



The Bulletin

an official publication of the UCLA Regents Scholar Society

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Academic Advocacy: What is it?

... from the desk of President **Nathan Kwok**



We recently had the privilege of having our picture taken for the BruinLife Yearbook, and along with that, we were asked to include a blurb about our merry society. Uh-oh, another quiz on what exactly we are.

I like to say this society is too wonderful to describe in words, but who doesn't love a good buzzword? So I gave it some thought, and wrote to BruinLife that we are an "Academic Advocacy Group." While no more vague than any other advocacy group, this deserves some elaboration. Academic advocacy goes beyond simply doing well in school; to be an advocate requires speaking out for a cause.

The mode of speaking out for academia is different from, say, save the whales. Education is a privilege that is often underappreciated by its beneficiaries, and teachers everywhere are faced with the dual battle of providing a quality education to their students, and then convincing them to accept it. Believe it or not, they would appreciate your help in both areas. As "model students", you represent the ones they really reached. Teachers were able to harness the best in you because you accepted it, but also because you were able to capture the part of their teaching that was valuable without getting

bogged down in the parts that were not. It is the goal of every teacher to have the same effect on every student that they had on you.

So what can you do? Speaking for academia includes many of the programs that you can participate in with RSS, including the Outreach Program, Distinguished Lecture Series, and Distinguished Seminar Series. Our most recent community service event, "I'm going to college day" also qualifies.

There are also many opportunities outside of RSS, do not forget that education is a two-way street! If you have a genuine frustration with a class and have an idea about how it can be improved, do not be afraid to speak up! While there are certainly some professors who are very unapproachable, most genuinely appreciate your input and would rather see that you care enough to make a constructive criticism instead of simply skipping lecture out of apathy.

Creating an environment of open communication between student and teacher is the reason for events like Dinner with the Faculty, but that kind of communication doesn't have to be one day a year! While you are at it, do not forget to offer some praise as well as criticism, to listen as well as speak up. Remember, just as we in RSS are a society, so too is UCLA a society. Be a part of it!

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Once Upon an Internal Affair

Brian Bilford/
Internal Vice President

Welcome back to another exciting edition of the IA Newsletter Article! OK, maybe the article isn't so exciting, but the events it talks about are! Induction ceremony went off without a hitch, with a lovely impromptu performance by our American Idol-bound Naomi. Thanks to all who've attended general meetings and suffered through my blabbering, especially those who have kicked it into high gear with supporting officer and committee positions.



Incoming members get acquainted on the Faculty Center patio before the Induction Ceremony.

And while all that stuff's great, the REAL event of this upcoming quarter is Winter Retreat! We've rented two large cabins ON Silverstrand beach, complete with barbeques, pool and foosball tables, and all sorts of other goodies. As always, the most entertaining (and most embarrassing) stories about your fellow Regents come from retreat. And since you're probably reading this after retreat has ended, there's a good chance you've already heard some of them =>).

Also, don't forget that the third general meeting is coming up! We've got new designs coming for RSS Gear, a VERY exciting luncheon on its way, as well as lots of fun activities planned, including the always exciting RSS Bowling nights. Also, I still could use more RSS Historians, which is basically just a fancy title for someone who takes pictures at events that are already fun to attend. Lastly, it seems we've narrowed down our Banquet theme to "Zoo," so get your animal costumes ready! If you want more information about anything, email me at IVP@uclarss.org.



Eddie and Harry Garcia and Chen and Xi Guo. Two sets of twins. Who's who?



Musical Theater major and fellow Regents Scholar Naomi Jones performs Gershwin's *Summertime*.

RAWR! WATCH YOUR BACK!!!

CRRR

SQUAWK!

CHIRP!

THE RSS ZOO IS COMING YOUR WAY!

The Banquet committee is ready to start rounding up all the animals in RSS for a big ol' bash! Make sure to watch out for new plans, designs, ideas. Over winter break we've been brainstorming how to turn this party into a zoo...literally! If you come up with anything, email us at publicity@uclarss.org or crd@uclarss.org

Affairs of Importance: From the Universe to the UC Conference

Rosa Langley/
External Vice
President



Every seat was filled at this year's first seminar.

