ali Jawad narrowly missed out on winning a medal at the Paralympics, coming fourth in a dramatic powerlifting competition at the North Greenwich Arena. Watched by friends, family, UEL staff and students, Ali lifted 185kg, placing him just outside the medal positions. With an enthusiastic Team GB crowd spurring him on and terrific home support, there were emotional and tense scenes at the Arena.

Ali was born in Lebanon with no legs. His parents moved to London because they felt he could have a better life in the UK. He has always been obsessed with sport, and has wanted a Paralympic gold medal since he was six years old.

David Cosford, Director of Sport at UEL, watched Ali's efforts and has been a driving force behind the support Ali has received, helping secure financial support for him through the Athlete Scholarship scheme and providing him with the means to manage deadlines and exams.

David says: "UEL turned out in force to support the amazing talent of Ali Jawad, and he certainly did us proud. He is a true elite sportsman and has talent and dedication. I am proud that we have been involved in his development as an athlete and as a student and he is an inspiration to us all."

Alumni Network Updates



New team member

We would like to welcome our new Alumni Development Assistant Shalini Dharmaseelan, who officially joined the team in October. Shalini will be responsible for helping to keep the team running smoothly and making sure that we keep you up to date with all the latest happenings at UEL!

Alumni discounts at SportsDock

After hosting Team USA during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, SportsDock has re-opened to everyone. UEL graduates can gain discounted membership rates at SportsDock if they show their alumni card. With the alumni card a gold membership is only £30 per month, a silver membership only £20 per month and a bronze membership just £4 per month.

For more information visit sportsdock.co.uk



And we are now on **LinkedIn** as well!

If LinkedIn is your preferred way of keeping in contact with the UEL Alumni Network make sure you join our page by logging in and searching for UEL Alumni Network.



Did you know you can now follow us on **Twitter!**

Did you know we are now on Twitter? Follow us at twitter.com/UELAlumni

We will be using Twitter as a way of keeping you updated with the latest happenings at UEL.

Electronic revolution

In order to save on our printing costs and reduce our carbon footprint, *Now and Then* is going electronic. If you would prefer to receive *Now and Then* electronically please let us know by providing us with your email address. However, if you prefer to receive a paper version, we will still be printing magazines – just let us know that you would prefer to receive a printed copy and we'll be sure to make sure you receive one in the post.

Featured discount

Handy Moves 
10% discount

We are proud to now offer a discount of 10% to all alumni members on any services offered by removal firm Handy Moves. Handy Moves is a London-based international company offering a wide range of services including: packing, unpacking, loading, hauling, selling packing supplies and storage services. Founded more than 15 years ago by a group of professional movers, the company operates within the UK and throughout all European Union countries.

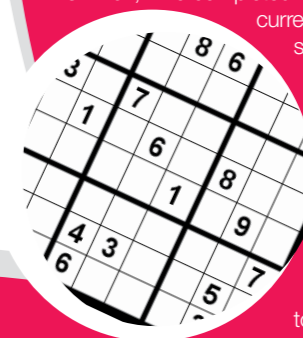
Handy Moves handles small-scale domestic removals and large-scale office removals for corporate clients. All trucks are equipped with GPS systems to ensure the fastest and most efficient route for delivery.

Handy Moves offers a 10% discount when quoting AFUEL10. The offer is valid Sunday–Thursday, and is applicable for UK removals only.

Alumni Success Stories

Super sudoku winner

Rishi Puri, who completed his Master's in IT at UEL this year, is currently having great success on the sudoku scene. In September Rishi became The Times national sudoku champion, beating the UK record by almost three minutes! Rishi has been playing sudoku since 2005 and has his own blog which attempts to provide a new sudoku every day, as well as explaining the techniques to solve it.



The bigger the better – UEL alumna creates world's longest composite photographic exhibition

A former UEL student has broken the world record for the longest composite photographic exhibition on the planet! Clare Newton, a Hackney-based artist, designer and inventor, has been awarded the world record for the longest composite photographic exhibition by the Guinness World Records.

Clare took 81,663 photographs of 1,200 people at 87 shoots across London, as part of her project entitled *Jump 4 London*. The composite photo, which was opened at the nearby ExCeL exhibition centre on 1 June, spans 979m and features UEL's Docklands and Stratford Campuses, as well as its many students and staff, in 10% of its total length.

Six students, along with Dr Brian Whiting, from the BSc Civil Engineering Surveying and Mapping Sciences degree also put their studies to good use by surveying, measuring and putting into place each section in only four hours.

