

VHS REF000

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: UCE Awards Congregation 1998-2002



Library Image

## Storyline

Initially an award ceremony re- Education  
Achievement Presentation – Cap & Gown

Leading on from Undergraduate to Graduate to Post Graduate  
However; Further film Presentations of Ceremonies  
Were not attended mainly by Choice  
'Been there, done that!' - and not cheap.

Education & Professional Development

## Information

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Education & Professional  
Development  
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## **‘Note to Oneself’:**

Spending a lifetime of collecting paper, (qualifications) one can reach ‘a’ conclusion, ‘It’s not what you know, it’s who you know’! (This old adage, that many will ignore, has allowed me to appreciate those that have gone before me...yes! I took notice of this at an early age and it has given me an insight to listen more to my elders carefully, well, in retrospect, it was rammed down my throat by my elders at a very early age). Even though I can consider, it is probably too late for me now especially; if I was to start out again, (as I am closer to retirement now), one gets wiser with age, or so I am told, (I knew there was a reason for Alzheimer’s, it is the mind’s way of making a ‘Will’, the difference from a normal will is that no-one else can have it)! If one is fortunate enough to have foresight in one’s youth, (rare) our elders’ words can be very valuable; as if like gold dust... so those of a younger age, bear that in mind, as you will join this club one day...

Qualifications only suggests to an employer, one can work to certain specific levels and one is not an expert by any means. Even though as a young person, leaving college or university may think they are the answer to ‘God and the Universe and are indestructible and of course, know it all! Ask yourself, how on earth have you come to that conclusion? You should take a step back, reflect to see how absurd that thought process is; Or is this just wishful thinking? Reality check:

It can take a lifetime of experiences to become proficient in only one small aspect of a chosen profession and these professions can change throughout ones career many times over, through unexpected turns of events and/or changes within technology. One needs to be multifaceted to get ‘the best crack of the whip’; this does not make things easier; hence expanding on one’s self-development with this leading to more qualifications or pieces of paper, (hence the collection over time). One also needs to choose the right topic, subjects of study, to mainly reach a professional and/or academic level and be working towards a number of personal goals, as to know when to be ready to grasp the opportunities if and when they arise.

Within this day and age, becoming an ‘expert or a person in business terms, is someone that is ‘less’ expendable’! Unfortunately; this vision is becoming less feasible into today’s society, especially when we have clowns running the show, hence employers expecting one to sell their soul, to the point of squeezing all the essence of one’s life first, only before having to let you go because, you have served your purpose and you have nothing else to offer. (Within today’s economic climate this can help with the employers cashflow, and it is a competitive employment market, failing that they can always employ a foreigner at a lower pay rate...). An employer can choose if they want you to remain on the payroll or not. The employer will expect also, any other speciality or qualification that could be seen as being useful to them, let’s say useful in terms of e.g., being prestigious to the company image and they will also expect you to come at the same price or salary as terms of employment so, one should not show all their cards in one hand straight away, only those cards relevant to the job one has applied – any other speciality allows one to negotiate during a contract renewal or for pay rises, as and when specialities are required by the employer. Negotiation ‘wiggle’ room when discussing contracts of employment is an edge, remembering if the employer has all the facts beforehand, they will own you. So; one should leave a little mystery in one’s personal employment background as appertaining to ‘all’ qualifications, otherwise an employer can be difficult and be unforgiving to the success of any positive personal outcomes. This can be a double-edged sword however; as with some jobs there may be a requirement for full qualification disclosure depending on the profession.

It can be a minefield out there to have the correct skills and to be given the positive recognition of one’s true value, it should read as an identical page, (except for those pages one wishes to keep in reserve of course, a little like double ledger or accounting) ... if there is a mismatch it can prove unfavourable to YOU! This is where one can tap into one’s reserves to add just an appropriate amount of honey to keep one’s potential employer on their toes and they will have to reconsider your worth, remembering it may just be pieces of paper, however; one has also placed many hours into study and possibly learnt something enough to pick the

