



UNIVERSITY OF
WEST LONDON
The **Career** University

Your University

The magazine for alumni and friends

Claude Littner in conversation

Lord Sugar's new advisor on
The Apprentice talks to
Business School Dean Khalid Hafeez

Winter 2015

In this issue

Future Campus:

Our plans realised as students
experience our superb new facilities

Our impact on society:

How University research
improves people's lives

Plus

News from around the
University and its community

OPPORTUNITY

Career

96%

of our graduates
are in employment
within six months
of graduating*

We are The Career University. 96% of our graduates are in employment within six months of graduating according to figures released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

This positions the University in the top 20 for graduate employment rates – 2.8% above the English average of 93.1% – outperforming employability rates of all Russell Group institutions in the UK.

uwl.ac.uk
#YourUWL

Welcome to Your University

In the first issue of *Your University*, I outlined our strategic plan, *Ambition 2018*, adopted to position UWL as the leading University in the UK for graduate employability. I am delighted to tell you that, early next year, we will celebrate the completion of a £50 million development that has transformed our main campus on St Mary's Road into an inspirational learning environment that will support our aim of being the foremost career university in the UK. Besides specialist learning facilities such as a state-of-the-art radio station and performance spaces, students will benefit from a brand new Library as well as social spaces designed to meet their specific needs.

The completed development symbolises the distance travelled by the University since its humble beginnings as Lady Byron School. Throughout its journey the institution's commitment to providing high-quality, career-focused education has remained constant. Today 96% of our graduates find employment within six months of graduation, bringing us even closer to our pledge to become the leading University for graduate employability in the UK.

We owe many of our recent successes to our alumni who are the University's finest ambassadors and most committed supporters. I am grateful to the numerous alumni who continue to host students on placements, provide financial support through scholarships and bursaries, and engage in guest lectures and masterclasses. I am particularly proud of the resounding support given by alumni to our fundraising campaign, *Lighting the Way*, which enables us to invest in our facilities, people and programmes, thereby transforming the University's impact on the local community and beyond.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the University to join us in celebrating the public opening of the newly refurbished campus. We hope many of you will return to reconnect with Your University.



Professor Peter John
Vice-Chancellor



Now is the time to
really focus
on your career



£2,000 discount on tuition
fees for postgraduate courses
to UWL graduates who have completed
an undergraduate degree.

A discount on postgraduate research courses and
a separate friends and family discount is also available.

Find out more at:

uwl.ac.uk/alumnidiscount

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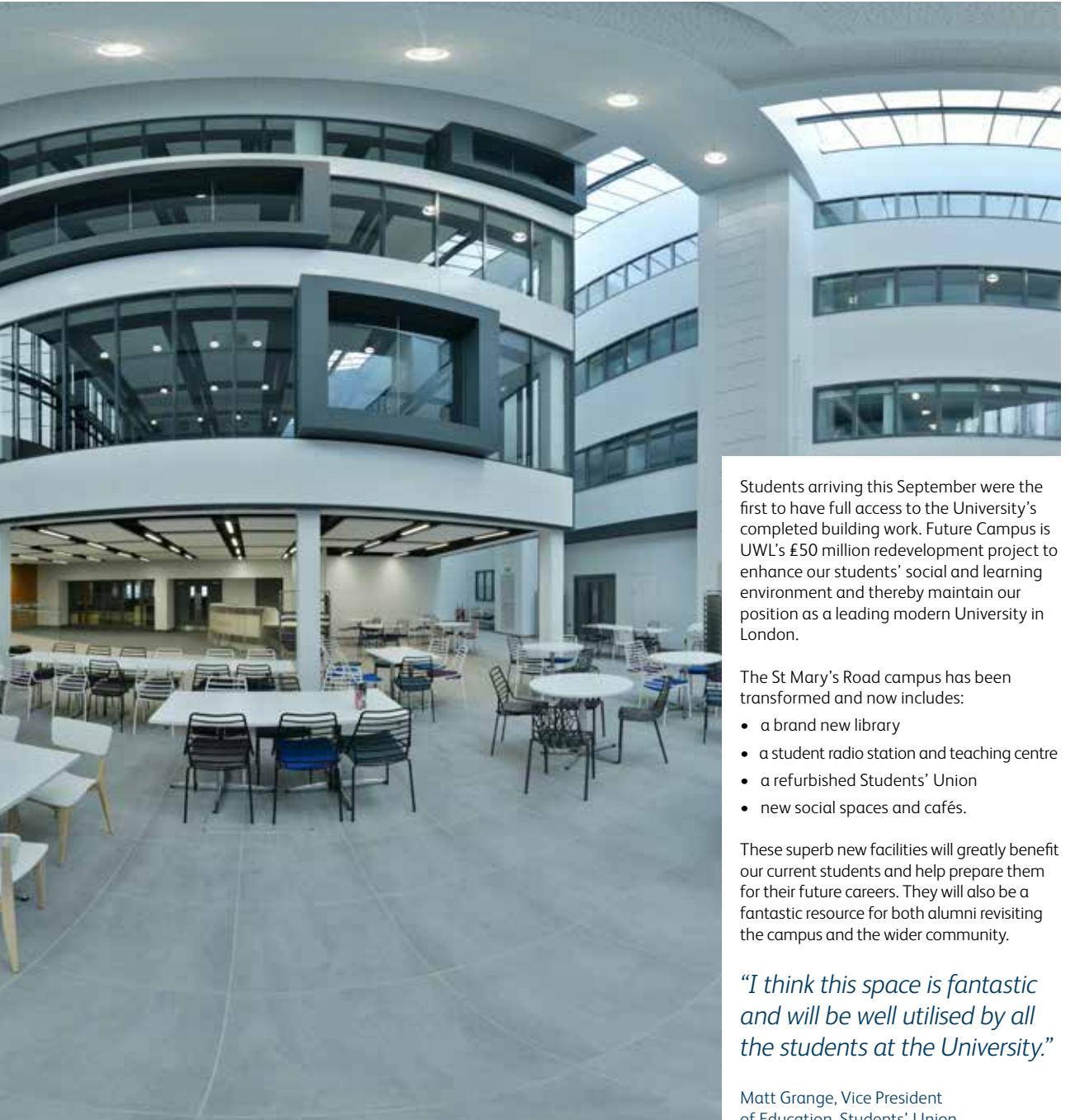
Hospitality and Tourism, and Law School alumni have come back to UWL to reunite, learn and reminisce

40 Public events at UWL



An enhanced student experience





Students arriving this September were the first to have full access to the University's completed building work. Future Campus is UWL's £50 million redevelopment project to enhance our students' social and learning environment and thereby maintain our position as a leading modern University in London.

The St Mary's Road campus has been transformed and now includes:

- a brand new library
- a student radio station and teaching centre
- a refurbished Students' Union
- new social spaces and cafés.

These superb new facilities will greatly benefit our current students and help prepare them for their future careers. They will also be a fantastic resource for both alumni revisiting the campus and the wider community.

"I think this space is fantastic and will be well utilised by all the students at the University."

Matt Grange, Vice President of Education, Students' Union



The Paul Hamlyn Library

This brand new facility boasts three new floors of library resources, including 780 study spaces, 150 PCs, a group study pavilion, three PC training labs and new self-service technology for checking books in and out.

The space will modernise study and borrowing, allowing students to more easily engage in both individual and group study. In addition to online databases and research tools, students will now have access to books and materials 24 hours a day.

“Not only has this project moved the Library back to the heart of the main campus, it also ensures that our students get the very best library facilities. We’ve listened to student feedback throughout the process and gathered some very interesting ideas that we were able to incorporate into the designs.”

Tim Wales, Director of Library Services



Paul Hamlyn CBE

Paul Hamlyn was the University’s first and longest serving Chancellor. Installed as Chancellor in 1992, Paul supported the construction of the University’s Library on its Slough campus with a generous gift. We are proud to acknowledge his connection and commitment to the University through the naming of our new Library in his honour.





The changing face of the Library: 1990–

With brand new library facilities now open at the St Mary's Road campus, we look back at how the Library has changed over the past 25 years.

In 1989, the University was called Ealing College of Higher Education, and the main Library was at St Mary's Road. With its glass frontage, the Library was known unofficially as the 'greenhouse'. Based in what is now the Peter John building, it had just two floors with an attractive open staircase leading from one to the other. Near the main Library, there was additional office space where the Library's only computer – reminiscent of 1970s science fiction – could be found.

Technology, then considered cutting-edge, was introduced later that year: an Online Public Access Catalogue which ran on dumb terminals. This replaced the microfiche catalogue, which was both inconvenient to use and incapable of showing whether an item had been borrowed. Online database searching via dial-up internet was also launched and the Library paid for access to this by the minute. CD-ROMs followed, revolutionising electronic data storage.

After becoming Thames Valley University in 1992, the Library expanded to include all floors of the building and part of what is now called Heart. It was renamed the Learning Resource Centre, which included Media Services and a significant increase in IT provision, especially PCs.

In 2011, the University was renamed the University of West London. An estate rationalisation entailed concentrating teaching at St Mary's Road, with a consequent reduction in library space. Plans were drawn up to redevelop the Library for the benefit of staff and students, while an interim Library site was based at Villiers House.

Launched this September, the brand new Library at St Mary's Road offers an attractive study environment with refreshed and extended services. From microfiche and dial-up, to interactive floor plans and intelligent book displays, the UWL Library has come a long way.



The then Head of Library Services, Philippa Dolphin, carrying a 1980s computer monitor



Main Library floor in St Mary's Road (c.1989)



01



02



03

Weston Hall

This recently opened auditorium, named after a generous donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation, is the largest, most flexible space at the University and can be configured to suit a variety of needs. With 225 fixed retractable seats, an additional 200 loose seats and a folding partition, this versatile area can be used as a large lecture theatre, a performance space, or as a space for career fairs, graduation ceremonies and other events.

