

09/10

hallamunion.org

IMPACT STATEMENT

“This year our focus has been on campaigning, where we have successfully worked with the NUS on two national campaigns; ‘Town Takeover’, raising awareness of student debt, and ‘Vote for Students’, encouraging students to register to vote and for the party that best represents the issues that matter to them. Both campaigns were about encouraging and facilitating students to get involved in their community and making their voices heard.

In February we held Get Active week to promote the various ways students can get involved in physical activity at Hallam Union and in Sheffield.

We have had a great year representing students’ rights at the most senior levels of Hallam University and the city of Sheffield.”

HALLAM UNION OFFICERS



WELCOME

Hallam Union is proud to share with you the impact we have had on our students during 2009/10.

2009/10 has been a successful year. Some of the highlights of the year are:

- **Winning a Best Bar None Award at gold standard and placing third in the country overall. The Best Bar None Awards are to reward licensed premises for acting responsibly.**
- **Getting a silver level Sound Impact Award for our work embedding ethical and sustainable practises throughout Union activities.**
- **Our continued work reviewing the space within the Union, with this year seeing a refurbishment of Bar Phoenix, responding to student feedback to take down the partition wall that sat between the bar and seating area. We refurbished P Pod, transforming it into a modern, stylish place to relax. Plus we have confirmed plans to alter the layout of our Activities Pod to best serve the needs of the students, which will take place in the summer ready for the next academic year.**
- **Redesigning the website to be more attractive and user friendly.**
- **Employing a new staff team to focus on democracy and representation.**
- **Students voting to change the roles of their elected Officers. 2010/11 will therefore see additional officer roles in Communications and Democracy and Welfare and the Community increasing the team from five to six members.**
- **A successful campaign, run with the National Union of Students encouraging students to register to vote in the General Election.**



Hallam Union's focus for each year is to improve our services to students in the following key areas: representing our students, enriching the student experience, developing our students for the future and recognising student achievement.

In addition to these areas, this year we have introduced a new focus on students as members of the community.

The following report will illustrate some of the ways that we have met these areas of focus during the academic year 2009/10.



representing

“We were a couple with a young child when we started our course at SHU and had a second child part way through the course. Over our time at University we had issues with renting our property, student funding, benefits, tax credits and childcare. As mature students with children, we were struggling to keep on top of things. The Advice Centre really supported us and helped us make sense of the paper work and dealing with bureaucracy. They helped us get an extra £12,000 over our time at SHU, and without this we would not be able to follow our chosen career paths.”

EMMA OWEN & IVAN GARCIA-CRESPO

REPRESENTING OUR STUDENTS

Hallam Union is a democratic organisation that keeps students at the centre of every decision.

“Through the Course Rep system I was able to appeal to the University to purchase Encase software, used in industry but not taught on my course. Hallam Union, and in particular Sam Brown, the Academic Affairs Union Officer, supported me by elevating the status of my appeal and giving me access to the decision makers in my faculty. Getting this software and training, means that my course mates and I will be better prepared for our future careers.”



BEN DOWEN

In 09/10 Hallam Union held a referendum to propose changes to the elected officer roles. The proposal increased the number of full time officer roles from five to six and included representation in Communications and Democracy and Welfare and the Community which did not feature in the current officer roles. Over 90% of students voted in favour of these changes.

Our annual sabbatical officer elections also saw a record voter turnout from 1,766 to 4,909 students. This huge increase in votes cast shows more students engaging in our democratic processes and as a result, the election was far more representative of the views of the entire student population.

representing students **at a glance**

NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES AND CASE WORK DEALT WITH BY ADVICE CENTRE	8,062
NUMBER OF STUDENTS SITTING ON UNION COUNCIL	17
NUMBER OF STUDENT REPS	1,169
ATTENDEES TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	0
TURNOUT IN ELECTIONS	4,909
NUMBER OF VOTES CAST	12,795

recognising



“I used the experience I gained through volunteering on Fit Club to complete my work-based project module, where I had to collect a diary of the skills I had learnt whilst working on a project that was external to my degree. Winning the nationally recognised Volunteering Gold Award for Dedication meant I didn’t have to speculate on the skills I had gained as it gave me firm evidence of what I had achieved whilst co-leading Fit Club.”