appropriate subjects and this means one has met the required standards and the expectations of an examining board including one's peers. One should also bear in mind; this does not suggest; that the employer can buy you cheaply. There are other points to also consider and that is whether you have correctly identified the right study syllabus, as they do go out of vogue, trend or fashion so quickly to how they normally arrive. e.g. (Media Studies, Health & Social Care or Tourism, the government's 'wriggle' room subjects does spring to mind, correctly or incorrectly) – nothing against these topic areas, or the attributes required to fulfil the roles, appertaining to them; as they can be considered somewhat valuable to those that pursue them and of course the identified professions in question, (note: regardless of the qualifications they can also give an employer the prestige they require within the industry and this can be the bargaining chip needed, (I too, can boast I have completed a selection of the latter mentioned qualifications, I did manage to spare some time to pursue one or two listed and they can look impressive as an addition or padding to one's toolbox or CV).

I digress; I will repeat, one does need to update one's knowledge on a daily basis; as technology improves or changes daily according to company needs or requirement, usually at the faster pace than we can digest them. We can all develop our skills; we do need to hone them through practice and this becomes the backbone of experience. Someone being 'proficient' is to combine one's learning, with 'experience' as to really understand the intricacies on how certain elements fits into to the company, their 'Mission,' as well as to anticipate the required expectations into fulfilling the job objectives and goals. On the whole, to make sense of the information for practical applications. Also; to appreciate what has NOT been taught, this can be a large learning curve, mainly through trial and error on a practical level, day to day applications within the occupation(s), this experience is considered as very IMPORTANT as errors can cost a company financially, but can prove very beneficial to the employee, bearing in mind possible penalties incurred.

There is another aspect to consider when learning and this is recalling information, for me at least; this can be a 'Achilles' heel, an ideal scenario is to have a photographic memory and information to be placed in certain pigeon holes ready for instant recall, combined with the ability to make the occupation less stressful. This can be a stretch to the imagination and for most of us, like me, a photographic memory is just not there, it remains an ideal scenario and I know it will never happen for me my lifetime, unless I am implanted with some form of advanced technology, (AI) it could be possible with the speed of our daily advancements at a great cost, who knows what the future will bring?

So, what are we saying here? GSCEs, A' Levels, Degrees are fine, if one wishes to attain and acknowledge one's level of study, and does that put 'the bread on the table'? I ask; will you be able to recall the information when you need it? From my personal experience, the answer is a big NO! What does spring to mind though is: "If you have it, you don't use it, you lose it!"

Based on the quantity of qualifications one can collect in a lifetime, (for those of us with a fixation on academia) most employers, well in the public sector at least, should offer the going rate, to reflect one's accomplishments, this does not always happen as most employers, those within the private sectors want your soul at the cheapest price, if they can get a qualified person for nothing; they will execute tactics to make you feel guilty for applying for the job, at the same time selling the notion, that there is always someone that can fill the position. (Like a foreign import, It can also depend on their standards required per applicant). ('Feed them peanuts, they get monkeys', another term that spring to mind, this can be a fine balance).

An employer will ask you if you are experienced enough to fulfil the tasks and the answer to this question is usually NO; especially if one has been out of work for any length of time, or over 40 age-wise so, securing a job can become difficult, as one can be seen as being idle for the duration. For many this can be true, for many it can also be untrue and can be turned to the employer's advantage or more associated towards being an academic without practical experience even though one may have more than a school or college leaver.

It is important to keep in the 'know' of one's profession, as to project the required fundamental and practical aspects to the job via the interview stages. I know I am repeating this scenario, as I believe many that have gained the qualifications can open the door to whatever job one applies for, sorry to disappoint

those that think this is true, it is not. Some elements may emerge and seem familiar aspects will surface during the struggle to recall, (As it only depends on how one's long-term memory can retain the data, or how one's short-term memory bridges the gap to execute the data from the long-term memory, for that all important instant recall... and that process fails for the majority like 99.9% of us. To use an analogy: One can compare it to visiting a garage for a car MOT. The test certificate is normally only valid for the day of the test however; it does cover us for a 12-month period when passed, or 1 year respectively, even though the brakes of a car could fail later that afternoon, after the test. (An MOT is only valid for the day of the test in principle). A fault after the test is classified as a car deemed as unfit for the road and can be seen to be illegal or at least until the problem is repaired or rectified, this is without a further re-test. This vehicle can be seen as dangerous if unaddressed, people will still drive a car that is unfit for the road. Using the same scenario, just think, of our qualifications, many are to serve us for a life-time... (just think; there are many dangerous people out there, Doctors? Surgeons, Politicians, Judges, does this make one think)? These are only referring to those holding qualifications, what about the one's in key positions that haven't?