Blast Radio

Students on the new BA (Hons) Radio and Multimedia Audio Production course are now benefitting hugely from two brand new, hi-tech radio studios that simulate the very latest in contemporary commercial radio operations. The luxurious teaching studio can comfortably accommodate 20 students, while a smaller but otherwise identical suite means teaching and broadcasting can run parallel to each other.

You can listen to Blast FM, the University's official student station, via the website uwblastmedia.com, the TuneIn app or on the FM dial on 87.9FM at certain times of year.

The Dr Cheng Chan Moot Room

Opened in February by Lord Finkelstein OBE, this state-of-the-art Mock Courtroom is part of the newly opened facilities at the Ealing Law School. Named in honour of Dr and Mrs Chan for their generous support of the School, the Mock Courtroom provides realistic surroundings for students to practice mooting and gain essential 'real-world' experience. The room will also be used for legal skills training, teaching and events.

William Brake Student Services Centre

The newly refurbished Student Services Centre proudly acknowledges the exceptional contribution to the University by distinguished alumnus, William Brake OBE.

William Brake attended one of the very first courses held at the Acton Hotel School (now London College of Hospitality and Tourism) in 1949. After leaving the School in 1950, he joined the Royal Army Catering Corps and became Chef to General Ouvry Lindfield Roberts at Southern Command HQ. Just six years later, with the help of his brothers Frank and Peter, William started the wholesale frozen food supply company, Brake Brothers. Over the next 30 years, the company enjoyed continuing prosperity and expanded to become the largest frozen food supplier in the UK. In 1986, Brake Bros was successfully floated on the London Stock Exchange, facilitating further expansion into Europe. At the time of its sale in 2002, and after further diversification, Brakes had the accolade of being the nation's number one catering supply company.

William, who sadly passed away in August 2013, had remained involved with the University throughout his life. His affection for his alma mater was evident in many ways: regular attendance at University events, ongoing advice and support for staff, as well as the establishment of a bursary fund to benefit students. We were delighted that his granddaughter, Carly Isaac, also chose to attend the University and she successfully graduated from our College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare in 2014.

The University appreciates the continued support of William's family through the William Brake Charitable Trust.

'It's an honour to be able to remain involved with the University having graduated. Grandpa and I are both very proud of where we studied and what we achieved and I know he wanted to support others and give them the same opportunities. It's lovely to be able to continue what he started.'

Carly Isaac, granddaughter of William Brake and UWL alumna

Discover more about the University's Future Campus at uwl.ac.uk/futurecampus

For more information on the new Library, follow [@UWL_Library](https://twitter.com/UWL_Library) on Twitter or go to [#FutureUWLibrary](https://twitter.com/FutureUWLibrary)



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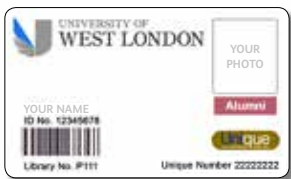
07

- 01 Weston Hall
- 02 Weston Hall
- 03 Carly Isaac in the William Brake Student Services Centre
- 04 Blast Radio Studio
- 05 The Dr Cheng Chan Moot Room
- 06 Food Court
- 07 Students' Union café

Stay part of campus life

For just £10, graduates can enjoy continued access to campus and borrowing rights at the new Paul Hamlyn Library. All you need is an Alumni Card.

To apply for your card online and find out more about the services and benefits available to graduates, visit uwl.ac.uk/alumnibenfits



We are delighted to be able to offer a **20% discount** to Alumni Card holders for the hire of meeting rooms, dance studios, conference and kitchen facilities*. Visit uwl.ac.uk/hire for further information or email external.hire@uwl.ac.uk, quoting your Alumni ID Card number.



Our impact on society

How research from our Schools is contributing to real-world issues

Two funding awards to improve hydration of residents in care homes for the elderly



A team from the Richard Wells Research Centre has been awarded funding for a research project focusing on improving hydration among residents in two local care homes. The I-Hydrate project, led by Professor Heather Loveday and Dr Jennie Wilson from the College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare, successfully competed against 30 other funding bids in the North West London area.

Supporting hydration of the elderly in care homes is a major problem, and dehydration can lead to serious health problems and hospitalisation. The project uses service improvement methodology and will involve partnership working with care home staff, service users and their carers to ensure residents take on enough fluid. Dr Wilson said, "It is really good to see research funding go towards this important and challenging area of care. This project will directly benefit elderly residents and their families. We will start by working with carers and staff to understand

why residents may not be getting enough fluids. Then we will develop, introduce and evaluate simple ways to increase fluid intake, which staff will be able to continue once the research has concluded."

The funding for the 18 month project is from the National Institute of Health Research's North West London Collaboration for Applied Health Research and Care (NIHR NWL CLAHRC). The project will be undertaken in partnership with Central London, West London, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow and Ealing Clinical Commissioning Groups Collaborative, as well as the two participating care homes.

An additional funding award – the CLAHRC Fellowship – was given to PhD student Aggie Bak. She will be carrying out her own work to understand and improve hydration in care homes, and has been meeting with families and carers to talk about the project and engage them in the work.



Professor Heather Loveday is Professor of Evidence Based Healthcare and Director of Research and Postgraduate Education



Dr Jennie Wilson is Associate Professor, Healthcare Epidemiology

Further information about the College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare can be found at uwl.ac.uk/healthcare



Helping Nepal's tourism industry recover after its earthquake

In July, a team of academics and students from the London College of Hospitality and Tourism were invited by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) to propose recovery strategies for the Nepali tourism industry following the recent earthquake.

The team, led by Professor Alexandros Paraskevas, Chair in Hospitality Management, was one of eight units within an international task force looking at different aspects of tourism industry recovery in Nepal. In a specialist workshop they identified and proposed immediate and short-term business-to-business international sales recovery strategies.

The team analysed the impact of the earthquake, looked at the strengths of

Nepal as a tourist destination, and finally set achievable and measurable goals to aid the faster recovery of tourism. The involvement of Nepalese graduates Awadhesh Sah and Bakish Panday brought added local knowledge to these strategies.

The University task force has received a Certificate of Recognition from PATA as a result of the work undertaken.

For further information about the London College of Hospitality and Tourism, visit uwl.ac.uk/lcht



Professor Alexandros Paraskevas is Chair in Hospitality Management

New medical device assists patients in administering medication

People with cancer, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, haemophilia and immunological disorders could all benefit from the Portacator®, a new medical device created in collaboration between the University and DenKe Medical Ltd.

The Portacator® will be used by patients that have an implanted Venous Access Port (VAP), a medical device used to deliver medication such as coagulation factors and antibiotics more efficiently into the body. Using a VAP removes the need for patients to continually locate alternative sites for regular injections and allows for patients to be treated at home, not just in hospital. Annually, more than 1 million VAPs are implanted in Europe and over 5 million VAPs are implanted in the United States.

The experience of cystic fibrosis patients, however, has shown that VAPs can be subject to premature failure due to needle misalignment. The Portacator® seeks to address this problem by locating the VAP more efficiently and holding it in place more firmly. The Portacator®, which has significant market potential given the number of VAP users, has also been designed for safe, quick and easy release.

The device development has been driven by Dr Dennis Fitzpatrick of the School of Computing and Engineering and supported by Professor Anthony Woodman, Senior Pro Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise). The Portacator® has been granted two patents with a further two patents pending.

Find out more about the School of Computing and Engineering at uwl.ac.uk/computing



Dr Dennis Fitzpatrick is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Computing and Engineering



Professor Anthony Woodman is Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)



Research suggests media misrepresent risks to children

Research by Dr Anke Görzig from the School of Psychology, Social Work and Human Sciences, suggests the media can often misrepresent risk and harm faced by children. “These two things,” she says, “should be differentiated. Not every child facing a risk factor online said they were upset by the experience.” Her research looked in detail at the potential risks that children face online, as well as the potential for harm to vulnerable children. Speaking about her research, Dr Görzig added, “I am further developing ways to prevent cyber-bullying, with a particular focus on groups of children who were identified as vulnerable in the study.”

Her research sits within the umbrella of EU Kids Online, a multinational research network funded by the EC’s Better Internet for Kids programme. This initiative aims to gain a greater understanding of the opportunities for children online, as well as to examine safety factors. It uses multiple methods to map children’s and parents’ experience of the internet, in dialogue with national and European policy stakeholders. It included a survey of over 25,000 children and parents from 25 countries across Europe.

The EU Kids Online research findings were presented by Dr Görzig at a recent

conference about the risks that children face online. Protecting Our Children in the Modern World was organised by the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission and attended by delegates from across the UK.

More information about School of Psychology, Social Work and Human Sciences can be found at uwl.ac.uk/psychology



Dr Anke Görzig is a Lecturer in Psychology at the School of Psychology, Social Work and Human Sciences

What the classical repertoire can learn from popular music

We have become accustomed to the idea of historical works being presented in a contemporary context. To take just one example, there have been numerous productions of Shakespeare's plays in modern dress or in radically reinterpreted settings, sometimes including multi-media presentations and effects, or even using contemporary language. However, the world of instrumental classical music has explored this much less, and in the case of recorded classical music, works are mostly presented as though from the perspective of an audience member in a concert hall or auditorium.