COLETTE PARKINSON

RECOGNISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT


It is important that we are able to recognise all the good work our students are doing.

We think it is vital that we recognise and reward student achievement. We have a series of internal events and award ceremonies and where possible we enter students into nationally recognised awards.

This year 226 students applied for the Hallam Award - a union-wide recognition of achievement in bronze, silver, gold and platinum tiers. These awards are based upon a student's personal skills development as a result of being involved in Union activities. We also held a series of awards events for our departments such as The Event, Hats Off, Hallam Hula, the Student Rep's end of year party, Society 'Time to Shine' awards and the Sports Ball.

recognising student achievement **at a glance**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR THE HALLAM AWARD	226
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING HALLAM AWARD	111
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR WINNER	MEGAN EDWARDS
STUDENT VOLUNTEER ENGLAND (SVE) GOLD AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT	AMY MOORE
SVE GOLD AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP	KATE HEALEY
SVE GOLD AWARD FOR DEDICATION	EMILY ROPER
SOCIETY OF THE YEAR	STREET & BREAKDANCE
BEST NEW SOCIETY	STOP THE TRAFFIK (STT)
MOST IMPROVED SOCIETY	BELLYDANCE
BEST EVENT	'LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE, DANCE' BY STREET & BREAKDANCE
BEST COLLABORATIVE EVENT	HUMAN RIGHTS DAY BY AMNESTY, POLITICS & STT
SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR	ZARA HOHN
SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR	CALLUM GREEN
COACH OF THE YEAR	MIKE TAYLOR
TEAM OF THE YEAR	WOMEN'S BADMINTON
MOST IMPROVED TEAM	WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
CLUB OF THE YEAR	SNOWSPORTS
FRESHER OF THE YEAR	HANNAH JOHN
SERVICE TO SPORT	CHRIS HOWARD

A close-up portrait of a young man with short, dark, spiky hair and light blue eyes. He is wearing a white collared shirt and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

"I would recommend Hallam Volunteering to anyone, it's brilliant! I think most people start because they think it will enhance their CV but it's more than that. You learn a lot about yourself and what you are capable of doing and the social side is as vital as it gets you away from the stress of your degree."

RICHARD OWEN

ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

We realise the importance of providing students with a richer and more varied university experience, and give them access to a wide range of activities outside of their academic study.

"I have worked for the Hallam Union Bars Team since September 2009. The team felt more like a family - if you are feeling down there is someone to pick you up. When it comes to outside of work we all have drinks and we enjoy each other's company. It has been an ultimate pleasure working within Hallam Union. It was very emotional when I had my last shift and I will miss each and every one of my colleagues."




REBECCA HEATHER

Hallam Union offers a range of safe social spaces for our students. In 2010 both Bar Phoenix and The HUBS venue won the Best Bar None Gold Award, the only licensed premises in Sheffield to receive this standard. We also received a Silver Sound Impact Award for sustainable practices.

enriching the student experience **at a glance**

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO SAY HALLAM UNION HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE VIA OUR 'BIG ASK' SURVEY	69%
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AN ACTIVITY	3,401
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AN ACTIVITY WHO ARE POST GRADUATE/PART TIME STUDENTS	17.7%
AVERAGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED A COMMERCIAL EVENT	1,736 per week
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS	32
NUMBER OF SOCIETIES	55
NUMBER OF NEW SOCIETIES AND CLUBS CREATED	15



“As part of the volunteering standing committee I have learnt so many skills I can now take with me into future jobs. As well as gaining more confidence and learning leadership and team working skills, I also have greater knowledge and understanding of how a business works and have taken part in budget setting, holding meetings, prioritising and making difficult decisions. I would never have got this opportunity if I hadn’t joined Hallam Volunteering.”

HELEN ROBERTS

DEVELOPING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

We believe it is beneficial for students to acquire additional skills to their degree to help them stand out in a competitive job market.

