

## Alumni News

ALUMNI NUMBER:



Dear

Last week we welcomed thousands of new UCL graduates to our alumni community - with your help. Thank you to everyone who contributed a message to our [interactive Wilkins Building mosaic](#). So many of you shared your personal experiences, useful advice, and messages of congratulations, resulting in this brilliant resource to support and inspire the Class of 2020. We were also thrilled to welcome our newest alumni with this [video of messages from alumni](#) including Steph McGovern (Science Communication and Policy 2005), Jeremy Bowen (History 1982) and Isa Guha (BSc Biochemistry 2007, MPhil Neuroscience 2016).

With teaching paused, summer is usually a quieter time at UCL. But this year, our academics continue to work in earnest to tackle COVID-19, while also devising new ways to teach students next term. You can read about some of their latest breakthroughs and studies in this newsletter.

I'd like to sign off with a message we received for the Class of 2020 mosaic that I personally found inspiring, and hope you will too. Thank you Zachary Tan (LLM International Banking and Finance 2015):

*"Time is your best asset. Be careful how you spend it. What 2020 has shown us (so far) is that everything could be taken away so easily. Be kind. Pay it forward. Be generous with your time to those who need it. Find your purpose and pursue it relentlessly."*

Best wishes,

**Annie Thompson**  
 Deputy Director of Alumni Relations (interim)

## UCL's response to COVID-19

UCL experts are at the forefront of three UK Government-funded studies that seek to explain and mitigate the disproportionate death rate from [COVID-19 among people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic \(BAME\) backgrounds](#). As the factors behind the higher risk of COVID-19 affecting BAME people are unclear, UCL is looking at this urgent issue from multiple angles.



Meanwhile, Professor Vincenzo Libri (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology) is leading the [clinical trial phase of a potential COVID-19 vaccine](#) at UCLH. The team is recruiting 300 healthy volunteers to take part in the trial and help researchers determine the potential vaccine's effect on immune response.

The university's strong response to the virus wouldn't have been possible without UCL's exceptional supporters, whose donations to the [UCL Coronavirus Response Fund](#), which sat at [over £1 million](#) in June, have now totalled over £3 million. This generosity has facilitated a broad range of critical projects: from devising new measures to make bus journeys safe for drivers and passengers, to tracking how the coronavirus is affecting the mental health of teenagers and young adults (who are often neglected in research), and examining whether having COVID-19 results in antibodies that protect against reinfection.

## UCL on demand



### [Bad People: criminally entertaining?](#)

Dr Julia Shaw (UCL PALS) and comedian Sofie Hagen dissect the criminal cases that shock, intrigue and scare us the most on this new podcast from BBC sounds.

[Listen online >>](#)



### [European Perspectives on COVID-19](#)

What impact has COVID-19 had on education, culture and governance in Europe? Find out in this series of webinar recordings featuring UCL experts and partners in Paris and Rome.

[Watch online >>](#)



### [When will we have a COVID-19 vaccine?](#)

UCL experts and Vivienne Parry OBE examine the progress made in developing a COVID-19 vaccine and how we can make sure everyone has access when it's ready.

[Listen online >>](#)



### [Internet use: a tool for better wellbeing?](#)

A new UCL study has found a link between more frequent internet use and better mental health in older adults, but less wealthy people may not be reaping these benefits.

[Read more >>](#)

## Globally United

### [Kevin in Florence: "sometimes the most challenging situations are also the most inspiring"](#)

As we all continue to adapt and respond to COVID-19, our latest [Globally United](#) video features an artistic response to the pandemic from a UCL Slade School of Fine Art alumnus, [Kevin Berlin](#).



Rather than returning to his native US, Kevin remained in Italy following the outbreak. Inspired by a trip to the grocery store during lockdown, the international artist created a performance art video, ["Moonwalk"](#). The video expresses how the usually bustling, then empty, Piazza della Signoria felt like "another planet". You don't see the artist's face deliberately – "this is a time for 'we', not 'I'".

If you'd like to share ideas and resources with the UCL community by submitting your own Globally United video, please contact [alumni@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ucl.ac.uk)

## More UCL alumni news

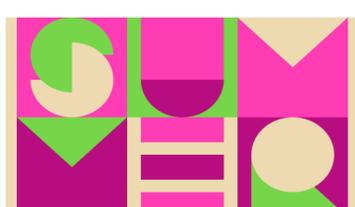


### [UCL Connect: How to Break into Consultancy](#)

**Free virtual event: 1 September, 12:30-1:30pm (BST)**

Get insider advice on building a career in consultancy at this session with Russell Pell, Managing Partner of Ten Consulting Group and a UCL alumnus.

[Book your place >>](#)



### [The Bartlett Summer Show 2020](#)

**Free virtual event: 10 September – 2 October**

Tune in this September for The Bartlett's first ever online Summer Show, featuring work by over 700 architecture students. You can attend virtual tours, listen to commentaries and more.

[Explore here >>](#)



### [Gaming's not all fun and games](#)

On the [UCL Culture](#) blog, escape room designer and queer historian Sacha Coward (MA Anthropology 2009) explains how games can reveal surprising things about players.

[Read more >>](#)



### [Going the distance with Shauna Bent](#)

After switching from studying Zoology and Botany to joining Toronto's police force, Shauna Bent looked to UCL to gain a qualification that would bolster her career change – without leaving Canada.

[Read Shauna's story >>](#)

## While you're here...

We're making exciting changes to our alumni communications and want you to be a part of them. To ensure that you continue to hear about UCL news and events, and receive your new, digital Portico magazine, please make sure you [opt in here](#).

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