

Message from the Committee

Hello and welcome to our end of term newsletter. As we approach the summer, we can look back on a year where God has been working in a powerful way on our campus. It has been a great privilege to be part of the Christian Union this year. This last term has been a short six week sprint, full of exams and revisions, but it has been a great end to the term. This term we have run our regular weekly activities, alongside a Lunch-Time Talk, a picnic on the common, a quiz to raise money for Christian Aid, and the annual summer Charity Ball. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the CU who are graduating this year, for their hard work, commitment, and passion shown to the CU over their time here. We pray that you will enjoy the places that you are moving on to, and we trust that God is watching over you all.

Text A Toastie (TAT)

Text A Toastie is an event that we run weekly where people can text in questions they have about Christianity, and a toastie flavour, and we then deliver them their toastie, and answer their questions. Here are a couple of testimonies from the term:

“We went to answer the question, ‘Do you think that Christianity has been ‘watered down’, and, ‘What makes Christianity more valid than Eastern religions’. For the first question the guy who texted in wanted to discuss whether modern Bible translations have been through ‘Chinese whispers’, and for the second we discussed Buddhism briefly but mostly the validity of Christianity. As a result of the discussion he has decided to look into the evidence for himself. We pray that as he investigates the evidence for himself he is challenged to consider his own beliefs based on what he finds.”

“I’ve been to Monte quite a few times and the conversations were generally quite short. This time however was a complete surprise. We had the opportunity to have the conversation in their kitchen. We were only given one question about our views of aliens and animals in Heaven. However, the conversation quickly went beyond this. Through the process of sharing our views with theirs we then had the great opportunity to share our personal testimonies. They listened with great interest. I mostly appreciate their honesty by sharing clearly their own views of this world. We talked about different religions but the conversation led to evolution, lasting for over an hour. I praise God for making this conversation possible.”

CU Summer Charity Ball

One Thursday evening early in May SUCU hosted their annual charity ball. This year it was held at Orange Rooms, and the theme was “The Great Gatsby”. Much fun was had by all, and the costumes were spectacular. The money raised was split between two charities, Rose Road who provide services for disabled children and young people, and Tearfund who work worldwide to help end poverty. The total amount raised was £1320 which was fantastic.

iCafé

iCafé has had a really great year, and we've been so privileged to be part of what God is doing amongst international students. We had a very quiet exam period at iCafé with just a few regulars, but this week, as exams ended, the cafe was packed. It's wonderful to see people coming back. We've had contact with many individuals over the year, thank God for those opportunities. Some have been every week and formed strong friendships, whereas others we've only seen once or twice. We do know however that a good number have also been going to churches and Bible studies which is amazing. Many post graduates are still around in the summer, but the CU run café officially ends next week because most of the team are undergraduates who will leave Southampton for the summer. There are plans that Friends International will run a summer cafe. CU members who remain in the city can continue to attend this and be able to continue follow up. Please pray for those staying and the follow up.

Also prayer for those graduating, both the team and the attendees, is really appreciated. For those who are going back to their respective countries, for the summer or for good, may God grow the seeds sown during their time here and may it bear much fruit.

Inside Out

Inside Out has again been running most Friday nights this term, with exceptions due to exams, from one of the local churches on the high street. We act as a witness, sharing the love of Jesus to the clubbers as they return home from their night out, giving out water, hot drinks, and biscuits. Praise God that He continues to bring in a huge range of people to hear His good news! Prayer points: 1) A number of people who we have talked to have said that they have Christian friends. Pray that they would continue to have great conversations had with us with their friends 2) Prayer for continued good relations with neighbours and the club staff. 3) Thanks for a willingness from members of the CU to serve at Inside Out this term, and that the same level of enthusiasm might continue.

Alumni

We are aware that many people are leaving our CU this year having graduated, and that many people may be reading this and wanting to be more in touch with the work of the CU. If you would like to join the alumni mailing list then please go to www.sucu.org.uk/alumni and sign up there.

Looking Forward

Looking forward, we are planning for the busy summer and autumn that are coming up. Over the summer there are over 1500 international students arriving in two sets who are going to be doing intensive pre-sessional English courses, before their degree program starts in September. We are delighted to have been asked by the University to help meet them upon their arrival.

We are taking groups to both Momentum and Forum this summer. Both are 5 day conferences where we will be camping, spending time in fellowship, and being equipped to share God on our campus next year.

Keep in touch

Follow us on Twitter // Join us on Facebook // Find us online (www.sucu.org.uk) // Email info@sucu.org.uk

**united by Christ's LOVE // grounded in the BIBLE // excited about sharing the GOSPEL
so that ALL may hear and respond to the Good News and Love of Jesus Christ.**

We have a packed schedule of events happening in iWelcome and Freshers' week, to welcome and settle international students and domestic students respectively.

An alpha course will be running weekly for seven weeks, on Thursday evenings. This is a great chance for people to explore what Christianity is actually about, and our last course was well attended.

We are also really looking forward to going away to Winchester for a weekend with other CUs from across the South East, for the UCCF Big Weekend Away. Please pray for the practical arrangements running up to this.

Dates for the Diary

Some particular highlights to look forward to, and points to pray about!

19 th June	Graduate Results Day
26 th June	Continuing Student Results Day
25 th – 27 th June	Pre-Sessional Welcome Part I
23 rd – 25 th July	Pre-Sessional Welcome Part II
22 nd – 26 th Aug	Momentum
1 st – 5 th Sept	Forum
15 th – 22 nd Sept	iWelcome Week
20 th – 29 th Sept	Freshers' Week
23 rd Oct	Start of Alpha
30 th Oct – 2 nd Nov	UCCF South East Big Weekend Away (Winchester)
7 th Dec	SUCU Carol Services

Could you support us financially?

As a CU we're in an incredibly privileged position to reach out to the students of the University of Southampton, and we're grateful to all those who support us so generously. However, there is a financial cost to almost all we do and we'd always appreciate more support of this kind (particularly as we have our busiest term ahead, and new halls of residence to reach). Gifts can be made via the CU's bank account (account number : 02493362, sort code: 30-97-80). Please contact Hannah Aird (treasurer@sucu.org.uk) with any giving related queries. Thank you!