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Over to you

We would love to hear your thoughts on this year’s City Magazine, your memories of life at City and news of your life since graduation.

We are also always keen to hear from alumni willing to share their experiences with current and prospective students or interested in acting as alumni group coordinators.

Please contact us using the postal address, email address or telephone number detailed below.

If you would like to provide feedback on the Magazine and help us to plan future editions, please complete our short survey by visiting www.city.ac.uk/2014citymagazine/feedback.

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Welcome

The last 12 months have witnessed extraordinary developments at City University London.

In a period of increasingly challenging competition in the higher education sector, City has more than doubled the proportion of its academic staff undertaking world-leading or internationally excellent research. This is hugely important for the Research Excellence Framework, which assesses the quality of research in UK higher education institutions and determines indirectly a significant percentage of the University’s income.

In the meantime, continued investment in the estate now provides facilities of which students and staff can be proud. At the start of the 2013/14 academic year, new and returning students were greeted by a rejuvenated campus at Northampton Square with state-of-the-art facilities and brand new premises at 200 Aldersgate for Cass Business School Executive Education.

There have been significant improvements to premises for The City Law School and the School of Health Sciences. In addition, there has been a transformation of facilities for Engineering including the reconfiguration of the lower floor of the Tait Building and installation of a new wind tunnel. In early 2015 we are due to open CitySport on the site of the old Saddlers Sports Centre, offering an outstanding new service for students and the local community.

2013/14 also saw more scholarships, bursaries and prizes awarded to students than ever before; an indication of the increasing support offered by our alumni and friends and for which we are extremely grateful.

Our investment in academic excellence and our estate, together with support from our alumni community, is helping to ensure that our students benefit from an outstanding experience while at City. This is demonstrated by the University’s performance in the National Student Survey, in which rates of satisfaction with City among our students showed the highest percentage increase in England, something about which we are particularly proud.

You can discover more about some of our outstanding research, developments to the estate and what life is like at City for current students in this year’s edition of City Magazine. We shall also continue our two bi-monthly e-newsletters aimed at keeping you up-to-date on developments and events, to which you will be very warmly welcomed. We are very keen to keep in touch with our former students and are truly grateful for the help we receive, all of which helps to benefit current and future students.

I hope you enjoy reading this magazine and that its contents encourage you to come back soon to see how the University has progressed since your time here.

David Street
Director
Development & Alumni Relations

City in numbers

City’s Alumni Office is now in contact with over 100,000 former students in 202 countries.

A record 85% of current students indicated their satisfaction with their experience at City through the 2013 National Student Survey.

City was ranked among the top 5 universities in the UK for the starting salaries of its graduates.

Between 2012 and 2016, £130m will be invested in City’s estate.
The 2013/14 transformation of our estate continues with work on new facilities for learning, research and sport. Our Chancellor discovered more about the Dubai Centre while high-profile lectures, conferences and an innovative video series ensured City was at the forefront of public debate.

Changing spaces

If you have walked along Goswell Road in the past six months you might have noticed a steel structure rapidly rising out of the ground. This building, due to be completed in early 2015, will be home to City’s new sports centre, CitySport, as well as new accommodation for more than 800 students.

CitySport will be 75 per cent larger than its predecessor, Saddlers Sports Centre, with more than 100 fitness stations, five multi-sport studios and full disabled access. Built upon the old Saddlers Sports Centre site, the new facility will incorporate over 500 bricks from that building, along with the original marble tablet commemorating our first Director of Exercises, Rudolph Oberholzer.

City has embarked on a five year, £130 million programme of investment in the University’s estate and infrastructure, bringing redundant spaces back into use and creating outstanding new academic facilities. Other recently completed projects include the opening of a new facility for Cass Executive Education at 200 Aldersgate, while at the main site in Northampton Square the first element of a three-phase Lecture Space project has delivered stunning new education spaces, created from long-neglected basement areas of the University Building.

Schools have also benefited from the first phase of estate investment. The undergraduate programme at Cass Business School now has enlarged, refurbished accommodation in the Drysdale Building, while the City Law School and the School of Health Sciences have seen substantial investments in academic office space through improvements in the Tait Building and the complete refurbishment of the Gloucester Building.

Engineering facilities have been transformed, as almost the entire lower ground floor of the Tait Building has been reconfigured to provide a new undergraduate laboratory, engineering hall, improved research space and a new wind tunnel.

The School of Health Sciences recently launched its new interdisciplinary Clinical Skills Centre designed to mirror ‘real’ healthcare environments for students and to enhance their learning and skills before they put them into practice.

Future development plans include a new Students’ Union bar and café, created on the ground floor of the Tait Building and due to open in late 2014; and an iconic new building on the corner of Sebastian Street for research and postgraduate use.

CitySport in numbers

- Accommodation for more than 800 students
- 75% larger than its predecessor
- More than 100 fitness stations
- 5 multi-sport studios
- Incorporating over 500 bricks from the old building

A visualisation of the Sport England-standard sports hall in CitySport
Window on the world

Leading academics, acclaimed authors, business leaders, distinguished journalists and Members of Parliament are among the many speakers to have contributed recently to City’s lively and eclectic events programme.

Topics as diverse as media regulation, street art, the changing shape of war in the Middle East, Hollywood and human rights and the Obama presidency reflect the breadth and depth of City’s research strengths.

In March 2014, at one of the most high-profile events of the year, the Governor of the Bank of England, Dr Mark Carney, used the annual Mais lecture at Cass Business School to announce a major re-organisation of the institution and set out his vision for the Bank’s future.

Elsewhere, at a time when the British media are under more scrutiny than ever, City continued to shape public debate on journalism. In October 2013, Ed Richards, Chief Executive of Ofcom, outlined why regulation is good for broadcast journalism, while a month later, Orwell-prize winning journalist Andrew Norfolk launched In Defence of Journalism, a series of events which seeks to remind how the power of the pen can have a positive effect on society. The same month Robert Peston of the BBC delivered the annual James Cameron memorial lecture and more recently, in April 2014, the Rt Hon Dame Tessa Jowell MP led calls for greater representation of women in the media at the Women on Air conference.

Inaugural lectures offer new academic staff the opportunity to present an overview of their research to colleagues, students and the general public. Recent inaugural lecture topics have included: the role of speech and language therapy in helping vulnerable young people to express their feelings without resorting to violence; the case for giving the public greater involvement in health research; and how brain imaging and mathematical modelling can enhance our understanding of the mechanisms and functions of the eye.

Of course, the City community extends far beyond the borders of EC1. The City Perspectives series brings expert commentary to a wider audience through a series of web articles and videos. Data leaks, the video game industry and the possibility of an EU opt-out are among the issues discussed recently by City academics in the series.

Events at City are usually free and open to the public. For information about forthcoming events please visit www.city.ac.uk/events. Or search online for ‘City Perspectives’ to hear the views of leading academics on contemporary political, economic and social issues.

From the Square Mile to the Middle East

In November 2013, City University London joined Worshipful Companies, the armed forces, charities and musical bands from near and far in a three and a half mile celebration of the appointment of Alderman Fiona Woolf as Lord Mayor of London. Only the second woman to hold the post of Lord Mayor, Alderman Woolf was formally welcomed as City’s Chancellor at the University’s degree congregation in January 2014, when she was awarded a Doctor of Science honoris causa.

Since 1966, when the unique relationship between the University and the City of London was established, successive Lord Mayors have flown the flag for City, championing our research, education and enterprise. Alderman Woolf is certainly no exception and in her first six months in office, she and her consort, Nicholas Woolf, have already made their mark on the University. The Lord Mayor’s Charity Leadership Programme, organised by Nicholas and run in collaboration with Cass Business School’s Centre for Charity Effectiveness, comprises a series of lectures, conferences and debates designed to promote excellence in charity leadership.

The Lord Mayor also visited City’s overseas campus in Dubai, where she met Cass alumni, students, staff and members of the Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC). She praised the Dubai Centre’s emergence as an educational hub for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), noting that the current Executive MBA cohort has students of over 20 different nationalities.
Start-Ed helps kickstart student success

A voice from the past

The story of the ‘Cambridge Spies’ epitomised the distrust and fear of the early Cold War. Four men, educated at the University of Cambridge during the tumultuous inter-war period, became informants to the KGB in the belief that only the Soviet Union could defeat fascism. During and after the war, the men climbed career ladders in the Foreign Office, MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), while continuing to report to Moscow. In 1951, the two men in the Foreign Office, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, disappeared, only to resurface in Moscow five years later.

It was only with the end of the Cold War that historians could begin to piece together the full story of the Cambridge Spies, though their endeavours were frequently hampered by classified files and incomplete archives. In January 2014, City academics Professor Stewart Purvis and Jeff Hulbert, both of the Department of Journalism, uncovered a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that adds depth and life to the fascinating tale.

In researching their new book, _When Reporters Cross the Line_, Purvis and Hulbert secured the release of an 11 minute audio recording from FBI files. Recorded in 1951 in New York, just three weeks before his defection to Russia, Guy Burgess talks of visiting Chartwell to meet Winston Churchill and mimics Churchill’s characteristic speech. The only known recording of Burgess’s voice, which captures his humour and betrays no hint of the drama of his defection that was to follow, drew the attention of media outlets including the BBC, Sky News, The Conversation and Channel 4.

After his mobile smartphone ran out of battery again one afternoon in early 2013, City University London postgraduate student Frank Milani (Masters in Innovation, Creativity and Leadership) was inspired to come up with a solution to this very common problem.

Just a year later, Frank and his business partner Matt Sandrini are about to launch Popcord, their portable smartphone charger. A Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for its manufacture attracted £47,000 of pledges, more than double their original £20,000 target.

While developing their business, Frank and Matt received input from the University’s student enterprise team, CityStarters; City’s entrepreneurship centre, The Hangout; and The City Law School’s advice clinic, Start-Ed.

“We first attended Start-Ed in December 2013 to ensure that we were taking all the necessary steps to protect our intellectual property and obtain legal cover in a global market,” recalls Frank. “At a later stage, the solicitors at Start-Ed helped us to establish the right legal structure and understand the terms and conditions required for international pre-orders. They really set us in the right direction.”

Founded by Reader in Law Dr David Collins and City alumnus Eric Klotz in 2011, Start-Ed has assisted more than 700 start-ups and small businesses. It is staffed by students from The City Law School who are supervised by local professionals including barristers, solicitors and accountants. Dr Collins notes that a lack of access to simple legal advice is one of the major barriers to success in the start-up sector:

“Legal advice, even in the most basic form, is essential for anyone thinking of starting a business or engaged in the early stages of running one. But unfortunately it can be prohibitively expensive for small companies. Popcord is a highly successful start-up that promises to be an exciting and profitable venture. I am pleased that we were able to provide Popcord with the initial legal assistance to point its founders in the right direction.”

