

ICU Media Group

Imperial College Union Media Group

Report: Autumn 2012

Media Chair: Joseph Letts

Media Treasurer: Slobodan Radosavljevic

Media Secretary: Alexandra Nowbar

IC Radio: Aislinn Hayes

Stoic: Jonathan Pratt

PhotoSoc: James Dunn

Magazine (A Global Village): Claire Roseren

Felix: Tim Arbabzadah

Podcasting: Charles (Meredith) Thomas

Media Group

Media group has had a good term so far. We have seen a 15%+ increase in memberships since last year, with strong increases from A Global Village and the new Podcasting society. We also collaborated with the Union to clear an excess of waste from our rooms, utilising both the Waste Amnesty Day in October and organising a WEEE collection with Guy Foley from college.

Media Exec

The Media Exec had no income or expenditure during the last term. 3 Management Group meetings were held during the term and a new Media Treasurer was elected in November.

IC Radio

Statement of Service:

Imperial College Radio serves the primary purpose of providing facilities, equipment and training to allow our members to produce and broadcast radio shows. IC Radio aims to support an environment that promotes a community based around radio production and broadcasting. As a member station of the Student Radio Association, we encourage our members to attend and participate in the National Student Radio Conference and the Student Radio Awards, where IC Radio has had a prestigious record of success in the past. Further to supporting education in radio and media production, we also offer facilities for recording bands and musicians, and opportunities to review live gigs, tracks, and conduct interviews with any bands that approach us as a London-based radio station.

Daily Activities

We achieved full membership in mid-November, and are continuing to grow as more people join up to do radio shows and get involved. All members have attended, or are to attend, at least one of our frequent training sessions. We have a near-full broadcasting schedule, with solid programming slots booked every weekday evening, most lunch times, and throughout the weekend. Our live productions sessions have been in full swing, with at least six fully recorded since the start of term, and our music team continue to attend gigs and interview bands regularly. Our technical team has been particularly busy adding a number of new features to the website, including a news section, blog, and comprehensive music review page. We also had great success in clearing out and reorganising our studios in conjunction with the Union waste pickup.

Events & Awards

Our annual SGI-funded Beer & Biscuits welcome event was held to great success in the third week of term, whereby the committee welcomed new members and demonstrated our activities in a social setting. IC Radio was also proud to host the National Student Chart Show on the 4th of November, which was broadcast to student radio stations nationwide via the Student Radio Association. We also attended the UK Student Radio Awards on the 8th of November with a table of nine IC Radio representatives, where IC Radio alumnus Jen Whyntie was nominated for and won Bronze for Best Speech Programming. She also won the Kevin Greening Award for Creativity on behalf of the station, a category whose entries are judged from the entire pool of SRA entries for the year. In mid-November we applied for and secured RBS Enterprising Student Society Accreditation (ESSA) to gain eligibility to enter their cash-prize awards, and official certification from the ESSA.

Advertising

We recently promoted the station in Felix with an "IC Radio Special", and our team is currently organising committee-led jingles workshops throughout the term for members to produce their own promotional material. We have also collaborated with ICU Cinema to provide the pre-feature entertainment, creating specially planned radio shorts to broadcast before the films. We also recorded a free promotional jingle for charity group TeachFirst to broadcast during our programming. Currently we are running a giveaway promotion with Aer Lingus to award one listener with free return flights on their new route from London Gatwick to Belfast. Once our IC Radio SRA winner has received her feedback from the judges, we plan to promote our success in the Imperial College Union website (similar to last year's promotion) and on our own website.

Finance

Despite an outstanding debt at the end of last academic year for mistaken telephone charges, IC Radio is currently debt-free and net funds remain in the green. Our request last year in November 2011 to disconnect all IC Radio telephones had been submitted and approved, and while we have reclaimed charges owed to us for charges incurred after one line was disconnected, we are still waiting for confirmation that all other lines have also been disconnected. A long-standing Harlington claim from IC Radio alumnus John Prestage was approved and returned to him in October. We are currently trying to discover the status of the leftover Harlington funds and whether we are approved to spend them or not. In conjunction with the Jazz & Rock society, we sold and disposed of an old silver drum kit and put the funds towards the purchase of a new kit for recording, which we have yet to buy.

Our significant SRA ticket invoice has been paid for, with SGI funds procured from the sale of tickets, additionally subsidised with member subscription funds, but while the invoice had all necessary details to reclaim VAT, we have yet to receive confirmation of the VAT reclaim from Club Finances. We have also received an invoice for equipment repair dating from 16/6/2011 – while we are sure that the repair did indeed take place, we are currently attempting to contact the supplier to verify the payment status of the invoice, due to its outdated nature. If confirmed, our equipment budget will be more than sufficient to cover this invoice.

STOIC

Statement of Service

The Student Television Of Imperial College (STOIC) society make high-quality television programmes that we broadcast on our website, and on our televisions in the JCR.

We will:

- *Produce high-quality and original television programmes*
- *Keep an up-to-date broadcast stream on our website*
- *Produce a weekly news show to inform students about events around the college*
- *Broadcast the Union Elections live in a fair and unbiased manner*

Finance

With regards to our finances we've spent £245 on STOIC branded hoodies and t-shirts, £27 on website hosting and around £50 on various filming costs. We currently have £575 in SGI and £840 in grant. We have around 50% membership, which we will aim to increase over the course of the year.

