

# CAMPUS ROUND-UP



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## SWEET SUCCESS

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# Welcome to CAMPUS ROUND-UP edition three



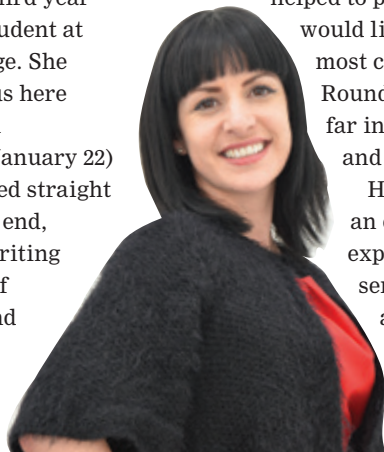
**@PaulOfford**  
[paul.offord@feweek.co.uk](mailto:paul.offord@feweek.co.uk)

Welcome to edition three of the *FE Week* digital Campus Round-Up magazine.

This week's offering was written and edited with help from our second intern Suzie Cain (pictured), aged 29.

Suzie is a third year journalism student at Harlow College. She started with us here at *FE Week* on Wednesday (January 22) and has jumped straight in at the deep end, finding and writing up a variety of interesting and inspiring stories.

An



important part of her role is also ensuring we have high quality photos for each story, which is crucial in maintaining the appearance of the magazine.

Suzie, who will be working with us for a fortnight, has helped to produce what I would like to think is the most complete Campus Round-Up magazine so far in terms of pictorial and editorial content. Highlights include an event to mark the expansion of the civil service's fast track apprenticeship scheme and an inspiring return to Gateshead

College for an award-winning student who has secured a job as a pastry commis chef at London's Ritz Hotel.

There is also a feature about an 89-year-old man who became a children's author after learning to use a computer word processor at Sunderland College.

And that's before I even mention the former Sir George Monoux College music student who has been chosen for will.i.am's team on BBC talent show *The Voice*.

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### EDITION 3

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- Guest editor: Suzie Cain
- Training manager: Paul Offord
- Head designer: Nicky Phillips
- Reporter: Freddie Whittaker
- Reporter: Rebecca Cooney
- Sales executive: Hannah Smith
- Administration: Victoria Boyle
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Campus Round-up is a sister publication of the weekly newspaper *FE Week*. *FE Week* is the only newspaper dedicated to the further education and skills sector.

*FE Week* is offering a two-week paid internship for people who want to be journalists. They will be guest editors for two editions of our new Campus Round-Up magazine, under the guidance of our training manager. E-mail us at [campus@feweek.co.uk](mailto:campus@feweek.co.uk) to find out more.

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# Fast-tracked into the heart of government



Centre left and right: Sir Bob Kerlake, head of the Civil Service, and Francis Maude, Cabinet Office Minister, with existing fast-track Civil Service apprentices

Young people on the Civil Service's fast-track apprenticeship scheme met Cabinet Office minister Francis Maude.

The minister met existing apprentices at the Cabinet Office, in Whitehall, London, during an event to publicise plans to dou-

ble the number of places on the scheme, which gives 18 to 21-year-olds the chance to work at the heart of government.

The scheme was introduced last year, when 100 18 to 21-year-olds were placed in departments to learn on the job.

This year, the government claims it will offer 200 permanent posts to school-leavers from September.

The aim is to eventually increase the figure to 500, which would match the number of university graduates taken on

each year through the Civil Service's graduate fast-stream scheme.

Mr Maude said: "The apprenticeship scheme will sit alongside our popular graduate scheme ensuring we draw the widest pool of talent into the Civil Service."

## SPOTLIGHT ON SKILLS CONFERENCE

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## Commis chef Catherine takes a break from putting on The Ritz



Catherine Smith (centre) with from left Gateshead College catering students, Charlotte Ferguson, aged 18, Carl Potts, 25, James Dillon, 31, Aiden Jackson, Tom Allen, both 17, and Anna Kirkby, 18

There was nothing half-baked about the good advice an award-winning former catering student gave to the next generation of learners at Gateshead College.

Catherine Smith, who was Gateshead College Student of the Year in 2013, secured the role of pastry commis chef at London's prestigious Ritz Hotel after passing a level two course in professional cookery in June last year.

