Wonder women

The extraordinary courage of Syrian journalist Zaina Erhaim. Plus: Professor Dame Wendy Hall, Jaz Rabadia MBE and other inspiring stories of City’s female staff and alumnae.
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**City Magazine 2016**  
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Cover star Zaina Erhaim, pictured in Aleppo, Syria; City Law School alumnus and former chemistry tutor Andrew Lomas; Princess Anne, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, the long-serving Chancellor of the University of London; City academics Professor Daniel Wilsher and Dr Iosif Kovras.
Welcome

These are exciting times for City. Results from the National Student Survey (NSS) show that City is now the top university in London for undergraduate student satisfaction. Over the last three years, we have had the largest increase in undergraduate satisfaction of any UK university.

Our estate is also transformed. We now have the largest student sports facility in central London in CitySport on Goswell Road and our students are benefitting from state-of-the-art lecture theatres, some of which are underground, making the very best use of our space.

And the entrance to the University on Northampton Square is being dramatically remodelled, refurbished and extended so that it will be lighter and more welcoming to our students and guests. We expect the new entrance to open in the autumn.

According to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, we have doubled the proportion of our total academic staff producing world-leading or internationally excellent research to 40 per cent. And later this year, City will join the University of London federation, an elite group of universities with a global outlook. If you haven’t been back for some time, why not pay us a visit? You will be impressed!

We have for the first time been ranked in the top 20 (and 4th in London) in the Guardian University Guide 2017; while The Complete University Guide 2017 recently ranked City the top university in London for student satisfaction. The Financial Times European Business School Rankings list Cass Business School MBA courses among the top 40 in the world.

On a more disappointing note, the vote in June for the UK to leave the European Union came as a shock to the vast majority of us at City and was profoundly disturbing to our many staff, students and alumni who hail from EU countries. We would like to offer them our heartfelt support during this difficult time of national transition.

It appears negotiations on the terms of the UK’s exit will proceed gradually, so there should be plenty of time for City to raise issues of concern and influence debate. Higher education is a UK success story and City is determined to ensure that our collective voice is heard when difficult political decisions are being made. For the weeks and months ahead it is very much ‘business as usual’ for City and we will stay focused on our purpose: transforming the lives of our students, creating new knowledge, supporting business and the professions and contributing to the global good of society.

City confirms its commitment to its European staff, students, alumni, colleagues and partners as it seeks to influence positively future policies and decisions relating to the UK’s exit from the EU. We will be in touch to let you know how you can help in this process. One immediate opportunity is to support efforts to reassure students that London remains a welcoming city through the @studylondon Twitter account and using #LondonisOpen.

This edition of City Magazine brings you up to date with many of the other exciting things happening at City. Please make sure we have your email address so you can receive our regular monthly updates on developments and information on events you might wish to attend. Hopefully we will see you at one of them.

City’s response to the EU vote

The University has provided detailed advice for staff, current students and prospective students on its website at www.city.ac.uk/eu-statement

City in numbers

City’s Alumni Office is now in contact with over 130,000 former students in 202 countries

87% of current students indicated their satisfaction with their experience at City through the 2015 National Student Survey (City’s best ever result)

74% student participation rate in the National Student Survey (again the highest City has ever achieved)

Between 2012 and 2016 over £130M has been invested in City’s estate
The past 12 months rank among the most significant in City’s recent history, with a knighthood for the Vice-Chancellor, the announcement that City is to join the University of London, a best-ever NSS result and *Guardian* ranking, continued estate improvements and an Oscar-winning alumnus.

Knighthood for the Vice-Chancellor

City University London’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Paul Curran, has been honoured with a knighthood in the 2016 New Year Honours for his wide-ranging achievements in higher education.

Sir Paul received his knighthood from Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace in May. He said: “The knighthood is a great honour, not only for me but for all of City’s staff, students, alumni, partners and friends. “The investiture proved to be an amazing and a profoundly humbling experience. I am immensely grateful for the life-changing effect that higher education had on me, for the encouragement of my many colleagues and for the support of my wife and daughter, who have been with me every step of the way.”

Sir Paul is a transformational university leader who has used his commitment to academic excellence to improve the quality of higher education at three universities. He was a pioneer in satellite Earth observation as a NASA research scientist, an academic geographer and an adviser to the European Space Agency. He served for many years as a member of the Natural Environment Research Council and chaired its Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. He is a former Chair of the Higher Education Funding Council for England Workforce Report and member of the Quality Assurance Agency Board. He is currently President of the Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry Society and Chair of the Review Body on Doctors’ and Dentists’ Remuneration, the Universities and Colleges Employers Association and The Conversation UK.

“IT’s been a real joy receiving so many letters, cards and emails from people,” said Sir Paul. “Some have been really touching.”

Among the first to offer congratulations were Rob Woodward, City’s Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council and Alderman the Lord Mountevans, Lord Mayor of London and Chancellor of the University.

Woodward said: “I know that my colleagues on Council and across City will join me in congratulating Sir Paul on this prestigious recognition. City University London is being transformed under Sir Paul’s leadership. In the past few years we have doubled the proportion of our staff producing world-leading and internationally excellent research, modernised our estate and increased the satisfaction of our students by more than any other university in the country.”

Alderman the Lord Mountevans said: “I am so thrilled that our Vice-Chancellor has been honoured in this way. Sir Paul personifies a commitment to excellence, professionalism and service that are the hallmark of both our great University and the City of London.”
Alumni and staff honoured

- A full list of City staff, alumni and honorary graduates recognised in the 2016 New Year Honours and Queen’s Birthday Honours.
- **Knighthoods:** Professor Paul Curran, Vice-Chancellor; Harvey McGrath (Honorary Graduate, 2007), British business executive and philanthropist; Alan Yarrow, former Chancellor and Lord Mayor of London.
- **Damehood:** Heather Rabbatts (Honorary Graduate, 1999), lawyer, businesswoman and broadcaster.
- **CBE:** Commissioner Adrian Leppard QPM (MBA, 2000), former Commissioner of the City of London Police; Jack Morris (Honorary Graduate, 2007), Chairman of the Business Design Centre Group.
- **OBE:** Maree Barnett (BSc Nursing and Midwifery, 1996), Head of Emerging Infections at the Department of Health; Pim (Pamela) Baxter (MA Arts Administration, 1990), Deputy Director of the National Portrait Gallery; Professor Susan Gathercole (PhD, 1983), Director of the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at the Medical Research Council; Professor Helen Odell-Miller (MPhil Music Therapy, 1989), Professor of Music Therapy and Director of the Music Therapy Research Centre at Anglia Ruskin University; Cedric Wake (MSc Shipping, Trade and Finance 1989), Chief Executive of the Nautical Institute; Sarah Wood (Honorary Graduate, 2016), Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive at Unruly.
- **MBE:** Bradley Hemmings (MA Arts Administration, 1987), Artistic Director of Greenwich and Docklands International Festival; David Hong (MSc Clinical Optometry, 1998), an optometrist; Janet Leach (MSc Voluntary Sector Management, 2015), Head of Disabled Children’s Services for the London Borough of Enfield; Helen Marriage (Dip Arts Administration, 1987), Director of the Artichoke charity; Carmel McConnell (MBA, 1993), founder of the Magic Breakfast charity; Sarah Munro (PG Dip Prof Dev [Cultural Leadership] WBL, 2009), Director of the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; Jaz Rabadia (BEng Mechanical Engineering, 2006; MSc Energy and Environmental Technology and Economics, 2009), Senior Manager of Energy and Initiatives at Starbucks.

City scores best-ever NSS result and *Guardian* ranking

Results from the 2015 National Student Survey (NSS) show that City is now the top university in London for student satisfaction*. Over the last three years, it has had the largest increase in student satisfaction of any UK university.

The NSS result helped City to be ranked 18th (and 4th in London) in the *Guardian University Guide 2017*. The leap from 37th place last year makes City the largest climber in this year’s top 20 and positions the University for the first time as a ‘top 20’ UK university.

The NSS is a census of nearly half a million final year undergraduate students across the UK. Results are publicly available to prospective students to help them make informed choices of where and what to study.

The overall satisfaction rating for City was 87 per cent, the highest score the University has achieved since the results of the first survey were published in 2005 and a 4 per cent increase on last year’s result.

Commenting on the results, Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Paul Curran said: “This is a tremendous result for City and a welcome reward for the hard work and dedication of our academic and professional staff. We have transformed City and the first cohorts of students to experience that transformation have given their opinions. It is a particular pleasure to see so many of our courses achieving satisfaction rates of more than 90 per cent and being so highly ranked within the sector.”

The *Guardian’s* league tables rank universities according to: spending per student; staff-to-student ratio; graduate career prospects; required entry qualifications; ‘value-added’, which compares entry qualifications with final degree results; and how satisfied final year students are with their courses, based on results from the NSS.

*For the average of questions 1-21.
Improving City’s estate

The University has made significant investment in its estate in recent years and 2016 is no exception with major building works currently underway in Northampton Square.

The Main Entrance and Lecture Theatre project, which began in May 2015 and is set to be completed in late autumn this year, involves the remodelling, refurbishment and extension of the ground floor and Level 1 of the University Building, along with the introduction of a new 240-seat lecture theatre.

The primary objectives of the Main Entrance project are to improve the entrance experience, functionality and visual appearance of the University, to enhance access and circulation and to provide a space to meet and share ideas. The new ground level entrance will be open and welcoming and will connect Northampton Square to Spencer Street, improving the University’s relationship with the surrounding areas.

Dr Matthew Shipton, Communications Manager, Property and Facilities, said: “When complete, this development will create a striking and accessible new heart for the University, linking our new underground lecture theatres to an inviting reception area as well as providing a large pavilion-style exhibition space.”

Additionally a new amenity project in Level 1 of the Tait Building will introduce several new student-facing facilities, including new spaces for clubs and societies, a multi-faith area, social/study space and a new restaurant. This important project will also feature a landscaped courtyard and improved access through the Tait Building to Goswell Road. The project will be delivered in phases, with the restaurant area set to be the first to open next year.

Last year also saw the completion of the Ashby Street Optometry Clinics Project, which formed a key element in the consolidation of the School of Health Sciences at Northampton Square which was formerly spread across several sites. The impressive new clinics provide a space for final year Optometry students to dispense contact lenses and spectacles to individuals with visual impairments.

