Hot prospects

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City Magazine 2017
The magazine for alumni and friends of City, University of London produced by the Development & Alumni Relations Office.

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Cover story interviewees Katherine Brewster, Jordan Fleary and Sam Harris-Jones in the pavilion of City’s new main entrance; Rehana Popal, barrister at Mansfield 1 Gray’s Inn Chambers; budding entrepreneurs Luca Amaduzzi, Ellenor McIntosh and Alborz Bozorgi in City Launch Lab; Cass academic Dr Nick Motson at the Marathon des Sables.
Welcome

As last year’s City Magazine was about to go to print, the UK referendum results had just been announced. Some 12 months on we are still to learn the full consequences of the decision to leave the European Union. However, we remain committed to supporting our many European students and staff for whom the intervening period has been one of confusion and concern.

City is proud of its global student, staff and alumni community and we will continue to welcome all. Over the past few years we have seen a transformation in terms of student satisfaction, the quality of our research and most noticeably a tremendous improvement in our estate and facilities. Since the last edition of this publication we have seen significant developments, such as a new front entrance on Northampton Square, state-of-the-art lecture theatres, increased and spacious catering facilities, a new multi-faith prayer facility and several other introductions all aimed at improving the experience of our students and staff. The word ‘transformational’ can sometimes be overused; however, if you come back to look around I am sure you will find this word entirely appropriate.

A lot of the new developments have been introduced based on feedback from our students, who are best placed to know what is important in an ever-competitive higher education market. Student satisfaction is critical to our success and it is pleasing to note the year-on-year improvements to our students’ scores in the annual National Student Survey.

We were delighted to learn that in the independent Complete University Guide 2018, City is ranked the best in London for student satisfaction. With the largest student sports facility in central London, outstanding lecture theatres and catering outlets, a global reputation and enviable links with the City, business and the professions, we have come a long way in recent years.

The last 12 months have been memorable for several reasons. In September 2016, City joined the University of London federation, putting the former Northampton Institute into a group of elite and globally respected academic institutions. We retain our strong links with the Lord Mayor of London, formerly as our Chancellor but now our Rector. The Chancellor of the University of London is HRH The Princess Royal, who opened our new Northampton Square entrance in March (see overleaf).

So, while there is economic uncertainty through Brexit and the impact that it may have on the university sector, City is in a good place.

Over the past year I have met several former students and invited them back to City. They have been impressed and very proud of what has become of their alma mater. I hope if you are in London and nearby you will let us know. We would love to show you around. You will be impressed, too.

Enjoy this edition of City Magazine.

David Street
Director, Development and Alumni Relations
It has been another landmark year for City, with HRH The Princess Royal opening our new main entrance and the discovery that the ‘Father of the Steel Industry’ Sir Henry Bessemer used to live on the site. This year has also seen the launch of our new Vision & Strategy 2026 and much more besides.

Princess Royal opens new main entrance

HRH The Princess Royal visited City, University of London on Tuesday 28th March 2017 to open the new main entrance on Northampton Square.

In her role as Chancellor of the University of London, HRH The Princess Royal toured the new main entrance and met more than a hundred City staff and students. This included representatives from each of City’s five Schools and teams from Professional Services.

The new main entrance is part of a multimillion-pound project to transform the City estate. The project was a key part of the institution’s Vision & Strategy 2012 to 2017 and aimed to create a sense of community and provide a high-quality and inspiring environment for students and staff. The new main entrance includes social spaces, a coffee shop, seating areas and exhibition space.

The complex was designed to improve the flow and access between different parts of the campus, while serving as an impressive arrival point. Links between the different buildings make it easier for students and staff to move around campus, with the grand staircase providing links to Tait Building, College Building and other areas of the main building.

The visit concluded with HRH The Princess Royal unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion. Other elements of the tour included viewing a ‘walk-over’ plaque detailing important dates in City’s history. These include establishment in 1894, appointment by Royal Charter in 1966 and accession to the University of London in 2016. The plaque’s design drew inspiration...
City-sponsored Academy tops rankings

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City of London Academy Islington (COLAI) has been ranked 15th in the UK and 6th in London for Progress 8 (a measure of pupil progress) out of 6,382 schools nationwide.

The secondary and sixth-form education institution, co-sponsored by City, University of London and which educates students aged 11 to 19, was recognised for its pupil progress after scoring well above the national Progress 8 average, a new measure of students’ progress between Key Stages 2 and 4 across eight subjects.

This comes after the Academy doubled the proportion of A*/A grades and increased A* to C grades from 54 to 74 per cent. Sixty-eight per cent of secondary school students also achieved A* to C grades, which is 13 per cent higher than COLAI’s predicted GCSE results.

City, University of London contributes to the Academy’s governance and offers partnership activities and support facilitated by an on-site staff member from City’s Widening Participation and Outreach team.

Professor Sir Paul Curran, President of City, University of London said: “This is a truly outstanding achievement made possible by the tremendous head teacher Clare Verga, dedicated school staff and the efforts of so many individuals from across the community.”

City, University of London’s Director of Educational Relationships Eamon Martin, who is also Chair of Governors at COLAI, said: “Our vision is for the Academy to be an outstanding place of learning. The City staff who support the Academy share an unrelenting determination for students to succeed and a commitment to improving the lives of the young people of Islington.”

 dispatches - February 2017

A new sculpture outside the new entrance was also revealed. The sculpture represents one of the cloaks that form part of City’s crest. It is made from stainless steel, a material chosen for its links with a one-time local resident, Sir Henry Bessemer.

Professor Sir Paul Curran, President of City, University of London, said: “It was an honour to welcome Her Royal Highness, Chancellor of the University of London on an important day in the history of City as we opened our grand new entrance and accompanying artworks.

“Our new entrance, spiral sculpture and stone floor feature are confident symbols of the tremendous progress we have made at City over the past few years, including joining the University of London last year.”

The Princess had previously attended a University of London Founders Day in November 2016, where she presented Sir Paul and Chair of Council Rob Woodward with City’s ‘Certificate of Accession’. It has been placed with City’s Charters and Maces in a display cabinet in the College Building.

Bessemer exhibition and blue plaque

City discovered recently that Sir Henry Bessemer, the pioneering engineer and inventor of the steel mass production process, lived at 15 Northampton Square from 1833 on the site of what is now City’s main entrance. City held a commemorative event in May, including an exhibition in honour of Bessemer’s life and work and the unveiling of a commemorative blue plaque by the Mayor of Islington, Councillor Una O’Halloran. The plaque marks Bessemer’s residence in the Square and recognises the many achievements of a man who became known as the ‘Father of the Steel Industry’.

Bessemer was famous for devising the Bessemer process for the mass production of steel. The process is thought to be the single most important contribution to the Industrial Revolution as it reduced the cost of the production of ships.

More than 25 descendants of Sir Henry Bessemer travelled from around the world to attend the event. Paul Bessemer, Sir Henry’s great-great-grandson said: “It is a great honour that City is remembering Sir Henry Bessemer with a plaque. It is wonderful that City is keeping his memory alive on the site where he lived at the beginning of his career when he was the same age as most of City’s students.”

March 2017 saw City, University of London unveil its new Vision & Strategy 2026 as it embarks on a path of quality, growth and partnership in its new guise as an independent member institution of the University of London.

- This bold and comprehensive plan sets out City’s vision to: transform the lives of its students; create new knowledge; support business and the professions; and contribute to the global good of society.

- This effort will be guided by City’s five underlying values. City is committed to being: ambitious; collaborative; a community; diverse and inclusive; and organisationally self-confident.

- Over the next ten years City will both improve the quality of all it does and grow (i.e., become ‘better’ and ‘bigger’), while increasing its emphasis on people and partnership within and beyond City.

Readers can find full details of Vision & Strategy 2026 in the ‘About City’ section of our website. Visit: www.city.ac.uk

Vision & Strategy 2026

City Magazine 3
City receives gender equality award

City, University of London has been recognised for its commitment to gender equality by achieving the Bronze Award as part of the Athena Scientific Women’s Academic Network (SWAN) Charter.

The award was granted after City took decisive steps to reflect on its culture, practices and processes and produced a four-year Action Plan to deliver improvements in representation, progression and the working environment for all staff.

As a member of the Charter, City is committed to raising its equality and diversity profile and has been provided with a framework on which to build on current good practice. Athena SWAN highlights that bad practice disproportionately affects women, while good practice benefits all staff. The Action Plan, created as part of the Bronze Award application, will be implemented and reviewed over the next four years.

Professor Giulia Iori is Chair of City’s Gender Equality Working Group, which was established in July 2015 to lead on projects and initiatives that will support City in developing and delivering its gender equality aims. Professor Iori said: “Achieving the Athena SWAN Bronze Award is a significant achievement for City. The Gender Equality Project is committed to making long-term changes which embed positive cultures and behaviours across the institution. Implementation of the Athena SWAN Action Plan is one way in which we will continue to do this.”

Professor Sir Paul Curran, President of City, University of London, added: “I will ensure that we implement actions over the next four years and make appropriate investments to support them. Some will be completed quickly but more importantly, we are setting the foundation for lasting structural changes to the benefit of our staff, students and ultimately the institution.”

The Athena SWAN Charter was founded in 2005 to encourage and recognise commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) employment in higher education and research. Since 2015, it has also recognised work undertaken in arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law (AHSSBL), in professional and support roles and for trans staff and students.

New student mascot

A new official student mascot, the City Wolf, was introduced at a launch event at CityBar in January 2017. City students and staff worked together to create a new mascot to support City’s students at sports games and other official events after members of City’s Students’ Union (SU) indicated the need to provide competitive sports at City with a stronger identity and create a buzz on campus.

City, University of London has another historic mascot, the King Carrot, which belongs to the SU and represents sports, music and dancing on campus. City Wolf (pictured left) will coexist alongside the King Carrot and it is meant to be more of “a fun student mascot”, according to Bill Thompson, Head of Sports and Leisure Services at City.

