

# Honorary Community newsletter

**BUILT FOR LIFE**

Welcome to UCEM's quarterly update to our Honorary Award recipients – UCEM's Honorary and Associate Fellows, Honorary Degree recipients and Property Award winners – our community of loyal and supportive friends of UCEM. This edition brings you up to speed on all things UCEM this summer and a progress update on our ambitious plans for the future. As ever, we welcome your feedback and comments so we can continue to evolve the newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing and loyal support to this great institution.



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# UCEM update



Our strategic aim to become the **Centre of Excellence for Built Environment Education** remains our core focus, as well as working to become the **world's most sustainable university**. We are working hard to bring greater **depth** to our programme offering to support this ambition and intend to launch a new MSc programme in autumn 2023. We look forward to bringing you more information on this exciting development in a future edition. We are also increasing our activities to **influence** both higher education and industry. Our aim is to demonstrate leadership by drawing together the priorities of the largest and most influential bodies within the education sector and wider industry through a series of strategic thought-leadership events to be launched at the end of 2022.

In other institutional news, UCEM learnt its **National Student Survey** 2022 results in early July, scoring 74.88% for overall student

satisfaction – a marginal increase on our 2021 score. We look forward to building on this further in 2022-23. We continue to forecast a healthy financial outturn for the year despite the gloomy economic outlook in the UK. Our application for **Indefinite Degree Awarding Powers** remains in progress. The desk-based assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency was completed and the final judgement of the Office for Students is expected in August. Our aim is for this to mark the first step in our journey towards full **University Title** and we thank all of you who responded to our recent survey about the potential change of name we might adopt in the future. The Board of Trustees is assessing the feedback this summer and considering the next steps that should be taken.

The **Board of Trustees** had its latest meeting in on 7th July 2022 and was delighted to appoint three new Trustees to the Board. **Gareth Ralphs**,

Partnerships Manager (Southeast) for the Department for International Trade / Head of Policy and Inward Investment for the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and a UCEM alumnus, became an Independent Trustee and will bring great knowledge and expertise to the Board, as well as an influential network of contacts. **Joe Orrell** became our sixth ever Student Trustee. He will replace Muhammad Ahmed who left us this summer and will work alongside the other Student Trustee Grant Alexander over the coming year. Joe is an Apprentice on the BSc Building Surveying route and works as an Apprentice Building Surveyor for Workman LLP. Finally, we also appointed a new Staff Trustee to work alongside Helen Edwards until her term ends in December. **Harps Kaur** is UCEM's Student Lifecycle Officer and will bring great insight to the Board on our operations in student facing teams.

We have been very active as a staff community in the last quarter as we continue to return to more normal operations. In addition to running

our regular Feed Me Friday events, we held a **Platinum Staff BBQ** event at Shinfield Grange on what was to date the hottest day of the year back in June which was a wonderful opportunity to socialize together again and enjoy delicious food, ice cream and fun activities. We have also been supporting staff through events held for Mental Health Awareness Week such as Wellbeing Bingo, through participating in **30 Days Wild**, and we once again managed to field a few teams for the JLL Property Triathlon at Dorney Lake!

Finally, we were delighted to see so many of you at the Honorary Community Luncheon held at Founders Hall in London on 25th May 2022. It was such a delight to be together again after two years disrupted by Covid-19 and we were thrilled to finally present some of our Associate Fellows with their certificates. Thank you all for attending and we look forward to seeing you again at the next one in 2023 or at the Property Award in October.



# MEET THE UCEM TEAM



**Sophie Elliott**  
Director of Student Services

UCEM's Student Services provide essential support to all UCEM students, guiding them throughout their learning journey. The teams of Student Engagement, Disability and Welfare, Student Community, Careers and Employability, and Inclusion and Outreach are led by Sophie Elliott. A previous UCEM Bake Off winner, Sophie was the recipient of the UCEM Star award for best newcomer in 2015. She began her current role as Director of Student Services in March 2022.

