

Honorary Community newsletter



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 steadfast and supportive friends of UCEM. This edition brings you up to speed on all things UCEM this Spring and a progress update on the year to date. 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 very much look forward to seeing many of you again in person next month at the annual luncheon in London.



Ashley

Principal

a.wheaton@ucem.ac.uk



Jane

Deputy Principal & University College Secretary

j.e.fawkes@ucem.ac.uk

UCEM update



It has been an eventful and busy start to 2023 at UCEM. Our work to become the **Centre of Excellence for Built Environment Education** and the **world's most sustainable university** has continued with some major milestones achieved in recent weeks. In early January, UCEM secured the **re-accreditation of all its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes from the RICS**, following a four day visit. The panel provided some fantastic feedback to UCEM for its collaborative and comprehensive team approach throughout the visit. They specifically praised the focus UCEM has on the student support it provides right across the student experience and journey, highlighting that the resources

provided are excellent and that students have a clear chance of being successful in the real world as a result of their studies with us. We are immensely proud of the collaborative team approach to securing this incredibly positive outcome for UCEM, which means we are fulfilling our core purpose of enabling students to enhance their careers.

One of the core aims in our strategy is to bring greater depth to our programme offering and we were therefore delighted to reach another major milestone in our sustainability ambitions in February with the successful validation of our new **MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments**. The programme seeks to meet the appetite and demand

Highlights

NEW

Validation

[Level 4 Construction Site Supervisor apprenticeship](#)



[MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments](#)



RICS re-accreditation

Of all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

for sustainability and environmental skills in the built environment and was commended by the validation panel for the proposed teaching methodology, the passion of the programme team, and the positive feedback and connections with students, industry and employers. The programme represents a critical and substantial step in our institutional ambitions to lead the way in creating a sustainable built environment.

We were also able to successfully validate a new **Level 4 Construction Site Supervisor apprenticeship** in March which will also launch from September 2023. This programme represents a key milestone in increasing the depth of our programme offering and in our work on

equality, diversity and inclusion to widen participation in the built environment sector. The programme team were praised not only for their passion, but for the demonstration of strong connections, engagement and collaboration with employers, professional bodies and wider stakeholders in the development of the programme, and the connections between the academic team and the apprenticeships support team in building a genuinely tailored and supportive student experience that enables apprentices to be successful in their studies. We are now accepting applications for both programmes and look forward to welcoming our first students from September 2023.

UCEM update

Highlights

Launch

Sustainability strategy



INSPIRE series



We formally launched our **Sustainability strategy** last month. The strategy fully recognises the importance of sustainability in the built environment given that 40% of total carbon emissions come from the built environment industries. We understand the collective and growing need to do more, both at speed and at scale, to address the climate emergency and achieve a sustainable built environment. Our GLOBE **strategy** sets out UCEM's holistic, institution-wide approach to tackling this issue through five dimensions of work which will embed the principle of sustainability across our whole institution - what we teach, the way we teach, who we influence, how we operate, and our leadership

and governance. We believe we are uniquely positioned to be a custodian of the built environment by developing the necessary skills and qualifications for professionals who shape the world around us. With sustainability at our very core, we will one day become **the world's most sustainable university**.

Collaborative working is integral to UCEM's mission and we are busy preparing to hold our inaugural '**INSPIRE**' event. These events will be a series of themed sessions that will convene influential stakeholders to consider the various challenges facing the built environment sector, so that we can together **IN**fluence for **S**kills, **P**roductivity, **I**ndustry, **R**esearch and **E**ducation.

The inaugural event, 'Enabling Successful Built Environment Apprenticeships', will take place in mid-May and will bring together senior representatives from industry, professional bodies, higher education and government agencies to identify mutual aspirations for the apprenticeship system. Another **INSPIRE** event is planned for later in 2023, to be focused on Sustainability.