So, when academics from London College of Music (LCM) try to create new and exciting sonic worlds in the production of live and recorded performances of the classical repertoire, they are treading new ground. Working with classical performers, the team has drawn on the multitracking and editing techniques of popular music to create innovative and experimental recordings of the classical repertoire and

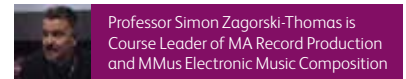
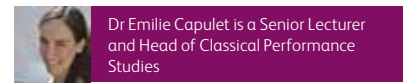
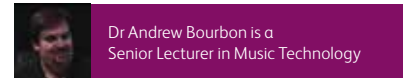
live surround sound projections of concert performances. By creatively using analogue and digital signal processing to stage these constructed performances, they have been able to challenge the listener to reinterpret works from the established canon of classical music. A further dimension of the project is the utilisation of digital multimedia to both document and explain the creative processes involved. These digital outputs, published online, will serve as a template for similar work in other areas of creative arts research.

Some of the resulting works were performed at Kings Place in London on 7 October as part of a concert called 'In Modern Dress – Classical Music with Contemporary Technology'. Audiences were treated to piano and string quartet pieces by Chopin, Debussy, Franck, Haydn, Ravel and Shostakovich, reinterpreted and projected through 3D sound using experimental and dub mixing techniques, electric and electronic instruments, extended performance practice and surround-sound spatialisation.

Recordings of the works completed for piano, strings and other ensembles and some video of the live concerts can be found at uwl.ac.uk/classicalmusic

The project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, is led by LCM's Professor Simon Zagorski-Thomas, Dr Andrew Bourbon and Dr Emilie Capulet, in collaboration with Dr Amy Blier-Carruthers from the Royal Academy of Music.

● For further information about the work of LCM, visit uwl.ac.uk/lcm



COMBATing modern slavery in the hospitality industry



Studies suggest that 30 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery, with approximately 20,000 slaves in the UK. One of the economy sectors that appears to be particularly vulnerable to sex exploitation and forced labour is the hotel, restaurant and wider tourism sector.

Modern slavery has been a concern for the EU for some time, and the European Commission awarded last year €250,000 in funding to investigate this phenomenon in the hospitality industry. Professors Alexandros Paraskevas and Angela Roper, from the London College of Hospitality and Tourism, and Dr Kim Drake from the School of Psychology, Social Work and Human Sciences are working with a consortium of academics and NGOs to combat this growing issue within the hospitality and tourism industry.

Professor Paraskevas is Principal Investigator for the COMBAT Project, which will develop

a practical toolkit with policy and training recommendations to be launched in 2016. The training toolkit will create greater awareness of modern slavery and help its detection. It will make recommendations on the actions that businesses can take to tackle modern slavery and also facilitate the effective prosecution of traffickers, as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of their victims.

Whilst the tourism industry has introduced schemes that primarily aim to raise awareness among tourism professionals, these initiatives are not embraced by the industry as a whole, perhaps due to its high fragmentation and the gaps in national legislation. Professor Paraskevas hopes to address this, explaining, "The hospitality and tourism industry is determined to undertake coordinated action to eradicate human trafficking from this sector. Our COMBAT Project is one such positive action that we hope will help us achieve this eradication."

The research is coordinated by Oxford Brookes University, in collaboration with the London College of Hospitality and Tourism, the Ratiu Foundation for Democracy in Romania and the Lapland University of Applied Sciences in Finland. The COMBAT Project toolkit will be free and made available in 2016.

For further details on the London College of Hospitality and Tourism visit uwl.ac.uk/lcht



Professor Alexandros Paraskevas is Chair in Hospitality Management



Professor Angela Roper is Professor and Director of the International Centre for Hotel and Resort Management



Dr Kim Drake is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology

Goal Models: A pathway to educational change

Dr William ‘Lez’ Henry is trying to make a difference in the lives of black youths; here he tells us how.



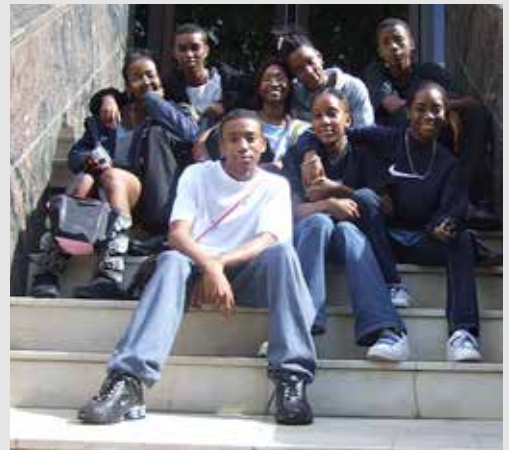
A couple of years ago, I was invited to talk to the SMA Crew in Lewisham, southeast London. I was nervous – in the past, meeting similar young people from gangs, I’d been threatened with stabbing, shooting and the ‘taxing’ (forcible taking) of my phone or laptop. But these boys were different. SMA stands for St Mathews Academy and they were some of the highest achievers in their school’s history.

This experience speaks to the complex problems regarding the educational underachievement of young people from black communities, which too often gets mixed up with discussions of gang culture and its association with black-on-black violence. My work with these young people shows they feel oppressed by the stereotypes society has of them. In fact according to Nathan, a 19 year old student who was helping out at a project I delivered recently, “if the media see the way I dress they will want to speak to me as I look like any other black boy, but once they find out I am studying neuroscience they won’t want to know because, in their eyes, all black boys want to be ‘gangsta’”.

‘Young black youths feel oppressed by the stereotypes society has of them.’

Far too often, the very public debates on these issues invest in the pathological notions of educational underachievement, generally centred on the black family unit. Although widely condemned, this notion still has much currency, as evidenced in the ever-present mentoring projects that specifically target black males. These projects invariably work from the premise that black males need father figures or some type of role model to turn their lives around. In my experience, this overlooks the problems they often face in the schooling system.

That is why I run projects under the banner of Goal Models, where young people set a goal and map out the best route to achieve it, with an awareness of the barriers they face within the home, street and schooling environments.



Such projects gained public prominence in September 1999, when the Labour government created a £33 million mentoring programme in 25 Local Education Authority (LEA) secondary schools entitled Let's Make Learning Cool. This was designed to combat the clear link between educational underachievement and the tell-tale signs that many black youths embrace a macho anti-school culture. However, I have found most of these projects to be well-intentioned but wrong-headed, for two reasons: first, a failure to understand the consequences of social, racial and cultural exclusion in young black lives, and second, the difference between a funded tick-box exercise and the provision of the type of support that can effect meaningful change. It is therefore crucial that these projects focus on the narratives of the young people themselves and place them at the centre of the learning experience.

'What is overlooked is the link between gang affiliation as a conscious decision in the educational outlook of many black boys and their social trajectory.'

One such project I ran in Lewisham in 2012–13 dealt with the relationship between black youth, their educational aspirations and the criminal justice system. The young people involved interviewed police officers, academics, the Mayor of Lewisham, the Borough's Head of Youth Services and members of the general public. They questioned their representation in the mainstream media and other outlets that have a direct impact on wider public consciousness. They fully understood the seriousness of the constant reporting of stabbings, shootings and other forms of black-on-black violence and anti-social behaviour. They concluded that, while these events have stimulated public debate, the bulk of the available information is driven by a media frenzy that serves to reinforce certain stereotypes and detracts from the real issues. What is overlooked is the link between gang affiliation as a conscious decision in the educational outlook of many black boys and their social trajectory.

The point is that many see the streets as an alternative learning environment and believe that, if they are gang affiliated, they will be educated in all things to do with survival on the streets. For instance, they learn what you can earn per day (a wage) depending on what your 'hustle' is (anything you need to do to make money), or what age-graded sentence you can expect if you get caught with, say, drugs or a weapon. This failure to understand the realities for young black people results in the emphasis being placed on the behavioural problems of a small number of black pupils, and denies the experiences of the systemic racism faced by the majority. For instance, the lack of positive forms of self-identification in these young lives is often dealt with in an inappropriate way. "Chuck a few black faces on the wall during Black History Month and they'll be fine," is a comment I overheard in a school when a white teacher thought I was out of earshot.

Devon Hanson, a black head teacher of a school in Brixton, recognises that the negative attitudes of many teachers to black pupils has not significantly changed since he was a pupil. He puts his own success down to unorthodox approaches, such as driving round the neighbourhood after school and encouraging students to stop loitering on street corners. Perhaps the unorthodox should become the orthodoxy and then we may experience necessary and meaningful change in the lives of all of our young people – our futures. For like it or not, that is what these young lives are and our job as educators is to open their minds to their vast potential, regardless of the colour skin they are in. In that way they will perhaps build the world we can only dream of!

For further information about Ealing Law School and its Criminology courses, visit uwl.ac.uk/law



Dr William 'Lez' Henry is a Lecturer in Criminology at Ealing Law School. An effective motivator and community engagement specialist, Lez delivers educational/training programmes specialising in race, ethnicity, diversity, equality, education and black history.

In search of the Holy Grail

Dr Paul Fidgeon describes a project to develop a new international tourism route around the story of the Holy Grail.



The quest for the Holy Grail has captured the interest and imagination of people for centuries. It is based around the assumption that the chalice used by Jesus at the Last Supper was subsequently used by Joseph of Arimathae to collect the blood of Christ on the cross, and that this vessel confers certain supernatural powers on those who have it in their possession. The location of the chalice remains a subject for debate, with various locations in Great Britain, France, Spain and the Eastern Mediterranean all claiming to hold or have held the vessel at different periods in history. We are now exploring the idea that culture and spirituality might do more than capture the public's imagination: through this project we hope to motivate them to travel to different Holy Grail locations by creating a route that will serve to unite different European cultures and traditions behind one narrative, whilst giving a boost to local economies.

The history of the Grail in Britain can be linked to four distinct themes:

Celtic mythology: This assumes that the origins of the Grail are based on the magical cups and cauldrons referred to in the Mabinogion, a series of ancient Celtic stories dating from the sixth century.

