

The magazine for Friends of Coventry University

Autumn 2012

evolve

Business Brains

Tips for the top from budding entrepreneurs

Thinking outside the box

Colin Slater's creation of epic proportions

win

a Coventry University Decanter!

Cutting edge

First class fashion graduate Sian Toon shares the secrets of her success



Coventry University

welcome



Running your own business – and being your own boss – is a dream for many. As winners of the Times Higher Awards Entrepreneurial University of the Year, we aim to foster our students' entrepreneurial spirit and support them to get their businesses off the ground – not least with the help of generous alumni, who have contributed through the Student Enterprise Fund to provide loans to budding student entrepreneurs. One such entrepreneurial graduate is Sian Toon and you can read all about her business venture in our big interview on pages 20-23.

Also in this issue, we take a nostalgic look at Coventry's Art College in the 1950s with some fantastic photos from our star letter winner Ann Barnes' sketch book and cast a glance back to the 1970s to follow Colin Slater's creation of a large scale mural.

As always, evolve is packed with your updates, letters, reunions and events, but if this is the first time you have received evolve, then hello and welcome to your alumni association's magazine!

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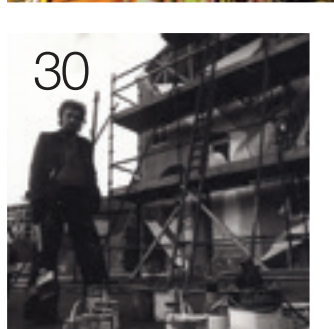
Social Networking: Become a Fan and join the Friends of Coventry University group on **Facebook**, link up with the University and other professionals on the **LinkedIn** website

Credits:

This magazine is **written and edited** by Kristina Anders, Katie Southwell and Brian Wilson, **designed** by Linda Selby and Paul Clarke for Coventry University, **photography** by Graham Harwood and printed by Emmersons Press.

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of **evolve**. Please keep sending in your stories.

This magazine is published twice a year for alumni of Coventry University. All letters, photos and news are welcomed but we reserve the right to edit any contributions. The opinions expressed in evolve are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Alumni Relations Office or Coventry University.





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Real-life examples of our student successes

Vice-Chancellor Madeleine Atkins offers a warm welcome



We have recently celebrated the highlight in the University calendar – our graduation ceremonies. I am delighted

to welcome all the new members of FOCUS and hope you enjoy this first glimpse of the alumni magazine evolve.

We are extremely proud to have been crowned the 'Entrepreneurial University of the Year' by the Times Higher Education. We have worked hard to ensure that entrepreneurialism and enterprise runs through every aspect of Coventry University, from our curriculum to our culture and through our staff, students and, of course, our alumni. This issue of evolve explores our enterprising activity in more detail and you can read all about the exciting businesses that have developed as a result of our support.

If you are reading this and thinking that you might be able to support our students through mentoring, business advice or even product development we would be delighted to hear from you. Our approach to fostering innovation starts as soon as you join us and continues long after you have graduated.

Madeleine J. Atkins

**Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE
Vice-Chancellor**

 This magazine is available in alternative formats on request. Call +44 (0)24 7688 8589 or email alumni@coventry.ac.uk



update

The latest campus and graduate news



Alumni in China gather for special event



Coventry University staff and alumni gathered in China this June for two special alumni events. The events were organised by the Coventry University Alumni Office in partnership with the University's Academic Partnership Unit (China Office) and the International Office.

The first event was held at Hangzhou and was attended by 50 alumni along with a number of University staff including Jeff Clowes, Associate Dean in the Faculty of Business, Environment and Society, Jean-Bernard Adrey from the International Experience and Mobility Service (IEMS), and staff from the International Office. Two Coventry University alumni gave presentations on how their degrees had helped their career development.

The event was also attended by staff and students from a variety of CU partners in the province including:

- Zhejiang University of Media and Communication (ZUMC)
- Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics (ZUFE)

- Zhejiang Gongshang University (ZGU)
- Hangzhou Normal University (HNU)
- Zhejiang University (ZU)
- Zhejiang International Exchange Corporation (ZIEC)

The event enabled networking and discussions on how the University could continue to support alumni worldwide, as well as working effectively with its partner institutions.

A second event was held in Guangzhou the following week in association with our long standing partner – Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. The President of the highly ranked Chinese University spoke at length about the importance of their link with Coventry and plans to deepen this relationship in the future. Pro-Vice-Chancellor David Pilsbury thanked alumni for their outstanding commitment to the University and outlined proposals for a website to better connect students around the world who have studied for a Coventry University degree.

With the support of Michael Mogan, the new Head of Alumni and Fundraising, there will be more alumni events, groups and activities overseas.

 **The next international alumni event will take place in Hong Kong on 1st December 2012. To register your interest, please email alumni@coventry.ac.uk.**



TheHub wins prestigious architecture award

TheHub won the Architecture West Midlands 2012 Award at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) ceremony in July. TheHub was chosen for the award for its architectural excellence.

Judges' comments on the night highlighted the inventiveness of TheHub's design which uses detail and visual effect in key areas to create 'surprise and intimacy in what is essentially a simple glass and concrete box [and] overall a vibrant and popular building that is a well-deserving winner of a regional award.'

Professor Gerry Ackerman, Deputy Director of Estates and Property, said: 'We are delighted that the RIBA have recognised what an exciting and important building TheHub is on our campus. It is a great tribute for all the hard work ourselves and our partners put into creating this highly successful, student focused building for the 21st century.'

TheHub was also shortlisted for the 'Award for Construction' at the annual Built in Quality Awards, sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Buildings, as well as the prestigious British Construction Industry Awards 2012.



Godiva Awakes

University Square was transformed this summer into the stage for a spectacular performance called Godiva Awakes. The event was part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad and used the image of Lady Godiva as a contemporary icon for the region. The 6 metre high Godiva created a unique spectacle as she set off on her journey to take part in the London 2012 celebrations.


Godiva 'awoke' to a spectacular performance on Saturday 28th July involving the Godiva Choir, dancers, actors, aerialists, musicians, pyrotechnicians, carnivalists and 220 young people in a procession marking the unveiling of this Godiva for the modern age.

On Sunday 29th July 2012 Godiva was the focal point of the Godiva Carnival in Coventry.



FOCUS on Facebook

Over 6,400 people 'like' our FOCUS Facebook page and have been following graduation bear around campus, sharing their experiences and solving our historical buildings quizzes. But the post that you all seemed to like most was our 'Virtual Coventry Pub Crawl' in the summer. If you haven't joined us on the crawl yet, visit FOCUS on Facebook today!

 You can catch-up with the latest news and events from Coventry, meet old friends and make new ones and of course take a walk down memory lane.



www.facebook.com/CovUniAlumni
Pub Crawl album:
<http://on.fb.me/TiLNau>



Dietitian

uses **food** to make us **fitter**

Dr Ricardo Costa, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Dietetics has recently launched a revolutionary new cookbook and app that can help you use food to get fitter. The *Cooking for sport and exercise* recipe resource shows you how easy it can be to eat healthily and improve your exercise or training regimes.

This exciting and easy-to-use cookbook makes the science of food and nutrition simple to understand and offers tasty nutritious recipe ideas that work well alongside a healthy active lifestyle.