The activities that we offer are designed to develop a broad range of transferrable skills for students to use in their future careers. Each activity has a hierarchy of project leaders and committee members giving students the option of getting involved in planning, democracy, leadership and budgeting plus holding and chairing meetings.



Where necessary students involved in Union activities can access relevant training, held after University teaching hours, by members of Union staff. For example members of the publicity team in the volunteering department were given training in InDesign so they could produce their newsletter.

New for 2009/10 Hallam Volunteering held a two hour workshop to help inform students how their volunteering experience can be used to enhance personal statements for job applications.

Also introduced this year was a series of workbooks for students who are employed by Hallam Union. These are on three levels and are incentivised by pay increases and promotions. The workbooks help students identify the specific skills they are gaining as part of their job role as well as understand how their work contributes to the Union as a whole. Helping our student staff identify the skills they are attaining helps them to evidence these skills on their CV. The workbooks are designed so students can work flexibly around their course commitments.

developing students **for the future**

NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS OUR BARS AND STAGE SERVICES STAFF HAVE ACCESS TO	6
NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS HELD BY OUR VOLUNTEERING DEPARTMENT	52



“I got involved with the ‘Fire Kills’ campaign, through a scheme run by Unilever in conjunction with the South Yorkshire Fire Service. Hallam Union has supported me throughout my campaign and has given me access to hold stalls in the Union building and to display campaign materials on their website. Holding the campaign in a Students’ Union was a first for the South Yorkshire Fire Service and the campaign was a greater success because of it.”

EMMA CADMAN

STUDENTS AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

We want our students to feel fully integrated into their community.

“I got involved in the NUS ‘Vote for Students’ campaign because I am passionate that students should feel part of the community and have a say in how it is run by registering to vote in Sheffield. I am proud to say in student areas voter turnout was higher this year than in previous years.”

DANI BECKETT, UNION PRESIDENT



This is a new area of focus for Hallam Union, with a newly appointed staff team arriving in post in November 2009. The new staff team have spent the year laying the foundations of a new Community Strategy with the aim of increasing student engagement in their local community and working to improve the relationship between students and the wider community.



The Community Strategy will focus on three key themes:

Developing Winning and Influential Partnerships: This strand is about creating strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with relevant community organisations.

Promoting and Highlighting the Image, Role and Contribution of Students: This strand refers to enabling Hallam Union to effectively celebrate the success of our students and the positive impacts that they have on the local community.

Empowering Active Students and Representing Members’ Interests: This strand of the Community Strategy is about supporting and enabling students to take an active role in the community.

Moving forward into the next academic year Hallam Union will have a full time dedicated elected Welfare and Community Officer to promote student involvement in the Community. We shall also be in a position to begin the implementation of the strategy and be able to report on the impact of the first stages of the strategy after the next academic year.

providing opportunities to meet p

case study



CASE STUDY:

LOUISE MURPHY

“I am involved in so many aspects of Hallam Union. I am involved in the societies standing committee, I’m a member of the Union’s bar staff, and I am in the Drama Society. I think university life would be boring without the Union. I wouldn’t have had the same opportunities to try new things and meet new people and I would certainly have a more stressful job.

Working as Bar Staff at Hallam Union is great because my hours are managed flexibly around my course commitments, and the bar is only open in term time so I don’t have to stay in Sheffield in the holidays just to keep my job. It’s great socially too as you get to meet so many people you wouldn’t otherwise get the opportunity to.

Whilst in the Drama Society I directed Hallam’s first musica, one that was written by two ex-students. It was really hard getting the resources we needed to put on the performance so I had to ask for help from local theatre companies. They were all really helpful and as a result I feel more of a part of the theatrical community of Sheffield. Being part of the Drama Society has also enhanced my CV as it demonstrates I am an outgoing and confident individual. The societies standing committee gave me the opportunity to be involved in formal meetings, minute taking, and the ratification of societies. Each of these has provided evidence of my transferable skills on my CV.

