

Honorary Community newsletter

BUILT FOR LIFE

Welcome to UCEM's quarterly update to our Honorary Awards Community - 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 winter 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. We wish you all the best compliments of the festive season!



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UCEM update



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our former Patron Her Majesty the Queen in September 2022. She will be remembered with affection, respect and admiration by everyone at UCEM and we were so proud to have her serve as our Patron from 1977 to 1998. Our current Patron is, as anticipated, considering his commitments in line with his new responsibilities and we will hear at some point during 2023 what this means for UCEM.

September also marked a major milestone for this institution, with the formal conferring upon UCEM of Indefinite Degree Awarding Powers. This power is an authorisation given

to higher education providers to grant awards without a time limit and follows a decade of UCEM having powers to confer degrees via its taught degree awarding powers, which were renewable on a six-yearly basis. This latest milestone paves the way for UCEM to apply for full university title in the coming years as part of realising our vision to become the **Centre of excellence for built environment education**. Gaining indefinite degree awarding powers further demonstrates the quality of UCEM's provision, and most importantly its commitment to its students and employers, and it further defines our place in the higher education landscape.

Highlights

NEW

MSc programme

Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments



Indefinite Degree Awarding Powers

Conferred upon UCEM in September 2022

We continue our work to become the **world's most sustainable university**. We are delighted to announce the launch of a new MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments from September 2023. The new MSc programme is the first of a suite of programme's UCEM will launch on sustainability. It has been designed with the intent of supporting UCEM's long-term strategic aims to be at the forefront of built environment sustainability. The MSc explores how organisations can drive their sustainability agenda by understanding the current discourse and developing the skills needed to bring about change through challenge, knowledge and leadership. Its multi-disciplined approach will demonstrate

how businesses can stay at the forefront of innovation in the built environment and develop their expertise and credentials in this evolving, fast-changing field. The programme is aimed at Built Environment professionals looking to effect change in their organisations and to sustainability specialists and enthusiasts looking to practice in the built environment. To find out more about the programme and help spread the word on this ground-breaking new programme [visit the website](#).

UCEM's sustainability goals are widespread. In addition to launching the new programme next year, UCEM is also currently working on baselining its scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions and continues

Highlights

30 November 2022

First sustainability webinar

'Building Perspectives: retrofit or rebuild'



to develop and provide Continuing Professional Development in this area. UCEM ran its first 'Building Perspectives' webinar on retrofit or rebuild on 30 November 2022 to well over 200 registered delegates and UCEM's Energy and Carbon in the Built Environment course has now had over 2,666 people register on it since it was launched in November 2021. We have also asked all our staff to complete the module during the 2022-23 year, recognising the importance of growing a sustainability culture internally and ensuring all staff have a common foundation of practical knowledge in this area.

UCEM was absolutely delighted to secure re-accreditation in the

National Union of Students (NUS) **Responsible Futures** programme during the summer. This is the third consecutive accreditation UCEM has secured after being the first alternative provider to be awarded this official recognition. The aim of Responsible Futures is for institutions to equip students with the knowledge, skills and values to challenge the world around them and tackle social, economic and environmental issues. We are delighted UCEM increased its score in the audit from 75% to 82% in 2022 and this is testament to the 'whole institution approach' we took, harnessing the support, engagement and passion for this important work within the entire UCEM staff body.

The **Board of Trustees** had two meetings during autumn 2022. On 29 September the Board was delighted to appoint a new Independent Trustee to the Board. **Professor Michelle Jones**, Deputy Vice Chancellor at Plymouth Marjon University, who will bring great knowledge and expertise to the Board from her distinguished career in higher education. On 1 December 2022, the Board also appointed a new Student Trustee, **Adam Denton**, and a new Staff Trustee, **Jon Hubert**. Both these meetings also featured informative external speakers. Nick Hilman of the Higher Education Policy Institute spoke to the Board in September about the latest policy context for higher education and

the potential challenges in the years to come. **Mark Reynolds, Group Chairman and Chief Executive of MACE**, spoke in December of his role with the Construction Leadership Council and the many challenges and opportunities for UCEM at the current time in the built environment sector.

