

Honorary Graduates Newsletter

January 2014

Welcome to our first newsletter for Honorary Graduates—in this edition you can find out about upcoming events and the latest UWE news as well as reading about a day in the life of UWE Honorary Graduate Stephen Fear.

Issue 1

Dates for your diary

- **Honorary Graduates Supper 11 July 2014**
- **Graduation ceremonies 14-25 July 2014**

CPA Events:

- **Soho Cinders Musical 13 March 2014**
- **UWE Singers and Symphony Orchestra 5 April 2014**

Events in 2013

Thank you to those of you who attended our **Hon Graduates Reception** in 2013. It was a fantastic opportunity to have our honorary graduates all in one room, find out more about you and find out your thoughts on UWE! You really are part of our University community and we hope you can come to our reception in 2014—which will take place on **Friday 11 July**. Thank you to those of you who came to the Centre for Performing Art's (CPA) events in



December 2013 - **Carmina Burana** on December 8 was a great success as was the **carol service** on December 12! As well as everyone having a good time, £600 was raised at **Carmina Burana** for UWE's music appeal, which helps to pay for expenses associated with performing and also helps cover costs for out-reach work in the com-

munity. A fantastic £718.11 was raised at the carol service for the Milestones Trust, which supports people in the Bristol area with learning disabilities, mental health needs and dementia to live as they choose and achieve their own milestones. Thank you for your support!

Your feedback

We are really interested to know your thoughts on the ways in which UWE communicates with you and would be delighted to hear about ways in which you might like to help UWE. Please fill in the [short questionnaire in this link](#) to help us do this! This will help to inform the ways in which we communicate with you in the future .

Latest UWE News



University of the West of England

We have done fantastically well this year. According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) we are the 6th best university in the UK for graduate employment and in the Guardian we are 2nd best university in the UK for value-added (which compares qualifications on entry to degree award achieved). We have exciting student stories, with UWE graduates Elliot Dear and Yves Geleyn co-directing the John Lewis Christmas advert, nursing student Rachel Pass winning the Nursing Times Student Midwife of the Year, and Aerospace Engineering student Jake Tugg receiving the E.ON Engineering Undergraduate of the Year. Our research is making a world-

wide impact, from using urine to produce electricity, to developing a device that uses sensory technology to help diagnose patients with early signs of bladder cancer.

Since Summer 2013, we have seen more campus developments take place, which mean that we can continue to provide excellent facilities for our students. The first phase of 400 new student bedrooms is being built at the Frenchay campus and new skills labs are being created at Glenside, enabling students to further practice and develop their field. Work is taking place at Frenchay to support flexible teaching delivery to larger group sizes. Redevelopments are starting at Bower Ash-

ton which are focused on providing suitable space for staff and students who have already relocated, or will be relocating out of the St Matthias campus when it closes in Summer 2014—we want to ensure the relocation is as smooth as possible for staff and students involved. If you would like to come to our campuses for a visit or tour please do let us know—we would be delighted to show you around!



A day in the life of a UWE Honorary Graduate

Stephen Fear, UWE Honorary Graduate, British Library Entrepreneur in Residence and Co-Director of the Fear Group, tells us about a typical day:

I start my mornings at 6am with a meditation CD to focus my mind. After this I have breakfast, usually egg, mackerel, or tinned tomatoes on toast and listen to Radio 4.

My day usually comprises of meetings. In the last 3 weeks I've spent time with HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, the Lord Mayor of London and various other people. Sometimes I'm at the British Library where I

am both Entrepreneur in Residence and an Ambassador. There I might meet with Lord Bilimoria who owns Cobra beer or one of the other ambassadors. I usually have meetings in the afternoon not morning. Last week I was on Radio 5 Live On The Money which is a Sunday show with a huge audience, so my Sunday afternoon/evening was taken up with that. Fellow guests were Mark Elford, CEO of General Electric, and Maggie Pagano, Business Editor of the Independent.