New name, new logo

City will join the University of London (UoL) in September 2016. This is an exciting moment for the University and City Magazine acknowledges this milestone in City’s long history with a special feature on p26.

Joining the UoL requires City to change its name and, as a consequence, update its logo. Director of Marketing and Communications Tim Longden offered the following insights into City’s reworked branding: “As we started thinking about joining the UoL federation and the fact that we would be changing our name, I think there was an assumption that we would simply insert the word ‘of’ into our existing logo. However, as marketers we were keen to think about this from a strategic and stakeholder perspective, take matters back to basics and rethink our whole approach.

“We realised as we talked to our students, our alumni and others, that the values conveyed by the existing logo, especially around quality and heritage, were recognised and valued. What was missing was a ‘big City impact’. We rebalanced the logo with ‘City’ as its primary element because we are, to many people, simply ‘City’.

“This took us in the direction of a more square-shaped logo which, on balance, was generally felt to have more impact and flexibility. We also took the opportunity to raise the profile of the ‘Est 1894’ element of the logo, which we introduced relatively recently but which has been very well received. Finally, with some magic applied by our Graphic Designer Jon Appleyard, we arrived at our wonderful new logo.”
City alumnus wins Oscar

A graduate who composed the music for the short film Stutterer is celebrating after the production won an Oscar. Nico Casal, who completed an MA Music (Composing for Moving Images) in 2013, saw the film named Best Live Action Short Film at the 2016 Academy Awards in Hollywood.

The film explores the challenging experiences of a young man with a severe speech impediment. Casal said: “We are still pinching ourselves. I feel very grateful and lucky to experience something like this.”

The City alumnus composed his score to communicate the thoughts of the film’s protagonist, which they were not able to express through speech. “The story is about a guy with a stutter so the music has to express what he can’t say with words. The music has to make you feel what he is feeling, but in a very subtle way. Instrumentation-wise, I use piano and strings mixed with electronic pads, supporting the technology side of the story.”

Casal said the Masters course he completed at City helped him to learn about the music industry and develop his skills. “Studying at City helped me to improve my composition and technical skills a lot,” he said. “It was very useful to understand how the industry and the ‘real world’ work and I learned from both my lecturers and my classmates. The environment was very creative and collaborative.”

Dr Miguel Mera, Head of the Department of Music at City, described the graduate’s score as “beautiful” and said that it was “a thoroughly deserved win for a great film”.

Another alumnus Adam Benzine (MA Magazine Journalism, 2010) was also nominated for an Oscar. His documentary, Claude Lanzmann: Spectres of the Shoah, was among five films shortlisted in the Best Documentary Short category.

And rounding off a hugely impressive year in film for City alumni, filmmaker and sound designer Chris Reading (BMus, 2006; MA Music, 2007), saw his directorial debut, the sci-fi thriller Somnus, sold and distributed by Epic Pictures and featured at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

Alumna wins Orwell Prize for Journalism

Iona Craig, a freelance journalist and City alumna, has won the prestigious Orwell Prize for Journalism. Craig, who completed a Journalism BA in 2010, was recognised for her reporting of the evolving conflict in Yemen and was selected ahead of more than 100 other entrants.

The Orwell Prize is Britain’s most prestigious award for political writing. Every year, prizes are awarded to writers in book and journalism categories who come closest to George Orwell’s ambition to “make political writing into an art”. The award was jointly presented to Craig and Gideon Rachman, Chief Foreign Affairs Columnist at the Financial Times, at a ceremony in London on Thursday 26th May.

Professor Suzanne Franks, incoming Head of the Department of Journalism and Head of Undergraduate Journalism at City, said: “We are extremely proud of Iona and I would like to congratulate her on winning yet another award for her outstanding reporting from Yemen. Being selected from a huge and talented field for the Orwell Prize puts Iona in very illustrious company. It is a wonderful recognition of her brave and original reporting of a story that is all too often overlooked.”

Richard Blair, George Orwell’s son, presented each winner with a specially designed hand-made trophy. They will share the £3,000 prize.

Iona completed her degree at City after more than a decade in the horseracing industry and has been a freelance foreign correspondent in Yemen for the last five years.

During her time in the country, she has received several awards and contributed to some of the world’s best known publications and broadcast media, including The Times, USA Today, Time, BBC, ABC, Sky, Al Jazeera, CBC, NBC, RTE and Channel 4.

She is known for giving a voice to the ordinary citizens of Yemen, including families affected by America’s ‘war on terror’, working alone and often risking her life.

Meanwhile, City’s Department of Journalism will mark its 40th anniversary with a celebratory event in the Great Hall on 9th February 2017. City first began offering journalism courses in 1976, when the University launched a Diploma in Journalism to capitalise on its proximity to Fleet Street and its long experience of educating for the professions. More details for the celebration will follow in the coming months.
Sparks fly

Five student teams with innovative business proposals took home £3,000 prizes at the CitySpark Grand Finals during March. City’s student innovation competition aims to inspire and support the next generation of entrepreneurial talent.

Ten teams of students were selected to pitch their ideas to an experienced panel of business experts for the chance to win funding to further their project. The panel voted for the ideas they felt were the most innovative, well designed and sustainable.

Entrepreneurship Education Manager at City, Alex Elkins said: “The level at which our student and graduate entrepreneurs are performing is truly compelling and an inspiration for us all.”

The winning ideas

Created by Miodrag Vidakovic, Archtor [1] is a customisable, mechanical gaming keyboard.

Eat Safe [2], by Matt Bland, is a restaurant directory app that allows people with dietary restrictions to find new places to eat out that are safe for their diets.

Twipes [3], the brainchild of Alborz Bozorgi and Constantinos Giannopoulos, are hygienic, water-dispersible wet wipes designed to fit into existing toilet roll holders. They also dissolve in water within three hours making them an environmentally-friendly alternative.

Online booking platform Bookball [4], by Stefan Metaxas, connects players with sports facilities in London.

With a flagship product of a traditional tomato and red pepper sauce, Binta’s Kitchen [5] is a project aiming to create healthy, versatile and convenient food products with authentic African flavours.

More glory for Eat Safe

With the ink barely dry on the CitySpark cheques, private banking firm Arbuthnot Latham hosted their Inspiring Innovator of the Year award on 8th June, with Eat Safe and Twipes among the four finalists, along with City alumnus James Grant’s Weavee (see p25). Eat Safe won the prize to cap a promising few months for Matt Bland and his team.

Student interviews Prince William

City Journalism student Sophia Kichou has interviewed Prince William for the national magazine the Big Issue, which is sold by homeless people.

Kichou, a final-year student on the Journalism BA course, was invited to Kensington Palace to speak with the Duke of Cambridge. Prince William kept a promise that he made to the student five years ago, telling her that one day she could interview him if she became a journalist.

The pair first met when Kichou was staying at a hostel run by the charity Centrepoint, of which the Duke is a patron. With the support of Centrepoint, she was able to begin her studies at City and last year was honoured by the Prince for her achievements at the charity’s first-ever awards ceremony.

Kichou said: “Interviewing Prince William was a very significant moment in my career. At the beginning I was a little nervous but, as the interview went on, my nerves calmed down and I began to enjoy it.”

During the interview, Prince William discussed why Centrepoint is a charity close to his heart and his memories of visiting hostels with his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales. He also reflected on how the issue of youth homelessness has changed in his decade as Centrepoint’s patron.
Alumni in print

A wide selection of books have been written by City alumni over the past year.

Hilary Moore (Executive MBA, 2011) has written a series of three Brave Strong Girl books for children. “I got sick of reading the traditional fairy tales to my daughter, with passive, pathetic princesses waiting to be rescued by insipid princes and persecuted by older women,” says Moore. “These books have strong girl characters in them who use their courage and wit to get themselves out of scrapes and win the day.” The books, available on Amazon, are illustrated by Catty Flores and all profits from their sale go to girls’ rights activist Malala Yousafzai’s foundation, the Malala Fund.

National anthems form a fundamental part of our national consciousness, yet the fascinating stories underlying the creation and adoption of each national anthem have rarely, if ever, been told. Alex Marshall (Periodical Journalism, 2003) explores the incredible stories behind a selection of national anthems from around the world in his book Republic or Death! Travels in Search of National Anthems. The book takes its name from Paraguay’s anthem and is published by Random House. Marshall also contributes a feature to this issue of City Magazine (see p. 30).

A novel by City alumna Eli Goldstone has been acquired by prominent independent publishing house Granta Books. Strange Heart Beating, written by Goldstone during a creative writing course at City, will be published next year. She completed the Masters in Creative Writing (Novels) in 2015, a course that helps writers to produce a full novel that is ready to send out to publishers and agents.

Ben Green (Broadcast Journalism, 2004) has written a book on the art of podcasting, in which he shares the wisdom he has gained in his role as Senior Multimedia Producer for the Guardian. Titled Podcast Master and available on Kindle, iPad and Android, Green’s book (as you might expect) is also available as an audio series on iTunes.
Academics from City’s Division of Health Services Research & Management have partnered with Macmillan Cancer Support for a leading report into the escalating expense of cancer care to NHS England. Elsewhere, City academics are challenging conventional wisdom on shareholder voting, UK journalism, early health risks, Foreign Accent Syndrome and the business of Formula 1.

The growing cost of cancer care
Cancer survivors diagnosed almost a decade ago still cost the NHS in England five times more than someone without the disease, according to recently published research in the British Journal of Cancer.

The study, conducted by academics including City’s Dr Mauro Laudicella and Dr Brendan Walsh and commissioned by Macmillan Cancer Support, reveals that hospital care for the average patient diagnosed with the four most common cancers (breast, colorectal, prostate or lung cancer) costs NHS England £10,000 in their first year of diagnosis, but nine years on is still costing £2,000 a year.

NHS England spends more than £1.5 billion every year on hospital care for patients with the four cancers, a third of which is spent on patients who were diagnosed more than six months ago. At this stage, their treatment is less likely to include expensive interventions such as chemotherapy and more likely to involve managing their recovery.

Costs many years after diagnosis may include treating people for illnesses which have been caused by their cancer treatment. Around 150,000 people experience urinary problems as a result of cancer treatment. Other costs could be to treat other illnesses complicated by the disease. For example, 70 percent of people with cancer already have another long-term condition when they are diagnosed. Another cost is likely to be treating people whose cancer has come back or who are dying from it.

