



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
External System

150 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

2008

Anniversary Calendar



The People's University: 150 years of the University of London and its External students

In 1858, with the establishment of its External System, the University broke new ground by becoming the first to offer degrees to students all over the world. Students could now study for a University of London award without having to come to London. At the time, an article in the magazine *All the year round*, edited by Charles Dickens, described it as the 'People's University' which would "extend her hand even to the young shoemaker who studied in his garret".

The External System is celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2008 with the publication of a limited edition, illustrated book entitled: *The People's University*. To find out more information about the book and other activities being held across the world to commemorate the event, please visit:

www.londonexternal.ac.uk/150

Calendar based on the commemorative book '*The People's University: 150 years of the University of London and its External students*', published by: University of London. Copyright © University of London, 2008.



The 1858 charter of the University of London

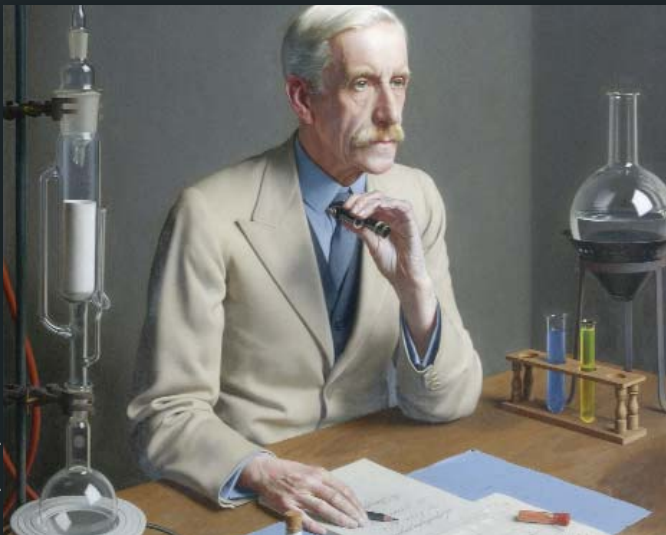
2008

January

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The 1858 charter opens the way

The 1858 charter of the University of London opened up the possibility of a university degree to those who had to continue earning a living while they studied. Higher education was now available to people from a wide range of social classes and occupations, breaking the link between place and study in a way which was startlingly new. This anticipated twentieth century developments in open, flexible and distance learning, by more than 100 years.



Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins (1861–1947)

2008

February

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Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins

Winner of the Nobel Prize in 1929 for the discovery of what are now known as vitamins, Hopkins graduated in 1890 as a 'non-collegiate' student of the University of London. A biochemist and academic, he became an assistant in the Department of Physiology at Guy's Hospital and then, in 1898, a lecturer at Cambridge (where he rose to professor). He was elected FRS in 1905 and was a member of the first Medical Research Committee.



An 1870s cartoon referring to Tennyson's prediction of the advent of 'Sweet girl graduates' in *The Princess* (1847)

2008

March

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31						

The first women graduates

In 1878 the University of London became the first university in the UK to admit women to its degrees (Oxford and Cambridge did not formally award degrees to women until 1920 and 1947 respectively). In 1880, four women passed the BA exam; in 1881, two women – including the first woman to be elected to the University of London Senate, Sophie Bryant – obtained a BSc. By 1900, over 30 per cent of the 536 graduating students were women.



H.G. Wells (1866–1946)

2008

April

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H.G. Wells

A BSc Zoology graduate, the British writer H.G. Wells is sometimes referred to as 'The Father of Science Fiction'. His work includes *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896), *The Invisible Man* (1897) and *The War of the Worlds* (1898). A lifelong socialist and a tireless champion of women's rights, in 1936 Wells received an Honorary doctorate of literature from the University, as part of its hundredth anniversary celebrations.



A panel from the Louverval war memorial
sculpted by CS Jagger

2008

May

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Wartime

Agreement to hold exams during the Second World War was reached by British and German authorities in 1941. By September 1942, the *Prisoner of War* magazine published by the Red Cross was reporting that 'the largest number of entries are for the External examinations of the University of London'. The University played a key role by acting as the co-ordination and censoring point for all exam papers supplied to the camps by UK examining bodies.