We are particularly delighted to have an enthusiastic group of **UCEM students** working with us on our sustainability ambitions. They are integral to driving change and are genuinely passionate about sustainability. They have worked with us on the Responsible Futures re-accreditation in autumn 2022 and

on our first ever sustainability themed alumni survey, the results of which were published in March. We also look forward to them helping us to deliver UCEM's first Go Green Week in April.

In other institutional news, we continue work to improve our student experience here at UCEM and back in January, our academic team held a **Tutor Engagement day** focused on research into teaching. This was an engaging and thought provoking day that came hot on the heels of months of work to improve our modules and enhance the student experience to drive the right outcomes for students and further improve our success rates. We have just completed the **Spring enrolment period**

UCEM update



and welcomed a large new cohort of students to UCEM to commence their studies with a fully revamped **orientation programme** of activities and orientation. We are forecasting a healthy financial outturn for the year despite the ongoing challenging economic climate and hope to sustain this into the next academic year. In these circumstances, we were especially pleased to be provided with additional funds from the Office for Students to help our students with the cost-of-living crisis and have invited applications for financial support from our students.

We have been unable to visit our colleagues and partners in **Hong Kong** for some three years due to Covid but with Hong Kong now fully open for

business again after the easing of restrictions, a dinner and reception was held on 9th March at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. This event, which was attended by UCEM Honorary Fellows, alumni and students, as well as senior staff from the built environment industry and professional bodies, enabled us to re-engage with stakeholders and update them on UCEM's progress and future strategy. Unfortunately, due to Covid our Principal was unable to travel and had to send a video message to attendees, but the event was a huge success nonetheless and Ashley looks forward to planning another visit in the very near future.

Our **Board of Trustees** met in March 2023 for the first time this year. We were delighted to appoint three new Trustees on the Board - Graeme Scott became our new Honorary Treasurer, Adam Denton became Student Trustee and Jon Hubert became Staff Trustee - each of whom will bring their different knowledge, expertise and perspectives to discussions and help to take UCEM forward in the delivery of its strategy in the coming years. We were very sad to bid farewell to two Trustees in the last quarter. Helen Edwards completed her term of office as Staff Trustee in December and Jat Brainch, our outgoing Honorary Treasurer, stood down in March 2023. We are grateful to them both for their six years of service to the institution.

Finally, our **staff** remain our greatest asset at UCEM, and we are delighted they are involved in so many initiatives that continue to embed our values and make UCEM such a positive place to work. Back in December, UCEM sought out a new charity partner following several years of supporting Launchpad Reading. Staff were invited to nominate charities we might like to support and a



vote was held between the top three. As a result, UCEM now supports **No 5 Counselling** with all its fundraising initiatives, campaigns and challenges. Already staff have raised in excess of £500 in less than three months of partnership through initiatives such as 'Beat the Boss' (a walking challenge where staff raced to Hong Kong by foot for four weeks ahead of Ashley flying there), a laptop donation scheme, collection of ad hoc funds from parking and deliveries at the office, and Rags to Riches collections of unwanted clothes. Staff are also taking part in volunteering opportunities with No5 to tidy up their gardens. This money will provide five months of life changing confidential 1:1 counselling for a young person.

Briefing for new members



On 17th April 2023, we hosted a one hour briefing via Zoom for the newest members of our community to help them understand how they can support the institution in their roles and in particular to learn about the sustainability aims of UCEM. Despite the technical challenges we suffered at the start, we shared more information on our recently launched Sustainability Strategy and our new MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments.

We hope that collectively, as inspirational role models for current and future students, our community can have a lasting impact on the sector and work together to deliver these ambitious goals. We are keen to run more of these sessions so if you would be interested in attending a future briefing, please let Lyndsay Hughes know.