On receiving news of the record Clare Newton said "I am thankful for the unbelievable support from the community engagement department of the UEL Students' Union, who were instrumental in making the project a success. UEL students have made history by taking part in the jump. I hope to maintain the great relations with UEL and the Students' Union."

Continued success for Abdulkadir Shehu

We featured Abdulkadir in the last edition of *Now and Then* in the 'What we do now' section. Since then the business information systems graduate has been keeping very busy. Abdulkadir's book, *Building Websites with Joomla! 1.5 in 60 Minutes* is proving very popular and in the summer he met the Hon Minister of Education in Nigeria, who has ordered that his book be reviewed immediately and recommended for use in Nigeria's education system. Well done Abdulkadir, keep up the good work!



School Updates

International developments in the Cass School of Education and Communities

The Cass School of Education and Communities is delighted to announce a new collaborative partnership based in Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece. The School has partnered with AKMI Metropolitan College to bring opportunities for students to study early childhood studies and special educational needs. In the past year, over 100 students in Greece have participated in these programmes.

Members of staff from the School have been undertaking voluntary work with the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to support refugee schools. This work is part of UEL's Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Reach programme, and draws upon expertise in teacher education and early years education at UEL.

In July 2011, Dr Linda Amrane-Cooper and Carolyn Silberfeld from UEL visited a refugee school in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur and helped with a morning of activities. It had been previously identified that children were unable to engage in homework because they had no access to stationery at home. Staff at UEL kindly donated resources and funds that provided each child in the school with pens, pencils, stickers and other stationery resources for use at their home. This built on the work of Jackie Notcutt, who is linked to the UEL SE Asia Office based in KL and who volunteered as an early years teacher for the UNHCR.

In three subsequent visits, Linda and her colleague Nasima Hassan have provided teacher development workshops for the teachers in the refugee schools.

The teachers are often refugees themselves and have welcomed the opportunity to reflect on and develop their own practice. Areas focused on have included building a positive learning environment, motivation and classroom management. Linda and Nasima were in Malaysia in April of this year and

ran a very well-attended half-day workshop for head teachers and governors from refugee schools.

The workshop, at which there were 59 participants, focused on developing understanding of special educational needs and provided participants with an opportunity to focus on planning for staff development to support children with special educational needs.

Participants at the April 2012 'Planning for staff development to support children with special educational needs' half-day workshop



During April 2012, six UEL education students visited Kuala Lumpur with Linda and Nasima to undertake a placement at the Harvest Centre (<http://harvestcentre.webs.com>). The students were part

funded through the UEL Going Global bursary scheme. In addition to teaching and assisting at the Harvest Centre, the students visited primary schools in Kuala Terengganu. UEL will continue to support students in visits to the refugee schools in Malaysia, and the students are able to link this learning experience to their studies for their Bachelor's degree.



Andrew Shute, Salma Khanom, Chloe Leonida, Paul Low, Katie Louise Weller, Daniel Wallis.

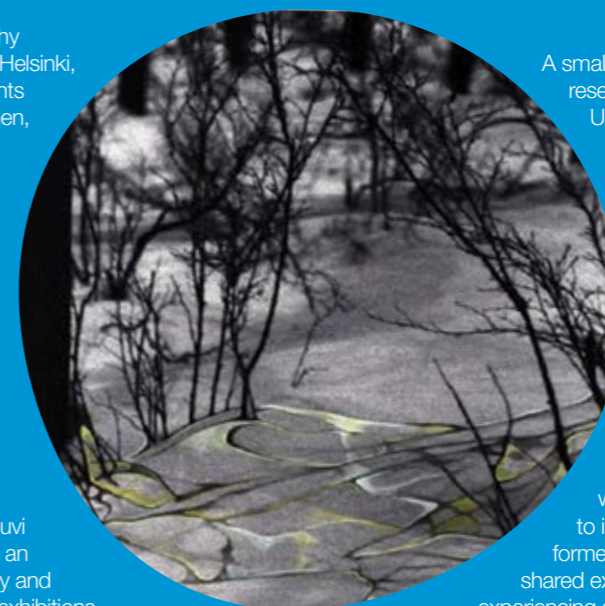
International study visit to Helsinki for students from the School of Arts and Digital Industries

This was the UEL photography department's second visit to Helsinki, Finland. Twelve level-3 students and their tutor, Minna Kantonen, senior lecturer in digital arts and visual communication, along with VT lecturer Sam Vale, spent five days in the midst of snow and Finnish photography.

