

CAMPUS ROUND-UP



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SKILLS MINISTER MEETS COLLEGE
STAFF AND STUDENTS
PAGE 3

SPACE ENGINEERING GRADUATES
REACH FOR THE STARS
PAGE 5

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR STARS
REVEAL SECRETS OF SUCCESS
PAGE 8

New College Durham
learner Reece Palmer

GOING FOR GOLD

REECE AIMS FOR RIO PARALYMPICS AFTER SPRINT SUCCESSES PAGE 4

Tongues will be wagging...

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Welcome to CAMPUS ROUND-UP edition 25



@JianFarhoumand
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Welcome to Edition 25 of Campus Round-Up magazine. My name is Jian Farhoumand

and I'm your guest editor again this week.

I completed my NCTJ gold standard diploma in journalism at Brighton Journalist Works in January, followed by internships at The Sunday Times and Esquire Magazine. I'm also editor of The Brighton Bugle, a not-for-profit news site that has been nominated for an NCTJ award for excellence.

During my time here, I've edited two issues of Campus Round-Up and have been excited to see my work published in two consecutive hard copies of *FE Week*.

My main duties have included chasing leads, writing-up articles, checking facts and sourcing pictures. I've also gained hands-on experience with typical newsroom software such as Photoshop,

InDesign and WordPress.

Crucially, I've been lucky to have the guidance of training manager Paul Offord — who, over a steaming mug of coffee on my first morning, said in response to my concern about story word counts: "What is our job if it isn't explaining complicated subject matter in a concise way?" I thought they were wise words for any budding reporter to remember.

Highlights of this week's edition include an article on a sprinter with special educational needs, from New College Durham, who recently won nine gold medals at national disability competitions and the feature on an 82-year-old learner celebrating 25 years of uninterrupted study at Bracknell and Wokingham College.

FE Week runs a paid internship scheme for journalism students.

Each of them are guest editors of Campus Round-Up for two working weeks, under the guidance of our training manager. We are now accepting applications for the autumn term. Email paul.offord@feweek.co.uk for more details.

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Send your stories with pictures to campus@feweek.co.uk including names, ages and course details of students where applicable

EDITION 25

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Campus Round-Up is a sister publication of the weekly newspaper *FE Week* — the only newspaper dedicated to further education and skills.

FE Week offers a two-week paid internship for people who want to be journalists. Interns will be guest editors for two editions of the Campus Round-Up magazine, under the guidance of training manager Paul Offord. E-mail us at campus@feweek.co.uk to find out more.

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Skills Minister sings praises of apprenticeships

Skills Minister Nick Boles spoke to staff, students and employers at Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College about the importance of promoting apprenticeships to their local communities.

Mr Boles was full of praise for vocational training during a visit to the college with Ealing and Acton MP Conservative Angie Bray.

And he said it was important that providers made sure that everybody in their local area understood how apprenticeships, and not just academic qualifications, could transform young people's lives.

Mr Boles, who replaced Matthew Hancock as Skills Minister in July, said: "There is no cap to where you can progress if you do an apprenticeship."

Principal Garry Phillips said: "It was great to see the Skills Minister and Angie Bray talking directly and listening to our apprentices and employers."

"The college offers a number of excellent apprenticeships."

"We look forward to meeting with the minister again."



Ealing and Acton MP Angie Bray, level three business administration apprentice Casey Ruff, aged 26, and Skills Minister Nick Boles
Pic: Get West London

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New College Durham learner
Reece Palmer



Reece winning the 100m final in the French National Championships

Paralympic hopes for golden boy Reece

A sprinter with special educational needs from New College Durham hopes he will qualify for the 2016 Rio Paralympics after winning nine gold medals at high level events this summer.

Reece Palmer, aged 19, who competes in the under-23 T20/F20 intellectual disabilities class, began his winning streak in June at Mencap's Open National Athletics Championships, in Manchester, where he took the 100m and 200m titles.

Reece and his college classmates then organised ten sponsored challenges, including a penalty shoot-out, Wii bowling and tug of war, to help fund

his travel a month later to the French Championships, in Evreux, where he won the 100m, 200m, 400m and 4x100m.

He then returned to England for the British National Championships, in Warwick, and won 100m, 200m and 400m.