## How long have you worked for UCEM?

It will be eight years in October.

## How did you get into Student Services and why did you join UCEM?

I joined UCEM in 2014 as Assistant Admissions Officer, interviewing for the role in the same week as my wedding. UCEM felt like a place and sector in which I could build a career. That being said, I didn't expect what I've experienced in the (nearly) eight years since! I love my role and what we do here at UCEM.

## What is your favourite part of your job and what motivates you every day?

The people at UCEM - in each department everyone is working so hard to provide the best for our students. I also love participating in our graduation ceremonies. Our students succeed against often challenging circumstances and celebrating their achievement at our graduation ceremonies is a joy. It motivates me to do the best for them.

## What is your greatest professional achievement at UCEM so far?

I've been lucky enough to work in multiple teams and departments but achieving our new student number target in 2017 was a huge high, along with launching the live chat function on our website. I've found UCEM is always willing to innovate and I've felt supported to develop projects (such as a new online admissions office and an academic workload model) in my time here.

## What do you find challenging about your work?

Splitting my brain (and time!) to support the



brilliant work of my teams, ensuring we deliver high-quality services for our students each day as well as progressing the 'big ticket' goals.

## What's one thing that has surprised you about working for UCEM?

That higher education has so many elements, bringing together such a diverse group of people, teams, and skills, all to deliver the same goal.

## What's next for you and your team at UCEM?

I am really looking forward to the upcoming year in Student Services. My teams have ambitious but exciting plans to deliver including a Widening Participation strategy, a student community and communications plan, a careers and employability strategy, updates to our disability and wellbeing provision, and to investigate a new ticketing system for student enquiries. It's going to be a busy year!

## What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Dedication, change, support

## Tell us a surprising or fun fact about you!

I have a full motorcycle licence!

# UCEM online

Catch up on these key stories and events if you missed them



Graduation June 2022

Always a special and memorable occasion - [catch up with all the key stories from the December 2021 ceremonies](#)



Graduate Celebration Week 2022

We also held our [Graduate Celebration Week 2022](#) online where you can catch up with many congratulatory videos and stories of our exceptional class of 2022!



UCEM Alumni of the Year Award

Nominations are now open for the UCEM Alumni Award 2022, designed to celebrate the success of our more recent alumni. The award is presented at the annual Property Awards luncheon, to be held on Thursday 13 October 2022 at the Institute of Directors on Pall Mall, London. To be eligible for the award the nominee must have graduated from UCEM in the last ten years. We are interested in nominations containing details of career accomplishments, high profile projects or deals, or inspirational campaigns and the reason you think this person should win the award. To make a nomination, please complete the [nomination form](#).



UCEM sharing its expertise

UCEM continues to grow its influence across the industry and in higher education. This Spring Dr James Ritson shared his [research at the 4th International Conference on Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings in Germany](#) Louise Walters, UCEM Learning Designer, delivered a [case study presentation at MoodleMoot UK & Ireland](#) on the implementation Moodle Questionnaire in a UCEM module and David Hourihan, UCEM Programme Leader for the MSc Real Estate, has [won a seat on the RICS Governing Council](#).



Harold Samuel Research Prize

Our annual [Harold Samuel Research Prize 2022](#) has been launched. We offer up to £15,000 for successful applicants for innovative research projects with the potential to provide industry-changing insight for the built environment. Deadline for entries is 19 August 2022.



New TikTok channel launched

In June this year UCEM increased its online presence with the launch of its new TikTok channel where we'll be sharing videos from our events and behind-the-scenes clips from our offices in Reading To keep up to date with us on TikTok, follow [@studyuцем](#).

# The Honorary Awards community



It is important to UCEM to grow the community of Honorary Award recipients and help you get to know each other better, so every edition we'll be learning more about two members of the UCEM Honorary Awards Community.

In this edition we meet Andrew Baum, Honorary Doctorate recipient in 2021, and Jane Henshaw, one of our first Associate Fellow appointees from 2019. We asked them both some questions to help us get to know them and learn more about their connection to UCEM.

