

Latest News

Katie Watson (Team UK 2009) has been promoted to Head Waiter at Gleneagles Hotel.

In December 2009 **Joe Massie (Team UK 2009)** started a new job as Assistant Creative Director for SpringBank in Manchester. He is now designing and installing event and wedding flowers for international clients.

Luke Griffiths (Team UK 2009) was awarded the 'Outstanding Skills Performance Award' at Chichester College's 2009 annual awards ceremony.

Will Torrent (Team UK 2007) scooped the 2010 Acorn Scholarship. Will was awarded the Scholarship on 30th November 2009 at Michael Caines aBode Hotel, Manchester.

Will Torrent was also awarded 'Young Chef of the Year' by the Craft Guild of Chefs. The glittering award ceremony, held at the Hilton Hotel on London's Park Lane on the 1 June, saw 13 chefs receive an award, including Celebrity Chef Heston Blumenthal.



Natalie Stanyer (Team UK 2007) has opened her own flower shop!

On Saturday 6 June 2009 Natalie officially took ownership of a local florist and has re-launched it as 'Natalie at Elizabeth's'. What makes this special is the fact that Natalie began working at Elizabeth's at the age of 15 on a whim, only to discover a genuine talent which has now given her the courage to buy out her former employers and become her own boss.

We'd like to receive your latest news about developments in your career and life to date. If you've recently got married, got a new job, been given an award or have some other news you'd like to share, please contact harry.smith@ukskills.org.uk

Team UK honoured for their achievement at WorldSkills



by Harry Smith

AT WORLDSKILLS Calgary 2009, Britain really proved that it has got talent thanks to an exceptionally skilled team of 26 young people who made up Team UK. At an emotional closing ceremony attended by all 900 competitors from the 46 nations that took part, as well as a further 6,000 team supporters and judges, it was announced that the UK had won a staggering three gold and six bronze medals. In addition, the UK was also awarded 14 Medallions for Excellence.

Team UK 2009 achieved the UK's best result yet at a WorldSkills competition – placing the UK 7th in the World, four places up from the last WorldSkills competition in Shizuoka, Japan. The Team were honoured on 9th October 2009 at a prestigious reception at City Hall, London, to celebrate their fantastic achievements. They were joined by celebrity guest Matt Dawson MBE and the Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

Matt Dawson said of Team UK, "Meeting Team UK has been a great experience for me. I know personally how much training and effort is needed to be the best of the best and Team UK can all proudly say that they have achieved this."

UK Skills are proud to congratulate all of Team UK on their fantastic efforts.

Simon Says... Hello and welcome!

I AM PLEASED to welcome you to the first edition of the WorldSkills, UK Alumni newsletter. It has been an eventful year for UK Skills and the success of Team UK in Calgary was by far, my personal highlight. I hope some of you, as existing members of the Alumni, will join me in extending Team UK 2009 a warm welcome to the Alumni and once again congratulating them on their outstanding achievement in Canada.

In the winter of 2009 Harry Smith, (Team UK 2007) a member of the Alumni, was appointed to assist UK Skills as the UK Alumni Co-ordinator. In his new role Harry will be implementing the Alumni strategy and programme, working closely with you to shape the future of the Alumni.

I would like to thank Edge, the independent education

foundation and sponsor of the Alumni, for their support and investment that has allowed us to do more than ever before for the Alumni.

I invite all existing Alumni members to take a new look at the Alumni programme and consider how you can be an active member of some, or all, of the programme. As an Alumnus each of you has a unique and highly valuable insight into WorldSkills competitions and with WorldSkills London 2011 just around the corner there are many potential ways for you to get involved. We hope the Alumni will become a powerful network through which you can share contacts and news and take advantage of opportunities for personal development.

I would encourage as many of you as possible to urge others who you are still in touch with to contact us and

get involved! There are many new methods that we've put in place to share your ideas such as this newsletter, regular e-zines, a dedicated Facebook group and the development of the Alumni pages on the UK Skills website. If you haven't checked these out already please make sure you do so and make the most of these opportunities.

I hope that you enjoy this first edition of the newsletter. We want it to become 'yours', but to do this we need your input and feedback for future editions. I hope that you will continue to keep us updated on your news and that you continue to work with us to strengthen your Alumni network and the future development of UK Skills.