In April, Popcord was one of five winners of the CitySpark competition. Frank and Matt received a prize of £3,000 and a place on the CitySpark Summer Accelerator programme.

To find out more about Popcord, visit www.popcord.co.
Open doors for open-source at City

City University London has become an important location for Drupal open-source enthusiasts. Drupal operates over a million websites for a variety of high-profile users including the Cabinet Office, the World Economic Forum, the Grammy Awards, the University of Oxford and The Economist. Belgian computer scientist Dries Buytaert started running Drupal software on an online message board in 1999. By 2001, drupal.org had become a popular open-source platform. The Drupal community gained further momentum in 2005 with several collaborative coding sessions and conferences. Thanks to a relationship developed two years ago by the Professional Liaison Unit in the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering, DrupalCamp London has twice selected City as the venue for its annual jamboree.

DrupalCamp London 2014, held at City at the beginning of March, welcomed 650 DrupalCamp community members, including established tech businesses, start-ups and City computer science students. There were more than 50 sessions for attendees to choose from, including “How to Release More Code”; “What the ECK!”; “I want my MTV: Inside the guts of a global publishing platform”; and “A git workflow for Drupal core development.”

Commenting on the success of the event, Professor Roger Crouch, Dean of the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering, noted that events such as DrupalCamp London 2014 reinforce City’s reputation as a major provider of computing talent. “We are delighted that City was selected for two consecutive years as the venue for such an important gathering of digital experts. Events such as this offer excellent exposure and opportunities for our computer science students. DrupalCamp London 2014 also underscores City’s emphasis on an integrated approach to mathematics, computer science and engineering which makes our students highly desirable in the very competitive field of technology.”

Aiming high in sport

As City Magazine goes to press, the University’s sportsmen and women are coming to the end of another successful season. In the British Universities & Colleges Sport Leagues (BUCS), the Men’s Rugby team secured promotion, winning 11 of its 12 league matches. The Men’s Tennis team enjoyed similar success, winning 8 of 10 matches and league promotion, while their female counterparts reached the quarter final of the Conference Cup, an achievement that was recognised when they received the Team of the Year shield in City’s 2014 Students’ Union Awards.

Golf and Cheerleading may be relatively new sports for the University, but novelty has proved no barrier to success. The Mixed Golf team marked the end of its second season with a runners up finish in its league, while the Central City Allstars, City’s cheerleading competition squad, finished in second place at the ICC British Nationals Competition in March 2014.

CitySport is as committed to its individual sportsmen and women as it is to its representational teams. At the BUCS Individual Indoor Championships in February 2014, City fielded an exceptional group of student athletes who competed in sports including Fencing, Judo, Karate, Mountaineering and Swimming. In the Men’s Judo Individual Championships, Sungyong Jeong reached the semi-final in his category, while High Jumper Georgia Nwawulor (pictured left) represented the University for the second consecutive year. With an impressive 1.67 metre jump, Georgia claimed the Bronze medal on the final day of the competition and just one month later, she won the prestigious Sportsperson of the Year award at the Students’ Union Awards.
Discoveries

City’s biomedical engineers are pioneering new developments in healthcare, with sensors that transform life opportunities. Elsewhere, academic staff are changing how we think about smell and touch, deepening our understanding of a complex continent and challenging the fundamentals of criminal procedure.

Engineers at the forefront of healthcare

From left, Dr Justin Phillips, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Engineering and Professor Panicos Kyriacou, Professor of Biomedical Engineering.
Biomedical Engineering Research Group (BERG), established in 2004, is leading the way in a discipline that is transforming developments in medicine and healthcare delivery. Under the leadership of Professor Panicos Kyriacou, the Group has as its mission the extension of the frontiers of science and technology by developing new tools and techniques to solve challenging medical problems.

More specifically, BERG’s focus is on the use of engineering principles to advance understanding of how biological or physiological systems operate. The ultimate goals? The development of effective medical-based technologies for application across societal needs including breakthroughs in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and the design of novel devices, sensors and processes.

Reflecting BERG’s twin emphases on advances in basic bioscience and applied biomedical engineering, Professor Kyriacou says the Group’s work can be summed up succinctly as “creating biomedical technologies from design to the patient.” The Group’s principal areas of expertise are in medical sensors and instrumentation; biosignal and imaging analysis; biomedical optics; electrical impedance; physiological measurement; and physiological modelling.

Transformative sensors
Developments in optical technologies mean that some sensors are no larger than a hair and in the words of Professor Kyriacou, can “go into places in the body that people have never gone before.” The startling potential of ever-smaller and smaller sensors created by the Group includes non-invasive monitoring of blood oxygen levels in specific organs and tissues to ascertain their condition and tracking the progress of critically ill patients during surgery and in intensive care. This research challenges the status quo in monitoring blood components such as glucose, haemoglobin and cholesterol by innovating new non-invasive sensors that have the potential to make such measurements possible, without the invasive extraction of blood. Such technologies will enable patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes to monitor their wellbeing and remain in control of their condition.

BERG has recently been awarded a major research grant by the National Institute of Health Research to develop a personal lithium blood analyser for patients with bipolar disorder. This will revolutionise the monitoring of psychiatric disorders given that there is currently an absence of non-invasive medical devices for monitoring or assessing bipolar disorder.

The mood of patients with bipolar disorder frequently changes, featuring episodes of depression (with feelings of being lethargic and ‘low’) and mania (with feelings of being ‘high’ and overactive). These patients are dependent on lithium to maintain their mental equilibrium. Too much lithium causes toxicity and too little causes patients to have uncontrollable mood swings.

Some sensors are no larger than a hair and can “go into places in the body that people have never gone before.”

The personal lithium blood analyser will assist in providing more information on lithium blood levels to psychiatrists, clinicians and patients, allowing for more effective management of bipolar disorder with lithium therapy. A low cost, portable healthcare technology which makes use of smart medical sensors allows bipolar patients to have more control of the earliest signs of health problems with medications that can be detected and corrected.

Preliminary studies will involve the spectrophotometric evaluation of lithium in blood to determine the optimum parameters for the sensor. The ultimate goal is to provide a handheld technology to monitor lithium levels non-invasively at home and to provide a personal monitor to assist, support and inform both the patient and clinician.

Funding future breakthroughs
While members of BERG are revolutionising the care of patients in critical condition, colleagues elsewhere in the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering, led by its Dean, are set to transform the life opportunities of babies born with congenital heart disease.

Find out how alumni and friends of City can help funding this groundbreaking research on page 15.

Transformative telehealth
Telehealth, which is the management or delivery of health-related services through telecommunications technologies, has the potential to transform healthcare in the United Kingdom and around the world. It offers healthcare providers the means of tackling the twin challenges of an ageing population and limited resources, while for patients and their families, telehealth could help avoid admissions to and lengthy stays in hospital, as it can facilitate care in the home or the local community.

Professor Stanton Newman, Dean of the School of Health Sciences and a leading expert in telehealth, has undertaken research into the integration of health technologies in the healthcare pathway for different chronic conditions and individuals with different levels of severity. He notes that “while telehealth holds huge promise, it’s important for us to recognise that we have a long way to go before we can easily and successfully implement such a programme throughout the country.”

“We need research to demonstrate the best techniques to integrate telehealth into a sustainable and effective model that could not only save many lives, but also help the NHS save millions of pounds annually,” adds Professor Newman. “Key to the sustainability of a telehealth pathway for chronic conditions is ensuring that patients are able to utilise the additional information that telehealth can provide and change their behaviour to manage their condition.”

To help bridge the gap between traditional and technology-based healthcare, Professor Newman has been involved in launching the Advancing Care Coordination and Telehealth Deployment (ACT) programme, a pan-European study that will uncover some of the barriers to implementation of telehealth services and establish best practice in the sector.

The Development & Alumni Relations Office is supporting Professor Newman with this important research. To find out more about how alumni can help, please contact David Street: +44 (0)20 7040 5557; david.street.1@city.ac.uk.
Catching a whiff of pervasive computing

Professor Adrian Cheok, Professor of Pervasive Computing at City, is working on innovative ways of using mobile phone technology.

Liberating digital interaction from the confines of the computer or mobile phone screen, Professor Cheok and colleagues in his Mixed Reality Lab are exploring mixed reality and empathetic communication by digitally conveying smell and touch.

The ever-expanding field of pervasive computing involves embedding microprocessors in everyday objects such as mobile telephones, kitchen devices and items of clothing. It is the "internet of things", implying instant connectivity and availability.

In January 2014, Professor Cheok joined Michelin-starred chef, Andoni Luiz Aduriz and Dr Luis Castellanos, President of creative consultants El Jardin de Junio at Spain’s culinary extravaganza, Madrid Fusion, to unveil Scentee, a new digital mobile app and device. The app is attached to an Apple iPhone and allows the user to make gestures and virtually prepare a recipe from a restaurant.

Professor Cheok and his colleagues have been spearheading new methodological approaches for digitally simulating taste and smell to enable remote communication through the use of these senses. They aim to obtain a controllable and accurate actuation of taste and smell using digital methods for the benefit of industry and academic research and to improve the lives of those with smell and taste disabilities.

Professor Cheok has recently received extensive media exposure for his work, including appearances on BBC Click and CBS News and articles in publications including Wired and Computer Weekly.

Questioning a complex continent

The European Social Survey (ESS), based at City University London, has long been recognised as a critical tool for charting and explaining the interaction between Europe’s changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations.

At the end of 2013, the European Commission acknowledged its importance by granting it the status of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC).

Established in 2001, the ESS was led by its founder, Professor Sir Roger Jowell, until his death in 2011. Now under the directorship of Rory Fitzgerald, the Survey takes place every two years and is currently in its sixth round. It asks questions of Europeans from over 30 countries concerning their political orientations, attitudes and behaviour; their social and moral values; and their national, ethnic and religious allegiances.

The Survey is renowned for its rigorous methodologies and while the data it generates are of critical value to academics and policymakers, its commitment to promoting excellence in quantitative research is of equal importance.

The ESS is the only ERIC hosted in the UK and it joins some of the most innovative research infrastructures in Europe, including CERN, the world’s largest particle physics laboratory. With this prestige comes long-term funding stability and the corresponding freedom to plan for future exploration of the changing faces of Europe.

