



R'nTease The Religions and Theology Student Newsletter

Message From Your CEO*

Dear Students,

As your new Examinations and Assessment Officer I really understand that exams are not the jolliest thing academia has ever invented - for both parties involved. On the other hand, is there anything better than having a night out with friends knowing that you have finished everything for this year and you know that you have achieved a fabulous result? In R+T we want you to gain this experience. Therefore we have improved our system to give you feedback on your exams as quickly as possible. Once you have collected your results we strongly advise you to contact your academic advisor to discuss your marks and your feedback. This will not only help you to improve your academic performance but it also helps the academic advisor to write substantial references for your job application whenever you need it in the future. All staff members have office hours when you can meet them without any prior appointment. Please make use of them. Last but not least, I wish you all the best for your 'long day's journey into night' when revising in a few weeks time.

Dr. Michael Hoelzl
Examinations and Assessment Officer
*(Chief Examinations Officer!)

Message from the Head Peer Mentor

Hello,

February has been and gone and with it exam results, another amazing R&T social and yet more snow. I hope everyone had a fantastic set of results from semester one.

R&T have had another successful social thanks to the amazing social secretaries from the RAT pack. Beccie and Priya brought together the R&T bunch for an unforgettable night of 'pub golf' (imagine all the rules of golf but instead of ball and a hole its pints and shots!!). Plenty of fun memories including 'backseat of the bus game' and the entire cohort singing happy birthday to Stephanie Howarth (thus interrupting the LGBT pub quiz, sorry!). The next R&T social isn't far off so make sure you come along and make lots of new friends!

We will also be recruiting new peer mentors for next year's freshers very soon. Peer mentoring is a great way of building confidence, making new friends and looks great on a CV. So, if it's something that you'd fancy getting involved in keep watching your inbox.

See you all soon,
Craig Wright
Craig.Wright-2@student.manchester.ac.uk

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

Message from R&T Taught Programmes Administrator

- **Calling Level 3 students!!**



www.thestudentsurvey.com – don't forget to complete the National Student Survey for 2010!!

- **Calling ALL students! Including MA!**

www.manchester.ac.uk/studentsurvey – this is the Taught Student Survey, meaning all students get to have their say!!

- **Student Conference – Wednesday 12th March 2010**

There are only a few places left for the Student Conference, so if you're interested please register straight away! More information can be found here, along with the registration form: <http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/studentsaspartners/thestudentconference/>

- **Student Team Working Awards**

The call for applications for the 12th Annual 'Student Team Working Awards' has gone out – a fantastic opportunity for students (who've worked in groups of 3 or more as part of their course or on extra curricular activity) to submit a short reflective document about their experience – and in return be in line to win £500!

Please see the following link for more information:

www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/studentsaspartners/stwa/

Whilst this is certainly relevant for those involved in Peer Support, it is equally relevant for all students!

- **Touch Type?**



A couple of students have commented on my touch typing recently, and I started to wonder if there's anything around to teach students (how to touch type). I came across this... It's a bit crazy, and made for kids, but really quite useful and fun (in a strange way... be open-minded now!) Make sure you have the sound on: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/> One student thought it looked fun (James) and one was a little too excited about it, if you ask me (Craig). Enjoy!

Betty-Ann Bristow
R&T Taught Programmes Administrator

Student Congratulations



Beth Walker (Level 1)

Well Done to Beth who is off to America next year as part of the Study Abroad Programme, Beth won a place at University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Remember to write home Beth and tell us how R&T is stateside.

Craig Wright

Morocco Hitch

In the Easter holidays 3 R&T students are heading off to Morocco. Inspired by Betty-Ann's adventurous spirit and rave reviews of the experience Eva Bindeman, Sophia Cameron, Craig Wright (and our very own Betty-Ann bear!) will be setting off from Manchester and after hitching through France and Spain will arrive in Morocco for a camel ride. It's all in aid of Link Community Development which helps educate children in Africa. If you'd like to get involved in fund raising please get in touch or if you'd like to sponsor us then you can do so via this link:

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



Everyone's Talking About...

Pub Golf Social – Thursday 11th February 2010

After an unforgettable RAT Pack arranged pub golf night full of laughter, dancing and drinking, the Religions & Theology students really experienced what Manchester's night life has to offer. Starting off in the student central of Fallowfield and working our way around the bars and pubs up to Zoo, as well as getting to know more fellow R+T students it truly was one not to miss. But don't fret ones that did, the RAT Pack is currently arranging the next social which will give you a chance to experience what it's all about! Thanks to all of you that came and we hope to meet more of you at the next social! ... The RAT Pack.



Wear a hijab day – Wednesday 17th February 2010

I don't know about you, but when I'm on holiday abroad I spend most of the time making a futile attempt to not look like a tourist. This usually constitutes sneaking a two second look at the map and then striding confidently off in what might possibly be the right direction...needless to say, it's pretty hard to be convincing as a local when you then have to emerge sheepishly from a dead end.