Arthurian legend: This links the Grail to King Arthur and the quest of his knights to find the chalice in a mythical Grail castle at Corbenic. It is only by finding the Grail that they will ever achieve absolution for their mortal sins.

Judaeo-Christian tradition: Biblical evidence has Joseph of Arimathae and several of his followers travelling to Britain with the Grail in 32AD. Subsequent myths and legends have Joseph creating the first monastic settlement and a chapel to house the Grail at Glastonbury, Somerset. Links to religious orders place the Grail in the possession of the Knights Templar, an ancient religious order established to protect pilgrims on travels to the Holy Lands. The Templars were thought to have accumulated many important religious artefacts during their time in this part of the world. The rise of the Muslim armies under Saladin saw the power and influence of the Templars diminish in the region and they were forced to retreat, with their 'treasures', to the European mainland. Subsequent religious persecution under the hands of King Philip of France and the Catholic Church in the late 12th century saw the Templars forced to flee to Britain where, legend dictates, they buried their wealth in the small village of Balantradoch near Rosslyn, Scotland.

Popular conspiracy theories: The link to Rosslyn again appears in popular conspiracy theories, notably in *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln and *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. They maintain that the Holy Grail was not a physical object, but rather a document that testifies to the marriage of Jesus Christ to Mary Magdalene from which a Merovingian line was established. The location of that document, and ultimately the descendants of Christ, is said to be explained in a series of complex stone carvings found in the ancient chapel at Rosslyn.



'Links to the Knights Templar... an association with Joseph of Arimathae... Cather Knights and the Roman Catholic Church... are all elements of a new Holy Grail tourist route.'



In discussions with various Grail authorities, archaeologists, representatives from religious communities, conservation organisations and historic trusts, we have identified a number of emblematic locations that have associations with these various stories, myths and legends. We have subsequently talked to route experts, including national tourist boards and regional development associations, who have confirmed the potential of a tourism route as a way of generating tourism and tourist revenue.

At a conference at the University of West London in March, all project participants were asked to outline the basis of the route in their country. Here certain common threads were apparent: namely links to the Knights Templar in Bulgaria and Malta; an association with Joseph of Arimathae in Greece; Cather Knights and conspiracy theory in France and links between the Roman Catholic Church and Saint Laurence in Spain. These stories have been used to construct a route that culminates in Saint Mary's Cathedral Valencia, believed by the Catholic Church to be the home of the 'true' Grail. Within each country six locations have been identified and more will be added at a later date.

Over the summer of 2015 a series of focus groups with key stakeholders took place at each of the British emblematic locations – namely Stirling and Rosslyn Scotland; Llangollen and Bala in Wales; and Glastonbury and Tintagel in England. These have included representatives from the tourism industry, local government and residential communities. The idea has been to develop the route as a tourism product, by getting a wide range of stakeholders to engage with and buy into the project. It is expected that the route will be unveiled at the Second International conference on the Holy Grail at Jaca in Spain in late November, where I will be a keynote speaker.

● Find out more about the London College of Hospitality and Tourism at uwl.ac.uk/lcht



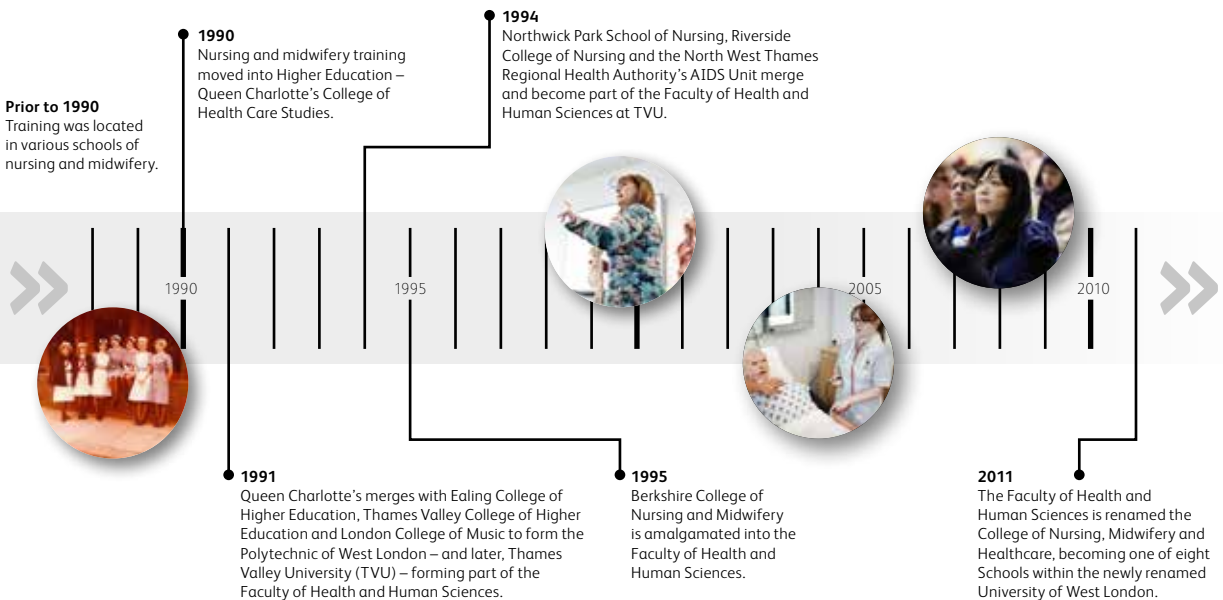
Dr Paul Fidgeon is Associate Professor at the London College of Hospitality and Tourism. He is part of a European consortium funded by the EU Enterprise and Industry Directorate General to explore the possibility of a Grail route which spans Europe. The project is a coup for the London College of Hospitality and Tourism, helping to raise its international profile and cement its position as one of the leading centres for tourism research in the country.

Down memory lane

In this edition of *Your University*, we share some special photos from the College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare archives. Each photo gives a glimpse into nursing education and shows how the facilities and resources have changed over the years.



A brief history



To discover more about the College today, visit uwl.ac.uk/nursing



The College now

Today, the College is a major provider of nursing and midwifery courses in the West London and Berkshire area, offering pre- and post-registration courses, a range of continuing professional development courses and excellent placement opportunities. Students are based at our west London site in Brentford and at the Berkshire Institute for Health in Reading.

Debby Price, Director of Berkshire Institute of Health and Student Experience at the College, talks about some of the developments in nursing education and how they have shaped the way we train our student nurses today:

“One of the key developments over the decades was the move to diplomas and then to degrees, bringing nursing education on a par with other healthcare education. This was to reflect the increasingly complex care that clients and patients need. We believe that nurses and midwives need to be at graduate level in order to undertake these roles effectively.

“The development of simulation over this time is immense. When I trained as a State Registered Nurse

at the Northwick Park School of Nursing from 1977–80, we had to practice injections with oranges! Today, we have incredibly sophisticated mannequins that simulate the signs and symptoms of patients. We also have a much greater focus on soft skills, such as communication, professionalism and interpersonal interaction. The students work with volunteer patients and they love getting direct feedback from them.

“Students are asked to think about the key values of nursing – the Six Cs: Care; Compassion; Competence; Communication; Courage and Commitment – and what these actually mean when caring for a patient. We also have whole modules on preventative care and a much larger focus on care in the community: 50% of our student placements are community based.

“For those considering a career in nursing, I would thoroughly recommend studying with the College. We deliver high quality, dynamic, nursing programmes within a state-of-the-art learning environment, equipping our students for a number of different career paths.”



Debby Price



Debby Price as a student

In Conversation: Claude Littner and Khalid Hafeez



Claude Littner, who this autumn became Lord Sugar's aide on the BBC's version of *The Apprentice*, recently spent time with Professor Khalid Hafeez, Dean of The Claude Littner Business School. They talked about *The Apprentice*'s Lord Sugar, entrepreneurship, Claude's own career and what excites him about being involved with the Business School.

Khalid Hafeez: *We've all heard about your new role on The Apprentice. How did you feel when Lord Sugar asked you to take up this role?*

Claude Littner: I've known Alan Sugar for 25 years. It started off with me working for him – and being quite wary of him – and has developed into a close relationship where we know each others' strengths and weaknesses... but of course he hasn't got any weaknesses! He's got skills and attributes that I admire enormously and it never fails to surprise me how astute he is. When he asked me to take over from Nick Hewer, I didn't really want the job – I was very happy to continue doing the interviews as I had done since the first series – but it was difficult to refuse him. Sometimes you just have to take opportunities.

KH: *In The Apprentice, Lord Sugar is looking for a business partner. What do you think it takes to be a successful entrepreneur?*

CL: Entrepreneurs come in all shapes and sizes and there are plenty of people who wouldn't make it as entrepreneurs because they haven't got a risk-taking attitude or the right mental framework. You need to recognise that you're going to have some stressful situations and you can't be afraid to make decisions. You also have to be flexible. If something's going wrong, you can't be pig-headed and continue down the same road. If you're going into an industry you don't know well, it's important to employ and engage with people who really do know the business and to listen to what they have to say. For a number of years, I

was executive chairman of a multinational oil services group, and relied heavily on people with specific expertise. For me, business is not just about making money, it's also about what you can learn and gain from your experience. As part of that, education is very important: it's enthralling to see new things, to understand concepts, to learn from the experience of others. Education is critical and the education process goes on all the time: it's what makes you a rounded human being.