There was an amazing turnout for this first seminar of the year- every seat was filled! The External Affairs Committee also accomplished other tasks this quarter. Coordinator positions were filled with lightning speed, and committee members brainstormed for upcoming events. Congratulations to Kristin McCully, who got Warren Christopher to be our luncheon guest next quarter. I would also like to give props to Elaine Lee, who has been working hard to establish connections with the Regents Scholar Societies at the other UCs.

Winter Quarter will be packed full of events organized by the External Affairs Committee. Most notably, Warren Christopher will be our luncheon guest.



Students (ie: black blobs at the bottom of the picture) view the visualization screen with 3-D glasses as the "universe" changes with each progressive time step.

we can get. If you haven't gotten involved with RSS yet or are looking for a way to help out with External Affairs, winter quarter is a perfect time to do it! Email me at cvp@uclarss.org at any time if you have any questions. Happy Holidays!

I will never forget being handed a silver platter of 3D glasses. It was at the visualization portal, after listening to a 45 minute lecture on the birth of the universe. More specifically, it was an explanation of differing densities of matter through time. The lecture was filled with a bunch of jargon and science rhetoric that was not accessible for some of us. The lecturers were major nerds. I'm talking Nerds with a capital N. But hey, what's so wrong with that? After using up a great deal of concentration listening to the lecture, there was a reward that made it all worthwhile. The Visualization Portal staff gave us each a pair of 3D glasses. We got to fly through colorful designs on the screen, imagining they were the primordial entities existing at the beginning of time.

There was an



Lecturers of the astronomy department have been studying matter of the universe and how to model it on computer.

We will also have a seminar, which could be anything from a discussion on current events to a private museum tour. Dinner with the Faculty promises

to surpass last year's event, with many prestigious faculty members in attendance. To brainstorm, I invite all of you to write a list of the good professors you have had that you think you might like to dine with. Dinner with the UC Regents will be a separate event held next quarter, funding permitting. The planning for the Annual UC Regents Scholar Conference will also take place next quarter. This is a

huge event, and we need all the help

Winter Quarter External Affairs Events

1. Luncheon with Warren Christopher
2. Seminar
3. UC Regents Scholar Conference (Regents Scholars from across California)
4. Dinner with UC Regents

State of the Treasury: RSS Starts Strong; Hail the Almighty Dollar

Adam Miller/ Treasurer

As the first quarter of the 2003-2004 school year comes to a close, memories of a fond ten weeks flood into my mind. Touching, I know. From barbeques to bonfires, RSS has shown a good time to all of its members, new and old. Now, I don't mean to steal anyone's thunder here...I certainly don't need the Activities director getting all crazy on me for jocking his style. I just wanted to remind everyone that none of this would be possible without the help of the almighty dollar. Well, make

that many almighty dollars. Let's face it folks, without the generous sponsorships we receive, we would be just as boring as any other club at UCLA.

It's no coincidence that we started off this year in such fine of shape. Thanks to some thrifty advanced planning from last year, the club started off Fall quarter with a running financial start.

Not to mention the fact that we are still eagerly anticipating a renewed sponsorship from our premier benefactor, Bank

of America. All in all, RSS is off to a glorious monetary year and all of our loyal members will reap the benefits.

To all of you proactive RSSers wondering how you can help, here are a few ideas. Come to Funding Committee meetings! There is no better way to help RSS gain a little extra moolah than to get out and ask people for it...and it works, too! But if that isn't your particular cup o' tea, here's an easy one for you. Come to events! The more attendance we get at events, the more our club will grow in general. So with that said, I expect to see all of you at the first general meeting next quarter!

"RSS is off to a glorious monetary year and all of our loyal members will reap the benefits."

Funding Committee = Network Galore

Kristel Siongco/
Corporate Relations
Director

As I drive down Wilshire on my way to school, Christmas banners adorn poles, window shops are covered with glitzy lights and snow, and I'm filled with the joy of the holidays. After a gruesome week of finals, what better way to celebrate and feel like a little kid again. I'm Kristel, the Corporate Relations Director and Banquet Director, and I want to thank Kristin McCully, Mark Harrison, David Tran, Andrew Folick, Charles Hu, David Luong, Wesley Chang, Ruri Lee, and Grace Kim for helping me out with the Funding Committee. You guys make my job a whole lot easier. We have four more upcoming job fairs and with the new year, I'm optimistic

that we'll find more companies who will sponsor us. For those interested in joining the funding committee, our primary goal is to raise money for RSS through company sponsorships. In simpler words, we haggle like crazy and by chance, we hit a jackpot and get a company to sponsor us, which means more money in the RSS account and in the end, more money for YOU!!!...yes I said YOU!!! => Sounds cool, right? At the same time, funding coordinators develop networking skills and are exposed to companies that provide job and internship opportunities. So please join me. I hope to see both old and new faces at the next committee meeting.

