

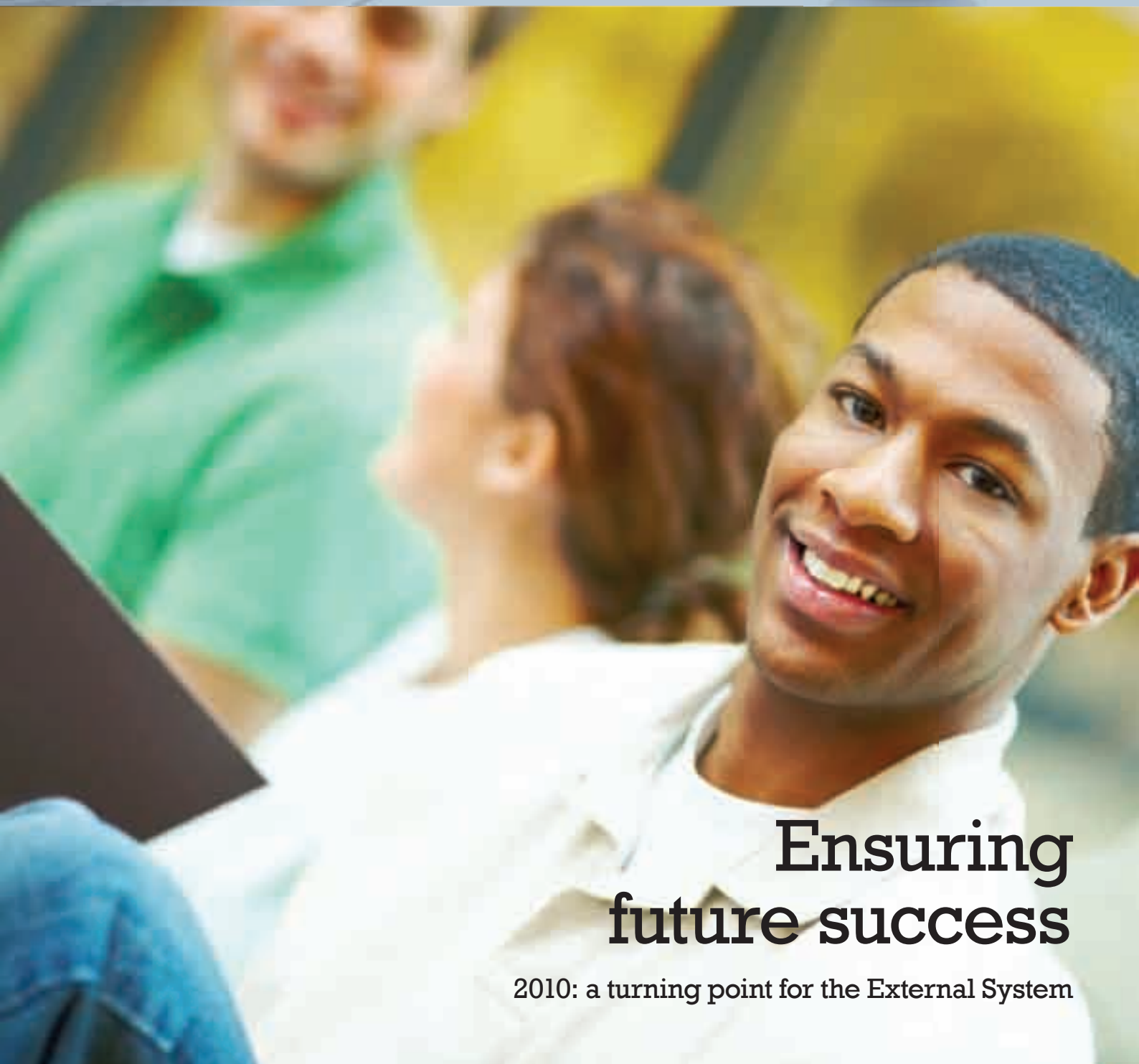


UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
External System

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London Connection



**Ensuring
future success**

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We would welcome your letters and comments for future publication. Please email us at: newsletter@london.ac.uk
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You can also choose to receive them via email by visiting: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/newsletter
If you have any general questions about your studies, please contact: programme.enquiries@london.ac.uk

From the Dean

I would like to welcome Andrew Bollington to the External System as our new Chief Operating Officer. Although Andrew has only been in post for a matter of months now, he has already made a huge contribution thanks to his wealth of relevant experience from working for the International Baccalaureate.

In the meantime, I continue to value meeting our students for feedback on the External System. Not only have I had the pleasure of meeting many of our students at the annual Graduation Ceremony in London, but also at many graduation and other events held across the world. More recently, these have included Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Mauritius as well as Trinidad and Tobago.

I am always touched by how enthusiastic our students and alumni are in sharing their experience of studying for a University of London degree through the External System. Perhaps in future years, some of you may go on to become Chapter Leaders and Student Ambassadors through the Alumni Association. I personally appreciate your feedback and stories about studying with us.

When I visited the National University of Rwanda, it was noted that three of the four Deans at the University are former students of the External System! How rewarding for me to appreciate, first-hand, the influence the University of London has had through the External System. Clearly our graduates are found across the globe, in all echelons of society.

We were also fortunate enough to have the Honourable Arthur N. R. Robinson, former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, as a keynote speaker at one of our stakeholder events. As an alumnus of the External System, the former President spoke affectionately of his time as a student with us, when he addressed the audience in Trinidad.

It is my hope that I will continue to meet many more of you in different parts of the world throughout 2010 which, I feel confident, will be another good year for the External System.



Good wishes to you all
for the coming year.

Professor Jonathan Kydd, Dean, University of London External System

A first for the Seychelles



Study programmes offered through the University of London External System are being taught at the newly founded University of Seychelles,

which opened its doors to the first cohort of students on Thursday, 17 September 2009.

The University, the first independent, non-profit making higher education institution in the Seychelles, was formally established at a special Statehouse ceremony, which was attended by the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. James Michel. The ceremony included an exchange of formal documents between the Minister of Education, Mr. Bernard Shamlay, and the Chairman of Seychelles University Foundation, Dr. Rolph Payet. President Michel was named the Chancellor of the University, and Dr. Payet named as the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University.

President Michel said: "History shows that all Seychellois have had to travel abroad to obtain a University education. Now, the demand for higher education and the value of generating knowledge and securing a comparative advantage in the global market, has called for the development of a University in the Seychelles."

Dr Payet added: "Our long term aim is to offer a much wider range of qualifications in order to make education more accessible. In addition to the degree programmes, we are also offering a Foundation Studies Programme, which once completed successfully, will provide students with the required entry criteria to some of the undergraduate study programmes. The initial programmes being offered at the University are in the field of Business Administration, and Computing and Information Systems. However, the expansion of the University will see further programmes being added to the suite on offer."

Pictured: President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr James Michel (left) and Dr Rolph Payet with the Charter for the University of Seychelles.

Top marks for St Martin's in Malta

A Maltese teaching institution with 60 per cent of its students attaining a first class degree in 2008 has been awarded a special 150th Anniversary Award by the University of London External System. The award was presented to Charles Theuma, Principal of St Martin's Institute of Information Technology in Malta in recognition of its contribution towards the growth and support of the University of London External System.

Presenting the award, Sir Graeme Davies, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, said: "It is my pleasure as Vice-Chancellor in announcing that St Martin's Institute of IT is one of six Institutes worldwide to receive the 150th Anniversary Award. These awards have been presented to supporting institutions worldwide for their contribution to the growth and success of the University of London External System over the years."

