

## **Community Action Group Report for CSPB June 2015**

Prepared by Michael Chung, CAG Chair ([cag.chair@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:cag.chair@imperial.ac.uk))

### **1. CAG Exec Committee**

Chair: Michael Chung

Secretary: Swetha Rambhatla

Treasurer: Huong Vu

### **2. CAG CSPs**

There are a total of 23 CSPs under CAG Management Group:

- CAG Activities for Children with Disabilities (767)
- CAG Avicenna Project (777)
- CAG Bike Users Group (754)
- CAG Coppafeel (779)
- CAG E.quinox (624)
- CAG El Salvador (762)
- CAG Enactus (455)
- CAG Geology for Global Development (782)
- CAG Global Brigades (761)
- CAG Imperial Cooperative (778)
- CAG Interact (456)
- CAG Kenyan Orphan Project (763)
- CAG Pint of Science (781)
- CAG Project Nepal (772)
- CAG Raincatcher Imperial (770)
- CAG RED (783)
- CAG Robogals (784)
- CAG Soup Run (765)
- CAG SSAGO (771)
- CAG Student Action for Refugees (776)
- CAG TEAM Students (773)
- CAG TedX (780)
- CAG Women in SET (291)

### **3. CAG Colours**

It has been the CAG Chair's focus to restore CAG Colours this academic year. The idea was first introduced to the groups at November's MG meeting and the concept was well received. The new standing order, including the changes, was passed at CSPB and February and Colours were awarding to the following volunteers this year:

#### CAG Colours

<b>Name</b>	<b>Project</b>
Erik Episkopou	Global Brigades
Gloria Rosetto	Raincatcher Imperial
Jerome Tan	Raincatcher Imperial
Kai Ni The	Interact
Laura Sanmiguel Gimeno	e.quinox
Leonardo lalongo	e.quinox

#### CAG Outstanding Contribution Award

<b>Name</b>	<b>Project</b>
Bethany Evans	Team Up
Erika Plata	Soup Run
Ker Farn lee	Enactus Imperial
Kieran Plissonneau	Imperial Co-op
Anusha Vijeyaratnam	Enactus Imperial
Zi Gng	Raincatcher Imperial

CAG Project of the Year: El Salvador Development Project

**4. Finance Overview**

	Grant	SGI	Harlington	IC Trust	College	Total
CAG Avicenna Project (777)	0	22.61	0	0	0	22.61
CAG Bike Users Group (754)	0	6,191.25	0	0	0	6,191.25
CAG Coppafeel (779)	0	12.51	0	0	0	12.51
CAG E.quinox (624)	0	26,680.59	0	251.7	452.36	27,384.65
CAG El Salvador (762)	153.52	3,507.05	0	0	0	3,660.57
CAG Enactus (455)	181.92	3,288.05	0	0	0	3,469.97
CAG Geology for Global Development (782)	0	116.15	0	0	0	116.15
CAG Global Brigades (761)	0	256.48	0	0	0	256.48
CAG Imperial Cooperative (778)	0	161.75	0	0	0	161.75
CAG Interact (456)	0	36.04	0	0	0	36.04
CAG Kenyan Orphan Project (763)	0	1,786.00	0	0	0	1,786.00
CAG Pint of Science (781)	0	0	0	0	1,741.59	1,741.59
CAG Project Nepal (772)	0	-36	0	1,670.68	0	1,634.68
CAG Raincatcher Imperial (770)	-52.28	260.08	0	2,537.74	0	2,745.54
CAG SSAGO (771)	0	19.98	29.17	0	0	49.15
CAG Soup Run (765)	862.98	-3.95	0	0	0	859.03
CAG TEAM Students (773)	111.5	131.8	0	0	0	243.3
CAG TedX (780)	0	525.96	0	0	0	525.96
CAG Women in SET (291)	0	13,577.80	0	0	5	13,582.80

Note: Not all projects are shown here since some do not have finances. Some projects require further transaction corrections, CAG chair shall remind them to do so as part of end of year finance procedure.