The 29-year-old showed current catering students how to make tasty pastry treats during her return to the college. The learners also quizzed her on preparation and cooking techniques, food hygiene, and key attributes needed to impress employers in the hospitality and catering industry.

She said: "It's amazing to be able to go back to college. If I can help just one person to get a job in these difficult economic times, it will have been worthwhile."

## Memorial fund helps paint bright future for artist Tom



Nina Dauban, chief executive of Nottinghamshire Community Foundation, and Brian Oliver handing over a cheque to Tom Trueman. Also pictured is one of Artist's Tom's paintings

Art student has been awarded £500 from a fund set up in memory of a talented Nottinghamshire artist.

Tom Trueman, aged 18, who is studying for a foundation diploma in art and design at New College Nottingham, submitted a range of his paintings to prove his promise as an artist, when applying for a grant from the Joan Oliver Fund, which is distributed through the Nottinghamshire Community Foundation.

He impressed Brian Oliver, who set up the fund to help young artists in memory of wife Joan, who died six years ago, and was given £500 to help progress his career.

Tom said: "I feel very privileged to receive the fund, it means I will be able to continue doing what I love.

"Hopefully with time and practise I can start selling my artwork. It's not about a hobby or a career, it really is a way of life for me."

**DO YOU WANT TO BE IN CAMPUS ROUND-UP?** Send your stories with pictures to [campus@feweek.co.uk](mailto:campus@feweek.co.uk) including names, ages and course details of students where applicable

## From dockyard engineer to OAP author — Ken's own inspiring story



Pensioner Ken Hall has become a children's writer after learning to use computers at Sunderland College in his late 70s. The former engineer finished his second course having turned 80 years old and then took up writing, writes Paul Offord.

Ken Hall holding a copy of his book, the Fairest Rose. Inset: Ken and his son Tony sitting on a bench by the seaside in Roker, Sunderland, in around 1960 and Mr Hall reading to children at Hill View Infant School

Grandfather-of-two Ken Hall would daydream about becoming a children's author while working as an engineer in the rough and ready setting of a Sunderland docks.

His hopes for a different life were thwarted by the lack of a typewriter and the fact he struggled with handwriting.

But, having retired and returned to the classroom at the age of 78, Ken, now aged 89, mastered the word processor and so began his journey to a new career.

He said: "I have a saying that people who believe that they are too old to read a children's fairy story are very old indeed.

"People who believe they are too old to learn new skills are also very old indeed, and I was glad to be able to show that college is not just a place for young people.

"The college courses I completed helped me turn what was a hobby and a lifelong ambition into a reality."

Ken took a level one computer course at Sunderland College, where he was taught how to use Microsoft packages, including Word, and the internet.

He progressed to a level two computer studies course, which he completed before his 81st birthday. And the Sunderland pensioner has been busy ever since, typing up short stories, novels and poems, which are mostly for children.

Some of the first people to hear Ken's stories were children from Hill View Infant School, in Sun-



derland, said his 53-year-old daughter, Kris, an information technology college lecturer.

She said: "He had some of his stories made into books for family and friends to read, which he would go in and read to the local school kids, who really loved them. My mum, Mavis [79], also took some to a primary school in Broadway, Worcestershire, and a

family friend took them overseas to a school in Australia.

"The head teachers from both schools sent him letters saying how much the children liked the stories, so we thought he was onto something."

Ken, who spent most of his working life as an engineer at TW Greenwell dry dock, in Sunderland, has now completed two novels, eight shorter children's stories, and many poems.

Kris said: "The stories are brilliant. The first one was a short-story called Willie and Patch about a boy and his dog. That ended up as the first chapter of a much longer adventure story, called the Sword and the Shield. Another of his books for people

of any age, called the Fairest Rose, is about a young woman who was trapped in Germany at the outbreak of the Second World War and became a spy for the British and Americans.

"Those who have been lucky enough to read proof-copies of the book haven't been able to put it down."

Ken, who also keeps busy through keeping pigeons, returned to the college recently to thank his lecturers. He said: "I never thought that, in my 70s and 80s, I would be able to learn new skills, but it has been great."

His work is currently being proof-read and Ken plans to get his stories published on Kindle through amazon.co.uk and through lulu.com for printed books. Grandson Christopher, 30, has also designed a website — [www.kenhallbooks.co.uk](http://www.kenhallbooks.co.uk) — to publicise his work.