Simon Bartley
Chief Executive, UK Skills and WorldSkills London 2011

ALUMNI CHECKLIST

1. Update contact details ☒
2. Join Facebook group ☒
3. Read Welcome Pack ☒
4. Get involved! ☒

Ten years on: Why I stay involved with skills competitions

by Adam Peirson

OVER THE PAST ten years I've been a competitor, helped train and support other cookery competitors, been involved with training managers on competitors' development, the wonderful UK bid in Melbourne to host the WorldSkills Competition in 2011, as well as having had the chance to speak about and share my WorldSkills experience with others at both the Houses of Parliament and 10 Downing Street.

When asked if I'd like to help with the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Premiere Experience, a programme run by WorldSkills International for industry and government leaders, potential and existing sponsors and other VIPs, I jumped at the chance. I felt that having seen the competition from several angles over the years and with WorldSkills London 2011 approaching it was vital that we continued to promote the immense value of WorldSkills and its benefits.

Arriving in Calgary, I met up with Harry, Will, Michael and Natalie who are all fellow past competitors from WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007. They were very much still a 'team' with a very fresh memory of their experiences at WorldSkills in comparison to me who competed six years ago. But within a few hours it felt like we had known each other forever. All of us shared the unique WorldSkills experience and had been bitten by the bug; we had the same passion, enthusiasm and appreciation



for WorldSkills and what it can do for young people across the world.

Seeing the competition site in Calgary transported me right back to WorldSkills St Gallen in 2003; the scale of it, the apprehension of the competitors and organisers, knowing exactly how much everyone had invested to be there. What surprised me the most was watching Team UK 2009 and how intently focused they all were and the sheer display of skill and talent. When you compete yourself, you are so completely 'in the zone' and you don't see this side of things. It was great giving delegates on the Premiere Experience tours of the competition site and

being able to give them a true and unique insight into what the competitors were going through.

I was also impressed yet again by the passion and determination of the UK Skills team behind the scenes to make it a fair competition and get the very best out of the competitors, training managers as well as the work that goes on behind the scenes with the WorldSkills International team and its representatives.

It was also a great honour to sit on a panel during a question and answer session at the WorldSkills International Leaders' Forum alongside five other past competitors from around the globe to speak

about how WorldSkills had played a part in our careers as well as discuss the role that WorldSkills can play in education and the different approaches to learning in each country.

The culmination of the trip for me was the closing ceremony. Team UK was absolutely outstanding; all those medals! I am so proud of all of them - they are a real credit to the UK and they are exceptional ambassadors for skills. They've shown the world that the UK is serious about vocational skills as we move towards welcoming future teams from around the world to London for WorldSkills London 2011.

WorldSkills, UK Alumni Workshop

by Harry Smith

ON 4th December 2009 UK Skills held the first Alumni workshop for Team UK 2009. The aim was to provide the UK's most recent competitors with an opportunity to reflect, share and make sense of the WorldSkills experience. The workshop provided them with an opportunity to explore how they can best make use of that opportunity in their future careers and in their support of UK Skills, future competitors and their fellow alumni members.

During the workshop representatives from Edge (sponsors of the WorldSkills, UK Alumni), Brathay, UK Skills and WorldSkills London 2011 took part in a session which introduced the main aspects of the Alumni programme through a series of presentations. Following on from this, the newest Alumni members were then asked to give feedback on the key areas of the programme that particularly interested them and that they may want to commit to in the future.

Luke Griffiths, a member of Team UK, said: "It was great to share the experience with the team again, reflecting on what went well and what didn't go to plan. The workshop gave me a good understanding of what I can get involved with next."

The event was a great success and we hope that in future years this type of workshop for new members of the Alumni will become part of the overall UK Skills training and development programme.

Each year UK Skills will host specific events for Alumni members to re-connect and share their experiences. Some events will have a particular theme/discussion whilst others may be more general 'reunion' type events to bring people together. You will be sent invitation for these events at least once a year. We hope to have the next Alumni event in Spring/Summer 2010 and would like to hear your views on the type of event you would like to attend. If you'd like to feed your ideas in, please contact harry.smith@ukskills.org.uk

City & Guilds honours Team UK at its annual Senior Awards

by Jenny Shackleton

UK SKILLS HAS announced that it has awarded the City & Guilds' prestigious Licentiate Senior Award (LCGI) to those aspiring international competitors who have successfully completed the two-to-four year training programme. In a ceremony on 8th May 2010 that will be attended by members of the Council of City and Guilds at The Merchant Taylors Hall in the City of London, 32 young men and women steeped in the WorldSkills development process will receive the LCGI Award. Of these, 26 represented the UK last September at WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

All 32 have undertaken a rigorous training and

development programme in their specialist skill and other essential aspects of world class performance including the ability to perform under acute pressure, to monitor and assess their improvement, to respond to and negotiate with others, and to add significant value to their workplaces.