**5. Membership Overview**

	Number of members as of 15/6/2015	% Membership as of 15/6/2015
CAG Activities for Children with Disabilities (767)	33	165
CAG Avicenna Project (777)	17	85
CAG Bike Users Group (754)	57	114
CAG Coppafeel (779)	3	15
CAG E.quinox (624)	48	120
CAG El Salvador (762)	43	86
CAG Enactus (455)	85	60
CAG Geology for Global Development (782)	41	205
CAG Global Brigades (761)	78	130
CAG Imperial Cooperative (778)	41	102.5
CAG Interact (456)	77	154
CAG Kenyan Orphan Project (763)	35	140
CAG Pint of Science (781)	56	280
CAG Project Nepal (772)	78	390
CAG Raincatcher Imperial (770)	70	40

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CAG RED (783)	See Note	
CAG Robogals (784)	See Note	
CAG Soup Run (765)	181	452.5
CAG SSAGO (771)	7	70
CAG Student Action for Refugees (776)	23	115
CAG TEAM Students (773)	79	197.5
CAG TedX (780)	95	475
CAG Women in SET (291)	108	540

Notes:

- RED and Robogals are new projects that has been approved by the New Activities Committee (NAC) in late May.
- Most Projects have done extremely well this year.
- CAG Avicenna Project has no committee this year, it was subject to dormancy but the meeting was not quorate.

**CAG Activities for Children with Disabilities (767)**

No report received.

Comments from CAG Chair: There has been no interaction between CAG Exec and the committee this year.

**CAG Bike Users Group (754)**

ICBUG has installed new tools in the cycle parking of Hammersmith Campus, rented out some Dr Bikes and is helping facilities in assessing different stand designs to improve density of parking. We've had some difficulty getting a committee but look like we might have a chair and a treasurer, with any luck after some pressure we'll get a secretary as well. Workshop is being retooled after the expected loss of tools, all in all we feel that it's a small proportion of tools that are being lost and within reasonable limits.

**CAG Coppafeel (779)**

This year began with our presence at Freshers' fair, where we handed out hundreds of breast cancer symptom checker cards, engaged in discussion with visitors to our stand, and had fun dressing in giant boob costumes. Our aim for the rest of the year was to run events to raise money for CoppaFeel! and promote awareness, however with difficulty recruiting dedicated volunteers this did not go ahead. Although CoppaFeel! Uni boob team has been somewhat inactive this year, I am hopeful that our initial impact at the start of the year and the continued work of CoppaFeel! throughout the country will have got people taking breast cancer self-checking more seriously.

**CAG E.quinox (624)**

No report received.

Comments from CAG Chair: e.quinox has been active this year and interacting with the Exec and SLARB, as they prepare for the summer expedition to Rwanda.

**CAG El Salvador (762)**

The El Salvador Project has a 13 year track record of providing effective Civil Engineering solutions to poverty stricken rural communities in El Salvador. The project was conceived in 2002, when the country was hit by a devastating earthquake, and has since undertaken a variety of infrastructure projects ranging from the construction of earthquake resistant housing and retrofitting existing homes for earthquake resistance to the implementation of sanitation systems. All projects are fully led by students at Imperial College London but are undertaken in partnership with the local NGO REDES, ensuring that our interactions with the El Salvadorian communities always have a positive impact and that the solutions provided are appropriate.

Over the course of the last 5 years, the focus of the project has been the development of earthquake-resistant housing, in partnership with Arup and the UK registered charity Engage for Development (founded by Imperial College Alumni). A design was developed and gradually improved through the construction of full-scale prototype houses in 2012 and 2014. A prototype room was also built last summer, on a shake table in University Mariano Galvez in Guatemala and found to perform extremely well. Therefore, this phase of the El Salvador Project has come to a conclusion as it is not economically sustainable to send a team to El Salvador each year to build a single house; if we are not providing the benefit of the research and development aspect. This design is therefore being implemented on a larger scale across Central America by the engineer who was in charge of design development, in conjunction with various NGOs and engineering firms across the region.

Hence, over the course of this academic year, we have undergone an intensive process of restructuring the project. The committee undertook a lot of research, attended many development talks and sought out advice from Engage for Development. Consequently, the project is changing its focus to work on the implementation of sanitation systems for the next few years. Lack of effective sanitation is the single largest problem in the world, directly affecting 2.5 billion people globally, leading to numerous health problems such as dysentery and cholera. The provision of sanitation solutions such as composting pit latrines and education on how to use and maintain them offers the greatest benefits for a rural community in El Salvador.

As sanitation projects have not been undertaken for many years, the value of learning from existing projects and understanding the factors contributing to a successful or unsuccessful project cannot be understated. Therefore, it has been decided that a small scale project lasting 3 weeks will be undertaken this year; centred

on the evaluation and assessment of existing sanitation systems; both structurally and how well the community has embraced the new systems. Additionally, the team will evaluate the house built in 2014 to gain feedback and to formally complete the transition.

