



THE PIPELINE

ChemEngSoc Newsletter #5 - Christmas Edition

Tuesday 13th December 2016

Time to Get Merry

Oh what a term it has been, it's hard to believe how quickly it has flown by. For first years it feels like an eternity since they left the safety of their nest, yet the Christmas test loomed ever closer, marking an end to the first phase of their learning. A few words of advice from 4th year Mike "Fail on purpose, they literally give you free 1 on 1 help afterwards and you lose nothing". Regardless, you're all Imperial Chemical Engineers and failure isn't an option. At least you will have a chance to redeem yourselves on 15th December with the ChemEngSoc Pub Crawl, what better way to end the term than by getting boozy at The Slug. It has been a great term for events, with some of the biggest dinners we've ever held, make sure you finish this term on a high.

Real talk though. Although the term is ending, stress has been high for the past few months and with the days so dark and cold it can be easy to get down. 1 in 4 students suffer from mental health problems of which the majority of those are depression and anxiety related with 6 out of 10 students reporting that stress gets in the way of their daily life. It's important to get out and get involved in things outside of the department. Make sure you're keeping up with your societies and sports, putting time aside to watching your favourite TV show or playing your favourite game. We put on events so as to give you all a break and a fun time away from studying.

Imperial offers a counselling service completely free for anything and you should not hesitate to use it if you're feeling you need someone to have a chat to, just drop them an email: counselling@imperial.ac.uk

"Have a good night Melissa. Do all the things I wouldn't do"

- Anonymous Staff member



President Professor Paul repeats same joke and no I don't mean his fashion choices

In This Issue

- Christos Markides: "It all went wrong when I lost the soul patch"
- ISIS threat: explosive dominance in pub quiz
- Christmas tree appears in study room. Madness ensues.

PIPELINE EXCLUSIVE



Inquisitive, successful, soulful

Christos Markides, The Man With The Flow

Tell me about yourself: summarise your education, industrial experience, how you ended up teaching at Imperial?

By mistake. I'll go all the way back: I always wanted to do engineering, I didn't know which type, so I decided to do general engineering and that limited the options. I applied to a few places and was given a place at Cambridge. I went through the undergraduate course and realised I was interested in thermodynamics, fluid mechanics and heat transfer, so I specialised in aerothermal engineering. I did a PhD in that area followed by a short 6-month post-doc doing the same thing, and I felt a bit like I was doing the same thing over and over, getting a bit tired of the day to day academic life. So I then quit and span out a company, which I ran full time for 3 years. At some point I decided this wasn't for me and I did like academia, so I went back and applied for jobs, ending up at Imperial.

What research are you currently undertaking?

In my group we work on generally thermally based technologies, we look at operations to do with heat. The focus is technology development, all the way from molecules and processes to understanding the fundamentals of feeding this into an application. We remain mindful of how the technology then fits into a system asking it to operate in a certain way.

What would you consider your greatest achievement?

Honestly, my daughter. After that, my second biggest achievement, is how well I did with my time at Cambridge. My father was the first from my family to go to university but didn't have the money to go outside of Greece. I was the first to go outside of that, so for me that was a big deal.

What would you consider your greatest regret?

I like to say I don't have regrets, but I think that I don't regret a decision so much as I take too long to make it. When I did the spin out my company I realised sooner before making the decision that I wanted to go back to academia and it wasn't the right thing for me, and that made my current job more difficult. There was too much of a gap and you forget all sorts of things, so I regret that.

In your opinion why are you so popular in with first years? What is your method for engaging students?

It's a good question, I've often thought about this. In general, the way I see teaching and day to day life as a member of the department is something that I do naturally. I always like to have a bit of fun, and try to keep the lectures from being boring, I know when the lecture is boring because I feel bored. I take myself as a starting point for everything that happens in the class. It's a combination of being myself, placing myself in the shoes of a student, and explaining it to myself first from a student's point of view, in the simplest way possible. In general, be natural act natural.

