



## R'nTease The Religions and Theology Student Newsletter

### Message From SSLC Convenor

#### Lazing or Liaising?

The rumour that I'm so old that I predate the Samuel Alexander Building (and I don't just mean its current name) is only partly true!! During my student days here I was able to observe from the windows of what is now the Ellen Wilkinson Building (when I should have been concentrating on lectures no doubt!) the demolition of the rows of terraced housing which stood where the present north, south and east wings of SAB are now located. The view from the window of the office where I am typing this paragraph must have been very different! I am, of course, thinking back to the 1960s, when one of the major concerns among the student body was the virtual lack of representation of the student voice on any of the decision making bodies of the University, whether at Departmental (we still used the 'D' word), Faculty (there was still a Faculty of Theology though as an undergraduate I was in the Faculty of Arts) or University level. I won't claim to have been manning (we could still say that in those days!) the barricades along with some of the more militant members of the student body, but this **was** an issue which we felt strongly about and sought to change. This is why, during some stages of my time teaching here, I have been surprised at the relative apathy of students towards taking up the opportunities that have increasingly existed to be represented and, more importantly, to take an active role as representatives. Since taking on the role of convenor of the R&T SSLC during the 2008-9 session, it has been great to discover that there are some really dedicated students (you know who you are!) who are keen to take on this sort of role, serving as interns, year-representatives, peer mentors etc. This academic year has seen us attempting to make the arrangements for the representation of student views, via year reps to the SSLC and then to the Subject Forum, run more smoothly and efficiently. (It would be unfair not to mention the contribution of Betty-Ann Bristow to this enterprise, and the support of the 'senior' peer-mentors, Francesca Frazer and Craig Wright.) I hope we are getting there! 'Staff-Student Liaison Committee' may not be a particularly sexy title, but our aim is to do "what it says on the tin" and ensure appropriate consultation with one another. Please get involved and don't leave it to others!

Adrian Curtis  
R&T Staff-Student Liaison Committee Convenor  
Easter 2010

### Message from the Peer Mentor Student Co-ordinator

Hello!

It's been a busy month for peer mentoring. We've just recruited a whole bunch of enthusiastic level 1 and level 2 students who will be mentoring all the new students from September, it

seems like just yesterday the 'old' peer mentors were greeting the current first years for the first time.

As for the 'old' peer mentors remember to stay in touch with your mentees, it's getting near exam time again and a friendly e-mail is always nice to receive during this stressful time. There is a possibility of putting on a revision workshop which is supported by the sabbatical interns, current peer-mentors who are interested in teaching or any who just want to share their revision tips please get in touch – we can make it fun, I promise! Also, peer mentor drop-in is after Easter, it would be great if you could help with this too.

Have a great Easter.

Craig Wright  
[Craig.Wright-2@student.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Craig.Wright-2@student.manchester.ac.uk)

## Message from R&T Taught Programmes Administrator

### Earth Hour 2010

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 8pm is Earth Hour! Turn off your lights people...  
<http://www.earthhour.org/>

### Contact Theatre

In the December R'nTease Alan Williams recommended that students apply for the under-26's card called *FreeAct* (if you are under 25, that is...) which enables you to get free tickets for the Contact Theatre. I got one, and it's great! So I'm putting it in here again... here's the link to the online form: <http://www.contact-theatre.org/about-us/view-document.htm?id=124> and here's the link to what's on at the Contact: <http://www.contact-theatre.org/whats-on/>

### Exam Timetables due out Wk/C 5<sup>th</sup> April

The examination timetable will hopefully be published in the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> April. You will receive an email when the timetables are available. If you have any questions about the exam timetable please contact the Student Services Centre, as those in the Taught Programmes Office (including myself) do not schedule this.

### COURSE UNIT SELECTION 2010/11 – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Alexander Theatre, 3-4pm

All Religions & Theology students are advised to attend the above meeting, regarding Course Unit Selection. The system will be completely different to the one used this year, to enhance the student experience and make the process easier and more efficient. You will not have used this system before; **if you do not attend the meeting you will not be able to use the system!**

Please let me know as soon as possible if you cannot attend the above meeting, so that I can add you to the list of students for whom we will schedule a different meeting. This will be School-wide though, not subject specific.

