

## **Royal College of Science Union Report**

*A note by RCSU President – Plabon Saha*

### **Freshers Fair**

We had our most successful freshers fair to date. Our giveaways included sweets, lanyard, notepads, key-ring condom cases with NHS approved condoms and sports bags. We also ran a virtual wheel of fortune for our members with premium prizes such as Ball tickets, Mugs, Pint glasses, shot glasses, Scarves, Drink tokens and USB sticks. We hope to continue the good reception we have received from Freshers fair now that we have the CGCU mascots in our hands.

### **Made in Chelsea Pub Crawl**

The MIC pub crawl this year features a slightly different route compared to last year's and will end at the cocktail bar JUJU's on King's Road. Pub crawl t-shirts have been ordered and were given out at freshers fair and will be given out at the pub crawl.

### **RCSU Bookshop**

The second-hand book sale will be held on 04/10/2013 and will take place on Sherfield Foyer.

### **Tea Party**

Given the change in the student populus towards alcohol, we will be hosting a completely free non-alcoholic event in the form of the RCSU Tea Party. Free tea and scones/cakes will be provided and the event will take place in Union Activity Space 2 on Monday 7 October. If this is received well, we'll look to run more events like this in the future.

### **Autumn Ball**

The Autumn Ball this year will be held at Ruby Blue in Leicester Square. Tickets are priced at £12 and include 3 free double mixers. We will also have a nitrogen ice-cream cart available with four different flavours for the first 200 entrants to the venue.

### **RCSU Buddies Bar Night**

We'll be holding a family bar night at the Union Bar on 10/10/2013. There are more free drinks on offer for people who come in with their families. We hope to use incentives like this to strengthen the mums and dads scheme across the department.

### **Website**

The RCSU website is currently being completely re-designed by Philip Kent. We hope to have it up and running in the next few weeks.

### **RCSU Handbook**

Due to Broadsheet Editor, Keir Little's resignation, ex-Broadsheet editor Philip Kent has kindly designed the handbook this year which has been well received by freshers.

### **Officers unable to take up their role**

Tanya Gupta, the elected events officer was unable to take up her role. Guillaume Trojani, who came second behind her in the Big Elections 2013, was appointed to the role by the RCSU Exec committee on 27/09/2013.

Although, the Broadsheet Editor's role is currently vacant we have several members helping out with the issue. We would look to appoint the role as it is a minor one and have almost finished our search for a full time editor.

### **RCSU Science Challenge**

Preparations for the RCSU Science Challenge are going very well ever since the Science Challenge Chair role was created last year. The venue for the final has been booked for 10/03/2014 and the launch is due to be held at Imperial College on 03/12/2013. Lord Winston has been appointed the Science Challenge Ambassador in a "Super Judge" role. Two judges have been confirmed and we are in the process of finding two more. We would look to push publicity for the event in mid to late October.

### **RCSU Sport**

We are currently looking to revive RCSU Sport clubs, particularly football and rugby. We would like to re-ignite some of our old rivalries with CGCU.

An inter-departmental football league is currently in the works.

### **UG Colloquium**

The UG Colloquium is something that started last year in Maths. Each week, a student gives a presentation in a lunch time on a topic of their choice or a research project they have done. This was successful last year and there is scope for rolling this out across all departments.

We are looking to work with the faculty and individual departments to make this happen.

### **Science Careers**

We have raised concern with the faculty that science careers are not publicised enough. Following a meeting with the Careers Service Director Elspeth Farrar and Graduate School Manager Laura McConnell, it was decided that the RCSU will be flagged when a science careers opportunity comes along. This way we will be able to cater the publicity specifically to our students.

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Concern was also raised regarding the number of UROP places and I have spoken to Adrian Hawksworth, Assistant Registrar regarding this. It was decided that this will need to be pushed for individually by departments and there is a need to make sure staff are more willing to take students on UROP or decline in a pleasant manner. Funding for UROP is also under the scrutiny and we will look to work with individual departments to see if a minimum funding level for UROP can be set. We understand that not all UROP places can be funded but we are looking to increase the amount of funding students receive in order to get them interested in science.

### **RCSU Management Group**

Two MG meetings have already been held and the management has helped to train the DepSocs in financial matters. The Vice-President of Operations (Dongwhi) and MG treasurer (Victoria) have been very helpful in making sure the DepSocs are run efficiently and are able to secure sponsorships. This year every DepSoc under us has managed to secure sponsorship and some have even beaten their previous year's total.

### **RCSU Oktoberfest**

We are looking to run an Oktoberfest event at the Union Bar this month and are currently in contact with the Venue Manager in regards to the possible importation of guest German Beers. The event will be run in conjunction with EEESoc to minimise financial risk.

Finally, a big thank you to my committee this year who has been ever-so-helpful to get us to a fantastic start this year.