We continue to seek new Trustees on the Board as maximum terms of appointment are completed and are currently specifically seeking a new Honorary Treasurer. A role specification is available for this important position - should you know anyone who might be appropriate please do get in touch.

UCEM update



We were delighted to see so many of you at the Property Award Luncheon held at the Institute of Directors in London on 13 October 2022. It was a marvelous occasion at which we presented three awards – to Dan Labbad, Chief Executive of The Crown Estate for the Property Award, to Peter Maxwell for the Student Academic Excellence Award and to Nisha Chavda for the Alumni of the Year Award. We also presented the latest Harold Samuel Research Prize funding to Professor Obas John Ebohon.

Thank you all for attending and we look forward to seeing you again at the next one in October 2023 and/or at the next Honorary Awards Community Luncheon at Founders Hall on 12 May 2023.



New members of our Community in 2022

We are delighted to announce that the following people have joined our Honorary Awards Community this year and we look forward to working with them more closely in the future and to seeing them at our upcoming events.

Mr Fred Mills	Honorary MBA
Mr Mark Reynolds	Honorary Doctorate
Mr Graham Watts OBE	Honorary Doctorate
Ms Mary Curnock-Cook CBE	Honorary Doctorate
Mr Dan Labbad	Property Award winner 2022
Ms Karen Ching	Honorary Fellowship
Mr Andrew Hynard	Honorary Fellowship
Mr Denys Kwan	Honorary Fellowship
Mr Gary Yeung	Honorary Fellowship
Mr Bruce Boughton	Honorary Fellowship
Ms Phoebe Farrell	Associate Fellowship
Ms Ella Campbell	Associate Fellowship
Ms Nella Pang	Associate Fellowship
Ms Lucy Gaitskell	Associate Fellowship

Meet the team



Angela Lee

Associate Dean - Research

UCEM's Academic Team is expanding and has a wide variety of high-calibre professionals from a mixture of academic and practitioner backgrounds. Our academic staff are core to everything we do at UCEM and the excellent education we provide to our students. One area we are working to develop and grow at UCEM is research, a core ambition within our CX Strategy, that is being driven forwards by Professor Angela Lee.

What is your role for UCEM?

I am the newly appointed Associate Dean (Research). This role is to provide the visionary leadership, management and oversight of research in terms of resources and innovation operations at UCEM.

How long have you worked for UCEM?

Since April 2022, although I still consider myself as a newbie which I regularly use as an excuse to ask lots of questions!

How did you get into academia and why did you join UCEM?

I have been in academia for 25 years and worked my way through all the ranks: from Research Assistant, Research Fellow, Senior Research Fellow, Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and to Professor; and from Programme Leader to Head of Directorate/ Department, and various Associate Dean roles along the way. I joined UCEM following Covid, after realising the benefits of a much improved home-work life balance associated with working from home.

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

I feel I am making a difference in changing mindsets and implementing new processes to support and embed research - I am passionate to discuss and develop new innovations to improve the built environment. Plus, I get to work with some great people along the way.



What is your greatest professional achievement at UCEM so far?

Supporting my colleagues to undertake research.

What do you find challenging about your work?

Time - there is lots to do, but not enough hours in the day!

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

How inclusive and happy folk are! (ok that's two things, but they are related!). Prior to UCEM, I was Associate Dean (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) as I have always spearheaded equality. Implementing new procedures was sometimes difficult, and where agendas were changed, it did feel rather tokenistic at times. Unfortunately, this is typical of the Higher Education sector, as the award gap for ethnic students is stark. As a female, from a minority ethnic background, working in male-dominated industry, I honestly feel that inclusivity is in UCEM's DNA. We certainly buck the

sector in many ways: we have a high proportion of female academic staff, we don't have an ethnic award gap etc. There is a clear sense of 'belonging' and open lines of communication which is reflected in satisfaction metrics.