Whilst in Finland, the students had an opportunity to visit a new gallery space, *Laboratory*, a pop-up gallery for the duration of World Design Capital, Helsinki 2012. The Gallery exhibition manager, Suvi Saloniemi, gave the students an insightful talk about the gallery and working with the first of their exhibitions, Martin Parr's *Think of Finland*. There was also an opportunity to attend a private view at the gallery, where students were able to speak with Martin and enjoy a Finnish feast of accordion music and fish soup.

The students also paid a repeat visit to the photography department at Aalto University, where they presented their work. The photography department at Helsinki has an international reputation as one of the best schools of photography, and we are pleased to be invited back again this year with the new level-3 students. The feedback from the two Finnish senior lecturers was excellent and they congratulated our students on their presentation skills and their level of confidence.

The group also had the opportunity to visit other exhibitions and galleries, such as the Finnish Photography Museum and the Hippolyte Gallery, where the director gave a talk and viewed student works.



A smaller group of students also visited a researcher, Marketta Kyttä, from Aalto University. The three students had an opportunity to present their level-3 work in progress to the environmental psychologist, receiving feedback on their projects and many links to follow up.

The students were encouraged to use the visit to expand on their bodies of work. For example, one student researched Finnish folk tales and visited a museum relevant for her work. The group also had a chance to interact beyond their already-formed social groups, enhanced by the shared experiences of the cold weather, experiencing a new culture and the snow!

Natalie Khalili-Tari, one of the students who was able to attend this visit due to the UEL Going Global Bursary, said: "I feel that the Photography Helsinki trip was a great experience, not only because of the amazing things I got to do, see and learn, but also because it was my first time visiting a Scandinavian country and experiencing a completely new culture and way of life. While in Finland, not only did I get to visit numerous galleries, I also had the chance to meet the photography degree tutors at Finland's renowned Aalto University, who very kindly showed us around the institution and talked to us about the photography course they run there."

Road to 2012

A number of this country's most talented portrait photographers have contributed to an exhibition entitled *Road to 2012* being held at the National Portrait Gallery.

The exhibition has been three years in the making and in association with the National Portrait Gallery students of the University of East London have been given the opportunity to be involved in a parallel photographic project, *Facing East*.

ADI lecturer and fine art photographer Faisal Abdu'Allah invited 14 students from fine art and photography to be involved in this project.

Facing East is a portrait of local communities in east London and documents some of their thoughts and feelings about the impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on their local neighbourhood. It also aims to reflect the vitality, diversity and beauty of the local environment from a range of perspectives

The body of work encompasses a range of photographic styles and techniques. The students developed their practice over a ten-week course of masterclasses and portfolio critique sessions led by internationally renowned photographers Anderson and Low, Gillian Edelstein, Brian Griffin, Emma Hardy, Nadav Kander and Bettina von Zwehl.

This collaboration resulted in the students holding an exhibition at the Four Corners Gallery in Roman Road, Bethnal Green in east London earlier this year.

The exhibition will be shown again later this year in the UELSportsDock on the Docklands Campus – we hope you will be able to visit.



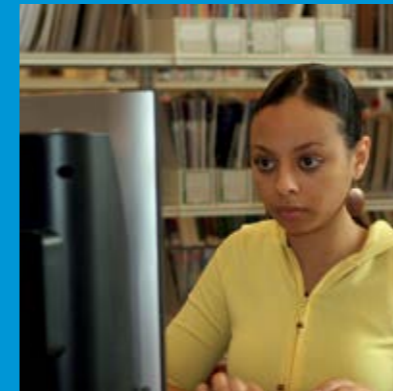
ACE alumni seminar

Earlier this year, around 200 computing students attended an evening session where they heard from graduates who have gone onto exciting careers in computing and have achieved senior positions with significant responsibilities. The three graduates, working at Morgan Stanley, Very Servers and Romtech, shared the importance of re-skilling, being adaptable and networking, and highlighted the benefits of continuous learning. The evening wrapped up with a Q&A with the students.

Rose Munene, an attendee at the event, said, "They have given us something to think about both before and after graduating".