St Martin's, the only recipient of the award in Europe, has been teaching University of London External System programmes since 2000. Mr Theuma said: "I am delighted to receive this



award on behalf of all our staff and of course our students. Since joining forces with the University of London External System in the year 2000, St Martin's has assisted over 100 Maltese and international students to graduate from the University of London, with an average of 50% of its graduates attaining a first class honours and a further 30% achieving an upper second class classification."

Pictured: Charles Theuma, (far left), with St Martin's students at the 2009 University of London External System graduation ceremony in London.

Alumnus wins Nobel Prize

Congratulations to Professor Charles K. Kao, winner of the 2009 Nobel prize in Physics for 'groundbreaking achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibres for optical communication'. Professor Kao attended Woolwich Polytechnic where he studied for a University of London External BSc Engineering degree.

Born in Shanghai, he studied for his PhD while working and researching at Standard Telecommunications Laboratories (STL). His research showed the loss of signal in fibre optic cables was a result of impurities in the glass rather than a fundamental flaw in

the technology. Manufacturers began to create fibre optic cables meeting his specifications in 1970. Since then, the technology has become crucial to all aspects of modern communication infrastructures, e.g. the internet would not exist without fibre optic cables.

In 1970, he founded the Department of Electronics at Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), where he held the post of Vice-Chancellor. In 2000 he founded the Independent Schools Foundation Academy (ISF), a non-profit school in Hong Kong. He currently lives in Hong Kong after spending many years in the UK and USA.



The colours in between: an interview with Dr Elizabeth Burns

With society's increasing appetite for reality TV and celebrity gossip, it's encouraging to report some good news amidst the gloomy 'are we dumbing down?' headlines. Growing numbers of UK students are taking Religious Studies at GCSE and A level, and this is translating into increased interest in the study of religion at undergraduate level and beyond. Interview: **Peter Quinn**



Sitting in her spacious office in leafy Kensington Square, the Divinity/Theology Programme Director at the University of London's Heythrop College, Elizabeth Burns, reflects on the possible reasons for this: "Perhaps it's because, increasingly, people are seeing the relevance of an understanding of religion to everyday life. Sometimes people can think that theologians and philosophers are interested in very abstract questions which don't bear much relation to what motivates us, what gives us a sense of purpose, a sense of hope."

Introduced for those with a real interest in these subjects, Heythrop's new Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is - Elizabeth believes - unique in being the only one available in this specific field by distance learning. So does she envisage the new Certificate appealing to a particular type of person?

"There's no assumption made about what you believe: you can begin from an atheist position, or indeed from a position of any kind of religious faith, and are asked questions about what you believe, what other people believe, and what the implications of that might be - how that affects the way you live, whether there's a life after death, and so on. It deals with

some of the most difficult questions for believers, such as the problem of evil: if there is a good God then why is there such terrible suffering in the world? That's perhaps the most difficult question for a believer, the most significant threat to their faith and - for the atheist - the most common reason for non-belief. So it's dealing with important questions about the whole basis of human life."

The Certificate also has a particular focus on Christianity and Islam, as, Elizabeth notes, "it's important to understand the two religions which perhaps have been the most influential worldwide, in their own right and in comparison with each other. The BD, the full degree programme, also offers

there are now quite a number of Muslim students, often studying for the [internal] BA in Abrahamic Religions. And there are a lot of people still looking, uncertain of what they believe, while some are quite clearly atheists. I think that's a positive thing, because there's plenty of scope for debate and for learning to understand other peoples' points of view, in the light of which you might change your own way of thinking, and at the very least become more tolerant of different ways of seeing things. It helps you to see the debate not as polarised between black and white; it enables you to see the different colours in between.

"Our distance learning programmes often appeal to people who may be

'Studying both Theology and Philosophy enables you to develop your skills in understanding, analysing and constructing different types of argument, and to present a coherent account of your findings. That's particularly useful if you have to write a report [or] do a presentation at work. The more clearly you can express yourself, the more effective you are likely to be in the workplace.'

the opportunity to study Buddhism."

Heythrop's internal cohort of students has a mix of ages, with BA Theology having a slightly higher age profile. This, Elizabeth explains, may reflect "a desire on the part of many people to understand more deeply a faith they already have, or in some cases to ask questions about a faith they may have been thinking about for some time, or perhaps not even a specific faith but religion in general."

"Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some are Catholics but a good many are from other denominations of Christianity, and

very busy with earning a living, looking after family and so on - or people who are retired. In either case, it's not always practical for them to come to London to study full time. So the distance learning programmes fit in with their other commitments more effectively."

A lecturer in Philosophy of Religion at Heythrop, after taking her BD at King's College London, Elizabeth's PhD at Queen's College Cambridge was concerned with revisionist interpretations of Christianity, with a particular focus on the work of the philosopher of religion, Don Cupitt, and the author

and philosopher, Iris Murdoch. So what, I wonder, are the prerequisites of being a philosopher of religion?

"You need to have both philosophical skills – analytical skills – but also you need to have the theological skills to understand what it is that you're analysing philosophically." And in terms of its relevance in the workplace, gaining those pure skills – the analytical skills – would stand you in good stead in all kinds of different contexts? "Oh yes. Studying both Theology and Philosophy enables you to develop your skills in understanding, analysing and constructing different types of argument, and to present a coherent account of your findings. That's particularly useful if you have to write a report, do a presentation at work, and so on. The more clearly you can express yourself, the more effective you are likely to be in the workplace."

And in the face of recent bestselling books which have been openly critical of religion, such as *The God Delusion* by the British evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, being able to analyse where an argument does and doesn't work is of paramount importance. Published in 2006, Dawkins' book argues that a supernatural creator almost certainly does not exist and that faith qualifies as a delusion – an argument which, as Elizabeth sees it, is fundamentally flawed.

"Dawkins seems to distort what religion is about. It looks as if he doesn't understand what constitutes religious belief, and that he's therefore he's knocking down a straw man. In fact, it's not commonly recognised that he does say in the first chapter of his book that there are other interpretations of religious belief which are less fundamentalist,

but he's interested in counteracting fundamentalist interpretations of religion because those, he thinks, are the most worrying. Unfortunately, he's often read as if his objections apply to all kinds of religious belief – and that can be very damaging, I think.

Reviewing the book in *The Guardian*, the TV presenter and journalist Joan Bakewell remarked: "Around the world communities are increasingly defined as Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and living peaceably together is ever harder to sustain...Dawkins is right to be not only angry but alarmed. Religions have the secular world running scared. This book is a clarion call to cower no longer."

This, presumably, is not a view that Elizabeth would subscribe to? "Partially, yes, I would. Some interpretations of religion can be very dangerous. Dreadful things are done in the name of religion, and have been across the centuries. The counter-argument to that is that dreadful things are done in the name of atheistic political systems, too. And religion has also been a force for great good across the centuries. Perhaps it's a matter of getting more of a balanced, nuanced account of the situation. I suppose in so far as Dawkins has got the debate going and people think that religion is something worth talking about, then actually he's probably a good thing." Indeed, according to online retailer Amazon, sales of books that explore religion or spirituality have grown by more than 50 per cent in the past three years.

As Albert Einstein once remarked, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." Heythrop's new Certificate of Higher Education in

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is designed to tackle ageless questions about the very nature of our existence. Einstein, you feel sure, would have approved.

For further information about the Certificate, as well as the revised BD and Diploma and Certificate of Higher Education in Theology programmes, please visit:

www.londonexternal.ac.uk/humanities



Focus on: Heythrop College

Specialising in Theology and Philosophy, Heythrop College has a long and distinguished history. Established in 1614 as a Jesuit foundation, the College is now open to all faiths, and to staff and students with no faith affiliation, while retaining close links with the Roman Catholic Church.