The number of people living with a cancer diagnosis in England is set to soar to 3.4 million by 2030. Macmillan argues that if the NHS fails to act now to slow down the escalating costs of care, it could unnecessarily spend an extra £420 million over the next five years at a time when budgets are already tight.

Dr Laudicella, a Senior Lecturer in Health Economics at City and lead author of the report, said: “There is no doubt that the NHS in England is facing a huge challenge to provide care to an ever-increasing population of cancer patients and our study has shown just how expensive hospital treatment is for cancer patients years after diagnosis.

“Our evidence can be used to encourage the NHS to slow down the spiralling cost of care by investing in patients early on in their cancer journey. It is the only way the NHS will ensure that, in the future, everyone who has cancer will be able to get the care they need.”

Incestuous voting among financial ‘frenemies’

Shareholder voting at financial firms should be required to be confidential, academics from Cass Business School have found.

Members of every industry are interconnected through business relationships, but financial firms are additionally linked through cross-shareholdings. According to the study, the fact that the finance sector is its own largest investor undermines its governance and could ultimately lower director efficacy and firm value.

Frenemies: How do financial firms vote on their own kind?, by Professors Aneel Keswani and Anh Tran from Cass and Professor David Stolin of Toulouse Business School, was published in Management Science.

The academics examined voting by US mutual fund companies on management proposals tabled by companies in their portfolios. They found the rate of acquiescence to be significantly higher when the subject of the vote was another mutual fund company than when it was a firm in a different line of business. The academics also found that, in the financial sector as a whole, investor support for management proposals is higher for firms with more sector peers among their investors.

Professor Keswani said: “Actually, we were initially surprised at our results. Given that financial companies voting on each other are often direct competitors, we thought that, if anything, they’d be more likely to challenge their rivals than to support them. Although company management is supposed to be monitored by its shareholders, this mechanism is less effective in the finance sector.”
Major report on UK journalism launched at City

The findings of a major new survey of UK journalists have been announced at City. Among the subjects explored by the academics were pay, ethics, the diversity of the profession, journalists’ roles in society, journalistic practices and who journalists trust.

Dr Neil Thurman, of City and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, led the research project into the views of journalists in the digital age. The survey was carried out for the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford and its findings were published in the report *Journalists in the UK*.

After presenting the results at a City launch, Dr Thurman was joined for a panel discussion by Pete Clifton, Editor-in-Chief of the Press Association; Michelle Stanistreet, General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists; Rasmus Kleis Nielsen of the Reuters Institute; and City's Professor Suzanne Franks.

The survey’s findings included the discovery that, post-*Leveson Report*, UK journalists are still more likely to push boundaries to get the story; 53% think it is justified to pay for confidential information in the public interest compared with just 5% of US journalists. Some 81% think it is acceptable, when stories are in the public interest, to use confidential business or government documents without permission. This compares with just 58% of journalists in the United States.

The survey also showed that a high and growing proportion of journalists are learning the trade at university: 64% of those who entered the profession in the last five years had a degree in journalism or a related field, compared with 51% of journalists in the previous five-year period.

Dr Thurman said: “This report shows the increasing pressures that journalists face due to the social, economic and technological changes affecting journalism. However, the survey suggests despite this and the fallout of the *Leveson Report*, UK journalists are still more aggressive than US media in their pursuit of important stories.”

The report is based on a comprehensive survey of 700 journalists. Alongside Dr Thurman, its co-authors were Dr Alessio Cornia, a Research Fellow at the Reuters Institute and Dr Jessica Kunert, Postdoctoral Researcher at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

The rare phenomenon of Foreign Accent Syndrome

A new study at City has found that Foreign Accent Syndrome (FAS), a condition which results in patients being perceived as non-native speakers of their mother tongue, may be caused by the impaired connections between the language centres in the front part of the brain and the cerebellum.

Describing a native 17-year-old Belgian Dutch speaker who spoke with a French accent, the research suggests that the accent change may have occurred due to a disruption of the pathway between the motor speech areas in the left hemisphere of the brain and the right cerebellum.

Dr Jo Verhoeven, a Reader in Phonetics at City’s Division of Language and Communication Science, said: “The potential involvement of the cerebellum in the development of FAS has only been attested previously for acquired speech disorders. We now have evidence that cerebellar problems may also cause FAS in developmental speech disorders. To the best of our knowledge only two case studies have been published between 1907 and 2014 describing this rare subtype of FAS which is developmental in nature. Our study is important in helping us better understand what causes this syndrome and how we can better support people with the condition.”

Published in the journal *Frontiers of Neuroscience*, the research also involved academics from the University of Antwerp, Free University of Brussels and the University of Groningen. FAS is very rare and is estimated to affect fewer than 100 people worldwide. Normally resulting from a stroke, the condition can also be caused by head trauma, migraines or developmental problems.
Waist-to-height ratio can highlight health risks

New research by a Cass Business School academic has shown that waist-to-height ratio (WHR) is a simpler and more predictive indicator of the ‘early health risks’ associated with central obesity than the complex ‘matrix’, based on Body Mass Index (BMI) and waist circumference (WC), currently used by Public Health England (PHE).

The research, published in the BMJ Open online medical journal, found that 35 per cent of adults judged to be low risk using the current PHE matrix were found to have higher levels of some cardiometabolic risk factors when using the WHR. These risk factors can be early indicators of health problems including diabetes, heart disease or stroke.

Dr Margaret Ashwell, Senior Visiting Fellow at Cass and her colleague Sigrid Gibson, analysed data from the UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey between the years 2008 to 2012.

They found that using a simple boundary value for WHR of 0.5 identifies more people at ‘early health risk’ than the more complex PHE matrix, which uses boundary values for BMI and WC. The matrix only considers people to be at increased risk if they have both a BMI>25 and a high WC. However, people of a normal weight with a high WC can still be at risk.

Dr Ashwell said: “We recommend that the matrix be amended to show that having a high WC, even in the ‘healthy’ range of BMI, carries ‘increased’ risk. Indeed, we believe that serious consideration should be given to the use of WHR to replace the matrix completely.”

Measuring WHR offers a simple approach as only a piece of string is required. The adult’s or child’s height is measured by the string, the string is then folded in half and if it doesn’t fit around their waist, that person’s health should be monitored.

A previous Cass study in 2014, by Professors Ben Rickayzen and Les Mayhew, showed that the years of life that people lose through being obese can be better predicted by measuring WHR than by using the conventional BMI.

Strategic lessons from Formula 1

What can managers and business students learn from a hyper-competitive environment such as Formula 1? That was the question posed to a panel of academics and members of the F1 industry at an event titled “Competing in turbulent environments: lessons from Formula 1” held at Cass Business School earlier this year.

Chairing the event was Dr Paolo Aversa [pictured], a Lecturer in Strategy at Cass, who has published research on the business of F1 in several leading journals. F1 represents the cutting edge of the automotive industry; its fast and fierce competitive environment providing the perfect setting to derive managerial policies for other hyper-competitive industries.

The panel agreed that there were many strengths to F1. Great technological invention and innovation were cited, as was the speed with which F1 teams can learn new skills or adapt to new challenges. The mindset within the sport is to try again and again until success is achieved. At the sharp end of the business it is the managers that make the difference.

Analysis of F1 could help explain competition dynamics well beyond that industry. In a study published in Organization Science, Dr Aversa notes that F1 has applications to help us understand other competitive environments, “such as the failure of GM and other car manufacturers to shift their core knowledge fundamentally towards electrical vehicles at a time when external contingencies favour more prudent efforts to change established gasoline engines into hybrids”.

Waist-to-height ratio is easy to understand and a better indicator of ‘early health risks’.
This year’s *Diary* showcases a wide range of the outstanding City alumni events around the world over the past academic year. Alumni events offer a wonderful opportunity to network, rekindle old friendships and learn about how City is constantly changing for the better.

Events in 2015/16
1-2. June 2015 alumni reception at the British Ambassador’s Residence in Athens, preceded by the launch of the MSc Maritime Operations and Management course in Piraeus.  
5. Alumni attended an interactive masterclass in Organisational Behaviour given by Dean of Cass Professor Marianne Lewis at the Intercontinental Hotel, Shanghai, November 2015.  
6. Professor Lewis also took the master class to the Fairmont Hotel, Beijing, November.  
9-10. Celebrating 40 years of Music education at City with a Thames cruise, October 2015.  
12. Dr Paolo Aversa, an expert in the strategy and business of Formula 1, delivered a master class discussing the implications for business models and managerial practice at the Intercontinental Hotel, Singapore, April 2016.  
13. A Christmas party for recent alumni at CityBar, December 2015.  
14. Optometry graduates from 1967 paid a visit to Northampton Square, September 2015.
15. Alderman the Lord Mountevans, the Lord Mayor of London and City University London’s Chancellor, hosted a reception for City students and alumni in Dubai during January 2016. 16. Students, staff and alumni enjoyed the Cass MBA London Symposium Gala Dinner at the Savoy Hotel in April 2016. 17. Lost City Writers, a group who met on the MA Creative Writing in Playwriting and Screenwriting course, presented an evening of script-in-hand rehearsed readings of short plays, excerpts and works-in-progress at Northampton Square in April 2016. To watch the video or learn more about the group see: www.lostcitywritersblog.wordpress.com. 18. A series of Careers Networking events for alumni and students took place in February and March 2016 including: Law; Charities and Nonprofit (supported by Russam GMS); IT and Computer Science (supported by Accenture); Engineering (pictured, supported by Skanska) and Advertising, Communications and PR (supported by SMRS). 19. The annual Alumni Golf Day at Finchley Golf Club in North London in May 2016.

Events in 2016/17

• Alumni Reception in San Francisco, 27th July 2016
• 50th anniversary of the Business School celebratory dinner at The Dorchester hotel, London, 30th September 2016
• Golden Anniversary Dinner for the Class of 1966 at Northampton Square, 13th October 2016
• Music Alumni Concert, St James’s Church Piccadilly, 22nd October 2016
• Celebration of 40 years of Journalism at City, 9th February 2017
• Our popular series of career-focused webinars on the third Thursday of each month.

To receive our monthly news and events bulletin and sign up for events, please join our Online Community (see inside back cover) and make sure your email address is up to date.