Find out more at www.europeansocialsurvey.org.
Educational needs of deaf children

Research conducted at the School of Health Sciences has shown that deaf children with reading difficulties are being neglected, as current tests focus exclusively on hearing children and adults. The findings indicate that reading and dyslexia-sensitive tests can be used for some deaf children; these tests could allow educators to understand better the reading deficits of deaf children and to support them through specialist reading interventions.

While there have been extensive studies of dyslexia in recent years, the relationship between deafness and reading difficulties has been virtually unexplored. There are 44,000 deaf schoolchildren in the UK and many face difficulties when learning to read. Dr Ros Herman, a member of the research team, explains more: “As reading is based on spoken language – which many deaf children struggle to acquire – reading problems in this group are generally attributed solely to deafness, yet given the genetic basis of dyslexia, it is likely that some deaf children will also be dyslexic.”

Other challenges in research and practice include a lack of suitable reading tests for the diagnosis of dyslexia in deaf children, as there is little information about reading profiles for this group. Without an understanding of the typical reading level for a deaf child in a given age group, it is difficult to determine whether a deaf child has dyslexia.

As part of the first phase of their research, the team, comprising Dr Herman, Professor Penny Roy and Dr Fiona Kyle, targeted deaf children who communicate orally, rather than through sign language, in their final year of primary school. The study compared 79 children with severe to profound levels of deafness – a significant proportion of oral deaf children of this age in the UK – with 20 hearing children with dyslexia. Half of the oral deaf children had reading delays that were at least as severe as the problems faced by hearing children with dyslexia and in some cases they were more severe.

In the next stage of the project, the team will turn their attention to deaf children who sign, to ascertain whether that group could also benefit from specialist reading interventions.

The privilege against self-incrimination

The privilege against self-incrimination is often represented as a principle of fundamental importance in the law of criminal procedure and evidence. A logical implication of recognising this privilege should be that a person cannot be compelled, on pain of a criminal sanction, to provide information that could reasonably lead to his or her prosecution for a criminal offence. However, there are statutory provisions in England and Wales making it a criminal offence not to provide particular information that, if provided, could be used in a subsequent prosecution of the person providing it.

Professor Andrew Choo’s 2013 book, The Privilege Against Self-Incrimination and Criminal Justice, examines the operation of this principle in criminal proceedings. He says the research highlights several doctrinal and theoretical issues that are of particular contemporary concern.

“The evidence demonstrates that despite the supposed importance of the privilege against self-incrimination, there is little agreement on its content or effect. The law as it has developed over the years cannot very easily be rationalised. This is partly because of a lack of care or consistency in the articulation by the courts of the legal rules that govern the privilege.”

Professor Choo asks whether, far from being a fundamental principle, the privilege is in reality, a device deployed by the courts when it is convenient for them to do so.

“If this is the case, then it is misguided to expect the privilege to perform a major role in regulating pre-trial criminal process and the focus should instead be on ensuring the existence of robust pre-trial regulation. Having dedicated pre-trial protections in place which are routinely supervised and enforced may be far more important than expending energy on attempting to define precisely what the privilege against self-incrimination should entail.”

Professor Choo is the author of five books and numerous publications about criminal evidence and procedure. His published work has been cited in decisions of various appellate courts, including the House of Lords, the UK Supreme Court, the Privy Council and the Supreme Court of Canada.
This year’s *Diary* attests to the global nature of City’s alumni network. Events around the world provide opportunities to network, learn and rekindle old friendships, while alumni stories articulate exactly what makes City so special. Elsewhere, alumni generosity and a very special legacy are shaping City’s provision of outstanding education, research and student support.

**Events in 2013/14**

In the last 12 months we have been delighted to meet alumni around the world. Here are just a few of the highlights.

**June 2013**
**Annual London Reunion (1)**
Nearly 200 alumni returned to Northampton Square to meet fellow former students and hear about the University’s plans for the future. Members of the Year of 1968 took the opportunity to meet for lunch and tour their old haunts before the reunion.

**September 2013**
**Visit to Bletchley Park with Professor David Stupples (2)**
Professor David Stupples, Director of City’s Centre for Cyber Security Sciences, gave a fascinating talk on codes and code-breaking to a group of alumni at Bletchley Park. Pictured are alumni at the Polish Memorial while on a guided tour of the park.

**September 2013**
**Hong Kong (3)**
Local alumni and students attended a masterclass on “Market Cap or Monkey? An Evaluation of Alternative Equity Index Weighting Schemes” led by Dr Nick Motson, Lecturer in Finance at Cass Business School, at Hong Kong Maritime Museum. This was followed by a drinks reception hosted by Alderman Roger Gifford, the then Lord Mayor of London and Chancellor of City University London.

**December 2013**
**New York (4)**
Alumni and friends of City joined other guests at a reception and panel discussion at the British Council in New York. “Ethics in Business: Still a Tick-Box Exercise?” was the title of a debate featuring a panel of distinguished alumni. Pictured from left: Bob Kelly, Nicole Young, Huw Daniel and panel chair, Professor Andre Spicer, Professor of Organisational Behaviour at Cass Business School.
February 2014
Dubai (5)
Alderman Fiona Woolf, The Lord Mayor of London and City University London’s Chancellor, was the guest speaker at The Lord Mayor’s Annual Alumni Reception in Dubai. Pictured with Alderman Woolf (second from left) are Roy Leighton, Chairman of Cass/City Advisory Board for Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Council Chairman of British Expertise and Chairman of Financial Services Champions UKTI; Ehsan Razavizadeh, Regional Director, MENA and Head of Dubai Centre and Edward Hobart, Her Majesty’s Consul General to Dubai.

March 2014
Toronto (6)
Hosted by Professor Carl Stychin, Dean of The City Law School, a reception for alumni in Canada was held at Osgoode Hall in Toronto.

March 2014
Johannesburg
Professor Stanton Newman, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, hosted an alumni event at the Radisson Blu Gautrain in Johannesburg. Professor Victoria Joffe, Associate Dean for taught postgraduate studies at the School of Health Sciences and a leading authority in developmental speech, language and communication needs in children and young people, explained how the University’s Changing Behaviours – Changing Futures research is helping to improve lives.

April 2014
Athens (7)
The annual alumni evening in Athens was held in the Grande Britagne Hotel. Hosted by Professor Dinos Arcoumanis, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International & Development) and Ambassador-at-Large of the Hellenic Republic (Energy Policy and Technologies), the evening included an LLM Maritime Law Panel Discussion and a Masterclass led by Dr Anthony Papadimitriou, President of the Alexandros S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.
City graduates are entitled to a range of benefits and services from the University, from the new Graduate Loyalty Discount to continued access to the library.

A lifelong relationship

Graduate Loyalty Discount

Whether you are looking to broaden your employment options, advance in your chosen career or prepare for further study, a postgraduate degree from City can challenge, inspire and open doors.

The Graduate Loyalty Discount offers graduates a fee discount of at least 10 per cent when enrolling for one of over 150 postgraduate taught courses starting in September 2014. You are eligible to apply if you have completed an undergraduate degree, postgraduate degree or a period as a Study Abroad student at City and you meet the entry criteria for the course.

Fee discounts by School:
• Cass Business School, the School of Arts & Social Sciences and the School of Health Sciences offer a 10 per cent discount
• The School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering offers a discount of £2,500
• The City Law School offers a discount of £1,500 on all postgraduate degrees and a discount of £1,700 on the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC).

For further details about the Graduate Loyalty Discount please visit www.city.ac.uk/graduate-loyalty-discount.

Library Membership

City alumni are entitled to free use of the University libraries for reference and an 80 per cent discount on the annual rates charged to external visitors for borrowing privileges.

Membership includes access to the main University library in Northampton Square and libraries at Cass Business School and The City Law School.

Alumni can access e-journals remotely through JSTOR and Emerald. There is also on-site access to other online resources through the libraries at Bunhill Row and Northampton Square.

To take advantage of this service, contact us to receive an Alumni Network Card which you can use to prove your status as an alumnus when visiting the library for the first time. Email alumni@city.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)20 7040 5557.

Other benefits

Outstanding networking opportunities at events throughout the world

Access to a wide range of professional development courses through Cass Executive Education

The opportunity to meet up with City’s world-leading academics at events around the world and continue to learn how City is changing lives through its ground-breaking research

Free support from City’s Career Service for up to three years after graduation

The opportunity to apply for roles within the University and other organisations in London that advertise through Unitemps

Use of The Hangout, a working space for entrepreneurs in the heart of Tech City. If you have graduated within the last two years, you can join The Hangout for free. All other alumni are entitled to a discount of between £150 and £250 per month for a desk. Members are entitled to use the event space and all alumni may hire the event space at a discounted rate.

To access your benefits and services remember to update your details online. Have you moved house or changed jobs recently? Please let us know by visiting www.city.ac.uk/2014citymagazine/update.

Connect

Keeping in touch with your alma mater is an easy way to expand your network and learn more about the latest developments at the University.

Join the Alumni Network on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter to get the latest updates from our community and subscribe to our blog.
Alumni take centre stage

How can a university engage its diverse audiences, from prospective undergraduate students to major employers, from working professionals to over 17,000 current students? For City, the answer is through harnessing the power of its alumni network.

As City Magazine goes to press, the University’s Marketing & Communications team is launching a major promotional campaign built around inspiring alumni stories. Designed to strengthen the University’s identity and support student recruitment, the campaign focuses on how studying at City can provide firm foundations for professional success.

Featured alumni include Pim Baxter (MA Arts Administration, 1989), Deputy Director of the National Portrait Gallery and Lay Cannon of St Paul’s Cathedral; Keith Abel (PG Dip Law, 1987), founder of organic food delivery company Abel & Cole; and Vivian Yin (MA Transnational Media and Globalisation, 2011), who has built a career in television production and now works as Chief Representative of Star China International Media. For Seven City University London alumni were named amongst the top ten young barristers in England and Wales in 2013. A report by Legal Week, a leading law magazine, included them on the annual ‘Stars at the Bar’ list after a tight selection from more than 325 recommended junior barristers. Professor Carl Stychin, Dean of The City Law School, commented: “It is tremendous to see our alumni achieving this level of recognition so early in their careers.”

If you have an inspiring story that could feature in the City campaign we would love to hear from you. Contact us at alumni@city.ac.uk.

From City to Sochi

In February 2014, the eyes of the world were on Sochi, Russia, as 2,876 athletes competed for 1,300 medals at the 21st Winter Olympic Games. Riding high on the back of the 2012 Olympic Games in London, the Sochi Games received more media coverage than any Winter Olympic Games in history, with an estimated 88,000 hours of worldwide cumulative television and digital coverage.