In addition to teaching undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees, the College is home to the Centre for Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue which has a role to "promote an awareness and knowledge of the importance of interreligious engagement between the world's religious cultures and traditions". The College also houses the Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life, which facilitates reflection on contemporary issues.

Fact file

- Established in 1614 in Louvain (Belgium) by the Society of Jesus.
- Relocates to Stonyhurst, England during the wars following the French Revolution.
- Moves to central London in 1970.
- Moves to its present location in Kensington Square in 1993.
- Offers academic direction for programmes in Divinity; Theology; Philosophy, Religion and Ethics by External study.

The following is an extract from Elizabeth's review of *The God Delusion*, commissioned by the Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life.

"Dawkins – and those to whom he objects – may not be taking the world's best theology seriously, but it would seem that our best theology is not having an impact on the majority of believers and non-believers. Religious professionals – both theologians and community leaders – and religious believers have a responsibility to think carefully about their beliefs and practices. Preserving and promoting irrational beliefs may ultimately cause their faith to die out. Failure to live peaceably with those who worship other deities in other ways, and the perpetration of moral atrocities in the name of religious ethics may lead the religiously misguided not to heaven or paradise, however these may be understood, but to the suffering, for themselves and many others, which it must be the aim of all religions ultimately to overcome."

Recognised centres

While many of our students choose to study independently, many more of you prefer to attend a teaching institution which provides tuition and other support for your studies. Traditionally, we have had a slightly arms-length relationship with these institutions. Recently, however, we have decided that we should develop closer relationships.

We are creating a network of institutions that offer study support to students within our Institutions Policy Framework, so that you can make a more informed decision about any institution you choose to study at.

These institutions are known as recognised centres and are awarded either Affiliate Centre or Registered Centre status. Recognised centre

status applies to specific programmes on certain campuses. These Centres have demonstrated a long-term commitment to quality of teaching, support and administration.

Recognised centres are grouped into two categories:

- **Affiliate Centres** have demonstrated a sustained commitment to developing high standards in teaching support and administration.
- **Registered Centres** have demonstrated acceptable standards.

For a list of institutions with Affiliate Centre and Registered Centre status, please visit: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/online/search/institutions

By strengthening links between the University and these centres, we hope to enhance and share good practice, thus further improving the service we offer you.

At the heart of developing closer relationships is our desire to raise standards of achievement and to improve the student experience. This is in everyone's interests, the External System as a whole, teaching institutions, and – most importantly – you, our students.

We're delighted to have recognised over 70 institutions around the world.



You talk... we'll listen

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Undergraduate Student Experience Survey 2009

To help us improve the range of services we offer you, we are launching our third Undergraduate Student Experience Survey in December 2009. As with previous undergraduate surveys, you can access it online through a link sent to you via email. Email invitations will be sent out to individual programmes in batches, so don't worry if some students receive their email before you. As long as we have your email details on record, rest assured that your invite will be on its way.

We've also improved the survey by tailoring the questionnaire according to where you are in your learning journey. First year students will receive a different version to those near the end of their studies.

We hope you'll take this opportunity to tell us your views on studying with us so that we can better understand your priorities and needs. We would greatly appreciate your feedback.

To view a summary of the 2007 undergraduate survey results (featured in the September 2008 edition of London Connection) please visit: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/quality/report_review/documents/final_student_survey_summary_08.pdf

Postgraduate Student Experience Survey 2009

We haven't forgotten about our postgraduate students – the first Postgraduate Student Experience Survey will be launched from December 2009. The timing of the survey will vary for individual programmes and follow a similar methodology to the undergraduate survey described above.

A student perspective

Your feedback in 2007 asked us to seek new ways of building a stronger sense of community between the University and External students. As a result, we have recruited four new student members to our External System committees, one covering Quality Assurance and the Student Lifecycle, the other covering the External Laws Consortium.

The four student members will provide a student perspective that will inform the discussion and decision-making of sub-committees, working groups and panels, and help shape policy and practice. We are working towards helping student members highlight their role, and provide feedback to the student body through this newsletter.

This is my London

In Spring 2010 we will be trialling a social network project for students. *This is my London* will offer you the chance to share your experiences in a short, 300-word article and photograph – a snapshot of your lifestyle and what you are achieving as a University of London External student. We would like to capture the incredible diversity of our international student network and share it with you.

There will be External System gift bags for a winner and up to 10 runners-up. We will choose a selection of photographs and articles which vividly capture the atmosphere of our students' lives, and use them in a new promotional campaign – with your permission, of course.

If you'd like to take part, please look out for notices on the External System website in January 2010 and the next issue of this newsletter.

Here are the current top three student FAQs from our Information Centre

1. Is the Continuing registration payment due every year even if I choose not to sit for examinations in any one particular year?

Yes, the continuing registration fee for undergraduate degrees (with the exception of BA History and BA Classical Studies) must be paid at the beginning of each academic year after the first year. The fee is due by 10 October; if you have not received the continuing registration fee invoice by 1 September in a particular year, you should contact the Fees Office (external.fees@london.ac.uk) who will advise you and send you forms as appropriate.

2. I am changing my address, who do I need to inform?

Any requests to change your address should be sent in writing to the Student Registry. If you are an undergraduate student please write to external.registry@london.ac.uk. If you are a postgraduate student you should write to postgraduate.registry@london.ac.uk

3. Is there a Graduation Ceremony I can attend?

Yes, the University of London holds a Graduation Ceremony in central London each year exclusively for students of the External System. All successful students are invited. The ceremony will take place on 15 March in 2010.

In recent years the presentation ceremony has been presided over by HRH, the Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University and the event is always well-attended by the academics responsible for creating and directing the External System courses.

If you have a question about your study at the University of External System that has not been included in the list above, you can phone the Information Centre on +44 (0)20 7862 8360, or email them at: enquiries@london.ac.uk



Transforming the student experience

Craig O'Callaghan is the Director of Student Services and Business Transformation. With his help, the External System is undergoing a momentous phase of change. Interview by **Manjeet Sambi**.

Hardly an unfamiliar name in the External System, Craig O'Callaghan is reluctant to list any 'personal achievements' while reflecting on his time at the University: 'I don't particularly work on the principle of what I call personal achievements. I think we might call it the strategic achievements of the System'. He prefers the term 'collective effort', and it is here he places the success of the External System.

Craig leads the Business Transformation Programme (BTP), a vital development in ensuring the future success of the External System, as he explains: 'The BTP endeavours to address how the operational business processes and managerial structure of the External System should evolve to deal with its continued growth. The clear challenges of the digital age are that students and stakeholders rightly expect a faster and more efficient business process and self-service options are the norm.'

After more than 20 years of working in the External System, Craig has witnessed the growth of the study materials distribution operation from two small offices to two major warehouses, with student numbers totalling 45,000 in over 180 countries.

Leading the BTP is no mean feat, but Craig is aptly qualified, not only because of the length of time he has spent in the External System, but because of the very collectiveness he fervently believes in, as demonstrated through his management style: 'I think it was important to have an IT team who felt they were really valued. That was a key message I think I had to get across when I first took overall responsibility of the team. And the success of the first part of the change programme - the SITS project, which aims to deliver a new, web-accessible, student information system - is due to the team acting as a cohesive unit.'

The BTP is set to be a turning point for the External System. For Craig, it means considerable improvement to all aspects of the business, particularly

for the students, in 'ensuring they feel part of an international student community, much more than an isolated student in a country.'

However, it is not just the students who will benefit: 'The other stakeholders, the academics, the teaching institutions, the staff here, all see enormous benefits from these things because their role will change, clearly, but there will be more interesting roles for staff to undertake. Academics will feel a much greater involvement and a greater ability to become involved in the business process of how students develop, achieve, as well as of course, the Affiliate Centres and Registered Centres.' [See page 6 for more details].