As for employers, let's just say there is a mix of abilities out there and can vary on a sliding scale, greatly. There are many that don't have qualifications or have taken other possible routes 'learnt on the hop', or 'by the seat of their pants,' (to coin a couple of phrases), or they had been side-lined, based on not being suitable for promotion, some through incompetence, 'dead-man's shoes, (or no one else was available to fill the role) or through missed opportunities due to life events, some may have worked their way up to gain their practical experience and have been assisting their bosses and are seen to be key, very useful, wholly dependable where they are and therefore, blocked from further advancement. One can appreciate the value of the latter candidate as they have followed a form of apprenticeship, from the bottom to the top, (many today, will not have the patience for this route; as it requires dedication to seek and identify the right openings and opportunities as and when they show themselves, more importantly, to recognise these opportunities and to be able to judge when to make a move. As for their bosses, they may need to address and recognise their employees hard work and this can be far from reality.

Self-motivation as an employee to strike out or take a personal risk is also required to accomplish one's medium to long term aspirations, as one can become just as easily too complacent or comfortable. Time is not always on our side; opportunities are missed and sometimes there is no second chance. Others, just jumping into a position without a full background knowledge is an opportunist and could also be risky based on their lack of experience, however is feasible if not foolhardy, (as we can see today with those choosing to be on the left side of e.g., politics or in the media with exploding pockets of money and ego with let's just say, dubious habits or hobbies that could get them arrested, but what is evident to most, with very little work towards nourishing their grey matter, many admitting they were educational dropouts and they suffered e.g. ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) or OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) or other unfortunate acronyms, there are many of them around, (never had them in my early life, I am envious 😊 ...)

Those experiencing these mental conditions may find themselves in some form of negative predicament. There are also those displaying the 'peacock exhibitionism' self-entitlement attitude, based on the fact their characters are, (in their opinion) so much loved and of course their acting personas are the extension of themselves and they are whom the personify on for e.g., the 'big screen', stage or TV. These individuals in question have money, so they feel their words are important above those without any form of recognition. The evidence is there for everyone to see, especially when they become the political voice for one cause or another, what did they do before? Oh! That's right! They were a glass collector, cleaned cars, served tables. (Nothing wrong with that in itself either, but it doesn't make these individuals a brain surgeon or a physicist, a manager or supervisor, if the schooling is not there, the question would be 'does one feel confident in this person and their representation to the facts?) ...

There are those individuals that are carried by personality, this can be positive or negative in terms of overinflated egos, (examples of professions as previously mentioned), they can become delusional or detached from their reality when it comes to their abilities, as they feel they can rewrite the rules to suit their circumstances, (many have done this and ended up in prison for one reason or another, or become outcasts through drug, substance, abuse, corruption and so on...) and this can affect all social classes especially when

it comes to such things as rewriting morals, outlining what can or cannot be manipulated, deleting or the cancelling of an individual, gaslight or culture, corruption, adjusting consciousness, misinformation, where things get difficult for them, or to do away everything altogether and suggesting a woke style breakdown... Many employers and in some cases employees once in a job role or position, prefer the sheep method or working within a herd control mindset. (Another reason the 'Woke,' liking the concept of Communism or as commonly known today a Socialist approach to life). As a boss, having followers; it's easier for them to control others. As an employee it can be easier just to follow, not having to face too much responsibility.

One must never underestimate those that lead via their ego, (they have an image of themselves totally different to what others may perceive them as having, they wear an invisible mask; some also have a dream, (one must point out so did; Hitler in 1939 before World War II, Putin in 2022 to name just two from a list of world leaders today), motivated by a dream, (possibly with a 'Walter Mitty,' imagination, seen with a delusional demeanour).