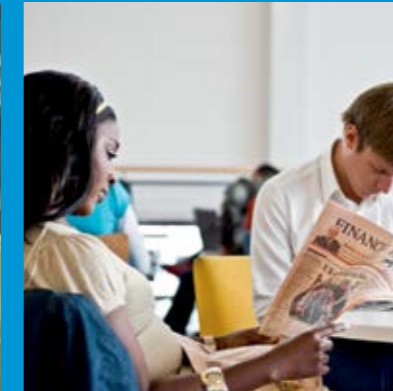
We are always looking for graduates to be speakers at events, so if you would like to come in and speak to students please do let us know by emailing us at alumni@uel.ac.uk

Recent developments at the Royal Docks Business School



Centre for Innovation Management and Enterprise (supported by Molex)

The centre for Innovation Management and Enterprise acts as not only a research base for sustaining globally recognised thought leadership in the areas of innovation management and enterprise, but also as a leadership training centre committed to making a decisive impact in terms of teaching, research and practice-driven service. Very soon, the Centre will also offer an MSc Innovation Management, designed to promote the search for new business opportunities in order to improve the development, implementation and commercialisation of strategic ideas and the creation of a culture that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship within organisations.



The Noon Centre for Equality and Diversity in Business (EDiB) (supported by the Noon Foundation)

The Noon Centre provides a service to businesses and forges strong links with the community through consultancy and executive education and training for local and international organisations. Through engagement, support and research in the interdisciplinary area of workplace equality and diversity for women and people from different ethnic groups, the Centre is developing a strong intellectual core with a robust research programme, and is also acting as a strong student-facing support mechanism. EDiB welcomes applications from prospective PhD students and offers supervision in leadership, human resource management, organisational development, change management, equality and diversity, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality in business.



Centre for Islamic Banking and Finance

The Centre for Islamic Banking and Finance at the Royal Docks Business School provides a forum for research, training and dialogue on industry practices in the rapidly growing field of Islamic finance and banking. It also serves as a bridge in terms of examining best practices in banking and finance by proffering studies that compare conventional and Islamic banking practices. A number of short training courses are available through a blended learning environment, where students can become certified in Islamic banking and finance through online and face-to-face training. More in-depth programmes such as the MSc Islamic Finance and Banking and the Islamic Finance MBA are also offered.

Bill O'Connor

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Bill O'Connor passed away on Sunday 26th August after a very difficult period following surgery. We know that Bill was highly respected among staff and students and will be greatly missed.

Employability and Enterprise Updates

What do the Employability and Enterprise Team offer?

The Employability and Enterprise Team is dedicated to making sure UEL students get the very best support to enter into the world of work. The team offers a wide range of initiatives and activities to enhance student employability, including:

- access to jobs
- careers counselling
- CV/application checking
- volunteering opportunities
- mentoring – support from a mentor who can share their experience
- internships – paid and unpaid
- placements
- business advice, funding and resources if students want to set up their own business
- Petchey Centre office space for new business start-ups
- support for business start-ups from experienced advisors.

2012 saw the Employability and Enterprise Team run for the first time a ten-week programme of events designed to give our final-year students the best send-off possible into the next stage of their careers. Between March and May, under the banner of 'Wake Up! It's time to get that Job', the team ran over 30 events to help students prepare for entry into the labour market. Events included talks on networking (social media and face to face), interview techniques, dress for success and making effective applications.

Would you be interested in helping out with any of the above? The Employability and Enterprise Team is always on the lookout for new speakers, mentors, placement providers and others who can help. In fact we would be happy to discuss any ways in which you might be able to support our current students!

Please contact Andrew Leacy, Employability and Enterprise Manager, at a.leacy@uel.ac.uk if you would be interested in chatting further about this.

New employability and enterprise offer for graduates looking to start a business

If you have graduated from UEL in the last two years and you are thinking about starting, or have started, your own business, then you are now eligible for:

- one year's free access to the Petchey Centre, UEL's hot desking space
- events, training and workshops in a variety of business essentials
- free business advice
- regular updates on all events and activities
- free access to meeting rooms and reception facilities
- networking events
- opportunities to promote you and your business
- an address base for your business in our Knowledge Dock facility.

If you are interested in this offer please contact the Employability and Enterprise Team at enterprise@uel.ac.uk, tel: +44 (0)20 8223 2424, or find us on [Twitter @uelenterprise](https://twitter.com/uelenterprise).

We are always looking for entrepreneurs to inspire the next generation of students. If you have a story to share, we would be very interested to hear from you.



