

Issue 6

Cheers!

April 2010

The Kingston University Newsletter for Study Abroad and North American Students



In this Issue:

Oxford Trip photos *
January, February and
March birthdays * Spotlight
on Scholars * Student
Essay * The Interview * A
quiz!!!!

Kingston University London



British Life and Culture class
visit Oxford, England



Elizabeth	Farrell	1	January	Takoiya	Flowers	12	February
Cameron	Heard	1	January	Suzanne	Chapman	14	February
Julie	Bowes	3	January	Lauren	Shartell	14	February
Basher	Jazrawi	3	January	Kristina	Norris	15	February
Shannon	Scully	3	January	Andrew	Harrison	16	February
Jonathon	Clinkenbeard	5	January	Stephanie	Nelson	16	February
Leia	Huggins	5	January	Jaime	Kopke	17	February
Ana	Olson	7	January	Katrina	Lockhart	17	February
Jacquelyn	Galeski	11	January	Bethany	Blackwell	19	February
Hayley	Hunter	11	January	Archie	Smith	22	February
Mike	Wade	12	January	Erin	Lee	25	February
Alcaraz	Gema	13	January	Jabez	Hammond	26	February
Caelen	Ana	14	January	Haley	Tan	26	February
Tiffany	Twilley	15	January	Ariel	Barnes	27	February
Joni	Easveld	16	January	Andrew	Morrill	28	February
Paramjit	Malhi	17	January	Vazquez Reyes	Antonio	1	March
Rachel	Matthews	17	January	Christopher	Thurston	6	March
Katie	Darnold	19	January	Lindsay	Tryc	6	March
Ebru	Oktayer	19	January	Tricia	Logan	8	March
Danielle	Deburgo	21	January	Elizabeth	Henthorn	10	March
Kathryn	Nasto	23	January	Mary	Davison	12	March
Joanna	Brodmann	24	January	Marie	Zubiate	13	March
Alexandra	Critzas	28	January	Amy	Bogroff	14	March
Katherine	Shultz	28	January	Henry	Abaatu	18	March
Julianna	Wyant	31	January	Hassan	Malik	19	March
Jennie	Fiddler	3	February	Denise	Lizana	21	March
Aman	Walia	3	February	Erin	Mcgrew	24	March
Alyza	Anderson	5	February	Jade	Copple	25	March
Jaclyn	Andberg	6	February	Krystal	Jones	28	March
Eddie	Daniels	9	February	Amanda	Linam	28	March
Brett	Jenkins	9	February	Mark	Boerneke	31	March
Catherine	Turner	9	February	Elsa	Oliva	31	March
Sarah	Kim	10	February				

Happy Birthday January, February and March!

Writing Competition!

International Students Short Story Competition
 Organised by Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts, Newcastle University
 Prizes: £1,000, £500 & £200; winners selected by Jackie Kay; best stories to be published in an anthology in 2010



Deadline: 21st June 2010
 For further information:
www.ncl.ac.uk/ncla/projects/competitions

photograph: Jim McAdam

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts (NCLA) is pleased to announce the inaugural International Student Writing Competition. The competition aims to attract outstanding work which captures the day-to-day lives of international students living and studying in the UK.

1st Prize: £1000
 2nd Prize: £500
 3rd prize: £200

Winners to be selected by award-winning writer, Jackie Kay; best stories to appear in an anthology in 2010. Deadline: 21st June, 2010

Students from anywhere in the world can enter, providing they are studying a degree course at a UK university, or have graduated within the past two years. Entrants can write about any aspect of their experience of studying abroad, such as the challenges of adapting to life in a different climate and culture, the ups and downs of 'international living', culture clashes, coping with food/cuisine in a new country, homesickness, love (or the lack of it), social lives, job hunts and struggles to make ends meet.

The winning stories and a longlisted selection will be published in a collection exploring international students' experience of studying in the UK in 2010.

