

Sheffield Hallam
Students' Union
www.hallamunion.org



impact statement

welcome

Hallam Union is proud to share with you the impact we have had on our students during 2008/09.

2008/09 has been an exciting year for Hallam Union with some of the most noticeable changes being made during the space review which was finished in time for September 2008. This included moving our advice centre to a more prominent position, making it more visible to students using our building. We also created Pod4 in response to student feedback requesting a non-alcoholic social space. Other highlights included the creation of 19 new societies and clubs and a successful referendum; held to change our future governance structure.

Each year we strive to improve the services we provide our members. These focus on four key areas: representing our students, enriching the student experience, developing our students for the future and recognising student achievement.

This impact statement outlines some of the ways we have met these aims during the academic year 2008/09.



“Each year we strive to improve the service we provide our members...”





“I dread to think where I would be without Hallam Volunteering; I may have even ended up in the wrong career!”

student case study: andrew mitchell

Andrew Mitchell, a Business Graduate from Sheffield Hallam University is just one of thousands of students who have been involved in Hallam Union during his time at University.

"I have been heavily involved in the Union during my time as a Hallam University student. It has given me a voice to raise any issues I have had with my course, for instance I was able to make change through the Union's Course Rep system regarding some aspects I was unhappy with during placement year. Becoming a Course Rep gave me a platform to express the views and concerns of myself and my course mates and as a consequence of this, I was able to make change for subsequent years.

Most of my involvement with Hallam Union however, has been through Hallam Volunteering. I volunteered on the Kanye Kanye project which was a social enterprise project working with young people. The aim was to also come up with business ideas to make the project self sufficient. I was lucky enough to be one of two students picked to go to Africa; based on a learning and development record I had to submit as part of the project.

Going to Africa was the most life changing thing I have ever done. It has given me a perspective on my life that I would never have got

without the trip. It also gave me the travelling bug so I booked a trip to New Zealand, Australia and Thailand as soon as I got back!

I was also involved in a project called the Green Team, where I received the Student Volunteer England Gold Award in recognition for my work as project leader. I have also got my Hallam Award to Silver level which acknowledges all the activities I have been involved in throughout my time at Hallam University.

I dread to think where I would be without Hallam Volunteering; I may have even ended up in the wrong career! I wanted to be a teacher but my work with children on a volunteering project showed me that this career path wasn't for me. Now I am on a HR graduate scheme with Marks and Spencer and loving it. I was told it was the leadership, time management, interpersonal and organisational skills that I had learnt during my volunteering work that made me stand out from the many other applicants onto the graduate scheme."



“ I was elected as the Sports Officer for 08/09. My main aim for the year was to change the perception of sports from being something for people who play competitively to an activity all students can enjoy.”

SAM GILL, ELECTED SPORTS OFFICER 08/09

representing our students

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

In 08/09 two student elections were held. The first being the yearly election of the Officer Committee where the students voted on who would represent them for the year of 09/10.

The second was a referendum proposing changes to our governance structure, a review of which was requested by Union Council. New Articles of Governance were written to initiate changes that were necessary in order to comply with charity law but also to make sure that the Union's membership are truly represented. A proposal, written in consultation with student groups, was put to the membership in a referendum in April and was passed with an overwhelming majority of 96%.



REPRESENTING OUR STUDENTS AT A GLANCE

Number of enquiries and case work dealt with by advice centre	6,984
Number of students sitting on Union Council	15
Number of student reps	1,009
Attendees to the annual general meeting	94
Number of policy motions passed in AGM	4
Turnout to elections	1,766
Number of votes cast	12,636



“ I was proud when the staff in Hallam Volunteering nominated me for the South Yorkshire High Sheriff Award for my input in the Interact Project, a project working with young people with Aspergers Syndrome. But then actually winning the award meant so much because it showed I really had made a difference in other peoples lives. ”

**KERRY NEWCOMBE, BROADCASTING JOURNALISM
POST GRADUATE STUDENT**

recognising student achievement

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

We are passionate about celebrating the successes of our students, we do this through internal award ceremonies and nominating students for external awards wherever possible.

In 08/09 we gave the Hallam Award to 92 students. The Hallam Award has three tiers, Bronze, Silver and Gold, which are awarded based on a student's level of involvement in Union activities and their personal skills development through these activities. The Hallam Award is Union wide so students can submit activities from all of our departments.

RECOGNISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT	
Number of students registered for the Hallam Award	191
Number of students achieving their Hallam Award	92
Volunteer of the Year winner	Vickie Crofts
Student Volunteer England Award winner	Andrew Mitchell
High Sheriff Award winner	Kerry Newcombe
Society of the year	SHUUS Debating society
Best new society	Ice skating
Most improved society	Street and break dancing
Best website	Hallam multiplayer brigade
Best activity/event/trip	ACS culture show
Best society inter collaboration	ISOC, ACS, Debating and Amnesty
Sports personality of the year	Carley Hayes
Fresher of the year	Jamie Cottle
Team most improved	Women's rugby Union
Club of the year	Gaelic Athletic Club
Sports personality of the year	Rebecca Trevor
Team of the year	Mens Volleyball
Sports woman of the year	Lydia Chamberlain
Service to sport	Perry Cook



“ I have met some of my best friends through Hallam Union Societies, and have been able to try things I have never had the opportunity to before. I even helped set up a street and break dance society ”

VIGNESH MURALI, PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENT

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.

As well as offering a range of social spaces for our students, Pod4 and Bar Phoenix, we provide a variety of activities through volunteering, sports, stage services and societies.

Sport: Hallam's Sports Union has the biggest membership base in the Student Union with over 1,300 members. We have 37 sports clubs offering both competitive and recreational sports

Volunteering: During 08/09 we had 526 members and ran 39 different projects, including a one off project called Kanye Kanye which gave four volunteers the chance to go to Africa to undertake conservation work.

Societies: 08/09 was a successful year for societies with 19 new societies being created and 510 students joining a society.

Stage Services: We had ten students volunteering to help with stage services and events management.

REPRESENTING OUR STUDENTS AT A GLANCE

Number of students enrolled in an activity	3,171
Percentage of students enrolled in activities who are post graduate/part time students	16%
Average number of students who attended a commercial event.	1,953
Number of volunteering projects	39
Number of societies	42
Number of new societies and clubs created.	19



“ The bar staff team is like a family and I have made lots of friends working at the Union but as well as the social side I have learnt lots of new skills like how to act professionally with customers, problem solve, good customer service, punctuality, general health and safety and team working. There is also scope to get promotions and take on more responsibility ”

JOE BAYLEY, HALLAM UNION BAR STAFF

developing students for the future

We believe that students require additional skills to their degree to be able to stand out in the competitive graduate job market.

Our Union activities are designed to teach a variety of skills sets with students able to choose the level of involvement and responsibility they take on.

Our sports teams, societies, and volunteers are led and run by students, with Union staff support and training given where necessary. Each group works within a hierarchy of project leaders and committee members allowing students to gain exposure to practical skills including planning, budgeting, democracy, leadership, and holding and chairing meetings.

Students who are involved with our volunteering projects can sign up to relevant training sessions, held outside of University hours, delivered by Union staff who are working in that field. Feedback is taken at the end of each training session so we can monitor the quality of the training.

We employ students to work in our bars and at our events. We strive to train our employees effectively and equip them with transferrable skills to help with their chosen career paths.



DEVELOPING STUDENTS AT A GLANCE

Number of training sessions our bars and stage services staff have access to	53
Number of training sessions held by our volunteering department	36



“ When I got my third year work placement as an Events Manager at Hewlett Packard I was told it was my experience with Hallam Volunteering that set me apart from the other applicants. ”

student case study:

kate healey

Kate Healey is a fourth year Marketing undergraduate who has worked with the Students' Union in a variety of roles, and found the experience personally and professionally rewarding.

"Hallam Union has been a big part of my time at University, especially Hallam Volunteering.

I joined Hallam Volunteering because I knew it would give me some additional skills and experience for my CV but I was surprised how much I enjoyed working on the projects. I have made lots of friends through Hallam Volunteering and it has given me an extra social dimension to my time at University that I would not have otherwise had.

I started off by volunteering on the publicity team in my first year, as I am studying for a marketing degree, and then progressed onto being the publicity team, team leader in my second year. The publicity team had to help promote all the other volunteering projects which was great because you get to work with everyone rather than being confined to just one team.

I got lots of really useful experience on the publicity team which has helped me more than I expected. When I got my third year work placement as an Events Manager at Hewlett Packard

I was told it was my experience with Hallam Volunteering that set me apart from the other applicants. It's been amazing to have the opportunity to work for such a prestigious company and my confidence has increased because of it.

Next year (academic year 09/10) I will be the Volunteering Officer for Hallam Volunteering. I decided to run in the Officer election because I have had so much fun working on my volunteering projects and being team leader I wanted to help make sure other students have the same great experience as me. My role will be to support the volunteering students and ensure their views are represented.

I can't imagine what I would have missed out on if I hadn't joined the Hallam Volunteering Publicity Team. Now my CV looks great and I have a clear vision for my future career. Hallam Volunteering and my placement at Hewlett Packard combined have given me the confidence I need to pursue my career goal of working in sales and marketing management."



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