The idea for the new mascot came in 2015 when City sports teams were presented with two creative ideas to choose from: the City Wolf and the City Knights. SU President Yusuf Ahmad said: “The Wolf was a better concept as it was gender-neutral and led to the creation of the City Wolfpack; wolves are stronger when they are part of a wolf pack and so the Wolfpack is a distinctive new identity for all of City’s sports teams collectively.”

The City Wolf made its official sports debut at the inaugural “varsity” (sports matches) between City, University of London and Kingston University held in late March. The mascot cheered on Team City, who won seven out of thirteen matches versus the Kingston Cougars.
Since 2009, Cass Business School has challenged students and staff to run an effective fundraising campaign supporting an orphanage in Ethiopia. The charity supports the maintenance, improvement and expansion of Hanna Orphans Home, an orphanage in Ethiopia for over 250 children aged 2 to 19 years, run by its founder Hanna Teshome.

The entrants with the best proposals have the opportunity to spend two weeks teaching in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and nearby towns. Nearly £10,000 was raised last year after two staff and two students from Cass and the School of Health Sciences combined their creative ideas. During their visit, the team also devised fun and entertaining workshops to help the children improve their English skills.

Raffaella (Raffi) Cuccia, Head of Schools’ Marketing at City, was selected to travel to Ethiopia and prepared ballet lessons combined with storytelling for the children. She said her visit to Ethiopia had been a very enjoyable volunteering experience as she saw the difference she made when working with children whose parents are either in prison, living with HIV or have passed away.

She said: “I tried to inspire the children using ballet because it is a hard but beautiful discipline. I wanted to convey the message that you need to work hard in your life to achieve your ambitions. At first, some children looked shy and serious, but by the end of our visit they were laughing, learning and enjoying themselves.”

All of the proceeds raised by City were used to support the charity to help pay their rent, buy clothing, shoes and new classroom equipment. This opportunity has also helped City students and staff to learn more about Ethiopian culture. Volunteer Nicolas Steininger, a BSc Finance student at Cass, said: “Each evening we had the chance to learn so much: from little-known facts about Ethiopian history to cultural differences that made us think about certain values and ideals that we might not have considered before.”

To find out more about Hanna’s Orphanage and donate, visit: www.wordpress.hannasorphanage.org.uk
Every year that passes brings with it a bumper crop of novels and non-fiction titles penned by City’s talented alumni and staff.

**Peng Shepherd**’s “extraordinary” debut novel, *M*, tells the story of a mysterious phenomenon that erases people’s shadows. Peng studied multiple creative writing short courses at City between 2010 and 2012 before progressing to New York University’s MFA Creative Writing (Fiction) course. Last year she won a $35,000 emerging writers grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation, awarded on the basis of an early draft of her novel. The hotly anticipated *M* will be released in spring 2018 by HarperCollins.

Another rising star from City Short Courses is Anna Mazzola (*The Novel Studio*, 2014), whose acclaimed debut novel, *The Unseeing*, published in July 2016 by Tinder Press, is based on the true story of Sarah Gale, who was convicted of aiding a murder in London in 1837. A University of Oxford graduate, Anna previously worked as a criminal justice solicitor.

**Greatest Hits** by Laura Barnett (*Newspaper Journalism*, 2007) is billed by *The Guardian* as a “novel for music lovers”. The book follows fictional musician Cass Wheeler as she tells her life-story through music. Laura collaborated with Mercury-nominated singer-songwriter Kathryn Williams on the novel, to create an album of songs to accompany the book. To see a video interview with the pair, visit: [www.tiny.cc/greatesthits](http://www.tiny.cc/greatesthits)

Carlie Sorosiak (MA Creative Writing, 2016) has penned a sun-drenched love story for young adults titled *If Birds Fly Back*, published by Macmillan in June. Carlie says the best thing about being a writer is “getting to live in your own head”, while her advice to aspiring writers is simple: “Be bold. Be persistent. Take writing advice from people you trust and everyone else’s advice with a bucket of salt.”

Non-fiction releases by City staff and alumni this year include: Senior Lecturer in Management Dr Peter Grant’s *National Myth and the First World War in Modern Popular Music*; Senior Lecturer in Law Dr Carmen Draghici’s *The Legitimacy of Family Rights in Strasbourg Case Law*; and *Falling Through Fire* by Clifford Thompson (Creative Writing Non-Fiction, 2012), a memoir of the author’s time as a firefighter and then as a journalist covering major disasters including the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing and the Paddington train crash.

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**UAE alumna blazes a trail**

The first ever female Emirati air traffic controller, Nouf Al Afeefi, was among the City students who celebrated their graduation from City’s Dubai Centre in May.

The alumna, who had been studying part-time for an MSc in Air Safety Management at City, had worked at the Sheikh Zayed Air Navigation Centre, the region’s largest and most modern air traffic control centre, since 2011.

Al Afeefi (pictured), who has been fascinated by aeroplanes since an early age, said: “Representing women in the United Arab Emirates is a great honour. Women are capable of everything they want to achieve and I would like to encourage them to pursue the most challenging careers.”

Dr Kevin Dunseath, Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa and Director of City’s Dubai Centre said: “We’re extremely proud of Nouf’s groundbreaking achievements, as we are of all of our graduating students here in Dubai. They have achieved their goals through courage, ability, determination and hard work. Nouf is a great role model to women everywhere. She and her cohort in Dubai are a credit to the entire City community across the world.”

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**Front covers of Anna, Carlie and Laura’s novels.**
Paying too much for your private healthcare insurance?

We’re introducing AXA PPP healthcare to provide simple, affordable private healthcare insurance to Alumni Union members.

With 75 years of experience providing private healthcare cover to over two million members, AXA PPP healthcare have developed a wide range of options to suit a variety of budgets. Whether you are new to private medical insurance or are looking to switch your health cover provider, you can tailor your plan to get the cover you want at a price you can afford.

When you take out a healthcare plan with AXA PPP healthcare, you’ll receive one month’s cover free and 12 months free PureGym membership. Terms and conditions apply. To find out more, please visit: www.axappphealthcare.co.uk/alumni

Alternatively, if you’re looking for a great deal on dental cover, AXA PPP healthcare are offering one month’s cover free. To find out more, please visit: www.axappphealthcare.co.uk/alumni/dental

Do you ever find yourself too busy to see your GP? If so, you can take advantage of Doctor@Hand, a specialist GP service from AXA PPP healthcare delivered by Doctor Care Anywhere. The service offers a way of seeing a GP by video or phone that’s designed for the way we live and work today. As an Alumni Union member, you can benefit from 20% off a single GP consultation with code Alumni20 or a 25% discount off an annual subscription package with voucher code Alumni25. Terms and conditions apply. To find out more, please visit: www.axappphealthcare.co.uk/alumni/doctor-at-hand

Join Alumni Union to explore our great offers. Visit www.alumniunion.co to join and keep up to date with the latest Alumni Union offers.
Academics from all five of City’s Schools are represented across these four pages, with groundbreaking research into the diagnosis of dementia featuring alongside a report on the importance of location for online businesses. Elsewhere, City academics are making important strides in information science, gender identity law, healthcare and the creeping globalisation of television production.

More GP visits don’t lead to earlier dementia diagnosis
Directly encouraging patients with potential memory problems to visit their GP doesn’t lead to more referrals or earlier diagnosis of dementia. These are the findings of a recent study by academics at City, University of London and University College London.

In the UK, around 850,000 people have dementia. The condition mainly affects people over 65, so early diagnosis is important to help patients and families plan for the future, receive treatment and arrange care.

To discover whether contacting patients directly could lead to earlier diagnosis, the academics recruited 22 general practices in South East England. During the trial, 11 practices (with a total of 6,387 patients aged over 70) sent out a personal letter and information leaflet, while the other 11 (with a total of 8,171 patients over 70) acted as a control, maintaining usual care practices.

Comparing the two groups, significantly higher numbers of patients from the first 11 practices consulted their GPs with suspected memory problems, but there was no difference in the numbers referred to specialist memory clinics.

The research, funded by the Alzheimer’s Society, was published in PLOS Medicine. Co-author and Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing at City, Dr Juanita Hoe, believes the results could be due to two factors: “It could be that the extra patients were either ‘worried well’ without memory problems, or that their GP didn’t recognise the problems.” Either way, the academics suggest that future measures to encourage earlier diagnosis should target GPs and patients.

New research published in the Academy of Management Journal shows that when businesses buy online, they are still influenced by location.

Working from Cass Business School, Professor Gianvito Lanzolla, Head of the Faculty of Management, along with Dr Hans Frankort, Senior Lecturer in Strategy, analysed the online purchasing activities of companies across a range of industries during a 21-month period. They found that buyers tend to equate a seller’s location with the quality of their institutional environment; this then influences their decision to do business with them. It seems that business-to-business digital marketplaces are subject to the same bias as their offline counterparts.

So it’s good news for online businesses with established geographical locations synonymous with a particular industry. For example, technology firms with headquarters in Silicon Valley, or financial services firms in the City of London. But not so good news if a vendor’s address doesn’t match a buyer’s preconceptions of where their purchase should originate.

If your business’s address doesn’t match a potential customer’s preconceptions, they might take their custom elsewhere.

But a prestigious address that conforms to buyers’ prejudices isn’t an option for everyone. Businesses that went into online sales assuming they’d be on a level playing field, whatever their location, might have to rethink their strategy.

Or is it their customers who need to review what informs their buying decisions? As Professor Lanzolla observes: “We need to think differently about digital marketplaces if we want to ensure a fairer, more unbiased system.” Maybe it’s not the seller who needs to change their postcode but the buyer who should change their perception of it.
Connecting low-oxygen environments to cognitive decline

A new study, led by academics from City, University of London and University College London, shows how low levels of oxygen can affect our brain and body. Their findings could have significant implications for healthcare.