Tell me about this photo (above), what happened to the soul patch?

That's actually a funny story. It started out as a full goatee, that progressively lost parts, that was the last bit that remained. This was the 90's, the days of grunge, I was a very big Pearl Jam fan, Eddie Vedder used to have one. So maybe that was me trying to be like my idol.

How would you describe your political position?

Any political views that I might have originate from lessons in life and they start from the home. Your parents tell you things that you grow up with but then the world teaches you things that change that. I've flipped politically many times and I wouldn't consider myself part of any "side", and I think this helps you very much as it helps you make decisions on what seems right to you. In different situations you might have different views, so you might feel straight-jacketed to having certain views due to an angle you're coming at it. I struggle to understand how any intelligent person can completely rubbish any and every argument from the other side. I feel I'm fairly balanced in my views.

Can you really drive a tank?

laughs no, but I had a license for a 5 or 10 tonne truck. I did the military school for a branch of the army to do with supply chain, which included having to drive trucks and such. I'm not sure the license is valid anymore.

Rumour has it you came in the top 10 of your class at Cambridge, how did you achieve this?

It's actually a very simple story and not very inspiring, I worked very hard for that, there's no trick. I worked very hard in my undergraduate course and was very proud to do that well. One of the biggest advantages to being a student is you have these 9 month years with a large Summer. It's a sprint between October and May and I never allowed myself to slack. But come May, I would leave, and not think about it until next October. Then you have all the time to relax and chill.

Who would be your dream dinner date - dead, alive or fictional?

Boltzmann. Why? It's nothing to do with anything scientific, but Boltzmann is a sad story because he came up with something and was effectively rejected from the scientific community and died before they accepted his theory as correct. I'd like to ask him things, I think there's something very sombre there, and I'd like to tell him thank you. I don't think he ever heard that in his life.

What are your hobbies? What do you like to do in your spare time?

Anything my daughter allows me. I'm quite a loungy person, I like to vegetate a lot. I walk around London, I used to be a sailor and do a lot of sailing. But now the weekend for me is a time to relax and decompress. I like to cook, I make excellent burgers (right).

Tell me about your daughter, she seems a big part of your life?

She's the best thing that ever happened to me and also the most tiring thing that ever happened to me. She's now 8 months. It's very difficult to describe this thing, you see something growing and starting to smile and laugh and everything that you associate with being human, but it's very gradual. It's really quite inspiring to see that. I always wanted to have children because I have a great relationship with my dad, I was always looking towards this. It's a difficult job being an academic, we work long hours, and I wish I could see her more.

What music do you like to listen to?

Well Pearl Jam, but I love 80's music, you play 80's music and you've got me dancing in minutes. I also like electronica, stuff like Chicane. Lots also from the late 80's, early 90's from when I was growing up.

Would you rather fight one horse sized duck or 100 duck sized horses?

One horse sized duck. It's a more concentrated target, I can at least put all my effort on it, I can't multi-task well enough for that.

Which Staff member would you like to be interviewed next? Send me your suggestions along with some of the questions you've been yearning to ask!



Chef Markides: That's a tall order

CHRISTMAS EVENTS WRAP UP

Christmas Dinner Merry Making

Monday 5th December saw 144 Chemical Engineering students descend upon Café Rouge St. Pauls in *possibly* the biggest ChemEngSoc Christmas Dinner of all time. The food was surprisingly really good, in decent quantities and the wine was flowing. Most impressive of all was the representation by the MSc and exchange students, it was great to see so many of you leading the celebrations. Christmas jumpers were on fleek, crackers were pulled and turkey was gorged upon, it truly was a great night to celebrate first term with the entire department. Afterwards, the masses moved towards XOYO in the #edgy #cool Shoreditch and in true ChemEngSoc fashion got absolutely wavy. The only potential downside to the night was the



I said candid godammit

travel times for getting back to our West London haven. In the words of Richard "It took me 2 hours to get home on the 211. The only thing is, the 211 doesn't stop anywhere near XOYO."