Outreach Committee Positions

Mentor rough job outline:

1. Duration: as long as mentees need you.
2. Each year, you'll get about 5-8 mentees.
3. Calling to congratulate
4. Letter with personalized blurb
5. Answering mentees' questions.
6. Overnight Stay Program (OSP) participation

Alumni Relations Coordinator: Kristin McCully

Mentor Supervisors: make sure no one FLAKES, and to help match mentors to mentees.

OSP Tour Coordinators

Let the Work Begin **Peony Liu/ Outreach Director**

Those of you on the Outreach Committee who have been lamenting the lack of action last quarter can gather all the excess enthusiasm from Fall and use it soon, because our work is about to begin. We still need lots of help in order to recruit and retain the best of today's high school seniors (see above Supporting Officers list), but most of all, we need MENTORS. You are the heart of the Outreach program, and we need responsible, enthusiastic people to mentor about 5 students each (see job description above). Anyway, if you want to take part in all the excitement (and you *know* you do), e-mail me at outreach@uclarss.org with ideas. See you at the first general meeting!

Donate Old Exams to RSS Test File

John Vaszari/
Secretary

Happy Holidays from your favorite RSS Secretary! The fact that I am the only RSS Secretary at the moment and therefore **your** favorite by default, no matter how much you may hate me, is unimportant. What is important is that I have been having a great time this first quarter with all of you guys. I think I've met more new really cool people this fall than I have since

way back in my very first quarter here at UCLA. Which means either I've been a loner since then, or there really are lots of cool people in RSS. You be the judge.

I really don't have anything to update or summarize about how my year as Secretary has been going. I've been a good little note taker at the E-Board meetings (the club would fall apart without the minutes), I've been collecting and organizing pictures of all our great RSS events, and I've been scanning away at our test file. Trust me, when this

project is finally done, accessing our stash of old exams will be so much easier.

I have just one thing to ask of everyone though. 'Tis the season for giving, and I know you all have old midterms and finals just sitting in a pile under your bed next to your dirty underwear, so give them to me! Right now a good part of our file consists of tests that are kind of old, and for this resource to be really valuable to you guys, we need current, up-to-date stuff. So do your civic duty and donate tests to the RSS test file.

Activities Activities! Read All About it!

Jason Shen/
Activities Director

Coming to you from the Activities Committee Winter Quarter:

1. RSS Board Game Night.....free
2. Bowling.....~\$12
3. Six Flags Magic Mountain.....~\$29
4. Ice Skating.....~\$8
5. Jay Leno TV Taping.....free
6. Being with other RSSers.....priceless



John Vaszari's temporary burial at bonfire.



First-week social, featuring Korean BBQ, at the Sunset Recreation Center.

A whole quarter is over, and what does the activities committee have to show for it?

Well, actually, a lot. This fall quarter saw a wildly successful first-week social (hopefully

the last time I have to marinate 30 pounds of Korean BBQ in my trunk), two community

service events helping inner-city youths, a bonfire with record turnout and a record number of blackened marshmallows, and finally the ever-popular trip to a musical where we filled 44 seats at the Pantages Theater for a showing of the Producers.

It's not over yet, boys and girls. Actually, this quarter was just a warm-up. Next quarter, activities will come out swinging. Keep your schedules open for an outing to Six Flags Magic

Mountain, a fun and friendly game of bowling (practice for the not-so-friendly championship game spring quarter), a trip to see the Lakers at Staples, an excuse to relax after midterms at a first-ever RSS board-game night, a chance to show off your inner Michelle Kwan on our ice skating trip, and an opportunity to watch a taping of America's number one late-night host, Jay Leno. So, check your e-mails and don't miss out on all the great stuff ahead.



International Day of the Child.

RSS Website Provides Wealth of Resources; Use it!

