



## Remembering Sam King



*A colleague, a friend*

“I will remember Sam for her amazing ability to make everyone feel included and her fabulous sense of humour. I recall an office gathering where she was the life and soul of the party and had everyone crying with laughter, and that was just typical Sam. She made me feel welcome when I joined STEaPP - something I really appreciated and I think perhaps she didn't know how much her small gestures of kindness actually meant to me. I can't believe she's gone. Sam was a wonderful colleague and I will really miss her. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones.”

Jenny Bird, STEaPP

“I have so many memories of working with Sam. We’d compare notes on everything - TV, work frustrations, families, pets, knitting patterns, how many calories you could realistically burn from walking to-and-from work each day (Sam optimistically put this at about 500!). She brought so much heart and soul to work with her, she was a truly supportive and generous colleague who made everyone feel welcome. I learned so much from her.”

Clio Heslop, British Science Association

“It’s been very hard this last week or so since Sam died and I imagine it will be difficult for some time to come. Sam was a huge part of my working day over the last few years and increasingly, over the last year, the person who I messaged first thing in the morning, at weekends and over holidays, to report in, chat, gossip and see how she was doing. She was smart, hilarious, kind, loyal, hardworking, irreverent, cheeky, dedicated. So many words to describe her, but never enough to do her justice. Sam, I’ll remember you always. I’m so sorry this happened to you, of all people, the best of us.”

Claire Coulton, PETRAS

“I really enjoyed my time with Sam especially when out of the office as she was always my go to for a plus 1 to the film premiere we went to. The first time when I ask her and her not realizing we would be going down the red carpet. They were always special evenings.”

Robert Ebsworth, STEaPP/PETRAS

“oh Sam... you were the proper heartbeat of our department, deadpan, warm, always ready with a quip. You surprised me in the nicest possible way when you made the blanket for my firstborn. She still has it, still uses it, playing with it. I meant to tell you that because I know you'd've liked to know. But I never got the chance.

Rest easy. You are missed.”

Adam Cooper, STEaPP

“Where do I begin. Sam was like no other person I know and probably no one I will ever know. She had the most unique way of making people feel completely comfortable while also making fun of them in a very inclusive way. This could range from a nervous new MPA student to a well renowned Professor. She had charm, wit and humour by the bucket load. But what makes Sam truly unique and special isn't how funny she was it's how caring she was and the intersection of these two attributes in one person. Sam would always be the one to remember people's birthdays and mark them with sweet and simple gestures. She remembered small milestones in your life that others forgot or simply didn't think about and would always follow up and ask you about them. I don't know how she recounted it all! Maybe she had a little notebook somewhere.”

Ruth Dollard, UCL

“When I think of Sam I feel her warmth. I am so sad (and angry) to lose her. At every level she was, will always be, one of the absolute best in all our lives.”

Kate Roach, UCL

“Sam was part of my interview to check I was a good fit for the office dynamic. Thankfully I must have been alright with her, as I got the job. To get Sam’s approval is a big win for anyone, as she was a great judge of character. Sam was just genuine, what you saw, is what you got. She was very kind, funny and said things how she saw it. She had a fantastic sense of humour and I loved working and socialising her when I worked with the department. Further, her knitting skills were off the chart and I know she did some blankets etc for those who had babies, which just shows her kind, thinking of others behaviour. Words are not really enough, but I will always think of her fondly.”

Steve Morrison, UCL

“I remember Sam joining STEaPP, and followed her progress during her career at UCL. I was so terribly sorry to hear we have lost her so soon. We will remember her and her contribution to STEaPP warmly and with a smile. ”

Sara Collins, UCL

“I have such fond memories of Sam from the early days of STEaPP. She was smart, funny and absolutely committed to those around her. There were many tough times in the setting up of the department and the programmes it ran like How to Change the World, but it was always a joy to have Sam as part of the team. My heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.”

John Mitchell, UCL

“Sam, you will always be remembered by the PETRAS community, it was a pleasure to work with you, thank you so much for your hard work, friendship and fun. We all miss you. x”

Rachel Cooper, Lancaster University

“I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Sam. Although I only worked with her for a short time, she always managed to liven up the workday or meeting with her dry sense of humour or her amusing anecdotes. I distinctly remember a “two truths and a lie” where it was impossible to guess which was the lie and what was truth (there were animals and roofs involved)! My thoughts and condolences are with her family during this difficult time, and she will be missed.”

Caroline Wijnbladh, former PETRAS

“I will just always remember Sam’s laugh and kindness. How supportive she was of the team, her amazing knitting and great humour. Words are not enough to state how much we will all miss her.”

Emilie Didier, PETRAS

“My deepest sympathy to Sam’s family and friends. It was a real pleasure to meet and work with Sam. She was a fantastic colleague and a great person, and she will be greatly missed by all of us. I hope her children and the rest of the family find comfort in good memories during this difficult time. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.”

Nilufer Tuptuk, UCL

“There are not enough words to describe how saddened I am to have lost my colleague and friend Sam to such an illness in a very short period of time. I have met her back 2016 when I joined the PETRAS programme. She was the most friendliest and welcoming of all the people then, and she has been the same until her last days. She was there whenever I needed her help. Never complained, never avoided work, and she kept going and doing things, with always positive attitude and with her lovely smile. She always added personal touch to things, making them a little bit more extra special. She always kept people in mind, people should come first and not work. She always reminded me that time passes quickly and that I should make time for my young family; I will be taking her advice with me and ensure I listen to her. She was always very generous with everything she did, with her time, and sharing things with her friends and colleagues, like her uncle’s delicious flapjacks. She really cared for people she worked with; she always said things/made comments to make us all laugh :-)

I did let her know on a number of occasions that she was my “favourite” PETRAS person, and she really was. She is irreplaceable. I can keep going on writing things about Sam...

I am glad to have met her family and other friends at her service and at the gathering afterwards. I feel lucky to have met Sam and had the opportunity to work together and share worries and joys of life.

Although she is no longer with us physically, she will be in my heart and mind forever. Wherever you are now my friend, hope you are happy and got a big lovely smile on your face; you are and will be missed deeply forever.”

Halil Uzuner, Imperial College London