Meet the team



Aled Williams

Executive Director Innovation and Partnerships

UCEM has ambitious goals to become the Centre of Excellence for Built Environment Education and the World's most sustainable university. Central to achieving these goals is the growth of UCEM's external influence and voice and leading this work for UCEM is Aled Williams. Aled is Executive Director for Innovation and Partnerships and sits on the Executive Team.

What is your role for UCEM?

I am the Executive Director for Innovation and Partnerships. My role aims to have a positive effect on the CX Influence strategy through engagement, education & collaboration. I support, connect and interact with a wide variety of stakeholders to actively influence (and be influenced by) our communities to inform policy and practice. This ties in with my role as executive sponsor for the 'Who we influence' dimension of the UCEM Sustainability Strategy.

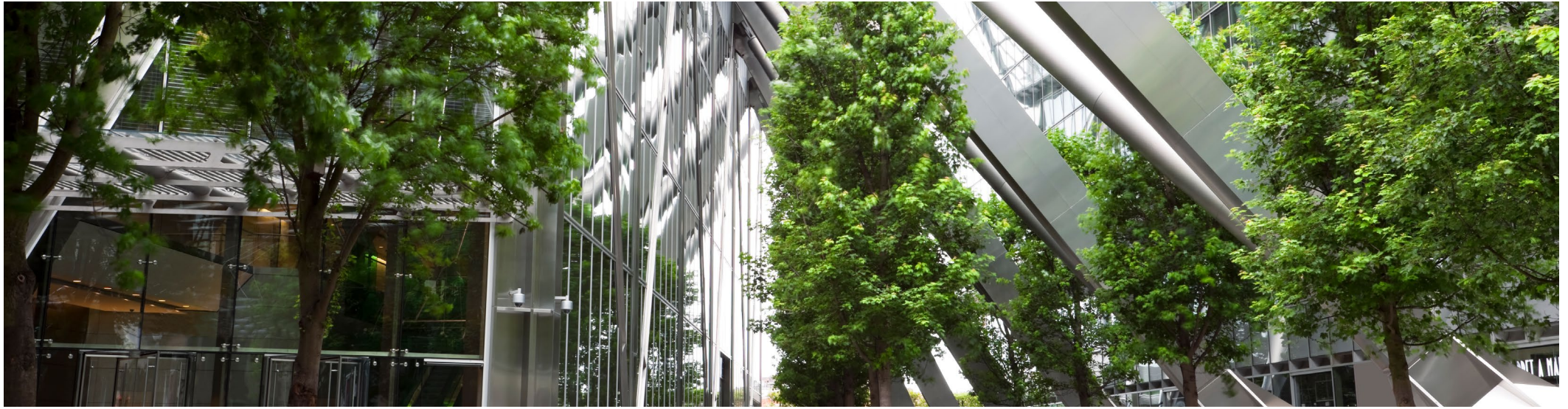
I work with existing very strong networks that include national industry agencies such as Construction Leadership Council (CLC), Construction Industry Council (CIC), government agencies (DfE, IfATE), professional institutions and education providers. Actively engaging with education providers, industry and professional bodies and has led to the possibility of wider influence.

How long have you worked for UCEM?

Since September 2014.

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

I have contributed to the development of built environment education for nearly 30 years in a variety of roles including LJMU, Salford University prior to moving to CEM. I presented at CEM in my role as UK Discipline Lead, Built Environment, Higher Education Academy in 2014 and was blown away by a passionate and



engaged team of people – a role was advertised and so I applied!

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

My work is about relationships and people which is aligned to my personal philosophy of ‘partnering’ with industry, business, and the community to provide a ‘real-world’ focus to achieve better outcomes for learners, employers and providers.

What is your greatest professional achievement at UCEM so far?

I enjoyed supporting the Prince’s Foundation’s the **‘Value of Community: Building a Legacy’** – this resulted in a report revealing a direct link between housing type and social benefits – so-

called ‘social capital’. I was proud to have met HRH King Charles III on a few occasions in his previous role as The Prince of Wales!

What do you find challenging about your work?

