



2008 is the 150th anniversary of the External System

In what promises to be a momentous year, the University of London External System will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2008. Since the External System was established in 1858, tens of thousands of students have graduated worldwide. The anniversary provides the perfect opportunity to pay tribute to the achievements of all our graduates, as well as honouring the work of tutors and administrative staff who have helped make the External System such a success.

A number of activities, exhibitions and competitions have been planned throughout 2008, and we do hope that you'll be able to join us in celebrating this exciting milestone.

We'll keep you informed about the various celebrations, and the most up-to-date information will also be on our website: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/150

The People's University

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the External System is publishing a limited edition, illustrated book entitled *The People's University: 150 years of the University of London and its External Students*. A number of graduates kindly supplied memories of their student days which provided valuable background material for the book – many

thanks to you all. For further information and details on how to purchase the book, please contact: anne.cronin@london.ac.uk

The 150th Anniversary Campaign

We are launching a fundraising campaign to ensure that the University of London maintains its leading position as a provider of academic excellence and innovation worldwide.

The campaign will focus on providing further learning opportunities for students and alumni, while also developing the External System for the benefit of future students. For further information about the campaign please visit our website: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations Office on: +44 (0)20 7664 4809

Alumni events in 2008

A number of alumni events are being held to celebrate the achievements of our graduates worldwide (please see opposite for the full programme). These events will give you the opportunity to network with fellow graduates, meet External System staff, and listen to speeches by inspirational guests and graduates. Our new Chapter Leaders will also be working to get alumni together in countries that we're unable to hold events in.

Alumni events in 2008

150th Anniversary: celebrating excellence and innovation across the world

Sri Lanka

16 February 2008 Galle Face Hotel, Colombo

Singapore

5 April 2008 Venue to be confirmed

Trinidad

7 June 2008 Hilton Hotel, Port of Spain

Hong Kong

July 2008 (date TBC) Excelsior Hotel, Causeway Bay

United Kingdom

1 August 2008 Venue to be confirmed

2 August 2008 Venue to be confirmed

Malaysia

6 September 2008 Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

Malta

20 September 2008 Hilton Hotel



This issue

- 150th Anniversary of the External System
- Alumni events in 2008
- Message from the Dean
- 2007 Alumni events
- Student Ambassadors
- Imperial DLP merges with SOAS
- Alumni Association continues to grow
- Graduate profile: Dr Iman Al Shankiti
- External System witness seminar
- News

Focus on



Birkbeck, University of London

Birkbeck has forged its own path in higher education since 1823, reaching out to people traditionally excluded by other universities. Birkbeck is unique in its special mission to enable mature students to gain higher education qualifications via part-time study. Today, Birkbeck is ranked among the leading UK university institutions for its excellence in research in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Birkbeck provides the academic direction for three programmes offered through the External System: Organizational Psychology and Human Resource Management at postgraduate level, plus Philosophy at undergraduate level.

Birkbeck's Department of Organizational Psychology is the oldest and largest department of its kind in the UK, and makes a major contribution to research in the field of behaviour at work. It's one of the principal providers of academic and professional training in occupational psychology within the UK.

Birkbeck's School of Philosophy is one of the leading philosophy departments in the UK, achieving excellence in both practical and theoretical philosophy, and the history of these subjects. The School provides internationally recognised standards of expertise across a diverse range of philosophical specialisms. In the latest edition of the Leiter Report – a ranking of philosophy departments throughout the English-speaking world – the School ranked fourth in the UK, receiving special mention for research excellence in 11 separate subjects.

For Organizational Psychology and Human Resource Management please visit: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/ophrm

For Philosophy please visit: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/humanities

Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni,

I am pleased to be able to write to you through this alumni newsletter and hope that the information in this edition helps keep you in contact with us.

The University of London is one of the world's premier Universities and the External System has been called by some the 'jewel in the University's crown'. It is unique in offering world-class degree programmes on an incredible global scale and has a long history of doing this – almost 150 years.

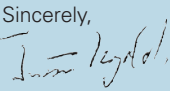
You, our alumni, have contributed to the University of London gaining this reputation as a world class academic institution. Universities are often measured on the successes of its graduates and I am delighted to recognise that amongst our alumni community there are thousands of men and women who are making important contributions in the areas of health services, business, communications, education, and many other fields, all over the world.