City also hosts a range of public lectures, seminars, conferences and concerts throughout the year, which all alumni are invited to attend. For details of events being hosted at City over the year ahead, please visit www.city.ac.uk/events.
A lifelong relationship

Become part of a global network and help others to succeed

International Ambassadors
Over the last 12 months the Alumni Relations Team have been working to refresh the way we work with our International Ambassadors and we have recruited over sixty new Ambassadors in 37 countries, including some where we haven’t had a presence before, for example Lebanon, Austria and Azerbaijan.

Our Ambassadors act as the contact for City University London alumni in their local area and have their contact details featured on our web pages. Ambassadors help the Alumni Relations Team create a City community in their area by organising alumni networking activities and social events, helping City build and strengthen its profile in their region, meeting prospective City students and promoting and advocating City University London locally.

Events organised by Ambassadors include an Alumni Meetup in Geneva in November 2015, a reception in Muscat in January 2016, the Alumni Spring Forum in Beijing in March 2016 and several events in Nigeria.

City University London Alumni Nigeria Association
The City University London Alumni Nigeria Association was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission last year and a Board of six Trustees established. The Association is made up of alumni from both City and Cass and aims to bring alumni in Nigeria together for networking, friendship and a continued relationship with the University. The President of the Association is Anthony Bello (MSc Air Transport Engineering, 2009) and the Vice-President is Rotimi Akinose (MSc Real Estate Investment, 2006). Anthony is Chief Executive of Krisanth Technologies Ltd and Rotimi is a Founding Partner of Residential Auctions Company Ltd.

The Association meets regularly and has already organised several events, including the Nigerian Alumni Mid-year Reunion, held in May at the Four Points by Sheraton in Lagos, attended by more than 10 alumni.

A Facebook page has now been created. Email Bisola Adefarati, the Executive Secretary (BSC Nursing Studies, 2015) for inclusion on the page: biscobells@hotmail.com.

Alumni Reception in Muscat
City Law School alumnus Syed Ali Naveed Arshad (Bar Vocational Course, 2006) is based in Muscat. He is currently Executive Partner in Said Al Shahrly & Partners. Syed says he is an Ambassador because: “I am keen to share my experience of having studied at City. I would like to promote the advantages of obtaining a legal qualification from City Law School and establish regular alumni get-togethers and networking events”. In January 2016 he hosted a reception for alumni in Oman at his home in Muscat, attended by 10 former City students.

Alumni Spring Forum in Beijing
On 12th March our Alumni Ambassadors in Beijing organised their first annual Spring Forum. Professor Liu Mingkang, former Chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, was the guest speaker alongside a panel of notable entrepreneurs and finance professionals from the region. The event was a great success with over 140 alumni attending. The Beijing Alumni Ambassadors are currently planning further networking events for this year and the next Spring Forum for 2017.

To find out more about our International Ambassadors programme see www.city.ac.uk/alumni/international-ambassadors
Throughout its history, City University London has been the recipient of significant donations from many former students, staff, trusts, foundations, corporate entities and the City’s livery companies. City is extremely grateful for this support which has helped to change the lives of many. In increasingly challenging financial times, the University needs such generous support more than ever. Those wishing to donate can help to provide scholarships and bursaries, fund world-changing research or help us to develop our estate.

Santander signs up

Staff from City and Santander Universities gathered for a celebratory event in June 2016 to witness Vice-Chancellor of City, Professor Sir Paul Curran and Managing Director of Santander Universities UK, Robin Foale sign a new contract to extend their long-running partnership.

The generous support from Santander Universities will be focused on supporting students through scholarships and awards, entrepreneurship, career support and more.

Over the past 10 years funding from Santander Universities has totalled over £1 million. The money has gone towards supporting over 200 students and programmes and initiatives including entrepreneurship events and internships.

Santander is now the world’s largest donor to higher education, spanning 20 countries and supporting over 28,000 scholarships and grants, according to a report from the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with Unesco.

This venture began with Cass Business School, which was Santander’s first educational partner 10 years ago. On becoming Vice-Chancellor at City, Sir Paul extended the relationship to the rest of the University.

“The support our students have received over the years has made a real difference to the lives of many who otherwise might not have benefited from a university education,” he said. “Santander has played a large part in our success over the past 10 years and as we look forward to the next 10, we do so in the knowledge that we have such a special relationship.”

Foale added: “Santander and City today celebrate 10 years of exemplary collaboration between private and public sectors. City’s expertise in areas such as entrepreneurship and research was originally one of the reasons that prompted the first contacts between the University and the bank and throughout the years the funding provided by Santander has had a substantial impact in both fields as well as in the internationalisation of students and academic staff. I have no doubt that the next 10 years will be even more successful and rewarding for both institutions.”
Cass student wins Columbia Threadneedle Investments prize

Aron Korenblit pictured with Columbia Threadneedle’s EMEA Chief Executive Campbell Fleming.

In May 2016, the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation celebrated 10 years of scholarships for students studying in Cass Business School and the London School of Economics by inviting scholars for a two-day Grand Reunion in Monaco.

Present and past scholars had the opportunity to network and have fruitful discussions with the rest of the invitees. A total of 50 scholars from the past decade attended the weekend event.

The event also saw the alumni scholars raise funds to create the Stelios’ Scholars scholarship. The amount raised was then matched by Sir Stelios and now stands at £62,600. This is a great example of how past scholars can help new generations of students and create a vibrant and dedicated alumni community.

Support for City’s Music students

Guy Davis is a BSc Music (1982) alumni who has been supporting Music students through the Robert Chalmers Memorial Bursary since 2013.

This year Davis increased his annual donation to support a PhD student and an additional two bursaries to support students in hardship.

There have been many changes over the years within the Department of Music, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, but what has remained constant is the rigour of City’s Music degree courses.

City is determined that music remains a vital part of a modern society. What started as a small cohort of students in 1975 has recently been ranked as 14th in the UK, according to the Guardian University Guide 2017.
As part of its commitment to addressing gender equality, City hosted a programme of events this spring to mark International Women’s Day. This included the unveiling of a wall display in the College Building that showcases the University’s extraordinary female graduates and staff.

Jessica Holland tells the story of several outstanding alumnae and the role City played in setting them on the path to their exceptional careers.
City alumna Zaina Erhaim faces constant danger reporting on Syria’s civil war and training other women to do the same. In 2015, she won the Peter Mackler Award for Ethical and Courageous Journalism.
When Jaz Rabadia was working on the checkout at Sainsbury’s in Hendon to put herself through a degree at City University London, she says she didn’t ever imagine that she’d go on to be awarded an MBE at the age of 30 for her work encouraging sustainability and diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). After being the sole woman in her class to complete her Mechanical Engineering degree, which she passed with first class honours, Rabadia continued at City for an MSc in Energy, Environment Technology and Economics. “That’s how much I loved it,” she says of her experience of the University. “I went back and did more.”

With the encouragement of her City mentors, she wrote her dissertation on energy-saving measures at the same Sainsbury’s store she was working in. It wasn’t long before the company’s Head of Energy asked when she could start working for the department. After driving changes to cut emissions and save costs for the company, she went on to manage energy at Debenhams and then at Starbucks, where she has been employed for the last year and a half. In the seven short years since she graduated from her Masters, she has also become a STEMNet STEM Ambassador, joined the board of the Energy Institute and received two industry awards. And all this was before being listed among the most recent New Year Honours and the Prince of Wales made her a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

“Like most people, I went to university without a clue as to what my career would look like afterwards,” Rabadia says. “I chose engineering to keep my options open.” Studying the subject at City, she says, “genuinely changed the trajectory of my life, because I ended up in a career that I didn’t even know existed”. She returns periodically to the University as a Visiting Teaching Fellow on the course she graduated from and to meet and talk with current and prospective students. “I’m a huge advocate of City,” she says. “And I’m not just saying this for the story. I support City in whatever way I can.”

“I like most people, I went to university without a clue as to what my career would look like afterwards” – Jaz Rabadia

Women currently make up 56 per cent of City’s student body and the University’s graduates and staff have played a pivotal role throughout history, stretching back to the days before it had university status and its foundations as the Northampton Institute. One of Rabadia’s trailblazing predecessors in engineering was Marjorie Bell, the first female Electronic Engineering student at the Northampton Institute in 1934. Bell went on to receive a medal for her service during World War Two.

In the intervening eight decades, the campus hallways have been trodden by women responsible for too many firsts to mention, in careers ranging from computing to politics. Stav Shaffir, who is 31 years old and graduated with a BA in Sociology and Journalism in 2009, was a part of City’s Olive Tree Scholarship Programme, which supported future leaders who wanted to make a positive impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She is now the youngest ever member of Israel’s parliament and has spoken out fiercely in favour of social justice, saying that “real Zionism is taking care of the weak”.

Julie Gibson, who completed her BSc in Air Transport in 1984, went on to become the first operational female pilot in the Royal Air Force and the RAF’s first female aircraft Captain. Another noteworthy alumna is Her Honour Judge Barbara Mensah, who received a law diploma in 1983 and later made history in becoming the...
first circuit judge of African origin in 2005. Judge Mensah, who is Ghanaian, returned to City this year to receive an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws and said in a speech: “When my parents sent me to the UK to be educated at the age of six, they could not possibly have foreseen that I would end up in this position. It was a position which was not even in their dreams for me. They were certain, nevertheless, that the education I received would be one of the most important tools at my disposal in ensuring my progress in the world.”

City alumnæ and staff have pushed boundaries in all kinds of fields. The late Dora Opoku, who was head of City’s Midwifery and Child Health department between 1995 and 2010 and chaired the East London and The City Research Ethics Committee, received an OBE in 2004 in recognition of her services to midwifery education. Professor Julienne Meyer, who leads research in Care for Older People at City and is Executive Director of a UK-wide initiative to promote quality of life in care homes, was awarded a CBE in 2015 for her tireless and visionary work. And Carol Sergeant, who was also awarded a CBE, in 2004, for her work in the banking sector, was the only woman on the finance elective during her MBA course at City during the 1970s.

Sergeant embarked on this MBA while already working at the Bank of England. She told the Financial Times that she chose City because “she could tailor her degree to give it a financial emphasis, take advantage of the University’s wide range of specialised Masters courses and because the course there could be completed in just one year. She also took advantage, she said, of the networking opportunities and the chance to use real companies as case studies several times a week. She returned to Cass Business School, as it was renamed after Sergeant had graduated, to sit on the advisory board and strategy committee.