I have numerous simultaneous activities, all equally important, which involves spinning lots of plates! I set very high standards for myself (and others) but will always ensure that all activities are completed on time. Over the years I have learnt to temper this by encouraging different approaches to meet the same outcomes.

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

The people at UCEM continue to be our greatest asset; they all go that extra mile being passionate about making a difference and contributing to a sustainable built environment.

What’s next for you / your team at UCEM?

We’re working on a series of INSPIRE Events that aim to bring together senior stakeholders, such as CEOs, professional bodies, higher education, regulatory bodies and employers. These comprise a series of themed sessions that will enable collaboration between influential stakeholders to consider the various challenges facing the industry (so that we can together **IN**fluence for **S**kills, **P**roductivity, **I**ndustry, **R**esearch and

Education). The first event is taking place in May 2023 around **‘Enabling Successful higher-technical and professional (degree) apprenticeships’**.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Passionate, Engaging and Supportive

Tell us a surprising or fun fact about you!

I was part of a school choir who won a national singing competition in the early 1980’s around sustainability and the protection of Welsh forests. We went to sing on Pebble Mill at One in Birmingham and I got David Soul and Jimmy Tarbuck’s autographs!

UCEM online

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



Awards

UCEM's Built Environment Apprenticeship Awards 2023

An inspirational and engaging event was held on 9th February in London during National Apprenticeship Week to celebrate the achievements of our apprentices and their employers. Catch up on all the [winners, short listers and photos from the event](#).



Building Perspectives

UCEM continues to grow its influence across the industry and in higher education. We are now producing a new free webinar series led by experts from UCEM and sector specialists, to promote UCEM's work in the field of sustainability called Building Perspectives, the latest edition was held on 10th February and the third installment is coming up on 27th April 2023 called 'The forecast is gloomy: what does the construction industry need to know to ensure a sustainable future?' with Professor Noble Francis. [Visit the webpage to find out more and register.](#)



Honorary Awards Community

Finally, we are delighted to announce the launch of our new [Honorary Awards Community web page](#) on the UCEM website which we hope will form a central hub of information and a space to connect for this community.

On this page you will find the details of all our Honorary Award schemes, including how and when you can make nominations, and news and updates from around the community membership.



New Chair of Young Citizens

Our own Principal, Ashley Wheaton, was appointed as the new Chair of Young Citizens in March 2023, reflecting his own commitment to education and UCEM's aims to engage the next generation in the future sustainability of our planet. [For more information visit the website.](#)

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 Gary Yeung, a newly appointed Honorary Fellow based in Hong Kong, and Ros Kerslake, Property Award winner in 2016. We asked them both some questions to help us get to know them and learn more about their connection to UCEM.



Sr Professor Gary Man Kai Yeung FRICS FHKIS F.PFM

Honorary Fellow

How were you connected to UCEM?

My first connection with UCEM was in 1987 when I decided to study the distant learning degree offered by the then CEM. Without the need of traveling abroad, students can achieve honour degree which was recognised by the two surveying institutes namely the RICS and the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. Second encounter was when I subsequently undertook the MBA in Construction and Real Estate in late 90s.

What are you doing now?

I retired from my former full-time employment in year 2018. I am now teaching part-time in two universities and also offering candidate and assessor training for the two surveying institutes in Hong Kong.

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

In year 2003, Hong Kong encountered SARS spread throughout the whole city. As the head of a property management company, I had set up contingency plan for the organisation. Staff were separated into two teams working in different locations so as to enable alternative support, without a break of our services, when one team member was infected SARS. This would require deployment of additional temporary staff, arrangement of extra office space and procurement of all necessary disinfection provisions. Fortunately, all my staff had not been infected SARS until the virus distinguished in the second half of 2003.

What is your greatest professional achievement so far?

Being elected as the President of the Hong Kong Institute of Facility Management and appointed as Adjunct Professor by a local university both in 2022.