I hope that you stay connected with the University of London External System and become an active member of our alumni

association. To celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2008 the Alumni Relations Office will be

organising a number of networking events around the world that I will be delighted to attend. I will be happy to meet you and share the pride with which you view the External System and learn about how your University of London degree has assisted in enhancing your life and career. Please see page 1 for dates and venues of the alumni events.

Finally, congratulations on obtaining your degree through the University of London External System. We are very happy to have you as part of our graduate body and I hope that you will continue to act as our advocates and ambassadors wherever you are in the world.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Kydd
Dean of the External System
University of London



Services and benefits

As you know the Alumni Association is in partnership with a number of companies and organisations worldwide who support our alumni by offering discounts on a range of services and products.

Companies who currently offer their generous support to the Alumni Association include: Amazon, Careers Service, Dell, goodenoughclub, Novotel, Senate House Library and ULU.

A detailed description of what our partners are offering can be found on the benefit section of our website:

www.londonexternal.ac.uk/alumni/services_benefits.shtml

Please note that this section of the website is password protected as the benefits have been negotiated for members of the Alumni Association only.

Your user name and password is as follows:

Capital letters must be used for the first letter of each word, please see below.

Username: Alumni.Member
Password: External

We are always looking to expand the services and benefits offered to our alumni and are currently in discussions with some high profile international companies who we hope to confirm discounts with soon. Please do continue to keep referring back to the website to see updates of the services we have on offer.

If you have any suggestions of what may benefit you as an alumni member or you think that your company would be willing to offer discounts to our alumni members, please contact anne.cronin@london.ac.uk

Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the 'Supporting the University' survey that we circulated to all alumni members over the past few weeks. Your feedback has allowed us to learn more about what you, as our alumni, want from being members of the University of London alumni association and will greatly assist us with our planning for our 150th anniversary in 2008.

The Careers Group



C2 is part of The Careers Group, University of London and has been helping graduates develop professionally for over 10 years. It is a specialist careers consultancy for people at any stage in their career. C2 works with individuals for a wide variety of reasons but everyone they meet is seriously thinking about making some form of change in their working life.

Everyone that the Careers Service sees is different; some people feel like they have made a wrong turn, others feel that they never even started on the right path. C2 staff have the right experience and expertise to identify the appropriate solution for you. This may involve an individual session with a consultant, attending a group workshop, having your CV

reviewed online (e-Advice service) or making use of the information resources in our dedicated careers library.

For more information visit our website www.c2careers.com

International JobOnline

International JobOnline is the UK's first online vacancies and careers information site which aims to bring students and employers together all around the world. International JobOnline is a one-stop-shop where you can search graduate vacancies, find out information on working in the UK and look through specific careers information in countries all around the world. For more information, please visit www.careers.lon.ac.uk/ijo

For more information about job vacancies, careers events and a selection of our online publications covering a variety of careers, please visit the careers service website.



Student Ambassadors

Since the last alumni newsletter was published, the Alumni Relations Office has received an overwhelming response to our newly proposed initiatives – the Student Ambassador Programme and International Chapter Leader network.

We received over 400 applications from our alumni community to fulfil these roles proving that our alumni are an enthusiastic group who are keen to support the University of London External System.

Our 65 appointed Student Ambassadors will allow us to connect people at different stages of the student lifecycle.

Ambassadors will offer invaluable advice to new and prospective students on issues relating to studying in their country and can give accurate descriptions of what to expect when undertaking a degree through the External System.

The Chapter Leaders also have an important role to play in connecting people. Unfortunately the Alumni Relations Office cannot hold alumni reunions in all countries but our newly appointed Chapter Leaders can help.

Our Chapter Leaders are responsible for arranging activities and events for alumni in their city or country. They will offer opportunities for alumni members to meet each other and network more frequently through a range of social, professional and intellectual events.

I hope that when you are contacted about your alumni chapter, you join and take advantage of meeting more regularly with likeminded alumni in your area.