The research, published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, involved observing individuals’ responses when at altitude. Recruited from the general public, 198 participants received a series of neuropsychological tests, first at sea level in London, then at 3,500m at Namche Bazaar in Nepal, then 5,300m at Everest Base Camp and again on their return to 1,300m in Kathmandu.

Cognitive decline was seen in nearly all tasks, especially those associated with language, learning, memory, coordination and the executive functions that help us plan and organise. Low oxygen didn’t have the same effect on everyone but generally the greatest decline occurred in older adults, who also took longer to recover after returning to a lower altitude.

Low oxygen at high altitude, such as at Everest Base Camp, can lead to cognitive decline.

As similar levels of oxygen deficiency can happen following surgery, or due to particular health conditions, this study could help improve healthcare. Professor Stanton Newman, Vice-President (International) and outgoing Dean of the School of Health Sciences at City, University of London, was senior author on the paper. He said: “Our study has helped show how low-oxygen environments affect the human brain and body. We hope it will give further insight into how we can respond to hypoxia-related cognitive impairment in clinical settings, particularly in older patients.”

The impact of globalised television content

A study entitled ‘Television and Globalization: The TV Content Global Value Chain’, published in the *Journal of Communication*, has shed new light on how international expansion has affected the way TV programmes are made.

The study, by Professor Jean Chalaby, Professor of International Communication at City, uses a global value chain (GVC) framework to analyse the globalisation of TV and argues that it has been driven by the dynamics of a newly formed TV content value chain.

Distinct segments have emerged as the chain globalised and firms have sought a competitive advantage by expanding internationally within their sector.

The research focuses on four dimensions of the TV content value chain and, documenting the growth of transnational TV networks and formats, argues that the TV industry’s millennial global shift was triggered by internationalisation of the chain’s component parts.

Professor Chalaby’s study suggests that TV industry conglomeration should be understood in the context of internet disruption and the international fragmentation that has affected the production process.

“Producing a show like *Come Dine With Me* involves technical equipment from Japan or Germany, editing software from Australia or the United States and expertise and IP from the United Kingdom,” says Professor Chalaby. “The show may not be produced by the commissioning broadcaster but a company that can be a joint venture between a local producer and the format rights holders. The outcome is an industry that mirrors other industrial sectors: global coordination, transnational production processes and integration through trade.”

Regarding the disruptive influence of the internet, Professor Chalaby says: “A content aggregator that has built an [online] entertainment destination is in a commanding position. Many media firms are moving upstream in order to defend their position and be present in an industry segment that has become very attractive.”
Cult fans are leaders in information sharing

Research by City’s Dr Lyn Robinson, published in the Journal of Information Science, investigates the information behaviour of fans and fan communities, focusing on fans of cult media.

Dr Robinson, a Reader and Head of City’s Department of Library & Information Science, undertook the research alongside Ludi Price, an Information Science doctoral student.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a fan as “a person who has a strong interest in, or admiration for, a particular person or thing”. City’s analysis shows that information practices (such as collaborating on social media to organise, classify and disseminate information related to a particular topic) are now an inherent and major part of fan activities.

Fans of cult television, films, music, comics and video games are actively involved in new forms of information consumption and production, showing sophisticated behaviour in the way they interact and share information.

“Cult media fans are seen to be an information-intensive group in many respects, with a variety of sophisticated online and offline information practices,” says Dr Robinson. “A better understanding of these will be of value to publishers, librarians and others, in dealing with this community.

“Information practices related to fandom may have value in education and the promotion of digital literacy. Beyond this, there may be more general lessons, as the information environment becomes more participative and information users in general develop a fan-like character.”

The academics identified three aspects of fan information behaviour of particular interest beyond the fan context: information gatekeeping; classifying and tagging; and entrepreneurship and economic activity. These will be the subject of further research, involving close study of fan activity on social media in a follow-up study.

Assessing the value of reforming gender identity laws

If the state stopped requiring citizens to certify their gender, what might happen to gender’s meaning and value? A study led by academics from The City Law School and the University of Kent posed the question of whether, as jurisdictions reform gender identity laws to accommodate transgender and intersex people, a more fundamental shift is required: one which eliminates the state law’s role in determining and assigning gender status altogether.

Adopting a feminist perspective, Flora Renz, a Lecturer in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at City, along with Professor Davina Cooper from the University of Kent, explored what the meaning and effects of comprehensively reforming legal gender might be upon gender’s constitution as a socio-legal property.

The research, published in the Journal of Law and Society, proceeded along two intersecting paths. The first concerned the different classification methods which could enable state law, without assigning gender, to continue to regulate gender identity decisions, thereby allowing state law to remain involved in tackling gender discrimination. The second concerned the changing form gender might take in conditions where state law withdraws the requirement to allocate gender.

These paths converged in the academics’ final discussion, which considered the legal and political effects that might follow on from gender becoming a property that is individually and collectively cultivated.

The research concludes that removing the state from the task of assigning gender might free gender from certain forms of direct state control. Renz says: “Indirect forms of control or regulation will continue to have consequences, but the naturalised, taken-for-granted notion of gender as a common-sense binary structure would be, at the very least, shaken.”

GENDER LAW
Diary 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 2016/17
1. Drinks reception in San Francisco for alumni and current MBA students of the Digital Innovation elective in April.  
2. City’s Alumni Ambassadors for Bangladesh hosted an alumni reunion in Dhaka in May.  
4. Alumni meet guest of honour and MBA alumnus Liu Mingkang (centre) at the Masterclass and Reception in Beijing in March.  
5. Dean of Cass Business School Professor Marianne Lewis delivering a Masterclass in Hong Kong in March.  
6. Alumni network after the Shanghai Masterclass in March.  
7. KPMG hosted a Cyber Security event in April.  
8-9. Staff, students and alumni celebrated 40 Years of Journalism at City in February.  
10. Engineering alumni investigated new equipment at the opening of the new Engineering Lab in February.  
11. Annual Alumni reception in Dubai during February.  
12. Professor Marianne Lewis mingles with alumni in Singapore in February.  
13. The Dubai End-of-Year Alumni Gathering in December.  
14. Matthew Reid delivering the annual George Daniels Lecture on ‘Conservation, Craft and Clockmaking’ in November.  
16. The MBA London Club hosted MBA alumni in September for a summer party at the Eight Moorgate private members’ club. 17. The Class of 1966 alumni hear about Formula Student and get up close to the City car at their Golden Anniversary in October. 18. Chairman and former CEO of The Coca-Cola Company (and MBA alumnus) Muhtar Kent welcomes the recipient of the Defne and Muhtar Kent Foundation Prize in Entrepreneurship and the Coca-Cola Scholars to a lunchtime reception at the Dorchester in September. 19. Alumni and staff dressed to the nines for dinner at the Dorchester to celebrate the launch of the #Cassat50 Celebrations, September. 20. Journalism alumnus and CEO of Dow Jones, William Lewis, interviews Muhtar Kent, Chairman and former CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, during the Cass 50th Anniversary Celebrations at the Dorchester in September.

Events in 2017/18

Highlights will include:

• Class of 1977 Mechanical Engineering 40th reunion, 31st July 2017
• ‘Cass at 50’ Closing Reception, 22nd September 2017
• Athens Alumni Reception, 9th November 2017
• Athens Triennial Meeting 2017, organised by the Costas Grammenos Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance under the auspices of HE the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Prokopios Pavlopoulos. Held at the Onassis Cultural Centre (STEGI) in Athens, 10th to 11th November 2017.

To receive our bi-monthly events bulletin and sign up for the events you would like to attend, please join our Online Community (details 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
Your international network

Become part of a global network and help others to succeed.

The City, University of London and Cass Business School Alumni Ambassadors are a vital part of the alumni network. They are our local hubs in their country, running events such as send-off parties for new students and networking drinks evenings to grow your connections.

We now have 91 Alumni Ambassadors in 42 countries and we would like to thank them all for their continued efforts. Find your local Alumni Ambassador by visiting the link at the bottom of this page.

Spotlight on: Shanghai

In September 2016, our three Shanghai Ambassadors organised a very impressive Networking Reception for alumni, including a beautiful wall for attendees to sign and a giveaway of alumni merchandise in a prize draw. The Alumni Relations team also recently visited Shanghai for a Masterclass featuring the Dean of Cass, Professor Marianne Lewis, at which the Ambassadors team was very helpful on the ground. They even took time out to introduce Cristina Feliz and Tracey Duodu (managers of Alumni Relations for City and Cass) to some authentic Shanghainese cuisine.

Meet the Ambassadors

Zoey Jiang studied MSc Real Estate Investment at Cass Business School, graduating in 2014. Her current role is as an Analyst at Gaw Capital Partners. She is active on WeChat making sure that the Shanghai alumni community stays well connected. Zoey remembers fondly all the hard work she did at Cass, which led to fantastic team work, especially in organising the Cass Real Estate Conference.

Joe Qiao also studied at Cass, graduating from his MSc in Finance in 2011. After graduation, he got a job as General Manager at W&Q International Trading before moving to his current role of Investment Manager at EasyFund Investment Management. Joe’s favourite memory of his time at Cass is gathering in the library to revise at examination time. Now, one of his greatest achievements is that the post-production company he invested in contributed to the feature film Rogue One: A Star Wars Story.

Cindy Xue, like Zoey, studied MSc Real Estate Investment, finishing her course in 2013. She now works for Standard Chartered Bank as an Associate in the Corporate & International Clients division.

