MONASH ADVANCED SCIENCE & SCIENCE SCHOLARS SOCIETY

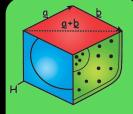




Newsletter

ISSUE I

MARCH 2013



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MASS³ 2013

Studying in the Common Room?

Hello, wonderful nerdlings of MASS³, and welcome to a new year of science, smart boards and shenanigans. Hopefully you are all enjoying your Easter breaks in comfort and style (maybe even getting some work done.)

Lately in the common room, you may have noticed the appearance of a new, cool piece of refrigerating goodness, kindly donated by Richard Reina and the science faculty (we are not quite sure why, but who says no to a free fridge?)

Amidst the wreckage of Russian spam, the MASS³ website has risen to its former glory. (see page 2) Also, on another note, we have NEW UPDATED MEMBERSHIP CARDS, complete with atomic masses on the periodic table and two new mathematical constants. Oooohhhh, mathematical constants...

Get refreshed, get pumped, and enjoy the Easter break. See you in the common room in a week!



President's Report

MASS³ has had a great start to the year in 2013. We've welcomed a group of new first years into the club and uni. We've already held a few events, and there is definitely more to come. We had 2 successful orientation events for the first years. A welcome back barbecue in the first week. We also had our OGM in which we elected our new first year rep, Ms. Nisha Duggan. Look out for more events on our Facebook page, in this newsletter and in the common room. We are especially looking forward to our yearly trivia night, so watch this space. We are only a small club, but we try and put on as many events as we can for you guys, so you should come along and get involved!

I hope you are all settling in/back in to uni. Remember help is always available in the common room no matter how small.

Your President—Jared Fernando



™ Mass^3 Website and Facebook page

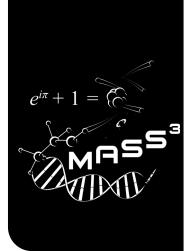
After a year of recovery from a severe Russian spam breakout, the MASS³ website is finally online! We even have a functional contacts page and pretty content/ videos.

Come visit his marvel of coding and watch as it progresses with even more content. You will soon be able to find all of the previous newsletters under the 'archives' tab, so be sure to check that out:

http://www.masscubed.com/

As per usual, we also have our Facebook group where you can share any thoughts, ideas, strange links, ect.

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/groups/masscubed/



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Trivia Night - Tuesday 23rd April

Yes, it's the best time of year for MASS³ians to show off their brains, and of course, their mad costume skills. There will be beer and soft-drinks, there will be chips, and of course, there will be mind-bending questions to wrap your head around.

Theme: Heroes and Villains

Where: Sir John's Bar

When: 7pm, Tuesday 23rd April

How Much: \$5 (MSA), \$10 (Non-MSA)

Mass³ Study Night - 10th April

As Jared says "It's a trivia launch mi-goreng appreciation study night". Yes that's right, this isn't your ordinary study night, filled with all of the science, there will be FREE MI-GORENG!!

Come to the common room, we will study and eat until both our brains and bellies are full of goodness. And yes, actual studying occurs at these nights, if you don't believe me, come and see for yourself.

Where: Common Room

When: Night-time (probably 6pm - TBC)

Mystery Event (Date to be confirmed)

It's a mystery...

Five Minutes of Fame with Nisha

Recently elected first-year rep, Nisha Duggan has stolen the spotlight at our recent pizza OGM. Here, Nisha takes time out of her busy schedule to have a quick interview...

So tell us Nisha, why did you take this illustrious role?

Free stuff and street cred.

Where are you thinking of heading in the wonderful world of Science?

I like physics, but I really don't want to do maths, so I'll probably end up doing chem. This semester I'm doing Physics, Maths, Chem advanced and French (Charlie interjects to abuse Nisha for doing non-science subjects.)

What inspirational changes will you bring to MASS³ in 2013?

One thing and one thing only, more food, just bring in more food.

What uninspirational changes will you bring to MASS³ in 2013?

I'll just spend all of my time here in the common room and annoy people.

Do you enjoy moonlit walks along the beach?