## Andrew Baum (Honorary Degree recipient)

### How are you connected to UCEM?

In spring 1970, I was a Loughborough comprehensive school sixth form student aged 16 and was being interviewed at Kings College London for an undergraduate place to study law. I remember it clearly, and the experience put me right off doing a law degree. That summer, I worked as a trainee for Leicester City Estates Department and must have liked the work, because by September I was living in digs in Wandsworth and commuting by bus to St Albans Grove for my first year of the BSc in Estate Management, which had accepted me through the clearing scheme. Little did I know that later in my life I would become a CEM board member and the recipient of an honorary UCEM doctorate.

### What are you doing now?

I still teach MBAs and executives at Said Business School and other universities and run a limited number of customised training sessions. I am chairman of Newcore Capital, a fund manager specialising in UJK social infrastructure. I advise a small number of established property businesses, a proptech VC investor and a larger number of startups.

### What's the biggest challenge you faced in your career?

Trying to manage an academic department. Setting up and selling a couple of companies was easy by comparison.

### What is your greatest professional achievement so far?

I think this might be establishing the property research team at Prudential, 1987-1990, because it changed the way property investment decisions were made; or starting the Reading Real Estate Foundation in 2002 with the help of several CEM/Reading graduates, because this led to lots of money being raised to support education and in particular Pathways to Property, which aims to widen access to the real estate profession.

### What is your best memory of UCEM?

There are many but they are fading! I remember winning the CEM table football tournament in 1971 with Gary Sams, who became my co-author (Statutory Valuations) many years later. I was sports rep for the students union in 1971-2 and this meant I got an invite to the president's 21st black tie birthday party at a big house in Surrey, to which I wore a black funeral tie, because I didn't understand the code (but I still had a good time). There are others I'd be best advised not to mention, including the Kings Road beer race of 1972.

### What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Inclusiveness, impact, ambition

# The Honorary Awards community



**Jane Henshaw**  
(Associate Fellow)

## What's the biggest challenge you faced in your career?

I really like my mind to be settled and strong and supple, for each and every day. I really enjoy what I do but it can be incredibly demanding and I like to be the very best I can be, for myself, my colleagues, the business and other stakeholders. SO my biggest challenge is managing my mind. I am currently working through Steve Peter's books on mind management.

## What is your greatest professional achievement so far?

To work in Chelsea, a very special London neighbourhood, helping to enhance one of the world's most exciting cities, with wonderful colleagues and partners.

