



## **CGCU Summer Sabbatical Report**

A note by the City and Guilds College Union President – Tim Munday

The first thing to note here is that the City and Guilds College Union President receives a paid sabbatical for 8 weeks during the summer holiday. I mention this now, despite that I will be the tenth president to be paid in this way, as the fact that it occurs appears to have fallen out of the public consciousness. The payment is made from a fund raised in 2004, which had aimed to raise enough to install a full time CGCU President, and is administered through the Faculty of Engineering. This report therefore outlines the work carried out by me personally and the activity of the CGCU as a whole.

### **Management Group Chair Responsibilities**

Dmitri (Vice-president Finance and Societies) and I have met with each of my Dep Socs Chairs and many of the chairs of our other Clubs and Socs. We were able to explain the relationship between each of our organisations to them and offered help and advice. I hope that this year we will be able to build on this and eventually be rewarded for this.

The first Management Group meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October at 12:15 in the CGCU Office.

### **Freshers Preparation**

A major part of the CGCU's activity in the summer revolves around preparing for the arrival of the new first years, which takes a range of activities.

The first was the preparation of our Freshers' Handbook and almanac the 'Spanner' this gives a guide to the CGCU for our newest members and sets out our intentions for the year ahead. These were distributed to all home students along with the Big Unions Welcome Pack, while international students had the opportunity to pick up a copy from our stand at Freshers' Fair and during our departmental talks. We have received many compliments about the Spanner and I would like to express my gratitude to my Media and Marketing Officer, Anna Selig, and others for their hard work on it.

Freshers' Fair was the major event for us during the Welcome Week and was successful. We had planned on giving out Oystercard Holders, but due to complications, we were unable to, however our loss has been next year's gain. On our stall we offered our members, new and old, the opportunity to ask questions of the Executives Officers, a chance to play pin the note of the bolt, see our mascots and join our aligned Constitute College Association for free.

Finally my Academic Affairs Officer, James Murphy, was able to arrange for us to give talks to 6 of our departments. These talks complimented the Provost's Talk held in the Great Hall and gave us an opportunity to introduce our major officers. They also provided an informal chance for the first years to ask us any questions.

## Events

Summer offered us the opportunity to prepare for our events for the first term and beyond. And my Vice-president Activities, Yuebi Yang, has made an excellent start on this. Particular highlights I believe will be our Welcome Dinner and a Joint Bar night which is currently being planned with the RCSU and RSMU. The current planned events are:

14 <sup>th</sup> October	Welcome Dinner
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Shell CV Clinic
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	City of London Pub Crawl
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Bar Night
18 <sup>th</sup> November	CGCA Lectures
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Tri-Union Bar Night
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Mince Pie Party
16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	C&G Week

## Executive Business

Following last summer's bi-elections the CGCU Executive still had 4 unfilled positions. This summer the Executive Committee has appointed people to 3 of these positions as per our constitution, the other position, Regalia Officer, has been assumed temporarily into my own role, owing to the fact that I am the most recent incumbent of the position. We will be holding no further elections, barring extraordinary circumstances, during this session.

## Faculty

This year has seen us to continue the good relationship which we have with the Faculty of Engineering. I personally met with the Dean and have had several meetings with our point of contact in the Faculty, Dr Teresa Sergot. Dr Sergot has taken partial retirement recently, with the plan to take full retirement at the end of the year. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to thank her not only for the assistance and kindness she has offered me, but for the support and continuity she has offered the CGCU and the students of the Faculty of Engineering over many years. As well as offering the Union's own Phil Power the best of luck in his new position taking over Dr Sergot's Education remit.

## Alumni

The City and Guilds College Association has been the aligned alumni body of the CGCU for 102 years now, and it is still an organisation we have very close ties with. This year as well as organising several events with them we are trying to raise the awareness of them at a departmental level. As such on 7<sup>th</sup> October a workshop was held between each of the Departmental Representatives of both organisations with the intention of building stronger links between the two.

The CGCA has a charitable arm, the Old Centralians Trust, and it is my attention to raise awareness of this during my term in office. They offer funding for student hardship, extra-curricular activities and conference travel expenses. More information can be found on their website [www.cgca.org.uk/trust](http://www.cgca.org.uk/trust)

### **Office**

Over the past year the CGCU Office has had a lot of work done to it; as such it is now looking 'swishier' than ever and is consequently receiving substantially more use. Each Executive officer, club chair, Dep Rep and club treasurer currently has access to use the meeting room and office space. We are happy to provide access to the office for any engineering related student group who might be able to benefit from it; anyone interested in this should not hesitate to contact me.

The present office is to be redeveloped as part of the College's AMP project, we have been told to expect to be moved by the end of the year to temporary accommodation. Discussions are ongoing regarding the development of the future office space.