'The BTP is set to be a turning point for the External System. For Craig, it means considerable improvement to all aspects of the business, particularly for the students.'

Craig has been affiliated with the University of London in more ways than one. Following his undergraduate degree in History and Politics, he studied for a Masters in Politics and Administration at Birkbeck College.

'I suppose it sets the general academic background training of those sorts of disciplines where you need to be quite forensic in your approach to investigative work' says Craig, on his qualifications. 'Your ability to collate large volumes of information, to dissect the information, to understand what is relevant to the subject you are looking at, and to utilise that information to access your ability in answering any of the questions or issues that are put before you.'

Craig's Masters seems particularly

appropriate for his current role: 'The postgraduate qualification was really about systems management, in terms of looking at ideas around a construct of arguments and cases based around principles of governance. What makes bureaucracy work, what makes good structures work, where power lies in an organisation: all key elements of how to develop and determine your strategy for moving an organisation forward or moving a department forward. I think that's what came out of that course, it enabled me to think more broadly and more strategically about the options that I had at my disposal.'

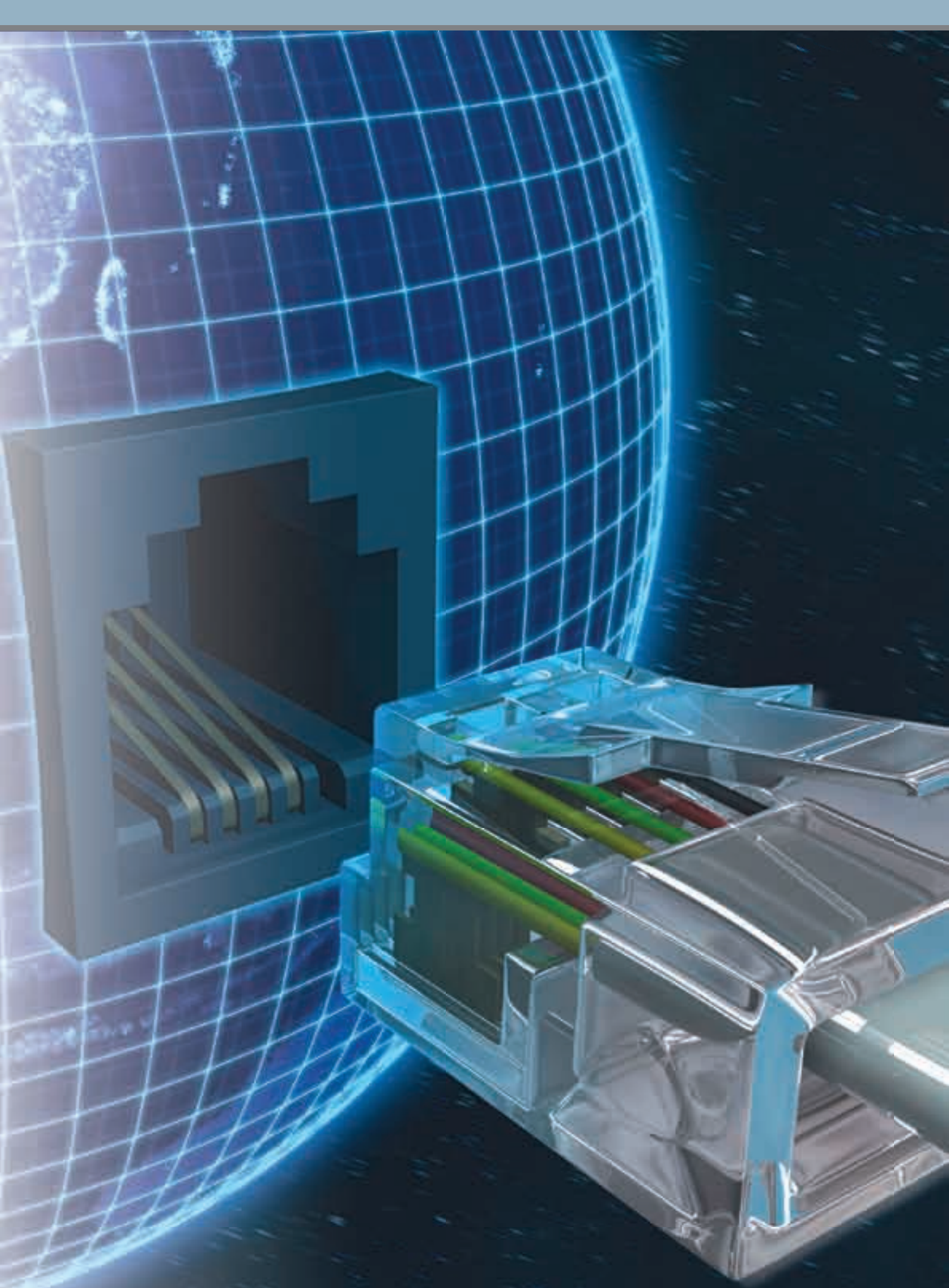
Despite his education and pivotal role in a business specialising in the provision of distance learning higher education, Craig is a firm believer in not judging an employee by their academic background. 'It is their practical experience which really works to mark them out.'

Having such a heavy workload and an immense amount of responsibility, we might be forgiven for wondering just how and when Craig manages to leave his work behind to relax. 'I play golf, not to a particularly high standard, and enjoy chess. I'm an avid reader of political biography and retain an interest in American politics, particularly the role of the Supreme Court.'

'And then of course family - my wife and my young son. I enjoy spending a lot of time just relaxing, because I think with a four-year-old, daddy's this play thing when he comes home at night, and you certainly switch straight off from work.'

Fact file: Craig O'Callaghan

- Completes a BA in History and Politics in 1985.
- Starts work at the External System Exams division in February 1986.
- Promoted to Head of Exams distribution in 1989.
- Undertakes a Masters degree in Politics and Administration at Birkbeck College, which he completes in 2000.
- Appointed Director of Operational Services in 2002.
- Appointed Director of Business Transformation in 2008.



Q&A with: Cheryl Brown

Cheryl Brown is an attorney in Jamaica, having been called to the bar five years ago. Graduating with an LLB in 1998 has, she says, "opened up lots of fields". Indeed it has. Cheryl is currently Jamaica's representative on the Inter-Governmental Bioethics Committee of UNESCO in Paris, manages the Office of Sponsored Research at the University of West Indies, and is Chief adjudicator for the Literary Arts for the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission. Interview: **Lisa Pierre.**

You are involved in so many different projects. Is your career as an attorney still your career priority?

Yes. I have long wanted to study the law and feel strongly that everyone ought to do either a liberal arts or a law degree no matter what they end up becoming. I would not refer to it as a 'career' at the moment, in that I am not out practising the law exclusively. In my present job at the university, however, I do, surprisingly, as much law as several of my classmates from Law School, who are in-house counsels for large firms or for government departments.

For example, as the person who is supposed to protect the Intellectual Property of the Campus, I am always using the law – in contracts and various forms of agreements as well as in the filing of patents and so on. And generally on the Campus, if the senior administrators have a contract which they need to

sign, the practice is for them to ask for my opinion. Additionally, I am also involved in ethics and there is a surprising number of lawyers on National Bioethics Committees (NBCs) as well as on the IGBC.

How much has your LLB helped you?

It gave me many career options and opportunities which I had not had before. In fact, much of what I have done over the past 10 years can be directly attributed to having acquired a Law degree. It has been the underpinning for most of my achievements in the last decade.

