It’s been an amazing six months for IntoUniversity. We have opened two new centres, employed 8 new staff, set up a highly successful internship programme and launched our Secondary FOCUS programme in partnership with schools around London.

I am grateful to our dedicated staff team and volunteers for all their hard work and to our Trustees who do so much for the charity.

Where we open new centres, we are excited to see the enthusiastic take up of our services by young people, their parents and local schools. This shows that there is a powerful demand for our work and that we have been able to win the trust and support of students, parents, schools and the wider community.

We look forward to continuing success in 2010.

Dr Rachel Carr  Chief Executive

Mohamad came to the UK two years ago from Iraq and is currently studying for his GCSEs. He visits IntoUniversity Brent regularly. His favourite subjects are maths and geography and he hopes to be able to study medicine at university one day. Mohamad is going to be paired up with a university mentor soon and is excited about learning how to be successful and develop his revision and exam techniques. His favourite thing about IU is that the tutors give lots of encouragement and they are very kind and helpful.

Our sixth centre, IntoUniversity Hackney South, is due to open in January 2010. The team has been working hard to forge partnerships with local schools and has held several open days to welcome young people to the centre. Preparations are now underway for the delivery of IU’s three strands of FOCUS, Mentoring and Academic Support. Catherine Black, Centre Leader of IU Hackney South, says:

“It’s been amazing to see the centre come together. We are incredibly grateful to have received such generous support from construction company Balfour Beatty, who worked pro bono for three weeks to refurbish the centre. Thank you to Neil Williamson and his team for their tireless efforts. We look forward to opening in January.

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James Lambert was educated at Harrow School and read Law and History of Art at the University of Cambridge. He is now a Director of Lisburne Holdings Ltd and he is also a Director of Value Retail plc which develops and operates factory outlet centres including Bicester Village in Oxfordshire. James was first involved with IU as a participant in the 2006 Symposium about IntoUniversity’s long term future. He was instrumental in securing start-up funding for the organisation and in bringing on board some significant individual donors. One of the original IU Trustees, James has also served as Chair of the Risk and Audit Committee. From December 2009, James will step forward as our new Chair of the Trustee Board, and we are delighted be working with him in this capacity; we have all been impressed by James’ enthusiasm for the charity.

IU has achieved an extraordinary amount in the relatively short time it has been operating and I relish the challenge of helping to guide the next phase of its expansion.

**Advisory Panel Meeting**

On October 21st 2009, our Board of Trustees came together with our Advisory Panel members for our third Advisory Panel Meeting. The IntoUniversity Advisory Panel is made up of eight professionals with expertise in areas as wide ranging as journalism, business and law. We were joined by Ben Widdicombe from the Cabinet Office, who spoke about the recommendations made in the cross party report *Unleashing Aspiration*. This report was launched at IntoUniversity North Kensington over the summer by Alan Milburn MP, who is a supporter of our charity (see item below).

**Case Study: Sarah Havens**

Sarah Havens volunteers for IntoUniversity as a fundraiser, and is also a member of our Events Committee. The work she does for the charity is invaluable and we are grateful for her support.

What really appealed to me about IntoUniversity was the combination of a clearly-defined objective of providing educational support and a remarkable team of dedicated professionals who were determined to improve the lives of young people in their community. This began with only a small amount of funding, but the idea was very powerful. If you can encourage strong aspirations and provide the tools and personal support to turn those hopes into reality, it is very possible to lift young people out of disadvantaged situations and put them on the road to a much better life. IntoUniversity has kept volunteers like me committed to finding the ongoing support it needs by making a real difference to hundreds of lives every year, and I am very proud to be part of it.

**Funding News**

Over the last six months we have been working hard on our fundraising to support the continuation and growth of IntoUniversity’s programmes. We have received over £380,000 in donations from grant giving trusts, foundations and our corporate supporters. Our partnerships are very important to us and also provide support in the form of volunteers and unique opportunities and business insights for our young people. In December our individual donors were incredibly generous, supporting us through ‘The Big Give’ matched giving campaign which helped us to raise over £85,000 in just a few days! We are very grateful to all of our donors for their support. In the New Year we will be organising a number of exciting supporter events and we will keep you updated.

All donations to IntoUniversity make a difference and help us to support children and young people living in deprived communities across London. If you would like to discuss supporting IntoUniversity, please contact Sam Bailey on samantha@intouniversity.org or 020 7243 0242.

**An Outstanding Fundraising Dinner**

On November 3rd 2009, Katrin and Christoph Henkel - friends and supporters of IntoUniversity - hosted an evening at their home with James and Jacky Lambert. They invited 23 friends for dinner and introduced them to IntoUniversity’s work. They were joined by 4 young people from the centres who talked about their personal experiences and the ways in which IntoUniversity had helped them to aspire. The response from the guests was overwhelming, and many donated generously to the cause. We are very grateful to Katrin and Christoph for creating such a relaxed and homely environment, and to James and Jacky for all their support with the event. Since the night, Kristin Henkel has been appointed as a Trustee of IU alongside Rosalind Smith, who was also a guest.