While Sergeant studied at the University of Cambridge before coming to City to do her MBA, Professor Dame Wendy Hall decided not to take up her undergraduate offer at the 800-year-old institution, finding it “too stuffy”. Instead, the pioneering computer scientist, who was the first in her family to go on to higher education and who would go on to create a linked hypermedia network that predated the internet, completed a degree and PhD in Pure Mathematics at the University of Southampton, before becoming interested in the emergence of personal computers and their use in education and subsequently taking on a Masters in Computer Science at City.

“My career path began to move towards computer science but I didn’t want to be wholly self-taught and I wanted a qualification to help me on my way,” she says. “The part-time MSc in Computer Science at City was the perfect vehicle for this. I travelled up to London from Southampton every Wednesday in term time for two years to undertake my studies and took two more years to complete my MSc project. It was so worthwhile as it enabled me to apply for a computer science lectureship at Southampton and the rest, as they say, is history. Without my MSc I would never have got that job and would never have had the opportunities I’ve had as a computer scientist.”

During an appearance on the BBC Radio 4 programme Desert Island Discs in 2014, explaining how an aptitude for abstract thought had always come naturally to her, she said: “I am happier thinking in n-dimensions than I am in three dimensions.”

Hall is now a Director of the Web Science Institute at Southampton, a Dame Commander of the British Empire (the female equivalent of a knight) and a fellow of the Royal Society, among many other honours and titles. After her team at Southampton created
“The digital planet is as important for us to conserve and build for the good of humanity as the physical planet”

– Professor Dame Wendy Hall

If tracking facts in order to steer towards a brighter future is important to Hall, it’s also crucial to Zaina Erhaim, a Syrian journalist and civil organiser who studied for a Masters in International Journalism at City in 2011 on a Chevening Scholarship, which is awarded to those with potential to become future global leaders. After graduating, she went on to work for BBC Arabic and then for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), who supported her as she returned to opposition-held eastern Aleppo to live, report and train female journalists to report on Syria’s civil war. Without her MA from City, she says, she couldn’t have got that first BBC job: “I am grateful for every step along the way. The first time she felt she’d broken through a glass ceiling, she told The Times in 2015. “Living is dangerous. Nothing is not dangerous. I’m scared of being killed but I try not to think about it.” She decided to live in Syria, she says, even now that she has a young daughter, out of a sense of duty to her compatriots, many of whom have already lost their lives. “You were with them in the demonstrations,” she says, “chanting: ‘I won’t let this country down and we’ll pay with our lives’. They’ve paid and you just leave? I can’t do that.”

The shorts follow two community organisers and two paramedics, one of whom is also a citizen journalist, as they face the danger of bombing and capture and the conservative traditions of a male-dominated society.

Erhaim’s work, which also involves setting up centres where women can access the internet via satellite, has been recognised with a Peter Mackler Award for Ethical and Courageous Journalism in 2015 and an Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression Award in 2016, which she dedicated to her fellow reporters in Syria. City’s Department of Journalism magazine XCity also awarded her the 2016 XCity Award for her documentation of women living amid the Syrian conflict.

On first glance, Erhaim may not have a great deal in common with Professor Dame Wendy Hall, Jaz Rabadia or any of the other extraordinary women to have studied and taught at City University London, but what unites them is a refusal to accept the status quo – in particular, the idea that certain professions and areas of study are better suited to men – and an eagerness to give others a helping hand, so that they can join the conversation and become active participants in creating their future.

Taking on the responsibility of becoming a role model and a mentor in this way is crucial, even in an era when female students make up more than half of City’s student body. Dame Wendy Hall’s rise to the top of her field may look smooth, but she has spoken out about the fact that she was discouraged from overreaching by people in positions of authority at every step along the way. The first time she felt she’d broken through a glass ceiling, she told Times Higher Education in 2014, was when she was appointed as the first female Professor of Engineering at Southampton, in 1994. “I subsequently found that there were many layers of glass ceilings,” she said. “Having broken through most of them, there are still barriers to break.”

To read about the events held at City to celebrate International Women’s Day earlier this year and for details of more extraordinary women, visit www.city.ac.uk/international-womens-day.

Since her return to Aleppo, Erhaim has released a series of short documentaries called Syria’s Rebellious Women for the IWPR, which highlight both the horrors of war and the courage, joy and hard work of women who are part of the country’s struggle for survival. The shorts follow two community organisers and two paramedics, one of whom is also a citizen journalist, as they face the danger of bombing and capture and the conservative traditions of a male-dominated society.

More recently, she has also been working to ensure the future of the internet is a positive one as a member of the Global Commission for Internet Governance. “The digital planet is as important for us to conserve and build for the good of humanity as the physical planet,” she says, “and in order to understand how it evolved we need to be constantly observing what’s happening. We’re way off in terms of how we run this for the good of humanity.”

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To read about the events held at City to celebrate International Women’s Day earlier this year and for details of more extraordinary women, visit www.city.ac.uk/international-womens-day.
Building your professional network

A series of networking events for City alumni and students will take place during the autumn term.

The events at Northampton Square follow the successful series held in spring 2016 and enable alumni from specific sectors to meet and network, while allowing current students to learn from their predecessors.

**Health** 5th October 2016
**Creative Industries** 12th October 2016
**Social Sciences** 27th October 2016
**Technology** 9th November 2016
**Education and Teaching** 16th November 2016

To find out more and to book your place, visit [http://community.city.ac.uk/city](http://community.city.ac.uk/city)
In this year’s edition of Five to Watch, we meet recent graduates going places in the worlds of law, recruitment, IT, technology and midwifery.

Ash Linsbichler
EXECUTIVE MBA, 2013

Ash Linsbichler is Chief Executive of a startup called Veva, which brings together venues, offers and friends into a single app with the aim of making going out easier. She is also Director of Austrian confectionary brand Metzger & Söhne and was formerly Board Director of beverage brand Nixe. She has 10 years of experience in insurance technology, where she managed London and European market clients with annual revenues of around £2 million.

She met her husband and Veva co-founder Lukas Linsbichler at Cass. “The MBA gave us all the tools we needed to start a business and a great network through which we found our Chief Technology Officer and numerous interns,” says Ash. “The incubation facilities at The Hangout [City’s incubation space for student and graduate entrepreneurs] have been invaluable in the support they give for early operations, marketing and pitching events.”

“I am very excited about pushing Veva outside of London to disrupt the way we go out and I’m also closing a Series A investment round to scale the brand,” she says. She will also be getting the Metzger & Söhne brand into international markets. Long term, Ash and Lukas also plan to open a hotel in Austria.

Dr Roa Altaweli
PHD MIDWIFERY, 2015

Dr Roa Altaweli is the first midwife from Saudi Arabia to obtain a PhD. Born in Jeddah, she is a registered nurse and midwife, holding a BSc in Nursing from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah.

After obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery in Bahrain, she was appointed as a midwife at National Guard Hospital in Jeddah and then a teaching assistant at Dar Al-Hekma University.

Following work as a midwife, Roa decided to pursue a more academic route with a Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice of Midwifery from King’s College London and subsequently a Masters and PhD in Midwifery at City. Starting the PhD in 2010 and finishing her thesis last year, she then returned to Saudi Arabia. She now works part-time as an Assistant Professor at King Abdulaziz University. She is also a full-time Assistant Director of Nursing at East Jeddah Hospital, a founding Board Member and Vice-Chairperson of the Saudi Midwifery Group and a member of a Saudi Ministry of Health initiative called the Optimizing Maternal Mortality and Healthcare Advisory Team.

“I hope that midwifery education in Saudi Arabia can be as strong as in the UK,” she says. “I love being a midwife and would like others to love this profession as much as I do. My aim is to empower women to have natural childbirth in Saudi Arabia and help in the development of direct-entry midwifery courses that prepare competent, qualified midwives.”
James Grant

BSc COMPUTER SCIENCE WITH GAMES TECHNOLOGY, 2015

James studied for his BSc at City through the Professional Pathway (PP) scheme, which allows students to transfer to relevant four-day-a-week employment after a period of study and complete their degree through a combination of day-release and e-learning. The scheme gave James both the skills and freedom he needed to launch Weavee.

Weavee acts as a central repository for IT graduate recruitment and allows graduates to showcase their skills. What started as an idea for a social network soon pivoted into a recruitment ecosystem. “Weavee solves a skills gap with a real-time matching algorithm,” he says of the site, which also includes a personality test and a suite of tools. “It’s great for finding out what you’re really cut out to do with your career.”

With a strong business model in place, James is now preparing to launch a round of public fundraising for Weavee. He believes it has the potential to shake up the recruitment industry. “Running a start-up is not for everyone,” he says. “It’s unstable. You work crazy hours. You’re challenged every single step of the way. But you also get to work on something you love and that can actually change your industry. And once you start to get customers in and it starts to ‘work’ and stabilises, it’s the best feeling in the world.”

Jody Orsborn

MA CULTURE, POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, 2011

Jody is the Co-Founder of The Backscratchers. Having discovered that finding freelancers or agencies to fill creative industry roles on an as-needed basis is time consuming and frustrating, she launched The Backscratchers to connect companies with handpicked freelance talent or agencies for projects.

“Recruitment agencies know you better than the government does, in terms of the amount of data they hold about you,” says Jody. “But Weavee keeps all your data in one place and ensures that you have ownership. It allows you to say: ‘here’s what I can do, come and have a look’.”

Andrew Lomas

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LAW, 2013; BAR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSE, 2014

Andrew’s career started in chemistry. “I had always been fascinated with understanding how the properties of molecules impact on their function,” he says. “My research focused on understanding why certain metabolic changes take place in cancer cells and attempting to design drugs to exploit these changes.”

While Andrew enjoyed the intellectual side, the reality of being a scientist involved months of labour-intensive experimentation that often yielded no results. Ready for a change, he noticed that many intellectual property barristers had scientific backgrounds which helped them understand technically complex patents. With that in mind (and fancying the idea of being argumentative for a living) he decided to give the Bar a go.

“I was attracted to the Graduate Diploma in Law at City by its rigour: regularly assessed work, small group tutorials and lectures from leading legal academics all contribute to its deserved reputation.”