There are some of us with dreams and this allows for aspirations, some are seeking the ultimate golden ticket for a better lifestyle and future! We are all looking for that. (Unfortunately; the prior examples are exposed to us for all to see e.g. We only have to see our politicians today to understand this, a grabbed opportunity at someone else's expense, or the expense of the people, a Nation where do the 'people' draw the line? There's the opportunity given on the platter because someone was born into the aristocracy, whilst; for the likes of us 'Minions,' a survival mechanism or of self-preservation tactics are the order of the day. For many of us it can be a short-cut, based upon impatience or down to the short-term of office tenure and what can be done within the given time) ... These elements or the combination of all that has been mentioned; are required within the business or commercial world, it is considered as being part of the contents of one's career toolbox, where money is 'King' or classed as a 'Divinity. If a businessman suggests they are 'honest', one needs to be very wary of them, they are fooling themselves and others, or they either lack knowledge, are ignorant of the business world, or education, experience or have no moral foundation, in terms they may be delusional, or even narcissistical, for an honest businessman does not exist, no such animal! The word 'honesty' is a word chosen at random from a dictionary, it is chosen so one can feel better within oneself and suggests they have a personal conscience. If they do really believe they are honest, they will not be in business for long or to be able to get anything done, as honest rules can grey out the machinery or processes and progress for profit and gain. It is a bureaucratic red tape minefield and this does not apply to those in the know and they can and will dodge or circumvent these obstacles! Hence, we have mindless bureaucrats! ... (In this case, it is what you know, who you know and knowing those that also know, 'The old Boys Network!') The world has been pre-programmed over millennia to accept certain behaviours, rules and practices, especially for those in business or anywhere one is to make money, it started with bartering and has become a sophisticated art form to getting the right deal at the right price. The name of the game and emphasis is: 'Don't get caught out or found out, otherwise one will pay the Piper, an ultimate price, especially if you don't know anybody'... (hence we see today, bias judges, bureaucrats, the media, big tech, bankers, sources to name a few) and there will be no one in your corner, another case of learning to be streetwise and self-aware, as self-preservation or survival of the fittest becomes important and paramount.

So, what are qualifications worth to those that seek them? As previously suggested, they are just pieces of paper, with a glorified title and a name on it, limited to certain areas of professions, some may even have transferable skills, nothing more and nothing less, however; the powers that be, decide whether to give them commercial value, a little like money, (not for resale) they can be considered to be a form of currency, but with a sliding value. To an employer, they can vary and change their value according to an employer's needs; remembering the rules were written by those with 'power' and according to what an employer can get away with, concerning the job that is on offer. The first and major consideration is an employee's value and salary. Some businesses may be required to pay for the prestige of someone being 'qualified' within a particular area e.g., to meet legal requirements. On the other hand, an employer may not have any qualification themselves and it can become a situation of the employer's self-preservation in terms of: 'They see you as being more qualified than they'! They will consider you as an asset or potential competition or a threat, someone after their job perhaps?' This is a common scenario and therefore is an academic exercise

that will unofficially bar any potential employee from the job... This of course works from the very top, down as designed, unless one's face fits and you are part of their club and allowances can be negotiated or made in accordance.

I consider the following as important. To those that collect or have qualifications as if like collecting postage stamps, it is a means for one, to perhaps measure or gauge one's self-worth, personal attainment, working level, mostly for the sake of personal satisfaction of achievement, regardless of what else is on offer. If it helps one to get a job then it can be a bonus. By accomplishing certain levels, one can ascertain the effort, the time of study towards the objective, appreciating it was not just down to a fluke and one is satisfied with the result, according to one's own ability. (As long as the sliding scale is at the set level by the status quo, it can work for you in a small way, noting to the possibility of the recognition by a non-corrupt organisation for the duration, (preferably for one's working lifetime; if one is lucky!)

It can also be seen as a fair means of evaluation and recognition for a course of study accomplished. This is until one is required to update time-sensitive qualifications of course, (this process of updating, helps the aristocracy or the 'blind sheep,' the herd of the Civil Service to bump up their department coffers through indirect taxes to improve or replace unmonitored incompetence of their over departmental expenditures (one is being generous here) or if a private sponsor, an increase in their coffers, or bottom line, to also improving lifestyles, or unwarranted salary rises. We can all agree there are usually a shortfall of government funding for these varied reasons, it can also reflect politician party's' views on what value they place on qualifications as being one of many topics on the whole.