Two City Journalism graduates were at the heart of the action. Benjamin Westlake-Tritton (BA (Hons) Journalism, 2013) was an Assistant Assignment Editor for the Olympic News Channel, a feed to rights-paying broadcasters worldwide. He filmed news packages, interviewed athletes before and after their events and produced features on topics surrounding the games.

Elsewhere, Julie Stewart-Binks (MA International Journalism, 2010), who undertook an internship with Sky Sports and Sky News during her MA at City, streamed regular reports on the performance of US and international athletes for Fox Sports 1, as part of the Sochi Now series. Julie is familiar to US audiences for her role as a correspondent on Fox Soccer Daily, a programme she joined in August 2013.

Bar success for City alumni

Seven City University London alumni were named amongst the top ten young barristers in England and Wales in 2013. A report by Legal Week, a leading law magazine, included them on the annual ‘Stars at the Bar’ list after a tight selection from more than 325 recommended junior barristers. Professor Carl Stychin, Dean of The City Law School, commented: “It is tremendous to see our alumni achieving this level of recognition so early in their careers.”

The City stars were Simon Atrill (BVC, 2005) of Fountain Court Chambers; Siddharth Dhar (BVC, 2005) and Amy Sander (BVC, 2006) of Essex Court Chambers; Charles Raffin (BVC, 2005) of Hardwicke Chambers; Luke Pearce (BVC 2007) of 20 Essex Street and the University of Oxford; Michael Watkins (PG Dip Professional Legal Skills, 2009) of One Essex Court; and Can Yeginsu (GDL, 2007) of 4 New Square.
Supporting the University

Over the past 10 years, support from alumni and friends has changed the face of student life at City University London. Last year, generous support from alumni raised over £83,000 for a variety of student-based projects around the University. By donating to the Annual Fund, alumni can make a real difference to the student experience at City now and in the future.

You can find out more about the Annual Fund and all of the projects mentioned above by visiting our website (www.city.ac.uk/alumni). Alternatively, please use the gift form enclosed to make a donation.

The City Future Fund

Second year student Emma Rhodes embarked on her journey at City as a mature student, juggling family commitments and a commute to London in order to pursue her long-held dream of becoming a Speech and Language Therapist. Studying full-time and raising a young family meant Emma had to give up her job and look for other ways of supporting her studies financially. Fortunately, Emma became one of the recipients of a City Future Fund Scholarship, worth £6,000 over the three years of her course.

The importance of the scholarship, Emma says: “My scholarship has alleviated a great deal of pressure, which has in turn reduced the burden on my children and allowed me space to engross myself in my studies. I am so grateful to those responsible for this support and for the helping hand that has lifted so many students over the years.”

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The Cass Fund

Through the Student Assistance Fund, the Cass Fund supports high-achieving students at Cass Business School who face unexpected financial difficulty. For many recipients of bursaries from the Fund, this support is the boost which enables them to reach graduation day. Last year, all 16 recipients either graduated or are now in their final year of study.

One 2013 recipient of a bursary from the Fund said, “I am very thankful for the assistance and now after graduating and starting a new job, I am a very active member of the Cass alumni community.”

Alumni donations to the Cass Fund have also helped to create a brand new state-of-the-art financial resources suite, complete with eight new Bloomberg terminals, numerous new study spaces and other computer facilities.

A timely legacy: George Daniels CBE

George Daniels, who passed away in October 2011, was one of City’s most esteemed alumni. After attending evening classes in horology at the Northampton Institute, Daniels became a renowned watchmaker. He produced his first mechanical watch in 1969 and subsequently became famous for creating the co-axial escapement, widely regarded as the key development in watch-making over the last 250 years and still present in most quality watches today.

He was awarded an MBE in 1981 and a CBE in 2010. In 2007, City University London awarded him a Doctor of Science honoris causa.

In his estate, George Daniels bequeathed substantial funds to provide scholarships for City University London students and to benefit City research in measurement and instrumentation. This bequest is administered by the George Daniels Educational Trust.

In September 2013, City celebrated George Daniels’ life and legacy with an event that featured the formal renaming of the University Clock to the George Daniels Clock. A plaque has been placed inside the entrance of the College Building to commemorate this occasion. Following the renaming, the inaugural George Daniels Lecture, entitled “Optical Atomic Clocks: light years ahead?” was delivered by Professor Patrick Gill of the National Physical Laboratory.

The 2014 George Daniels Lecture will take place on 3rd December and will be given by Andrew King, widely recognised as a leading authority on Harrison Clocks. To book tickets to the Lecture, please call +44 (0)20 7040 8271 or email events@city.ac.uk.

If you would like to find out more about shaping City’s future through a gift in your Will, a Trust or an individual donation, please contact Jennifer Palmer, Development Manager: +44 (0)20 7040 5559; jennifer.palmer.1@city.ac.uk.
Brighter futures for newborn babies

The Development & Alumni Relations Office at City is commencing the planning for a new campaign to fund research into pioneering technology designed to improve the life opportunities of newborn babies and young infants affected by congenital heart disease.

Congenital heart disease, which refers to a range of heart conditions or defects that develop in the womb, affects up to 9 out of every 1,000 babies born in the UK. It can include holes between the chambers of the heart or incomplete formation of the heart valves. In one third of all cases, repair by surgery is required. While most infants now survive this traumatic start to life, for many, their quality of life as they grow older can be limited by the need to avoid undue stress on the heart.

Until recently, it has not been possible to predict the effect of heart surgery on a child's subsequent ability to enjoy life to the fullest. However, computer-based simulation models have the potential to act as a powerful new tool for cardiac surgeons.

Academics from the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering are working with leading clinicians to develop a comprehensive computational capability to simulate the complete behaviour of an infant's heart. Led by Professor Roger Crouch, the School's Dean, the City research will be unique in its capacity to combine highly detailed 3D models of the whole heart with computer simulations of blood flow. Such a model will, for example, allow surgeons to identify bypass solutions tailored to each individual patient that will enable optimal blood supply and pumping efficiency post-surgery. For children born with heart defects, this may enable them to have the freedom to run, play and participate in sport at a level not previously thought possible.

The advanced modelling involved in this research represents a new frontier in computational bioengineering, harnessing the power of high-performance parallel computers, magnetic resonance imaging and sophisticated finite element analysis. As Professor Crouch notes, “City has a rich history of leading where others follow, particularly in Engineering. This research, which has the potential to transform young lives, takes current technology to the next stage through its emphasis on patient-specific features. It will place City firmly on the map in the field of computational bioengineering”.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help to fund this groundbreaking research, please contact Ruth Velenski, Head of Campaigns: +44 (0)20 7040 5251; ruth.velenski.1@city.ac.uk.

Aeronautical excellence: the BAE Systems Sir Richard Olver Chair

BAE Systems, one of the world’s largest defence contractors, has partnered with City University London to establish the BAE Systems Sir Richard Olver Chair in Aeronautical Engineering in the School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering. The new Chair will honour Sir Richard (Dick) Olver’s contribution as Chairman of BAE Systems between 2004 and 2014 and will support research into the ways that emerging technologies can benefit aerospace design.

Dick graduated from City in 1970 with a first class honours degree in Civil Engineering and in 2004 he was awarded a Doctor of Science honoris causa by the University. Before joining BAE Systems, Dick worked for BP for over 30 years.

Of the new chair, Mr Ian King, BAE Systems Chief Executive, said: “During his time as Chairman of BAE Systems, Dick was a passionate supporter of the company’s objective of encouraging young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This Chair is a fitting way to celebrate his work. It will benefit business and academia by providing the opportunity to further our understanding of emerging technologies.”

City’s aeronautical engineering courses are accredited by the Royal Aeronautical Society and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the aeronautical research group is an active participant in the new UK Aerospace Technology Institute.
From left, Dr David Barling, Professor Tim Lang and Professor Martin Caraher of the Centre for Food Policy.
Whether they’re inspiring guerrilla gardening or grappling with governments, the academics at City University London’s Centre for Food Policy have one goal: to make food and everything associated with bringing it to our plates part of the national and international consciousness. Nicky Evans meets the three crusaders who consistently set the global food policy agenda and who have spent more than two decades hammering home the message that food matters.

The town of Todmorden, in West Yorkshire, is a town in bloom. Herbs sprout from the train station platform, fertile plots in the church cemetery double as raised beds and ears of corn wave in the breeze outside the police station. Wherever there’s a stretch of unused public land, there’s food – and it’s all free to anyone passing by.

The vegetables were the first stage in a multi-faceted project masterminded by activist Pam Warhurst. Tired of waiting for local government to rescue her town’s dying market and flagging high street, she came up with an idea to use the common language of food to bring her community together, branding it Incredible Edible.

“I’d had enough of waiting for others to do something,” explains Warhurst. “I wanted to see what we could do to help people rethink the way they live and the future environment they want for their children. I decided to put food at the heart of community, learning and business and motivate people to create change for themselves.”

What started as guerrilla gardening became a phenomenon that rejuvenated the town and its inhabitants. Warhurst encouraged allcomers to bring their individual skills to the project, with designers creating placards to describe the food on offer, green-fingered locals helping children to grow vegetables and keen cooks turning leftover produce into dishes to sell in the market. Once established, it went further, obtaining lottery funding for a ‘food hub’ at the town’s high school and developing donated land into greenfield sites. So far, this resounding success story has inspired more than 200 similar initiatives in Britain and worldwide.

Warhurst credits Professor Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy at City’s Centre for Food Policy (CFP), as the inspiration behind Incredible Edible. “In 2007, I heard Tim remind us about the plight of the planet and future generations and I just thought, ‘Right, that’s it’. I made the whole thing up on the train home and it launched the following year.”
A broad remit
Although inspiring grass-roots projects in English market towns is not the bread and butter of the CFP, the fact that it played a part in the origins of Incredible Edible comes as no surprise, considering the breadth and scale of the Centre’s reach. Since moving to City in 2002, Professors Tim Lang and Martin Caraher and Dr David Barling have become major players in UK-based and international food policy conversations, sitting on advisory boards; working with government, industry and NGOs to establish policy frameworks; and giving speeches about their research at international conferences. Their manifesto is ecological public health: looking at the food chain in its broadest sense and the impact each aspect has on public health and the environment.