Having also completed the Bar Professional Training Course at City, Andrew now specialises in intellectual property law as a tenant at One Essex Court, a leading set of chambers. “I love what I do,” he says, “as I get to work with incredibly bright people on cases involving the most innovative and exciting inventions, creations and brands. The great thing about this job is that every day is different. And that’s hugely exciting.”
The welcome news that City is to join the University of London (UoL) is a key milestone in City’s long history and stands as recognition of the great strides that it has made as an institution over the last decade.

The announcement came after the UoL Board of Trustees last year agreed to the positive recommendation made by its Collegiate Council. “I am exceptionally pleased, as are my colleagues and our students,” said City’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Paul Curran. “Joining the University of London marks a significant new chapter in City’s history. It is a major opportunity but also a signal of how far we have come as an institution. We will retain our historic strengths, professional credibility and deep-rooted City of London heritage while we strengthen our international profile and expand our research and education capabilities.”

City’s history dates back to the 1894 foundation of the Northampton Institute and City was granted University status by Royal Charter in 1966. City intends to join the University of London in September 2016 and its official name will change, albeit subtly, through the addition of a comma and the word ‘of’, to become ‘City, University of London’. The titles of its senior officers will

The College Building (opened 1898) is mirrored in the reflective glass of the Rhind Building (opened 2004). Joining the UoL will see City preserve its proud heritage while looking to an exciting future.

A new chapter

City is to join the University of London later this year and will become one of the federation’s self-governing Colleges. In this commemorative article, City Magazine assesses what this development means for City, 50 years on from receiving its Royal Charter and 122 years since the institution’s foundation.
also change, reflecting that City will have become an autonomous College within the UoL.

City’s logo will also change, to the updated design pictured on p4. The new logo is designed to maintain an emphasis on our identity, our heritage and our position in London, while taking into consideration its appearance in a rapidly evolving digital space. The new logo preserves the crest elements of the previous logo but (purely for design reasons) does not include the comma that will form part of City’s new official name.

Joining the UoL does not constitute a merger. City will continue to set its entrance criteria and examinations, award its own degrees and offer independent services to students. It will remain a chartered institution, autonomous and self-governing, with its own Council, Senate, Students’ Union and other bodies as at present.

Senior figures within the University of London are pleased to welcome City into the UoL. Sir Richard Dearlove, Chair of the UoL Board of Trustees said: “City brings unique links with many of the institutions in the City of London including the Lord Mayor’s Office, the livery companies and businesses in the Square Mile.” While Professor Sir Adrian Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, added: “I am delighted that City is to join the University of London. City brings a distinctive business and professional academic profile that will enrich the offering of the federal University.”

Benefits of joining the UoL
City is joining the UoL for several reasons, not least to signal its academic standing and to benefit from the prestigious UoL brand. Benefits to City’s staff and students will include access to the UoL’s substantial library resources, membership of ‘Student Central’ (the former University of London Union, providing access to services including sports, societies, online tickets and bars) and an allocation of rooms in UoL’s Intercollegiate Halls of Residence.

It also opens up greater potential for collaboration in education, research and enterprise between City academics and research students and their colleagues in the UoL. “What this means for current and prospective students,” said City’s Director of Research & Enterprise Dr Karen Shaw, “is that [students] will be part of a vibrant, world class academic community which not only generates new knowledge but uses it to impact positively on society in many different ways, worldwide.”

UoL heritage and landmarks
The University of London is one of the oldest, largest and most diverse universities in the world. Comprised of 18 constituent colleges, 10 research institutes and several central bodies and founded under the name London University in 1826 as a secular alternative to the religious universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the UoL can lay claim to several impressive firsts over its long history.

In 1878 it became the first university to admit women, with the proportion of female students swelling to 10 per cent by 1895 before growing rapidly over the final five years of the 19th century to 30 per cent by 1900. It was also the first Commonwealth university to appoint a female Vice-Chancellor, Professor (later Dame) Lillian Penson, in 1948.

The UoL introduced many new subjects into higher education in the UK, such as modern languages and laboratory science. Today it is a family of world class institutions, collectively upholding its international reputation of academic distinction in learning and research.

And while City enjoys a unique arrangement with the City of London, whereby a new Lord Mayor is installed as Chancellor each year, the UoL’s Chancellor since 1981 is Princess Anne, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. She took over the position following the retirement of her grandmother, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, who had held the position since 1955.

Senate House
The UoL’s landmark building is undoubtedly the impressive and imposing Senate House. During the first hundred years of its existence the UoL moved between a succession of temporary homes, quickly outgrowing each of them in turn. In the 1930s the decision was taken to build what had become the world’s largest university
a purpose-built, permanent home. A large plot of land behind the British Museum in Bloomsbury was purchased from the Duke of Bedford’s estate and Charles Holden, the architect behind some of the most iconic London Underground stations, was commissioned to design it.

Holden was given the instruction to create a building “not to suggest a passing fashion inappropriate to buildings which will house an institution of so permanent a character as a university”. This peculiar remit is said to have been inspired by an incident when Sir (later Lord) William Beveridge, having recently become Director of the London School of Economics, asked a taxi driver to take him to the University of London and was met with the response, “Oh, you mean the place near the Royal School of Needlework”.

Upon opening in 1936, Senate House was the second-largest building in London. With 19 floors and standing 64m high, it was taken over by the Ministry of Information during World War Two; its roof offering a valuable observation point for the Royal Observer Corps. Though the building was hit by bombs several times, it emerged largely unscathed from the conflict. There was speculation at the time that the reason the building had fared so well was that Adolf Hitler had planned to use it as his headquarters in London. When the Colleges began to return in 1944, the Principal of the UoL reported that examinations were carried out “without casualties, other than those normally caused by these exacting but essential tests”.

The building was later assigned Grade II-listed status in 1969 and has been used as a film set for several movies including *Batman Begins*, *Spy Game* and the big-screen adaptation of George Orwell’s novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Indeed, the building’s repurposed function during the war effort was said to have been the inspiration for Orwell’s description of the Ministry of Truth in the book.

50 years of the Royal Charter: a snapshot of 1966

In the early 1960s the government-commissioned Robbins Report recommended that the Northampton College of Advanced Technology become a university. The City University was created by Royal Charter and Dr (later Sir) James Tait was appointed as its first Vice-Chancellor, with Oliver Thompson as Pro-Chancellor. Together they approached the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Lionel Denny, whose enthusiasm for an association between the City and the University led to an arrangement that continues today, whereby the Lord Mayor in office is invited to be the Chancellor of the University.

Transcripts of BBC television and radio reports when the Royal Charter was awarded (held within City’s archive) paint a fascinating picture of the time. Colin Riach, a reporter for BBC’s *Town & Around* filed a report in which he described City as having “a lively interest in research into difficult-sounding subjects”. With a blend of deadpan stoicism and wit synonymous with BBC presenters of the age, Riach went on to remark that: “One of the staff here has an international reputation as a researcher and consultant on tall buildings and cooling towers. He did not advise on the towers that recently collapsed.”

The University had recently received a £2.5 million grant for new buildings from the University Grants Committee. Riach, on seeing the works first-hand, observed: “A new landscape is forming around Northampton Square. A campus along American lines – spacious and designed for working and living – the future for The City University seems brighter and busier than ever.”

Meanwhile on the Home Service (which later became Radio 4), BBC commentator Audrey Russell was posted to City’s first graduation ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall. “In all – and I think this is very laudable,” she said, “there are 13 first class honours and 57 second class honours awarded among 88 graduates.” After the ceremony, she interviewed 1949 alumnus John Hodge, who by that point was working for NASA as Flight Director on the Gemini and Apollo space programmes. Hodge was awarded an honorary degree at the ceremony and Russell asked him whether the place had changed. “The Aeronautics Department has changed quite a bit,” said Hodge. “They have some wonderful new equipment there now. It looks as though they’re really moving ahead.”

The Lord Mayor noted to the Home Service later the same day that it was “a fine portent that one of the University’s first honorary graduates should be a former student playing a leading part in the plans for a voyage to the Moon”. The Apollo 15 astronauts would later pay City a visit in 1971 and presented Vice-Chancellor Tait with a piece of heat shield from the command module.

One of those graduating in 1966, with a first class BSc in Mechanical Engineering, was Charles Pywell. After graduating, his career progressed from construction, mining and infrastructure, to establishing his own project management consultancy company in Australia. He remembers his graduation clearly: “The venue was an impressive building, especially for my parents who had never been to London before. I think they were very proud, whereas I just took it for granted that I would get a degree. I was, however, a bit pleased that it turned out to be a first.”

“It was, of course, the ‘Swinging Sixties’ at that time. I’m not sure my friends and I took full advantage of that, but we did have a great time. The buildings were fairly old and a bit like a rabbit warren. The lift in the main building was a law unto itself. It only did three floors and couldn’t get those right most of the time. But we didn’t mind those aspects – we were there to learn.”

City will mark the Class of 1966 Golden Anniversary with a celebration dinner on 13th October 2016 from 4.30pm. See www.city.ac.uk/alumni for more details.
This year marks 40 years of education and research into the cultural and creative industries at City, during which time scores of alumni have gone on to great careers. Alex Marshall spoke to three leading arts executives to hear about the challenges they face.

Andrea Nixon does not make her early forays into the arts world sound like those of a person headed for the heights of the profession. As a student, she took a play about Marilyn Monroe to the Edinburgh Festival only to end up embroiled in legal threats. “I used a very famous photograph of Marilyn for our poster and very quickly learnt the meaning of copyright,” she laughs.

A few years later, she did a work placement at Shell, helping the oil giant choose cultural projects to support. “One day someone wrote in asking for money to rebuild the Globe Theatre and I just thought, ‘What the hell is this? It’s a crazy idea,’ so we turned it down.
That tells you everything about how little I knew back then.”

Thankfully, those mishaps are long in the past. Today, Andrea is the Executive Director of Tate Liverpool (the north of England’s leading gallery) and a key figure in the British art world.

A graduate of City’s Arts Administration Masters (now known as MA Culture, Policy and Management), she has extremely fond memories of the University. It helps that she met her husband while studying here in the late 1980s. “He used to help me struggle through accounting and I helped him struggle through essays,” she says. But City also taught Andrea about a topic that’s vital to her current job: fundraising.

That may not sound like the most interesting of issues, but Tate Liverpool, like all of Britain’s museums and galleries, is today having to compete with galleries around the world and this means that attracting funds is absolutely crucial.