Those of us amongst the 'working classes of society or ...us Minion's!' (We should also note: There are those from the top five universities within the UK of course), they can offer places to foreign students that can also bring in wealth to government coffers and institutions, reducing spaces for potentially home-grown students that would require higher salaries after graduation, remembering that home grown talent is subsidised in some costs for courses and accommodation, this, lessening the Government Coffers and over all GDP and bottom line of the educational institutions.

This sort of shortsightedness is a 'sticky plaster' to an internal haemorrhage withing the British Education System and can be seen right across the board of Industry and Commerce to name just two of a list. Some can see it as aristocracy self-gratification gravy train for their generation and beyond if they can stretch it. There are also wealthy families in the UK that can also be cannibalised by the system in terms of a survival strategy, where necessary by certain establishments or institutions, but this is understood by those in positions of power and are aware when the situation is required for them to fall on their sword, so-to-speak in regards to protecting traditions, even though they will be kicking and screaming on the way down.

On the whole, qualifications are placed into the national consciousness or databank as being valuable, according to the trends of the day, (however, compared to other countries, courses and qualifications are issued as if like confetti in the UK, this is to help blur the lines, as to encourage further income, this is done via the establishment control on numbers and considered just as important and with the concept of 'Bums on Seats helps to quantify this idea. Quality as we once knew it, has become rare and is questionable with those having a conscience and have experienced the concept. Qualifications are to suit the trends at the time of need; such as for income, not for the employee but for the employer and they become the acceptable form of currency amongst their peers. The availability of seats and the creation of the 'Mickey Mouse' qualifications becomes a tool for the layman, it is that 'golden ticket' or piece of paper and is the potential key to 'Willy Wonka's chocolate factory', it opens a door to potential opportunity, or so one thinks, that is; if one's face fits within the organisation, those interviewing you, via or to include one's acceptance of personality and good character reports. Hopefully, to become an Umpalumpa, with the qualification or study deemed of a good standard and one can work up from floor-sweeper to teamaker, provided one does not 'rock the boat' and conforms to the unwritten rules. (Whatever they may be). During this journey, an employee can learn to also be a 'confidante', where loyalty, trust, hard work is the prerequisite and this is the expected employer's ideal. This is considered as valuable assets or attributes one is not normally taught within the syllabus; but is

seen as a pedigree perceiving a good upbringing for those with potential experience and are better informed of a full all-round understanding of life, (we refer to our elders for this and of course our parents...) These valuable attributes are considered as a fundamental foundation lesson for any new employee in to exhibiting 'character', this leads towards the increased value of the safety of the main hub of communications.' These attributions consist of: 'Trust', 'loyalty and honesty, these are the important building blocks and an employer will present the tokens of reward, such as small positive incentives i.e., 'Best employee of the Month certificate, possibly a small bonus to be spent on company products, (claimed back through the accounts) ... Why all this? The Boss does not want to experience the trepidation or repeat in history in the case of 'Julius Caesar' the 'Ides of March', receiving 'a knife in one's back', during a normal working day, does not make for a good day!

Understanding the foreseen processes that accompany the employer's protocol, can be seen to be a logical step forward, into recognising the opportunities for gains or benefits, to self and business with scope, without being in the front or on the battle lines. An individual or a group crossing an employer's path can be considered as a potential disruption, a cause for a coup, potential assassins to those holding precarious positions and this maybe a threat to those individuals in question. Some employees are seen to be holding qualifications, some can also see 'outside the box' and this too can be considered unacceptable.

To benefit further i.e., self-improvement and more so, for meeting one's 'personal goals in terms of personal self-satisfaction'. Without this, our daily lives will be miserable and soul destroying more so, than it already is. In return, qualifications do give one, more confidence and self-worth, it also gives one an ego, to pursue a dream, (possibly), to give one motivation and to turn from being an honest person into a dishonest one, albeit to consider and help outwit those without qualifications, racing towards one's bounty for better prospects and lifestyle. Let's just say it can give someone an edge no-matter how small, .... even though we can see a double-edged sword here; we can also see a familiar cycle emerging and continuing. (Some may say, 'If you can't beat them, join them', however that really depends on one's moral compass', expectations and necessities doesn't it)?