KH: *You've been a successful entrepreneur but let's go back to the beginning: what brought you to Ealing College in the 1970s.*

CL: The attraction of Ealing College was that it offered a four-year honours business degree, with six months of each year spent at college followed by six months in industry, so I was able to earn some money whilst I was studying. It also turned out to be a great learning experience. I was sponsored by Lucas CAV and worked in a number of departments, so I got a good feel for the world of work. Lucas was not a great company in my view; it had poor industrial relations, but I began to understand about how to be a good manager, if only as a result of seeing so many poor ones!

As soon as I graduated I left Lucas and started looking for another job. Ealing College had given me a huge amount of confidence and my highly relevant degree subjects, coupled with industry experience, enabled me to demonstrate that I had a good handle on how things really worked. I showed initiative by contacting companies directly and landed a job at Unilever, as a management accountant. Unilever is an outstanding company and a great learning and training ground; I worked very hard and was rewarded by a 'fast track' progression.

KH: *But there was an important turning point, wasn't there, as you became an entrepreneur?*

CL: After seven fantastic years, aged 29, I felt a strong sense that I wanted something entrepreneurial. Through really good fortune – and if there's a strand throughout my career and life, it's good fortune – I eventually found something I thought I could make successful: retail menswear accessories concessions – shops within shops, a pretty novel concept at the time. When I told Unilever I was leaving, they thought I was joking and when I showed them my business plan, they told me I would fail and that they would keep my job open.

I had little by way of seed capital and no experience of menswear or retail, so on paper at least, a recipe for disaster. I was emboldened by the fact that the economy at the time was in turmoil and manufacturers were very cautious about extending credit. I devised a unique proposition and managed to sign up some manufacturers, others soon followed. My concessions were within the Burtons menswear group. I entered into an arrangement with the manufacturers whereby they would give me the stock I required and, once sold, the manufacturers would receive the full wholesale price plus a percentage of the retail profits. The business grew to the point where I had around 50 shops in shops. Then again good fortune stepped in: I learnt that Bourne and Hollingsworth (an Oxford Street department store) had been sold to Raybeck group. I managed to get a menswear accessory concession in there and did very well. Within a short time, this was extended to menswear, sportswear and children's wear.

I experienced five years of growth, hard work and a great learning experience of building a business from nothing and with nothing! One minute I'd be in the stockroom tagging garments, next minute talking to a company director about having more space within a retail outlet. Maybe all good things come to an end, and the writing was on the wall when eventually Bournes closed and Burtons became more successful. With that success

Read more about
The Claude Littner
Business School at
uwl.ac.uk/business

came a harder edge to their dealings and they imposed higher commission rates and staffing requirements. The business was no longer viable, but I was now in a stronger financial position.

Next, I saw an opportunity to build on my success and decided to open a standalone chain of sportswear shops. I was very enthusiastic and raised money for the venture. However, within a short time I realised I'd made a big mistake. I had been too eager to grow the business and had not done proper due diligence or taken enough time to understand the customer profile and stockholding. Lady luck came to my rescue on this occasion: I was approached by a businessman who saw a great opportunity, and he bought the business. I was able to fully pay back my investors and get out whole. Meanwhile I'd started doing consultancy work. I did this for a couple of years, making recommendations to company directors, and then implementing my recommendations. I was successful and seemed to have an aptitude for finding ways to turn companies around.

However, I now felt that my degree was 20 years out of date; I had a strong desire to update my qualifications and I wanted an MBA. So I came back to Ealing College of Higher Education and did an Executive Master in Business Administration, graduating in 1990. I loved the MBA and met some great people from different walks of life and business experience, so we were all able to contribute in different ways. It was very hard work and academically rigorous, but I'd do it all again! With my first degree I was striving to achieve, in the second I was doing it for my own pleasure, because I wanted to learn more about subjects I really enjoyed.

KH: *Let's talk about management and leadership. What competencies do you need to be a successful manager?*

CL: Here I go back to my early days at Lucas, where I felt that managers did not speak properly to their staff. I often thought I'd do things differently if ever I was in a



Karren Brady CBE, Lord Sugar and Claude Littner with the 2015 contestants from *The Apprentice*

position where I had people working for me. I am tough, I am direct and I don't take nonsense, but you've got to treat people properly. Being a decent human being is its own reward, and as a bi-product you get a lot more out of people and they'll respect you more. If you have to make harsh business decisions, it makes it easier because you do it in a decent, respectful and straightforward way. I learnt how to be a leader and to take people with me and encourage them. I've always wanted to surround myself with good people. And if I spot someone with talent and the will to improve, I always seek to find an opportunity for them to develop and flourish. By the same token, if someone is lazy, disruptive and careless, they don't last long with me. Making sure you have the right person in the right role is critical.

KH: *So, how is leadership different?*

CL: If you're a manager, it's because you've been promoted into a role. If you're a leader it's because you've earned respect, you're at the top of the tree. It's a matter of being an inspiration to others. If, for example, you are

a 20-year-old and you take over from your father who happened to be the chairman of the company, the workforce is unlikely to respect you because you haven't earned your position. But if you earn your stripes, people are more likely to listen to what you have to say; they will work with you and learn from you, as you learn from them.

KH: *We're delighted you've lent your name to the Business School. Tell us about your inspiration to get involved with the University. And what do you want to get out of it?*

CL: I've been given a very rare opportunity in life, which is to become involved with the University. I didn't seek it. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter John approached me some years ago and invited me to Chair the Campaign Committee as part of the £50 million development of the University. When Peter said he wanted to name the Business School, I thought he meant for me to approach Lord Sugar. But when he said, "no we want your name" – well, I was overwhelmed and consider it a wonderful honour.

I've done lots of good things and been very proud of them. But this is the highlight. I'd like to do all I can to further enhance the reputation of the University, and most particularly The Claude Littner Business School. I want stronger links between the Business School and the myriad of excellent companies around us. The opportunity to talk to students and impart some of the knowledge, experiences and adventures gained from my long career is one that I relish.

KH: *I know that the success of the students, especially those coming from underprivileged backgrounds, is very close to your heart.*

CL: Absolutely. To play a part in that endeavour would be very rewarding. My only fear is that I won't be good enough. I want to get more companies involved, have more student exchange programmes and work placements; generally to make the Business School a busier and more vibrant place, and to use a retail analogy...to make it a 'one stop shop' for learning, exchange of ideas and entrepreneurship.

KH: *Looking back at when you first graduated, do you think students graduating now face the same challenges and opportunities as you did back then?*

CL: When I was a graduate there were lots of opportunities and I always knew I'd get a job. So it's much, much tougher for the graduates now. Having said that, there are more opportunities now for starting your own business, and for developing your own ideas: you can have a couple of guys creating an app in their bedroom. Whereas in my day the opportunities for entrepreneurs to raise money or go to angel investors were very limited, now there are so many more opportunities for people to get funding to create or grow a business. I think we're seeing an upsurge in the economy with companies employing more people, and there are more opportunities now for creativity. The natural route for me when I graduated was to go into industry. Now I think the more obvious route is for people to start their own business.

I think the massive change that technology is bringing about means that even five years down the line, things are going to be completely different. That's where education comes in. If you're a smart and entrepreneurial individual with a great business idea, one of the Steve Jobs of the world, then you probably don't need a degree. But for the vast majority of us, if you can get a good qualification behind you, it will stand you in good stead. It's certainly three wonderful and memorable years to look forward to and back on.



UWL's Business School was named after Claude Littner in appreciation of his exemplary business track record and contributions to the University. Claude was a student at Ealing Technical College from 1970–73 and subsequently obtained an MBA from the Business School.



Professor Khalid Hafeez is Dean of The Claude Littner Business School. He is an experienced academic with over 25 years of teaching, research, educational management and technology transfer experience across several disciplines. He has previously had senior roles at the York Management School, Bradford School of Management, Sheffield Business School and Cardiff University.

Lighting the Way – supporting our future

In January 2014, the University of West London launched its first-ever fundraising campaign, Lighting the Way. We are pleased to report that we have raised over £5.3 million, taking us more than halfway to our overall campaign target of £10 million! This is a huge achievement and it is a matter of great pride for us to see the distance the University has travelled in recent years. We are so grateful to every

single one of our donors – many of whom are alumni – for your generous support. The difference you have made on the lives of students and our community is immeasurable.

The campaign was launched with a stunning event at The Dorchester, which raised over £100,000 and set the target of £10 million to support the campus

redevelopment programme, increase scholarships and bursaries, provide new academic posts, and advance research. Lighting the Way also seeks to engage directly with over 10,000 alumni.

We look forward to the year ahead and with the continued help of our friends and supporters we aim to reach our next fundraising milestone.



Members of the Campaign Committee, L-R: Gareth Cadwallader, Tina Tietjen OBE, Chris Humphries CBE, Alistair Telfer FIH, Carol Hehir MBE, Laurence Geller CBE, Professor Peter John, Professor Kathryn Mitchell, Philippe Rossiter FIH, Geoffrey Harrison



The campaign so far...

Student support

Supporting students is at the heart of what we do. Scholarships and bursaries allow us to widen participation at all levels and give immediate assistance to those in need. In the last financial year alone, 110 donors generously donated or pledged over £120,000 in aid of scholarships and bursaries. This has directly helped over 100 students at all levels and disciplines across the University. The impact of this kindness is transformative, immediately helping the recipient and indirectly helping the families who support them.

Academic support

In 2011, the London College of Hospitality and Tourism set up its own research centre: the International Centre for Hotel and Resort Management (ICHARM), thanks to support from Hilton Worldwide, Intercontinental Hotel Groups, Lord Forte Foundation, Westmont Hospitality Group and our Chancellor, Laurence Geller CBE. ICHARM aims to become recognised as a world leader in ground-breaking research into the management and development of hospitality companies globally.