“We are traditional academics trying to explore what a good food system is and holding up a mirror to society to ask, ‘Is this what you want?’”, says Lang. What this means in practice is that whenever there’s a food and public health story – be it the fallout from last year’s horsemeat scandal, chef Jamie Oliver’s crusade to improve school dinners, debates about the quality of hospital food, childhood obesity and even edible towns in Yorkshire – the CFP’s academics are likely to have been involved. They are also likely to be barraged by media requests for quotes and analysis: when the horsemeat scandal hit the papers, Lang conducted 70 interviews in just six weeks.

Over the last decade, the Centre has brought in nearly £1 million of research grants for work that illustrates both the scope and complexity of the food policy tapestry and the challenges we face.

“We are traditional academics trying to explore what a good food system is and holding up a mirror to society to ask, ‘Is this what you want?’”

Caraher has dedicated much of his career to children’s health, including research around school meals and cooking in schools; the start of this year saw him author a report addressing childhood obesity, which mapped the fast-food outlets around two secondary schools in Tower Hamlets.

Barling, meanwhile, explores food governance policies, covering issues from supply-chain management and traceability to food waste. He is currently involved in three pan-European projects including SENSE, which helps small and medium-sized food businesses assess and improve their environmental impact.

Lang is perhaps best known for his research into food security and sustainability; his ‘food miles’ concept – the CO2 produced by food travelling from farm to plate – drew widespread media attention in 2005 and has evolved into his current concern: sustainable diets.

“How do we eat food that is good for our health and the environment?” asks Lang. “Current government advice is to eat two portions of fish a week. Where is that fish coming from? We are told to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, but we should be eating at least seven if we want to see mortality figures drop. We need to reassess land use to stop our fruit and vegetables being shipped from across the world.”

All this energy and expertise has been harnessed time and again by government departments, NGOs, charities and campaign groups – from Lang’s stint as a consultant to the World Health Organisation to Caraher’s work alongside the Department of Health and Barling’s role as a council member of the campaigning charity Sustain. It all adds up to a lot of fingers in a lot of policy-flavoured pies.

“There are only three of us but we are noisy – we have an impact bigger than our sum,” says Lang.

That impact and influence can be seen all around us. Take the Cabinet Office Food Matters report, which was put firmly on the public’s agenda by the Centre’s academics in 2008. The first attempt at an integrated food policy since the Second World War, it was a document that offered practical solutions to the challenges posed by core food policy issues, including rising food prices, food waste and diet-related ill health. The report would go on to inform the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs’ Food 2030 strategy, which aimed to address the long-term sustainability of the UK’s food system.

Andrew Opie, Food and Sustainability Director at the British Retail Consortium, which represents the interests of British businesses, witnessed Lang and Barling at work when they were part of the government steering group that created the Food Matters report. He credits the CFP for its creation.

“Food Matters was very much a group effort, but the CFP’s big achievement was putting forward the need for such a document in the first place,” he says. “The CFP was one of the first groups talking about the need for a more joined-up food policy strategy and arguing that food covers a lot more than just agriculture or food legislation.”
High stakes
When it comes to food policy, there is much at stake, not least for the food industry, where “big money and big vested interests” are at play, according to Lang. As he encourages government to rethink the issues around sustainable diets, big business is anticipating the potential consequences new policy could have – and using the CFP’s expertise.

“The CFP helps to identify issues and find solutions that lead to private sector initiatives or policy framework conversations,” says David Croft, Director of Quality and Technical at Waitrose. “The Centre helped us to assess the long-term sustainability of fish populations. All of our fish comes from sustainable sources, but by 2015 it will be fully third-party certified, which will ensure fish stocks are maintained in the long term. Tim’s insight into these issues and how policy might develop from them makes it easier for businesses like ours to invest large sums of money in the future.”

Navigating these choppy waters requires a steady hand, especially when the academics’ message might not be what everyone in the room wants to hear. However, those on the business side of the table say the CFP’s self-proclaimed “firm but acceptable critics” are constructive networkers. “The way they approach problems and the fact that they have personal-level dealings with many people in the industry means that they get more access than they would otherwise do,” says Opie. “Their approach helps them sell both themselves and the University.” Croft agrees. “By discussing important subjects with passion, commitment and intelligence and in ways that are relevant to their audience, Tim, Martin and David influence people very effectively.”

Having dedicated their careers to food policy issues, it is no surprise that the academics focus steadfastly on the bigger picture. Governments come and go, shaking up the policy landscape as they pass through, meaning policy changes the Centre has achieved during one political era can be reversed in the next. This happened with Food Matters: the report’s recommendations were implemented in part by the last Government but shelved under the current administration.

“There are frustrations, but the nature of policy is twist and turn,” says Barling. “It can be an incremental process much of the time. There are a lot of dead ends, but opportunities can open up again through another door. We always look at the big picture.”

Part of this bigger picture involves planning for the future and this means nurturing the next generation of food activists, many of whom go on to fill advocacy roles at NGOs, take up policy-related positions within the private sector, or continue academic research. The department welcomed 43 postgraduate students in 2013 from all over the world: three times the number who enrolled when the Centre first opened at City.

“Tim, Martin and David are the seed-bed of the next generation of well-informed food polictists,” says Opie. “They are taking the next generation forward.”

A world-class reputation
They also supervise PhD students: one of Barling’s current PhD candidates is studying urban food strategies at City as part of PUREFOOD, a Marie Curie-sponsored training programme which awarded the CFP a €250,000 grant. In 2012, he negotiated co-funding for a City Masters student to compare Australia’s National Food Plan with British policies formulated as part of Food Matters and Food 2030. It is telling that the other organisation funding her research is Australia’s national research body, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Sydney, which had been impressed by a keynote speech Barling gave at its international conference.

Such global reach and the fact that the CFP’s reputation precedes it in international policy circles, means that the Centre is a beacon for the University’s worldwide reputation.

“We have a symbiotic relationship with City,” says Barling. “We have grown with City over the years and as the University has become stronger, so have we.”

Lang agrees that the CFP found a good home at City. “The University has been fantastic. It took a risk on us 13 years ago, when food policy and the questions we were asking were seen as radical. City gave us headroom and the space to ask awkward questions. We like to think that risk has been paid back.”

Professor Andrew Jones, Dean of the University’s School of Arts & Social Sciences, certainly thinks so. “The CFP is a truly world-leading centre which goes from strength to strength,” he says. “It is no exaggeration to say that colleagues within the Centre have been responsible for developing the whole field of food policy on a global stage and have propelled City to the forefront of global policy debate in this area.”

Despite their impact on the policy landscape and their contribution to the long-term rise in interest in food matters in Britain, the academics are wary of thinking about their place in history.

“We are in no place to talk about legacy,” says Lang. “We are too focused on the future. Britain is a divided society and the food sector illustrates that we face rapidly growing rich-world hunger, a food system that’s appalling in its land use and a massive impact from diet-related diseases. I’m looking to the future. That’s why young people come to study with us from all over the world: we are asking the right questions.”

They are also inspiring non-politicians, like Warhurst, to question convention and, more importantly, to take action. “I had long had concerns about sleep-walking into an environmental disaster,” she says. “Tim boldly challenged the status quo from the stage. Bingo: the damascene moment just happened and I thought, ‘I’m not a world leader, I’m not a national champion for the environment, but I’ll have a go if no one else will’. The rest is history. I guess there was a bit of serendipity in the air that day.”

Graduates of the Centre for Food Policy have recently established an alumni group. To find out more about talks and events, join the Centre for Food Policy, City University London LinkedIn group.
In this year’s edition of Five to Watch, we meet recent graduates going places in the worlds of technology, sport, healthcare, broadcasting and entrepreneurship.

Philip Whitehall

BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Games Technology, 2011

Philip is a Software Engineer at the BBC, responsible for the development of the news website of one of the most prestigious broadcasters in the world. His career in broadcasting and web development started in 2006 when he was involved in online radio broadcasting through Radio Nintendo, where he produced live shows. He later went on to create XiinEngine, a platform for web development.

Philip's freelance work allowed him to refine his skills as a developer and his time at City was also crucial for his career. He says: “City really helped me craft my career path, thanks to the Professional Liaison Unit and the wide array of modules available. The skills I acquired opened up many job opportunities after I graduated. My degree helped me with soft skills, like interacting with people and also with critical architecting skills.”

Commenting about his future ambitions Philip says: “I want to make a big impact in either the software or broadcasting world. Both mean a lot to me and I want to be involved with these ideas at a higher level in the future.” He expects that his next big step will be to become a product manager, either within a large organisation or working independently.

Emma Barnes

BSc Speech and Language Therapy, 2012

Since leaving City, Emma has been able to combine her passion for campaigning and political influencing with her love for speech and language therapy and desire to help others. She works at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, running the Giving Voice campaign, a UK-wide initiative to raise awareness of speech and language therapy and communication difficulties.

She emphasises how important it was for her career to develop her campaigning skills through her work as a part-time officer on the Students’ Union Executive Committee. In her final year at City, she was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to the Students’ Union award and a Silver Carrot award for contribution to student experience.

Emma says: “The support that lecturers and staff at the Students’ Union gave me to combine a challenging degree with a busy Union role was invaluable in helping me to gain the skills I needed to be a campaigner.”

“Find out what you are passionate about and shout about it, use extra-curricular opportunities and get involved with everything happening at City” is Emma’s advice to City students preparing for graduation and their professional lives.
Anne Faber began her journey in food journalism when, during her time at City, she took an internship at ITV's *Saturday Cooks*. After graduating she worked at Associated Press for over two years before she decided to pursue her real passion: food journalism.

On her internship experience, she comments: “City was a great stepping stone. The internship gave me a real insight into the industry and also got me my first job. It was the perfect placement! Who could have known that, five years later, I’d have my own cooking show?”

Anne became a regular freelancer for *Time Out’s* Food & Drink section, worked for German television channels and has been writing her food blog “Anne’s Kitchen” since 2010. In 2012 she was commissioned to write a cookery book and then pitched an accompanying television programme to a broadcaster in Luxembourg. In 2013 the channel commissioned her show for two years and Anne’s ultimate dream is for the show to be adapted and broadcast to German television audiences.

Commenting on what she loves about her job, Anne says: “I love waking up every day and knowing that whatever I’m doing, I’m doing it for myself. I really enjoy the full spectrum of the creative process, from coming up with recipes to cooking, styling and photographing the final dish and writing little stories to accompany my recipes.”

Lanre Oyebanjo

*Lancaster University*

Lanre is a professional footballer who combined his degree in Mathematics and Finance, during his first year at City, with his training sessions at York City FC. In his first season the club won the FA Trophy and gained promotion to the Sky Bet League Two in a play-off final at Wembley Stadium. In June 2014 he joined League One side Crawley Town FC.