### COURSE UNIT AND DISSERTATION MEETING – as above, 4-5pm

Directly following the Course Unit Selection meeting, there will be the R&T Open Fora (Course Unit & Dissertation meeting). This is where Course Unit Directors will give a brief description of their course units which will be running next year. **This has been requested**

If you would like anything to be considered for inclusion in the next Newsletter, please email [betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk)

by students and reported to the **Staff-Student Liaison Committee**, and this will be a very useful meeting. Dissertation information will also be discussed for those going into 3<sup>rd</sup> year, but this will also be of interest to those going into 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Betty-Ann Bristow  
R&T Taught Programmes Administrator

## Student Congratulations

### Morocco Hitch

On Easter Monday, Eva, Sophia, Craig and Colin (and the Betty-Ann bear of course) will be setting off from Manchester on an epic 1,500 mile trip to Morocco, we have a rough plan...don't get lost! We promise to keep you up to date with our progress and if you're feeling generous you could help us out by donating to LCD charity here:

<http://www.justgiving.com/manchesterhitch>

We would love you all forever if you could spare even a £1 for this charity and a massive thank you to those who have already donated. See you after Easter (we hope!!)

## Everyone's Talking About...

### Design a Hoody



For September we hope to have our very own hoodies. So we would love it if all you creative R&T students could come up with a fantastic design to rival the other subjects (such as "Trust me I'm (nearly) a doctor" and "Anthropologists do it in the field" (I'm told this is an actual slogan they use)). It doesn't have to have religious symbols on it, try and be imaginative. There will be some sort of prize for the best design. All we ask is that it has the university logo some where on the hoody. Get doodling, the deadline is after Easter.

### Are you a Student Parent or Carer?

We are setting up a new society for Student Parents and Carers and would love you to be involved!

- Would you like to meet other student parents/carers?
- Would you like to make friends and be involved in some parent/family-friendly events?
- Do you feel you could benefit from the support of other student parents/carers?

We are trying to establish a parents/carers group for students in the University and we would love to hear from you!

If you would like anything to be considered for inclusion in the next Newsletter, please email [betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk)

If you are interested in getting involved, contact me on:  
[emma.speake@student.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:emma.speake@student.manchester.ac.uk)

### **Interns to the Bishop of Coventry**

The Bishop of Coventry is seeking to appoint two Interns as members of his personal staff. As well as supporting the Bishop's ministry in a number of theological, liturgical, administrative and practical ways, it is hoped that the Interns will form a small community of prayer, fellowship and study at the heart of the Diocese of Coventry. The posts will provide an opportunity to see the life of the Church from a very particular perspective and to discern whether to pursue a future in some form of Christian ministry.

Please see Betty-Ann Bristow's email dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March for more information.

### **Up and coming socials!**

As everyone is finishing for the Easter break, there are no socials set up – yet! If you would like to advertise your post-Easter break socials, please email:  
[betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk)

### **What's New Peer Mentors?**

#### **\*\*Peer-Mentors 2010/2011\*\***

Would you like to be a mentor for new students in 2010/11? The R&T department is now recruiting new student mentors to become part of the Peer Mentoring Scheme. You'll be given full training and it looks great on a CV. Mentoring offers the opportunity to develop **confidence**, **people skills**, **team working** skills, **leadership** capabilities and it's a great way to get involved in more social activities. As well as all of this you get the opportunity to share **your experiences** with new students.

You may have had a great experience with your mentors this year or you may have had a rubbish one so sign up and help us to improve the peer mentoring programme for next year's freshers!