International Alumni Ambassadors event roundup

Ambassador-led events are happening all around the world. Here’s a snapshot of some of the alumni events over the past year:

- The Beijing Ambassadors hosted a career-focused event in October 2016, featuring a QA with an alumni panel and prize giveaways.
- In Oslo, Norway they celebrated Christmas the traditional way, with an alumni get-together for a customary Norwegian Christmas dinner, organised by Kasper Johan Hellberg.
- Our Switzerland Alumni Ambassadors in Geneva and Zurich have organised an impressive number of drinks nights for alumni, so thanks to Amrit, Katharina, Sandra, Anastasia and Samuel.
- In New York, Ambassadors Kate Bennett, Jessamy Little and Evan Stisser got alumni together to meet and send off the new students before they headed over to London for their degrees.
- We have a great alumni community in Greece and Ambassadors Yannis Criticos, Maria Repouskou, Kat Glynou and Panayiotis Nicolaou were very helpful when the Alumni Relations team came to visit for an Alumni Reception in Athens with our Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics, Dr Iosif Kovras. We are currently planning the next gathering in November 2017.
- Turkey Ambassador Ismet Öztanik arranged a dinner in Istanbul for local alumni and plans more events soon.
- Nigerian Alumni held their annual reunion in Lagos in April 2016 with Ambassador Tony Bello and the rest of the team overseeing proceedings.
- And in Bangladesh, Saumitra Sarder, Minhaz Ador and Zohan Shams have also organised a reunion for all alumni at The Westin Dhaka.

Find out more: www.city.ac.uk/alumni/international-ambassadors
Throughout its history, City, University of 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 institution 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.

**Fundraising**

The Coca-Cola Foundation and Cass Global Women’s Leadership Programme is an innovative initiative designed to attract and nurture rising women leaders. Awarded £500,000 by The Coca-Cola Foundation in late 2016, the Programme will provide panels, development and networking opportunities for women throughout their leadership journeys from the 2017/18 academic year.

The innovative philanthropic partnership includes four annual MBA scholarships (one in each of the Cass MBA offerings: Full-time, Executive, Modular Executive, Dubai Executive). Yet the programme seeks to reach and impact well beyond these Coca-Cola Scholars. Working as leaders, the Scholars will develop and practise their leadership skills, working with Dr Canan Kocabasoglu-Hillmer, Dean of Cass Business School Professor Marianne Lewis, alumni, donors and the community to coordinate a programme of events for their peers, alumni, faculty and corporate partners.

Professor Lewis said: “We are delighted to work with Coca-Cola on this important initiative. Despite concerted efforts around the world, women remain a still-too-small (albeit vital) minority among business leaders. At Cass, we are determined to alter this trend. We already support women leaders through faculty leadership and via our internal Cass Academic Women programme. This partnership will allow us to continue to develop the women leaders of the future.”

Helen Smith Price, President of The Coca-Cola Foundation, said: “We believe one of the best ways to strengthen communities is through education. We’re honoured to work with Cass on this scholarship programme to reach some of the brightest and most ambitious female students and provide them the skills and training they need to be successful.”

Dr Kocabasoglu-Hillmer, Director of Global Women’s Leadership at Cass, said: “I am honoured to be taking on this role. We look forward to working with our alumni, business partners and students to contribute to this timely conversation about what we all need to do to increase the numbers of women leaders.”

The programme will be funded for three years. Scholarship recipients have been selected based on exceptional academic and professional achievements and their commitment to global women’s leadership development.
Support the City Future Fund

City continues to be grateful to the many donors who have supported students, world-class research and developments to our estate. Philanthropy plays a vital part in day-to-day life at City; many current students receive funding support through scholarships and bursaries. These are life-changing opportunities that might not be experienced but for the generosity of our donors.

An increasing number of donors donate to the City Future Fund.

This year we have raised in excess of £100,000 supporting students through scholarships, hardship funds and a Care Leavers initiative.

Scholarships are important as the cost of studying and living in London continues to rise. The Alumni Relations team is actively seeking support to help City attract the most academically gifted students regardless of background. Our donors support both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

We are also raising money to support the two exceptional projects detailed on these pages: the Women's Leadership Programme and the acclaimed Centre for Food Policy.

Find out more and donate: www.city.ac.uk/alumni/city-future-fund
Hot prospects

Diversity, drive and practical industry knowledge are among the reasons why recruiters from top firms work so hard to attract City’s highly employable graduates, writes Jessica Holland.

Edward Holroyd Pearce first got to know students from City, University of London, including a number from its prestigious Cass Business School, while he was organising student internships in China. A graduate of Cambridge University’s Oriental Studies course and the recipient of an MSc in International Management from SOAS, he’d gone on to launch his own company, CRCC Asia, in 2006. It was originally intended as a consultancy helping businesses tap into Chinese markets. And while that’s still a part of its activities, the company now works with the British Council and other partners to establish internship programmes in China for students from around the world.

The City students Edward met, he says, “were already much more globally experienced and confident, compared to the average student. They knew what they wanted; they had strong networking skills; they were very straight-talking.” His own company has a workforce of around 45 people worldwide and he says he’d strongly consider those coming from City’s pool of students. As well as being well-connected and driven, he says, the location is beneficial: “It would be a significant advantage hiring someone in London if they have already lived here before.”

His colleague Jason Kan, Europe General Manager for CRCC Asia, agrees with the sentiment. “The immediate advantage,” he says, “is that students familiar with the city are likely to have critical things such as accommodation already sorted, which helps enormously in the settling in period and allows them to focus on the already daunting task of getting to grips with their new job.”

Edward isn’t alone in rating City alumni so highly. The latest edition of the Global University Employability Ranking, published in Times Higher Education in November 2016, named City as the joint 12th best university in the UK for graduate employability and the 6th best in London. Some 63 universities are on the list, which reveals those universities that recruiters at top firms think are the best at preparing students for the workplace; City’s performance places it ahead of highly regarded red-brick institutions such as Durham, York and Cardiff.
Today, City comprises five Schools, specialising respectively in: Arts & Social Sciences; Business; Health Sciences; Law; and Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering [see boxout]. The business school, Cass, has been particularly highly ranked by independent assessments; its undergraduate courses were considered the best in the UK for business, management, accounting and finance, by the *Guardian University Guide* 2017. The School’s full-time MBA has also been ranked as the top one-year MBA in London and the best MBA in the world for corporate strategy by the *Financial Times* Global MBA Ranking 2017. In 2015, *The Economist* reported that recent Cass graduates saw a 93 per cent increase in salary post-MBA.

It was a combination of this impressive reputation and his first-hand experiences with City students that helped Edward choose Cass as the place to study for an Executive MBA. He had been successfully running the company he co-founded for a decade and was about to become a father for the first time. “I was trying to think long-term,” he says, “trying to turn my experiences into tangible skills that will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

As he works in London, he says that “part of the convenience of Cass is that they’re very centrally located and they’re clearly moving up the rankings very quickly.”

He’s now one year into a two-year Executive MBA course at Cass and he says the course “has really helped and provided everything I was looking for so far. It’s an excellent cohort.”

Much of what Edward says about the competence and drive of City alumni is echoed by recruiters at some of the world’s top employers. Jordan Fleary is EMEA Graduate Recruiter for Bloomberg’s Analytics and Sales department. He looks for around 150 new graduates, recent graduates and ‘second-jobbers’ each year, in addition to 75 summer interns and 60 participants in an ‘insight week’ each spring and summer. He singles out Cass students, in particular, as being “very professional”, adding that “they seem to have a very clear idea of what they want to do”.

It’s not just Cass that Jordan recruits from, though; he also hires people from City’s science, language, humanities and law courses. Lots of them, in fact. “I’m not aware of another university that has as many alumni working here,” he says. “We’ve got 140 people who went to City currently working at Bloomberg, including 68 from Cass.”

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**Ready for the workplace**

City’s five Schools are consistently producing highly employable graduates. Here are ten of the best.

**School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering**

*Notable alumnus* Arthy Ravichandran (MEng Aeronautical Engineering, 2011): Aerospace Business and Strategic Intelligence Manager, Aerospace Growth Partnership


**School of Arts & Social Sciences**

*Notable alumni* Dermot Murnaghan (PGDip Newspaper Journalism, 1984): Presenter, Sky News

*Notable alumni* Pim Baxter OBE (MA Arts Administration, 1990): Deputy Director, National Portrait Gallery

**Cass Business School**

*Notable alumni* Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou (MSc Shipping, Trade & Finance, 1988): Founder of easyJet

*Notable alumni* Muhtar Kent (MBA, 1977): Chairman of the Board of Directors and former CEO of The Coca-Cola Company

**School of Health Sciences**

*Notable alumna* Roa Altaweli (PhD Midwifery, 2015): The first ever Saudi Arabian midwife to obtain a PhD

*Notable alumni* Pravina Pindoria (BSc Child Nursing, 2004): Founder of Tallyfy, a business process management startup

**The City Law School**

*Notable alumni* Dinah Rose QC (PGDip Law, 1988): Human rights barrister, member of Blackstone Chambers, Deputy Judge of the High Court, named Barrister of the Year in 2009

*Notable alumni* Andrew Lomas (BPTC, 2014): Intellectual property lawyer, Tenant at One Essex Court
That’s across London, Europe and the world: Munich, Milan, Zurich, Rome, Berlin, Istanbul, New York, Mexico City, Johannesburg, Hong Kong. So, obviously it’s a very good talent pool for us.”

There are many reasons why this number is so high, Jordan says. The fact that jobs at Bloomberg are spread over the globe is one factor: “We look for multilingual talent for a lot of our roles,” he says, “so we obviously want to work with universities that will have a high proportion of students that have those additional languages, which City is able to provide.”

Part of the reason for all this multilingual ability is that City and its constituent Schools are so diverse. City’s student population is drawn from more than 160 countries, which creates a lively and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Similarly, more than 25 per cent of staff were born in another country, with homelands ranging over 50 countries, including the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, India, Greece, Germany, Brazil, China, Spain, Italy and Serbia.