In summary, good clean fun was had by all. I for one am thoroughly in the Christmas spirit now and just a few mulled wines away from bliss. Thanks everyone for coming out and partying so hard. In particular: Shout out to those who wore Santa hats. Shout out Chris Tighe. Shout out Henry, who just kept going for moore.

See you all at the Pub Crawl.

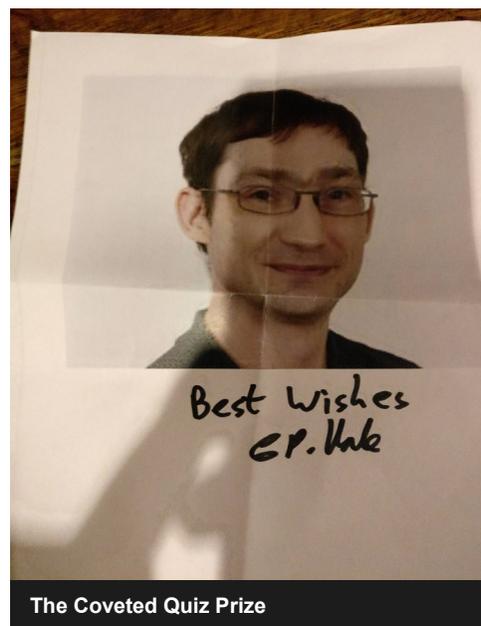
Pub Quiz Domination

In the second family event of the year ChemEngSoc pitted the wits of the next generation against each other in a winner takes all rumble. The quiz, of course, followed the sacred official Wetherspoons™ Pub Quiz format so you know that there was no messing around in this challenge. The questions were surprisingly tough and brows were thoroughly furrowed. Competitors were rewarded with free drinks in the cosy location of the union bar just for turning up. In a shock victory, the team known only as The Quizlamic State emerged on top despite almost absolutely bottling it on the last round. The dingbats particularly proved difficult, try your hand at the one below, which only one team got correct even if it was by accident.

ROBBERS

Don't worry if you missed out, there will always be next year. Or just go to your local Wetherspoons' on a Monday night. I'll be there.

Answer: Honour among thieves.



The Coveted Quiz Prize

Frank Morton 2016

Tickets sold out in a record 1 day. We seem to be breaking quite a few records this year. Good job guys.

Loughborough Presents: Frank Morton 2016 is shaping up to be absolutely huge. Already breaking ground with the addition of FREE FOOD this year, it seems Loughborough are keen to set new precedent in terms of the level of competition. There is now more emphasis on sporting excellence with the removal of laser tag and bowling. Last year we came joint 3rd with Loughborough, and it will be tough to beat that on their home territory, but I am confident in our ability. Just don't forget our patented FM chant:

"You're just a fucking poly"

To be directed at any university, especially Cambridge.

Remember, the t-shirt design competition is still ongoing. If you didn't get a ticket this is now the only way to get one.

Contact Me

Shoot me an email or a message on Facebook if ever you want to contribute.

Kieran Naylor

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Make it Lit: Christmas Comes Early from Your Dep Reps

Picture this:

After a long day on a Friday night you weakly stumble out of LT2 at 5pm from your lecture. The week has been so debilitating you're basically on your knees. You look forward to the weekend ahead, until you realise your group is meeting up for their group deadline at midnight. There goes your evening drink with the lads. Fuming yet frail, you make your way to the ChemEng study rooms to meet your group. Walking through the ACEX/Bone corridor you notice some first year's heading to the union for a weekend pint, while you reminisce to a time when your biggest issue in life was Mastery Sheet 2.

As you swipe your card into the main room you slowly make your way in, and then you see it. A glimmer of hope.

A Christmas tree, on the far end, lit with decorations and lights, providing an uplifting sense of joy, that brings you to your happiest and fills you with Christmas spirit. You meet your group with much more optimism and drive and work efficiently and happily on.

