

Samuel Turner – Billy Dowling-Reid Award

In January 2017 Samuel Turner began working on a new student publication at KCL *Strand Magazine*. Over the last two years *Strand Magazine* has gone from an unratified and unfunded student project to the second largest KCLSU Student Media group receiving funding from the SU and the Kings Entrepreneurship Institute. This is primarily down to Samuel and his commitment to this publication and the other members of the society. He has worked incredibly hard to welcome new members to the society and encouraging them in a wide range of roles, from writers and editors to designers and community organisers; his ability to involve everyone has seen *Strand Magazine's* membership grow from 30 in 17/18 to 204 in 18/19, an incredible achievement. Strand also won Best Development at the SPA Regional Awards for London.

Alongside creating an incredibly high standard publication, Samuel has used *Strand Magazine* to focus on student mental health. Strand's Rise – Music and Mental Health was an evening of free music, art and poetry focusing on mental health awareness and wellbeing. Supported by O2, GoThinkBig, Mind and KCLSU Samuel organized and ran an incredible event that brought together a diverse group of students to discuss and learn about an incredibly important topic that affects a huge number of students. The event was so well enjoyed that it is returning for University Mental Health Day as a festival with twelve events happening across three campuses. Rise is a testament to Samuel once again going above and beyond his role of president of *Strand Magazine* to engage and involve the whole student body in his society in a variety of ways.

Samuel is often the first student in and last student out of the media office working on Strand on his course but always available and ready to help other members of the society with their articles and projects. Even though he is now in his third and final year of an English degree Samuel continues to go above and beyond for Strand – with more articles, and events happening than ever before. Knowing that this is his final year as part of the society he created Samuel has exceeded the role requirements of presidents in order to hand the society over in the best possible way.

Samuel's commitment to the creation and continued development of Strand Magazine deserves to be celebrated, not just within Kings but nationally at the Student Publication Association Awards and Conference. Sammy's legacy will facilitate future members of Strand Magazine to explore the world of media and the many roles within a magazine, and he will be very much missed next year.