For competition rules and further information about making a submission, please visit the website:
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ncla/projects/competitions/issc/>

London Calling

By Sarah Powell

Study Abroad student, School of Arts and Social Sciences



The plane starts its decent. The wheels make a loud whirring noise as the old houses and cars on the road come into view. They are the wrong side of the road. No, wait, the *other* side of the road. I have to remind myself that things will be different from here on out. There will be different accents, different driving patterns, and different food, just to name a few. The flight attendant makes a brief announcement: "British Airlines would like to welcome you to London, England. We hope you have enjoyed your flight and will fly again with us soon." Oh crap, what have I gotten myself into?

My name is Sarah Powell. I am currently a study abroad student, a foreigner, the one with the strange accent. They say that to become a stronger person, to become more independent, and to experience something of a lifetime, you must step out of your comfort zone. Well, I would have to say flying 3,548 miles from Pennsylvania, U.S.A to England, was a little out of my comfort zone. The initial reaction was obvious, I was petrified. I was afraid to meet my land lady; I mean how awkward could walking into someone's house, asking for a pair of keys, and using all of their stuff, be? And what about meeting new people? I would have to make a whole new circle of friends.

I first decided I wanted to travel the world when I was around the age of 12, when I realized that America just wasn't big enough for me anymore. Don't get me wrong, home sweet home has plenty of land to see. From cities, shopping, deserts, and hiking galore, there is a lot to be had in the good old States. But for me personally, I've been there done that. I wanted to see more. I want understand other peoples' life styles - I wanted to be that well rounded, travelled girl. And then I was provided the opportunity to go to Kingston University.

First initial reaction: Where the hell is Kingston? Second reaction: How much is all this going to cost? Third reaction: Do I really want to do this? In the six months that it took me to put all my paperwork together (passports, class schedules, flight information, 'permission to study' forms, class transfer sheets, you get the point) not once did I feel excited. I was so stressed throughout the process that I had no time to really understand what I was planning to do. And then I got the email, "Dear Sarah Powell, we would like to inform and congratulate you on being accepted into the 2009/10 study abroad program..." Oh my God, I was elated! It was no more "if I go to England" and "If I get accepted", it was finalized. I was going to England.

The victory was, however, short lived when the bills started piling in, and the paperwork kept coming, and the emails never stopped. I was back at square one. Is this process really worth it? And then the flight attendant made that announcement and my heart soared. I was in England. England! There was a queen here, and London, and Wimbledon, and Prince William and Harry (you can't forget about them). Everything came in one giant rush. Everything seemed so much better and bigger. Even the rain that was pouring down in sheets didn't bother me. Now that could have been due to the fact that I was awake the last 24 hours but I knew it wasn't.

There are things that I still cannot get over after being here a month. The fact that there is a bar on campus and if you want to grab a pint with lunch, that is perfectly fine. I come from a country where it is not only illegal to drink before the age of 21 but the campuses are "dry campuses". This means that if there is any drop of alcohol on you while you are on campus, no matter the age, you are going to get in trouble. Don't forget about public transportation. To some it may seem a hassle, but for someone like me who has to drive 10 miles into town if I want to do something, buses are a God send. Not to add there is the daily ride that has at least one crazy person on it. Those little black cabs are adorable too. The only places you can find cabs back home by me are New York City or Philadelphia, and those guys aren't half as safe or friendly.

Then there is central London itself. It still blows my mind every day, that if I get bored enough, I can take a train into central London and hang out. Now to the folks that are from around here, that may seem like 'London? Big deal'. But for most of us at home, we can only dream of going to London. Seeing Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, the Eye, can only be described as out of this world.

There are still some things I think I will never get use to. The British accent, how much shopping is easily available, the food, and lack of garbage cans (or rubbish bins), and how the girls dress at Oceana are only a few of those things. However, I don't think I could possibly love this city more. Though I have only been here a short time, I feel as though I could live here forever. Even the rain is just another quirk to this exciting town. Frankly, Kingston, if my student visitor visa did not expire, you would probably have to kick me out of this country!