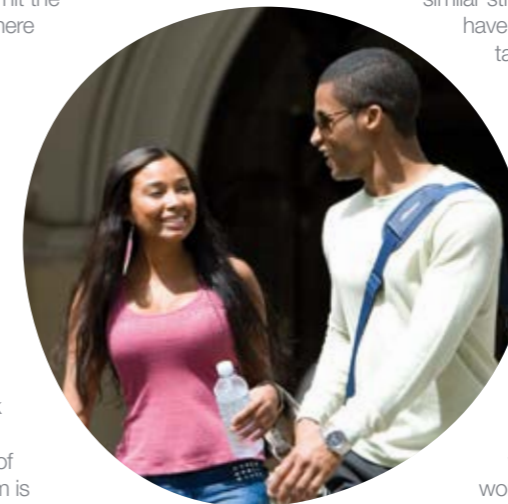
If you have been a UEL graduate for more than two years and own your own business, or would like to do so, we would like to invite you to book an appointment with our UEL business advisors. Appointments are available on the first Thursday of every month.

To book an appointment please contact alumni@uel.ac.uk

Employability and Enterprise Mentoring Scheme

A degree is no longer enough for students to secure their dream job. Employers are increasingly seeking students who stand out from the graduate crowd and have the right skills to hit the ground running. That is where UEL's Employability and Enterprise Team come in. Our mentoring scheme offers students a unique opportunity to develop key employability skills and gain a crucial insight into the workplace.

Mentees (students/ graduates) are matched to mentors (experienced professionals) and embark on a fantastic working relationship over a period of four to six months. The aim is clear: to address the mentee's areas for development with a focus on core employability skills including networking, presentation and communication skills and workplace etiquette. The mentee drives the mentoring relationship. It is evident from the successful relationships since the scheme's start that the more the mentee puts in, the more they gain through working in collaboration with their mentor.



Working with our mentees and mentors we discovered that there was a demand for mentoring schemes specific to the particular needs of our students and graduates. Applying a similar structure to our business mentoring scheme we have developed three further mentoring schemes tailored to more specific needs:

• **The Peer Mentoring Scheme** is for students aspiring to be the mentor. UEL students mentor college students to help develop their confidence and ease the transition from college to university. At the same time, they develop their own skills from leadership to relationship building.

• **The International Students Mentoring Scheme** is for our international students who are seeking guidance and advice specific to settling in to a new country and university environment whilst having to study, meet new people and work at the same time.

• **The Enterprise Mentoring Scheme** recognises that getting a job isn't the only career choice. Increasingly our students are looking to start up their own businesses and create their own jobs. Our enterprise team focuses on just this. We have adapted our mentoring scheme so that we match aspiring entrepreneurs to established entrepreneurs with the aim of developing and enhancing the mentees' entrepreneurial skills.

The Centre of Excellence for Women Entrepreneurs update

The Centre of Excellence for Women Entrepreneurs (CEWE) connects women entrepreneurs with a trusted network of business specialists. Through networking events, seminars and mentoring, CEWE and our expert partners offer a wealth of advice, contacts and opportunities to help women build their businesses.

We have now launched our calendar of events for the 2012/13 academic year. This kicked off with the Haberdashers' awards ceremony in September, which saw nine grants of up to £1,500 each being awarded to our students and graduates, helping them to take their businesses to the next level.

Moving forwards, we have four seminars organised focusing on the issues with which entrepreneurs are faced. On a global scale we will be involved with social media and Global Entrepreneurship Week, and we have just launched our new project, 'Make It Global,' looking to support businesses owned by women looking to trade overseas.

Whether you are an emerging or an established entrepreneur, we are really interested in engaging with our female alumni and working with you to support and build upon your entrepreneurial ambitions. If you would like to attend or be involved at any of our events please see more details at uel.ac.uk/cewe/networking/business-network-events-calendar/index.htm and email cewe@uel.ac.uk if you have any queries.

For more information and to keep informed please see our website, uel.ac.uk/cewe or follow us on [Twitter @uel_cewe](https://twitter.com/uel_cewe)



Annual Fund Awards 2012

UEL's Annual Fund was launched in autumn 2008 and provides an exciting opportunity for members of the UEL community, including our alumni, staff, partners, honorary award holders and other friends of UEL, to support and invest in the future development plans of our University.

Thanks to the generous support of our UEL community we have been able to celebrate our third set of Annual Fund Awards, which include the Women's Entrepreneurship Award and the Sports Coaching Award as well as our Start-up Research Grants and Student Financial Assistance Grants.

This year we were again lucky to be supported by the Worshipful Company of Paviers, who kindly donated two grants of £500 towards the Worshipful Company of Paviers' Student Financial Assistance Grants, bringing the total number of awards presented at the Annual Fund Awards Ceremony in October to nine.

Below you will find information on our deserving 2012 Annual Fund award winners.

