



This issue of the Student Magazine is a special edition to celebrate those students who graduated from the College in July 2012. The Magazine is a publication designed to showcase the skills and talents of the student body from writers, designers, photographers, Student Journalists through to those students who simply enjoy being involved in the daily campus life of the College. *The Gate* is published regularly throughout the academic year culminating in this special edition designed for Graduating Students.

Comment

Editorial by Keith Hayes of the Humanities Department

The sea of faces in the audience at our graduation was a wonderful sight. Four hundred and fifty students and family attended the ceremony at Imperial College London with an awesome sense of achievement. They were there to receive their rewards, the culmination of hard work and endeavour that resulted in gaining their awards. It was a day to savour; a day to lift the spirits; a day of hope and ambition; a day when many were starting out on the journey of life after years of academic study.

For many of us at the College, it was also a new dawn. Faculty and staff had seen the recent graduates out of the doors of the college, only to return to open the same doors to a flood of new students. Life at the college is lived in a rich academic environment. We have a first class teaching corps, a dedicated backup staff and a wonderful atmosphere of study and learning. We also have a full social life for our students.

The College is set in one of the most exciting parts of London. Notting Hill Gate is full of hustle and bustle, a flow of people enjoying pubs, clubs, shops and stalls at the famous Portobello Road market. It is also the scene of many successful movies, such as the aptly named 'Notting Hill' starring Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant. Many other stars, celebrities and personalities often frequent the area, mingling with the college students in the coffee shops, markets, pubs and restaurants.

So our college is a campus rich in academic fulfilment but one with enormous excitement and fun. The college is a campus where our recent graduates matured from being at school to becoming young and vital adults. Graduation was the pinnacle of their achievement, of their hopes, dreams and aspirations. We know we will be able say the same thing about our new group of students when it is their turn to graduate: That their time college will nourish them, benefit them and send them out into the world completely fulfilled, just as we did with the graduating class of 2012.



Editorial Team

Editorial Board : Alan Janbey, Mark Mabey, Keith Hayes
Supervising Editor: Keith Hayes
Special Edition Editor: Radhika Sen
Deputy Editor: Francesca Young

Art Director: Arshiya Dey
Technical Supervisor: Ron Lamont
Photographic Editor: Ron Lamont

The Orators



Dr. Mark Mabey

As the new Principal of The London College UCK, I would like to say to you that this is the most important day in the London College UCK calendar and we are delighted to see so many of you here in the superb surroundings of Imperial College London.

This is an exciting year as the College has grown in student numbers from 250 five years ago to just over 1600 this academic year. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work, sweat and tears and we are delighted at all your success! A big thank you has to go to your partners, family and friends who have supported you throughout your study.

Many of our graduates go on to study for higher degrees and a great number enter the employment market both in the UK and also in the 43 countries from where our students originate.



Jonathan Davidson Guest Speaker

Strange things happen to students. Coursework gets left on a train. They fall in and out of love. They fall off their bicycles on the way to examinations. The money runs out in the second year and they have to find work waiting on tables to make ends meet. Many students choose to come to London for their education from other countries where English is their second language and to a strange culture where they are without the immediate support of family.

To our graduates I would say, "Relax! Strange things do happen in real life, Whatever life throws at you in the future, you know you can cope."





My Life with Julia and Hugh

By Radhika Sen (Graduate Student)

“Notting Hill...you mean the same place as the movie?” my Indian friends asked wide-eyed with curiosity. Three days before leaving a sultry Calcutta to brave the minus-something dreaded winter chills of London I have to admit the prospect of studying Journalism in a college located in the same place where Hugh Grant once met Julia Roberts, kept those weather anxieties under control.

As I got out of the underground station to find my way to college, I felt a tiny flutter of excitement. Second day in a brand new city, second tube ride and first day in a foreign educational institution, this had to be the whole new world I was dreaming of back home. Students from different continents filled up the seats of the classrooms. Everyone came with a dream and London was the place to make it come true. Lecturers encouraged us to think ‘outside the box’, outside the course curriculum and outside shackled ideas. This was a free-thinking paradise, one very different from the classic rule-of-discipline style of teaching in India.



Morning classes were interspersed with quick coffee breaks at ‘Apostrophe Cafe’ next door to College. Popping into this cafe guaranteed bumping into at least five other students and sometimes professors from college. This is where everyone would rush to get their caffeine kick between the not so fleeting three-hour long lectures.