Each recipe includes all the nutritional information you need to choose the best meal or snack and when is best to eat it. Brimming with tempting recipes, from creamy tomato pasta to an all-day breakfast panini (with low fat sausages and bacon), and honey and cinnamon energy bars to fatless carrot cake, *Cooking for sport and exercise* offers nutritious meals and snacks that are tasty but also easy to prepare.

As an ex-professional athlete, Ricardo has been involved in sport

and exercise nutrition for over a decade. In this new book he offers a helpful resource for busy people whatever your fitness programme – be it elite athlete training or simply a recreational athlete trying to improve your fitness levels. Breaking the recipes down into useful sections, such as *Loading up the Carbs*, *Don't forget the Vegetables*, *Sport and Recovery Drinks*, and *Where is the Protein*, helps users jump easily to the topic they want.

An app version of the book has been created in collaboration with the University's Serious Games Institute (SGI), offering users the opportunity to download the recipes direct to your mobile device. Alongside all the nutritious recipes, the app also allows you to build up a shopping list of ingredients as you browse the recipes.

Dr Costa said: 'Sport and exercise are an essential part of the healthy lifestyle, and good food choices can help make a massive difference in the results you get from workouts. By using this recipe resource, you can plan your meals and snacks to get the best possible sport and exercise outcomes, and develop healthier eating habits.'



“Our students can look forward to advanced, innovative education, informed by the latest research and driven by the need of employers.”

Iconic building supports new ways of learning

The Faculty of Engineering and Computing has now completed the move into its iconic £55m building.

The building is highly sustainable, using a range of technologies including rainwater harvesting, solar thermal energy and biomass boilers. Inside, it offers a fresh approach to organising spaces to support new ways of learning. The building aims to create a ‘community of learners’ of staff and students who inspire and encourage each other, as well as engage with industry.

Key features include:

- collaborative classrooms for some 4,000 students, bookable learning booths and IT workspaces;
- dynamic lecture theatres with the ability to film and play back lectures, and a 250-seat ‘theatre in the round’ space sponsored by the Wolfson Foundation;
- a high-precision wind tunnel designed and built by the Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 team;
- easy access to the latest industry standard software for students;
- integrated academic accommodation driving new research and teaching;
- a £2.6m ERDF-sponsored centre to support SMEs around the UK with the development of sustainable construction technologies;
- a 2,000 square metre, £3m high-performance engineering centre home to a Harrier Jump Jet aircraft, three flight simulators, the UK’s largest magnet, engine test cells for petrol and electric power trains, and a leading precision measurement facility.

The building is central to promoting and utilising Activity-Led Learning, a teaching initiative which the University sees as the way forward for 21st century graduates.

This new method of educating students is designed to give them problem-solving challenges against real deadlines, motivate their learning through activities and equip them with the skills and experience employers are looking for.

Paul Ivey, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing, said: ‘I am delighted to have this new home for the Faculty. Our students can look forward to advanced, innovative education, informed by the latest research and driven by the need of employers. Once again Coventry leads and inspires, and the future looks great.’

Getting down to business

Entrepreneurial activity runs throughout Coventry University. It is clear in our mission:

'We aspire to be a dynamic, global, enterprising university.' We have established a strong reputation as a leader in this field because we don't just focus on the numbers: we've embedded enterprise into every aspect of our provision.





The Institute of Applied Entrepreneurship (IAE) provides a focal point for entrepreneurial activity campus-wide. Since it was first established in 2008 the IAE has welcomed, developed and supported hundreds of students and staff and their business ideas.

Based in **TheHub**, at the very heart of the campus, the IAE is a dynamic Institute that aims to unite and develop students and SMEs through a range of bespoke development programmes to stimulate and inspire.

All students who register on the IAE programme are allocated a personal Business Mentor who will guide them through their start-up and development process as well as raising awareness of the range of services available. The IAE currently has 50 business mentors from a wide range of backgrounds. David Wick, lecturer within the Institute of Applied Entrepreneurship, explains: 'We have a variety of mentors spanning all areas of business including legal, ecommerce, marketing, the arts, retail, strategy, planning, finance and product development.'

This group of mentors are keen to pass on their knowledge and experience to help create a next generation of entrepreneurs. These business men and women kindly join as mentors and offer their assistance free of charge.

David, who is also a graduate of Coventry's MA in Global Entrepreneurship, benefitted from the mentor support programme when he was a student: 'Mentoring support is a valuable part of any business start up. I thoroughly enjoy sitting down with the students and progressing their business idea. When I was a student the mentorship programme opened doors and expanded my network and I am still in contact with my old mentor 5 years later.'

It's not all one-sided either explains David: '*Keeping a relationship with people who are enthusiastic and energetic about starting their own businesses is really contagious, and you never know, you might learn something new that could help your own business.*'


If you are interested in becoming a mentor at the University contact either Robin Underhay r.underhay@cad.coventry.ac.uk or Ben Grocott b.grocott@coventry.ac.uk

The IAE offers a variety of opportunities to help develop individuals and their businesses, including a European Exchange Programme, Student Enterprise Fund, and an intense programme consisting of mentoring, workshops and grant funding. It also offers its unique 4Front service that helps students set up their own virtual office, enabling them to work from home while maintaining the

prestige of an office address at the Technology Park on Puma Way.

In terms of the local economy, the IAE are committed to developing conditions for growth and see themselves as facilitators in putting energy back into the market. Increasingly, businesses are accepting that the need to collaborate is critical to their survival, job creation and growth. The IAE have a package of support that will allow businesses to collaborate in a supported environment. David said: 'Collaboration through open innovation provides all sizes and shapes of businesses with the opportunities to commercialise new innovative ideas. At the IAE we understand those challenges and work with new and Small to Medium sized Enterprises to forge meaningful partnerships for mutual benefit. We might not have all of the answers but collectively we can find access to the solutions for every business.'

For further details on the range of support services please contact the IAE on **024 7623 6001** or email business-enterprise@cad.coventry.ac.uk

 **For information about online Mentoring Support, please visit <http://wwwm.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/enterprise/business/Pages/Mentoring.aspx>**

getconnected

**Get back in touch with old friends.
Coventry graduates reveal where they are now**

1980s

Maureen La Frenais

Graphic Design (1980)

I graduated with a Graphic Design degree and have worked as a magazine designer and illustrator in Brecon Beacons National Park, as well as a medical artist at Guys Hospital. I designed the first council tax form ever for Wandsworth Council and at Southwark Council moved more into exhibitions and museums. After moving to Dorset, I worked for the RNLI and project managed a new memorial and two new museums, and recently managed an arts sculpture project through my role with the National Trust. I would love to re-visit Coventry when I have time.