“When I started, fundraising was very new,” she says. “It was seen as this strange thing that Americans did, so even someone with a bit of experience like me was worth a lot.

“There was a bit of a ‘chairman’s wife’ syndrome then,” she adds. “If you got her interested, the company followed, but today there’s none of that. You’re now competing with so many institutions for money – not just other galleries and arts organisations, but schools, even universities – so you have to make sure you have a really good cause. You need to show you’re really adding value to society.”

Andrea’s fundraising skills have helped Tate Liverpool put on multiple acclaimed shows in her 10 years there, from Andy Warhol’s first retrospective outside London to similar showcases for the likes of Francis Bacon and the Chapman Brothers. However, when asked what she’s most pleased about being involved with, she says something surprising: a dazzle ship.

During World War One, the Royal Navy used to ‘dazzle’ ships by painting them bizarre shapes as a means of camouflage. In 2015, the Tate commissioned Sir Peter Blake – most famous for designing the cover for The Beatles’ Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band album – to ‘dazzle’ one of the ferries that crosses the Mersey. He painted it a riot of colour.

“I see it every day out of my window,” she says. “It’s so chirpy and cheerful and people love it. It’s one of those instances where art can change your way of thinking. If I was trying to show a potential sponsor the benefit of art, I could show them that really.”

Pim Baxter OBE, another graduate of the MA Arts Administration course and the Deputy Director of the National Portrait Gallery, agrees that fundraising is the biggest challenge facing galleries and museums today. “I’m always aware of the need to generate income, especially as our government grant goes down,” she says, “but I don’t feel like, ‘Crikey, I’ve got to do this.’

“Although,” she adds, “there was one day when the Director called me and said, ‘We’ve got to get £10 million to purchase a Van Dyke or it’s leaving the UK’.” Sir Anthony Van Dyke was one of the most important artists of the 1600s. “That was a bit different to normal. But then you’ve just got to sit down and think: ‘How do we do this?’”

Pim is, in some ways, a surprising fit for the National Portrait Gallery. She has only had her portrait painted once (as a teenager) and hated the result (“It doesn’t look remotely like me”) and she only occasionally dabbles as an artist herself. “I normally look at what I’ve done afterwards and think, ‘What is this rubbish?’” she laughs. But she was headhunted while working at the National Theatre and was soon leading the gallery’s work on everything from communications to fundraising.

She has certainly been successful. During her time, visitors have soared from 750,000 a year to some two million, something she modestly puts down to the strength of the collection rather than any of her own efforts to raise the gallery’s profile. “If you want a history of Britain, come here, it’s on the walls,” she says. But while talking to her, one message becomes clear: galleries like hers always need to be continually improved and need money to do this. If you’re a fan of the arts, you should probably try and give your favourite one support. “If you go round any arts organisation in London, be it a gallery, ballet company or theatre, you’ll see the same names on the walls. What we’re finding really important is to get new members. When I started, we hardly had any, now we have 16,000. It would be great to keep that growing.”

City graduates are not just fundraisers for Britain’s art world. They are also some of the people holding the purse strings, most notably Nick Capaldi, the Chief Executive of Arts Council Wales, which awards around £30 million a year to arts bodies, including galleries. Nick, to whom City is awarding an honorary doctorate this summer, dismisses the suggestion that he is seen as a bogeyman in the arts world deciding people’s futures, but admits his organisation has to turn down most applications for funding. “When I started doing this in the late 1980s, the arts tended to be bit elitist,” he says. “But I think one of the great signs of progress today is the people who come to us now are from all backgrounds. It feels so much more wide-ranging and, for want of a better word, democratic. But that unfortunately means we have to turn a lot more people down.”

Before City, Nick was a pianist who put on festivals and so he has “a very clear idea of what it is like to be on the other side of the fence applying for money,” he says. “It was a frustrating process – the time it took, the lack of feedback. And I was convinced there was a better, more positive and constructive way of doing things.” He has tried to change matters ever since.

Some of his biggest successes in his current role have involved funding Welsh theatre and the Artes Mundi prize – the UK’s biggest art award. But what would Nick do if he had unlimited money and could stop anyone in the arts world having to worry about budgets? He would establish a programme to reach every disadvantaged community in Wales, he says. “The great dream I have is to reach them all. We have pockets of real ingrained poverty here, particularly in the Welsh Valleys. I think the ability to take part in the arts could have a real transformational impact on those communities, giving them a happier, more fulfilling, better quality of life. That’s the power of the arts. That’s why we all work in this field.”

From top: Andrea Nixon, Executive Director of Tate Liverpool; Pim Baxter OBE, Deputy Director of the National Portrait Gallery; and Nick Capaldi, Chief Executive of Arts Council Wales.

Up next: Further reading
Daniel Wilsher: [pictured, left] I think Europe should have seen this coming a bit earlier. People have been in refugee camps for a long time, so it was only natural that they would start to try and get here. The EU is behaving like any group of nations: they don’t want refugees. Countries in the Middle East have taken millions of migrants and kept them in a basic kind of existence; they don’t necessarily give them equal human rights, but don’t throw them back either. Europe is different. If we let them in we have to integrate them and give them equal rights and that’s a much bigger task, a lot more challenging, so I don’t really blame Europe in one sense. Economically, it can easily take a million people, but it’s the politics that’s the problem.

Ideally the EU needs some kind of quotas across countries, which is something the EU is trying to sort out and which seems a fairer system than sending them back to the country they entered.

Immigration was one of the central points in the debate over whether the UK should leave the EU. What’s your view on that?

IK: It was a bit unfair to the other very important issues related to the referendum, but we should keep in mind the positive effects of migration, which have not been highlighted.

Which are?

IK: In the UK and across the EU we have ageing populations and declining birth rates. With all these migrants coming into Europe, any policy that could incorporate some of them would boost growth, employment and public finances.

Let’s start with you, Iosif. Tell us about your research project.

Iosif Kovras [pictured, right]: I’m originally from Lesbos, which is the focus of a humanitarian crisis as Syrian migrants try to reach Europe. Along with a colleague, I have a research grant to look at what happens to migrants who go missing or die crossing the Mediterranean. We want to understand if some of the lessons of how post-conflict societies have dealt with the missing could be useful in improving policy responses to the problem.

So far we’ve collected around 130 interviews in Greece, Italy, Tunisia and refugee camps in Turkey. These include interviews with local authorities and the families of those missing. We want to understand what are the steps and policies to identifying dead bodies and the needs and experiences of families involved. We need to know the obstacles they face.

What have you found so far?

IK: In Greece, the state institutions are very weak or have collapsed totally because of the economic crisis, so NGOs and local activists have stepped up to support families. There’s a real lack of policy in place to give information to families; often social media fills the gap. Local authorities focus resources on living migrants rather than identifying the dead. The families don’t have rights or a voice, so it’s a non-issue in the political agenda.

How well do you think Greece and Europe have dealt with the Syrian crisis?

IK: It’s become almost impossible for the Greek government to address this problem, given its economy and the sheer volume of migrants. Over the last 18 months they’ve received almost a million – about a tenth of the population. But there’s also been an inability of the Greek state to demand financial help and expertise from the EU.

DW: There are about three million EU migrant workers and around eight to nine million migrant workers in general in the UK. They make up a good proportion of the workforce.
in many sectors – healthcare, tourism, manufacturing, retail, agriculture and so on – so they’re part of the backbone of the economy. It’s implausible that there are huge reservoirs of British workers ready to step into those jobs. I understand why people get worried about immigration when you see wages stagnating and pressure on public services. However, we’re not producing enough skilled workers and immigration is as much a symptom as a cause. It is sometimes said that stopping migrants coming in is a ‘magic bullet’ to solving all these problems, but in all likelihood it isn’t.

As a migrant yourself, Iosif, what’s been your personal experience of coming to the UK?
 IK: So far very happy and very positive. I appreciate the meritocracy here and working in a multicultural environment. Living in London, it’s a vibrant and colourful city.

Daniel, as well as an academic you’re also an immigration tribunal judge. What does that involve?
 DW: The Home Office makes a decision on asylum cases and I sit on the bench of judges that hears their appeals. Asylum cases tend to come down to whether they’re believed or not and the government often says there’s not enough proof. Our job is to assess cases very carefully and apply the law. Around 40 per cent of appeals are successful, so we’re an essential safeguard.

One of the controversial aspects of immigration is the use of detention centres, which you’ve written a book about.
 DW: The UK detains around 30,000 people every year, without trial and at a cost of about £30,000 to £40,000 per person per year. Detention can range from a couple of weeks to a couple of years or more. The vast majority of people are never found guilty of any crime and most don’t understand why they’re being detained, other than they know their immigration status is in dispute. It’s also not totally clear why one person is detained over another. Risk of absconding is the main reason, but it’s very hard to pick out who’s going to abscond.

What’s the effect of detention?
 DW: There’s an increasing amount of evidence associated with mental health problems, depression and anxiety. People live in a prison-like environment – not quite the same as prison but overall it’s a closed environment. There’s also the general uncertainty over what’s happening to them. The system was designed to gain control over asylum numbers, but it’s not clear that it helps much with removal. Figures have remained stagnant, so it’s not really effective or cost-effective.

What’s the alternative?
 DW: The recent Shaw review, commissioned by the government, said that the current scale of detention is disproportionate. But studies show you can get pretty good compliance using bail and possibly tagging. You can assign someone to live at an address and they can then report regularly to immigration or police. Giving them access to a lawyer would also help them understand what’s going on; people who feel they’ve had a fair hearing are more likely to accept that they have to leave.

**Immigration Detention: Law, History, Politics** by Professor Daniel Wilsher is available from Cambridge University Press. More about Dr Iosif Kovras’s research is at www.iosifkovras.com.
The Centre for Charity Effectiveness at Cass Business School is a place where social value meets corporate prowess. Mickella Nikoi speaks to newly appointed Director Alex Skailes and some notable alumni.

Business with a social purpose

Formed in 2004, through a partnership between Cass Business School and the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants, the Centre for Charity Effectiveness (Cass CCE) set out to transform the nonprofit sector. This is more crucial now than ever as the demand from charities continues to rise while resources and funding are in short supply. Through its varied services, the Centre imparts the necessary knowledge and skills to lead sustainable organisations.

