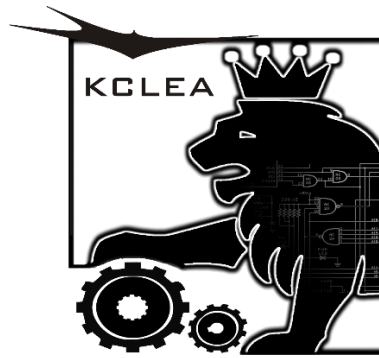




KCLEA Presidents Report for 2025

The last year has been a time of some action in KCLEA although not as much as I would have liked or the Association needs to continue to serve its members and meet its Aims.

These aims together with changes so KCLEA now includes current and recent graduates were agreed at the 2024 AGM. However the AGM did not elect a full committee – thus there was a lot that needed to be done that landed on my shoulders and while a lot was achieved there has been far more that was not done – but it did focus my mind to confirm the plan that I had established to revise the roles of the Executives on the Committee which will be voted on at the 2025 AGM, and the need for leaders in each of the streams work required to make KCLEA function in a businesslike manner as befits an learned Association with between two and six thousand members with over 400 new graduates eligible to join each year.

But focusing on our achievements –

The newsletter has continued into its second year and provides a six-weekly update on what KCLEA and Kings Engineering is doing – it is a pity that we do not hear from Kings Engineer members . Likewise, it is a pity that they do not appear on www.kclea.org.uk website – the repository of all that is KCLEA but we are working on that!

We have greater clarity on the Role of the KCLEA group on LinkedIn and are promoting followers on KCLEA LinkedIn company and have launched on Kings Connect. We see these as being the platforms that will encourage members to let all KCLEA members know what is happening in their worlds. But there is still a lot of work to be done to make these reliable over all that KCLEA and Kings Engineering does and to include members where ever they are in the world

Events have been a success – the Annual Lunch was particularly significant for me as It was 50 years since I graduated – and it was so good to welcome those I knew from my days at Kings :- including Prof Charles Turner . We welcomed as our guests the Bursary winners and the leaders of the students' societies It was good to meet the year groups who regularly convene. Sadly despite the very substantial subsidy for younger alums – there were only a few of them attending . But it was so glorious to be on the roof of Bush House and to see the Fly past before his Majesty did!

The KCLEA Lecture got delayed until July but the expertise of the presentation by Nitya Dintakurti, supported by Prof Prashant Jha was well worth the wait – and coupled by the Tour of LIHE and meeting some of those startups (and those more established like NVidia and Siemens Healthineers) who use its space showed how KCL was investing in Engineering even more than before. The Event ended with a Networking reception on the terrace overlooking the House of Lords where many new connections were made and some old friendships renewed until it got dark – it was a very good ending to the 2024/5 academic year.

The Find Out About Kings Event was not well attended – but those present enjoyed hearing from Profs Rhode and Aslanidi on how the success of BMEIS has grown and its unique position being in FoLSM and thus close links with the Medics, and on the Hospital Campuses so that there is direct connection with the Clinicians – and thus much Innovation and entrepreneurship results now assisted by LIHE. This vibrancy is transferred to the students – hence the very high Satisfaction scores year after year. These FOAK events are designed to show how KCL has changed since you graduated – And perhaps to network with memories of your time at Kings. The 2026 Annual lecture will be held on 20 March 2026 (and Record/Streamed) and the Annual Lunch on the 13 June 2026 – his Majesty's Official birthday .

KCLEA needs to have a more personalised connection with its members – individual Alums, not “the alumni” – and thanks to Keith Newton's tireless work on LinkedIn we have identified almost 600 members – but we have not the people to contact even just a few others – to encourage them to share some of their experiences etc. Likewise, we are just starting to find and contact members through Kings Connect. It would help if members would join our groups in Kings Connect and LinkedIn or at least Follow us on LinkedIn.

Work continues with the Alumni office on understand where are members are and what are they doing – both in the career and society as a whole – and to recruit members from recent and not so recent graduates.

KCL has very few Faculty/ Department Alumni Associations – and KCLEA is the only one served by the Alumni Office with no Departmental input... and it bridges Two Faculties NMES and FoLSM... thus we are unique in the ecosystem – which is a challenge!

I have been consulted about some of the initiatives that the Alumni office is undertaking – and my inputs are causing some changes and refocussing how KCL can work better with its alumni. I look forward to finding out more about KCLEA members as they fill in the Alumni Survey – we really need to know what you would like from Kings (And KCLEA)

Dr Ernest Okon has organised KCLEA members in Activities with the Student societies, mostly KCLES and WiSTEM – where he coordinated a Speed dating “with a twist” gathering in the Quad labs. It would have been better if we had had more members to meet the large number of keen and questioning students.

A few KCLEA members have also joined in the Wednesday afternoons sessions in the General Class Room where KCLES WiSTEM, KCL tech, KCL electronics and many other students drop in. It is so rewarding to meet students from so many backgrounds who are studying Engineering at Kings and to encourage them in their studies and contributions to Kings, Conferences and outreach activities but also the stories of the KCLEA Members as we, as a group, network and reflect on our current challenges in our jobs.

We are trying to see where KCLEA can fit in to link together assorted KCL initiatives:- Department /School / Faculty, the Careers/Employability service, AO mentoring & the success for Black Engineers scheme plus the work of associated Student Societies to effectively and efficiently involve our members, Engineering Alums, supporting the needs for the current students - and linking into Kings Edge for their first 2 post graduate years.! at least that leaves KCLEA to support its members in their post graduate Careers!

Following the discussion in last year's AGM we have increased the amount of made available for Bursaries and if there are sufficient good entries to increase the number to three.

been progressed much until we are closer to having a functioning operation, the costs and where they lie -and possible sources of funding – like external funding for Events and Activities as have occurred this year. (see the Treasurer's report) as well as the overall legal status of KCLEA . We confirmed with the Alumni Office that KCL hold the liability for any KCLEA event/ activity that they are involved in organising.

I was very pleased that Stylli Charalampous was elected as KCLEA Hon sec, I have had many conversations with him as these have helped shaped what has happened over the year, However a combination of a severe dose of Covid over Christmas and then increasing pressure of work has meant that he is standing down . Thus, we have yet another Position to fill and I have had to arrange and minute Committee meetings – which have perhaps been a bit irregular as a result.

So I thank the committee – and I hope that next Year I will be thanking the Executives on Marcom, Events, Membership, Activities and Liaison and those leaders who are doing the various tasks that will make KCLEA function better in all the areas it has to work to fulfil its aims and serve its members and in that I have been trying to do in the past Two years. And My thanks to John Thomson Hon Treasurer and Mike Clode & the Trustees – and David Sheriden our Auditor and to Gina and her Team at Wolfpack Digital.

I also thank various Academics, Profs Kawal Rhode, Claire Lucas and Oleg Aslanidi and Drs Tabbi Wilberforce and Naseem Ramli spring to mind – and Claire Cudby in the NMES office

Alex Groves in the Alumni Office has laid out and emailed the newsletter, assisted in booking Rooms Refreshments and Reservations , and generally “looked after Me and KCLEA “ during the year – many thanks to Him.

And finally, - thanks to my sister Ann who help the Annual Lunch keep to time and at the Annual Lecture -in fact she was invaluable as I had had a minor Eye operation that morning and thus was not seeing too well!!!

However, my vision is undimmed that KCLEA can have bright and dynamic future run by its members – it just needs far more members to “Join us and Join in” across all that KCLEA does and then they and the wide community of Kings Engineering will all benefit

Peter Weitzel
KCLEA President 23/25

8 Nov 25