Start-up Research Grants

Jill Daniels: School of Arts and Digital Industries



Research Overview:

Jill's research is based around the creation of a 60-minute, two-part inter-textual autobiographical experimental essay film called *The Circle*, that explores memory, identity and sexuality. It builds on Jill's previous films, *The Border Crossing* (2011) and *Not Reconciled* (2009), created for the practice component of her PhD. The film utilises and locates Jill's own experience inside questions about the use of cinematic language in the representation of autobiography, memory and identity in the past and present.

Panagiotis Ioakim: School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering

Research Overview:

The aim of Panagiotis' research is to obtain accurate strong-motion seismic data which is decoupled from static and dynamic rotational errors present in large-magnitude earthquakes. Overall the research will allow for the evaluation and reinforcement of mathematically correct algorithms already developed within the School. It is hoped that, with further minimisation of the sources of error such as temperature change, ageing of instrument components, post-event misalignment and various within-instrument offsets, results of true ground motion will finally be possible with unprecedented accuracy.



Guy Harris: School of Arts and Digital Industries

Research Overview: Guy's research, both as a writer and a practitioner, focuses on live performance using electronic sound.

Guy is mainly concerned with the dramaturgy of the live event investigating aspects such as space, the performing body, audience interaction, poetic meaning and affect. Guy aims to collect up-to-date data as well as writing and publishing articles and presenting work at conferences.



Annual Fund Sports Coaching Awards

- **Matt Farrow:** second year BSc (Hons) Medical Physiology, School of Health Sports and Bioscience, has been awarded an Annual Fund Sports Coaching Award to pay for his Level 2 swim teaching qualification.
- **Shakeel Ahmed:** second year BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance, Royal Docks Business School, has been awarded an Annual Fund Sports Coaching Award to pay for his Level 2 cricket coaching qualification.
- **Michael Hanson-Morris:** third year BSc (Hons) Sports Coaching, School of Health and Bioscience, will be awarded a Annual Fund Sports Coaching Award to pay for his Level 2 basketball coaching qualification.

Worshipful Company of Paviers' Financial Assistance Grants

- **Titus Adewale:** BSc (Hons) Construction Management, School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering.
- **Gulsen Karpazli:** BSc (Hons) Architecture, School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering.

Student Financial Assistance Grants

Five Student Financial Assistance Grants were also awarded outside of the ceremony.

The Women's Entrepreneurship Award Michelle Flood: BA Honours Advertising, 2012

Michelle is this year's winner of our Annual Fund Women's Entrepreneurship Award. She will be putting her award to great use by using it to help kickstart her freelance consultancy business. Michelle is due to graduate from UEL this November and has kindly taken some time out from setting up her business to answer a few questions for us...

Why did you choose to study at UEL?

I chose to attend UEL as this was the only university in London that had an advertising course available and met the criteria I required to further my career prospects.

Explain your business to us

The aim of my business is to provide communication, design services and consultation to individuals, the third sector, community groups and small-to-medium-sized businesses. I will seamlessly integrate social media as part of a wider marketing mix for individuals and businesses. I will also embed specific social media and advertising platforms into each organisation or individual with whom I work with to ensure transparent and unified visibility to their audience and potential customers. As social acknowledgement and engagement are essential to every business, my services and skills will examine changes in customer and organisational behaviours brought on by the emergence of social media.

What made you apply for the Annual Fund Women's Entrepreneurship Award?

When applying, I saw the fund as an opportunity to purchase technical equipment that I could use to prepare websites, newsletters, stationery, flyers and leaflets, etc. to meet client requests. Such assignments will support the production, development and progress of both my digital and hard-copy portfolios.



What does winning the Annual Fund Women's Entrepreneurship Award mean to you?

Winning the award means that I can use the funding to purchase technical equipment that would otherwise have taken me months to afford. It also means that I will be able to produce my work with the packages and applications that are being used today within the creative industry.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years I hope to have established partnership connections and, potentially, a small-to-medium-sized office with four to eight people working with me on clients' business branding and promotion.

If you could give other alumni one piece of advice, what would it be?

Alumni should stay engaged, especially by helping current students; this would enlighten students on their career prospects and opportunities to start their own businesses.

What We Do Now...



Jenny Jenkins

BA (Hons) Education and Community Studies, 1997



When I started my studies at UEL I had planned to go on to a PGCE once I'd graduated. However, whilst studying I found that the community studies element of my course was what interested me the most. After graduating I worked in the area of mental health services and now manage an outreach service and supported housing network for Redbridge Community Housing Ltd. I also deliver training, using some of the skills

I picked up from the education units whilst studying at UEL. I love east London, having grown up here; I wanted to stay local when studying and I now work and raise my family here too! I had a fantastic time at UEL and made some great friends who will probably be reading this!