As these two programmes grow, we will be looking to expand them into new countries and appoint further alumni members to continue to support these initiatives. If you would like to learn more about the Student Ambassador Programme or International Chapter Leader network, please contact alice.perry@london.ac.uk or refer to our website: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/alumni

2007 Alumni events

Since the last edition of London Connection many more alumni events have been held around the world attracting graduates from a wide range of degrees and graduating years.

In the first half of 2007, additional events were held in Singapore, Malaysia, Trinidad and Hong Kong and all have proved a huge success reaching capacity in all venues.

The feedback from our graduates about the events has all been extremely positive but we are continually looking to make improvements to ensure graduates get the most out of attending a University of London alumni event. We want to ensure that even if you come to the event knowing no one, you have the opportunity to meet a wide range of people with differing careers, ages and ethnicity who all share the common factor of gaining a University of London degree.

Although there will be no further events in 2007, the Alumni Relations Office will be carefully planning the alumni events for 2008. The 2008 events will be even bigger and better as we celebrate the 150th

anniversary of the External System and we do hope that you will put the event dates in your diary now and make sure you attend.

'The 2008 events will be even bigger and better as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the External System'

If you didn't make it to an event this year and you want to read more about what happened on the night, you can read the specific event reports on: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/alumni/past_events.shtml





Graduate profile

Dr Iman Al Shankiti

Working under the most difficult conditions imaginable, a 2007 graduate finally achieves a long-standing ambition.

Among the many amazing personal stories that are so characteristic of External graduates, Dr Iman Al Shankiti's feat truly stands out. To equip herself in her role at the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a program manager responsible for strengthening Iraq's primary healthcare system, Iman decided to embark on an MSc in Health Systems Management.

Iman had always wanted to further her education, in order to add value to the type of work she was involved in at WHO. Sixteen years after completing her first degree in pharmacy, she found a Masters programme that fitted her needs.

Working in exceptionally difficult circumstances, with poor communication capabilities, one of the biggest challenges Iman faced was how she was going to study when the demands of her current job meant she would need to spend four days per week on the road in Iraq. It was the flexibility of the programme, one of several health-related postgraduate programmes offered through the London School of Hygiene & Tropical

Medicine, that allowed her to combine the two.

When Iman started the MSc in 2002 she was part of a WHO team ensuring humanitarian relief. Specifically, this meant checking that medicines and medical supplies were being received by end users during the sanction period of the UN's Oil for Food Program.

'When luggage restrictions were required during the evacuation procedure I had the dilemma of choosing between the books related to my course and other personal belongings – I chose to take my books'

The rapidly changing situation of Iraq in 2003 presented Iman with numerous challenges. These included her evacuation from Baghdad after the bomb blast on the city's UN headquarters, plus the closure of the exam centre in Amman. Thanks to her perseverance,

Iman overcame these difficulties and was finally able to complete her MSc in 2007.

Iman commented "When luggage restrictions were required during the evacuation procedure, I had the dilemma of choosing between the books related to my course and other personal belongings – I chose to take my books. The great thing about my Masters programme is that it has considerably enhanced my career by giving me the necessary tools to assist me in implementing a \$37million program, 'Strengthening Primary Health Care System in Iraq'."

Iman believes that the knowledge she's acquired through the MSc has broadened her perspectives. It has also helped her in supporting the Iraqi government in improving access to quality health care; strengthening the Government's role in managing the Primary Healthcare programme, and supporting the development of Iraqi Human Resource Capacity.

External System witness seminar

The first activity to mark the 150th anniversary of the External System was a witness seminar hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on 21 June 2007 at King's College London.

The witness seminar was part of an ongoing programme of seminars organised by the Centre for Contemporary British History (CCBH) which aim to explore different episodes of recent history through the testimony of people who have lived through them. Professor David Cannadine, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor in British History, chaired a round table discussion involving 20 people from the UK who had completed their study through the External system themselves or had a family member who had done so. These included Gisela Stuart, Labour MP for Edgbaston in Birmingham; Lewis Elton, father of the

British comedian Ben Elton and honorary Professor of Higher Education at UCL; and Mary Stopes-Roe, daughter of Sir Barnes Wallis (1887-1979).