Was there a particular reason that you chose to study through the External System?

At the time – and even now – I had obligations which prevented my being a face-to-face student. Not only was I then married, but I had two young daughters and am traditional enough not to have wanted to leave them for extended periods of time. The External System was a godsend for someone like me.

It turned out well, since, having to read all the texts and teach myself – which was what we did at the time – I acquired a fuller and broader grasp of the law. No one had to distil anything for me.

How important a part do you think education plays in shaping one's opportunities?

As we would say: *Res ipsa loquitur* ('the thing speaks for itself'). The world today is extremely competitive

and not only is one degree not usually enough, but a variety of interests and qualifications – even if not all tertiary – is extremely important if one is to really self-actualise and be competitive.

This, of course, is for those of an academic frame of mind. I have always maintained that if you are to be a dressmaker, be the best one there is. But, in any event, it is education or training which one must have to be able to use the opportunities which present themselves.

This, coupled with being in the right place, having the right attitude and being receptive will usually take one far. Education by itself though, is sometimes not enough; a little luck is often necessary. Let us not forget, as well, that entrepreneurial opportunities are also there for those who do not wish to work for others, and having the right education/training is essential.

No one will deny that there is still a bit of nepotism and the importance of having the right contacts exists, but I have also noticed that if you have the confidence which knowing your subject matter gives you, it is obvious to all and people will listen. Your opinions will matter. That is an important starting point.

In your opinion, what is the toughest challenge women face in the workplace?

Deny it though one might, women, I have found, always seem to be having to prove themselves in ways which are not asked of men. Just recently, my niece – who is a paediatrician – was being interviewed



'The LLB gave me many career options and opportunities which I had not had before. In fact, much of what I have done over the past 10-years can be directly attributed to having acquired a Law degree. It has been the underpinning for most of my achievements in the last decade.'



From left to right: Cheryl with the then Chief Justice Lensley Wolfe, entering the Opening Ceremony of an Ethics Conference; in her 'most important role' – mom, with daughters Elise and Lauren; Cheryl the attorney.

on the telephone by a university hospital in Canada. They asked her if she had children and when she said yes, the next question was who would look after them if she came to do postgraduate work. Men are not asked questions like this.

I would not like to prioritise the challenges – there is that of salary differentials and having to deal with the 'old boy network' which is alive and well – but overall, there is still general stereotyping, negative stereotyping in this part of the world, although my generation has made significant strides and we are slowly but surely being represented in the Boardroom.

Generally, though, to achieve this, women have to work harder and be more qualified, to stay in the same place or to be perceived as being competent. I will not live to see genuine equality – except in the professions – between men and women in the work place.

My daughters' generation is interesting to watch because they are not prepared, for the most part, to be as accepting as we were and so the changes re perception of a woman's role are happening for them. They are MAKING this happen.

Do you think opportunities for woman have improved in the Caribbean?

Yes. In the past decade or so. But at a price, as I suggested earlier and because so many more have gone into the professions where they can and do work for themselves. The Law, in Jamaica, is one of the greatest examples of progress.

For the first time we have a female Chief Justice; a female Attorney General/Minister of Justice and a female Director of Public Prosecutions (whom I happened to have taught English Language and Literature from Fourth Form to Sixth), all at the same time. But this tends to happen more in the professions – engineering, law, architecture, medicine. Much more needs to be done in the private sector where, for the most part, the females

are bunched in middle management.

This defies the statistics which prove that more women have had tertiary education than men, particularly in this generation. One of the repercussions of women becoming more educated is that the vast majority of professional women in Jamaica remain unmarried, or the marriages do not last. This is quite noticeable. And a pity. And the major reason is that most men do not like having a wife who is more educated than they are. The 'price' to which I keep referring. We apparently cannot have it all.

You recently moved into the field of ethics. Tell us about your role as Jamaica's representative to the IGBC (UNESCO, Paris)

The IGBC consists of representatives of 36 countries. Members are elected and each serves for four years. The countries are from the North and the South and includes the Vatican at the moment.

One can imagine, therefore, how discussions can range over a wide area and be filled with different perspectives and why consensus is difficult, if not impossible in certain areas. As Jamaica's representative I have to keep up with the literature; know what UNESCO is planning in training and education in ethics in all areas of the world; be aware of the agenda items for the sessions and be prepared to discuss them. I have always to know what my Government's position is and why it holds it and be able to articulate and justify it. Things become interesting when governments change and views on certain topics change overnight. There is still, however, a little 'wiggle room' for individual opinions, within the framework of the overall opinion of the country.

Do you find this role demanding?

I am not a trained ethicist. Not all members of the IGBC are. But I have written a Code and Policy on Research Ethics for the UWI and staged two international ethics conferences here. I

presented a paper on the Law and Ethics at one of them. And now that the National Bioethics Committee has been formed, the interest in ethics has been cemented.

There was to have been a week-long conference (three days of the IBC and three of the IGBC) in Mexico City, May 3rd to 9th 2009 and I was asked to make a presentation to the IBC. Well, as we all know, the outbreak of swine flu put an end to that and things have been postponed. The point was, I was a bit lacking in confidence re my ability to stand there in front of the world experts in ethics but it was a big honour and I spent three weeks preparing this presentation. It took a lot out of me and I hope I will still get a chance to do it.

One has to keep up with views and with what is happening in the field and this involves a lot of reading. Being 'moral' and knowing what one feels is 'right' will not suffice. One has to approach each situation from the ethical point of view and to know what these sometimes competing views are.

Last October (2008) in Paris and continuing this year, the topic being discussed is cloning. For some countries it is a scientific matter; for some it is religious and for others it is cultural or all of the above. The difficulty is that ethics is not a discipline and several other disciplines (medicine, law, for example) wish always to define what it is. It can, at times, appear to be a shifting target.

You used to be teacher. What would you say was the most enjoyable and hardest aspect of this profession?

I never found anything hard about teaching at the time. The salary was terrible and, in the end, that was a major factor in why I left the profession. And, given the subjects I taught, I was always marking essays and grammar, and that I did not love. But it was a natural fit, I loved the interaction and to this day, it gives me great pleasure to

have ex-students – some of whom are now teachers and most of whom have children – thank me for teaching them.

Just last month at a banquet, the Director of Public Prosecutions was the guest speaker and she took the time in the beginning to recognise, she said, “the person who taught me to love language and literature...”. I felt quite overwhelmed, especially since this had all happened so many years ago. One feels as if one is contributing to the development of the society in a very tangible way.

Do you think young people today have the perception that education is a waste of time in light of so many just wanting to be rich and famous?

This is an entire interview in itself. There is a perceived, general ‘dumbing down’ of the society – worldwide, some say – in the traditional forms of education and several of us older folk are on the verge of becoming ‘dinosaurs’, especially when we make literary references to Chaucer, Shakespeare and what used to be considered a traditional education. No more can we say: “Et tu, Brute?”, or “I wandered lonely as a cloud...” and expect our children to know automatically of what we speak. And if, like me, you are not so proficient in the technological arena, you are considered a bit past it. Education is now more relevant.

The internet and computer generally and all the attendant toys – ipods etc – have contributed. It is easier to access a summary on the net than to go to the library or to read the book itself. Then there are shows like American Idol where one can become rich and famous overnight; the adulation and wealth given to people in sports and so on. This generation moves in general

more quickly and there is little time for reflection. Where once one wrote a letter and waited several days for it to arrive at its destination and then for the response, now, one has only to press ‘send’ and voila!

Is there anything else you would like to be involved in, in the future?

I started in teaching and it is my first love. I had toyed with the idea of combining teaching and the law – teaching the law – but am not able to see how this could materialise.