To qualify for the LCGI candidates must fulfil two key requirements: to understand and practise a technical or professional activity and to demonstrate achievement in a range of pre-defined personal skills and specific competences.

UK Skills was awarded Delegated Authority status by City & Guilds in 2002, allowing it to make senior awards on behalf of the Awarding Body.

Simon Bartley, Chief Executive of UK Skills said: "The high number of awards this year given to young people is testament to the robust training framework we have put in place at UK Skills. Traditionally the Licentiate Senior Award is given to those who have worked in the industry longer but we have been able to take our aspiring competitors from skilled crafts people to full professional standing in a relatively short period of time. This achievement would not have been possible without our dedicated training managers and continued investment from the government."

Ursula Russell, Chair of the Senior Awards Panel, added: "What I've seen shows that the

standard of the competitors has improved hugely. They are so much better prepared than ever before and working to a much higher standard. There is clear evidence of much stronger training and development for WorldSkills Calgary, as enabled by a significant increase in resources."

As past WorldSkills competitors you may have the opportunity to share your direct experience with future competitors. With more training and experience you may also be invited to observe and ultimately be involved in training and assessment.

You may also be invited to train as a mentor for future competitors. This will not only have a positive impact on them but you will also be learning a valuable life skill.

For more information, please contact adanna.shallowe@ukskills.org.uk



2010 Alumni Event

COMING SOON...

Where are they now? Richard's story

by Sally Eley

RICHARD TALMAN (Team UK 2001) has always been attracted to precious stones. Even as a child he bought gem stones with his pocket money - something his parents thought was more than a little unusual.

While he was still at school, a family friend showed him a piece of jewellery he had made. From this moment, Richard knew he wanted to become a goldsmith and he has never looked back since. Says Richard, "When I saw the art in the ring, my eyes literally lit up and I knew this was the profession I wanted to pursue."

Richard was introduced to skills competitions when he was 16 while undertaking a pre-apprenticeship, diamond-mounting course at London Guildhall University. With the backing of The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, Richard finished first in the UK

Latest Alumni Activity

Harry Smith (Team UK 2007), **Dean Jones** and **Cliff Williams** (Team UK 2009) helped launch SkillsCymru at the Millennium stadium in Cardiff on 26th January 2010.

Joe Massie (Team UK 2009) brought the City & Guilds Annual Managers Conference 20th January to life with four innovative floral designs. Working with the theme of innovation, Joe's designs were described by City & Guilds as 'Amazing'!

Adam Smith (Team UK 2009) showed off his skills to the London Skills & Enterprise Board at their January meeting chaired by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London. At a reception for the LSEB, The Employer Accord, Skills Ambassadors and Apprenticeship Ambassadors, Adam demonstrated how to make ravioli whilst talking the audience through his WorldSkills experience.



Richard Sagar (Team UK 2009) and **Adam Smith** (Team UK 2009) addressed the country's leading entrepreneurs including Theo Paphitis, a Dragons' Den Investor, Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, founder of easyJet and John Caudwell, founder of Phones 4 U at this year's Growing Business Awards hosted by the CBI.

The young alumni, both aged 22, asked for financial support from the business community as London gears up to host WorldSkills in 2011 and urged business leaders to work with training providers and educational establishments to lend their support to the development of skills in the UK by supporting WorldSkills London 2011.

There are many opportunities to share your experiences as a past competitor, and in doing so, inspire others to improve their skills. Examples of this may be talking to the media, speaking at a UK Skills or sector event, or providing case studies to promote practical vocational education and learning. Professional media and presentation training can be made available for all Alumni members who would like to sign up to be part of the engagement aspect of the programme.

Natalie Stanyer (Team UK 2007) presented at the College Marketing Network Annual Conference 24th November 2009.

Katie Watson (Team UK 2009) & **Alistair Birt** (Team UK 2009) attended a lunch with Highland businesses, Inverness College and North Highland College at Glenealges Hotel on 17th November 2009 to promote WorldSkills London 2011.