Vivian Udemeh

BSc Information Systems and Human Resource Management, 2011

I graduated from UEL in 2011. After volunteering for about a year within the NHS, I heard about SportsDock's full-time student placement opportunity and decided to apply. I was really excited when I was offered the role of administrative assistant, as I was really keen to work at UEL after working as an ambassador whilst studying. I love SportsDock! It's a really modern, state-of-the-art sports facility. I believe this opportunity will give me a great start to a career in my desired field. I am very proud to work for my alma mater.

UEL Sports has a number of placement opportunities for UEL graduates – keep in touch with UEL Sports on Facebook (facebook.com/UEL Sports) and Twitter (@UEL Sports) for more information.

Nwaukor Ugo Hillary

MBA International Business, 2008

My experience at UEL was awesome. I lived on campus, had 24/7 access to the University's state-of-the-art library and my lecturers were very supportive. To top of it all, I joined the Entrepreneurs Society UEL (ESOC UEL) and was subsequently elected President of the society. I have been very busy since I graduated and in January 2012 I was appointed an assistant to the Office of the Senior Special Adviser (SSA) on Policy and Strategy Planning to the Honourable Minister of Petroleum Resources based in Nigeria. I hope to be part of the new crop of leaders in my field who can become a source of mentorship for the next generation.



Recent Events

Dinner With the Dean

Dr Nora Colton of our Royal Docks Business School kindly hosted a small dinner with a select group of alumni whilst visiting Malaysia in October. The group were also lucky enough to be joined by Professor John Shaw, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) at the University of East London.

Nora and John took the chance to update some of our business alumni based in Malaysia on what the Royal Docks Business School and indeed the University had been up to and had planned for the future.



2012 Annual Fund Awards Ceremony

In October UEL alumni, staff and students gathered to celebrate the success of our students and research staff at the Third Annual Fund Awards. The awards, presented by Vice-Chancellor Professor Patrick McGhee, included three Start-up Research Grants and a Women's Entrepreneurship Award. The Worshipful Company of Paviers, who kindly donated again towards the Financial Assistance Grant, were also in attendance, and John Price, Past Master, kindly said a few words.



Cass summer BBQ

Alumni, staff and students of the Cass School of Education and Communities gathered together at the Stratford Campus in July to celebrate the end of the academic year and the start of the summer vacation. The event was held on the grassy area outside The Green café, where a wide selection of drinks and BBQ food was on offer. All the guests enjoyed themselves and we had a wide selection of attendees from lecturers to former pupils.

Just after the guests started arriving we were entertained by Dr Lionel McCalman and his Nostalgia steel band. As the sun went down we seemed a million miles away from the torrential rain that seems to have marred our summer, and when it was time to go everyone was already looking forward to the next Cass alumni event.

How psychology can help you become an entrepreneur

In June we welcomed just under 100 guests to this year's School of Psychology alumni event titled 'How psychology can help you become an entrepreneur'.

Our first speaker of the evening was Wendy Jackson, Wendy graduated from UEL in 2005, having studied for a BA (Hons) Marketing and Psychology degree. She now enjoys running her own no-nonsense consultancy called Bite-sized Marketing. Wendy really inspired the audience, especially with her game of fishing to demonstrate how hard it is for businesses to get customers in the current marketplace.

Next up was Patapia Tzotzoli, also a UEL graduate. Patapia is the founder of a start-up company, iConcilio Ltd. The company was set up last year after she won the Best Pitch Prize in the King's College, London Graduate Business Plan Competition. Patapia demonstrated the firm's service, an online support system that addresses the wellbeing and educational needs of higher education students.

All agreed it was another successful event for the School of Psychology!

UEL, the 2012 Games and the Future!