Reece, who is studying for a supported employment course combining maths and English with work placements, said: "I couldn't have done this without the support of my brilliant classmates and staff. I love running and my goals include being selected for the upcoming Open European Indoor Athletics Championships in Russia and the Rio 2016 Paralympics."

Grandfather's tributes to fallen friends inspire war poetry course

A lecturer who still has a copy of hand-written verses his grandfather dedicated to friends who died in battle is launching a part-time course on war poetry.

Simon Fletcher, who is a poet himself, will launch the eight-week course at Walford and North Shropshire College on reading war poetry next month.

It will cover works by Homer, Shakespeare, Tennyson as well as the famous First World War poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen.

Simon has a personal connection to the First World War through his deceased grandfathers.

One of them, Gilbert Fletcher, fought on the Western Front

in France before he was sent home in around 1916 after being critically injured in a gas attack.

His other grandfather, John Tipton, was not called-up for military service due to a spinal injury but wrote poems dedicated to friends who died in the war which Simon still has a copy of.

Simon was inspired to start the course by his grandfathers. He added: "I think it's fascinating that they had such different experiences of the war. The one who didn't go to war wrote about it and the one who fought, and lost his older brother Harold on the Somme, hardly ever spoke of it."



Lecturer Simon Fletcher with the book of poetry by his grandfather

Out of this world success for space engineering graduates



Below from left: Loughborough College space engineering advanced A-level graduate Rebecca Healey, aged 17, NASA astronaut Colonel Chris Hadfield and fellow graduate Connor Mugglestone, 18

From left: Loughborough College space engineering advanced A-level graduates Nigel Grainger and Jessica Bains, both aged 18, at the National Space Centre

A graduate from the UK's first post-16 space engineering advanced A-level programme at Loughborough College has secured an out-of-this-world apprenticeship with leading aerospace company Airbus.

The two-year course was launched in September 2012 and

the first wave of 11 graduates completed in June.

It combined A-level maths and physics with BTec engineering and weekly visits to the National Space Centre, in Leicester, where they met NASA astronaut Colonel Chris Hadfield in January.

Graduate Nigel Grainger has

now secured an undergraduate apprenticeship with leading aerospace company Airbus.

He said: "I'll be working with a company set to be involved in the UK's first ever space port.

"It doesn't get much more exciting than that."

Another graduate Jessica Bains

has also secured a full scholarship with the University of South Florida for a master's degree in physics with maths and engineering.

She said: "I won't be far from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, so it's a dream come true.

"Eventually, I hope to work with the European Space Agency."

Designer with dyslexia cut out for college

A designer from Cleveland College of Art & Design (CCAD) who suffers from severe dyslexia and left school without any qualifications has secured a place at the London College of Fashion.

Thomas Walker convinced CCAD tutors to allow him onto an introductory art and design course, despite his lack of GCSEs, after attending an open day three years ago.

He excelled at this before transferring to a level three BTec extended diploma in fashion and textiles course he completed this summer.

He started this month on a degree in menswear fashion design technology at the London College of Fashion whose famous alumni include Jimmy Choo and Patrick Cox.

Thomas said: "I never thought this would happen. I thought I'd struggle just to complete the CCAD courses, so to realise how far I've come now is a dream come true.

"I want to turn menswear fashion on its head."

Tutor Stephen White said: "I'm blown away by Thomas' talent. He is definitely one to watch for the future."



Cleveland College of Art & Design graduate Thomas Walker, aged 20, with a mannequin wearing a jacket he designed based on the shape of a stingray

Pensioner recognised for 25 years of constant study at college

Bosses at Bracknell and Wokingham College have waived a £129 course fee for grandmother-of-four Gen van den Heuvel as she marks 25 years of study, writes Paul Offord.

Gen van den Heuvel felt she might reconnect with the country of her birth when signed up for a French literature course at Bracknell and Wokingham College a quarter of a century ago.

Born and raised in Paris, she experienced the Nazi occupation before moving to Britain in 1945.

And the studies proved more than a brief comfort, with Gen, now aged 82, going on to take courses in Russian history, pattern making for dresses, sugarcraft — even Christmas cracker making.

She puts the cost of all her studies over the years at around £2,500, plus £250 for books, but her impressive adult learning effort — and loyalty to the college — have been rewarded with 15 weeks' free (worth £129) as she prepares to embark on another French literature course.

Gen told *FE Week*: "I still see friends I made there 25 years ago and plan to keep going to college for as long as I can get to classes."