I know what you're thinking, how is that tree going to survive in the furnace that is that room? Well you'll be glad to know that after consistent battling with temperature control systems the Study rooms are now at ambient temp! Thanks a ton to those of you who complained on the anon feedback form, these complaints helped external staff take us very seriously.

Unhappy with feedback? Unreasonable deadline? Want more food at the tuck shop?

TELL US ON THE ANON FEEDBACK HERE:

<https://goo.gl/TUZP2A>

We read all requests, as do your year reps, and make active decisions on all of them! If you want stuff to improve, I'm afraid we can only do that if we know about it. Speaking of feedback, year reps will be contacting you shortly about what you think about it. We're hoping to reform feedback and have standard, good quality across coursework. To do this we need data on what students prefer so please do let us know. If you have any other big changes you want to see, hit us up as well. Unfortunately, getting a 1st without taking exams isn't possible though....

ChemEng Tuck Shop

Treats don't come often as this, we've arranged for the tuckshop outside LT1 is open from 10 past to 10 to EVERY HOUR FROM 9 -5pm. Why walk to the JCR between lectures when you can get the pengest munch right in ChemEng. We're talking crisps, we're talking biscuits (that are gonna be soft), we're talking all kinds of snacks and they all get 5/5. Most things are also cheaper than the JCR! Put it up on the anonymous form if you want anything else in the shop.



Survey on Feedback

This is actually important: We're really trying to standardise feedback in the department, and give you guys the consistent useful feedback ya'll deserve. We all know sometimes the feedback is below par on some courses and we're trying to change this. However, we need substantial support in order to convince staff to do this and so PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE fill out the following survey so we can get the student backing behind us and then we'll have a much better chance of doing this. We also want to introduce a new system that'll benefit the majority of students and so this is our way of finding out WHAT YOU WANT IN FEEDBACK. Finna be lit:

<https://goo.gl/forms/jihqIWSJ8LE8S2s72>

Have a lit Christmas,

Dep Reps

CHEMENGSOC GETS YOU A JOB

Internship and Scholarship Opportunities

This year we have been incredibly fortunate to have continued support from so many companies. We have recruiters from all industries interested in YOU. Just by studying at Imperial you have such an advantage, especially within one of the most widely respected departments in the UK.

In particular: Sanctuary Graduates, a recruitment firm, is head-hunting for graduates in our department. They are looking for motivated, confident, future leaders to work for RB (Reckitt Benckiser) who manufacture products such as Durex, Nurofen and Gaviscon. Follow these steps to get a job today:

Step 1: Go to <http://bit.ly/2cQueTD>

Step 2: Upload your CV

Step 3: Input referral code: 'IMP CHEMENG'

Step 4: Profit.

Even if you're unsuccessful here, your CV will be passed on to even more big names there is literally no reason not to do this.

Free Money

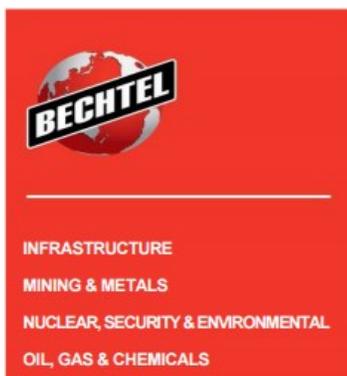
BP are offering two scholarships worth £2500 to 3rd year students at Imperial.

All you have to do is write a 1000 word essay before 21st December on the question:

“What challenges and risks does an Engineering and Construction (E&C) contractor, such as Bechtel, face during a project lifecycle from early design through to construction when implementing innovation, and what type of pioneering solutions could be used to overcome these challenges?”

Send your answer to tbutler@Bechtel.com along with your CV.

Check yo emails for full deets





The Chem Eng Soc Catalogue

Sports Jackets are now no longer available!

Word on the street has it that sweatshirts are returning next term.

MUGS ARE AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW.

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR PARENTS

Contact Your Regalia Officer Sorcha Begley to get yours before stocks run out!!!

sorcha.begley15@imperial.ac.uk