Harry Smith (Team UK 2007) & **Luke Griffiths** (Team UK 2009) presented the awards to national competition winners at the WorldSkills UK competition awards ceremony at the IMAX London in November 2009.



Jewellery competition. From there, he went on to compete in WorldSkills in Seoul, South Korea in 2001.

"WorldSkills was an amazing experience and one which I'll never forget. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I know I am really fortunate to have taken part in such a great event."

Richard continues to work in London's famous Hatton Garden, with the company he served his apprenticeship in and worked for when he competed in WorldSkills 2001. However, when the recession hit in 2008, he moved to part-time employment and decided to set up his own business making bespoke fine jewellery.

"Although it was a lot of hard work in the beginning, I was lucky to get a break with a local client and since then my business has grown.

I'm sure my WorldSkills experience helped me to believe in myself and gave me the confidence to try out something new."

To find out more about Richard's business and see examples of his work log on to www.rtfj.co.uk.

We would like to encourage as many of our Alumni members as possible to re-connect and engage with each other in an online community. This can be used not only on a social level but also to exchange professional and personal career development advice and keep up to date with the latest news.

We have set up an 'Alumni Group' on Facebook which we would encourage you to join to re-connect with your former teammates. If you already have a Facebook account you can do this by searching for the WorldSkills, UK Alumni group and 'request to join'. Please help us to encourage as many of your former teammates to join!

An update on WorldSkills London 2011

by Laura Thackray

THE LAST FEW months have been busy for the WorldSkills London 2011 Team. In September 2009, the majority of staff recruited to work on the 2011 Event, went to WorldSkills Calgary 2009. As Aidan Jones, Executive Director, explains:

"In many ways we will not have a rehearsal for WorldSkills London 2011, so bringing the team to Calgary is the closest we will get. From watching the competitions first hand to shadowing our Canadian hosts, we were allowed 'behind the scenes' to see how it all came together - a great opportunity for the WorldSkills London 2011 team. The experience will stand us in good stead for producing the most exciting, inclusive and inspiring WorldSkills Competition ever in October 2011."

In November we launched two important groups to help us with both the Competition and the longer term objectives around raising awareness and respect for vocational skills. The Legacy Group and the London Group will help us to get London and the rest of the UK interested and excited about WorldSkills London 2011. The Legacy Group brings together a wide range of organisations and supporters from across the whole of the UK, looking at the long term legacy objectives and how, as a collective of organisations, we can all contribute to their delivery.

In our new London Group, we are working with City Hall and a wide range of other influential London organisations to discuss

how London can make the most out of hosting the event in 2011. It's a great opportunity for London to showcase what an amazing city it is to an expectant international audience, and encourage maximum participation from London's young people.

In December 2009 we presented at the Alumni workshop, updating Team UK 2009 Competitors on the many opportunities to get involved with WorldSkills London 2011. Feedback was positive with all attendees stating that they would be interested in being part of the WorldSkills Competition when it comes to London; encouraging news for us as this helps us get a real and honest perspective from past Competitors about what London should be like.

There are still many opportunities and many ways in which you can help us to make the Competition the best WorldSkills Event ever held. We have appointed many of our Workshop Supervisors, some of whom are past competitors themselves, who will work closely with our Technical Team to make sure that all the Competition areas are fully prepared and equipped before the Competition begins. However there are still Workshop Supervisor's Assistant positions available. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Pete Davies, Technical Director at pdavies@worldskillslondon2011.com.

There are many ways that you could get involved when the WorldSkills Competition comes to London in October 2011. You could:

Become a Workshop Supervisor's Assistant. Contact Pete Davies, Technical Director to find out more.

Register to become a volunteer at the Event. More information on the volunteering programme will be available later in 2010. Sign up for the WorldSkills London 2011 e-newsletter at worldskillslondon2011.com to keep up to date on the latest news.

Work in the Media Centre. We will be looking for volunteers to help run the media centre and provide guided tours to VIPs and journalists. More information will be made available closer to the event.

Assist with filming and webcasting. We will need volunteers to work with our film crews assisting with filming and webcasting. More information will be made available closer to the event.

Spread the word! Tell your own networks about it, refer them to the website and make them as enthusiastic as you are about WorldSkills Competitions!

We hope that when London plays host to the 41st WorldSkills Competition in October 2011 Alumni members will want to be involved in some way. With your experience as a Competitor, we recognise that you provide a unique and highly valuable perspective on the running of the Competition. There will be many ways that you can potentially get involved whether it be providing support in the Competition areas, sharing your local knowledge to support for visiting member nation teams, or hosting 'VIPs', Press and other visitors to the Competition.