This is very much a positive at Bloomberg, Jordan says. He explains [company founder] Michael Bloomberg’s philosophy of employing people from all backgrounds and walks of life, in order to attract the very best recruits. “We really see diversity as a business imperative,” Jordan says. “Rather than a ‘nice to have’, it is a ‘need to have’. And City is a really diverse university.”

The range of societies at City, including language-speaking societies, as well as finance and business-related societies, is another boon. “That helps us to be able to target the right types of students,” he says, “who are not necessarily studying for a finance degree but might have a passion for finance, for example.”

There’s also the fact that Cass has a training room for Bloomberg terminals, which shows the real-time price of stocks, shares, commodities and foreign exchange, as well as showing historical data for those products. “Obviously,” Jordan says, “recruiting people who have already had a chance to use the product is always a good idea for us. And I’m always encouraging the Cass undergraduates to get themselves over to Bunhill Row to see that training room and get stuck into the functionality.”

The location doesn’t hurt either, he adds. “It’s just around the corner, which certainly helps. Cass couldn’t be much closer.” Both City and its business school, Cass, are on Bloomberg’s concise list of targets for graduate recruitment, occupying two places on a shortlist of higher education institutions across Europe with which Bloomberg maintains such close links. It means that the company has a presence at both City and Cass careers fairs; works with the societies the institution has on campus; and maintains close relationships with City and Cass’s respective careers services, participating in events such as employability skills workshops, alumni panels and networking events. There are only about 20 universities across Europe with which Bloomberg maintains such close links, Jordan says.

“The careers services are really good,” he adds. “They’re engaged with their student development and it seems like they’ve got really good relationships with employers as well. When you have a strong careers service, you find that the students trust it, use it and engage with it, which isn’t always the case.”

City and Cass’s careers services, including a special Career and Professional Development team working with Cass MSc and MBA students, organise opportunities throughout the year. Of course, there are careers fairs: subject-specific fairs aimed at undergraduate students take place, both at City and off-site, in themed areas such as banking, finance and consultancy; engineering, science and technology; and law. There are preparation workshops before each one, where students can get tips on how to network and impress employers. There’s also an annual volunteering fair for those interested in the voluntary and third sector or making a difference outside their working hours and an inaugural Social Enterprise Festival for those interested in social innovation and impact through enterprise, which took place in February this year, in partnership with Queen Mary University of London.

All that is just part of what the Careers Service offers. There’s also an employability skills programme that runs on a weekly basis at lunchtimes and evenings. This covers topics like creating a unique personal brand, excelling in a video interview, knowing where your strengths lie and networking techniques. Then there are panel discussions, where students can learn from and question people working in fields such as the creative industries, government, cyber security and the charity sector.
“We work directly with leading employers who are always impressed to see the resources that are available to our students and graduate population,” says Sam Harris-Jones, an Employer Engagement Adviser in City’s Careers Service. “For employers, we provide a platform for them to engage directly with our talented pool of students and through this see first-hand the calibre of student that could potentially be working in their firm. The feedback we receive from organisations is always positive and encourages them to continue building their campus presence.”

On top of all that, there are workshops run by specific employers or by specialised careers consultants, mock assessment and psychometric testing sessions, company stalls on campus during lunch hours, an ‘employer in residence’ (available for mock interviews and cv checks) and special presentations by employers both on and off campus. City is also part of the Santander Universities network, which supports paid internships at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that might otherwise not be able to fund these placements.

At Cass Business School, each cohort of Masters students has a dedicated Relationship Manager with industry and market insight and access to a team of occupational psychologists, graduate and experienced-hire recruiters from a range of industry sectors, qualified career coaches and assessment professionals. Most courses have a programme of timetabled professional development, frequently joint-led by the Cass Careers team and an employer.

At postgraduate level in 2016, Cass students benefited from 3,287 one-to-one coaching meetings, 1,107 jobs posted on Cass’s jobs boards, 174 professional development workshops and 145 employer-led events, while 64 companies attended the Cass MSc Careers Fair.

Full-time MBA students are allocated a dedicated Careers Contact, who works with them throughout the year, providing a mix of coaching and compulsory and optional professional workshops, which are integrated into the course to enhance critical employability skills.

Professional development activity on the Executive MBA is considered an essential component of the MBA experience. Sarah Juillet is Director of Postgraduate Careers and Professional Development at Cass: “Skills and insights developed during professional development often act as the vehicle for applying the academic theory and thought leadership provided on the course, such as presentation skills, executive presence, negotiation skills and leadership,” she says. “These are all critical for the executive-level roles these students will move into.”

Across all MBA courses there is a focus on experiential learning activity. This includes delivering real-life consulting projects around the world, presenting research to industry leaders at professional associations and developing leadership strength in challenging contexts, e.g., expeditions and off-campus training at locations such as the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

IT services provider FDM Group is one of the many employers who work closely with City to recruit some of the UK’s top talent, running presentations, workshops and competitions in partnership with the institution. Katherine Brewster, FDM’s Regional University Relationship Manager, asked her team to share their experiences of working with City students and the words ‘professional’, ‘engaging’ and ‘diverse’ were high on the list. Team members remembered City students approaching challenging questions in a logical way; having “great soft skills” and “taking the opportunity to advance their skills even further”.

Emma Cheetham, a Campus Engagement Manager at PwC, also uses the word ‘engaging’ about those who have studied at City. She and her team regularly come onto campus to run skills events and presentations with the Careers Service and she says that when she meets students there, she finds that “they know why they’re there and what they want to get out of it. They’ve done their research so the questions are never generic.” She adds that “they’re always eager to learn and are appreciative of our time on campus”.

Specific additional help is available from the City Careers Service to students and graduates in certain fields. Students from Actuarial Science, Accounting and Finance, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Mathematics and Law courses, for example, can apply to take part in City’s Micro-Placement Programme [see boxout]. This aims to place hundreds of bright, hard-working students in short-term work experience placements during the summer, predominately within SMEs, in order to help them decide on their career ambitions.

For those enrolled on the BSc Management degree at Cass, there is the opportunity to take part in special projects in which students design a solution to a real business issue for a genuine company, culminating in a written report and a formal presentation to the ‘client’ business. The business itself is then free to apply that solution in the real world. Recent projects have included advising a media business on developing a

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**Micro-Placement Programme**

A programme run by City’s Careers Service to help undergraduates explore different career options was in February 2017 granted £100,000 of funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The Micro-Placements Programme, initially piloted with The City Law School, gives students the chance to do work placements in sectors unrelated to their field of study. It aims to make students aware of the many different careers available to them, help them to identify transferable skills gained through their degree and address inequality in the progression of certain student groups.
new business model, designing a remuneration system for a financial services company and repositioning a moribund charity. These are the types of tangible business world links that can help boost City alumni’s career opportunities after graduation.

City undergraduates have the opportunity to take part in another powerful scheme, exclusive to City, called the Industry Insights Programme: a series of year-round, off-campus events with companies from several different sectors. The students will visit the company’s premises for a day or half day to learn about the business, the industry and the different roles and opportunities there so they can make more informed career choices.

Bloomberg is one of the many companies that have participated in this scheme and Jordan Fleary says that the event that he took part in involved about 30 City students, who toured the offices, listened to a presentation about the history of the company and met professionals working there. “The idea is for them to be able to picture themselves at Bloomberg and also to decide which department might be the best fit for them,” he says. “It was one of the highlights of my year in terms of having such an engaged group of students. They were really enthusiastic, really professional.”

Jason Kan supports this glowing assessment, noting that “City students and graduates often demonstrate a ‘work-ready’ attitude and skill-set that differentiates them from many of their peers”.

“The emphasis on embedding both practical and theoretical elements into City degrees ensures students are focused on the ‘end-goal’, which in most cases is employability within a high-skill industry,” he says.

Mentoring is another way that City students can make industry links and ensure they embark on a career path that’s right for them. It definitely helped Manjeeta Pathak decide her path. She graduated from the Institute of Engineering with a degree in Architecture in 2010 and, after a few years spent working as an assistant architect, decided that her heart was in project management. “After considering many universities,” she says, she chose City as the place to gain a Masters in the subject, partly because she liked the fact that there were highly specialised, practical modules covering topics like optimisation, decision-making, financial engineering, supply chains and risk. “I thought this course will give me the knowledge that I need to pursue my dreams,” she recalls.

Manjeeta signed up for the mentoring scheme while she was there, where her mentor was Brian G Roberts, Director of a project risk management consultancy business called PROMS-MC and a graduate of Cass Business School’s MBA course in the early 1990s, when it was still known as the City University Business School. “I had a list of ten things I wanted to achieve at City,” she says. “He pushed me to achieve each one of my aims.” When she was applying for jobs, the two would pick apart each unsuccessful interview together in order to make the entire process a learning experience.

In August 2016, Manjeeta went on to secure a traineeship at the house-building company Redrow Homes and decided that she wanted to help inspire City students the way that she was inspired by her mentor. “It’s always exciting to inspire and motivate the future workforce, especially women, as there are still relatively few women in construction.” This was when City was about to launch its Industry Insights Programme and Manjeeta decided to organise a site visit programme for students. “The first time I started on a construction site, it was overwhelming,” she explains. “I never really knew how it looked until then.”

About eight students successfully applied for the events, from Cass, as well as the Engineering and Accounting courses in other Schools at City. They viewed the site, talked with professionals and had lunch with senior management, giving them the chance to discuss how the industry works. “They really enjoyed it,” she says, describing the group as “highly motivated and excited”.

“City is one of the best universities at the moment,” she says. While each student has to put in their own hard work and dedication to succeed, she adds, if you grab all the many opportunities offered “you can make a lot out of it”. Given the chance in the future, she says, “I would definitely employ somebody from City.”
In this year’s edition of Five to Watch, we meet City alumni going places in the worlds of television, law, optometry, management and technology.