We strongly believe that the key to this project being successful and sustainable in the long-term lies in undertaking this evaluation project to deepen our understanding of the specific needs of the rural communities. Therefore, this year we will continue building our relationships with local communities with the help of REDES; gaining a real insight into the community dynamics and needs so that in the coming years, the design and implementation will be successful. Effective communication is essential, as building trust with the communities will make it easier for us to present our ideas to them and share the importance of hygiene management, which is the only way to ensure usage of the new facilities. Additionally, as REDES has vast experience in the field of sanitation, talking to them and learning from their experience will be invaluable. It is hoped that the team will also be able to take part in the construction of a sanitation system in one of REDES' ongoing projects, providing hands-on experience of the construction methods.

### **CAG Enactus (455)**

Enactus has grown from strength to strength over the years. This year Enactus has grown to a membership of 85 members and the total number of projects under it has expanded to 6 projects. We established a new local community project which works with Unseen Tours, a nonprofit organisation which hired the homeless to be tour guides of London. We improved their sales by more than 60% through social media marketing. In addition, we have successfully carried out 3 business workshops and a business plan competition for 40 Year 9 students to help boost the interest in STEM subjects. Our international project continued to be successful. We established a sustainable plan this year by introducing the Napier Grass project where it provides more nutrients for the goats project that we run. In the process, we empowered the headmaster by teaching him book keeping skills and creating a sustainable revenue platform. We are proud about the achievements Enactus had achieved this year and are excited about the year to come.

### **CAG Geology for Global Development (782)**

Geology for Global Development have hosted 6 talks throughout the year on a range of topics such as water sustainability and volcanic hazards. We have also run several language workshops during the Spring Term for second year geologists to use to communicate with locals during their 6 week mapping project. We have also run several fundraising events for improving the monitoring systems for volcanic hazards in Guatemala.

### **CAG Global Brigades (761)**

Global Brigades is a society which organises trips to Honduras and Ghana to work on social and economic development as well as providing medical relief to those in need.

Building on the success of our brigades in September - which saw over 50 Imperial students take part in our projects abroad - we spent the first term focusing on recruitment and engaging with new groups of volunteers. We also arranged fundraisers (cake sales and collaboration with societies such as Musical Theatre Soc) for communities in Ghana which suffered from a lack of foreign aid, much of which had been diverted to cope with the regional Ebola outbreak.

Over the second term - as well as continuing information sessions for new volunteers - we ran a series of educational workshops to boost general awareness of large-scale global health and economic issues, such as lack of public health facilities, poor access to clean water and medical support and environmental issues. We also lead discussions on the ethics of charities and development organisations (such as Global Brigades) and the need for the integration of well-planned sustainable projects which work 'with' locals instead of 'for' them. Fundraisers over the second term were focused on raising funds for the trips we have planned this summer. After a successful AGM in March, logistical plans for the brigades were finalised.

This summer, we will be sending 2 groups of students to Honduras. One group will provide access to Medical care whilst the other will take part in both Water and Public Health construction projects. These projects have been supported by the Student-Led Activities Review Board and we hope to receive some funding from the IC Trust. All in all, we are looking at an exciting summer ahead for Global Brigades at Imperial and the possible expansion of our projects in the next academic year!

### **CAG Imperial Cooperative (778)**

Imperial Coop has had a year of ups and downs. We started the year by generating an immense amount of interest during Freshers Fair and managed to sign up many new volunteers who were interested in helping offer students and staff, cheap and ethical produce.

Throughout the year, despite changing location and time, we successfully operated every week and served many happy customers during that time. Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteer interest, this may be the last year Co-op exists. Though it has the potential to be a powerful and beneficial project for anyone interested in Fairtrade and organic foods.

### **CAG Interact (456)**

Over the past few months, Imperial Interact has organised numerous volunteering opportunities for members, including till drives, gardening projects, volunteering at a market and helping out at a homeless shelter. We have also sought new collaborations with various charities and this will be followed up by the new committee, which we have elected through the AGM. The outgoing and incoming chairs have met Fran from the Union on ideas and potential collaboration for the next academic year, and we also had a handover dinner to discuss the direction for Interact.

### **CAG Kenyan Orphan Project (763)**

This year iKOP had a committee of 7 along with 35 members who helped organise a number of events throughout the year.

1st term:

We held events such as KOP week with an introductory information evening, christmas caroling fundraiser, tube collects

2nd term

Valentine's week where we sold chocolates and other valentines themed goodies.  
We raised 200 pounds over the course of this year through these events.