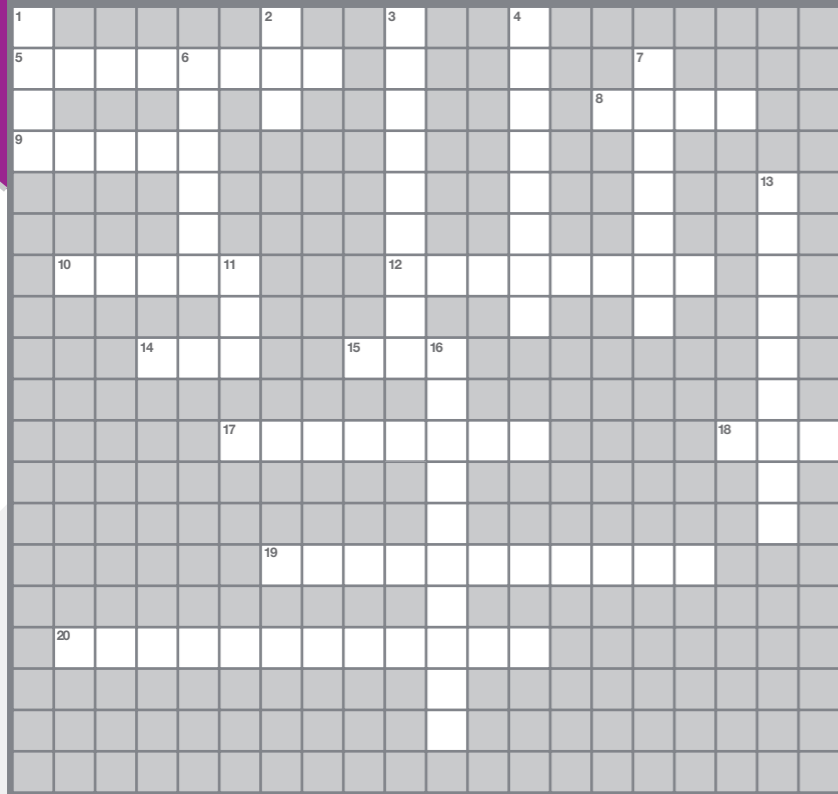
A small group of alumni, students and staff came together in June to attend an event entitled 'UEL, the 2012 Games and the Future'.

John Lock, Director of UEL's 2012 Office, provided guests with a history of east London and explained how the Olympics have changed the area for the better.

Next to take to the podium was Elizabeth Egan, High-Performance Sport Manager at UEL, who took guests through the shadow side of working with high-performance athletes. The night ended with a delicious buffet and a tour of our fantastic new sports facility at SportsDock.

UEL Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle and spot the word that appears more than once to **WIN A PRIZE!**



Question:
Which word appears twice in our crossword?

Email your answer to alumni@uel.ac.uk to be in with a chance of winning a **£30 Amazon gift voucher**

Hint: use the UEL website to help you answer the questions

ACROSS

5. What is contagious at UEL?
8. Professor Patrick McGhee is _____ Chancellor of UEL.
9. How many UEL campuses are currently open to students?
10. In UEL libraries there is a _____ study zone and a silent study zone.
12. In what month do the UEL graduation ceremonies take place?
14. How many years is a full time photography foundation degree at UEL?
15. Which country's Olympic team was based at Docklands Campus?
17. Who is eligible for the UEL Progress Bursary? All undergraduate _____.
18. The name of the alumni magazine is _____ and *Then*.
19. Who is the alumni development manager?
20. The international fee for a BSc _____ degree is £12,420.

DOWN

1. In 1988 UEL was known as the Polytechnic of _____ London.
2. What is the missing word in the title of this event held by the Alumni and Employability teams in November 2011: 'Get that _____'.
3. Which UEL campus provides student accommodation?
4. _____ B runs from February to June?
6. How many months is a full-time Graphic Design MA?
7. How many pounds does an alumni passport card cost?
11. What number is missing from the Alumni Development Office number +44 (0)20 8223 2_22?
13. Which UEL campus is home to the Cass School of Education and Communities?
16. Donations made on the alumni webpage go towards the _____.

UEL Alumni Christmas Party

Saturday 8 December 2012 6.00–11.00pm

Smollensky's, Canary Wharf, London E15 5AJ

We are delighted to invite you to the sixth UEL Alumni Christmas Party.

This year's party will take place in the luxurious setting of Smollensky's, Canary Wharf. Smollensky's is ideally located next to Canary Wharf Station, at the foot of The Canary Wharf Tower on Reuters Plaza. And it gets better – the whole bar will be just for our use!

Please join us for an evening of food, drink and entertainment including a DJ and disco, raffle and games and the opportunity to socialise with your old classmates and lecturers. Come and celebrate the festive season – bring your UEL friends with you, or come and make new ones.

The event is open to all graduates and former and current staff, and of course you are more than welcome to bring your partners, friends and family with you too.

The evening also includes a delicious festive buffet and two free drinks!

This event is ticketed and has limited places. With tickets priced at just £10 we are sure they will sell out fast, so make sure you order your tickets **TODAY**.

You can order your ticket(s) online at uel.ac.uk/alumni_event – so why wait?!



For more information on our 2012/13 events please visit our website at uel.ac.uk/alumni

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

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