Daily Activities

This term we have continued our regular news show as well as developing new shows. Our first foray into documentary style programming came with a trip to the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu where we did a report on the James Bond cars over the last 50 years. In Freshers' Fortnight we went to all the large Union events and filmed them, edited the footage overnight and had the shows up each morning on our website. In addition to this we have already filmed footage for two shows; 'How Hard Can it Be?' and 'Metric Moments'. Plans are currently being formed for various new shows as well,

such as 'Cooking with Frank', 'Dissection with Frank', 'Street Science' and 'Labs'.

PhotoSoc

Statement of Service

PhotoSoc will:

- +Provide and maintain a working darkroom for those interested in film photography*
- +Hold weekly meetings to promote discussion of photography +Run a variety of trips in and around London*
- +Organise annual exhibition featuring members' work*
- +Lend photographic equipment, given good reason, to members*
- +Run tutorials in a variety of photographic areas*

Finance

What have you been doing with the Union grant you've been allocated this year?

Continued running and upkeep of the darkroom - We have moved to a different chemical system for colour developing, as well as continuing to provide chemicals for B&W developing and printing. We have continued to purchase film in bulk to sell to our members at a reduced rate.

Equipment purchase and upkeep – We have purchased a small number of film cameras for our members to borrow if they are interested in film photography, this purchase is to further a small collection already held after a lot of interest was expressed. We have also bought a new lens for our medium format SLR with the intention that this camera will be more widely used. We have purchased new bags for our digital SLR kits so that they are less likely to be damaged when on loan to members.

What, and how much, are your other sources of income and what do you spend these on?

Darkroom membership is charged at £11 per member, for those who wish to use the darkroom. This means that we can provide additional services and facilities, such as photographic paper and alternative printing processes, and keep the darkroom, and its computer, in working order.

Any problems you've been having e.g. finance problems, equipment troubles etc.

Nothing major; issue with late returns of equipment that we make available to members but new policy is in place to rectify this.

Daily Activities

Any exciting trips, tours and socials you've undertaken or planned.

Trip to Battersea Park Fireworks, which we subsidised tickets for, as well as weekly photowalks in and around London, including a recent early morning trip to Richmond Park. We also took part in NUPS London PhotoHunt with over 20 other photographic societies from all across the country.

We intend to take a tour to Iceland following last year's failed plan. This tour will be undertaken at the end of March 2013.

Magazine (A Global Village)

Statement of Service

The journal offers a unique opportunity for Imperial College students, academic staff and external experts to develop articles linking innovation in science and technology to policy, politics and economics for a broad readership both within the College and beyond.

In particular, the editing process enables student authors to enhance their research and writing skills, whilst academics have the chance to communicate their research to the College, hence encouraging engagement in global issues amongst the Imperial College community. In addition, the editorial team benefits from gaining valuable transferable skills including editing and design, PR, fundraising and project management.

The journal is published once a term, with a print-run of 3,000 copies per issue. Two more editions are to be published for this academic year (January and June 2013).

Apart from the journal itself, the team also hosts diverse events and conferences throughout the year. We strongly believe that this project is key to promoting Imperial College as not only a leader in scientific excellence, but also a global centre for translational policy-making.

Finance

The society's total budget for the academic year 2012/2013 averages £6,000. This includes the printing costs for the three issues of the journal (about

£1,800 per issue with a print-run of 3,000 copies each), as well as the catering costs for the events and conferences to be held throughout the year (approx. £150/event). The major costs the society has had since October 2012 were the funding for the autumn edition of the journal (Issue 9), which amounted to £1,885. The Union grant (£1,385) was used to cover most of the printing costs. We relied on the contribution of some of our sponsors (The Boston Consulting Group and Teach First) to cover the remaining part.

Leadership

Over the past academic year 2011/2012, an editorial team composed of 7 undergraduate and postgraduate students was in charge of all aspects of the publication, including editing, design and layout of the journal, financing, PR and event organisation.

The team has also been running an editorial leadership programme throughout the academic year 2011/2012 - to be pursued over the next issues of *A Global Village* – aimed at preparing new team members for their new roles as the founding members of the journal graduate from the College.

Daily Activities

Two major panel discussion events took place during the first and second terms, tackling African development and Cyber security, respectively. Both events attracted over a hundred students – both from Imperial and beyond – as well as external visitors from leading organisations.

In addition to having gained increasing attention within the College - *A Global Village's* readership now counts individuals ranging from first year undergraduates to high-profile academics – we have maintained an active mailing list of more than 1,000 students including those based at UCL, King's College, LSE, LSHTM, and City University, aimed at inspiring and continually involving individuals with interest in global issues.

In the long term we expect *A Global Village* to make a meaningful contribution to dialogue and debate towards science-related policy issues in order to inspire a new generation of global innovators.

Felix

Report not received.

Felix has generally continued as per normal, although it is waiting for a few outstanding invoices from summer. On Dec 2nd, the Annual Felix Dinner was held in the Union.

Podcasting

Finance

Podcasting has made an application for a Harlington Grant.

Operation/Continuation

Podcasting was a new society formed at the end of last year. Although they have achieved their membership quota they have not had a great turnout. Due to lower than expected interest PodSoc had a very high chance of becoming dormant. There is some chance of Podsoc becoming a part of Stoic, and talks are currently underway with both society chairs.

It is the Media Group Chair's personal view that podcasting would be beneficial for Imperial students, whether as an individual society or as a joint venture between Radio and Stoic. As a university of Science, Technology and Medicine, Imperial is in a very good position to produce a strong output of student driven Internet media, whether focused on popular science/outreach or more technical output. Podsoc has had some interest from the Science Communication course and have already produced a professional quality video available on their YouTube channel "[ICUPodcasts](#)"