I also decided to run for election as the Academic Rep for 2010/11 which I am pleased to say I was successful. Next year I will be in this role as a part-time post running alongside my degree. I wanted to be the Academic Rep to help support students and ensure they have a happy and fulfilling time at university. This position will also help me take an active stance on keeping the cap on tuition fees, something I care very strongly about.

One other positive that has come out of Hallam Union is that I have been involved in so many Union activities I have had to really improve my time management skills to fit it all in!”



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 09/10

Over the next few pages are some of the highlights of the academic year 2009/10. In this year students were able to have their views on fees represented nationally through the 'Town Takeover', take part in large-scale sporting tournaments through Varsity and Winter Varsity, raise money for charity and attend award nights to recognise their volunteering achievements. As a Union we achieved two new best practise awards and launched the brand new student welfare campaign, 'Get Active Week'.

TOWN TAKEOVER

Hallam Students' Union and Sheffield Students' Union joined forces to take over Sheffield town centre at the beginning of November. The 'Town Takeover' was part of the nationwide National Union of Students (NUS) campaign against the government's plans to lift the cap on tuition fees. The Sheffield take-over was a two day event to raise awareness of the negative effects this will have on students, but also local businesses and city residents.

STUDENTS VOTE FOR A NEW WELFARE AND COMMUNITY OFFICER

In December students voted to change the representative structure of Hallam Union, with a resounding 93% of students in favour of these changes. The Officer team will grow from five to six and the new roles of Welfare and Community Officer and Democracy and Communications Officer were created.



PACKING REINDEER FOOD FOR CHARITY

On December 1st, Hallam Volunteering packed 'reindeer food' to raise money for Amy's Retreat, a local children's cancer charity. Students, staff and the public were invited to come into Santa's Grotto (a.k.a The HUBS) and eat mince pies, listen to classic Christmas carols, and work with the elves to make reindeer food all for a good cause.

CAMPAIGNS

2009/10 saw the launch of new campaigns raising awareness and promoting safety in all aspects of student life. Campaigns were run on personal safety (both in the home and out and about), safer drinking, being a good neighbour, general health and nutrition, budgeting and safe sex.

GET ACTIVE WEEK

'Get Active Week' was a week of physical activity opportunities and awareness-raising events to encourage as many Sheffield Hallam students and staff as possible to become more active and improve their quality of life.



VARSIITY WIN! (pictured above)

Thousands of students celebrated as Hallam was crowned outright winner of Varsity, an annual sporting tournament between the University of Sheffield and Hallam. After eight days of competition in over 50 different sports, at venues across Sheffield, it came down to the last fixture of the competition - men's football - to decide whether Hallam or Sheffield University would be crowned champions.

MONEY DOCTORS

Money Doctors is a project to help students become financially literate. Since September 2009, the Money Doctors scheme in the Advice Centre has helped to deliver talks to students before and after lectures, as well as running workshops, money hunts and competitions. Money Doctors also ran a volunteering project where volunteers got involved in a campaign to raise awareness about a range of money issues affecting students.

AWARDS

Bar Phoenix and The HUBS nightclub venue beat stiff competition to be awarded Sheffield Best Bar None (BBN) Awards in the categories of best bar and best club. These awards are part of a national scheme, held in eighty locations across the UK, and were introduced to reduce the risk of alcohol related harm, disorder and crime to the city centre. Bar Phoenix was also awarded the Gold standard and placed third in the country at the annual NUSSL (National Union of Students Services Ltd) BBN awards held in Liverpool in March of this year. This has led to involvement in the launch of the Best Bar None Sheffield scheme for 2010/11 at the Annual Licensee Conference held in May.

Hallam Union was also awarded the Sound Impact Award to a Silver Standard. The Sound Impact Award is a scheme to promote environmental best practise in Students' Unions.

ANNUAL REWARD AND RECOGNITION EVENTS

Hallam Union hosts annual reward and recognition nights to showcase the good work of our students and to show our students how much we appreciate the time and effort they have given to Union activities. In 2009/10 we held the following reward and recognition nights:

- The Event
- Hats Off
- Hallam Hula
- Societies Time to Shine
- The Sports Ball
- Student Rep End of Year Party



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