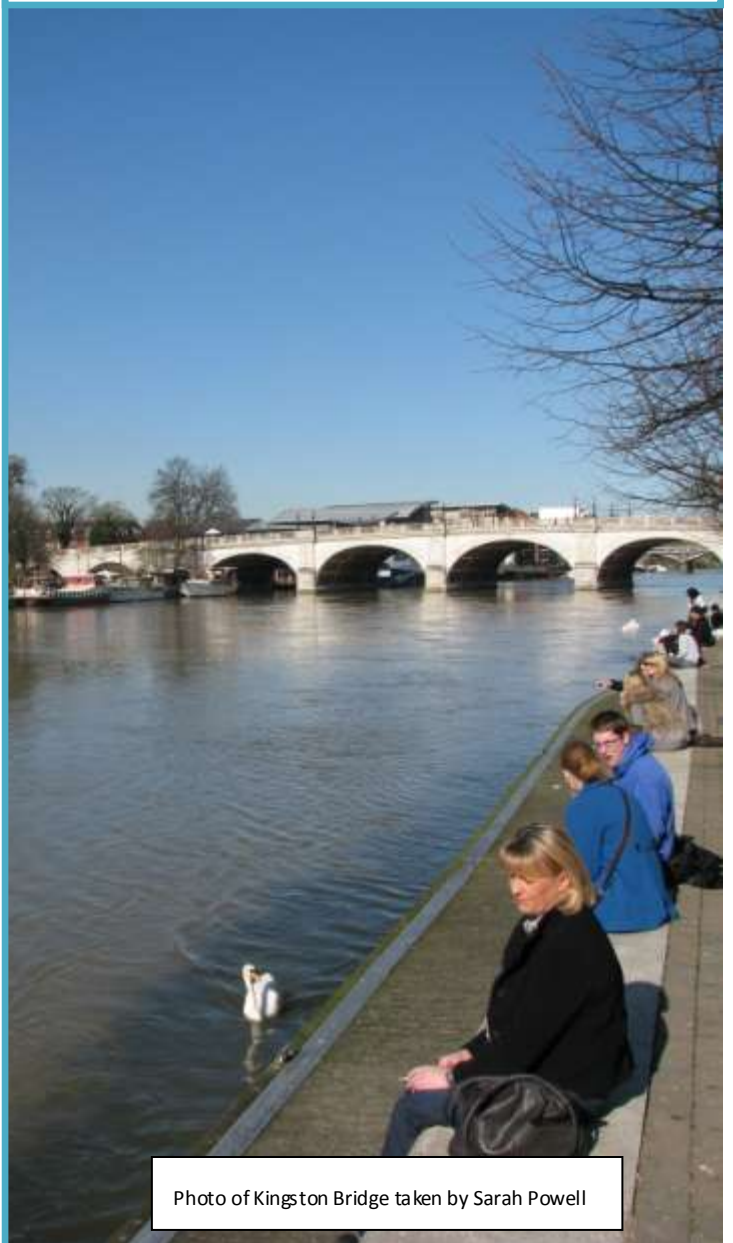


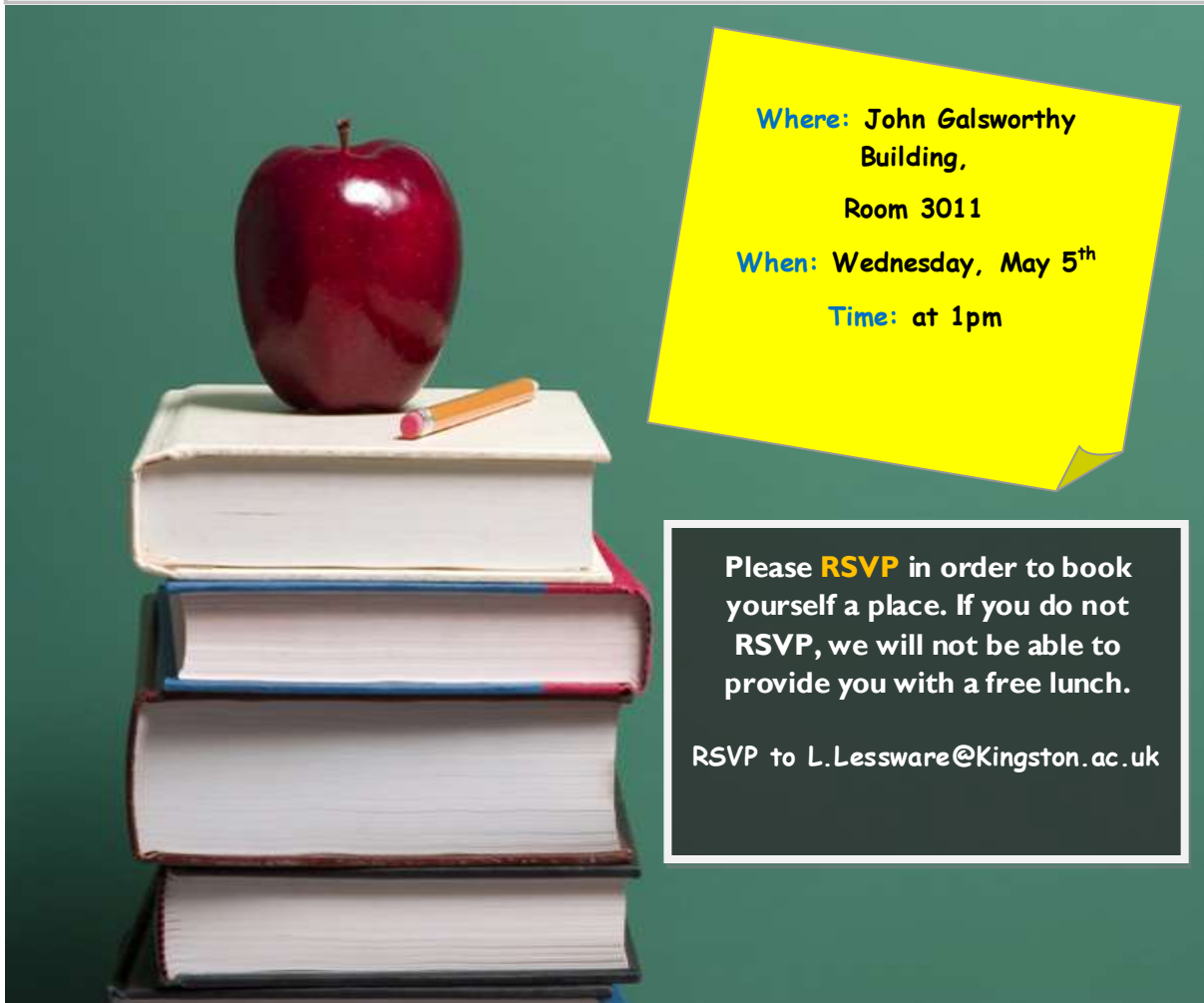
Photo of Kingston Bridge taken by Sarah Powell

Special Invitation to attend a **Transfer and Graduate Information Session**

If you are having a great time in London and are sad to be leaving Kingston, come and find out ways to return to London as a transfer or grad student!

The Study Abroad Office invites you to attend an information session to discover exciting opportunities to continue your studies at Kingston University London! Faculty will be ready to answer your questions in person.

A free lunch will be provided to those who RSVP!



Where: John Galsworthy Building,
Room 3011

When: Wednesday, May 5th

Time: at 1pm

Please **RSVP** in order to book yourself a place. If you do not **RSVP**, we will not be able to provide you with a free lunch.