What is your best memory of UCEM?

I had graduated two times from the then CEM/Reading but on both occasions, I was unable to spare sufficient time to travel to UK and to attend the

graduation ceremony owing to heavy business and family commitments. This leaves behind me a regretful but yet happy memory.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Commitment, Opportunity and Professional.

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

Professional marathoner as Eliud Kipchoge being several world record breaker.

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

Sun Yat Sen, the father of modern China.

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

A cruise trip around the world with my family.

The Honorary Awards Community



Ros Kerlake CBE
Property Award Winner 2016

How were you connected to UCEM?

Much of my career has been in property and regeneration and for 10 years I was chief executive of a charity established by His Majesty King Charles III, The Prince's Regeneration Trust (PRT). We worked closely with UCEM and I developed a huge respect for all that it does. In 2016 I was both surprised and honoured to join the illustrious list of members of the property world who have been given the UCEM property award.

What are you doing now?

At the beginning of 2022, I stood down from my job as CEO of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and moved into a portfolio non-executive career, which I'm enjoying very much. I'm on several boards, including Sanctuary, the housing and care group and am also Chair of Leeds Castle Foundation and The Architectural Heritage Fund.

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

I started my career as a lawyer and fairly early on realised that it wasn't where I saw my future. I had to work hard to get myself back out of that box but with the support of a great CEO I moved into more general management and built my career from there.



What is your greatest professional achievement so far?

Not long after I joined PRT we were made aware of a really important site in Stoke on Trent, Middleport Pottery, which was still operating as a working pottery, but both the business and the buildings were in a bad way. We made several attempts to see if we could do something to rescue it because as a well as some unique traditional skills and incredible buildings it also had an extraordinary paper and ceramic archive, which literally started with the plans for the site in Victorian times. We got very close at one stage then it all fell through and we were completely crestfallen. However a year later we were able to put together a sale and leaseback deal with the venture capital company which had purchased the business; we invested in the site and the

archive and they invested in the business and the skills. It is now a thriving working pottery and visitor attraction with lots of small creative business also based there. It meant a lot to the people of Stoke on Trent to see the personal commitment that King Charles made to saving this important part of the potteries - which has since featured in several television programmes, including the Great Pottery Throwdown and Peaky Blinders!

The Honorary Awards Community



Ros Kerlake CBE
Property Award Winner 2016

What is your best memory of UCEM?

In 2017 I was invited to speak at the UCEM graduation day in Reading. I did my own MBA by distance learning and I know how hard it can be and how immensely satisfying success is. I was blown away by the graduates and their families who had travelled from around the world for the ceremony and I was very pleased and touched to part of their day.

What three words sum up UCEM for you?

Inclusive, professional, and respected.

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

Funny you should ask, I did do a job for one day - teaching. My father was headmaster of a primary school and asked me to help out one day when they couldn't get a cover teacher. I was about 18 at the time. One day was enough to convince me that wherever my career lay, it was not in teaching small children.



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

Hmm, that's a difficult one. It can be a mistake to meet your heroes!

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

I'm an enthusiastic supporter of the Lottery as I know what enormous good is done through the good causes money it raises. I did win a few hundred pounds once and spent it taking my family (my husband and I have 3 children and a grandchild) out to celebrate.

Forthcoming occasions and events



Honorary Community Briefing on
UCEM's Sustainability ambitions and
new MSc programme

Monday 17 April 2023

Via Zoom



Honorary Awards Community luncheon
2023

Friday 12 May 2023

Founders Hall in London

Invitations were issued in January, you can register up to
21 April 2023 by emailing specialevents@ucem.ac.uk.



UCEM Graduation June 2023

Friday 30 June and Saturday 1 July 2023

Town Hall Reading

SAVE THE DATE



Property Award 2023

Thursday 12 October 2023

Institute of Directors in Central London

formal invitations will follow during 2023

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