

## Royal College of Science Union Autumn Term Report

A Note by *David Charles*, RCSU President

### **Introduction**

This first term has proved to be extremely successful for the RCS. Our core activities this year have exceeded all expectations and have been delivered in a timely and efficient manner. Moreover, we have successfully engaged with our student body. Over the course of the previous term we have endeavoured to provide our students with a number of outlets for the talents of our students, to provide them with opportunity to enhance their employability and to try and invoke a sense of community by providing regular forums where our students to interact. We intend to build on the successes of our student initiatives whilst widen awareness of the Union and continue to meet the needs of our students. It is in this way we help to further the goals of the Union invoking a culture of excellence through representation and providing facilities to enhance their time at Imperial.

### **RCS Events**

Our year started with a bang, over 300 people attended our cocktail evening **The Gathering**. The free drinks on offer combined with an amazing atmosphere provide a great opportunity to chat and mix. As the first major event of the year it was the perfect way for our fresher's to mix with one another and to provide a great opportunity to meet up and make friends. Likewise, it provided students with an introduction to the RCS. The great attendance and organisation. The event was also financially successful due to sponsorship. A series of events followed including two very successful pub crawls, bar nights and a host of different activities from our clubs and societies. This was subsequently followed by **The Masquerade Ball**, which was an extremely successful night. Attendance was astonishingly high and the night was received well by the students who attended. The dinner was well attended and entertainments were fabulous. I would personally like to thank all of members of council who came. The year was rounded off with a big **Christmas party!** The Union was packed, all three bars offering a pound-a-pint all night. Likewise, free mulled wine and mince pies were offered. More importantly students got to sit upon "Santa's" knee. Hundreds of students turned out and had a great time. I would like to thank Robin Pitt and Malcom Macpherson and of course Katya-yani Vyas (RCSU VPA) for making this event possible and being awesome.

### **Book Fair**

This years book fairs have been a great success and it appears that this is a facility that our students appreciate. A heavy campaign beforehand had us receive approximately twice the number of books that we received last year. Given the fresher's and older years alike want to save a few quid on books its unsurprising that students were in fact queuing outside of the door in order to get in. Once inside our students received a free copy of November graduate special edition new scientist magazine. The average saving on each book worked out to about £12. The majority of books have been sold and almost £1000 has been taken in so far. However, due to demand and the interest of students we have decided that a proportion of the unsold books online in order to extend the service. So now you can go online and purchase books from us. A very big thank you to Mr Oliver Rogers for all of his hard work.

### **Skills Session**

One of the key issues that we have to tackle this year is ensuring that our graduates get into jobs that they want with companies that their interested in. In order to get passed those critical interviews we have been attracting companies to run sessions with our students. We ran a **business awareness session** and a session dedicated to how to break into consultancy. These sessions were followed by two **informal networking sessions**. These sessions had two roles in the first instance it allows our students to practice soft skills but also them to pick up useful contacts.

Council  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Were following this up with two new skills session beginning in early February. These skill sessions will be open to all scientists and engineers and everyone else is welcome too. It is hoped that these sessions will enhance the C.V.'s of our students and will be a perfect medium to further our goal enhancing our student's education. I would like to thank Mr Andreas Esau.

### **Regalia**

Our regalia has been order and should be arriving soon. Given that there is a lot of interest in **RCSU hoodies** these will be put online as soon as they arrive. Other small items of regalia will be bought and sold in the office and online. Over the term we will be handing out a few RCS branded freebies. So look out for us and our product all over Imperial in the very near future.

### **Media**

Two issues of Broadsheet have been produced this term and as ever they have been of an extremely high calibre with a good number of contributors. The editor has worked hard to build a network of regular writers who write on aspects of science, university life who report the many exciting adventures of the RCS. Issues have been distributed to all buildings and to students through the departmental representatives. Broadsheet is an important method of communication and recording our activities so our intent is to distribute the few remaining copies. I like to thank Miss Tina Flanagan for all her hard work editing, writing and distributing.

The website has gone from strength-to-strength and has been regularly updated. It has come in useful for publicising our events and activities but has recently being used to emphasis our online products in an effort to maximize our appeal. Keeping the website up-to-date and adding new features has been the main work going on through out the term. This year for the first time ever we have a visual link to broadsheet from the front page. I would like to thank Mr Marc Coury (Publicity and Communications) and Mr Oliver Rogers. The new science challenge website has been completed you can check it out at <http://sciencechallenge.org/>.

We have been publishing a regular email newsletter with the aim of keeping all of our students aware of what we are up to. So far the email newsletter has proved extremely useful, it keeps people up-to-date with out us having to spam them. So far the newsletter is quite basic but has been rapidly becoming more complex over the course of the first term. We aim to continue its development and hope to offer a variety of interesting content.

### **Science Challenge**

All the preparations for Science Challenge have been made. The **launch event** will be held in the SAF in Lecture Theatre 1 at 6pm. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Lord Robert Winston. I can not reveal many details but the overall winner of the Imperial category will win a £5000 cash prize! You are all invited to attend, as one of the biggest events the Union and one of the most obvious ways that the Union demonstrates its effectiveness to college. Most of the senior college figures will be there so it would be great to see the senior Union figures.

### **Thank you**

I like to thank my executive for their dedication and support they have been a joy to work with.