1990s

Elisabeth Bryant

Nursing (1990)

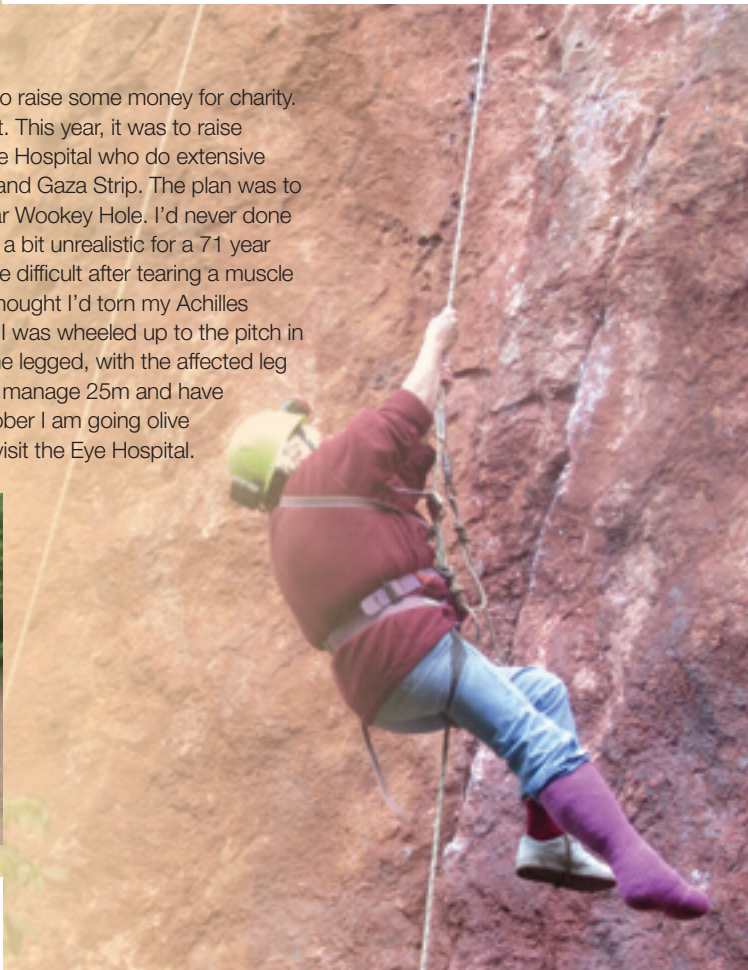
Still remember the lively discussions of fellow student practice nurses and what we learned from each other. It's often not what you learn but who you learn with, that can make the difference.



Martha Young

Modern Studies (1990)

Now that I'm retired, I have time to raise some money for charity. Each year I do a sponsored event. This year, it was to raise money for the East Jerusalem Eye Hospital who do extensive outreach work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The plan was to prusik up the side of a quarry near Wookey Hole. I'd never done it before and the aim of 50m was a bit unrealistic for a 71 year old. Unfortunately, it became more difficult after tearing a muscle in my calf five days before. A&E thought I'd torn my Achilles tendon and put my leg in plaster. I was wheeled up to the pitch in a wheelbarrow and performed one legged, with the affected leg hanging uselessly. However, I did manage 25m and have so far raised over £1,000. In October I am going olive picking in Palestine and hope to visit the Eye Hospital.



Dawn Skidmore

Manipulative Therapy (1995)

Coventry University opened doors for me and enabled me to take on exciting positions. It also 'stretched' me and gave me confidence and opportunities to take on new challenges. I really enjoyed my time there. I now work in Australia, having moved to Queensland from South Australia. I hope my fellow graduates are all well and enjoying life.

Sue Orr (née Bartle)

Occupational Therapy (1996)

I left Bristol with my husband and daughter in January 2012 and moved to Canada. We are now living near Toronto and I am a stay at home mum, looking after Caitlin, our beautiful 21 month old girl. Quite a change!



David Bull

Geography (1999)

Since taking Geography, I have worked in the shipping industry and have worked for several ship brokers/research consulting groups. I am currently working in an engineering company that constructs ports, roads and airports. My job is to investigate and research shipping patterns, trade flows, vessel designs and to forecast future supply and demand.

2000s

Marcie Edwards

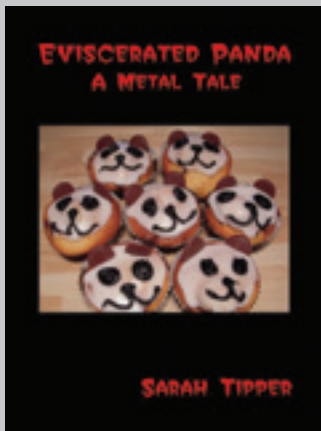
Third World Development Studies (2002)

I am currently based in Earlsdon, Coventry and am working in an independent toy shop called Tinker Box Toys and Trinkets, as well as selling greeting cards as a Phoenix Trader. This is whilst keeping hens, cats, a tortoise, African landsnails and being mum to a gorgeous daughter.



Sarah Tipper

Health Psychology (2003)



I recently published a book: *Eviscerated Panda – A Metal Tale* (available from Amazon). It is about a newly formed thrash metal band, the brainchild of ageing lead guitarist Phil Winter. They represent his big hope for regaining his former musical self-esteem and his luck with the ladies. Phil had to hastily exit stage left from his last band when his dalliances with the drummer's fiancée were discovered. Young singer and underachiever Nick loves the band because it provides an escape from his dull job in a supermarket. For rhythm guitarist Ian it's all he's ever wanted to do. For bass player Jim it's a pleasant hobby, at least to begin with. For drummer Paul it's a step up from being in a covers band and a sometime causer of arguments between him and his wife.

A band is much more than just the musicians in it, it's a whole ecosystem. A female perspective is given by close friends Cleo and Jenni as the Pandas play to and hang out with an audience comprised of friends, fans, wives, girlfriends, future girlfriends, lovers, promoters, other bands, interested spectators and uninterested spectators. After a nervous first gig in their native Reading, they play in Swindon, Coventry, Oxford, Dudley, Brighton, Birmingham and Camden. In between gigs they mostly go to the pub, eat biscuits, record an E.P, read a girl's guide to heavy metal written by Cleo, practice and make grandiose plans for their future. Occasionally they get laid. Even more occasionally they get paid to play.

I am also currently writing a sequel, which will feature further adventures of Eviscerated Panda and their friends. In it, they struggle to make an album and to achieve some level of success, with their private lives becoming ever more chaotic as the band swallows more and more of their energy.



Email your updates for the next issue of evolve to alumni@coventry.ac.uk

Jeff Huang

Automotive Engineering (2004)

Thank you for sending me *Evolve*, which I've received for a number of years. It has helped me stay connected to my alma mater and Coventry City. I now work in the R&D centre of the Ford Motor Company in Nanjing, China. The education I've received at Coventry University has stood me in good stead and has been very beneficial for my work and my career. I still keep in touch with two other Chinese classmates (both of whom have good jobs in China) – we're currently discussing the possibility of a ten year reunion! I look forward to going back to Coventry in the near future – I miss it very much!



2010s

Fatima Ali

Health Psychology (2010)

After having lost my job as a “Smoking Cessation Advisor” due to government cuts, my old teacher from school called to offer me some work with 16+ students. I engage in student support such as mentoring and assisting students with lessons, as well as some lesson planning and taking citizenship lessons. It has been really interesting, especially because, as a young member of staff, I can really engage with students and assist them with their university applications.

Ricky Atwal

Law and Business (2009)

I started my time with Coventry University in 2006 and have never left! I studied at the university, went on to compete and represent Coventry University and I now work here. When I started, I followed my father into boxing and joined the Coventry University Amateur Boxing Club, winning a silver medal at the 2008 English University Boxing Championships. I still train and compete for Coventry University Boxing Club (I am one of the longest serving members there) and I hope to soon become a qualified boxing coach. After working at various places for a couple of years since graduating in 2009, I applied and took up a position with Coventry University as a Customer Service Advisor, working for Student Services.

Felicity Johnson

Psychology (2011)

After graduation, I worked as a Store Ambassador for Jack Wills for several months. After developing a passion for retail, I started in the Abercrombie and Fitch Graduate Scheme in May 2012, and have recently been promoted to assistant manager of the local Hollister branch. I was also recently involved in collecting sponsors for a ‘Race for Life’ fundraising event in June.