Only following a candlelit dinner and as long as I'm barefoot and sipping a piña colada... (Charlie interjects wanting to know if that was a yes, referring to her as Lady McBeth?)



What do you think of the other committee members?

They're all pretty fab, except that first year rep, she seems like a cow

Name three interesting fact about yourself...

Hmm, three facts:

I was the first black man to fly solo across the Atlantic

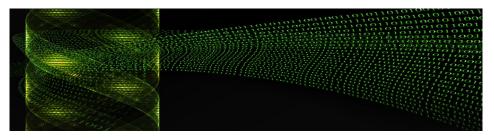
I love drinking baileys from a shoe I once starred in an Eskimo Joe video clip

You can just do everything, What an inspiration! But even celebrities can be uncool sometimes, so what has your most embarrassing jaffy moment been so far?

On my second day I had my face buried in a map and face plated in front of the first year chem labs. Oh, the unintentional puns... 'This month in Science' is a new instalment in the monthly MASS³ newsletter that will let you know all about the latest happenings and developments in science, so that you can all be knowledgeable little nerdlings.

Due to lack of time this month, the updates will begin in next month's newsletter, so get excited for it!

This Month In Science



In-Human Memory

In the vein of VHS and DVD, could DNA be the newest way to store information?

Scientists have been able to store various forms of data in what is commonly known as the building block of life, DNA, leading to the possibility of a cheap, easy way of storing large amounts of information in the next few decades.

In an article published in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*, scientists at Cambridge reported a success in storing various forms of text and audiobased files in artificial deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). The scientists were then able to retrieve all of the information with 100% accuracy.

DNA-based storage is potentially ground-breaking, as, unlike conventional methods, it doesn't require a constant supply of energy or supervision due to the molecule's relatively simple storage requirements.

Additionally, the pioneers of this technique achieved the ability to store around 2.2 Petabytes, or two-point-two million billion bytes of data, in a single gram of the life-defining chemical.

The technique's long reading and writing time make it currently inefficient for day-to-day use, however the authors of the paper believe that, with a continuing decrease in the price of DNA synthesis, this method of storing knowledge could become a cheap and practical way to store for decades.

-Josh Marlow

Ok, this one isn't quite from this month, but an opportunity to combine computers and biology? Cool.

MASS³ Committee 2013

Shiny, new and possibly even more eccentric

than last year!

Bribery, blackmail, who knows the many other uses of knowing your MASS³ committee members? These are good people to find if you have any club-related concerns, or just want a chat. So lets introduce them...

Name: Jared Fernando

Position: El-Presidente

Role: King of the nerds, doing all the things, running a kick ass committee, closing the common room door after people, keeping josh in check.

Year level in 2013: Third Year

Intended Major(s): Chemistry with a side of Astrophysics

Best Way to Bribe: Anything with chocolate (I will be scoring on trivia night, hint hint...)





Name: Caspar de Bruin-Dickason

Position: Vice-President

Role: Who the fuck knows?, presi-

dents bitch

Year level in 2013: Third-Year

Intended Major(s): Double in chem

Best Way to Bribe: Sweet indie

tunes



Name: Kevin Hendrey

Position: Treasurer

Role:

Convincing C&S to continue to give us money.

Year level in 2013: Third Year

Intended Major(s): Pure Mathematics

Best Way to Bribe: Interesting logic, maths or lateral thinking puzzles that I haven't heard before.

Name: Paul Mirabella

Position: Secretary

Role: Being a sex-etary; i.e. the boss's bitch whilst performing various acts and/or favours for the execu-

tives.

Year level in 2013: Third Year

Intended Major(s): Chemistry/Physiology

(Ask me anything!)

Best Way to Bribe: ...doing the dirty jobs for me

XXX



Name: Dale Christensen

Position: Education Officer

Role:

Officially: liaising with the faculty on behalf of the club. Reality: Odd jobs, like running bbqs and getting supplies for the common room.