Cass CCE is the leading centre of its kind in the UK and offers a three-strand programme of Masters and executive education courses, academic research and consultancy. Situated within Cass Business School, Cass CCE is uniquely positioned to support excellence that extends beyond financial value. But what does this really mean for the nonprofit sector? Alex Skailes took up the position of Director of Consulting and Executive Education this year. An alumna of the Centre herself, she stresses that her decision to take on the role was influenced by a desire to use cross-sectoral learning to enhance the sector.

“For me,” she says, “it was the opportunity to be part of a Centre dedicated to improving and strengthening the nonprofit sector, which at the same time sits within a global business school – working across sectors to draw on best evidenced business practice and marrying this with the culture, values and needs of the sector.”

Cass CCE’s place within a university makes it unique in that the Centre acts as a trusted educator, providing independent thought and advice while also having first-hand and practical engagement with the individuals and organisations that comprise the nonprofit sector.

Alex explains: “Our engagement each year with hundreds of students, clients and their organisations enables us to gain a deep understanding of the issues that are being faced within the sector. We can draw on the combination of extensive practitioner experience underpinned with robust learning from our academic research.”

The Centre boasts a strong network of alumni and supporters whom it can support throughout the trajectory of their careers. “One of the things we are most proud of as a Centre is our ability and track record in helping people in numerous ways over time. A great example of this is one of our MSc alumni, Mo Wiltshire, who graduated in 2007, went on to become Chief Executive of King’s College London.”

Mickella Nikoi is an Alumni Communications Officer within City’s Development and Alumni Relations Office. She oversees City’s alumni communication channels, including the website, blog and social media.
London Students’ Union in 2010 and commissioned Cass CCE to develop a bespoke leadership development programme for her organisation. As well as fostering the development of others, last year she refreshed some of the learning she gained on the MSc course by attending Outstanding Leadership workshops and the Charity Talks series. She is also a mentor for a current student. “We’re really lucky to have such engaged champions of the Centre.”

Mo comments: “Whenever I have experienced Cass CCE as a student, client or audience member I feel I am in the company of experts who have the brains, background, curiosity and connections to both challenge and support me. There is a quality about the interactions that I trust.”

A government statistic from December 2015 suggests that 40 per cent of UK charities have an annual income of less than £10,000. So how does Cass CCE support smaller organisations? “We are fortunate to have the support of City University London,” says Alex, “which allows us to keep our Masters and executive education course fees as low as we possibly can.”

Cass CCE’s courses and knowledge exchange events provide a platform for people to come together to learn and, crucially, to share experiences and best practice. “This is really valuable, particularly for smaller organisations,” says Alex. The Centre also provides free online toolkits and other knowledge sharing publications, often enabled by sponsor support.

As the Centre continues to support and educate nonprofit leaders worldwide, Alex has a vision for its future: for Cass CCE to be the recognised and trusted partner for those working within and with the nonprofit sector. “We want to drive the effectiveness and sustainability of a sector that already creates a huge amount of social value,” she says, “such that it can extend its reach even further and deliver even more.”

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Cass CCE is working to widen its sphere of influence in the nonprofit sector by establishing a Chair in Charity Effectiveness to increase the number of charities receiving free or reduced-cost advice and to explore new areas. The University is seeking financial support for this outstanding work. If you can help, would like to know more or can introduce us to others who may be able to help please contact Director of Development David Street on 020 7040 5556 or at david.street.1@city.ac.uk.

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Cass CCE

Meet the alumni who are using the skills and knowhow gained at Cass CCE to make a positive difference in the world.

Mike Adamson
Chief Executive, British Red Cross

Why the nonprofit sector?
I was excited by the opportunity to make a positive difference to people’s lives as part of a great volunteer and staff team in the largest humanitarian movement in the world. That has continued to motivate me, together with the challenge of how to get things done and measure success when the impact cannot be measured in a financial bottom line.

Any advice?
If you are inspired by the chance to change the world and still willing to learn from all sectors, then go for it. It is hugely satisfying, but no picnic.

Why Cass CCE?
As a 29-year-old chief executive of a charity I was concerned that I was not leading the organisation effectively. Cass CCE gave me the confidence, the tools and the relationships to become a better leader and I’d like to think that lots of disenfranchised people both here and overseas benefited from that investment.

Akash Ghai
Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Development Three

Why the nonprofit sector?
Giving back is heavily ingrained in my family’s background, so working with nonprofit organisations became a no-brainer for me. During my formative years, I quickly saw how public benefit organisations can change the lives of those experiencing difficulties. My ambition has always been to build the capacity of these organisations so they can achieve greater impact.

Any advice?
The sector is hardly straight-line profit/loss, so listening to those who have experience in the sector is imperative. Before I enrolled at Cass CCE, I spent a lot of time speaking with NGO leaders to fully understand the challenges they face and to figure out whether pursuing a career in the sector was right for me, which, thankfully, it was.

Why Cass CCE?
It was the content and quality of the NGO Management course that made me apply. At the time there were many ‘veterans’ of the charity sector enrolled in the course. I realised there were strong learning opportunities both academically and practically; opportunities that I simply couldn’t pass up.

Ian Joseph
Managing Director, Russam GMS; Founding Director, Trustees Unlimited; Board Member, Cyclopark; Advisory Board Member, CharityWorks; Chairman, Institute for Migrant Research.

Why the nonprofit sector?
I’ve always been passionate about the sector and have worked in it and with it wearing many hats. The sector touches the lives of most people and our society is richer and more humane because of it.

Any advice?
Be humble; you can learn a lot from those who work in the sector. Do not leave your commercial head at the door; charities are not businesses but they need to be run like businesses. Channel your passion, but don’t allow it to cloud your objectivity. Become a trustee so that you have experience of being in charge of a charity and develop your understanding of the sector.

Why Cass CCE?
It is hugely satisfying, but no picnic.
After growing up in Stalybridge, near Manchester and studying for a BSc in Economics at the University of Cambridge, Anushka Asthana (Periodical Journalism, 2003) successfully applied to City after identifying it as the place to go to kick-start a career in journalism. But that hadn’t always been the plan.

“At school I’d never thought I was that good at English,” she says, “so I didn’t see journalism as a natural career choice. I now realise it’s about a lot more than just writing.” She got involved with the student newspaper at Cambridge as well as a local television channel; the two experiences inspiring her to apply to City. “Getting onto the course [at City] was a massive boost; it hugely built up my confidence,” she recalls.

Today, she is Political Editor at the Guardian newspaper, jointly with former Observer Economics Editor Heather Stewart, thanks to their employer’s progressive approach towards job-sharing. Anushka’s views on the experience are overwhelmingly positive: “A job share is the only way that someone at my stage of life, with two very young boys, could have even contemplated taking on a Political Editor role at a major broadsheet,” she says.

After graduating from City, Anushka joined the Observer where she spent eight enjoyable years as a reporter, a specialist and on the news desk. “Sunday journalism is both liberating and brutal,” she says. “You have a constant nervousness about the exclusives you are expected to bring in, but also the time and space to actually secure them.” Her tenure at the Observer was only briefly interrupted by a three-month stint at the Washington Post in 2006, after she was awarded the Laurence Stern Fellowship (arranged through City). During her time at the Post, she had the opportunity to travel on Air Force One and interview Barack Obama, who was a senator at the time.

After leaving the Observer she worked as Political Correspondent for both The Times and Sky News before joining the Guardian at the end of last year. “I’ve really loved being in the parliamentary lobby. It’s pinch yourself stuff, from asking David Cameron and Benjamin Netanyahu about the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, to having daily access to the Prime Minister throughout the 2015 general election.”

With her current job-sharing arrangement allowing her to juggle the pressures of motherhood with the rigours of political journalism, Anushka is keen to see job-shares become commonplace in the media. “A quick look around the lobby shows you how family-unfriendly political reporting can be, but I hope this will help shift the dial,” she says. “In society today, it’s still on average the woman who is more likely to take on a bigger role at home and be more willing to sacrifice her career. So it’s not surprising that job shares have been particularly liberating for women. “That said, I’ve been amazed by the number of men, in particular fathers, who have said they hope the job-share works because they want to see more of their families. So while it is about gender equality, it’s also about improving everybody’s work-life balance.”

The Guardian’s openness to a job-share scheme allows Anushka Asthana to balance a high-pressure job with her busy family life.

In profile: Anushka Asthana

Since her time as a student journalist at City 13 years ago, Anushka Asthana has enjoyed a successful career as a political journalist in both print and broadcasting. Today she forms one half of a groundbreaking job-share arrangement as Political Editor at the Guardian.
Benefits and services

Library access

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. There is also on-site access to online resources through the University libraries at Bunhill Row and Northampton Square.

To access the library please contact us for your Alumni Network Card.

CitySport

CitySport is our sport and fitness centre and offers competitive membership fees and special rates for alumni. It has leading-edge equipment with high-quality trainers, smart facilities and studios. We also have Olympic-quality courts for several team and individual sports, so why not come along for a game of badminton or a five-a-side football match?

To join CitySport please contact us first for your Alumni Network Card.

Eye care

At CitySight you can have free eyesight tests, contact lens fittings, aftercare and up to 20 per cent off a complete pair of glasses including exclusive designer styles. Not only will you receive a thorough eye examination at the clinic, your support will enable our Optometry students to continue to develop their clinical skills.

See www.city.ac.uk/alumni/benefits-and-services/prescription-spectacles for details.

Ask Alumni E-Mentoring

Ask Alumni is our relaunched e-mentoring platform. Simply register and create a profile to provide or seek informal, ad hoc careers advice. You can link your Ask Alumni profile to your LinkedIn account to make getting started even easier. Once logged in, you can search the database for mentors based on their location, experience, course or what type of support they are happy to provide (everything from email advice to work shadowing).

To sign up to Ask Alumni, either as a mentor or mentee, please visit www.city.ac.uk/alumni/ask-alumni.

Other benefits

Graduate Loyalty Discount

A fee discount of at least 10 per cent when enrolling for one of 150 postgraduate taught courses. www.city.ac.uk/alumni/recent-graduates/graduate-loyalty-discount.

Career and employment services

Whether you are a job hunter (up to three years after graduation) or recruiter, our Career and Skills Development Service can help. Call: +44 (0) 20 7040 8093.

Lifelong email

Alumni who graduated from 2013 onwards can continue to use their City email account.