New app puts *Shakespeare* on the map

A new app is giving visitors to Stratford-upon-Avon the ability to access hundreds of previously unseen artefacts and documents related to Shakespeare free of charge.





The Eye Shakespeare app, which has been developed by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Coventry University, features a host of hi-res images of rare material which has been digitised as part of a £500,000 project part-funded by the Technology Strategy Board.

Drawing on the Trust's vast archive of historical items and on the technological expertise of the University's Serious Games Institute (SGI), the partnership – which also includes Hewlett Packard and Danwood – created the app to offer tourists a unique perspective on Shakespeare's life and times.

Amongst the items digitised for the app is a lock of hair from the head of Shakespeare, a 16th-century deed box owned by the constable of Stratford's town jail and the court record of Shakespeare's purchase of his last home, New Place.

Visitors can remotely access images, video and audio content related to each historic site in the town, and – through augmented reality – will be able to hold their smartphones up and see a 3D

re-creation of New Place, which was destroyed in 1759.

The ambitious initiative is intended to push the boundaries of what is possible with current smart device technologies, and is being presented as a model which other museum and heritage organisations around the UK could take advantage of to promote their own collections and stories.

Tim Luft, director of the Serious Games Institute at Coventry University, said:

'Millions of people visit Stratford every year to pay homage to Shakespeare, and yet the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's incredible collection of internationally and historically significant artefacts and documents has remained unseen to the vast majority of them until now.'

'We're thrilled to be working with the Trust and with Hewlett Packard and Danwood to bring the collection to life through the Eye Shakespeare app. It's a great example of industry and the higher education sector working together to innovate, and we hope that the app will prove a hit with visitors to Stratford and will play its part in boosting tourism in the region.'

Coventry University is one of the leading players in the field of digital cultural archiving, with a portfolio of innovative projects underway as part of its pioneering Digital Media Grand Challenge Initiative – an applied research programme dedicated to exploiting digital environments through the use of creative content.



It's Good To Talk

In February and March this year a team of students working for the Alumni Office spoke to more than 900 alumni as part of our **annual telephone campaign**.

“During the campaign I had the opportunity to talk with many different people. It was great for us to hear that our alumni had a great experience at the University and their studies significantly contributed to their careers. Very important for us was the delivered feedback.

Thanks to your opinions we will improve our services where it is needed.

I have also taken part in organising Alumni Sports Day. It was such a great event that everyone enjoyed.”

Peter

Other alumni are prepared to come to talk to students about aspects of their subjects or the reality of working in their subject areas, or to provide careers advice alongside the university's careers service. This is a chance to pass on knowledge, experience and inspiration to the next generation of Coventry graduates, and something that students find invaluable.

But you don't have to go as far as these things to be of assistance to the students who are following in your footsteps – just updating your employment details (which you can do online or using the update sheet that accompanied this magazine – you don't have to wait for us to telephone you!) helps provide the information for us to be able to show current students that 14% of people who studied *this* went on to become *that* or that 70% of alumni who work in *such-and-such* had done a Masters beforehand and so on.

Outside of the realm of employment, our callers have also been gathering feedback from alumni about what the university continues to provide – this magazine for example! Probably the most common comment was that people wanted to read more articles about other alumni, so that's something we'll be looking to act upon in future editions.



Contrary to popular belief the campaign isn't simply about asking for money – although fundraising is a part of the call and more than 1 in 5 people do pledge to support current students financially – we're primarily interested in finding out what people have gone on to do and experience since graduating.

Learning about the career paths alumni have followed can provide enormously useful guidance and examples for current students looking for a way into particular fields of work or for ideas about jobs they might not otherwise consider. Many graduates now work in areas that seem to represent a radical departure from the subject they studied, but talking about how this happened often highlights the value of transferrable skills and knowledge that were built up while a student. Several alumni told us that they had gone on to become self-employed, creating their own businesses as a result of the current economic situation and their ability to recognise a market need following their studies. Some have even made a pledge that they may be able to offer placements to Coventry University students in few years as their business progresses...

Many alumni are now working in organisations that are able to provide opportunities for current students to gain experience on a work placement, and are either in a position to offer this directly or can put us in contact with the appropriate people within their company. The difference this can make in helping a new graduate demonstrate that they have the workplace skills as well as the theoretical understanding when looking for employment is beyond calculation – especially in the current economic climate where opportunities are less abundant and employers more risk-averse.



“As a first year Occupational Therapy student being part of the call campaign enabled me to gain a real insight into the course here at Coventry. I found talking to ex-students increased my motivation and helped me to understand the various options available for future employment. I was able to discuss practice placement experiences which proved to be of great value for myself and I am sure for the University. Talking does come naturally to me, especially over the phone, making this kind of work not feel like work at all. Throughout the campaign I was lucky to be alongside other like-minded students who also loved to talk, we often shared banter and many positive experiences of calling ex-Coventry University students. I am already looking forward to the next campaign.”

Trisha

The **real** deal

It turns over around £3 million a day, it's noisy, it's manic and it's frantic but the London Stock Exchange offers Coventry University's London Campus (CULC) students the perfect environment to get a truly hands-on learning experience.



This summer, a group of students took advantage of a full day practical training course in the financial heart of the City of London.

Students from the MSc Global Financial Trading and MBA Global Financial Services were taught by London Stock Exchange experts about trading on the Exchange's Main and Alternative Investment Markets.

The students have regular access to CULC's stock exchange simulator which gives them an idea about life on the exchange but there is nothing like the real deal. Spending a day at Europe's largest stock exchange helped the students bring theory and practice together in an extraordinary way.

Students experienced the use of the London Stock Exchange's facilities in the different roles of market makers, stock brokers and fund managers. They were shown the Exchange's electronic order book and quote-driven trading, followed the final auction on the main market and simulated various order types.

For Svitlana Shumyn, MBA Global Financial Services student, the day was an incredible and unforgettable experience:

"The training at the London Stock Exchange was very educational, useful and interesting. The visit has helped me understand financial markets in a different way. I got a clear image of the London Stock Exchange and how people work there. The practical experience will really make a difference to my studies."

Programmes Leader Andreas Nabor can already see the benefits from this educational outing: "Our students learn all about the bid-ask spread and best price, but having them now speaking about the 'touch' or 'yellow strip' prices gives them much higher confidence in their subject area and future career paths. It shows that they have the real business experience."

The London Stock Exchange is at the heart of the global financial market and home to some of the largest, most successful and dynamic companies in the world. With around 3,000 companies from over 70 countries admitted to trading on its markets, the Exchange is one of the most international of all the world's stock exchanges – a perfect partner for the truly international and practical study experience that Coventry University London Campus provides.







Sew
Sew By The Hour
£5 per hour
Buy 2 hours get your 3rd FREE
Sew

Cutting

As you walk through the door of Haberdashers' Hub you're greeted by the whirring of sewing machines, an assortment of lace, buttons and bows and rolls of fabrics in every colour and every pattern. At the heart of the Hub there's 30 year-old **Sian Toon**: a successful business-woman, mother, wife and first class Fashion Design graduate. Sian epitomises the word 'enterprising'.



'I couldn't afford to give up work, but I was determined to get on the course. I was very creative and got lots of pleasure creating things from fabric. Drawing wasn't my strong point but ask me to make a cushion or an item of clothing and I could do it.'