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Centre News

The New Secondary FOCUS Programme

In September, IntoUniversity launched its Secondary FOCUS Programme, an innovative set of workshops for Years 11-13 designed to give students a clear understanding of what a university is, why they should aspire to enter Higher Education, what impact it will have on their future lives and what qualifications they need to attain to apply to university. The programme has been a roaring success in its first months, with positive feedback from students and teachers.

I have learnt new skills that would help me throughout college.
Year 12 Student at Central Foundation Girls’ School

I found the presentation about the courses and universities very helpful and I would change my ways to make sure I go to uni.
Year 11 Student at Cardinal Hinsley College

Case Study: Matilda Wallis

Matilda is an Education Worker at IntoUniversity Bow and is responsible for the centre’s Mentoring programme.

I joined IntoUniversity in September 2008 after graduating with a degree in History. I was very excited to see all the work already happening and to help with the set-up of the Bow centre. I really enjoy co-ordinating the mentoring programme here in Bow. It is an incredibly rewarding scheme to be a part of, as it has the potential to have such a positive, transformational impact upon a young person’s life. It is great to see the time and dedication given to our scheme by such a large group of dynamic and enthusiastic volunteers. I really enjoy the creativity of IntoUniversity and the way it makes things happen.

Mentoring

Our Mentoring Scheme is back in full swing, with 28 new pairs matched by Christmas, making a total of 53 pairs across the centres. We held 5 Meet Your Mentor events, some of which gave the opportunity for parents of potential ‘mentees’ to come along and find out more about the programme. Activities have ranged from classical music concert trips to dodgeball events.

Primary FOCUS

With new partnerships and relationships being forged with more and more primary schools across the boroughs, the Primary FOCUS Programme this term continues to thrive. Students enjoyed a range of activities including storytelling workshops with Jan Blakeman, visits to the Wetlands Centre on a Biology FOCUS Week, and talks from evacuees on a World War II FOCUS Week.

Holiday FOCUS

Holiday FOCUS events during the summer included an Access to Medicine week, where students took part in a DNA workshop, and a Performing Arts week which involved a trip to see Romeo and Juliet at The Globe Theatre.

Careers in FOCUS

In the autumn term, IU North Kensington ran a 10 week Careers in FOCUS programme on debating. The final debate took place at UCL and the topic for discussion was ‘Teenage Life in London 2009’. Howard Taylor, Education Worker, co-ordinated the programme: The students thoroughly enjoyed the scheme and it opened their eyes to many careers they hadn’t considered, as well as giving them a greater insight into jobs they had already heard of.

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In July 2009, Alan Milburn MP visited IntoUniversity North Kensington to launch a significant new cross-party report into social mobility: *Unleashing Aspiration*. Up to seven million more professionals are likely to be needed in Britain by 2020 as the global economy expands. A new focus is therefore needed, the report says, to unleash aspiration in all children and make social mobility the number one social policy priority for this and future governments. IntoUniversity is highlighted in the report as one of the ways of addressing educational inequality.

Alan Milburn commented: *In more disadvantaged communities we need to systematically raise the aspirations of those youngsters and families who simply do not believe they will ever progress. It’s not that many young people do not have aspirations. It is that they are blocked.*

The report, *Unleashing Aspiration*, is available in both full and summary form on The Cabinet Office website: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

### New Staff

It has been a busy few months of recruitment, with IU taking on 14 additional staff and interns during the summer. We have also seen two internal transfers, with Catherine Black moving to IU Hackney South to take on the Centre Leader position, and Ed Cobbold taking her place as Team Leader at IU North Kensington.

We have 6 new Education Workers; Hannah Morphet and Hannah Starr who have taken on roles at IU North Kensington, Rachael Moss at IU Brent, Sophie Priestnall and Rachael Head at IU Hackney South and Anna Jones at IU Haringey North.

At the Head Office we welcomed Jeff Rubin as our new Development Officer (Finance) in August. In response to the suggestions made by our Advisory Panel and OC&C Strategy Consultants, we also expanded our Head Office to include a Senior Management Team. Dr Hugh Rayment-Pickard has stepped in as our Director of Communications, Training and Planning and Zoe Cox returned to work after her maternity leave.

### Santa Fun Run 2009

It was that time of the year again. Thirty IU staff and volunteers made their way to Greenwich Park on a wet December morning to once again don some ridiculous Father Christmas outfits and run 5km around the park. For those new to the event, it was all going well until they discovered the hill halfway along the route… The group raised over £6,500 and donations are still rolling in. Congratulations to all who took part and thanks to those who gave sponsorship or lent their support.

### Case Study: Diana Ubani

Diana is in Year 6 and is a regular at IU Bow each week. Her mentor, Hana Gunn, is reading Development Studies at the London School of Economics. As a reward for all her hard work she recently participated in a trip to the London Eye organised with The Burberry Foundation. She is one of our longest standing students and we hope she will continue to use our service.

*I have been at IntoUniversity for over a year and I enjoy coming here. We do lots of work and activities and I enjoy doing them.*

### Coming up in 2010…

- IU Haringey North holds its official opening on January 21st with special guest David Lammy MP
- IU Hackney South follows with its official opening in February
- Year 13 Corporate Mentoring Scheme kicks off in the Spring term
- Fundraising events throughout the year including dinner and drinks evenings - information to follow

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