I spend at least two days a week writing—I currently write columns for five different magazines and have just signed a book deal for four

books over two years, with the first expected on the shelves in May 2014. I also write for Barclays Bank and the Huffington Post which has over 50m readers worldwide. I often have lunch with people who run our various SMEs and sometimes do a food review at the same time—please see the website below for more info. I meet or speak frequently throughout the day with my son Leon who is an equal shareholder in all our activities. Evenings are usually spent on the phone or emailing but I do try to relax at around 8pm. I don't watch much TV except news and documentaries, rugby or football, although I do watch Countryfile and Homeland on a Sunday!

To read more about the Fear group and Stephen's food review please visit <http://www.feargroup.com> and <http://fearonfood.wordpress.com/>



How I help

We have several honourees who are helping us in fantastic ways— if you haven't done so already [please click on this link](#) to feedback on the way in which we communicate with you and let us know about ways in which you'd like to help UWE or tell us about ways you might be helping already!

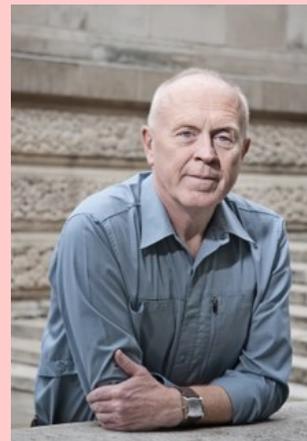


Alec Ewens, UWE Honorary Graduate and Music Appeal donor, gave us his reasons for supporting UWE:

“I have nothing but praise for UWE’s recognition of music’s importance. This is practically demonstrated by its teaching and productions. These are outstandingly initiated, organized and led by Ian Holmes, its superb conductor.. This inspired me to donate to UWE to help the Centre of Performing Arts to continue to support its students, staff and others to grow and be educated. As President of Bristol Chamber of Commerce I was delighted to present annual prizes to UWE graduates whose projects were of most benefit to Bristol’s deprived communities”.

Dr Peter Stark, UWE Honorary Graduate and Professor of Conducting, Royal College of Music and London Rehearsal Director, European Union Youth Orchestra, told us what inspired him to get involved with UWE:

“I have, for many years now, enjoyed something of a close relationship with Bristol’s artistic fraternity. This began in the 1980s with a close working relationship with the (then) County of Avon Schools’ Orchestra. Following that there was somewhat of a natural transition leading to my becoming Artistic Director of the West of England Philharmonic Orchestra . What has always excited me about everything I have done in the West country is a wonderful spirit, combined with high level achievements. It was therefore an honour to be created Doctor of Music at the University of the West of England. The performing arts belong to everybody, not just artists and I immediately saw and continue to see, that same energy and commitment at the University and am delighted that I could help UWE’s Centre for Performing Arts (CPA) by conducting performances for them occasionally. My Doctorate is something I am extremely proud to have”.



Ray Burton, UWE Honorary Graduate and Former Chairman of the UWE Board of Governors, told us what inspired him to leave a gift in his Will to UWE:



“When UWE very kindly awarded me an honorary Doctorate of Education in November 2009, I was allowed the customary opportunity to make a speech. I talked about how grateful I was for my time at university as an undergraduate, and how education - in many different guises - had played such an important part in my life ever since. I said, and I truly believe, that my being Chairman of Governors was ‘quite the most exciting job in education anyone could want’. I ended by saying, ‘Thank you UWE - you

have given me far more than I have ever given you’. UWE is a great university and offers the chance to a wonderfully diverse range of students to benefit from its courses, research opportunities and facilities. I am proud of what it stands for. But all universities are now under extreme pressure to do the right thing by their students and staff, in an unremittingly harsh economic environment. They can no longer rely on the state to meet their funding needs and we all, as graduates who have gained so much from a university education, should play a part in supporting them financially. Providing for a legacy in my will seemed a relatively painless way to do that. It is my practical little way to say ‘Thank you’ ”.

This is the first of our Honorary Graduates newsletters. We hope you enjoyed reading it and if you have any comments, ideas, or suggestions for articles or what we should include, please let us know! Our next newsletter will be in January 2015. If you would like to contact us about anything mentioned in this newsletter, or anything else, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

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