His job as a footballer involves training four times a week, competing in matches once or twice a week and, in the days leading up to a game, analysing the opposition and working on tactics and formation. Lanre says: “What I enjoy most about my job is the whole match-day experience. Running onto the pitch and hearing the fans roar gets my adrenaline pumping. This is where all the week’s training comes into action and where everything really counts.”

Completing his degree at City allowed Lanre to reinforce his abilities to be organised, disciplined and focused when taking on new challenges and achieving results. He also feels that having a degree will help him when he retires from football. Talking about his ambitions he says: “I aspire to play at the highest level possible and become the best footballer that I can be.”

Jason Anastasinis

*MSc Management, 2009*

After graduating from Cass Business School in 2009, Jason faced a challenging decision: whether to join a major company and fight his way up the corporate ladder or channel his energies and passion into building his own company. He chose the latter.

In April 2012, after a couple of years of researching the travel market and using his educational experience, he launched his online company: *TravelStaytion*. The company is a letting and holiday rental website that within its first month managed to feature more than 2,000 properties across Europe.

In the early days Jason benefited from using the incubation facilities offered by the Cass Entrepreneurship Fund. With this support, he was able to start operating his company in London and employ seven members of staff, three based in London and four in Greece. Jason’s favourite part of his job is to travel around the world, getting to know new cultures. That way, his company can offer the best service for holiday makers looking for accommodation, as well as attracting suitable property owners. “Every day feels like a trip for me and for the team. They provide the local feel for each destination we cover around the world.”
A student journey

Research into Widening Participation collated by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) points to the importance of “consistent and sustained interventions” that “start early and engage young people at different stages of their educational career.” For a student at one of the schools City works with (and there are over 150), engagement might start when he is 9 or 10, with a visit to the University’s campus. Once he enters secondary school, he might benefit from the support of a mathematics tutor to help him improve his attainment. Careers workshops, led by a City careers advisor and held in his school, could help him to identify his strengths and interests, attendance at a City Masterclass would offer insight into his chosen subject and a financial literacy workshop would help him understand the financial support available to students entering higher education. By the time he enters his final year of school, he should have the information to make a balanced, realistic decision about his future.
Fifty years ago, the Robbins Report asserted that university degrees ‘should be available to all who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so’. The Report’s recommendations heralded an era of expansion of higher education, but today, concerns remain that a student’s background can still affect his or her decision to attend university. Joanna McGarry asks what it means to widen participation in 2014.

In a darkened seminar room in the College Building, 15 captivated faces are glued to the projector screen as a thrilling car chase plays on screen and Metallica booms across the audio system. When the clip comes to an end, Dr Diana Salazar, Lecturer in Music at City, composer and sound artist, restarts it, but the music has now changed to a jaunty polka, giving the car chase an almost comical feel. Some of the students giggle, but the example has perfectly demonstrated the importance of synergy between music and visuals. The clips provoke an animated discussion of film composition and the way that music can contribute to the emotion and direction of cinematography.

The film composition workshop is one of a series of events organised as part of a Music Taster Week at City for 14 and 15 year olds and it offers just a snapshot of five days in the life of one of the hardest working teams at City. Danielle Russo, Head of Widening Participation, explains more: “We run events for students at primary and secondary schools in London. One day, we might have a group of Year six students (ages 10 to 11) visiting the University and the next might involve a Law Masterclass for Year 12 students (ages 16 to 17), led by City academics and students.” The ultimate goal of the Widening Participation team is to ensure that bright and capable students who face barriers to higher education have the resources and support they need to make an informed decisions about their future.

Overcoming barriers
The students that Danielle and her team meet confront a variety of challenges. Typically, their parents or siblings might not have attended university and they will study at a school where few students progress to higher education. These issues might be compounded by economic factors: students may come from neighbourhoods with low average incomes and they may be entitled to free school meals. ‘Looked-after’ students – those leaving the care of local authorities at the age of 18 – also benefit from Widening...
Participation support, as do students with disabilities.

In equipping these students with information about higher education, Danielle emphasises the importance of a joined-up approach. “Tutoring is a big part of what we do. City student ambassadors visit schools each week to support individuals or small groups of students in their learning.” The success of the tutoring scheme in raising academic standards is manifest: at City of London Academy Islington, 30 City mathematics tutors contributed to record success rates in 2013 GCSE results. For students, contact with a City tutor can be the first step towards greater engagement with the University’s other outreach activities (see inset box on page 22). It can also offer something less tangible: the chance to simply talk about what university is like and answer questions that will be familiar to anyone who recalls their teenage years: will I fit in? Are there other people like me? Am I clever enough?

Financial fears

Since 2012, another question has been added to this list: can I afford to go? The introduction of tuition fees of up to £9,000 for undergraduate study in England is a concern for many of the students who participate in Widening Participation initiatives. For SEO London, an organisation that works to support young people from under-represented backgrounds as they move into higher education, the key is to provide information and break down misconceptions. “In everything we do, we emphasise that barriers can be overcome,” says Nishma Chauhan, SEO Scholars Programme Manager. “So in the case of tuition fees, we share details on scholarships and bursaries and we also ensure that our Scholars understand that fees are paid back over a long period of time, once they have begun their careers.” Danielle agrees: “We emphasise that tuition fees should be one of several factors to consider when deciding whether to apply to university, but they should not be the deciding factor.” For students from low income backgrounds, organisations like SEO London and university-based teams like Danielle’s play a critical role in helping students balance their financial concerns with an awareness of the benefits of higher education and recognition of their own capacity to succeed.

Supply and demand

Of course, Widening Participation initiatives can only be effective if places are available for all students who are capable of attending university and wish to do so. This issue was at the heart of Lord Robbins’ landmark ‘Higher Education Report’ in 1963. When he began his research in 1961, just four per cent of school leavers entered university, despite the fact that increased secondary school provision in the post-war period meant that more students than ever before were “qualified by ability and attainment.” The Report emphasised the impact of educational, familial and economic backgrounds in determining which students progressed to university, roundly rejecting the argument that it was possible to “ascertain an intelligence factor unaffected by education or background.”

Robbins and City

One of the main recommendations of the Robbins Report was to remove the “artificial differences of status” between colleges, institutes and universities. Just three years after the Report’s publication, this recommendation would have profound consequences for students and staff at the Northampton College of Advanced Technology, when a Royal Charter granted it university status and it became The City University (now City University London).

For universities today, the commitment to supporting students does not end when they reach their goals and secure a place at university.

The Professional Mentoring Scheme at City has helped hundreds of students from non-traditional educational backgrounds to excel. Find out more about the Scheme on page 28.
Continuing your journey at City

City has a long-standing reputation for excellence in part-time evening and weekend courses and in 2013/14, over 4,000 people joined us to learn new professional skills and further their careers.

City’s commitment to education for business and the professions dates back to the University’s earliest days as the Northampton Institute, when it was founded to train young men and women from Clerkenwell in key skills required by the industries of the borough, from horology to domestic economy.

As City’s neighbourhood has evolved since 1894, so has its professional educational provision: with Tech City, the City of London and Gray’s Inn on our doorstep, our courses encompass business and law, computing, languages and translation. Part-time and evening students also benefit from the University’s expertise in the creative industries, with short courses in event management, film making and writing.

Short courses
City’s suite of over 120 short courses is designed with busy professionals in mind. Courses begin each term and mostly consist of ten two-hour classes, held once a week in the evening. Some courses include weekend visits, or take place entirely at weekends. Many subjects, including languages and computing, are offered at several levels, allowing students to progress over several terms.

Continuing Professional Development and Executive Education
Through City’s Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Executive Education provision, those working in the legal, healthcare, business and translation sectors can develop and broaden their professional skills, benefiting from the expertise of academic staff at the University. Students may undertake modules on a stand-alone basis, or accumulate credit towards an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

In the School of Health Sciences, short CPD courses and workshops cover a broad range of topics in the fields of nursing, radiography, midwifery, optometry, health management and leadership and speech, language and communication. The City Law School offers a broad range of courses and skills workshops and it also regularly develops bespoke in-house training for companies and organisations. Cass Executive Education employs a variety of innovative learning methods in its provision of research-led professional education in business, finance and management.

"I have been inspired and motivated, I have learnt to carve out moments for writing and my imagination has been awakened. I loved this course!"
Claire Green, Writing for Children, 2013

For more information about short courses, please visit www.cityshortcourses.com.
For information about Continuing Professional Development courses in Law, Health and Translation, visit www.city.ac.uk/courses/cpd.
To find out more about Cass Executive Education, visit www.cass.city.ac.uk.
Learning to lead

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, leaders and leadership in the business world came under greater scrutiny than ever before. Jeremy Hazlehurst explores how innovative approaches to education at Cass Business School are equipping today’s leaders for a dramatically different landscape.
Arguably the most extraordinary moment in the whole of the financial crisis that exploded five years ago came in the House of Commons Select Committee of 10th February 2009. MPs asked Sir Tom McKillip and Fred Goodwin, the former chairman and CEO of The Royal Bank of Scotland, and the leaders of HBOS, Andy Hornby and Lord Stevenson, whether they – the men who had presided over the collapse of both banks – had any formal banking qualifications. Between them, they did not have a single such qualification. Given their seniority, the revelation prompted incredulity among politicians and the wider public. This moment, perhaps more than any other, cemented the idea that the crisis was caused by a failure of leadership.

Almost all business disasters can be traced to a leadership problem. When BP spilled billions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, Chief Executive Tony Heyward got the blame, and the sack. When it transpired that Enron was crooked, CEO Jeff Skilling and founder Kenneth Lay were found to be responsible. Windows’ recent poor performance has been blamed on boss Steve Ballmer and over at Apple all eyes are on CEO Tim Cook. Can he fill Steve Jobs’ shoes?

When things go wrong people rarely blame a firm’s culture, or the shareholders’ unreasonable expectations. They blame the leader. And when things go right, they put the credit squarely on the shoulder of the leader.

Leadership matters and it’s no surprise that it is central to research and education at Cass Business School and other institutions around the world. But how have the lessons of the 2008 crisis affected leadership education?
How can business schools do their bit to make sure this generation of leaders avoids the disasters of the past? Can they become part of the solution and not part of the problem (see inset box)?