3rd term:

KOP is going through a lot of changes centrally and is now being called child.org  
The kenyan trip in summer has been changed so that it is now open to all and no just students and there is a qualification which people can achieve by undertaking charity apprentice programme

### **CAG Pint of Science (781)**

Pint of Science 2015 ran for three nights, from 18th-20th May. With Imperial College running events at 5 different pubs across London, this made for a total of 15 Imperial events over the course of the festival, all of which were sold out, with 796 tickets sold in total. 28 Imperial College and two external speakers (from PhD students to senior academics) engaged with the public, discussing research from Stegosauruses to self-conscious robots to why we are getting fatter. The festival would not have been possible without the hard work of around 35 volunteers, including both undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as postdoctoral researchers. Furthermore, we would like to thank the Imperial College departments who made generous donations to support the festival: Brain Sciences, Surgery and Cancer, Earth Sciences, Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and the DTC-CQD, as well as the external sponsors Mendeley, Overleaf, eLife and NC3Rs. The festival was a huge success, with one attendee stating, "Didn't expect a talk about salt to be that interesting. Good job!" while another commented, "It was excellent - pitched at a great level, informative, interesting, clear slides... I will definitely recommend Pint of Science to others and look out for more events! Thank you!".

### **CAG Project Nepal (772)**

No report received.

### **CAG Raincatcher Imperial (770)**

Raincatcher Imperial had a good spring term for our fundraising activities this year. The society had highly successful nail painting events and bake sales organised by our own members this February. And on the weekend before the term ended, Raincatcher also organised two major sporting fundraisers. One was the annual Swimathon held at Ethos, and the other was Water Walk 2015 which took place at major landmarks

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across central London. During the Easter holidays, two of our members went to Tanzania to conduct surveys and perform preparatory work for the summer project. Elections were concluded in May and the new executive committee was nominated from our pool of dedicated members. We would like to wish them all the best and a successful term ahead!

### **CAG RED (783)**

#### **CAG Robogals (784)**

No report received.

Comments from CAG Chair: Both projects are newly formed at NAC in May 2015.

### **CAG Soup Run (765)**

No report received.

Comments from CAG Chair: Soup Run has been extremely successful this year, running the project every week even during holidays.

### **CAG SSAGO (771)**

This year has run with mixed success for SSAGO. We have had several successful events, including London Monopoly, mountain biking and ice skating. SSAGO were also proud winners of the annual RCC night hike.

We attended two national SSAGO rallies, one in Loughborough and one in Lancaster, where our members could meet other SSAGO students from different universities across the UK and exchange ideas during a weekend of camping and activities. We also participated in the Greater London Middlesex West bowling challenge which was a good networking event for Network Scouts in the area.

Volunteering is what lies at the very heart of SSAGO. We have a small but dedicated and loyal group of volunteers who help at different local scout and guide groups across London. We have been building for the World Scout Jamboree in Japan which takes place this summer, where several of our members will be volunteering for two weeks to run a camp for over 40,000 people.

The society is seeing a significant proportion of its members graduating this year. This may be a struggle as only one out of three committee positions have been filled and many of SSAGO's members are final year students. The scouting and guiding movements are well established all around the world, and it is hoped that the society will carry on next academic year with more success and growth.

### **CAG Student Action for Refugees (776)**

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) has been a good year. We kicked start with a good induction and the first visit to the refugee youth centre back in November. A number of members are enthusiastic about this club. However, the two committee members are both in their final year and we have tried really hard to organise more events and we have tried our best. We have more members and active members than last year so it is a good sign that we are moving in the right direction. There will be more people participating in the committee and I am sure they will make STAR more popular.

### **CAG TEAM Students (773)**

This year Team Up has expanded its reach significantly being able to help more pupils and get more tutors involved than we have before. We have delivered tuition to over 300 pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds aiming to raise not only their academic achievement but also their self-confidence. We worked hard to recruit the best and most dedicated volunteers through Fresher's Fair and Volunteering Fair, raising awareness of our cause. We arranged a training day for our tutors to give them the skills that they would need during the year. We held two tuition sessions a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the year, on the topics of Maths and Science. These sessions gave pupils the chance to clarify anything they didn't understand, as well as get a feel for what it's like to be a university student. We held around 15 sessions over the course of the year, this meant that this year we have delivered 6750 hours of tuition.

I would like to thank everyone on committee for their hard-work in making Team Up so successful this year, all of our volunteers for being so dedicated and giving up their time to help make a difference and Michael and

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his team for being so support of us this year. I would like to wish Tom Shering and next years committee the best of luck and hope that Team Up continues to grow and flourish at Imperial.

**CAG TedX (780)**

No report received.

Comments from CAG Chair: Instead of putting it into dormancy, an email to the mailing list has found 12 interested people to form a new committee. The new committee was approved by CSPB in February and planning for the next TEDx conference is ongoing.

**CAG Women in SET (291)**

No report received.

Comments from CAG Chair: Women in SET has been successful this year and put on a great TEDx conference in collaboration with other societies. The demerger between Women in SET and Robogals was approved in CSPB in May.