I think it is much too late to start anything new, but recently I became a member of the National Bioethics Committee of Jamaica which was just established in the past two months, so that will take up a bit of time when we have to ponder issues like abortion and cloning and so on and deliver a position.

You play tennis three times a week. Where do you find the time?

If there is something you really want to do, you make the time. When I was doing the LLB, I was married, had two young children, worked full time. I found 20 hours per week, every week, to study.

I live with a lot of stress and the tennis is not only for enjoyment (which it is) but is a great stress-buster plus it energises me. On a light note, I tell people that every ball has a name and that is why I never miss. I go home after work and sort things out and then go to the Pegasus Hotel, which is only five minutes drive from my home, and play for an hour or an hour and a half on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturday afternoon. I did this even while at Law School. Each of us who plays there regularly has a tennis name. Mine is Venus.

Who has had the greatest influence on your life?

This is the easiest question to answer. My mother and my father – both of whom died within six months of each other in 2008. Neither of them, to the uninformed observer, was ‘successful’ as the world tends to define success and they were not educated to the tertiary level, but they were the wisest people I have known and instilled in their four daughters a love of learning and a sense of interior certainty. They also had two of the largest funerals

I have ever seen which was a testimony to the way they lived their lives. They were both extremely generous people.

My mother was very down-to-earth and full of little sayings such as “common sense is not common at all” and “all these educated fools” whom she heard on the radio or saw on the television. It was from my mother I first heard the expression: “If you do not stand for something, you will fall for nothing”. For her, the recipe for success was common sense, confidence and integrity.

They also told us, long before Barack Obama came on the scene, that we could do and be anything we wanted. We believed them. What both parents placed the most emphasis on, however, was family, love and loyalty. My father told me – perhaps not original – that he had never heard anyone say, on their deathbed: “I wish I had spent more time in the office”.

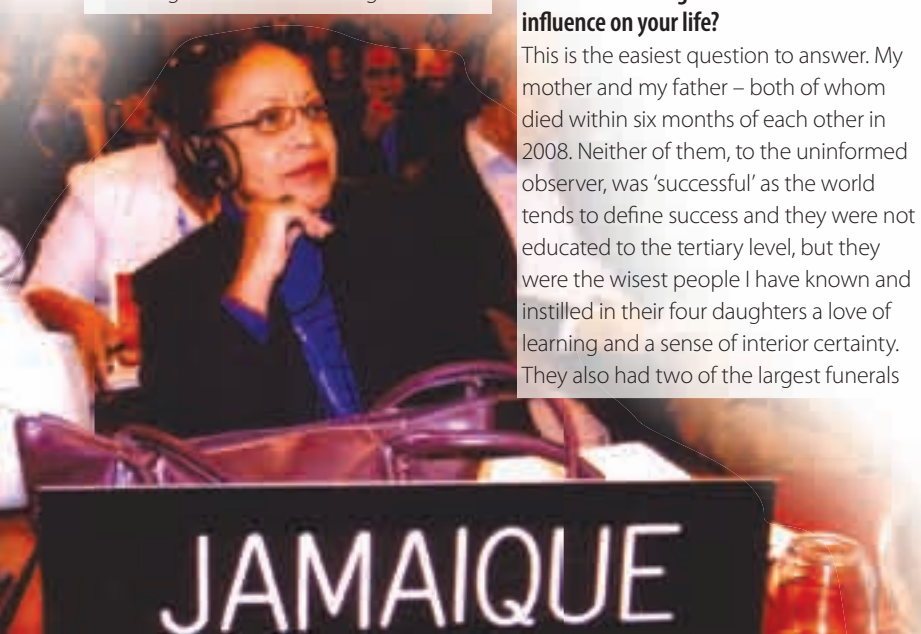
When I was called to the Bar in the Supreme Court in Jamaica, my father, who was then in his late 80s, with two of his brothers (they are all now deceased) were the first to arrive to witness the ceremony. My mother was ill and unable to climb the stairs. It was a very emotional occasion.

You love literature. Who is your favourite character from any literary work, and why?

I have two – one is /was a living human being and one is fictional. The fictional character is Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. No matter how many novels I read, Elizabeth retains her hold on me – or, perhaps it is Austen’s depiction in that subtle, ironic way.

The real human being is Diana Trilling in her book entitled *The Beginning of the Journey*. This is a counterpoint to her husband’s book, *The Middle of the Journey*. Diana wrote this book after her husband had died, and this in itself is telling. In his work, which reveals the ups and downs of his literary/academic career, partly because he was Jewish, he mentions his marriage to Diana, but one is only vaguely aware of her as his shadow or accessory. He speaks fondly of her but her views and opinions are not mentioned. Lionel Trilling was regarded – still is – as one of the finest literary minds of his time.

In her book, the situation is balanced and one realises that she was an intellectual in her own right and gets a glimpse of what it would have been like to walk always in her husband’s reflected glory.



Opposite: Cheryl representing Jamaica at the IGBC UNESCO, Paris.

Increasing Demand for Petroleum Geoscientists

The University of London offers a new online programme for petroleum geoscientists.

Binda Rai talks to its Programme Director, Dr Gary Nichols, about this innovative area of study.



A global demand for newly qualified professionals for the oil industry is being addressed by a new online distance learning Masters programme in Petroleum Geoscience. This is the first time a Masters in this subject is being offered online by one of the worldwide training leaders in this field.

Meeting demand

Dr Gary Nichols, Dean of the Graduate School at Royal Holloway, has been instrumental in developing this innovative online study programme, which is offered at both MSc and Postgraduate Diploma level. To date, only a handful of institutions worldwide offer the programme in Petroleum Geoscience, although none appear to offer it through distance learning.

"There is a worldwide shortage of well-qualified geoscientists in the petroleum industry, which has to continue its exploration activity to meet the steadily increasing demand for oil", Dr Nichols remarked. "For the industry to maintain its current level of activity, it also needs to expand its workforce to include well-trained graduates with the capability to find the remaining resources in what are now geologically more complex and less obvious situations."

Dr Nichols added: "Masters programmes that provide the integrated training in the range of skills and the knowledge of geology and geophysics required by the oil industry are only available at a handful of institutions worldwide. The Department of Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway has an excellent 25-year track record of equipping

postgraduate students for employment within the oil industry. This new venture, to deliver the same programme by distance learning, builds on our success and responds to the needs of the industry."

A reputation for excellence

Dr Nichols believes the newly qualified petroleum geoscientists can also be used to retain the accumulative industry experience that is in danger of being lost through retirement. "These new postgraduates will be well-placed to fill the shortage gap of mid-career professionals who would normally replace those taking retirement," he added.

One such graduate is Stewart Easton, who having completed his Masters is now employed by Gaz de France. "The curriculum is tailored to the important aspects of hydrocarbon exploration and production, both from a theoretical and practical standpoint", Stewart explained. "The new distance learning version will provide an excellent development opportunity for people who are currently in, or looking to get into, the industry. The standard of teaching and course graduates is second to none, which is why an MSc in Petroleum Geoscience from Royal Holloway continues to have a highly respected reputation in our business."

Dr Paul Whitehouse, from Hess Petroleum, added: "The Petroleum Geoscience MSc course gives its graduates a diverse and comprehensive grounding in cutting-edge petroleum geoscience, and enables them to become significant contributors from day one upon joining the industry. The flexibility of the distance learning programme will allow more students to benefit from the excellent quality of teaching and experience offered by the Department of Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway."

A continuing demand

Despite an increasing awareness of environmental issues, the demand for oil continues to rise. Why is this the case? "Put simply, the developed world is addicted to oil and the developing world is becoming

increasingly so," said Dr Nichols.