If you are interested send me an e-mail:  
[Craig.wright-2@student.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Craig.wright-2@student.manchester.ac.uk)

### **R&T Student Representatives**

#### **Critical Analysis for Essay Writing**

On Monday 15th March about 15 students from all years met to consider critical analysis for essay writing purposes. There was some input from George Brooke and then general discussion, mostly of a positive kind! All undergraduates have received the handout by email -- take another look at it before that next essay deadline -- and remember to look at the If you would like anything to be considered for inclusion in the next Newsletter, please email [betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:betty-ann.bristow@manchester.ac.uk)

resources available on [www.netvibes.com/woodjamie#Criticality\\_and\\_Analysis](http://www.netvibes.com/woodjamie#Criticality_and_Analysis) if you want further assistance. All this proves that the raising of issues at the Staff-Student Liaison Committee really works, so keep referring matters to representatives there for future exciting action!

### **Drop-in session: Friday 30th April at 2pm, in A116/SA**

As agreed at the last SSLC, the first “Student Rep Drop-In” will be held after the Easter break. This session is so you can visit your representatives with **positive comments or problems**. There will be no staff members present. This session is to replace the Student-Led meetings which were not too successful – we are always striving to make the SSLC more productive and successful, and to take on board student comments at School and Subject level.

The “Drop-In” session will be held on Friday 30th April at 2pm, in A116/SA. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to talk with your representatives in an open and welcoming environment, in time for the next SSLC.

The representatives who have confirmed their attendance are:

James Dewhurst (Level 1)  
 Hasan Hafidh (Level 1)  
 Justin Kennedy (Level 1)  
 Stephanie Howarth (Level 2)  
 Craig Wright (Level 2)  
 Francesca Frazer (MA)

The Level 3 representatives are yet to confirm their attendance, but all Level 3 students are welcome to liaise with any of the above representatives at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## TV & Radio

If you are interested in writing up on past/present/future TV & Radio shows relating to Religions and Theology, or other areas of interest, please email either [Betty-Ann.Bristow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Betty-Ann.Bristow@manchester.ac.uk) or [Craig.Wright-2@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Craig.Wright-2@manchester.ac.uk)

## Postgraduate Socials!

### **Biblical Studies Supper Party**

On Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> Professor George Brooke and his wife Rev. Jane Brooke generously held a supper party at the Vicarage for all those who attend the Ehrhardt Biblical Studies Research Seminar. This was a very enjoyable event with a great turn out from students, staff and research fellows. It was lovely to be able to chat for longer than our usual Thursday tea and biscuits! I'd like to say a big thank you from us all to Prof. Brooke for a wonderful evening, brilliant company and of course the fabulous cooking!



## **PG Religions and Theology Curry Night**

Friday 23rd April, 2010, 7pm

Al Nawaz, 74 - 84 Wilmslow Road. Rusholme

You are all cordially invited to the PG R&T Curry Social on Friday 23rd April, 7pm. It's the week we come back after the Easter holiday so we can all have a good catch up! We will meet on the Union steps at 6.45pm so we can all walk down together.

Al Nawaz has a fully licensed bar but you are also welcome to bring your own alcohol. Student discount is also available. The restaurant serves home-style cooking, involving Halal Indian and Punjabi cuisine, with vegetarian options available. They are also happy to vary any dish according to individual tastes!

All R&T postgraduates (MA and PhD), staff and partners are invited, so it should be a fun night! Please email back a.s.a.p. to confirm attendance so we can sort out numbers.

Thank you!

Francesca Frazer  
PG Student Representative  
[Francesca.Frazer@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Francesca.Frazer@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

## **R.A.T.S (Religions and Theology Society)**

### **R.A.T.S do FAC 251**

Last Thursday a hardcore bunch of students defied essay deadlines and headed to FAC251 for a bit of light relief. It was a great night that started in the Student Union and ended in a very typical student way, chicken kebab and a magic bus home! Thanks for coming and keep the look out for other fun times organised by the R.A.T pack.





## That's all... for now

- Do you have any comments on *R'nTease*? Love it? Have ideas to improve it? Let us know!
- This is the **Student** Newsletter – please do write something and send it to me, including photos! Betty-Ann.