Rehana Popal
BSc INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, 2011; GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LAW, 2012; BAR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSE, 2013

Rehana Popal is the first practising female Afghan at the Bar. A barrister at Mansfield 1 Gray’s Inn Chambers, she specialises in human rights, public and civil law having initially arrived in the UK as a refugee with her family. “My achievements so far serve as a constant reminder that nothing is impossible,” she says. “But this is only because I am fortunate enough to live in the UK. If I had stayed in Afghanistan, my life could have turned out very differently.”

Rehana graduated in 2011 from City’s School of Arts & Social Sciences with a BSc in International Politics. She proceeded to study for her Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), which she obtained at The City Law School in 2012. She remained at City, qualifying as a barrister after completing the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) in 2013. “City helped me develop the intellectual maturity to challenge, critique and entertain multiple truths,” she says.

Apart from joining the ranks of Queen’s Counsel, Rehana aims to work with the Afghan government regarding the rule of law. “I would love to go back and serve my country, being part of a generation that must bring transparency and trust back in the justice system,” she says. “If everything else fails, my natural inclination towards politics can perhaps lead to Afghan presidential ambitions.”

Jeanette Cowley
MBA, 1982

Jeanette Cowley is a Managing Director for Go For Growth. Her business helps companies to gain the most from their team and resolve complicated management challenges. “I consider myself a mediator and team coach as my research and client work is about understanding intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, dispute resolution and focusing energy on what matters. Voicing possibilities by drawing on your personal energy sits at the core of everything I do.”

Before founding Go For Growth in 2006, Jeanette was the Group HR Director for a FTSE 100 business that employed 90,000 staff worldwide. She was also a Managing Director at Marsh and Head of Human Resources for the UK and EMEA Operations at American Express.

Jeanette believes that the time she spent studying at City gave her the courage to pursue her dreams. “Completing my MBA at an early age taught me how to ask senior people leading questions without feeling inferior, but also developed my ability to analyse problems and sparked my love for debate. This early experience has affected me throughout my career and is still part of who I am.”

Jeanette has also started writing a book on reflective leadership entitled Breathe: How Do You Want To Spend Your Next 20 Years?
Dr Irene Ctori is a Lecturer in Optometry and Visual Science at City and has 20 years' experience of clinical optometric practice, in both the private sector and in specialised hospital optometry services.

Her journey at City started with a BSc in Optometry in 1991. “I was always very academically focused and only visited the main university building to attend my mathematics lectures and to go to the Students’ Union,” Irene says.

After obtaining her degree, she was encouraged to further her studies, but decided to spend a few years practising her trade. Ten years later she returned to City as a postgraduate student and pursued her passion for teaching. “I have always found City to be a warm and friendly place to be and I feel I have been continuously supported to achieve the best I can.”

After being awarded a scholarship, Irene completed a PhD, which gave her the opportunity to travel to conferences in France and the US to present her work. But the real highlight of her career so far was becoming a full-time Lecturer in 2016 after gaining several years of teaching experience as a Visiting Lecturer. “I love being a Lecturer. I really enjoy being able to bring my clinical skills into my lectures, but also integrating innovative technology,” she says. “Equally I get real satisfaction from conducting research and publishing my work. I hope that my enthusiasm for the job will remain the same for many years to come.”

James Olav Hill

BSc PSYCHOLOGY, 2011

James is a shooting producer and director working on award-winning factual entertainment television shows in the UK and the US. He produces stories, directs scenes and films and edits the footage that forms the final show.

After completing his bachelor degree in Psychology in 2011, he followed his passion for storytelling and filming. He became a researcher working for RDF Television and Redhouse TV casting contestants, shooting, logging and editing.

Following his time as a researcher, James was appointed a Shooting Assistant Producer for Channel 4’s Double Your House For Half The Money and Damned Designs: Don’t Demolish My Home series and a Director for the BBC’s Eat Well For Less. His most recent experience includes being a Production Director for Discovery’s highest rating factual entertainment shows, Homestead Rescue and Gold Rush.

James believes that City gave him the foundation he needed to pursue a career in television. “Aside from the technical skills of operating a camera, the essence of my job is understanding and working closely with people,” he says. “My degree helped me become more empathetic, create authentic connections with others, understand the importance of airing out issues and providing follow-up care and support.”

At the age of 26, James intends to keep learning with every new show, with the hope of eventually becoming an executive producer and exerting more control over multiple shows at once.

Pilgrim Beart

BSc COMPUTER ENGINEERING, 1988

Pilgrim’s creativity and passion for technology date back to early childhood. “When I was growing up our family went for walks most Sundays and I fell into conversation with my father about ideas and inventions,” he says. “I noticed other people had had great ideas and made them happen. This inspired me to wonder whether I could do the same.”

Thirty years later Pilgrim is a successful technology entrepreneur with a string of startups under his belt, each serving from 1 to 100 million customers. After a degree in Computer Engineering in the 1980s, Pilgrim designed innovative computer systems at startups in Cambridge and Oxford. “My degree rounded out my knowledge by exposing me to areas where I was weak. It also came in useful in 1992 when I wanted to travel as it would have been impossible to get a US visa without a degree,” he says.

After spending the next six years leading technology teams at three startups in Silicon Valley, he returned to Cambridge where he co-founded five companies that developed innovative concepts for indoor location systems, multi-band smartphone antenna systems and wireless charging. “I have always been motivated by trying to see what the ‘next big thing’ could be and trying to play a part in making it happen. It is often hard to get from A to B, but it is our mission to make things better.”
On an upward trajectory

Nurturing, encouraging and developing bright, entrepreneurial talent has always been a core part of the support that City, University of London offers its students. Amy Ripley caught up with two of City’s thriving startups who think they have found a gap in the market.

In the last year alone, City’s graduate companies created over 300 jobs and raised £4.5 million in investment with annual turnover of £7 million. City’s successful entrepreneurial graduates include Niall MacArthur, founder of award-winning sandwich chain Eat and Keith Abel, co-founder of organic food delivery firm Abel & Cole. But what is the secret to City’s graduate success? And how does the institution play a part in developing the mindset, skills and experience needed to be a successful entrepreneur?

There are plenty of recent graduates who are eager to follow in the footsteps of MacArthur and Abel. Student startup Twipes aims to tackle the huge global environmental issues surrounding wet wipes. Founded by alumni Alborz Bozorgi (BA Cultural and Creative Industries, 2017) and Ellenor McIntosh (Business Administration short course, 2015/16) when they were still studying at City, Twipes is already off to a flying start; it recently won the 2017 Mayor of London’s Entrepreneur competition.

Twipes are antibacterial, water-dispersible wet wipes that come on a roll designed to fit into existing toilet roll holders. Free from harsh chemicals, they dissolve within three hours when flushed. The wet wipes market is worth £9 billion globally. However, misusing them has serious environmental consequences because, unlike standard toilet paper, wet wipes do not disperse when flushed. Instead they congeal and cause blockages, leading to a build-up of fats, known as ‘fatbergs’. According to Water UK, it costs £90 million a year to unblock sewers clogged up by wet wipes and hygiene products. And that figure doesn’t take into account the human and environmental cost.

But Ellenor and Alborz, friends who first met at City and Islington Sixth Form College seven years ago, have found a solution which will help this global problem. “We came up with the idea while talking to a friend over brunch,” says Ellenor. “He was looking for a new product. He used wet wipes in the bathroom and had blocked his toilet...
three times already that year and it was only February!”

Suitably inspired, Ellenor and Alborz researched the market and were astounded at what they discovered. “I found out that Thames Water unblocks a sewer or drain because of wet wipes every seven minutes, while 80 per cent of all blockages are caused by wet wipes,” says Alborz.

Ellenor, whose bachelor degree is in Biomedical Science from the University of Bedfordshire, investigated how to make wipes which would dissolve in water. “Many of the traditional wipes on the market are made of cotton or bamboo and a lot of toilet paper itself is made from recycled paper. So I researched how to get toilet paper which is moist and a bit thicker and also made in the same way that wipes are manufactured. Regular toilet paper is made in a layering process. Wet wipes are made from cotton and fat, with an emulsifier on top, which has all of the chemicals, so it’s a two-layer process. I wanted to see if you could do the same thing with our Twipes product.”

Ellenor and Alborz were able to establish Twipes as a startup at City, making use of the comprehensive support that the institution provides to student and graduate businesses. They are based in City’s Launch Lab, an incubation space for student and graduate entrepreneurs. The Lab is a bright, airy space in the heart of the City and close to Tech City in Shoreditch, making it the perfect location for startups who want to make the most of being in London.

There are currently 45 companies based in the Lab with a diverse range of business interests. They include PlaqueChecker, a digital dental check-up app; Eat Chay, a vegan Vietnamese/Korean food startup; and Reciprico, an insurance platform which donates 50 per cent of its commission to charity. Alongside them are Bombinate, a high-fashion online shop; EatSafe, an app which helps people with dietary restrictions find suitable restaurants; and Createwright, a boutique content consultancy.

Alex Elkins is Entrepreneurship Education Manager at City and the man tasked with supporting and nurturing City’s startups. Alex and his team provide a comprehensive service to student and alumni businesses. “We provide support over three stages – start, launch and scale – and we are with our entrepreneurs throughout the process,” he says. “On a practical level we provide space for them to work in. We also provide specialist startup advice such as coaching and mentoring and run regular events and networking sessions.”

“I found out that Thames Water unblocks a sewer or drain because of wet wipes every seven minutes”
– Alborz Bozorgi, Twipes

A strong sense of community and mutual support is a key part of the Lab’s ethos. “We hold monthly meetups for members to share their tips and solve any problems together with their fellow residents. This session kicks off with a different topic or exercise each month to ensure that everyone learns and grows together,” says Alex.

“We also have Pitch Fridays where residents can practise and perfect their pitches with feedback from fellow residents as well as VIP guests. And Pizza Wednesdays are always popular, when we invite a guest speaker to share their knowledge and experience over a slice of pizza and a beer.”