Sian successfully completed the course and started to look around for universities. She visited a few but they didn't quite fit the bill. Her trip to Coventry was different. 'The studios were clean and tidy and everything had its place. That's how I like to work so I got a good feeling. The equipment featured the latest technology and there was plenty of it. Everything was industry-standard and that's what I was after.'

Sian remembers her interview vividly. She arrived at the Graham Sutherland building with her huge portfolio. She talked to the lecturers about her icons Mary Quant and Zandra Rhodes, and her love of the 60s. 'My enthusiasm must have come across because I was offered a place there and then. I drove three quarters of the way home, pulled over on the road and burst into tears. I was relieved, excited and scared. I called my husband Chris and told him the news.'


On her first day at University Sian remembers looking around the classroom and questioning her decision. 'I've given up a successful job, in the middle of a recession. Am I completely mad?' Sian was one of only three mature students on the course but everyone got on well. 'The difference between me and some of the others on the course was that they all lived one life – their University life. For me it was very different; I lived two lives. After lectures most people would disappear to the pub

edge



When she fell pregnant at 16, some people wrote Sian off. But rather than being determined to prove people wrong, Sian was determined to prove herself 'right'. She dropped out of school and found a job but her children were growing up so fast that she decided she wanted to do something that would make their lives better.

Sian had always had an interest in fashion but had never sewn a stitch in her life. She found a foundation course at a local college that she could fit in around her full-time job.



“Drawing wasn’t my strong point but ask me to make a cushion or an item of clothing and I could do it.”

but for me I was straight home to my family.’ There were times when the two worlds came together and Sian ended up taking work home. Some people might find themselves working over a weekend or long into the night, but Sian doesn’t do things by halves. ‘I needed large flat open spaces to cut my patterns and fabric so I convinced my husband that we should rip up the carpet at home and replace it with laminate flooring. It made a great surface,’ laughs Sian.

Part way through her degree Sian spotted a niche. ‘Everyone on the course was creating womenswear. Maybe I could do menswear and make myself stand out?’ Sian arranged her own work experience in Saville Row, working under the direction of Richard Anderson. Sian worked on suits for Simon Cowell and learnt the technicalities of tailoring.

It was around this time that Sian started thinking about starting her own business after graduation. ‘I knew the University offered business start-up support but I needed help to get the direction of my business finalised. I met staff in the Institute of Applied Entrepreneurship who talked through my ideas with me and explained about the different types of support and advice I could access.’ Robin Underhay helped Sian to focus her business idea and develop a clear

plan for her enterprise. ‘It’s really easy to miss the point when you’re so wrapped up in an idea. Rob helped me define my plans.’

Sian applied through the University’s SPEED WM programme and was awarded £3,000 to purchase her first industrial sewing machine. Husband Chris was roped in to help find suitable premises for her business.

In the midst of setting up her shop, there was also the small matter of creating her final-year collection for her Fashion degree. Sian and her course-mates travelled to Paris to purchase the fabrics for their collections. ‘I spent £2,500 on fabric. It’s a lot of money but the whole course hinges on our final collections.’

The culmination of the Fashion degree is an industry-standard fashion show at the end of the third year. ‘Our show was held in an aircraft hangar at Coventry Airport. I remember how manic everything got in the run-up to the show. My husband took the kids away for 5 days and in that time I had just 8 hours sleep. I was working non-stop.’

It is this hard working attitude and determination that has helped Sian achieve her ambitions. She opened her shop, Haberdashers’ Hub, in

October 2011 and graduated with a First Class degree in November 2011. As well as selling everything to do with sewing, Sian provides a tailoring and dressmaking service, and workshops for people wanting to learn how to sew, quilt and patchwork. ‘I couldn’t have achieved all this without the support of the University. The best thing is that the support carries on even after you’ve graduated. I now have two mentors, who are business experts. I would be paying thousands of pounds in consultancy fees if I sought their advice independently.’





Sian has big plans for the business, and with the help of her mentors, she is going from strength to strength. Sian now employs three members of staff, who share her love for sewing. Amy walked into the shop after her grandmother read about the opening in the newspaper, stayed for a week's work experience and has never left. Amiee came in as a customer one day and is now a full-time apprentice, and Sarah spent a week on work experience, got a place on the Fashion course at Coventry University and continues to help out in the shop.

After completing her degree, Sian found out about the Student Enterprise Fund. The fund was specifically set up to support students and graduates who needed access to finance to develop their businesses. Sian successfully applied for the loan and received £8,000 towards the set up of her shop. The fund was a critical part of ensuring that Sian was successful in her business development.

'I would be lying if I said it's been easy,' admits Sian. 'There have been times when I have felt like I'm drowning. The support from my

mentors, the University and most of all my husband and kids is what keeps me going. I'm immensely proud when I look around and see what I have achieved and I still get a buzz from designing and creating garments or decorative items. Owning my own shop was a dream and now I'm living it.'

Sian's plans for the future of her business are under wraps as she works through the ideas with her mentors, but with that level of ambition maybe we'll see a Haberdasher's Hub on every UK High Street in years to come?



What is the Student Enterprise Fund?

Founded in 2010 by Sir John Egan (Chancellor of Coventry University), the Fund has been providing students with loans to kick start their business ideas. The Fund has been created due to the generosity of our benefactors and

currently has over £270,000 available for students to apply for funding from. Over 10 businesses have been started on campus thanks to the project and 6 more are currently being supported through the application process.

letters

Share your views with other Friends of Coventry University and you could win £25 to spend in Waterstone's. Our star letter prize is kindly donated by Waterstone's Coventry University.

star letter



Dear **FOCUS**,

You said you would be interested in some old photos I have from when I was an art student in Coventry (1958-1963). My collection, which is in an old sketch book, is now over fifty years old and beginning to disintegrate - every time I scan a few, some pages drop out.

Some of the photographs are actually newspaper cuttings, especially those of the Arts Balls. I found it difficult to decide which would be of the most interest, but finally came up with a selection that covered Hill Crest, Cope Street and some newspaper cuttings. There is an official photograph taken of the whole college in 1959 up on the flat roof of Cope Street, the yet unfinished cathedral can be seen in the background.

I was known at the time as Ann Barnes, I added my married name further down the line and Raymona is in fact my first name, but I have mainly been known as Ann. I am very used to being called by both names and answer to both. I say this because someone may recognise me in the photos.

Now in my seventieth year, I look back on my time at Coventry College of Art as one of the happiest times of my life. I took preliminary and intermediate courses leading to the NDD. I can say with great certainty that being an art student in the late fifties after the austerity of the post war period, changed my life forever.



I went on to become a special needs teacher until early retirement enabled me to return to the art world. I returned part-time to art courses, one of which was a history of modern art at Sussex University.

I now live between Hastings and London and continue to do my own work. I am a friend of the Tate, the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill and the new Jerwood Gallery, Hastings; I am currently attending a workshop on contemporary drawing at the Jerwood. I cannot see a time when art does not play an essential role in my life, for which I thank Coventry College of Art, where it all started.

Raymona Ann Barnes-Crowe
(Art, 1963)

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Waterstone's, Coventry University, Frederick Lanchester Building, Gosford St, Coventry, CV1 5DD, or visit other Coventry branches in Cathedral Lanes and the Lower Precinct.