Within a month I had become quite the expert on the famous Portobello road just around the corner from college. Discovering quaint Sicilian pizza joints, lively pubs, vintage clothing stores, open air flea markets and heaps of other fun places made life in Notting Hill all the more exciting. Just ambling down this quaint stretch of road lined with pretty pastel houses and leafy trees was a delightful way to pass time. Although I wasn’t lucky enough to spot any celebrities, it is no secret that famous people often roam these streets in broad day light. Such are the glamorous surroundings.



Monday blues were beaten at the local Coronet Cinema where we would catch the latest flick for a princely sum of three pounds all thanks to the Monday special students’ discount. And on those precious days when the sun decided to play friendly, neighbouring Hyde Park was a favourite leisure spot. Back in the classrooms, we had heated discussions on everything ranging from Rupert Murdoch to the Rolling Stones. Everybody’s voice was heard which allowed an exchange of thoughts and intellect. Nothing seemed text-book restricted. Class presentations, group debates and reading a variety of published material made up three hours of lecture time. There was always something to reflect on, something to agree or disagree to and something so very British to imbibe.

Mid-way into the first term came the crushing pressure of assignments. Juggling six modules together was no joy ride. To make matters worse, time always seemed to be racing against me while getting through hours of pain-staking internet research, writing long-winding essays and ransacking library shelves to find books that were long gone. The frantic sprint to the end saw students rooted to the computer machines in the library punching into the keyboard like nothing could stop them. Coming in at 9.00am sharp guaranteed a free machine, after that it’s a patient game of musical chairs. What really did test one’s patience though was joining the never-ending queue to get print outs from the basement. And for some oddly jinxed reason the printers would invariably decide to wind up (quit) on the very day of submissions, leaving everyone in a tizzy.

As weeks went into months classes got more intense, assignments more challenging and the work load significantly heavier. But with the excitement of summer arriving, the changing times did not seem half as bad. Shedding heavy coats to don a light cardigan, not having to lug around umbrellas everyday and slipping into open sandals was a treat in itself. Summer was the heaviest yet shortest end of the term and before I knew it we were in the last week of classes. It felt all too sudden that the end was not just near but right here. Graduation was just a knock away.

When I left the college gate and my student days behind me for the last time, it seemed a bit premature. Turning round the corner I still had that eerie feeling that I would bump into either Hugh Grant or Julia Roberts. It never happened but I could picture them falling in and out of love right in near my Alma Mater.



Faces & Places in College



Photographs by Francesca Young

Our Campus is a busy and lively place with the heart of activities in the college library. The scenes above show the places in the library where people congregate, study, socialise and read. Faculty and staff often mingle with students for informal conversation and practical advice.

Aspirations



HOW TO APPLY

If you are applying for FULL TIME undergraduate courses such as Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma you should apply through UCAS. The UCAS code for The London College UCK is L62.

You need to know a JACS code, also known as UCAS code, for your course e.g. 001N. Simple instructions can be found at www.ucas.com/students/apply/.

If you are applying for an undergraduate part-time course, you should apply directly to the college. You must apply online. Visit <http://www.lcuck.ac.uk/?pg=prospective/apply>.

ADMISSION DATES

UK/EU Students

- August 31st - October entry
- December 31st - February entry

International Students

- June 30th - October entry
- October 30th - February entry
- January 31st - April entry

Email: admissions@lcuck.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 207 243 4000

Fax: +44 (0) 207 243 1484

+44 (0) 207 243 1484

WHAT THEY SAID ON THE DAY

“On such an auspicious occasion as graduation day, I am pleased to report that a great day was had by all.”

- Dr. Marc Cooper, HoD Humanities

“I have never seen so many medieval robes in my life. It was the most serious fancy dress party I have ever been to.”

- Francesca Young, Graduate.

COLLEGE COUNSELLING

Sheila Gooljar is the counsellor for students with campus problems. She can be found in room 103 on the first floor. All students at some time in the academic year feel anxious, lonely, worried, unhappy, have family problems or some difficulties with exams or assignments. Sheila is in the college to help with this type of situation and her door is always open to students who need advice.

The views expressed in this magazine are the work of the individual writers and not those of the college. The contents of the publication are not intended to cause offence to any individual or groups of individuals or members of college staff or the student body. Any comments should be addressed to a member of the editorial board.