RSVP to L.Lessware@Kingston.ac.uk

Kingston University Photo Competition Fall 2009

The Competition

You may submit one photo for each of the 4 categories (that means up to 4 photos in total for each student). You do not need to enter all the categories if you do not want to.

1. Kingston
2. London
3. The UK
4. Europe

Prizes

There will be 3 winners for each category (12 prizes in total)

- 1st place wins £20 cash
- 2nd place wins £15 cash
- 3rd place wins £10 cash

How to enter

- Please send each photo as a JPEG with the category and your name as the file name to: USA@Kingston.ac.uk by **May 7th 2010**
- Winners will be announced and published in the May issue of Cheers! on May 14th



THE INTERVIEW: Nataly Guisao Perez

Course: MA International Supply Chain and Logistics Management

Hometown: Medellin, Colombia and Miami, USA

Nataly says: *"I am originally Colombian, but have been living in the USA for seven years. I finished my BA in Miami, so after having lived in America, I decided to experience life at a European University."*

1. What made you come to London?

To improve my English Skills and experience the European continent in a closer way.

2. What do you like best about British culture? The politeness of speech and manners of the British.

3. What is the best part of studying in London? Meeting people from all countries in the world.

4. Who is your role model? Shakira, because is an artist focused on achievement of personal and professional goals without the need to incur to typical celebrities' scandals.

5. What is your greatest fear? Failure.

6. What is your favourite thing/place in London? The Architecture.

7. Where have you travelled (or plan to travel) to since you came to London? I've been to Bath, Windsor Castle, and Stonehenge.

8. What would be your dream job? Managing my own company.

9. What are your plans after you finish your studies in London? I am planning to stay two more years to obtain work experience.

10. How would your friends describe you? Spontaneous, energetic, positive, friendly, happy and a hard-worker.



Ways to return to London

Summer School

- ✓ 1 month Summer School (4 week intensive)
- ✓ Earn 3-6 university credits
- ✓ Accommodation and 1 month travel card included in price

www.kingston.ac.uk/summerschool

Graduate Degrees at Kingston University

- ✓ 12 month Master's degrees
 - ✓ No GRE required
 - ✓ US financial aid available
 - ✓ Tuition from £9,000 – 10,000
 - ✓ Work 20 hours while you study
- ✓ If you graduate from a degree course (undergraduate or graduate) you can apply to extend your visa to remain in the UK to work full time for up to 2 years after graduation

www.kingston.ac.uk/northamerica

www.kingston.ac.uk/international/guidance-and-advice



QUIZ

Congratulations
to **Jade Fiskaa**
for winning the
last QUIZ!

The first person to get all the correct answers and email them to herthverth@sbcglobal.net will win **£10.00!**

1. If the Liberal Democrats win the upcoming elections, the MP from Kingston upon Thames would hold which political office?
2. Name two contemporary issues being debated on the upcoming election?
3. What event was live streamed from the White House on Monday, April 5, 2010?
4. What is Ryan Air's charge for paying with a card other than visa electron or master card prepaid debit?
5. What was the UK's total public expenditure for 2008-2009?
6. What tradition do Scottish, Irish, and citizens up North of England follow with decorated eggs?
7. What is the culinary dish that Irish pubs are known for?
8. What TV broadcasters will live stream the Labour, Conservative, and Liberal leaders' debates on April 15, 22, and 29?
9. Writer Charles Dickens was born in what city?
10. Many French restaurants have the word "Chez" in the name, *i.e.*, *Chez Clement Restaurant*. What does "Chez" mean in French?

We need your contributions!

- If you would like to submit **writing excerpts** for the next issue, please email your article to USA@kingston.ac.uk
- If you would like to be **interviewed** for the next issue, please email USA@kingston.ac.uk
- If you won a **scholarship** and would like to be featured please email USA@kingston.ac.uk

In the Next Issue:

April and May birthdays * Photo Competition Winners * Student Essay's*
Spotlight on Scholars * The Interview * A quiz!!!!