Evelyn Hsu/
Communications
Director

I hope everyone's visited the web page by now because there are a lot of resources on it for you. The most updated section of the page is the Calendar; any and all events we plan will always be posted as soon as they're final. So if you want to know where and when something is, check the Calendar. And just in time for the new quarter, post what you're taking on the Study List to see if anyone else is in your classes; friends are always handy for keeping you awake in class. If you have joined a committee yet but want to help out, take a look at the committee pages to see what they've been up to and then email the committee head(s) to see how you can help. While you're at the web page, fill out a

profile so others can find out a little more about you. Two other wacky things to see and do are the picture gallery and the bulletin board. If you're lost and confused, browse through the Resources section, where an online version of this newsletter is also posted; maybe we can help. So if you haven't already, go visit <http://www.uclarss.org> to find out what the club's up to now.

Communications Committee

Technical Advisors:

Shane Brengle
Daniel Chien
Jonathan Hung
Nick Whitenack

www.uclarss.org
Features:

- Calendar
- Study List
- Test File
- Online version of Newsletter
- Profile Listing
- Picture Gallery
- Committee Pages/Updates
- Bulletin Board (for anything, from random questions to textbook vending) <-- NEW!

Special thanks to our generous sponsors:



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UCLA Financial Aid Office

Interested in supporting UCLA RSS? Contact:

Kristel Siongco

Corporate Relations Director

crd@uclarss.org

Snowgirl Stories Exposes Students to Kinesthetic Learning

Van Hoang/
Educational
Programs
Director

Our fall edition of the Distinguished Lecture Series was held in third week. We were fortunate enough to get Professor Lauri Mattenson Hoffman from the Writing Programs. Her lecture was entitled "Snowgirl Stories: One Woman's Search for Wholeness." She spoke about the cognitive and kinesthetic approaches to learning in an effort to create a more complete educational experience for us, the students. The lecture was held in a very imitate atmosphere and Lauri talked to us about the experiences she went through and even showed us a few inter-

esting meditation poses. She encouraged us all to find other holistic outlets in education to connect our

"She [Lauri Mattenson Hoffman] encouraged us all to find other holistic outlets in education to connect our body and mind."

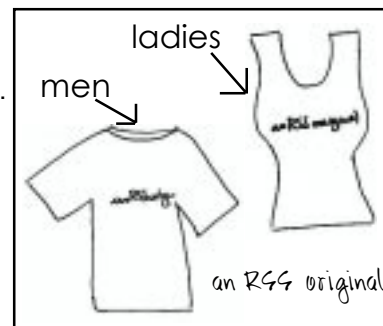
body and mind. If you find this material interesting, you can learn more. Lauri is teaching 38HW, "Body, Mind and Literacy" in spring quarter, 2004. It's only offered once a year and is limited to 15 students. It fulfills both an

Honors Collegium class and the Writing II requirement. I took this class last year and I highly recommend it!

I just wanted to thank the people that came to the lecture and I hope to see more of your faces at the next one in Winter Quarter! It will probably be in the later part of the quarter so keep your eyes open! Remember **this lecture series is open to all UCLA students**, so feel free to bring a friend. If you would like to lend a helping hand in planning these lectures, e-mail me at epd@uclarss.org. Hope you all had a great Winter Break!



Features a faux pocket protector in the front and a declaration of Nerd pride on the back



Two styles. A simple, concise "RSS original"

Publicity: More is More

Tiffany Duong/
Publicity Director

Executive Publicity Aids:

Terry Dip, Heather Feenstra, David Luong, Thanh Mai, Adam Trott

Chief Banner Designer:

Robert Campbell

Graphic Designers (open):

1. Gear (T-shirt, sweatshirt, tanktop, and long-sleeved shirt) design
2. Board design for third signboard.

Publicity is currently in a huge designing phase: t-shirts, sweatshirts, boxers, signboards, banners...you name it, we've got it in the works!

The talented Robert Campbell designed a banner to hang over Bruin Walk. We'll hang it out once a quarter, on a major event. Most importantly, it should be here in time for Scholar's Day, our big recruitment day!!

Our IABP family picked out two designs for the RSS gear: "an RSS original" and "Revenge of the Nerds." Computerized designs will be available soon on the website. For now, though, the above sketches roughly depict the new gear we will be getting. Other than that, we're just trying to get the word out about events and people and fun stuff!

New Banners for the New Year



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