He added: "Whilst alternative energy supplies are able to provide electrical power, there are no alternatives to oil in the short to medium term for major use of energy resources. Transportation of people and goods is predominantly by oil-powered means, from cars with petrol and diesel engines, to trucks, ships and aircraft, all requiring petroleum products to power them.

"Furthermore, natural gas is also a very important fuel for domestic and industrial use and for electricity generating plants. Petroleum products are all around us – plastics and other synthetic materials – and form a fundamental part of our everyday world. In the long term, alternatives to using oil and gas may be found, but for decades we will still be using oil and gas, even if the prices continue to rise. As demand rises and prices also rise, it becomes more economical to exploit the resources of oil and gas underground that were once too expensive to extract."

Further scope for recovery

One such example is the oil reserves in the North Sea. Although most of the easily extracted oil has already been recovered, Dr Nichols explains that there is further scope for recovery: "Bearing in mind the high price of oil, it is now worthwhile using enhanced recovery methods to extract some of the oil that remains there."

For further information please visit:

www.londonexternal.ac.uk/geoscience

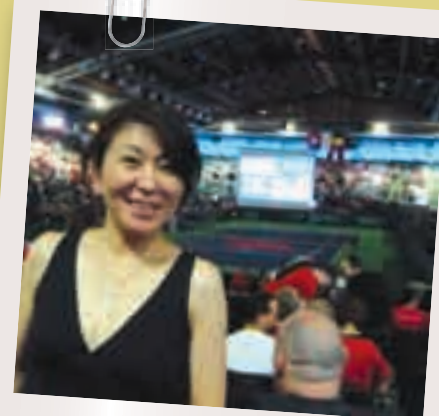


Top: Programme Director, Dr Gary Nichols; above: a North Sea oil rig.

Profile on: Dr Mika Kawano



'Having an MSc in Infectious Diseases gives me the confidence that I have the basic knowledge to understand all aspects of infectious disease control.'



Mika completed her MSc Infectious Diseases with the External System in 2007. She is currently working for the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Switzerland. Interview: **Peter Quinn.**

I was born in Japan and grew up there, except five years in Malaysia. My father worked in a private industry – there were no medical doctors in my family.

When I was in the Ministry of Health we discussed which university to do postgraduate study. I was told that the American approach is theory-oriented and the British approach is problem-oriented. I prefer the British approach.

I had been working in WHO for five years in the area of infectious diseases. It was very important to have deep and updated knowledge. All of the degree modules were relevant – they helped me to understand more advanced issues like how you create vaccines or how a virus adapts itself to a new environment. There were lots of things that I didn't quite understand in the meetings in WHO. Going through all of the modules, now I understand.

The first challenge was that I had been educated in Japanese. In the first year, when I was doing the exam, I thought I was fully prepared. Then I realised that I had the key words in English, but I couldn't explain it in English. I didn't have the technical terminology for verbs in English. So I had to change the way I studied to prepare for the exam.

I need to study under pressure. Juggling study with work gave me lots of excuses not to do it. I was working on a tsunami project in Sri Lanka. I was there for three weeks, then I came back to Geneva, and then I'd go back to Sri Lanka for three weeks again. Life was very unpredictable, and that made it difficult. I used all the leave I had for study, but I still wasn't ready for the exam. So I skipped one year.

After the first four compulsory modules I picked nine optional modules. In those days I was working in geographical information systems (GIS), so I took environmental health – which I thought had lots of potentials for applying GIS – and nutrition, because I was interested in the relationship between nutrition and infectious diseases, such as malaria. It's important to have that knowledge when we discuss policies for infectious diseases control in developing countries settings.

I'm part of an international health regulation team and have been heavily involved with H1N1 influenza [swine flu]. Having an MSc in Infectious Diseases gives me the confidence that I have the basic knowledge to understand all aspects of infectious disease control. My current area of work is more to do with coordination than any scientific aspects of influenza pandemic response, but still it's important to understand what's happening – I have the basic knowledge to grasp it in a short period of time. That helps a lot. I'm proud to be part of WHO. As long as I can make a contribution, that's fine.

One day I want to play Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2 with an orchestra. That would be great.

Photos courtesy of Dr Mika Kwano

Royal Holloway Group Project Plenary 2009

The group that assembled in June at Royal Holloway for the 2009 Plenary for the Distance Learning MBA and MSc in International Management was the largest yet with 72 students attending from all over the world.

There was a very full academic programme with master classes covering the core subjects as well as a range of workshops and presentations.

This year, with the support of easyJet Airlines, we were able to link one of the guest speakers, Andy Harrison (CEO, easyJet) and the plenary case study, which was based on the recent merger of their airline and a former BA franchise, GB Airways. By contrast, the second guest speaker was Dr Jackie Hunter (Senior Vice

President, Glaxo Smith Kline), who talked about the changing nature of the Pharmaceutical Industry. Both of the speakers gave the opportunity to engage in wide ranging discussions.

As most people are aware, the weather is often a gamble in the UK but even that remained good for the entire week. The programme also included a number of opportunities to relax, make new friends and establish networks. As well as the reception there was included a formal dinner and a trip on the River Thames from nearby Windsor.



'The interaction at the plenary session has been probably even better than the interaction you would get in a regular MBA class, because people are really focused, people really want to learn. The

session is very intense so it is a great experience, even better than I anticipated.'

Anna Juco Giebels
Honorary Secretary of the Sri Lanka –
Philippines Business Council, Sri Lanka



'The plenary sessions give you a really good foundation for the course. It makes the course real and makes it come to life. It also gives you a great connection with fellow students and they have

given me a lot of strategies to approach the content and my studies overall.'

Avis Talbot
Director of Clearways Consultancy
Services Limited, United Kingdom



'I had the opportunity to compare the Royal Holloway MBA with other business schools in the UK and I think it is the best decision I could have made. It is a rich programme that will

take you to the level where you need to be as a senior manager.'

Mark Klutse
Freight Manager at Hull Blyth
Ghana Limited, Ghana





Education first

On Saturday 23 May 2009, alumni in Mauritius attended an Alumni Association cocktail reception held by Professor Jonathan Kydd, Dean of the External System. Fellow University staff also attended the evening which was honoured by the presence of the President of Mauritius His Excellency The Right Honourable Anerood Jugnauth KCMG QC GCSK PC GOLH GOP ORS and his wife Lady Sarojni Jugnauth.

The event, at the Labourdonnais Hotel in Port Louis, unfolded with speeches from Professor Kydd and much reminiscing amongst the alumni. The University of London External System has a long and successful history with Mauritius spanning over 140 years, with some of the first graduates

completing their degrees in 1873.

Lady Sarojni, a former teacher stressed to Lisa Pierre, the Alumni Relations & Events Coordinator the importance of education in ones life, especially for women today. "It is one of the most important things for a woman today, before becoming a wife or a mother, and it is something that you should continue to nurture". She went on say that that it was encouraging to see that many of the alumni attending the reception where in fact women and that it was good to see the equal balance.

Top, pictured left to right: Professor Jonathan Kydd, Dean, University of London External System; The Right Honourable Anerood Jugnauth and his wife Lady Sarojni Jugnauth

Caribbean Open Days

The former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Arthur NR Robinson, an LLB alumnus, shared his personal experience of studying with the External System and the challenges he encountered,

at a reception at the Hilton Hotel, Port of Spain, in June. The reception was attended by alumni, institutions which provide study support for University of London students, schools, representatives of the British Consul, the British Council and companies which employ our alumni as well as University of London staff.