Please send letters to Letters, Development Office, Coventry University, Priory Street, Coventry, CV1 5FB



Robin Underhay

Senior Project Manager and

SFEDI accredited Business Advisor

In this issue, our lecturer profile is taking on a different form. This time we're focusing on Robin Underhay, a Senior Project Manager and SFEDI accredited Business Advisor, working in the University's Institute of Applied Entrepreneurship (IAE). During the seven years he's worked at the University, Rob has advised, supported and nurtured over 700 small businesses and watched hundreds of students develop their entrepreneurial skills to become successful business people.

Q Where did your career begin?

A I graduated from Sheffield Hallam University, spent time travelling and working in different industries culminating in a move to the West Midlands. I tried a couple of different roles before finding a career with the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce. It was during this time that I discovered a flair for supporting business. I managed a number of European projects and rolled out a regional marketing campaign for the support of businesses. Through this role I developed lots of contacts at the University's trading arm, Coventry University Enterprises Ltd. One of the contacts told me about an opportunity as a Project Manager. I jumped at the chance. I joined the University in 2005 as a Project Manager and have progressed to Senior Project Manager and Business Advisor. I currently manage a number of business support programmes for the University including national and overseas support, business incubation and the Student Enterprise Fund. I work within the team of staff who make up the Institute of Applied Entrepreneurship. We offer dedicated services to staff and students to help develop enterprise and entrepreneurial skills throughout the campus and our curriculum.

More recently I completed a Masters in Global Entrepreneurship here at Coventry University, through the Institute of Applied Entrepreneurship and I've been a fully accredited business advisor since 2008.

Q Do you enjoy your job?

A My job is very varied and very busy, no two days seem to ever be the same. My role is made up of both project management of a number of key European and University based business projects and working as the business advisor on all elements of business support across the University group.

I get to meet some amazing people with the drive and determination to set up and run successful businesses.

I manage a portfolio of roughly 100 new companies every year and help them to develop their business ideas into the market. I get great feedback from the people I support and enjoy watching people learn the basics of business and start to develop their own strategies for making their own success.

Typically staff and students come to me with their business ideas and I talk them through some basic fundamentals to make sure they have a sound business idea. Once we're past the first stages, I can then offer advice on design, development, innovation, and entrepreneurship programmes.

I've also established the University's online mentoring programme for business support. We have more than 50 business experts working with over 400 registered students. I've encouraged some very high profile business men and women to offer their expertise through the mentor programme and the benefits to students are incredible.

Q What is the highlight of your career?

A I'm proud of lots of things I've done whilst working for the University and every successful business that becomes established gives me a sense of pride. I thoroughly enjoy helping people reach their potential so I guess you could say I'm in my ideal job. There is so much bad advice floating around and I'm pleased to say that students and staff who come to us only ever get the right advice first time.

In terms of highlights I'm delighted to say that I've been involved in some multi-million pound companies who are very successful and continuing to grow, alongside some successful retail businesses offering opportunities to their local communities. I've helped to support so many it's hard to pick a favourite. Sometimes it's more important to focus on the journey rather than the end result.

There is so much more I'd like to do; my ideas for growing our business support services are endless. I'd like to see the University being a national and international leader in developing support systems for new ideas, offering advice and business space for new starters through to growth and beyond.

I'd also like to encourage more people with business flair to study the PgCert through to MA in Global Entrepreneurship. When I graduated I didn't have the knowledge or support to set up my own business and am glad to be able to offer this back. Students now have a wealth of opportunities, advice and dedicated support so that they can develop their ideas and become the success stories of the future.



“ I get to meet some amazing people with the drive and determination to set up and run successful businesses. ”

Winning streak

When Dave Harding hitched his way to Coventry to start an Economics degree he had no idea of the trajectory his life would take. Former CEO of William Hill, Dave is now an established name in business with something of a troubleshooting reputation for managing complex change.



As a self-titled 'Navy brat' Dave moved around with his family during his early childhood, eventually settling on the South Coast. His A-levels weren't as good as he had hoped and he hadn't even applied for university. 'I was unsure what I wanted to do with my life,' explains Dave. 'I went through Clearing and was given two options: Coventry or Portsmouth. I hitched to Coventry and really liked the city. I spotted a poster at the Students' Union which advertised live gigs by Pink Floyd and Chuck Berry. I was sold.'

'In those days (1974-77) we were less concerned about employment

rates or the cost of fees, having a good time whilst giving ourselves employment options was more the name of the game. Just having a degree was a head start back then.'

Dave lived in Priory Hall during his first two years and fondly remembers the view over the car park. Dave and his friends used to drink in The Greyhound pub on Much Park Street and the Hare and Hounds in Earlsdon.

Although he missed the Pink Floyd gig at the SU, Dave does remember being spat at by Johnny Rotten in the basement in the Union. 'Sounds strange now but that was a highlight back then. The three years you spend

at university are really significant, a 'rite of passage'. It's definitely a time to discover who you are and who you want to be. I don't think I really found me until my mid-twenties.'

Dave 'drifted' into the car industry with a graduate trainee position at BL Cars International. After three years he began to understand how big companies worked. 'It dawned on me that I would either have to work my way up the ranks or make myself a more attractive prospect. I wanted more.'

He left work and started an MBA at Warwick University. 'I was 26 and I'd left a reasonably good job to go back to education. It wasn't the

I was 26 and I'd left a reasonably good job to go back to education. It wasn't the norm in those days, but I knew that it could put my career on a different trajectory.

norm in those days, but I knew that it could put my career on a different trajectory.'

Following his MBA, despite vowing he would never go back to the car industry, Dave was offered an interesting opportunity. 'John Egan (now Chancellor of Coventry University) had taken Jaguar Cars private and convinced me that working for Jaguar would be very different to working for BL.'

Dave was appointed Marketing Manager at Jaguar with a focus on research and planning. 'It was an interesting time. Jaguar knew that they couldn't rely on British sales so we needed to find a route into Germany and the US. Our research showed we had to reposition the product and the brand. I remember trying to deliver this data to the guys in engineering and manufacturing and failing dismally. We didn't speak the same language, and we didn't see the same issues. This was a moment of clarity for me. I'd already decided I wanted to get to the top, but now I saw that I'd need a much better understanding of how the whole organisation worked, and an empathy with people in all the different functions. That was the only way I would be able to lead them.'

To broaden his skill base, Dave moved into a consultancy role with PA, working on a variety of change management assignments embracing operational improvement, marketing strategy and good old fashioned cost reduction. 'I worked my socks off for three years, but what a great way to learn!' Dave had clients in the telecommunications industry, which

provided a new career direction. 'I was invited to be Operations Director of one of the second generation mobile 'phone companies. It was a start-up, fast paced and very exciting.' But when two of the participants merged Dave found his position redundant. He was offered a fascinating role by one of the parent companies (Baby Bell US West) helping to manage their Eastern European subsidiaries. 'They owned businesses in Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Russia. Three years of extensive travel, but great experience resolving all sorts of operational and cultural issues.'

At age 38 Dave was headhunted to be MD of ShareLink, then the UK's largest discount stockbroker which had just been acquired by US giant Charles Schwab. In three years, Dave steered the organisation through 'Big Bang', doubled the company's turnover and assets under administration, and further enhanced his reputation for managing change in difficult circumstances.

The next two years were spent at Prudential, initially as MD of their Life and Pensions business, and then briefly as Deputy CEO of Scottish Amicable, before Dave was headhunted to become CEO of bookmaker William Hill. 'It was private equity owned and they wanted someone to float it. Potential changes to the way the business was taxed and regulated meant big change, but also new opportunities for growth. We went on to increase profits from less than £100m to nearly £300m, with £60m from the internet alone. It was a tremendously exciting seven

years and meant I had accomplished most of the goals I set myself in my mid twenties.'