Among the themes covered were experiences of life as an External student, reflections on the value of the External System to individuals and society, and how access to higher education is attained across generations. The seminar was filmed and transcribed, and the final transcript will be developed into an academic paper by Dr Michael Kandiah of CCBH at the Institute of Historical Research, to be made available on the University's websites and as a publication for the anniversary year in 2008. A second witness seminar, focussing on the history of the External System overseas is planned for July 2008.

Find a Friend

Since the launch of 'Find a Friend' we have connected many University of London External graduates who had lost touch with one another over the years.

'Find a Friend' is an online networking tool that allows you to get in touch with old friends or classmates that you studied your University of London qualification with.

Go to www.londonexternal.ac.uk/alumni and click on 'Find a Friend', complete as much information as possible and submit your form. Please ensure that you provide us as much information as possible about the person(s) that you are trying to locate. The more information you give us, the better are our chances of being able to put you in touch with them.

When we have located the person(s) that you're looking for, we'll forward your message to them on your behalf and facilitate you getting back in touch!



Address updates

Make sure you always stay in touch with the Alumni Association! If you are moving house or would like to update your email address, please complete the change of address form on our website: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/alumni/address_change.shtml



Senate House Library refurbishment news

The second phase of the Senate House Library, University of

London refurbishment programme began in August. This involved temporarily re-locating the entrance to the Library to the North Block of Senate House and moving some of the collections.

The refurbishment is necessary to allow for library space to be rewired and redecorated, with the shelving respaced to become more disability-friendly.

While every effort is being made to keep materials on open access, on occasion some will be temporarily re-shelved in the closed-access stack. These will remain available on request.

We apologise for any inconvenience the moves cause and we hope to keep disruption to a minimum.

Please check the website www.shl.lon.ac.uk, newsletter and notices in the Library for the latest information about further moves.

Ban cars in London to hit CO₂ targets

London must become car-free if it's to substantially cut carbon dioxide emissions, according to a new report. Researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Oxford University claim the Greater London Authority's target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2025 is unlikely to succeed without drastic measures. The report says emissions could be cut by 72% by 2030 if cars were banned from the city.

James Woodcock, who led the team of researchers at LSHTM, commented: 'Only the car-free greater London scenario is close to achieving the emission reductions required by 2030. Even then we need to reduce carbon fuel use on our public transport. Car-free streets could transform the quality of our urban environment, while improving health. Although London has made small improvements, achieving a car-free city would require a dramatic move in favour of walking and cycling.'

The findings of the report, first published in the medical journal *The Lancet*, revealed that London is on course to reduce land transport emissions by only 10-23%.

www.lshtm.ac.uk

UCL scientists develop 3D face scan

Scientists at UCL have developed a technique which uses three-dimensional scans of children's faces to detect signs of rare genetic conditions. The technique works by picking up tiny changes in the shapes of noses, jaws, ears and head shape of children and comparing them to the faces of healthy youngsters.

The technology has a 90 percent success rate, according to Professor Peter Hammond, a researcher at University College London's Institute for Child Health. "A lot of genes do a lot of different things in the body," Hammond said. "Some may affect your liver or lungs, and bone structure, but may also contribute to the face. Genes that affect the face may also affect other parts of the body. It's a complex picture." Around 700 genetic disorders are known to have an affect on the face and Hammond's team has investigated 30 so far.

www.ucl.ac.uk/news



Understanding emotions



A study from the Institute of Education demonstrates that children who understand and deal with their emotions perform better at school. They also have better relationships with teachers, parents and each other. As a result, they experience greater self-esteem than children who lack awareness of their emotional reactions.

Professor Susan Hallam evaluated the impact of the 'Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning' strand of the government's Primary Behaviour and Attendance Strategy pilot programme,

which took place in a sample of primary schools from 25 local authorities.

Teachers found that the programme helped them appreciate the importance of social, emotional and behavioural skills for children, enabling staff to understand their pupils better. The programme appeared to be particularly successful in enhancing children's well-being. Children learned how to express their feelings, manage their anger and were more willing to interact with those from different backgrounds and cultures.

Feedback

We would welcome your feedback on this issue and your letters/comments for future publication. Please contact us at: +44 (0)20 7664 4809 or newsletter@london.ac.uk

This issue (and back issues) of the newsletter are available to download in the 'Alumni' area of our website: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/alumni