She added: "I used to get an old age pensioner discount for the courses, but that stopped [five years ago] so the free lessons are much appreciated."

Gen's tutor, Marie-Chantal Brault, said: "I think it's amazing, but then Gen is an amazing person who offers a great deal to the class."

"People in the class come from different generations and backgrounds and it gives them an opportunity to bring their personalities and opinions out when we are discussing the books. "We also use other forms of

learning to support the books we read including the internet, film and the theatre and we have been on a number of trips to see plays such as *Les Misérables* over the years."

As a young woman, Gen worked as a bilingual secretary for security firm Bradbury Wilkinson. She became a full-time housewife and mother after marrying Michael, who died 14 years ago, and giving birth to daughters Catherine, now 56, and Sarah, now 50.

Gen, who was an only child, said: "I never went back to work after having children and suppose part of the reason for returning to education was that I needed a bit more mental stimulation."

She added: "I studied quite a variety of courses during my first 15 years there, but always stuck with French literature and just concentrate on that now."

"I didn't want to have to sit any exams, so all the courses I chose did not lead to qualifications. That wasn't the idea for me. I went along for social reasons and to keep my mind active, which attending college really allowed me to do."

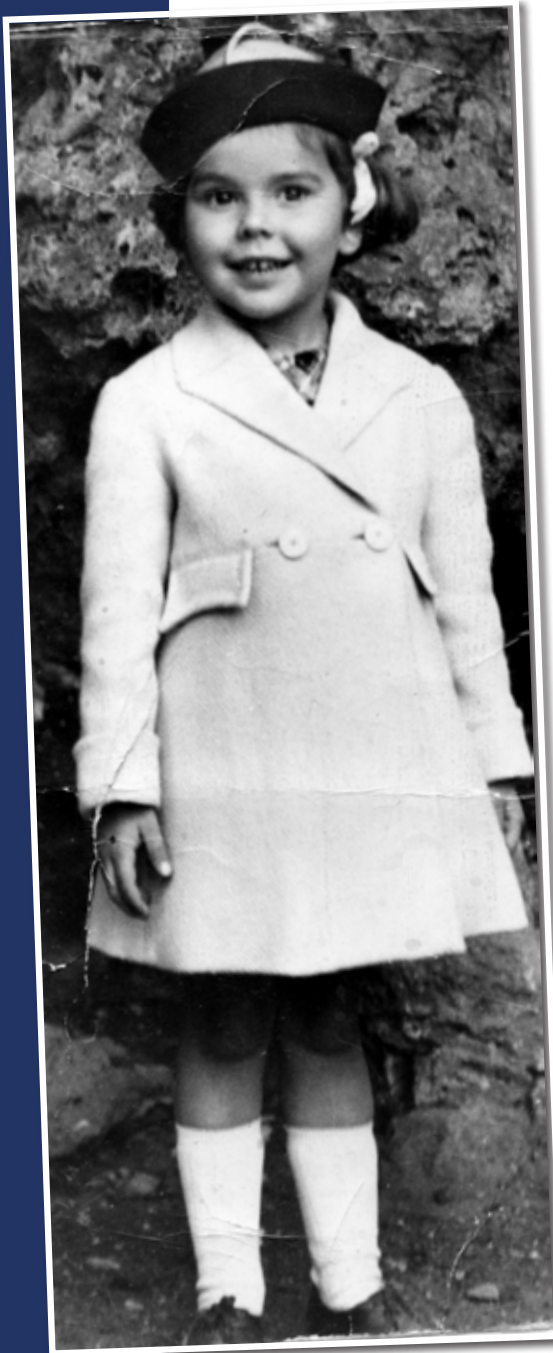
Principal Campbell Christie said: "It's really rewarding to meet an adult student who has gained so much from their college experience."

Gen's latest class will be studying a book set in the First World War, called *Un Long Dimanche De Fiançailles* by Sebastien Japrisot.

Classic books previously studied by Gen included *La Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky, *Le Perre Goriot* by Honoré de Balzac, *La Bête Humaine* by Emile Zola, and *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo, which inspired a class trip to watch the West End musical.