At 52 Dave decided to take some time out to be with his young family, but he 'needed something to keep the grey matter active'. Nowadays he splits his working life between acting as an operating partner and chairman for private equity backed firms, and managing his own portfolio of investments, which currently include interests as diverse as a fine dining restaurant in his home village, and a green detergent business based in Leeds.

Dave is a strong believer in small businesses helping to create growth in the economy, which is why he agreed to be part of Coventry University's Student Enterprise Fund.

'I recognise that determination in a lot of the students at Coventry University. The institution has changed significantly, not just in size but also in its ethos. The students are diverse and serious about what they do. I was a late starter but these students are really on the ball. It's great being able to support and influence the direction of their business.'

Dave's main ambition now centres on his family. 'I'm acutely conscious the world my son will grow up in is very different to the one I experienced, and I don't want to try and dictate how he lives his life. But I do hope I can help him see how a combination of hard work, constant learning, seizing opportunities and not being deterred by the inevitable setbacks, can lead to a rewarding and fulfilled life.'

Patience

is a virtue

“The best idea for the mural was staring me in the face. It was a combination of everything I’d considered.”

Patience was something that Fine Art student Colin Slater needed in abundance when he decided to embark on painting a mural 30 feet high and 25 feet wide on a city-centre building back in 1976. This painting realised his ambition to paint on a large scale.

‘My intention was to produce an image that worked with its surroundings but which catches one’s attention through a subtle twist or tease of the eye. On the one hand it could be passed by unnoticed, on the other it might be interesting enough to be observed more closely.’

Clearing local authority hurdles and red tape was all part of the process to get the approval Colin needed to paint the gable end of the Department for Extension Studies

on the Vine Street Annexe. In May 1977, he was finally given the green light. ‘I thought this process would never end and it was this stage of the project which inspired the title of the painting, ‘Patience is a Virtue’. Obtaining the necessary permission had taken a whole year.’

This labour of love tested not only Colin’s stamina and commitment, but also his creativity.

Inspiration for the mural came from an unusual source. As a fan of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club, Colin would often travel to the matches from Coventry. One weekend in 1976, on his way to Molineux, he came across the Glynne Arms, a pub located in Himley, affectionately referred to as ‘The Crooked House’. ‘It was the strangest sight I’d ever seen in

my life. A building stood at the most precarious angle defying gravity, the door and windows following the same tilt. I can't remember how my Wolves fared that afternoon, but I'd found an important clue which would make my painting 'special'.

Colin reworked his drawings to incorporate the Crooked House, and to save time redrawing the image, repeatedly placed one sheet on top of another to trace elements of the previous version. There were soon so many sheets of paper being flicked through and rolled back that some paper layers became torn and shredded. 'The best idea for the mural was staring me in the face. It was a combination of everything I'd considered.'

Work on the mural started in October 1977, with the assistance of Colin's close friend John Jostins (now Professor of Sustainable Transport Design at Coventry University and founder of a revolutionary hydrogen-fuel cell vehicle called Microcab).

John and Colin constructed the scaffolding in front of the building, prepared the surface, painted the wall with a coat of primer and began transferring the drawing to the wall.

'A couple of chums visited and painted with me for an hour or two,' Colin remembers, 'but other than John's help at the beginning, the next couple of months were just me and the wall.' He painted in wind, rain, hail and snow. After 5 weeks of painting, Colin became ill and experienced dizzy spells while on the scaffolding. He was diagnosed as 'physically exhausted' and advised to rest, but he was determined to finish the painting. 'Instead of resting, I ate larger breakfasts and worked shorter hours. I couldn't predict how long the painting would take, as one week drifted into the next and the conditions became colder. I experienced some difficult days. At times I felt very alone and thought that it would never be finished.'

Yet, the painting was finished on 15 December 1977, one day before



'The Crooked House' in Himley

the end of term.

'It's not easy to explain what keeps us going when the going gets tough. It could be fear of failure but I was determined to see it through.

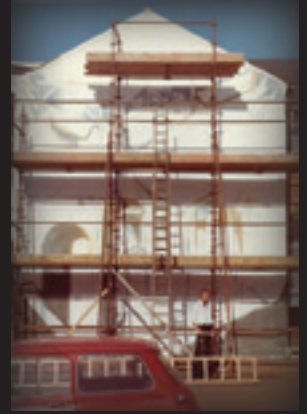
It was a very proud moment when the scaffolding came down to reveal the painting for the first time.'

1977 will always hold a special place in Colin's heart: it's the year he obtained permission for, and eventually completed the mural, the year he completed his BA Fine Art course and the year he met a student on the Graphic Design course, Denise Thomas, who he asked out on a date.

Reminiscing, Colin said: '1977 was a very big year. My relationship with my wife began with this painting and we recently celebrated 33 years of marriage. The Lanch was responsible for some of the momentous times in my life!'

He recently learned that the mural was included in the Media Archive for Central England. 'I was totally unaware any moving film of it existed. It gives a better sense of scale and even though it lasts only 25 seconds, the painting was brought back to life again.'

Colin continues to paint and when the opportunity arises, he still



The finished mural in 1977

paints on a large scale. His recent murals have included a primary school in Peterborough and a community project for an underpass in Warmington, Northamptonshire.

<http://www.macearchive.org/Archive/Title/atv-today-21061978-lanchester-polytechnic-coventry/MediaEntry/29063.html>

www.colinlater-artist.co.uk

Building businesses

Media moguls

At just 20 years of age, Kelvin Fred-Horsfall and his business partner Tayo Daramola have successfully launched their award-winning media production company Clever Lens Media. With the help of the University's SPEED programme they learnt about operating a business effectively and the power of networking. With the financial support available through SPEED, Kelvin and Tayo were able to purchase production equipment.

'We've always had a strong interest in the media and recognised that this is an industry which is forever expanding and evolving. Through the use of social media, we have steadily been building up public awareness of our company and our website (www.cleverlensmedia.co.uk) helps us connect with potential clients.'



Successful support

Claire Cain and Helen Seager decided to use the expertise they'd gained through their studies in Occupational Therapy and their professional backgrounds to launch an independent occupational therapy service.

Reable Me (www.reableme.co.uk) is now a limited company and has secured contracts with a medical legal company and a County Council.

Claire heard about the support offered by the University during a lecture.

'We signed up for the SPEED programme and were assigned with a mentor, online mentoring and the provision of funding which has enabled us to launch the business.'

Claire and Helen have also benefited from courses to enhance their service delivery, support with setting up a website and legal contracts. 'We plan to secure further work through networking and marketing and offer additional services such as assessment and supply of equipment.'





Here at Coventry, employability and enterprise are at the centre of our curriculum and culture.

As winners of the **Times Higher Awards Entrepreneurial University of the Year**, we work hard to ensure that all our students and staff are given the support they need to make their business ideas become a reality. There is a variety of support programmes on offer, one of which is the **Student Placements for Entrepreneurs in Education (SPEED)** programme. SPEED offers students a small grant, workshops, mentoring, networking and practical business training. Here is just a selection of our most promising business brains.



Creative clothing

The desire to produce smart, but different, and affordable clothing led Fine Art graduate Matt Mulholland, to launch his clothing company, Bad Giraffe.