The College has also received further support from industry leaders – Geoffrey Harrison Foundation, WSH and Compass Group – to establish an academic Chair in Hospitality Management. These initiatives complement the University's reputation for excellent teaching by providing industry with practical research. The College is very grateful to all of these industry leaders for their kind support and for lighting the way for academic research.



"The scholarship I received has been of great financial help and has provided me with excellent professional opportunities. Now that I have completed my studies, I look forward to working at the highest level in the hotel and restaurant industry."

Tajinder Singh Sehdev
Bsc (Hons) Culinary Arts
Management
Recipient of the South Asian
Culinary Arts Scholarship

Facilities enhancement

The transformation of our St Mary's Road campus is a key milestone in creating the best possible environment for all our students and staff. The new facilities would not have been possible without the support of generous organisations and individuals.

We would like to pay special tribute to the Garfield Weston Foundation for their support of our new auditorium, Weston Hall; to Dr Cheng Chan for supporting the new Law Moot Room; and The William Brake Charitable Trust for kindly giving towards the new and improved Student Services Centre.

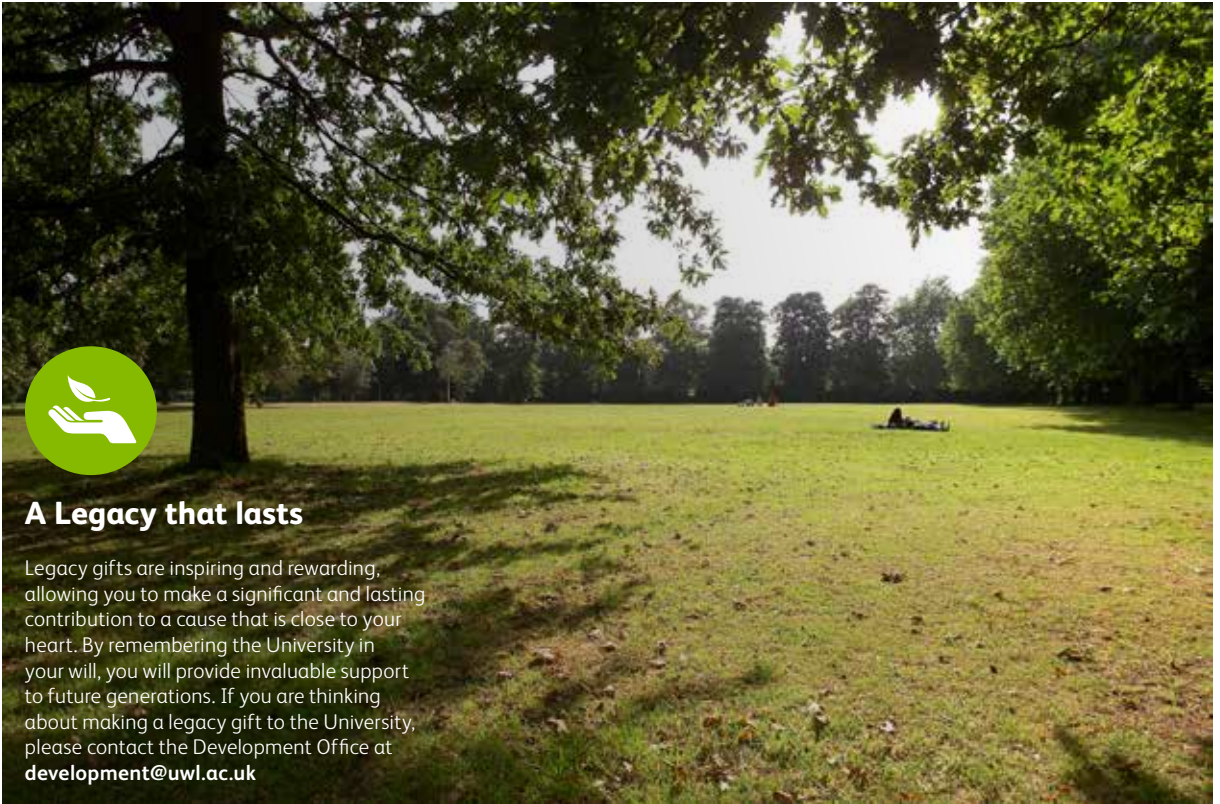
Heartfelt thanks also go to The Mollie Clay Trust, Ian Carter, Carol Hehir and Frederick Forsyth CBE, Dipna Anand and Dr Rami Ranger MBE for their generous gifts in support of the new library; as well as to Gareth and Nancy Cadwallader for their support of a new music practice room. A room will be named for each of these donors to recognise their generosity.

Telephone campaign

Over the summer, the University completed its sixth annual telephone campaign. This was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with many of our alumni, share news of the recent developments, and thank those who have contributed financially. The campaign also gave graduates the chance to make a donation towards our Take a Seat appeal or Student Bursary Fund. Over the past two phone campaigns, 208 alumni have contributed just under £20,000. This is fantastic achievement and we are enormously grateful for your support.



Syed Hamid, Trustee of The Mollie Clay Trust, presents a cheque to Tim Wales, Director of Library Services.



A Legacy that lasts

Legacy gifts are inspiring and rewarding, allowing you to make a significant and lasting contribution to a cause that is close to your heart. By remembering the University in your will, you will provide invaluable support to future generations. If you are thinking about making a legacy gift to the University, please contact the Development Office at development@uwl.ac.uk

Thank you

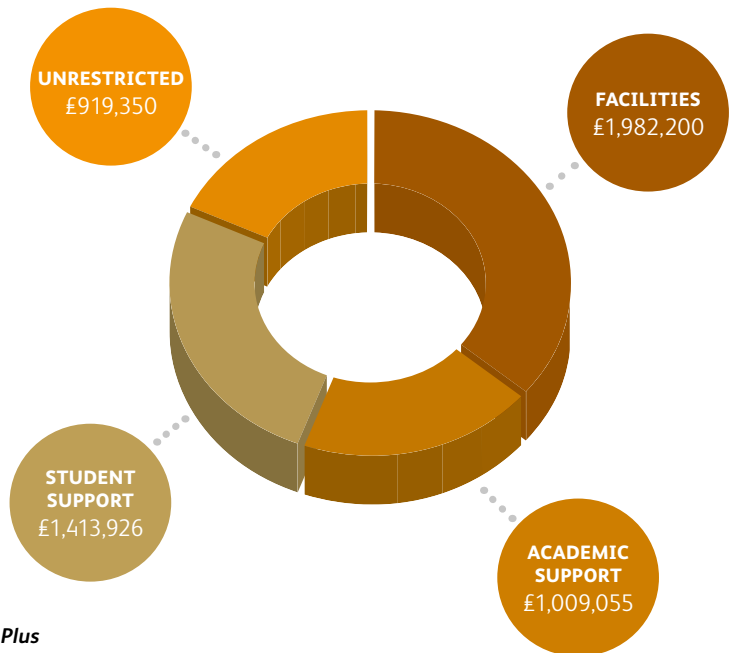
The University is truly grateful to all of our amazing donors for making a positive difference to the lives of students; for supporting ground-breaking research and for contributing to a better tomorrow. Our staff and students truly appreciate all the many opportunities that your support has given them.

With deep appreciation we thank more than 1,200 alumni, community leaders and friends who have contributed so far to our Lighting the Way campaign, including those who have supported us through our Take a Seat and Paving the Way appeals.

To donate to the University, or for further information about our Lighting the Way campaign, please visit uwl.ac.uk/lightingtheway



Campaign totals so far



Plus
LEGACY GIVING

The University has also received almost £400,000 in legacy gifts.

Alumni Board

As Chair of your representative body, the Alumni Board, it gives me great pleasure to report on progress for this edition of *Your University*.



Back in 2007 we introduced an alumni engagement programme, with the aim of reconnecting in meaningful ways with the many graduates who studied at various points in the University's history. Having set ourselves the target of 10,000 engaged alumni by 2017, we are absolutely delighted that over 9,000 alumni so far have actively become more involved as volunteers, mentors, by attending events, or by supporting the University financially.

This is a tremendous achievement and we are very proud that so many graduates are choosing to stay connected. The support and encouragement shown by our alumni community has a profound impact on the student experience at University of West London and those following in your footsteps.

Whether you are a recent graduate, or studied a few decades ago at one of our predecessor institutions, you will always be a valued member of our community. If, like me, you have fond memories of your time here, and would like to become further involved in the work of the Alumni Association, support current students, or simply revisit the University to see how it has changed, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Alumni team at alumni@uwl.ac.uk or visit the alumni website: uwl.ac.uk/alumni

As advocates and supporters of the alumni community, we as Alumni Board members will continue to do our best to represent you – and you are always welcome to share with us any comments or suggestions. The Alumni Board can be contacted directly via email at alumniboard@uwl.ac.uk

We hope to see you back on campus soon.

