



Jack Sugrue
SGSU President



**st george's,
university of london**

With Freshers' over you would assume that things would quieten down and be a bit more relaxed. You would be wrong! We have dived head first into performing season here at George's with Diwali Show, The Fashion Show, The Play and The Revue, auditioning, rehearsing and performing in the weeks up to Christmas. This means that wherever you are music fills the corridors and someone in costume, singing, dancing and generally being merry is not far away. There have been many charitable fundraising events held recently. Of note the speed dating hosted by SKIP (Students for Kids International

Projects) was a great success. We are firmly into the festive spirit and our bar officers Harry, Greg and Chirish have already planned some amazing decorations, including a grotto to put up for our Christmas Disco on 12th December. The older years are fighting it out as to who gets the honour of being the official Santa on the night, and give out presents to the Freshers. First and Second years don't have any exams at the end of this term so there is no excuse for everyone not to come out and celebrate. I have recently returned from a reunion of all George's graduates from

the 1970's held at the Lanesborough Hotel on Hyde Park Corner (the original site of St George's Hospital and Medical School) and it was brilliant to hear that the character of George's hasn't changed even though we are now a completely different institution. One interesting point of the night was that a Consultant stole an item of memorabilia on display, a tankard from the Grenadier pub, the local to old St George's! Doctors these days eh! Merry Christmas to all Medical Student readers, I wonder how many of you will be getting a Littmann in your stocking?



Mark Chamberlain
ICSMSU President

**imperial college
school of medicine**

ICSM



So welcome back intrepid readers. We've had another busy month over here at ICSM. Our new students have been settling in well, and gave the second years a fantastic run for their money at last weekend's preclinical inter-year rugby match (the cheerleader's halftime food-fight made for some great entertainment as well). Since the end of Freshers' Fortnight we've had loads more great bops in the Reynolds, including a Rocky Horror

themed Halloween party, and the brilliant Centurion in aid of RAG. Together with the blood trail, RAG has already raised well over £15k this year to support the NICU at St Mary's Hospital. Our clubs and societies have been going strong, with strong performances from men's rugby 1sts and our novice rowers, and equally impressive performances from the Drama society with their autumn

production and Music Soc with their choir concert – which was even recorded for the BBC's Songs of Praise! Surgical Soc and MedEd came together with the Union to host a fantastic lecture series focusing on women in medicine which was a huge success and very well attended. Looking forwards, this year's Light Opera production of Guys and Dolls is next week, and don't forget about our festive Christmas Ball on the 15th of Decem-



BL

**barts &
the london**

**Chendoran
Thavamokanthi**
BLSA President



The last couple of months have been hectic at BL with a treadmill of events! At the moment we have some tight deadlines approaching with regards to the QMSU/BLSA Governance. Previous Presidents contributed greatly to the Governance of the Student Union over the recent years, and many changes have been consequently implemented. Barts & The London Students' Association greatly welcome students' input and support, especially at attendance at forthcoming UGMS. Also, well done to all the Dentists who have finished their exams!

Events – Well, 999 went down very well with the BL students. Griffinn Bar has seen some extremely busy nights with the infamous RAG Halloween Party and the launch of our new Unplugged Acoustic nights and DentSoc Rave night. Watch out for S.H.A.G Week with plenty of exciting nights and give aways – “Wee for a Wii!” December is the month we will be hoping to secure the funds and get the go ahead with the Charterhouse Square Project which will mean more modernised facilities and recreational space in our site at Barts. We are also preparing to

refurbish the mixed common room hopefully by January 2008 –fingers crossed! In the meantime, discussions are in the process to bring back hot food to Griffinn! So whats coming up? The Ents officers will be lining up Re:Freshers the first week back from Christmas, the Drama society will be putting on, “The just after Christmas show” and by the end of January the nominations will be out for students to run for my position! See you all at the end of term, Christmas Party on the 19th December at Griffinn Bar.



mseeditorial



CHARLOTTE ROBERTS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HO ho ho, season's greetings. I'm still in denial that it's December and can't believe how quickly this year is going (and also how far into my BSc I am.....yikes, not long before my leisurely 9.30am starts disappear and I can't wear ripped jeans day-in-day-out)

I hope medicine is bringing you all sorts of festive cheer, whether that's a drunk guy claiming to be Santa in A&E, a stressed out father who's fallen off the ladder putting up

christmas lights, a carol singer with laryngitis or a Consultant joyfully laughing about not being on-call over the holiday period.

As usual email me @ charlotte@medical-student.co.uk if you have any comments, suggestions, med school gossip, or just want to say hello.

Good luck to everyone doing exams, and to everyone else, enjoy the last few days of term. A Merry Christmas from everyone here at MS,

and see you in 2009!
Charlotte Roberts
RUMS
Editor-in-Chief

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and principals making their voices heard. The BMA Medical Students Committee (MSC) has described the change to the system after the closing of applications as unfair, as projections estimate that there may be less applicants than last year getting their first choices.

On the positive side, this turn of events at least allays the fear of there being unemployed UK graduates, a real possibility in the mind of medical student leaders early on this summer due to the de-

crease in headroom and the increase in applications from foreign medical graduates. Another assurance that the MSC has managed to secure from the Department of Health was that the headroom will not be reduced any more for 2010.

All that remains to be seen is how this system will turn out, known on the 6/01/09. It is clear that it represents a small amount of jobs from otherwise quite large foundation schools, and that the discomfort of the few will benefit the majority of



Paolo Perella
ULU MSO

999 at Ministry of Sound was a huge success and considering there were no major issues with the UKFPO application process, I thought it was going to be a nice quiet run up to Christmas. How foolish of me...

It seems the powers that be decided they couldn't let London's medical students qualify without a good bit of grief. Resulting from a national

surplus of places and some Trusts being undersubscribed, a decision to cut 6 posts from each Foundation School in England was recently emailed to students. London, as ever, is oversubscribed and the cut means there will be 24 less jobs this year. While this affects all students applying to London, those applying from outside have a much higher chance of bouncing back to their home deaneries if they do not get a London post.

Maybe it's a test – if you can survive the application process without developing a major mental illness or scarring you'll survive in medicine?

That said, preliminary (and

**MedicalStudent
Newspaper**

is the UK's largest free newspaper for student doctors, written and edited by full-time medical students and distributed to over 10,000 students across all five London medical schools. (That's a third of the country's medical students!!!!) Since its inception in Feb 2004 MS has won several major journalism accolades, including **Small Budget Publication of the Year 2005** and runner-up 2006 at the **Daily Mirror NUS National Student Journalism Awards**. Most recently MS was nominated for **Student Newspaper of the Year** at **The Guardian Student Media Awards 2007**.

medical graduates. What most people lose sight of is that London being the most competitive area for job applications, a loss of 24 jobs is not insignificant: particularly to those who would have liked to stay at their home Foundation School. Their response to there being a need for necessary sacrifices, without their knowledge at application, might not be as understanding or forgiving.

unconfirmed) figures suggest the competition rate for places in London is down on last year. Does this mean, all of a sudden, students don't want to train in London? Or, more likely, they just don't want to gamble and are putting non-London posts as their first choice to ensure they don't end up hundreds of miles away from home, family and friends?

Medical Schools individually and Medgroup as a whole will be taking action against this decision so keep your eyes and ears peeled for updates. Despite this issue, I hope you have a fun and relaxing Christmas!
Paolo