Matt currently looks after every aspect of the business from design, photography, the website, sourcing and marketing. He explained: 'It's a lot of hard work to take on while doing a full time degree but well worth it. My clothing has been shipped to over 30 different countries and has also been featured on Kerrang! TV on a music video. One of my vests was featured in the 'Front' magazine as one of the top 15 vests to wear this summer.'

Matt was also supported through the University's SPEED programme. 'The support has been amazing. I've received help and advice from other young business people who have started out like me. It's given me the confidence to start my own business and I'm delighted that I took advantage of the opportunities available.'

Matt plans to develop his products both in range and quality and look towards wider distribution. He'd like to get Bad Giraffe clothing into some small outlets.



Straps and strumming

First year student Daniel Kentfield has been playing the guitar for a number of years, but always found guitar straps pricey and lacking variety of design. Having spotted this gap in the market, he started his company Mark Your Gear Ltd.

'I thought it would be great to set up a business that enabled guitarists to design their own strap at a fraction of the price.'

With the support of the SPEED programme, Daniel translated his idea into a real business and received help with the finer details like contract law and tax.

For Daniel, one of the most important things he has learnt is to respond quickly to customers. 'I aim to get back in touch with customers within 24 hours. I have also set up a Facebook page: every business needs a social media presence.'

Mark Your Gear Ltd offers custom designed straps and picks, which can be bought online through www.markyourgear.co.uk. It's his plan that one day his website will become a 'one-stop-shop' for guitarists, where everything for guitars is available in one place.



Good Sports



Over 100 alumni came back to campus in April to take on the current student teams in a variety of sports. And they did it again: after beating the students at Badminton, Hockey and Rugby League, the alumni were declared the overall winners of the Alumni Sports Day 2012.

Our congratulations!



For the Hockey Team, the day also had a more serious purpose. Alumni and students gathered in strength to pay their respects to two much liked former members of the Hockey Club.

Phil Goillau (AKA Banjo) passed away suddenly in November 2011, whilst trying to raise money in memory of Jack Stovold, who died in a car accident during his time at University.

Phil and other friends of Jack's had set themselves the challenge to complete 12 marathons in 12 months to raise money for a Variety Club minibus in memory of Jack. Sadly, during one of the training races, Phil collapsed and died, the reason is still unknown.

The 12 Marathon challenge is now being completed by Mike Newham, an alumni rugby union player and friend of Phil's, as well as Phil's girlfriend Gina Steggal and more people are joining in to help raise funds in other ways, such as a charity football game.

For Hockey alumna Helen Brightmore the day was both difficult and enjoyable: 'Alumni day is a day that we all look forward to each year. Phil was a keen member of the Hockey Club and since leaving University he continued to organise the teams for Alumni day. So it was always going to be a difficult day not having him around. But the Club all pulled together, both alumni and current students, to make



the day a success. As a club we managed to raise £205 with a collection and the selling of memorial wristbands which will all be put towards the 12 Marathon Challenge.'

To support Mike, Gina and friends as they take on the 12 Marathon Challenge, visit: <http://www.justgiving.com/Variety-Club-Marathons-Challenge>.

 The next Alumni vs Students Sports Day will take place on 20th April 2013. To register your interest, please email alumni@coventry.ac.uk.

FOCUS on Occupational Therapy



Over 60 alumni, staff and students attended the launch event for the brand-new FOCUS on Occupational Therapy group in May. The group brings together OT graduates, researchers and academic staff as fellow professionals.

Clare Taylor, author of *Evidence-Based Practice for Occupational Therapists* and former lecturer at Coventry University, delivered the keynote speech, which was followed by presentations from academics, researchers and students. The event concluded with networking time and a light buffet.

The FOCUS on Occupational Therapy group is planning to get together regularly and a LinkedIn group has been set up, so members can keep in contact, network and share their expertise throughout the year.



If you would like to join the group, visit <http://linkd.in/NpqJTA> or email alumni@coventry.ac.uk.

The planners are back in town

20 alumni from Urban & Regional Planning 1990 and Town Planning 1992 reunited to celebrate the

20th anniversary of their graduation this June. Mustered in Coventry by fellow classmate Euan Pearson, graduates

of the sandwich course celebrated their reunion at the Riley Lounge on campus and even some of their former lecturers were in attendance.

Euan Pearson (1992), who is now running his own chartered surveyor practise, was pleased with the event:

'Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and evening together. People were excited and pleased to see the University's expanded campus. I would definitely encourage other former students to organise similar events especially as the Alumni Office is so helpful. I have a daughter and Cov will be on the list of universities for her to visit before choosing a course.'





International Graduation



'Morning after graduation Breakfast' for international alumni





'Morning after graduation Breakfast' for international alumni

'Morning after graduation Breakfast' for international alumni



Alumni Reunion in Hangzhou



> your benefits

Make the most of your FOCUS membership by attending events, getting third party discounts and entering exclusive competitions. Visit www.coventry.ac.uk/alumni for more

December

1st December

E&C Alumni Reunion in Hong Kong

Join us for Afternoon Tea, updates from Coventry and a walk down memory lane.

Place: Marco Polo Hotel, Hong Kong

January

31st January

Professorial Lecture: They Shoot, But Do They Score - Where To Now For Sport in the 21st Century?

Speaker - Simon Chadwick, Professor of Sport Business Strategy and Marketing. Attendance is free of charge and followed by refreshments and a light buffet.

Place: Coventry Techno Centre

Time: 16.00 – 17.00

February

16th February

Coventry University College Open Day

Place: Coventry University College

Time: 10.00 – 16.00

April

20th April

Alumni vs Students Sports Day

Join in and take on the current students' teams in a range of sports.

Time: 11.00 – 21.00

June

8th June

FOCUS on Law

Law alumni are invited to join us for Afternoon Tea.

Place: Coombe Abbey

Discounts

FOCUS has arranged for all members to get discounts on useful services and fun days out with leading companies. A full list of discounts is below. Just visit www.coventry.ac.uk/alumni/benefits to find out how to redeem your discounts.

Leisure

- Up to 50% off top attractions such as Alton Towers resort, Chessington World Adventures Resort, LEGOLAND@Windsor, Madame Tussauds London, the Dungeons, SEA LIFE centres & Sanctuaries, THORPE PARK and Warwick Castle
- Up to 50% off green fees at Open Fairways
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Transport

- Savings on car and van hire with Europcar
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Holidays

- Discounted rates at the Ramada Hotel Coventry
- Savings on holidays with cottages4you

University offers

- Discounted library membership
- Discounted Sports Centre membership
- Associate membership of the Students' Union
- Careers advice and graduate vacancies
- Business start up support
- Coventry University wine club

Competition

Enjoy a drink and reminisce about your Coventry days with this classic piece of memorabilia from Coventry University – a beautiful crystal, cut glass decanter.

The decanter is engraved with the University's logo and could be yours to keep if you win our competition!

We also have ten runner-up prizes of the Coventry University book *The Phoenix Rises: A Portrait of Coventry University in its City*.



To be in with a chance of winning **just unscramble the name of this indie rock band from Coventry:**

METHYENE


Please send your answer for this competition to alumni@coventry.ac.uk or post to **Evolve** Competition, FOCUS, Alumni Office, Coventry University, Priory Street, Coventry, CV1 5FB by the closing date of 31st January 2013.

Terms and conditions

No cash alternative will be offered. The editor's choice is final.




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