Best wishes,
Alistair Telfer

Alumni Board Members

Alistair Telfer FIH (MBA '93)
Chair

Elizabeth Anionwu CBE (Emeritus Professor, College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare)
College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare Representative

Wendy Bartlett MBE (OND Catering Management '79)
London College of Hospitality and Tourism Representative

Judith Cannon FIH (HND Hotel Management '68)
London College of Hospitality and Tourism Representative

Paul Hendrick (BSc (Hons) Computing '11)
School of Computing and Engineering Representative

Laurence Llewellyn (MMus Composition, Film & TV '14)
London College of Music Representative

Sumit Malik (MBA '00)
The Claude Littner Business School Representative

Jared Mosley-Redman (BA Public Relations with Radio Broadcasting '08)
London School of Film, Media and Design Representative

Zenobia Nadirshaw (BSc (Hons) Psychology '12)
School of Psychology, Social Work and Human Sciences Representative

Sandra Oliver (Emeritus Professor, International Business School)
The Claude Littner Business School Representative

Sukey Parnell (PGC Photography '10)
London School of Film, Media and Design Representative

John Perry (BA (Hons) Law '74)
Ealing Law School Representative

Helen Pidgeon (LLB (Hons) '93)
Ealing Law School Representative

Andrew Thompson (PG Cert Teaching & Learning '13)
School of Computing and Engineering Representative

Pete Webber (BA Music Technology Specialist '10)
London College of Music Representative

Debra Wootton (BA Animation '09)
London School of Film, Media and Design Representative

News

Recent developments on campus and around our community



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING WEEK

More than 50 of our students contributed over 200 volunteering hours at the National Student Volunteering Week in February. Students took part in 13 events and represented the strong community-focused ethos at the University. Now in its 14th year, Student Volunteering Week is an annual, nationwide campaign which aims to raise awareness of the value of student volunteering, celebrate the positive impact made by volunteers in their communities, and inspire more students to get involved. Research by the National Union of Students (NUS) estimates that 725,000 students volunteer for an average of 44 hours a year. This is the equivalent of a contribution to the UK economy of £175 million.

Claire McLoughlin, Volunteer Service Coordinator said, "Student Volunteering Week is the perfect showcase for the hard work of local students, which often goes unrecognised. Our projects are also a perfect opportunity for students and graduates to develop their skills and gain experience."

On 30 April, our dedicated volunteers were recognised for their efforts at the University's annual V Awards.



Vilija and the Late Night Band

EALING JAZZ FESTIVAL FEATURES ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

On 30 July, students past and present from London College of Music performed at the 30th annual Ealing Jazz Festival. The University's production company W5 Productions, which showcases the creative skills of our students and graduates, was responsible for programming the night and curating the South Stage line-up.

Those performing included: Vilija and the Late Night Band, featuring graduates Vilija Leitanaite, Jermaine Dantzie, Alex Menaker, Sam Greenland and Daniel Veasey; improvisation band Jeh, which includes alumnus John Mapp on electric bass; and Selectric, featuring alumni Simon Paton and Agata Kubiak. Pianist and BMus Performance graduate Emily Francis also appeared on the main stage with her quartet, playing compositions from her new album.

● Find out more about London College of Music at uwl.ac.uk/lcm and W5 Productions at uwl.ac.uk/w5productions



Selectric



John Mapp from band Jeh



GRADUATE SHOWCASE FEATURES ALL THE TALENTS

Final year students from London College of Music, London School of Film, Media and Design and School of Computing and Engineering stepped into the spotlight to demonstrate their skills at the 2015 Graduate Showcase. Taking place from 12–15 May, the Showcase was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of these students with a week of performances, films, fashion shows and an exhibition.

London College of Music students performed in two concerts during the week, which included a number of genres: classical, jazz, pop, big band and songs from musicals. Throughout the week, students from the School of Computing and Engineering presented their work in an exhibition in the Heart of campus, which included architectural models and interactive displays. Visitors also had the opportunity to be part of the exhibition by playing a Laser Harp and conducting a virtual orchestra.

The London School of Film, Media and Design exhibited work from the Graphic Design, Photography and Advertising students. A series of innovative short films produced by the Film Production students were screened, and students from the Fashion and Textiles course showed their cutting edge designs and use of innovative textiles in a fashion show.



If you'd like to share your career news, please get in touch with the Alumni Office at alumni@uwl.ac.uk or tweet [@UWLAumni](https://twitter.com/UWLAumni)



ZARA MCFARLANE NAMED JAZZ FM'S VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to London College of Music alumna Zara McFarlane, who received the coveted Vocalist of the Year award at the 2015 Jazz FM Awards. The award was one of 11 categories given out to performers and musicians who have made 'an exceptional contribution within the worlds of jazz, blues and soul'. Zara graduated from LCM's BMus Popular Music Performance course in 2005 and last year won the MOBO Award for Best Jazz Act. Her second album *If You Knew Her* was named Arts Desk's Album of the Year.

Find out more about Zara's music at www.zaramcfarlane.com

RECOGNITION FOR COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS

The 2014-15 academic year saw several students from the School of Computing and Engineering recognised for their achievements.

Computer Science student, Obaro I Johnson won an award for designing a 'London is my Campus' app for students. He was presented with the honour at a ceremony at Senate House in London on 3 December 2014. This app offers an innovative platform for every student in London Higher Education Institutions – undergraduate and postgraduate, UK/EU and international – to access information and to utilise and embrace London as their campus.

The beginning of the year saw third year BSc Construction Management student Andrew Pring awarded the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Jubilee Fund Award Scholarship. He was presented the award by Professor Ghassan Aouad, President of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) at a ceremony

on 30 January. The event recognises London region's top performing students, following nominations by their universities.

In July, research from two PhD students made a great impact at the 33rd Annual ACM SIGDOC Conference at The University of Limerick in Ireland. Daniel G Cabrero, a second year PhD student, won the runner-up prize for his paper in the Student Research Competition. His research on persona co-design with Namibian communities attracted a lot of interest and is part of a long-term collaboration with the Polytechnic of Namibia. Ali Gheitsy, a third year PhD Student, presented a peer-reviewed full research paper from his research on Online Collaborative Consumption. This research is part of an ongoing collaboration with the University of California at Irvine.

Find out more about the School of Computing and Engineering at uwl.ac.uk/computing



Computer Science student Obaro I. Johnson with Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter John



£1,500 RAISED TO SUPPORT MIDWIFERY IN SIERRA LEONE

Over the past two years, students from the College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare have been fundraising towards a solar suitcase, which they presented to Isha Daramy, a midwife working in Sierra Leone to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. Students raised over £1,500 to purchase the suitcase, which cost approximately £1,100. Isha, who works to educate her local community about healthcare and founded the Mother and Child Centre in the village of Magbil, thanked the students, saying, “This will take primary health a long way because it means we can provide help if there is a delivery, even if there is no light in the hospital.”

The suitcase was presented to Isha at an event in February, at which she shared her experience in managing the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone, where she works both in primary

care and as an advisor to the government. She also discussed how the Ebola crisis has put additional strain on healthcare in the country, which has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world.

Jancis Shepherd, the Lead Midwife for Education at the College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare said, “Isha is truly an inspiring woman. It’s a once in a lifetime experience for students to hear first-hand about her experience in dealing with the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone. The suitcase will be vital for her work and it was an honour for the School to support her.”

● For more information about the College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare, visit uwl.ac.uk/nursing

MIDWIFERY ALUMNA SHARES TEN THINGS ABOUT FERTILITY

Fertility treatment options can be confusing, expensive and invasive and do not necessarily address the underlying issue. Alumna Claire Chaubert has co-authored a new book that offers readers an informative and unique insight into treatment options. *Ten things about fertility that could change your life*, co-written with Anne Hope, draws on the experiences of practitioners who know and understand the problems faced and have the tools and knowledge to help, often when other health professionals can’t. It sets out to unravel the truth behind the tests and diagnoses that women and men are given, and demonstrates, with case studies, the various solutions available.

Claire, who graduated from the College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare in 2014, is an experienced professional homeopath and an independent midwife. She has had a broad-ranging career, holding a senior managerial role in central Government before her current work in fertility and midwifery. The book is published by Telos and is available to buy on their website or on Amazon. Claire has also been commissioned to write a second book on the topic of the menopause, to be published in 2016.

● See www.tinyurl.com/ten-things-about-fertility



GROUND PENETRATING RADAR PROVIDES MAJOR FOCUS FOR SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING EVENT

A major event surrounding Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) techniques in civil engineering was held at the University in March. The event focused on the exchange of scientific-technical knowledge and experience of GPR techniques that are used to build and survey bridges, tunnels and buildings, as well as underground utilities. Most recently, GPR was one of the instruments used to scan the area around Stonehenge, allowing archaeologists to create a detailed map of the historic site and its surrounds. Results showed that Stonehenge is in fact complemented by 17 neighbouring shrines.

Chaired by Professor Morteza (Amir) Alani, the new Head of the School of Computing and Engineering, this major event was the Third General Meeting of COST Action TU1208, an interdisciplinary

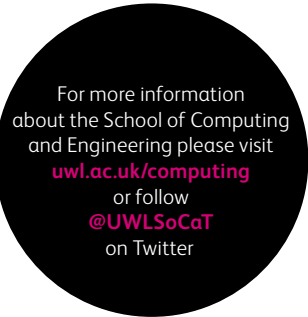
group concerned with civil engineering applications of GPR that is part of the COST Transport and Urban Development Domain. COST (Cooperation in Science and Technology) is the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe.

The event included a series of research and development presentation sessions with keynote speeches from international industry leaders. Participants, including radar manufacturers, stakeholders, academics and private end-users from nearly 30 countries, discussed consolidated procedures, recent state-of-the-art developments and results as well as challenging case studies. They also highlighted the current needs of European cities for GPR applications in monitoring

civil engineering projects and highways infrastructure; they reviewed and conferred on national and international standards and guidelines within the field of GPR applications, and shared ideas for the development of new EU guidelines.

The event, which started with an Early-Career Investigators (ECI) Day and included a half-day training school, also focused on developing a new European GPR Education Pack for users and operators.

Speaking after the event, Professor Alani said, "In the 20 years that I have been using GPR as a civil engineer and as a teacher, its technological advances have developed beyond my imagination. This scientific event was a chance for delegates to work together to create new research and develop cutting-edge opportunities."



LCM ALUMNUS REPRESENTS UK YOUNG ARTISTS IN MILAN

London College of Music graduate Gurdain Singh Rayatt, a professional player of the tabla – an Indian classical percussion instrument – was selected to represent UK Young Artists at the Meditteranea 17 Young Artists Biennale in Milan, which ran from 22–25 October.