Students at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria

2008

June

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Special relations

Between 1946 and 1970, the University of London played a significant part in the establishment of many Commonwealth universities under a unique scheme of 'special relations'. Institutions including the University of the West Indies and the University of Ibadan in Nigeria shared responsibility for academic standards with the University of London until they began to award their own degrees. The scheme created 7,000 graduates.



Bernhard Herzberg (1909-2007)

2008

July

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Supporting refugees

Born in 1909 in Hanover, Germany, Bernhard Herzberg fled the country shortly after the Nazis seized power. He gained his BA German degree as an External student in 2000, aged 91. Bernhard was officially recognised as the UK's oldest student in 2007. He was completing a second Masters degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, at the age of 97.



Nelson Mandela receiving an honorary degree from Trinity College Dublin

2008

August

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Nelson Mandela

For many of his 27 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela studied Law as a University of London External student. He passed the London Intermediate exams in 1963, but the conditions imposed by the South African authorities prevented him from completing his degree in the later 1960s and 70s. The former President of South Africa and Nobel Peace Prize winner has received more than 100 awards, including many honorary degrees.



Elaine Daly

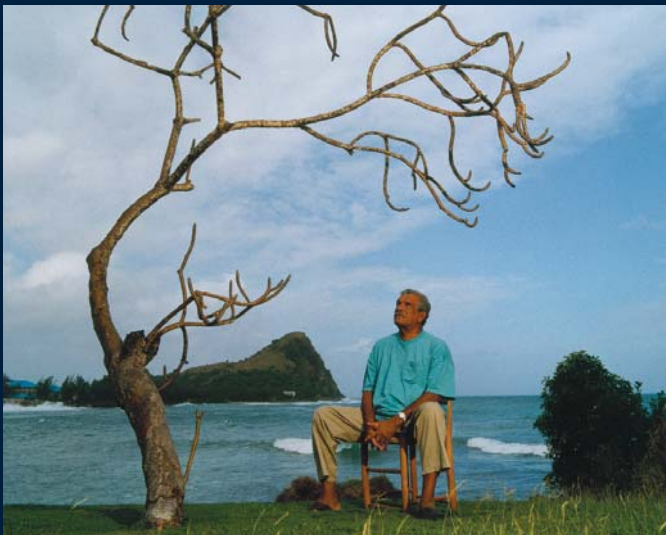
2008

September

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Elaine Daly

Actress and model Elaine Daly graduated in Law as an External student in 1996, aged 19. A former Miss Malaysia in 2003, Elaine has a successful career in film and television and is currently filming her first Hollywood movie. She intends to return to a career in Law, and completed her period in chambers in Kuala Lumpur in 2006. Elaine was called to the Malaysian Bar in June 2007.



Author Derek Walcott at home in St Lucia

2008

October

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Derek Walcott

Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992, Derek graduated from the University College of the West Indies while it was in 'special relation' with the University of London. The foremost West Indian poet and dramatist writing today, his extensive oeuvre includes the epic-length poem *Omeros* (1990) – a retelling of the Homeric legend – and a collection of literary criticism, *What the Twilight Says* (1998). *A Selected Poems* was published in 2007.



Dr Luisa Diogo, Prime Minister of Mozambique

2008

November

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Dr Luisa Diogo

An MSc Financial Economics graduate, Luisa Diogo became the first woman to be appointed Prime Minister of Mozambique. As an anti-poverty and health advocate, she has become increasingly vocal in taking rich nations to task for not following up on aid, trade and debt relief promises to Africa. "It is no country's destiny to be poor", she has said. In *Forbes'* 2007 list of '100 Most Powerful Women In The World' she ranks 89th.



Jon Gregson

Emmy Patroba with Jon Gregson (Programme Director, Development and Operations, School of Oriental and African Studies)

2008

December

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Delivering the degree

Mobile phones are rapidly becoming more widely available in Africa than Internet access. Latest models offer multimedia, photographic and video options. Technological advances offer enormous potential for supporting distance learners in new ways. Emmy Patroba (pictured left) is a Tanzanian-based External student taking part in a project investigating how mobile learning can aid the design, delivery and support of distance education.



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