Arthur NR Robinson also took the opportunity to announce that he would be publishing his autobiography very soon. He recalled that when he studied law as a young man in Tobago there were no libraries or tutors but he was inspired to overcome the difficulties when he read that the US President Abraham Lincoln, whom he considered to be one of his heroes, had studied for his law degree in a log cabin, and had then gone on to become the President of the United States. He admitted that when he started his studies he had no idea that he would later become the President of Trinidad and Tobago.

While in the Caribbean the University of London team also met over 800 potential students at recruitment events. At the Crowne Plaza a panel of eminent alumni answered questions from potential students about what it was like to study for a University of London degree in Trinidad. These included Debra Coryat-Patton, an LLB alumna who now works for the US Department of State in Port of Spain, Deborah Ragoonath-Rajkumar, LLB, National Tax Manager at BP; Diane Julian, MSc Environmental Management, a pharmacist at Petrotrin; and Sheldon Branche LLB, a Corporate Attorney.



New Climate change module from SOAS

Dr Rolph Payet, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and University of London External System alumnus, launched a new 'Climate Change and Development' study module. Dr Payet, pictured left, was presented with a study pack for the new module on 28 May 2009 by Professor Andrew Dorward (right) from the Centre for Development, Environment and Policy at SOAS.

New finance programme from CeFiMS

The Centre for Financial and Management Studies (CeFiMS) has launched a new MSc Finance by distance learning, with three alternative pathways in Economic Policy, Financial Sector Management, and Quantitative Finance, enabling students to select a study path best suited to their skills and objectives. The programmes are designed to deepen an understanding of financial markets, banks and their relation to economic performance. Each specialism can also be taken as a Postgraduate Diploma. To find out more about the programmes and to apply online, please visit: www.cefims.ac.uk or Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4050.



Above: Arthur NR Robinson; Left, guests at the evening reception

Points to note

In print...

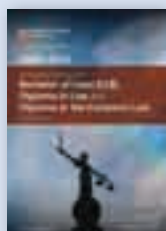
Below is a selection of new publications currently in print.



Undergraduate programmes in Computing.
Academic direction: Goldsmiths.



Undergraduate programmes in Humanities.
Academic direction: Goldsmiths, Birkbeck, Heythrop, Royal Holloway.



Undergraduate programmes in Law. (prospectus and leaflet)
Academic direction: Laws Consortium.



Postgraduate study programmes and short courses in Livestock Health and Production and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health. (leaflet and postcards)
Academic direction: Royal Veterinary College.



General Prospectus.
Academic direction: various

Come and meet us

Below is a list of forthcoming exhibitions we will be attending. If you know someone who might be interested in studying with us, please let them know they can meet us at the following events:

Country	Event title	Event details
Hong Kong	Law Fair	Saturday 30 January 2010 12.00pm-4.00pm ■ Venue Hall A1 of Hong Kong Exhibition Centre
	Education UK, British Council Fair	Saturday and Sunday 30-31 January 2010 1.00pm-5.00pm ■ Hall 1E of Hong Kong Exhibition Centre
Sri Lanka	British Council Fair	20-21 February 2010 11.00am-7.00pm ■ Hilton, Colombo
	UoL External System Hosted Postgraduate evening	24 February 2010 ■ Hilton, Colombo
	UoL External System Hosted Graduate evening	25 February 2010 ■ Hilton, Colombo
Maldives	University of London External System	23 February 2010 ■ British Council, The National Library, Male, Republic of Maldives
Bangladesh	University of London External System Open Day	6 March 2010 ■ TBC
Singapore	British Council Fair	13 March 2010 11.00am-7.00pm ■ Hilton Hotel, Orchard Road
Malaysia	British Council Fair	20-21 March 2010 1.00pm-6.00pm ■ Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Tell us about your student experiences and have your one-minute of fame on film!

The University of London External System is relaunching its YouTube channel shortly. We would like to feature videos from students to provide advice to those considering studying on one of our degrees.

Tell us your study tips, how you balance your study

with other commitments or how your degree will help you reach your future goals. Filming will be happening in London from December onwards, so if you are coming to London and are interested in getting involved please contact: alice.mallick@london.ac.uk



Media watch

The University of London External System is frequently mentioned in the media. Here are some examples below:

7 April 2009

'Only the best at Brickfields Asia College'

from *The Sun Daily* (Malaysia)

Chan Mun Fei, a first year LLB student at Brickfields Asian College, achieves top marks in his examinations and wins the Malaysian LLB scholarship <http://www.thesundaily.com/article.cfm?id=31963>

12 May 2009

'City girl wins international student award in UK'

from *The Times of India*

Former External student Shruti Sonthalia who transferred to LSE wins British Council's International Student Award. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Vadodara/City-girl-wins-intl-student-award-in-UK/articleshow/4511317.cms>

18 June 2009

'Top marks for St Martin's in Malta'

from *Times of Malta*

Charles Theuma, Principal of St Martin's Institute of Information Technology in Malta, is presented with a special 150th Anniversary award in recognition of its contribution towards the growth and support of the University of London External System. www.timesofmalta.com/business/view/20090618/news/top-marks-for-st-martins-in-malta

23 June 2009

'Studying in Trinidad and Tobago for a University of London degree'

from Trinidad and Tobago Guardian
Flagging two Open Days hosted by the University of London

External System in Port-of-Spain

<http://guardian.co.tt/features/life/2009/06/23/stuying-tt-university-london-degree>

27 June 2009

'Robinson plans autobiography'

from *Trinidad & Tobago Express*

At a reception hosted by the University of London External System at the Hilton Trinidad in St Ann's, former president Arthur NR Robinson revealed plans to release his autobiography. Robinson, who achieved his Bachelor of Law degree via External study with the University of London in 1949, talked about the challenges he encountered when, as a young man, he decided to study law while in his home country, Tobago. www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article_news?id=161497862

28 June 2009

'Royal Institute of Colombo – Teaching for the LLB degree since 1990'

from *The Sunday Times* (Sri Lanka)

Profile of Royal Institute of Colombo, including an interview with RIC Chairman, Mr G.T. Bandara, in which he extols the quality and value of the University of London LLB. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/090628/Education/ed702.html>

2 July 2009

'Maltese ICT specialist wins special prize from University of London'

from *Times of Malta*

Hein Chetcuti, an information systems specialist at the Malta Freeport Terminal, has won the University of London External System 150th Anniversary Prize after obtaining a first class honours degree in Information Systems and Management setup and assessed by the London School of Economics and Political Science. This award also led to

the invitation of a special VIP reception presided over by her HRH Princess Anne at the Barbican Centre in London.

www.timesofmalta.com/technology/view/20090702/news/maltese-ict-specialist-wins-special-prize-from-university-of-london

9 July 2009

'Distance learning gives me a much broader perspective'

from *The Independent* (UK)

A profile of current student Mary-Joy Albutt. Mary-Joy is doing an MSc in Public Health, specialising in health promotion, and fits this in with her full-time job working for Dudley Primary Care Trust (PCT) as a health promotion adviser for young people. www.independent.co.uk/news/education/higher/postgrad-lives-distance-learning-gives-me-a-much-broader-perspective-1737522.html

24 August 2009

'Increasing Demand for Petroleum Geoscientists'

from PRWeb

A global demand for newly qualified professionals for the oil industry is being addressed by a new online distance learning Masters programme in Petroleum Geoscience. Developed by Royal Holloway and offered through the University of London External System, this is the first time a Masters in this subject is being offered online by one of the worldwide training leaders in this field.

25 August 2009

'One door closes – but another is firmly Open'

from the *Evening Standard* (London)

A piece outlining the increasing demand for home study and online courses, as more students are turned down for university places. Profiles an Open University graduate and a University of London External System graduate, Christine Long (BA French).