Alumni Awards launched

by Harry Smith

UK SKILLS IS proud to announce the launch of two annual awards for WorldSkills, UK Alumni members that are sponsored by Edge, the independent education foundation. The award categories are:

Most Valuable Contribution to Skills and Practical Learning
Outstanding Achievement

The Awards were officially launched at the 2009 WorldSkills UK Competitions Awards, which took place on the 12th November at the IMAX in London.

The application process itself will consist of a one page entry form. Applicants can apply themselves or be nominated by friends, work colleagues, UK Skills or Edge. Aside from providing personal details, applicants or nominators will be asked to provide a supporting statement no longer than 250 words explaining why the award is deserved. The following criteria will be applied:

The Award for Most Valuable Contribution to Skills and Practical Learning

The application must demonstrate that the person has made a significant impact by supporting skills and practical learning. This could include ideas for the improvement of the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, encouraging other young people to become involved in competitions or playing an active role in promoting practical learning and vocational skills.

The application must demonstrate that the person has given up his or her own time to support skills or practical learning. Examples of this could be providing support for the development of competitions through mentoring or competition design, speaking at events or supporting the development of WorldSkills London 2011.

The Award for Outstanding Achievement

The application must demonstrate that the person has significantly 'excelled' since their participation in the WorldSkills Competition. This could include getting a big promotion at work or setting up a successful new business.

The applicant must be able to explain what skills they

have gained though the achievement.

A reference must be supplied for verification.

Entries will be short listed using the criteria above and then judged by a panel comprising of representatives from Edge and UK Skills.

Short listed entries will be notified by post or e-mail and all applicants will be invited to attend the presentation of the awards at the annual WorldSkills UK Awards ceremony. Both awards will be presented by the Chief Executive of UK Skills and a nominated representative from Edge.

Please check the Alumni section of the UK Skills website in spring 2010 for full details on the application process and to download an application form.

THURSDAY
**WorldSkills UK
Competition
Awards**
04 NOVEMBER 2010

'Have your say' on more practical and vocational learning

by Edge

ALL THE political parties are working on their future plans for education, as the general election will happen no later than June.

So NOW is the time to 'Have your say' on practical and vocational learning. We know that a vast majority of the population want change in our education system, so please also encourage your colleagues, friends and family to share their views.

To gather as many voices as possible, we're promoting 'Have your say' through striking new adverts appearing in national newspapers.

In March, will be taking the people's voice directly to the main political parties through the first election broadcast generated entirely by the public.

Your voice really can help secure a more successful future for young people, so please visit www.edge.co.uk/haveyoursay and 'Have your say' now.



"We Are The People We've Been Waiting For"

by Edge

TOO MANY of our young people are being allowed to slip through the cracks simply because their potential is not being fulfilled through traditional academic teaching. Edge is pleased to welcome a new independent feature film that shines a spotlight on the UK education system and stimulates debate around this issue. 'We Are The People We've Been Waiting For' is a documentary film, inspired and guided by Oscar-winning producer Lord Puttnam, which follows the real-life experiences of five Swindon-based teenagers.

What unfolds during the course of the film is a very inconvenient truth about education. It concludes that, while there are signs of spring, a transformation of the education system is vital if the UK is to continue to compete effectively in an era of globalization – the world

has changed enormously but our education system has not kept pace.

At a time when the future of our youth and the economy is a priority issue, this film triggers debate on what needs to change. Edge hopes that everyone from parents and young people to education professionals and MPs will be inspired to support our call for a revolution in education, so that all young people are given the opportunity to develop their talents and explore many paths to success.

Young people need an education rich with opportunities for practical and vocational learning as well as academic study. This is something the whole country can benefit from, as it will help create a future workforce that is better prepared for our fast-changing economy.

Many education institutions are already providing



young people with options to explore what they are good at. However this is not widespread and Edge aims to create a mass movement, which calls for all young people to be provided with a broad range of opportunities

to develop their talents to the utmost.

As past WorldSkills competitors you are unique role models for young people across the UK considering their futures. To find out more about getting involved

with Edge email Georgia Veats at gveats@edge.co.uk or visit www.edge.co.uk For more on 'We Are The People We've Been Waiting For' visit www.wearethepeoplemovie.com

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