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Gen, aged four, in Paris



From left: Course tutor Marie-Chantal Brault, principal Campbell Christie CBE, long-serving student Gen van den Heuvel and languages co-ordinator Karen Miller



From left: Gen with parents Helen and Albert when she was a toddler

Gen's favourite French authors:

1) Irene Nemirovsky (1903 – 1942)

I really loved studying her book *La Suite Française* because it was set in Paris during the Second World War, so it was part of my history and I could relate to it

2) Emile Zola (1840 – 1902)

He was very good at describing the times he lived in

3) Marcel Pagnol (1895 – 1974)

He was a great naturalist and described nature

and animals beautifully. I'm fond of animals too so appreciate that

4) Francois Mauriac (1885 – 1970)

He was very good with characters. He made them seem very real and intriguing

5) Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt (1960 -)

He has a more modern and relaxing writing style, which makes him easier to read than some of the classic authors like Victor Hugo who can be quite difficult

Back to the 1950s for diamond jubilee

Winstanley College celebrated 60 years of education at its Wigan campus. Upholland Grammar School, which first launched in the Lancashire village of Upholland in 1661, moved to Winstanley Road, Wigan, in September 1953. It was renamed Winstanley College in August 1977 and gradually converted into a sixth form college by 1981, which it has remained ever since. The college marked the anniversary by inviting former grammar school students to ‘diamond jubilee’ celebrations on September 9, which included guided tours of the college and a 1950s-themed dance show by current performing arts students. Biology, maths, chemistry and physics A-level student Bethan Critchley, aged 17, said: “It’s been really interesting meeting former students and hearing their stories. “It was obviously a fantastic place to study and still is.” David Robinson, 61, who attended the grammar school from 1961 to 1966, said: “Everyone loved seeing the parts of the college that were still recognisable from the old school and were amazed by the new facilities that transformed it into a modern sixth form.”



Current students who performed in the 1950s-themed dance show. Inset from left: Former Upholland Grammar School students Alan Swift and David Robinson



From left: Barnet and Southgate College students Nabeel Hashim, aged 18, Amy Sinden, 17, Tottenham Hotspur defender Eric Dier and students Shakira Waithe, 19, and Mardochee Mboliko, 17. Inset from left: Tottenham youth team player Anton Walkes with Barnet and Southgate College principal David Byrne accepting a plaque from Mr Dier and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation chief executive officer Grant Cornwell

Spurs stars pass on football advice

Tottenham Hotspur players took part in a question-and-answer session with football hopefuls from Barnet and Southgate College. Youth team defensive midfielder Anton Walkes and first team central defender Eric Dier met students on level two and three BTec and NVQ courses run through the education and football development programme that the college runs with the Premier League club. They explained how they prepared for big matches and reflected on their careers so far, before taking

part in a training session with learners. Mr Dier said afterwards: “You can see how passionate the students are about football, but it’s also important to work hard in the classroom and get the qualifications you need for later life.” Level three BTec diploma in sport student Nabil Hasheem, aged 18, said: “I had a great time learning new football skills with the Spurs players. “It’s great knowing that one day I could be one of them.”

ROUND-UP IN BRIEF

Shortlisted for design talent

Havering College higher level graphic design graduates were shortlisted among the UK’s top 70 top emerging design talents by the Design Council. Aimee-Joy Jones, aged 21, was recognised for her project using flowcharts to summarise fairytales. Rory McLaren, 25, who also graduated in June, impressed with his computer game that combined Top Trumps-style card-games with augmented reality. Aimee-Joy said: “I feel very privileged.” Rory said: “It’s the last thing I expected.”

Yacht building apprentices

Three teenagers have begun level two marine engineering apprenticeships with City College Southampton and world-leading yacht making firm Oyster Marine. Jay Patel and Tom Phillips, both aged 18, and Jacob Thomson, 17, who started on their apprenticeships with the Southampton-based firm this month, will learn to assemble yachts and onboard fuel systems and could eventually become boat joiners, shipwrights or marine engineers. Principal Sarah Stannard said: “This is yet another example of how City College goes the extra mile to help young people get jobs.”

Work starts on new £11m hub

Construction has started on Walsall College’s £11m Walsall Business and Sports Hub. Diggers and other heavy machinery arrived on the site next to the college’s main Wisemore campus in late August and the 12-month building process is now well underway. The hub will contain a start-up business centre, sports hall with Sport England-standard badminton courts, dance studio and injury clinic. Deb Rajania, director of operations and resources, said: “It was a special moment seeing the machinery start work.”

Tongues will be wagging...

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