Gurdain and 14 other artists were selected for their outstanding work following participation in the UK Young Artists Leicester Festival 2014. UK Young Artists showcases young creative practitioners aged 18–30 whose work spans all creative disciplines, from visual arts to music, performance and literature, through national festivals every two years in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester.

Gurdain graduated from LCM in 2011 with a BMus (Hons) in Musical Composition and Performance. He has performed at the WOMAD international arts festival and the Saptak Annual Music Festival in India. Prior to the Milan festival, Gurdain said, "I'm thoroughly looking forward to raising the exposure of tabla as a traditional, classical instrument and focusing a wider audience closer toward the incredible language and expression that the instrument offers. UK Young Artists allows youngsters to present innovative, fresh artistic ideas on great platforms."

 [Hear Gurdain's music at www.gurdain.com](http://www.gurdain.com)



Dark Composition 2, by Madiha Abdo

PHOTOGRAPHY GRADUATE EXHIBITS WORK IN NEW YORK

Alumna Madiha Abdo, a photographer, has had her work featured in Agora Gallery in New York, as part of The Chelsea International Fine Art Competition Exhibition. The exhibition profiled the work of 28 artists from 18 countries, all selected by a jury of art experts for their vision and skill in their chosen fields.

Madiha works in black and white, which she says lets her “produce images that are strong, pure and without any unnecessary distractions.” She heightens her work’s clarity by printing images on metallic paper, giving it an appealing surface texture. “I wanted people to experience what I feel during my process of image creation,” she says, “and to have fun while viewing them.” Madiha graduated from the London School of Film, Media and Design in 2012 with a BA (Hons) in Photography.

● Visit www.madiaabdophotography.format.com or www.agora-gallery.com/artistpage/Madiha_Abdo.aspx for details of Madiha’s photography

VICE-CHANCELLOR NOMINATED IN GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY AWARDS

UWL’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter John, was amongst six individuals shortlisted for the Inspiring Leader Award in the Guardian University Awards 2015. These awards highlight the achievements of UK universities, honouring excellence in the sector.

Chris Humphries CBE, the University’s Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors, said, “Professor John’s nomination in this category recognises his outstanding leadership and vision; he has successfully steered UWL to become The Career University and a leading higher education provider.”

BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT ADDRESSES UWL STUDENTS

Professor Jamie Hacker Hughes, President of the British Psychological Society (BPS), gave the closing remarks at a conference for undergraduate psychology students, held this June. The day included presentations by students on topics ranging from attitudes to domestic violence, body dysmorphic disorder and internet addiction, to perceptions of ageing.

Professor Hacker Hughes spoke about his varied career and demonstrated that there are many paths to becoming a professor of psychology. He reflected on the fact that psychology is the only discipline that covers every aspect of life from before the first

breath until the last one, and wished the students all the best in their careers.

Zenobia Nadirshaw, Professor in the School of Psychology, Social Work and Human Sciences and Chair of the London and Home Counties Branch of the BPS, congratulated students on the quality and type of research they had undertaken. She said the topics covered were relevant for the 21st century, as psychology becomes more and more important.

● For further information about the School of Psychology, Social Work and Human Sciences, visit uwl.ac.uk/psychology



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Keep in touch with former classmates and the Alumni Association by joining our alumni LinkedIn group. Search for '**UWL Alumni Association – Official Group**'

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Stay in touch

Stay in touch with all the latest news of alumni, reunions and other events. Make sure you receive our regular e-newsletter by updating your details. Go to: alumni.uwl.ac.uk

For further information about alumni services and benefits, visit
uwl.ac.uk/alumnibenefits

You can also email alumni@uwl.ac.uk
or call **020 8231 0188**

Alumni events



Alumni guest chefs Nicola Bramley, Vikram Rathour, Fern Lough, Livio Capillera, Will Torrent and Alistair Birt

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM GRADUATES RETURN FOR THE ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER

On 30 April, the London College of Hospitality and Tourism welcomed alumni and friends back to campus for the fourth Alumni Dinner. Held in the University's award-winning restaurant, Pillars, the event is a highlight in the College's calendar, giving guests the opportunity to celebrate the successes of the previous year and to network with fellow graduates.

Guests were treated to an exceptional four-course meal served and cooked by the School's students, under the guidance of up-and-coming chefs Alistair Birt, Nicola Bramley, Livio Capillera, Fern Lough,

Vikram Rathour and Will Torrent. The chefs' talents were showcased with dishes such as halibut with cauliflower, asparagus, black fungi and tortellini, and duck egg with duck leg bonbon, broad bean and pea velouté. The dinner was rounded off with a selection of exquisite petit fours, introduced by award-winning chocolatier Will Torrent.

As host for the evening, Chair of the Alumni Board Alistair Telfer invited guests to make a donation to the London College of Hospitality and Tourism Bursary Fund by entering a special prize draw. Four lucky winners received prizes generously donated

by alumni and friends of the College, including an Indian cookery course at Brilliant cookery school, lunch for two at the Michelin starred Waterside Inn, and dinner for two at Pillars Restaurant. The evening was a great success, raising over £2,000 towards the Bursary Fund.

Speaking after the event, Alistair Telfer said: "We are very grateful to all those who kindly donated towards the Fund, enabling us to support the next generation of hospitality professionals and ensuring excellence within the industry."

For details of forthcoming alumni events, please visit

alumni.uwl.ac.uk



Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter John, Helen Pidgeon, John Perry and Dame Linda Dobbs

DAME LINDA DOBBS SPEAKS AT LAW SCHOOL DINNER

The Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE was guest speaker at the eighth Ealing Law School Alumni Dinner on 29 April. Hosted in Pillars restaurant, the evening enabled guests to learn of developments within Ealing Law School and gave them the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of its alumni and students.

Following a successful career at the Bar, in 2004 Dame Linda became the first non-white High Court judge in the UK, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division. She has been involved in the training of lawyers and judges both in the UK and internationally for over 20 years and has been named in the past as one of Britain's most powerful black women. In an inspiring and thought-provoking speech, Dame Linda focused on the changing legal landscape and drew on her own experiences of racial and gender discrimination at

the Bar. She gave invaluable advice for graduating students going out into the world of law and highlighted the various opportunities available to them. She also stressed the important role universities play in preparing their students for an increasingly competitive profession.

The evening also provided an opportunity to congratulate the recent recipients of the Ealing Law School bursaries. Second-year student Sandy Duffy was named as the recipient of the Michael Molyneux Bursary Award and final-year student Ramon Romano was awarded the Ealing Law School Bursary. Alumni Board members Helen Pidgeon and John Perry led the congratulations and spoke about the importance of the Bursary Fund in providing the invaluable support needed by our students to fulfil their potential.



Students from the Ealing Hotel School on a trip to Budapest in 1966

RECALLING THE 1960S: EALING HOTEL SCHOOL GRADUATES GET BACK TOGETHER

Alumni from Ealing Hotel School classes 1964–1970 returned to the University for a reunion lunch on 20 March. Judith Cannon (Hotel and Catering 1968) gives the background: "The idea for the reunion came about when Tim Dawson and I attended a special lunch for Victor Ceserani's 90th birthday – Victor was the Head of School. We talked about the possibility of reuniting our two classes (National Diploma in Hotel and Catering 1968 and 1969); we were also keen to reunite with our past tutors and to extend the invitation to other classes who graduated from the School between 1964 and 1970.

"The turnout was very good, with nearly 30 attending. It was lovely to meet people we had not seen for 50 years and re-introduce ourselves as a different generation. Some were even recognisable despite the grey hair! Conversation flowed so naturally that it seemed as if the time since we last met was just a few weeks ago. It was interesting to discover where people's career and life had taken them. Many of us have stayed within the industry for the whole of our career and we owe the college and tutors an enormous debt."

If you are planning a reunion, please get in touch with the Alumni Office at alumni@uwl.ac.uk

Public events at UWL



Public Lectures

For details of upcoming public lectures, please visit uwl.ac.uk/publiclecture or contact the Events team at events@uwl.ac.uk

LCM Alumni Night

London College of Music graduates from 2005 onwards are invited to an evening of music and cabaret, with a performance from alumni band The Waletones.

Date: Friday 11 December, 7.00pm

Venue: University of West London, St Mary's Road, Ealing, W5 5RF

Booking: alumni.uwl.ac.uk



London College of Hospitality and Tourism Alumni Dinner

The fifth alumni dinner for the College will take place in spring 2016. Please visit alumni.uwl.ac.uk for further announcements.

Ealing Law School Alumni Dinner

The next Ealing Law School Alumni Dinner will take place in 2016. Please see alumni.uwl.ac.uk for further announcements.

Human Rights, Diversity and the Principles of Nursing & Midwifery

Lecture by Cecilia Anim, President of the Royal College of Nursing, followed by a drinks reception and networking.

Date: Tuesday 2 February, 5.30pm

Venue: University of West London, St Mary's Road, Ealing, W5 5RF

Booking: alumni.uwl.ac.uk



Cecilia Anim

West London Business Leaders Dinner

This event will be an opportunity for alumni of The Claude Littner Business School to reconnect with the University and network with leaders from the west London business community. We look forward to sharing further details in due course.

Please see alumni.uwl.ac.uk for further announcements.

LCM Live

London College of Music runs a varied programme of performances, masterclasses and lectures. For full details, visit uwl.ac.uk/lcmlive

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Enjoy a contemporary and elegant dining experience on campus

Visit Pillars, the London College of Hospitality and Tourism's award-winning training restaurant.

Pillars is open Tuesday to Friday for lunch, and Thursdays and Fridays for dinner.

Please visit uwl.ac.uk/pillars for further information or call **020 8231 2200** to book a table.