**Values and culture**

The first way to look at these questions is to look at the type of leadership that is taught. According to Professor Cliff Oswick, Head of the Faculty of Management and Deputy Dean of Cass Business School, leadership education has changed in two main ways. “First, there is more values-based leadership, which is about authentic leadership; understanding what’s right and wrong and doing the right thing,” he says. He adds that this has “a strong ethical strand to it and aims to set strong ethical lines and ensure the leader adheres to those values.”

The second change is that people are thinking more deeply about the notion of leadership and how it should be undertaken. There is a move away from the idea of “great leaders” and “rock-star CEOs.” Those charismatic leaders who make all the decisions are hard to challenge.

Cass Business School is focusing on “leadership rather than leaders,” says Oswick. Different types of decisions might be best made in different ways. If a budget needs to be cut, the boss might have to do that alone. But when it comes to allocating resources, everyone can, and should, be involved. “So it’s a shared responsibility, rather than a single responsibility,” Oswick says.

“Engaging a broader range of stakeholders means higher-quality decisions. We are seeing a move towards more democratic and participative forms of leadership,” he adds. Novelties such as internal crowdsourcing are taking off in some industries and hierarchies are being replaced by networks. In future the best leaders might well “fly under the radar, because they are not looking for attention. They are engaged with the business,” says Oswick.

This raises another interesting line of enquiry: are leaders actually all that important? And were they ever as important as the hype suggested? Professor Bobby Banerjee, Professor of Management at Cass, says that “the more we talk about individual wrong-doers or do-gooders, the more we obscure what was systematically wrong” during the years leading up to the financial crisis, meaning among other things “the short-termism and the obsession with growth at any cost.” He adds that the whole idea of the leader is a Western one. There is, he says, a “guru mentality” around the usually white, usually male CEO that is almost cultish and the dominant business culture tends to ignore complex things like a firm’s philosophy, its management structure, the demands of shareholders or even whether its products are any good. Instead, there is a tendency to simply attribute credit or blame to the figurehead at the top, no matter what the truth.

Leaders are less important than the cultures they work in, goes this line of enquiry and many of the failed leaders who emerged during the crisis were at the head of macho organisations with a leadership style that was both autocratic and hands-off, meaning they would tell people what to do, then pay little attention to what they subsequently did.

All of this means that some business schools have not produced managers, but rather people who can use models. There is a need to ensure that leaders understand the ethical dimension of their jobs, which is one reason why Banerjee and others were asked to set up the ETHOS Centre for Responsible Enterprise at Cass, whose aim is to encourage “responsibility, sustainability and good governance” among business leaders.

**Part of the problem?**

Post-2008, many argued that business schools, in placing too much emphasis on the importance of making money for shareholders, bore a share of the blame for the financial crisis. Such an emphasis, the argument followed, had led business leaders to abandon their scruples in the headlong pursuit of profit, encouraging them to ignore the messy realities of the world in favour of the bottom line. Articles in the *Harvard Business Review*, the *New York Times* and *The Times* shone an unprecedented spotlight on the role and mission of business schools.

**Delivering innovation**

The second way to address the question of how leadership education has changed is to ask how the courses are actually being delivered. If business schools are to educate effective 21st century leaders, they have a responsibility to ensure that the education is to hand when it is most needed, which is why at Cass Business School, executive education is increasingly being delivered in a “blended” way, with a mix of face-to-face, on-site courses, and remote, technology-enhanced learning.

This allows busy professionals who might not be able to spend time thoughtfully working their way through a long course to still dip into business education when they need to, allowing them to stay up-to-date with best practice and new thinking.

“Executives benefit from moving to a blended format,” says Dr JoEllyn Prouty McLaren, CEO of Executive Education at Cass Business School. “But the trick is to find the right approach for the right experience and the right outcome at the right time.” But that is not the same for everybody. “The willingness to do things virtually drops the further you go up the hierarchy in the organisational chart,” Prouty McLaren points out.

So what can be done remotely, and what is best done face-to-face?

“Enterprise activities and preparatory work are typically acceptable for online activity; while relationship-building and discussions tend to be reserved for face-to-face,” says Prouty McLaren. “However, if organisations are more technically savvy, they can use new learning platforms to facilitate discussions and the socialisation of content virtually.”

Blended approaches, says Prouty McLaren, are most in demand from “talent development-driven organisations.” She goes on: “They know intuitively that development is one of the most critical talent magnets an employer has. The more they can offer great learning and development to the entire organisation, the better their employer brand will be and the better their talent will be aligned.”

Leadership has always been one of the most important fields of education and research in business and the failures of recent years have spurred new recognition of the critical role that business schools play. Understanding the nature, promise and limitations of leadership is critical, but research is just part of the solution. As the Cass experience shows, innovative approaches to learning, which allow busy leaders to access knowledge and benefit from academic expertise, is equally key, if tomorrow’s leaders are to be a better-rounded and more thoughtful group of men and women.
City’s Professional Mentoring Scheme is one of the University’s outstanding success stories: in the 2013/14 academic year, over 325 students benefited from relationships with mentors united by their commitment to support, encourage and inspire. Here, we talk to Professional Mentoring Leader Thalia Anagnostopoulou and overleaf, we meet four of the Scheme’s stars.

Ask a group of mentors why they give their time to the City Professional Mentoring Scheme, now in its 12th year, and you should be prepared to receive an array of answers. For some, the deciding factor might be a desire to help students facing a highly competitive employment market, in which professional skills and knowledge are increasingly important. For others, the chance to share the lessons they have learnt over the course of their career might be what appeals: many emphasise the difference they feel a mentor would have made to their own experience of university. Others still might emphasise how much they learn and gain from the mentoring process and from the students with whom they are partnered.

There are, then, probably as many answers as there are mentors. What is apparent, however, is the degree of loyalty that mentors feel towards the Scheme and the belief they have in its capacity to develop and empower students. There is no greater indication of this than the fact that so many mentors return, year after year. Of the 312 mentors in 2013/14, 54 per cent have been involved in previous years. As Thalia explains, many mentors consistently go beyond the commitment they make to their mentee:

“I think mentors feel quite a connection to the University and to each cohort of students, not just their own mentee. We see mentors interacting through our social media channels, attending our networking events and often employing students from the Scheme: their involvement makes a huge difference to its success.”

In 2013/14, over 60 per cent of mentors were City graduates, but the role of City’s Alumni Network does not end there. Indeed, the expansion of the Professional Mentoring Scheme – which has seen the number of pairs grow from just 20 in 2007 to a projected 500 in 2014/15 – would have been impossible without the financial support of donors to City’s Future Fund. “In 2012, we were able to bring Taryn on board thanks to donations to the City Future Fund,” says Thalia. “This year, we piloted a postgraduate strand, which we plan to develop in 2014/15. We’ve also been able to offer more rigorous support to mentors and mentees through their journey, which I’m delighted about”.

For more information about the City Future Fund, which provides funding for the Mentoring Scheme, please turn to page 14.
Kerina Richards

BSc (Hons) Psychology, 2009

Kerina is a Financial Adjudicator at the Financial Ombudsman Service. At present, she is responsible for resolving financial complaints relating to the mis-selling of payment protection insurance (PPI). During her time at City, Kerina was part of an early cohort of mentees in the Mentoring Scheme. In 2014 she became a mentor for the first time.

“When I started at City I wanted to become a clinical psychologist, but as time went on, I found that I was more drawn to the business world. Participating in the Mentor Scheme as a mentee was transformative: my mentor helped me clarify my interests, she gave me the courage to change direction and she emphasised the importance of networking.”

“I graduated from City when the economy was weak and many companies weren’t hiring recent graduates. Initially I worked in sales, ultimately managing a team of 20 people, before starting my current job in 2013. I have packed in a lot since I graduated: that was part of the reason I felt I could give something back to the Mentoring Scheme and current students.”

“When I returned to City as a mentor, I was amazed at how much the Scheme had grown. I think that the Scheme works really well in bridging the gap between university and professional life and helping students stand out as they enter the employment market.”

Steven Adams

BSc (Hons) Mechanical Engineering, 1978

Steven is a consultant who advises organisations on subjects including business strategy, process re-engineering and quality planning. Until 2011, he worked at the Ford Motor Company in a variety of executive roles around the world. Steven’s relationship with Ford began at City, when he gained industry experience there as part of his ‘sandwich’ degree.

“When I left Ford after nearly 35 years, I looked around for projects that I had previously not had time to do. An email from the City Alumni Relations team inviting people to join the Mentoring Scheme came at just the right time: I replied asking whether I might be of use and within minutes a response of ‘yes!’ landed in my inbox.”

“I have mentored four Engineering students in the last three years and I’m now proud to consider each of them as friends. I’ve watched them develop in different ways and I am so pleased to have played a small part in that process.”

“Today’s graduates are entering a competitive marketplace and the engineering sector is no exception. Participating in the Mentoring Scheme allows students to develop the attributes that will help them stand out in a crowd and have the confidence to aim high.”
Alla Lapidus

**BSc (Hons) Business Computing Systems, 1986**

Alla is a Director of Moonlight Media, a public relations agency that specialises in financial trading and technology. After graduating from City, Alla worked in the development of trading room applications before moving into technology product management, marketing and public relations. She joined Moonlight Media in 1999.

“My degree at City was quite technical, but at an early stage in my career, I realised that I enjoyed working with people. My company is immersed in the world of financial technology, so my grounding in that sector is important, but my day-to-day job is all about people and relationships.”

“I have mentored five students, all of whom have been very different. I’ve noticed that they often don’t realise how much they have achieved already and what they are capable of achieving. A big part of the mentoring role as I see it is building confidence.”

“One of the reasons I became a mentor is because I think graduates today face real challenges: when I was a student, good grades were often enough to secure a graduate job, but now students have to juggle their studies and home life with the pressures of getting internships and preparing multiple applications. Whether it is helping them to build their professional networks or polishing a cover letter, I hope that I can help them deal with some of these stresses.”

Laurence Jones

**MA Property Valuation and Law, 2005**

Laurence completed his MA at Cass Business School part-time while working for niche retail agency practice Dalgleish. He has subsequently worked for a number of leading global property advisors including CBRE, CBRE Global Investors, ING REIM and Picton Capital Limited where he is a Senior Asset Manager.

“I am not sentimental by nature, but the mentees I have worked with have, without exception, been superb: dedicated, ambitious, gracious and hard-working.”

“There is no fixed formula for success and every mentor/mentee relationship is different. Some mentees have a very clear set of tangible objectives. Others simply want a sounding board and some direction on where their future may lie.”