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

To secure a Research Degree validating partner so that we can offer PhDs at UCEM. I am really excited about this, and to begin supervising PhD students once again.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Ambitious - Innovative - Inclusive.

Tell us a surprising or fun fact about you!

I never had a bike as a child so only learnt to ride when I was 30 years old (my niece had to push me around the park, and thankfully, this moment was not captured on camera!).

UCEM online

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



Property Awards 2022

More information on the award winners in 2022 and [images from the day](#).



UCEM sharing its expertise

UCEM continues to grow its influence across the industry and in higher education. We are now offering a new free webinar series call [Building Perspectives](#).



Graduation December 2022

Graduation was held on Saturday 3 December and as ever was a highlight in the winter calendar. Many of our new appointees were also presented with their certificates as Honorary Fellows or as Honorary Degree Recipients.

Honorary Awards Community

We are delighted to announce there will soon be a new Honorary Awards Community web page on the UCEM website which we hope will form a central hub of information and space to connect for this community.

Honorary Community newsletter



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 Simon Kolesar, Honorary Fellow since 2019 and former Trustee and Honorary Treasurer on the UCEM Board, and Nella Pang, one of our newest Associate Fellows having been appointed in September 2022. We asked them both some questions to help us get to know them and learn more about their connection to UCEM.



Simon Kolesar

Honorary Fellow

How were you connected to UCEM?

I had no direct link with the College of Estate Management through my work, however I got to know Peter Goodacre (then Principal) through our involvement with the RICS and he encouraged me to become a UCEM Trustee in 2006. I subsequently became Honorary Treasurer in 2010 until I retired from the Board in 2016.

What are you doing now?

I am retired and having a wonderful time. I play golf, garden, walk and spend time with my 3 children, their other halves and 6 grand children. If I have any time left over I am building a model railway.



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

Helping to steer my Partnership through 2 recessions.

What is your greatest professional achievement so far?

Being elected as President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1999.

What is your best memory of UCEM?

The day we received degree awarding powers and subsequently becoming a University College.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Friendly; Supportive and Committed.

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

To be a pilot of a World War 2 Avro Lancaster bomber - in peace time!

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

Leonardo da Vinci. To understand more about his thought processes that were way ahead of his time and lead to the conceptual invention of such things as the helicopter, the parachute, an armoured fighting vehicle and the use of solar power- to name but a few.

What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?

A Shelby AC Cobra - one of the greatest ever sports cars.

The Honorary Awards Community



Nella Pang

Associate Fellow

How were you connected to UCEM?

I undertook my diploma and degree at UCEM, totalling 6 years

What are you doing now?

I am managing director of my own firm Omega RE, a commercial chartered surveyor specialising in office, industrial, retail and development consultancy advice. Providing businesses and landlords advice in negotiations of their real estate.

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

Before children, I would have said Working full time, studying full time. Now. Taking time out to become a mother. Juggling work and career.

What is your greatest professional achievement so far?

Securing a Halo ARC to acquire industrial units throughout the UK and support with their national expansion rollout. I've now been working with them for over a decade, and they have followed me from one firm to another.



What is your best memory of UCEM?

Developing a support network of friends, who were on the same journey. 10 years later I ended up marrying one of my best friends.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Inclusive. Opportunity. Respected.

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

I love my role. It's very diverse. But I would love to be more tech developer savvy.

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

Brene Brown, I love her books and she has built my confidences for me to lean into the unknown, and embrace vulnerability.

What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?

A group family / friend holiday. We got married aboard and it was the best holiday ever. So would want to share this with friends and family.

Forthcoming occasions and events



Honorary Awards Community Luncheon 2023

Friday 12 May 2023

Founders Hall in London

formal invitations to follow in January

SAVE THE DATE



Graduation June 2023

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 June 2023

Town Hall Reading



Property Award 2023

Thursday 12 October 2023

Institute of Directors in Central London

formal invitations will follow during 2023

SAVE THE DATE

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