## How are you connected to UCEM?

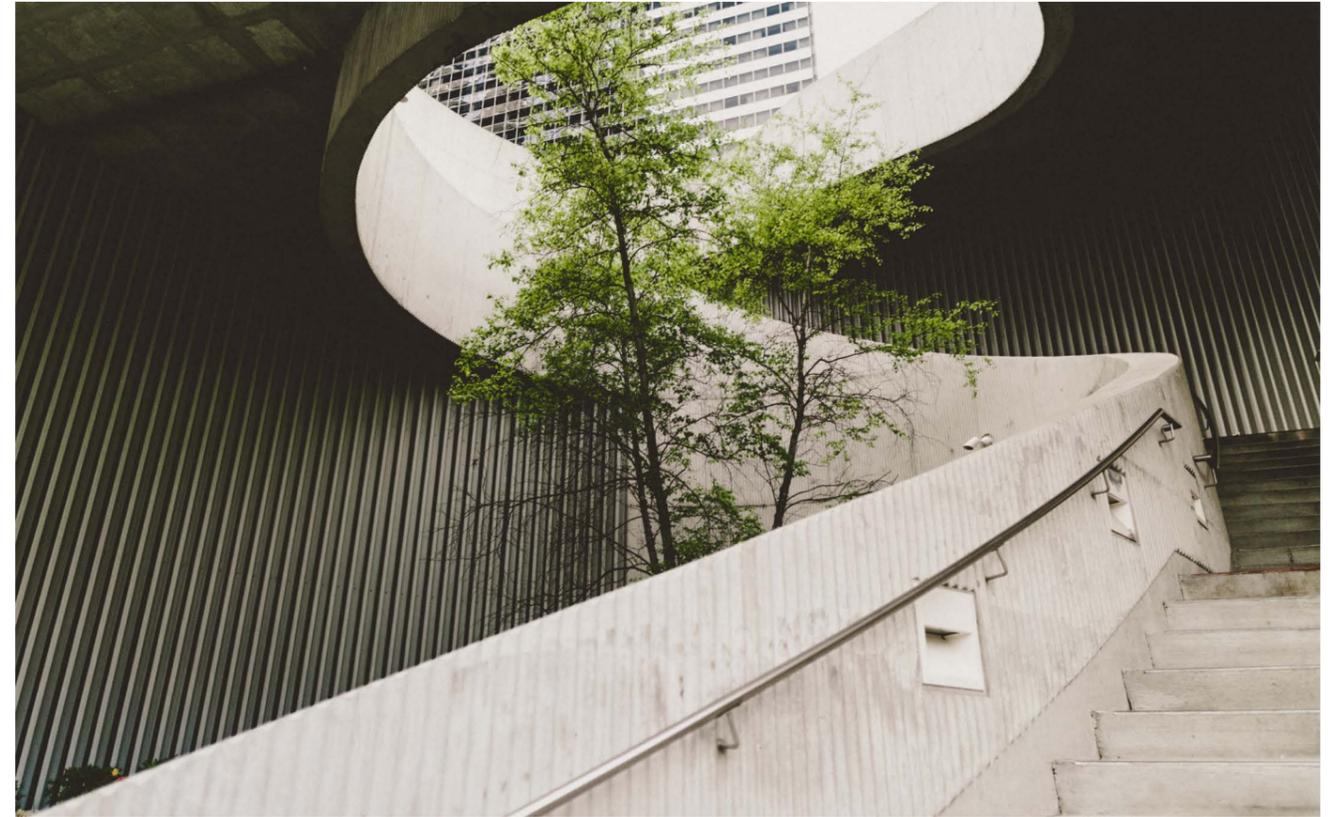
In 2015 I enrolled for the MBA in Construction and Real Estate, and since graduating I have been appointed as an Associate Fellow and also received the Academic Excellence award in 2018.

## What are you doing now?

I am responsible for delivering a development programme, circa £500m in construction value for Cadogan, a family owned property company in Chelsea. Current larger projects include a transformational £45million public realm project to ensure Sloane Street is one of the world's best luxury shopping destinations, a £100m mixed use development scheme on the King's Road which will deliver a large art house Curzon cinema, pub and rooftop bar, Waitrose, community retail, residential and office space and a beautiful hotel in partnership with a Parisienne hotel operator which should have a real impact on Sloane Square's elegant 'café culture'.



Jane and her beautiful Labrador Porridge



## What is your best memory of UCEM?

Attending the lunch where it was announced that I had been chosen for the Academic Excellence Award in 2018, along with my mum.

## What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Excellence, innovative, kind

## If you could have done any other job for just one day what would it have been?

Take my lovely Labrador Porridge to see sick children in a hospital so that she and they can have cuddles.

## If you could meet anyone in the world, dead or alive who would it be?

To meet the Queen and look through her photograph albums.

# Forthcoming occasions and events



## Property Award 2022

Thursday 13 October 2022

Institute of Directors in Central London

To book your space please contact [specialevents@ucem.ac.uk](mailto:specialevents@ucem.ac.uk)



## Graduation December 2022

Friday 2 and Saturday 3 December 2022

Town Hall Reading

If you have any suggestions for the UCEM Honorary Community newsletter, or would like to contribute please email Lyndsay Hughes at [L.hughes@ucem.ac.uk](mailto:L.hughes@ucem.ac.uk)