Do you know of any FE and skills learners older than Ken? Email [campus@feweek.co.uk](mailto:campus@feweek.co.uk) to let us know.



# History lesson from Shadow Education Secretary



From left: Tristram Hunt MP with students Patima Halidou, aged 18, Julie Ann Marsden, 17 and Matthew Howle, 18

A group of students learned about the troubled history of South Africa's second largest city from Shadow Education Secretary Tristram Hunt.

The keen historian spoke to more than 20 learners from Stoke-on-Trent College and Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College about Cape Town, where black and white communities were divided by apartheid from 1948 until Nelson Mandela was elected as South Africa's president in 1994.

The Stoke-on-Trent Central MP's talk helped prepare them for a trip to South Africa next month, which will include visits to schools and an Aids orphanage in Cape Town, plus the prison on nearby Robben Island where the late Mr Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in captivity before he was released in 1990.

Calvin Austin, learner involvement co-ordinator at the college said: "Tristram's talk helped the students understand the historical context of the country they are set to visit."



Joseph Massie with student Leah Cairns, aged 22, who is modelling a floral collar made by fellow learner Natalie Swords, 21

## Seeds of wisdom shared by top florist

Award-winning florist Joseph Massie shared his seeds of wisdom with students of Hugh Baird College.

Mr Massie won five consecutive gold medals for floral design and four best in show awards at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea Flower Show between 2009 and 2013.

He held a masterclass with level one, two and three floristry students at the Liverpool-based college, to

help them prepare for the regional heats of the RHS's young florist of the year competition taking place next month. He showed them how to create a floral collar, made from a variety of flowers including lilacs, orchids and chinchinchees.

Mr Massie said: "The standard of work the students produced exceeded my expectations. They have shown incredible creativity and a real flair for the art of floral design."

## ROUND-UP IN BRIEF



Going potty over Kirsti's ceramics

A craft website has gone potty for the work of a tutor from West Cheshire College, naming her artist of the week.

Art and design technician and ceramics tutor Kirsti Brown (pictured) runs an online shop on the Folsy website, which showcases the work of UK ceramics designers.

## Firms commit to taking on apprentices

Local employers will guarantee full-time level one and two construction students from South Gloucestershire and Stroud College apprenticeship places after they finish their courses under a new scheme.

So far five firms involved with the construction industry have signed-up to the Apprenticeship Enrichment Programme, which was launched by the college this month — Pearce Platford, CF Roberts Electrical and Mechanical Services, NKS Contracts Central Ltd, EC Merrett and M Kerry Maintenance.



Dance at Royal Ballet School

Extended diploma dance students from York College will perform moves they choreographed at the Royal Ballet School, in London.

Royal Ballet School tutor Michael Berkin (pictured) gave learners a ballet lesson, during a visit to the college, to use as inspiration for creating original dance routines for the one-off show on March 23.

# Jermain delighted to be on will.i.am's team for The Voice

A former Sir George Monoux College student has been selected to be part of R&B star will.i.am's team on BBC talent show the Voice.

Jermain Jackman, aged 19, who gained top grades in BTec music at the East London-based college, sang And I Am Telling You by Jennifer Hudson to impress the coaches.

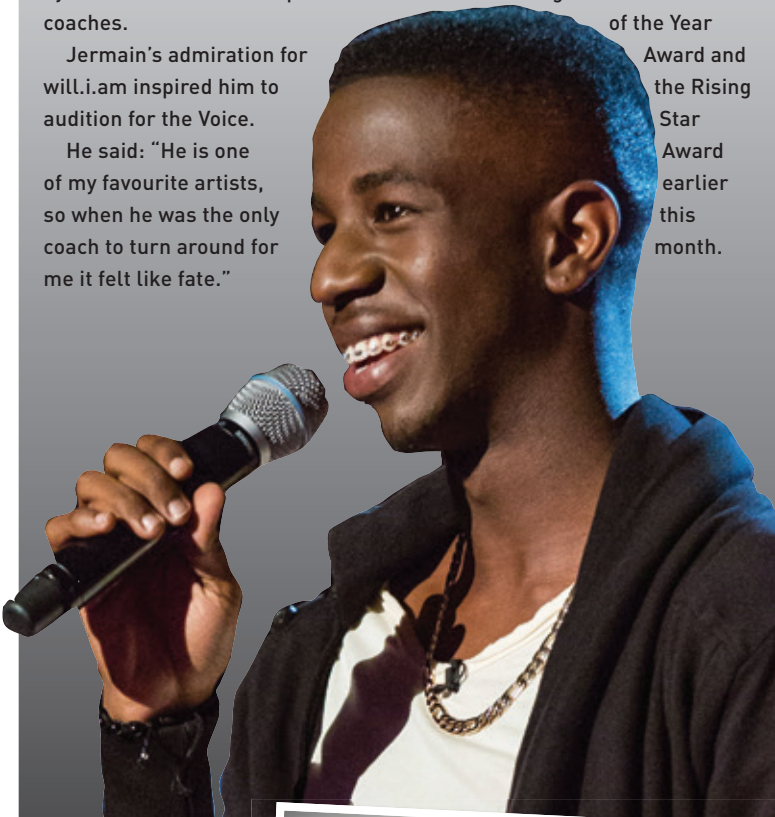
Jermain's admiration for will.i.am inspired him to audition for the Voice.

