

**Royal College of Science Union Report**  
*A Note by Jad Marrouche, RCSU President*

The RCSU RAG week contribution:

This year's RCSU RAG effort was easily the most successful in recent times with over £1000 raised for the RAG charities.

- Over 300 staff and students donated generously to charity to enjoy **tours of The Queen's Tower**. This included a very kind anonymous donation from a bell ringer.
- With our very own James Field dressed as a woman in the name of charity, **Blind Date** was another great success, with two couples sent off for a romantic date.
- **The Lecturer's Quiz** pitted lecturers from Physics and Chemistry along with members of the RCS-exec (who got booed for some reason!) ending with over £300 raised for charity mainly through an unprovoked pie frenzy attack on myself (whoever done it, watch out...)
- In the name of charity, RCSU answered the call of duty, and organised this year's **Hit Squad**. We enjoyed pie-ing James Fok repeatedly...

Science Careers Fair

The RCSU played a key role in this year's college run Science Careers Fair, through choosing which companies were featured, to promoting the event and helping run it on the day. I think this is another great example of faculty unions collaborating with college to achieve good results for students.

Parties

The RCSU has organised far more parties this year; particular thanks go to James Field for leading on these.

**The Exchange** saw 300 RCSU students joined by over 300 from Malvern House Language School at Prohibition in an awesome party.

**The End of Term Party** is scheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at Rumi Bar. I hope to see as many Council Members there as possible, dressed as their favourite Super Hero (I'm going as a pimp). Engineers should be warned that sadly we haven't been able to arrange for mince pies, but there will be free drink available.

Centenary Launch

RCSU played a very visible role throughout the centenary launch day by organising tours of the Queen's Tower. About 200 people enjoyed striking views across London. Thanks to Alex Guite for his lead on this project.

Office

Despite my last report to Council, the office issue turned into a saga, as College's Space Executive decided that the walkway space we were originally promised, was too good to give away. Following a petition signed by over 300 people, an imaginative protest outside the faculty building, and behind the scenes lobbying by John Collins and myself we convinced College that the best use of the space would be to serve students. Thank you to all those students who signed our petition and joined our protest: you had the audacity to show that the student voice still matters!

We had our official ribbon-cutting on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March (known as RCSU day hereafter) with Prof. Sir Peter Knight and Simon Higman in attendance. Many thanks for all those on the RCS-exec and Ben Harris who helped me clean up in time.

Centenary Science Challenge

One Word: **Audacious** (Alex Guite didn't make me choose this word)

This is the biggest thing we've done this term. In fact, one of the biggest things we've ever done. Over 100 entrants took part in the Imperial competition, with their thoughts on what would be the most significant advance within the next hundred years. Congratulations to Naaman Tammuz, winner of the first prize of £2500, an Apple Macbook, a day shadowing Dr. Roger Highfield and a 6-month subscription to New Scientist. Significantly, this year's Science Challenge contained a major outreach element, with over 180 schools taking part in a separate category with a chance to win £1000 and an iPod. We attracted significant sponsorship for this competition and a distinguished panel of judges composed of over 60 Imperial academics, and a final panel of Lord Robert Winston, Dr. Simon Singh MBE, Dr. Roger Highfield and Dr. Raj Persaud. I would like to thank Shiv and the Outreach Office for all their help, and especially Ray, Flo and Dan for their tireless work and support.

It was great to see that almost 50% of entries came from postgraduates, pointing a way forward for faculty unions to engage with this section of their constituents.

We received a flurry of positive comments from very senior members of College staff who were visibly shaken by the enormity of what had been achieved in such a short amount of time.

#### The Ritz

Two words: **'nuff said'**

This was a great way to celebrate the end of this year's Science Challenge and the first birthday of the RCSU.

#### Paint Balling

After 5 months of diligent preparations by the CGCU-exec, we were honoured to be a part of City & Guilds primary event of the year, (a close second to the Mince Pie Party) the interfaculty paint balling. However, due to circumstances beyond the CGCU's control (a lack of mince pies), this event had to be postponed twice. In the end, the two Unions drew with a score of 3-3 after 8 games. Fun!

#### Football

The very successful football league saw 16 teams compete in a series of Wednesday afternoon matches. The final is tomorrow (Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>).

#### Elections

Nominations are closed and the elections are underway, with most positions contested. The returning officer is RCSU Honorary Secretary Emily Lines.

#### RCSU day (Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March)

To celebrate what is now an annual tradition (starting this year), a number of key events were scheduled for this noble date.

- Office opening
- Science Challenge Grand Final
- Ritz party
- In parallel with the CGCU President James Fok's visit for lunch with the The Worshipful Company of Carpenters to present details of his Union's activities, I met with my mechanic to show him what I'd done to my motorbike and share with him some mince pies I got from the CGCU's Mince Pie Party. I'm pleased to hear that James' presentation was well received and that The Worshipful Company of Carpenters is happy to continue their financial support to the CGCU. My mechanic reported to me that he was happy to continue receiving my money in exchange for performance upgrades.

The JM

*Accept no imitations*

12/03/07

Council  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2007

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