Last Wednesday as I crossed Oxford Road I felt strangely like this holiday scenario had caught up with me. Why? Because I was wearing a hijab. In the cosmopolitan city of Manchester, this in itself is not a strange sight, but I was taking part in Islamic Awareness Week, and so was wearing it for the first time – and as an outsider. Without the religious beliefs that accompany the hijab, I felt very much like I was masquerading as a Muslim – in the same way I've masqueraded as a local in various parts of the world. Did those who I

passed in the street assume that I was a Muslim? I suspect my fringe, which insisted on poking out, gave the game away. That said, it was still a very positive experience. As well as wearing the hijab around campus, those of us who were taking part joined the Islamic Society sisters at lunchtime to talk about their decision to wear it, and what it meant for them. They were pleased that we had chosen to spend a day experiencing a part of their way of life, and I was reminded how easy it is to get caught up in the academic debate over issues such as veiling, and forget the reality of the lived experience. 'Wear a hijab day' was a brilliant opportunity to engage with the diversity which surrounds us here on campus. At the risk of sounding like one of the motivational posters in the library lounge, I would encourage you to really take hold of chances like these when they present themselves, which take your learning out of the lecture theatre and connect it with everyday life.

Kat Brealey
(Level 2 R&T Student)

Up and coming socials!

Watch this space!! If you want to advertise your social or event please email 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

Vote for your Peer Mentor!! – Outstanding Contribution to Peer Support Award

This award, now in its 3rd year, is a notable way to recognise those Leaders/Mentors, Coordinators (or others involved in the Peer Support schemes). Applications are made by a whole range of students and staff. Anyone can be nominated, if even just one individual feels the person they're nominating has been 'outstanding'.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/studentsaspartners/peersupport/outsandingcontribution/>

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For current Peer Mentors – Peer Support Residential – 14th to 16th April 2010

Please see my email dated 2nd March, about the Peer Support Residential. Demand is high, so you need to put your applications in as soon as possible! The relevant information and forms are attached to the email.

“This three day residential is open to all students involved with peer support; PASS leaders, Peer Mentors and Coordinators. As well as getting the chance to take part in outdoor activities you will be given the opportunity to help Students as Partners work on three projects related to peer support” (taken from the Peer Support Poster)

R&T Student Representatives

As you will see from the latest Staff-Student Liaison Committee minutes (available to view on the R&T notice board), we have implemented a new Student Representatives structure. The number of Student Reps has reduced, so that we can hold more productive SSLC meetings, there is a strong continuity of communication, and so that you know exactly who to go to.

Remember, you can contact your Student Rep about anything to do with your studies – the library, IT, classes, lecturers, admin, whatever. This doesn't just have to be about raising issues or problems either; we welcome all positive comments too!

Level 1:

Alkhansa Alfakhuri: alkhansa.alfakhuri@student.manchester.ac.uk
 James Dewhurst: james.dewhurst@student.manchester.ac.uk
 Isabella Fairclough: isabella.fairclough@student.manchester.ac.uk
 Hasan Hafidh: hasan.hafidh@student.manchester.ac.uk
 Justin Kennedy: justin.kennedy@student.manchester.ac.uk

Level 2:

Stephanie Howarth: Stephanie.Howarth@student.manchester.ac.uk
 Moonisha Lambat: Moonisha.Lambat@student.manchester.ac.uk
 Craig Wright: Craig.Wright-2@student.manchester.ac.uk

Level 3:

Hollie Conway: Hollie.Conway@student.manchester.ac.uk
 Joanna Pickering: Joanna.Pickering@student.manchester.ac.uk

Postgraduate (MA):

Francesca Frazer: francesca.frazer@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

Please note that you are welcome to look at previous SSLC minutes as well as current. Just contact Betty-Ann if you're interested.

If you have anything you would like to be mentioned at the next SSLC then please email your student representative, as above.

TV & Radio

An Island Parish

The latest series of *An Island Parish* on the BBC has just finished. This series has been following the life of the islanders on the remote Isles of Scilly as they come to terms with the fact that their Methodist minister the Reverend David Easton will be leaving the islands as he has been voted off by a small number of his congregation. This series traces the journey that he takes as he comes to terms with the decision that has been made by the islanders and shows where he eventually ends up in a new post in Aberystwyth in Wales. So far there has been four series of this programme looking at various aspects of Christian life on Scilly. *An Island Parish* as a whole looks at the spiritual and religious life of people living in one of the remotest parts of Great Britain. It is well worth watching next time it is on!

Around the World in 80 Faiths

About this time last year this series of programmes was shown on the BBC. It is currently being repeated on BBC 4. An Anglican vicar the Revd Pete Owen Jones has taken a year out from his parish to travel around the world looking at various faiths. His aim is as the programme title suggests to travel around the world looking at 80 different faiths. It is a series of 8 programmes each one looking at 10 faiths. This is a really fascinating series to watch as you get an insight into the variety of different faiths and beliefs. The last repeated episode to be shown on BBC4 is (at the time of writing) number 4 which looks at faiths in the Middle East. There is due to be a book to be published in the future to accompany the TV series. It is really worth checking this series out as it is really interesting!

Rebekah Fairhurst
(Level 2 R&T Student)

Postgraduate Socials!

1st Postgraduate Social – Bella Italia – Friday 12th February 2010

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first Postgraduate social at Bella Italia, Piccadilly Gardens, followed by drinks for the hardcore among us at Kro! It was a great chance for us all to catch up on what's been happening over Christmas and start off the new semester in style. A fantastic time was had by all, with so many people saying "Why haven't we done this before?!" so let's make this a regular occurrence! Big thanks to Stephen for the photos too! Please do email me with your suggestions for further outings.





Also: Good luck to everyone frantically preparing their AHRC proposals! Once 15th March is out of the way I think celebrations are in order!

Francesca

Francesca Frazer
PG Student Representative
07791 733 980
Francesca.Frazer@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

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

You'll be sure to hear from the RAT Pack soon (They're probably still recovering from Pub Golf!)

That's all... for now

- This is the **Student** Newsletter – please do write something and send it to me, including photos! Betty-Ann.