Alborz and Ellenor say they have found the support of the Launch Lab an essential part of their success so far, particularly when they were preparing for the Mayor’s entrepreneurship competition. “We live on opposite sides of London so it gave us the thing that we really needed: space. Alex and the team coached us in how to pitch so we knew how to do it properly.

They are full of knowledge and know the right people. For example, they put us in touch with relevant contacts in the media and this led to our first TV interview on London Live,” says Ellenor. “They have been behind us every step of the way,” adds Alborz.

The pair say the support that they have received from the Mayor’s Office has been invaluable. Not only did they receive £20,000 in funding, they also receive mentoring from the Mayor’s Entrepreneur Delivery Team and Robert Gray, a Director at GlaxoSmithKlein, as part of the prize.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan is also a fan. Speaking at the award ceremony he paid tribute to Ellenor and Alborz’s work and the creativity and entrepreneurial talent at London’s universities: “Alborz and Ellenor are to be commended for tackling this challenge head on and they should be very proud of what they have achieved. It’s a testament to the creativity and talent in London’s world-leading universities that such a range of innovative solutions have been developed,” he said.

Not long after they won the Mayor’s competition, Twipes won €20,000 from the CT4a climate accelerator programme to help progress their idea. Ellenor won the UK semi-final of the Women’s Startup Competition and will compete in the European final in July. They also won last year’s 2016 CitySpark, a business ideas competition at City open to all students and recent alumni.
Safer cycling

Nine cyclists were killed on London’s roads last year. It is a sobering figure but one which another City entrepreneur hopes to help reduce. Luca Amaduzzi (MSc Innovation, Creativity and Leadership, 2013) founded CYCL in 2015, alongside business partner Agostino Stilli, a robotics PhD student from King’s College London. Together they invented WingLights, which are direction indicators for bicycles that attach onto the rider’s handlebars with the aim of making cyclists more visible to motorists.

WingLights have made a fantastic start. Earlier this year, they successfully pitched their product on BBC's Dragon’s Den, securing £45,000 funding from Moonpig.com founder Nick Jenkins.

Currently CYCL have two versions of their product: WingLights Fixed, which are permanently attached to the bike and WingLights Mag, which are magnetically removable from the handlebars. Both versions are activated by tapping them and flash at the same frequency as a car’s indicators, making it easier for drivers to see cyclists.

Luca came up with the idea of WingLights after feeling unsafe cycling around London. He says they are designed to give cyclists (and motorists) extra peace of mind. “WingLights support safe cycling by ensuring that cyclists can be seen, especially when changing lanes or at roundabouts. They aren’t a substitute for being aware and alert but are intended as an extra support.”

Luca says that he still applies what he learned during his time at City to his work at CYCL. “My Masters at City was really useful, it fostered a strong sense of innovation, developed my entrepreneurial skills and taught me how to solve problems creatively. I found these skills invaluable when I was finding the right suppliers and manufacturers and bringing the product to market.”

During his time at City, Luca took part in several CitySpark competitions. He also spent time in the City Launch Lab and won £10,000 worth of funding in the 2016 Santander Universities Enterprise competition. “I enjoyed working in the Lab, meeting, working and interacting with other entrepreneurs. The mentoring and useful introductions from all the networking events really helped me in the early stages,” he says.

Luca also says that CYCL have seen real benefits from winning Dragon’s Den and have found working with mentor Nick Jenkins, who holds a 12.5 per cent share in the company, particularly helpful. “He opens doors,” says Luca. “If Nick talks about WingLights and why they are important, people sit up and listen.”

“WingLights support safe cycling by ensuring that cyclists can be seen, especially when changing lanes or at roundabouts” – Luca Amaduzzi, CYCL

Alex Elkins says that the lessons learned and contacts made during time at City are essential skills, whether students decide to pursue a career as an entrepreneur or not. “At City, we have a strong commitment to strengthening our students’ employability, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and making them job-ready. Not everyone needs to start their own business but the skills that you gain by participating in entrepreneurial activities – tenacity, creativity, innovation – always impress employers.”

Twipes will formally launch this summer, just in time for festival season. Ahead of this, they are busy developing their website and recruiting a social media expert to help them manage their growing profile. “We’ll be holding the launch right here at City, in the Launch Lab,” says Alborz.

They have big plans for the future including extending the Twipes brand into biodegradable feminine hygiene products and flushable nappies. “I can see the Twipes brand being stocked in Waitrose one day,” says Alex.

CYCL, meanwhile, saw a turnover of £168,000 last year. “We would now like to develop more types of innovative cycling accessories and continue to grow the revenue of the company into a renowned cycling brand,” says Luca.

City Launch Lab offers desk space to alumni entrepreneurs who need access to co-working space and meeting rooms. Alumni interested in finding out how to join the community should contact the Lab: launchlab@city.ac.uk

City Lab is looking for more mentors and event speakers and would also like to establish an angel network. Training is provided for mentors.

Please contact Alex Elkins if you are interested in finding out more: alex.elkins.1@city.ac.uk
Going the distance

George Wigmore speaks to a Cass academic and an Engineering alumnus about their remarkable achievements in two of the world’s most gruelling, long-distance endurance races.
The summer of 2016 was also spent in a similar way by Dr Neil Phillips (who recently obtained his PhD in Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering from City) as he finished second in the gruelling Transcontinental Race, riding 4,000 kilometres (2,485 miles) through 12 countries from Belgium to Turkey in just under ten days completely self-supported to finish second.

The distances and times are simply extraordinary but are increasingly impressive when you consider that these events are fitted around work, jobs, studying and life; these are not professional athletes in the traditional sense but individuals dedicating themselves to pushing the outer limits of their physical and mental capabilities in any available annual leave or holidays.

The rise of ultra-endurance

When a 26-mile marathon or 120-mile bike race is no longer enough of a challenge, what is left? Ultra-endurance events such as Ironman (a long-distance triathlon) have become increasingly popular but as the races get longer and harder one name starts to stand out in the running community, namely the legendary Marathon Des Sables.

Created in 1986 by a French concert promoter, the Marathon Des Sables is a six-day, 156-mile ultramarathon, which is approximately the distance of six regular marathons, with the longest single stage last year over 52 miles long. This race is held every year in southern Morocco, in the Sahara Desert.

“It is known as the ‘toughest footrace on earth’ and you are fully self-sufficient apart from water, which is rationed for the whole race. You are basically carrying everything you need,” says Nick.

Although newer than the Marathon Des Sables, the Transcontinental Race has come to command similar respect in the ultra-distance community. Started in 2013 and taking a different approach to other races, the Transcontinental was the idea of the late Mike Hall, a record-breaking ultra-endurance bike racer who died earlier this year.

“Mike Hall’s vision was to change the race each year to enable it to be a new adventure and make sure racers had to plot new routes each year, rather than rely on previous routes,” explains Neil, who has ridden two editions, once solo and another time in a pair.

As opposed to a set route, which is often the case for most races, the Transcontinental instead had four checkpoints which had to be passed through, before finishing in Turkey, but the flexibility of the course often leads to great drama and interest. While riders must pass through all the checkpoints, they do not necessarily need to do so in order. This led to some riders racing to get ferries which shortened the distance, but took them to checkpoint four first, before having to head back to checkpoint three. Some riders also opted to cut into Italy to avoid some of the Alps, before cutting back into the country to reach the checkpoint.

Riders have to complete the race completely unsupported, meaning that they cannot receive any outside assistance in terms of accommodation or navigation and must carry everything they need on their bike.

In 2016, the race started in Geraardsbergen, Belgium, with checkpoints in Clermont-Ferrand, France; the Furka Pass in Switzerland; Passo di Giau, Italy; and Durmitor Massif, Montenegro, before finally ending in Çanakkale, Turkey.

“After the first attempt I had the belief that I could go faster and compete in the solo class. It is a completely different feeling being out on the road for almost ten days on your own with little sleep. But you are rewarded along the way with ever-changing scenery, people and the knowledge that every hour you cycle, the closer you are to the finish. The reward is immense; the understanding that you have self-propelled yourself across 12 countries in less days.”

The journey begins

For Nick, the start of his ultra-endurance journey began with a bet over Christmas in 2003 between a few colleagues. Little did Nick know at the time that it would lead to running 156 miles through the Moroccan desert 13 years later.

“At the time I was working at a US bank as head of a trading desk, tipping the scales at 118kg, drinking too much, smoking and eating junk food. As a desk we had a bet as to who could lose the biggest proportion of their body weight between New Year and Easter and I managed to lose 20 per cent (24kg) by cutting out the junk and starting to jog; I honestly couldn’t call it running.”

Having won the bet, Nick’s boss then bet him that he couldn’t run the London marathon the following year in less than four-and-a-half hours. Nick won the bet again.
“I trained and found that I actually enjoyed running, finishing the race in 4hr 9min, thus winning the bet. After that I spent the next three years trying to break the four-hour mark, which I finally managed in 2007. Once I’d achieved that I realised that I was unlikely to get significantly faster so started looking for different challenges, such as Ironman,” says Nick.

“Then in the summer of 2015 a friend told me he had a slot for the Marathon des Sables in April 2016, which planted a seed. I’d just lost a close friend after a short battle with pancreatic cancer so decided to enter and take part in the race in his memory while trying to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK.”

With the race signed up for, the main issue soon became about time and fitting in training around busy work and home life.

“I have three kids and a one-and-a-half-hour commute from home to the office so my biggest pressure is time,” says Nick. “From November until March I was running in the region of 50-65 miles per week, which meant finding 7.5 to 10 hours each week to train while minimising the impact on my family and work.”

To help find time, Nick started combining his training with his commute, getting off the train earlier and running into Cass.