He said: "He is one of my favourite artists, so when he was the only coach to turn around for me it felt like fate."

Louisa Kennedy, course leader of creative performing arts at the college, said: "Jermain is a very motivated young man and an excellent role model for young people. We are all so proud of him."

Jermain completed his BTec in July last year, but was presented with the college's Music Student of the Year

Award and the Rising Star Award earlier this month.



Left to right: Jermain Jackman singing on the Voice and, inset left, dressed-up smart for the college ceremony where he was given the Music Student of the Year Award and the Rising Star Award. Above: will.i.am



Left to right: Lee Little and Liam Armstrong

# Promising rugby players pass the England test

Two talented members of the East Durham College rugby scholarship programme passed through trials for the England college rugby squad.

Lee Little, a second row lock, and Liam Armstrong, who plays in the back row, travelled to Telford, Shropshire, to represent the North of England Colleges' rugby team in a series of matches against college representative sides from the Midlands and the South East.

The games also acted as trials

for the England college squad's 37-man squad and the 18-year-olds were both selected.

They now hope to play in upcoming matches against the Welsh Charitables, an under-20 colleges and schools representative side, and the Irish Exiles, another under-20 colleges and schools' representative side.

Lee said: "I can't wait to meet with the national squad.

"I'm really nervous, but I am sure it will be a fantastic experience."

# Getting rolling with Starlight Express



Former Starlight Express star Gavin Ashbarry (centre front) with students from South Thames College. Inset: Gavin in his make-up ready to play the steam engine

Former Starlight Express star Gavin Ashbarry told arts students how he got his musical career rolling during a visit to South Thames College.

The actor recalled how he travelled the world from 2001 to 2013 playing Dustin the steam engine in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, which was a particularly difficult role as he had to sing and dance while roller skating.

He also spoke about training requirements and life on tour for a musical theatre performer.

Sarah Slade, performing arts tutor at the college, said: "Gavin gave a real insight into what it is like working within the industry today, the highs, the lows and how fun it can be.

"The whole visit left students feeling motivated and inspired. It is proof of how important it is to relate industry experience to our courses to help students understand how their studies connect to their future ambitions."

Mr Ashbarry is now preparing to play the cowardly lion in a production of the Wizard of Oz in Dubai in April.

## Pulling together during sponsored 24-hour rowathon



Left to right: SW Heart fundraiser Sue Lumley, uniformed public services student Pam Ghoray, aged 19, lecturer Steven Wadley and SW Heart fundraising manager Sally Bee. Rear: uniformed public services students, and twin brothers, Dan and Jordan Batchelor, 18

Students and staff at Stratford-upon-Avon College raised more than £1,000 for local charity SW Heart after completing a gruelling 24-hour rowing challenge.

The event was organised by BTec level three national extended diploma in uniformed public services students, who were joined by learners studying other courses and college staff in completing a combined total of 346 miles on rowing machines. It took place in the college's Oasis Café, with students rowing through the night.

Steve Wadley, lecturer and event co-ordinator, said: "I am delighted with all the effort put in throughout a very tough 24-hour period. I would like to thank everyone who helped make the event a great success."

SW Heart, which is based in Warwickshire, supports of heart patients and their families.



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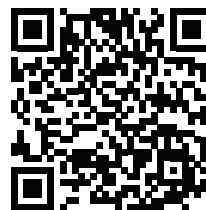
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