Year level in 2013: Third Year

Intended Major(s): Double major in chemistry

Best Way to Bribe: Partial to a good curry

Name: Nisha Duggan

Position: First Year Representative

Role: Teaching everyone my rad jaffy slang

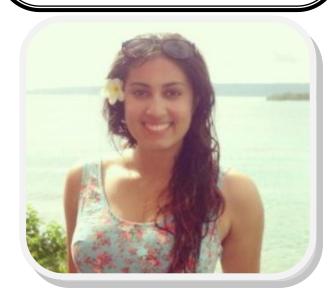
#yoloswagyolo

Year level in 2013: Well duh...

Intended Major(s): Chemistry

Best Way to Bribe: Chocolate





Name: Ben Jones

Position: Webmaster

Role: Mastering the Webz

Year level in 2013: Second Year

Intended Major(s): Physics and Maths

Best Way to Bribe: Money





Name: Josh "Sexiest Jew" Marlow

Position: Events Co-ordinator

Role: Alliterative Asshole

Year level in 2013: Second Year

Intended Major(s): Cool Chemistry

Best Way to Bribe: More Money

Name: L. Lianna Beeching

Position: Editor of the Daily Bugle

Role: Get me pictures of Spider-Man!

Year level in 2013: Second Year

Intended Major(s): Chemistry and Physics

Best Way to Bribe: Proof of that men-

ace's identity! Parker, get me it!

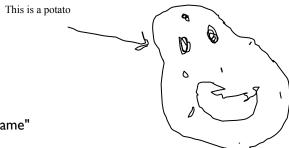


QCA? Rumours Abound...

Random quotes appearing on whiteboards, words about certain potatoes, rumours are spreading fast in the common room about a new mafia in town. Sources call it 'the Quote Collection Agency', or QCA for short. Members are unconfirmed, but they are at large in the common room and they will catch you when you least expect it.

MASS³ians, be careful, lest you get horribly misquoted with phrases taken completely out of context. I still shudder about a certain puppy incident...

Some of the agency's quotes have made their way to this issue, but the quoted will remain anonymous.



"I like sentient words"

"Trolling is the true gentleman's game"

"What's the word for taking a screenshot in real life?"

"every level you gain in facial reconginition lowers your crit chances for proving theorems"

"I try not to kill people, on principle"

"Once upon a time, I burst out of a woman's chest"

'My speed is like 9 k's an hour!' ~ On walking to Denmark in 41 hours

"The smartboard will probably cause us all to fail uni" ~ Spud

"They seem to think the common room is a place of depravity"

"I'm drinking this cruiser because it matches my shirt"

"I WANT to be held by you" - spud

"What happens if sometimes I can't tell the difference between Poles and real people?" ~ spud

"Hijacking is not stealing"

"Dead puppies are cute"

Riddle Me This...

To keep the minds of our MASS³ers sharp, some wonderful common room members have concocted a small riddle for you. No answers will be given, so discuss, speculate, and if in real doubt, bribe Kevin or Jake, they (may) give you a hint.

Logicians in hats





A group of 10 logicians have been captured by Josh Marlow. They are told they are about to be buried up to their necks in sand in a line, so that each logician will be able to see all of the logicians in front of him but none of the logicians behind him. They will then each be given, at random, either a black or white hat, from an infinite supply of black and white hats. Starting with the logician at the back of the line, they will then have to each guess the colour of the hat they are wearing. Once all guesses have been made, all the logicians who guessed correctly will be set free and those who guessed wrong will be shot. What strategy should they employ to ensure that the maximum number of logicians walk free. Note: Aside from making the guesses, any attempt to communicate while they are buried will result in instant death to everyone.

Bonus question:

Instead of 10 logicians and 2 colours of hats, there are now n logicians and m different colours of hats. The logicians know what the colours are beforehand, and the problem is otherwise unchanged.

Connect the Bots

This is a map of the floor housing a generator room. The locations of two camera-equipped security bots are identified by the red and green arrows.

The patrol routes followed by these security bots do not pass by the generator room.

The bots will always turn at the rounded yellow corners. Which room do the bots avoid? That's the generator room!





COMICS

Any queries, complaints, ideas, discussion material or advice for the editor?

Any content that you'd like to contribute to future newsletters? (the next will be published in late April)

Send an email to: ljbee2@student.monash.edu