“I would get my normal train in the mornings but then get off at Tottenham Hale and run along the canal to work, by varying the route I could fit in a 9- to 14-mile run before work. Many miles were also racked up with a head torch either early mornings or at night accompanied by my Labrador, Marley.”

“Moving to London rekindled my love for cycling as it was the easiest and most enjoyable way I found of getting around the city.”

For Neil, who has a long history of bike racing, the Transcontinental was more of a natural progression but it was also a struggle to fit everything in around work, studies and life.

“I have been cycling my whole life, racing mountain bikes as a teenager, before a hiatus during my undergraduate studies. Moving to London rekindled my love for cycling as it was the easiest and most enjoyable way I found of getting around the city. Miles increased and I started road racing but had a desire to do some really big rides and push myself. I came across the first Transcontinental race and it sparked something in my mind to give it a go.”

During training, Neil would get up early before coming into City and ride in Regents Park early in the morning, lapping the park past London Zoo as most of the city slept, before heading out into the countryside for longer rides at the weekends.

“Balancing training and studying wasn’t easy and admittedly it probably impacted on my studies slightly, although it did allow me to keep some perspective on life,” says Neil.

The race

After hundreds of hours of training throughout 2015 and 2016, with each item of clothing and kit weighed and included only if vital, the day of the race finally came, with the extreme highs and lows that come with such a giant undertaking.

Starting on the cobbled streets of Belgium at night, the race began with a huge effort for Neil as he covered 634km (394 miles) in a day from Belgium to the centre of France to reach the first checkpoint, before setting off for the next one in Switzerland and the Alps.

Carrying everything on his lightweight carbon-fibre bike inside special bags attached to the frame and wearing the same cycling clothes for the whole race to reduce weight, Neil crammed everything he needed into any available space. Other essential modifications were also made,
“There is a big mental and physical battle throughout the race,” Neil explains. “Day three is normally one of the hardest as your body is fatigued with the gruelling initial days. However, after that you seem to settle into a routine where you feel tired but the legs seem to carry on spinning. Towards the end, though, niggles do start to develop and it is a matter of pushing through with caution; coffee very much becomes your friend on the road, especially after nightfall.”

Wearing shoes with special sand-fastening grains and a cap to protect his head and neck from the blazing sun, for Nick the race started well. Even with a fully laden pack stuffed with food, water and the equipment needed for the race, he was smoothly covering between 35km and 41km each day. “I was comfortably in the top half of the field and getting into a routine of eating, drinking plenty and making sure I took my salt tablets. Though the conditions were taking their toll on my tent mates, high temperatures, high winds and low humidity were a cocktail that left runners at significant risk of dehydration. In fact, my original tent of eight was reduced to six after day one, four after day two and three after day three as people dropped out.”

Then day four happened. Running the longest stage of the race, Nick had 52 miles to run within a 34-hour time limit. With a steep climb forming a choke point, Nick and the other runners were forced to wait in the blazing midday sun. The result, was that Nick got overheated, developed heatstroke and started vomiting, requiring a 3.5 litre IV drip that night to aid rehydration. But despite the setbacks, he still managed to keep going.

“I saw multiple Ironman finishers just quit and walk off the course…”

As it turns out, the food you like at home might not be so appealing when it’s 40 degrees outside and my favourite foods turned out to be Peperami, cashew nuts and vanilla milkshake which sounds like an awful combination but somehow just hit the spot. It turned out that hydration was my biggest challenge; the water is rationed and, being 6ft 4in, I obviously needed more than somebody smaller.”

For Neil, a challenging moment came towards the end of a race, even though he was in second place, when freak weather struck as the race entered Macedonia. “A distinct low was entering Macedonia from Kosovo. I was hit by a generational storm that cut my day short and was one of the scariest moments to be on a bike while trying to find refuge. Twenty-one people lost their lives in Skopje that night due to flash floods and waking to the sight of cars washed in to ditches opened my eyes to what could happen.”

That dark day was followed however by the sheer adrenaline rush of approaching the end. “Reaching the finish, after battling 50km/h headwinds all morning and being awake for 36 hours, I had a tailwind for the final 30km and made sure I left all my energy reserves on the road. The adrenaline that develops when knowing it’s a short distance until it’s all over and you have practically completed something so incredible is unbelievable. I averaged speeds people would be happy with on fresh legs let alone after 3,700km and not sleeping for 700km.”

Astonishingly, Neil finished the race in 9 days, 17 hours and 42 minutes. Despite the dehydration and challenges of running through the Sahara, Nick also completed the race and ended up 716th overall.

So would they do it all again? While Neil aims to focus on domestic racing this year, Nick has other plans. “After finishing the race I sent an email to the people who sponsored me and said: ‘If I ever suggest doing this race again you have my permission to kick me where it hurts numerous times until I remember how broken I am at this moment’ and I promised my family I would take a year off before taking on any more challenges. It would appear the memories of how broken I was have faded fast because I have entered the Marathon des Sables again for 2018 with the aim of completing it without medical assistance this time.”

After all, while the pain is fleeting, the memories, adventures and intense sense of satisfaction will last forever.
City in the 1960s

An alumnus, Ken Harvey, recently shared with City a collection of his photography depicting life at his alma mater during the early-to-mid 1960s.

CONTRIBUTOR:
Ken Harvey studied BSc Applied Physics at City from 1962 to 1966, graduating just before City was awarded its Royal Charter and was still known as Northampton College of Advanced Technology. See the full gallery at: www.tiny.cc/city1960s
1. A Ford Consul, adorned with Beatles graffiti, outside the College Building during 'rag' week.
2. A student, John Bain, gives a presentation.
3. A local record shop sells LPs by, among others, Bo Diddley and Tony Bennett.
4. A student asks a member of the public for a donation to charity during 'rag' week.
5. Two police officers on Triumph Speed Twin motorcycles attend a student demonstration in Trafalgar Square.
6. A model came in to City to allow budding photographers like Ken to practise. “I took one of these shots along to my local camera club recently and it came top in the monochrome section, some 53 years since I took it,” says Ken. “She’s probably a pensioner herself now, like me. I wonder who she was?”
8. A view of St John Street and the College Building. The long since demolished Murphy’s pub (previously known as the Coach & Horses) is seen to the left of the image. “The best draught Guinness in town,” says Ken. “Many lunchtimes spent here.”
Jordan Tewell envisages a future where your sense of touch helps to guide you and gets you to your destination faster; where your text messages and emails are enhanced with warmth or chill, helping to augment the emotion you feel.

Jordan, whose background is in computer science, originally envisaged tapping into our less-used senses to improve the experience of computer gamers. But, after completing a Masters in Entertainment Technology at Carnegie Mellon University in 2012 and subsequently working on several startup projects in London, he realised that it wasn’t just gamers who could benefit. Arriving at City, University of London in 2013, he set to work on understanding how temperature affects our emotions.

No matter how many ‘emojis’ we use, it is still easy to misinterpret meaning in emails and text messages. But what about if the words were accompanied by warmth or chill too? “In theory, temperature can add more information and increase the bandwidth of the message,” explains Jordan. With this in mind he devised an experiment where users wore thermal stimulators on their arm (capable of producing warm, neutral and cool temperatures) and reported their emotions as they read a ‘thermally augmented’ Facebook post. Users consistently reported enhanced arousal when text was accompanied by warmth. “We think that this could be really useful for people with cognitive impairments, such as autism, assisting them in understanding the message better,” he says.

Meanwhile, temperature might also improve our sense of direction. Wearing the same thermal stimulator, Jordan measured how well volunteers were able to find their way around a two-dimensional maze. “It is a bit like the version of hide and seek where you use hot and cold to let people know how close they are,” he says. With the help of thermal stimulation, Jordan found that people were able to navigate their way around the maze 30 per cent faster. If that’s the case then a temperature bracelet to confirm you are on the right track could significantly reduce the amount of times you shout at your SatNav. And for tourists, temperature stimulators could lead you on a serendipitous tour of hidden attractions.

Jordan presented both his navigation and temperature-enhanced text research at the May 2017 Computer-Human Interaction Conference in Colorado. A month previously he took up an EPSRC Fellowship at City, University of London, bringing his skills to the SCAMPI (Self-Care Advice, Monitoring, Planning and Intervention) Research Project, developing new types of sensors to aid people with chronic conditions to continue living in their own home.

Whether we’ve lost the ability to use some of our senses, or we’ve forgotten how to tune into them, Jordan Tewell aims to bring the full sensory experience back into our lives.

To find out more, visit: www.jordantewell.com
Once you graduate, you automatically become a lifelong member of our Alumni Network. We have over 130,000 members worldwide, including former staff. As part of our Alumni Network you can access the following:

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Access the careers services for up to three years after you graduate.

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Use your alumni card to access the libraries at Northampton Square, Cass Business School and The City Law School.

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You can now access the Library at Senate House* for private study and non-commercial research only. You must pay the alumni membership rate and need to show a valid alumni card when applying to the Library for the first time.

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#### Lifelong email

If you graduated from 2013 onwards you can continue to use your City email account.

### Professional Mentoring

The Professional Mentoring Programmes match students with experienced professionals to develop their skills, confidence and future employability. For more information and to apply, visit: [www.city.ac.uk/professional-mentoring](http://www.city.ac.uk/professional-mentoring) Alternatively, become an e-mentor by joining Ask Alumni.

### Alumni Ambassadors

There are a growing number of Alumni Ambassadors and groups worldwide. These are currently based in 42 countries, to help you stay connected.

### Events and reunions

The Alumni Relations team hosts networking events, lectures and meetups around the world with the help of our Alumni Ambassadors. Come along and enjoy the valuable networking opportunities that our events provide. We can also help you organise class reunions.

### News

Keep up-to-date with the latest news from your department with our Alumni Blog, regular newsletter and annual magazine. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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*Please note this is only available to alumni who graduated from 2016 onwards. You will be asked to provide your degree certificate on your first visit.*

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