“Time, encouragement and honest feedback can have profound results. All of the mentees have worked hard, grown in self belief and achieved the things they set out to do. There is no better reward for helping them along the way.”
The giCentre at City has worked with partners including Transport for London, the Ministry of Defence and Nokia to help them make sense of their data through interactive, creative and elegant information visualisations. The giCentre recently turned its attention to energy, allowing one leading supplier to prepare for an approaching data revolution in the sector.

The old adage maintains that “a picture paints a thousand words”, but for Professor of Visualisation Jason Dykes, part of the challenge for the emerging discipline of information visualisation is showing just how powerful an image can be. “When we are trying to make sense of data, we are more accustomed to dealing with numbers. However, a visual representation of data can often be much more successful than a set of numbers in helping us recognise patterns, place data into a wider context of time and space and solve problems.” In a world where humanity now produces as much raw data in 48 hours as it managed to accumulate in its entire history to 2003, visualisation represents a powerful tool for governments, companies and individuals alike.

A collaborative approach
A recent partnership with E.ON, one of the UK’s leading energy providers, provides an example of how the giCentre’s techniques help businesses establish what they can do with their data. The UK Government has committed to installing smart meters, which give real-time feedback on energy usage to users and suppliers,
Global reach

As befits a group of academics whose backgrounds are predominantly in the field of geography, the giCentre is embedded within a global network of data visualisation experts. The E.ON project was undertaken in partnership with the IMDEA Energy Institute in Spain and the giCentre regularly collaborates with other leading data visualisation groups in countries including France, Germany, Japan, the United States and Australia. In March 2014, the giCentre was awarded €500,000 of EU funding to explore the potential for the use of visualisation in criminal intelligence analysis, part of a wider €13 million VALCRI project involving 18 other European partners.

The VALCRI project – which will involve mapping data of different types and from different sources to help intelligence analysts develop hypotheses and establish narratives – sits alongside the E.ON project in the giCentre stable is an indication of the applicability of visualisation techniques across the breadth of human activity. Some of the giCentre’s best-known work uses Transport for London’s data on the Cycle Hire Scheme to map travel patterns in the capital, while other projects have explored voter bias in London local elections and involved working with the Ministry of Defence to help the military understand local populations (Human Terrain Analysis) through visualisations. Indeed, the giCentre’s work is by no means limited to human activity; recent projects, led by Dr Aidan Slingsby, involved collaboration with animal ecologists to design and implement visualisation techniques to understand the daily movements of seabirds and the migratory characteristics of geese as these birds move through time and space.

For Dykes, who will chair IEEE Information Visualisation, the pre-eminent conference for visualisation researchers and practitioners at the end of 2014, some of the “big questions” dominating the discipline at present relate to how visualisation can reflect uncertainty: both the measured and immeasurable unknowns present in data sets that can be so key to our interpretation and use of data. There is also increasing interest in personal visualisation, with the advent of smart watches and other trackers that can monitor our lives, from our sleep to our blood pressure, heart rate and physical activity, presenting new challenges in how we convey ever greater volumes of data in our daily activity.

To find out more about the giCentre, visit www.gicentre.net. To watch a video of the E.ON visualisation prototypes, visit www.city.ac.uk/2014citymagazine/gicentre.
Mumbai calling

The Department of Culture & Creative Industries has been educating in the field of cultural and arts management for 40 years. Alumna Shireen Gandhy (MA Arts Administration, 1987) talks to Professor Andy Pratt of the Department about her time at City and her work as Director of Gallery Chemould Prescott Road in Mumbai.

CONTRIBUTOR:

Professor Andy Pratt is an internationally renowned scholar in the field and a policy advisor to UNESCO. He joined the Department of Culture & Creative Industries at City in 2013.
Above: Installation view of Citizen Artist: forms of address.
This image and images 1 to 5 on this page show a series of five exhibitions held during 2013 and 2014 to celebrate fifty years of Gallery Chemould. All images reproduced courtesy of Chemould Prescott Road. The image on the right: Road, Mumbai.

Gallery Chemould was founded in 1963 by Kekoo and Khorsheed Gandhy and over the course of its fifty-year history, it has represented major artists in India’s modernist and contemporary art movements. In 1988, following her year at City, Shireen Gandhy joined her parents at the Gallery. Under her leadership, Gallery Chemould has focused particularly on showcasing the work of young emerging artists with experimental and interdisciplinary approaches. In 2007, the Gallery moved to the expansive space shown in these images.

What is your unique quality as a gallery?

We promote art and artists, rather like agents promote writers, but more so, as galleries act as an indicator of value. It’s important to stress how we place our artists more and more in significant collections: not just private but also public collections, which have the status of being purchased for the state. At the end of the day this is what counts most – “what museum collects a gallery’s artist?” or “what museum exhibitions has a gallery’s artist had?”

As an owner/director of a private gallery, what does your job entail?

“Finding” the right artist that fits your gallery programme is the first step. Then comes the relationship between artist and gallery, which is almost as binding as a marriage contract – not just in terms of an actual paper contract, but in terms of the give-and-take that a gallery and an artist have with each other. Each artist plays a part in the development of a gallery programme. Exhibition planning, which involves a curatorial, advisory role can take a long time to develop. Then comes the actual exhibition planning – reaching out to the press, designing the brochure, designing the exhibition and finally setting up and presenting the exhibition.

On the other side you then have the “marketing” of the show: just in the way you develop and build artists and develop and work with collectors. If artists have fragile egos that need to be looked after, so do collectors. The gallery becomes a mediator between the two. Developing and communicating with a fantastic database is of essence when running a gallery – it becomes the spinal cord of the business in many ways. Apart from that, keeping the gallery global also means keeping the website active, contemporary and accessible: that is a very important part of the gallery activity.

What were some of the highlights of your year at City and how did the MA help you?

When I was a postgraduate student, one of the advantages was the student community: there were people who were interested in dance, music, theatre. It exposed us at the start of our careers to professions were very different and had very similar issues. What I found to be an invaluable experience was that the course allowed and helped us to gain secondments in that year. It forced one to get out and look for internships.

Working with a private gallery in London for a month, and then in the Whitechapel Art Gallery, opened my eyes to the many options of how I could proceed. Also being in London was the most exciting thing in the world. I took full advantage of it. I visited every show there was to see, I went to openings when it was possible, connected with people and even after 25 years I still maintain those contacts.

What are some of the challenges of running an art gallery in Mumbai? Is your work changing with growing wealth and an expanding middle class?

Our audience, regardless of social class, has not grown up in a museum-going environment: the large (and growing) middle class are not necessarily eager consumers of any form of art. The population is massive but the audience is extremely niche, extremely select and despairingly small!

That said, in a city like Mumbai, the private gallery scene is really vibrant. There are at least 11 very serious galleries that follow a programme of their own, have an identity and could exist on par with many other galleries in the world. This helps in the general cultural climate of the city: on a given Saturday afternoon an art enthusiast has several options of where to go and most of them are concentrated within a certain district.

The galleries also work closely with each other, so that we are able to draw more audiences and create an atmosphere that nurtures and enhances the prospects of art in the city. We work together in creating longer working evenings by sending joint invitations. We take on initiatives which invite scholars and speakers to educate our collectors.

Visit Chemould Prescott Road’s website at www.gallerychemould.com. Find out more about City’s Department of Culture & Creative Industries at www.city.ac.uk/cci.
My year at City

While 1st January might be the time for champagne and resolutions, at City, the new year begins in September, when corridors, cafés and lecture theatres come to life after the long summer break. Here, a current student and member of staff share thoughts on their years at City.

Daniel Cox, Senior Admissions Officer
I work within a team that handles applications for undergraduate courses: we are the referees in the enormous contest of over 20,000 applicants vying for just under 2,000 places.
Between September and January of each year we receive the majority of undergraduate applications. Just as most people are starting to wind down for Christmas, everyone in our office is getting busier! Between January and March, I work through prospective students’ applications and assess whether they have met or are likely to meet the University’s entry requirements. Working with academic colleagues, I look at grades or predicted grades, but I also consider personal statements, work or voluntary experience and references.
After Easter, I’m often out of the office, supporting colleagues in Undergraduate Marketing and Recruitment as they attend fairs and conferences for prospective students. We sometimes have to field strange questions: two of my all-time favourites were: “Is City University London in London?” and “Do midwives get tips after a baby is born?”

Anna Summersall, MSc Speech and Language Therapy
My first year at City as a postgraduate student has involved juggling a full timetable of lectures and tutorials, clinical placements, Widening Participation work and volunteering.

The nerves I felt as I moved from Newcastle to London in September were quickly forgotten as I embarked on a three week intensive biomedical science course. Though it was a baptism of fire, the course was also a good opportunity to meet my fellow students: when Welcome Week finally arrived at the end of September, I had already made some friends and we attended some of the Students’ Union events together. I’ve also got to know London with them, with trips to museums, nights out to pop-up cinemas and foodie excursions to Borough Market.

Once Welcome Week was out of the way, we settled into our weekly timetables. Four days a week, we have lectures, tutorials and masterclasses run by academic staff and therapists and on the remaining day, we attend our clinical placements. Attending placement from the very start of the course has been really helpful: my confidence has increased and the integration between theory and practice also means that I find myself applying material from my lectures to my work in the clinical setting.

Though my degree is intense, I wanted to continue with some of the extra-curricular activity I was involved in as an undergraduate. So at the start of the year, I applied to become a Widening Participation ambassador. Since then, I’ve been involved in welcoming primary and secondary school students visiting City and helping out with group discussions and activities. I really enjoy it and the experience of working with young people is useful for me as a therapist. I’m also a volunteer with the Stroke Association and the Giving Voice campaign.

After the Easter holidays, the focus shifted from lectures and placements to preparing for exams, which take place in May and June. This is definitely the most challenging part of the year: thoughts of the summer are keeping me going through long days in the library!

By the end of August, Clearing is over and I begin to prepare for the arrival and registration of new students. Just as Welcome Week winds down, the first batch of new UCAS forms arrive and the cycle starts again.
Over to you

We would love to hear your thoughts on this year’s City Magazine, your memories of life at City and news of your life since graduation.

We are also always keen to hear from alumni willing to share their experiences with current and prospective students or interested in acting as alumni group coordinators.

Please contact us using the postal address, email address or telephone number detailed below.

If you would like to provide feedback on the Magazine and help us to plan future editions, please complete our short survey by visiting www.city.ac.uk/2014citymagazine/feedback.

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Food fighters
City academics setting the global food policy agenda

Transforming healthcare through biomedical engineering. Leadership education after the crisis. Stars of City’s Professional Mentoring Scheme.