We must remember, education was not originally designed or accessible to the poor and therefore the rules have evolved to today's standards as the aristocracy require a workforce and profit to keep them in the lifestyle, they are accustomed to, offering incentives, preferably other than money or wealth. This can be seen as confusing and chaotic if one wishes to think about it. It supposed to be! It was originally created by the aristocracy, run by the aristocracy and this suggests a monopoly by the aristocracy. There is a tier system that many are unaware of, or are aware of it and just wish to ignore it by sitting in a field chewing the cud. If one has a title, lineage to the historical world and traditions, have sources of wealth, it helps to get into the top five prestigious University Colleges to learn about leadership, management, dealing with peasants, uprisings, coups and to understand strategy, by playing Chess. In return one can join the 'Old BOY's Club', to adopt the secret hand-shake and other unsociable, but acceptable pursuits, (usually with Freshers). Of course, be given, 'Association', recognised by centuries old traditions and ancestry practices by the so-called elite or shadow rulers.

As for the rest of us, we will attend the run-of-the-mill educational establishments within the inner cities that may have been given a 'token' of an honourable sliding scale title of 'university', perhaps lacking the 'hi-brow' prestige of the renowned Higher Education Establishments however; there are those that of course can see this from outside the box.... that's right, the aristocracy and scholars that keep their heads down as to not rock the boat.

For most of us; what 'Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs's of those conventional labels, on average does not get from all this, is any guarantees of success or even allowed to have ghost writers to fulfil their assignments written for them. Those that do, we can see the results of this poor judgement via the aristocracy or the so-called 'elite' and to what we see as a mess in today's society, concerning Governments and Business, starting from the top, down...

All in all, we can say for the rest of us, our journey is based mainly on luck and having the appropriate tools for dealing with life and opportunities with the foresight in reading future events. Other bonuses can be from our parent's style of upbringing in term of a positive environment, the 'silver spoon in one's mouth' aspect is desirable, wealth, opportunity and social networking again; it is all mainly down to luck or birthright. (One needs money)! As the majority of the time, money talks and there begins the cycle again! Most students if they want an education, they end up with the eye watering debt or student loan to pay back. To whom? Those that run the system of course, i.e., the government, aristocracy, the elite.

Some, may not have sympathy, however; some aristocracy can also fall from grace from time to time, just like the media socialites. We are back to: 'it is not what we know, it is who you know!' The idea is not to get caught out. Directed opportunities from those people that one knows with influence, the higher the better! However; one will owe them...most likely 'Big Time if one calls for that 'get out of jail card!' Generosity is rarely free.

Life is seen as being on a Battlefield, (The World Market') the swords are scabbard or sheathed, (as it's all virtual nowadays isn't it...depending on what side of the planet you're on East or West?) the results can be the same as in terms of outcome, the battle is subtle and the fight is based on the art of manipulation and controlling the mind of others. In some cases, the less the people know the better, as knowledge is 'Power', so selling meaningless style courses to the unenlightened can be beneficial in many instances. A knife in the back, from most narcissists is seen as part of the challenge. At one time it was down to a good game of chess, using strategy and following the 'Marquess of Queensberry Rules', (remembering to whom created them in the first place to protect their own ...) today, it is a tick box exercise, 'You've sank my Battleship scenario!' Perhaps a reflection of today's graduates and post graduates or it can be contributed to the deterioration of the education system, or both, led by the 'powers' that be, politicians or should we say the bureaucrats with their fingers on the button controlled by the 'Puppet Masters' some high ranking to whom had ghost writers during their times of being a student, with their general lack of abilities, socialite mentality, Karma or some form of justice will catch up with them perhaps? (We are seeing this change today; our eyes are opening albeit slowly). On the whole, this of course will no doubt lead towards another collapse of civilisation as in a long list of those preceding us. We still have the threat of World War III? Politicians, aristocracy, they may consider giving orders whilst sitting behind a desk and behind the lines, but there is one thing we should question and that is their education and experience and fundamental values because they are today coming across as if our pieces of paper are as worth anything, it is just like a piece of paper, floating in the wind or tomorrow's chip paper.

NGW 22.08.23 Food for Thought!