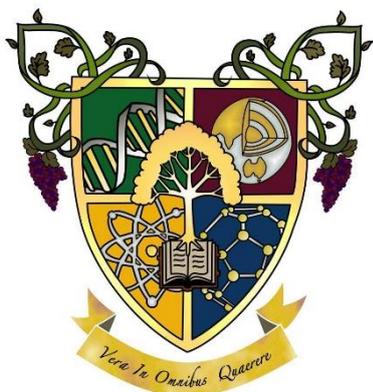


A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Adelaide University Sciences Association
c/o AUU Clubs
Lady Symon Building
University of Adelaide
Victoria Drive
Adelaide 5005

Dear members of Adelaide University Sciences Association,

It was a privilege and honour to serve this club as your president. I would like to start by thanking the committee from the past year for their devotion to the club. Without them, AUScA surely would not be where it is today. Special thanks goes to Brittany and Emi for being the backbone of the ball, Jason for designing pub crawl shirts for last semester, and Khalia's sister Shanae, for designing the shirts for this semester, the quiz night subcommittee who devoted their time (and sacrificed their participation) to write questions and organise the event. Finally, shout out to all the people that have helped out at the barbecue or sat at stalls for long hours.

2016 was a milestone year in the life of AUScA. It marked the 125th anniversary of the Science Club at the University of Adelaide and we celebrated this by hosting the first ball since the club's revival in 2013. I can confidently say on behalf of the larger community that the ball was an incredibly high quality event, one that through the choice of venue and some clever decoration resulted in an incredibly atmospheric evening.

Highlights of the night include the awarding of Ben Geytenbeek with Life Membership – the first since the club's renewal. Ben was awarded this due to his exceptional contribution to the reforming of the club at the university. Other highlights included our key-note speaker – Velta seizing command of the microphone and drilling into us the virtue of “resilience and two other R words, which escape me at this point. But I'm sure we can all agree- the true highlight of the night were all our members who showed up and really brought their A game. Everyone looked fantastic and of course what review of the ball would be complete without the mentioning the honourable DJ Dan.

Other highpoints of the year included the Star Wars Movie that was suggested by one of our members, Catherine. It was one of the most successful movie nights with people all over the University attending. I highly recommend that May the 4th becomes a bigger event as the movie night got quite a reputation.

Our largest and most popular events still remain to be our pubcrawls. Our first semester pub crawl, Gravitational Raves sold 220 shirts. In second semester, following the Pokemon Go craze – which, to those of you who are younger was an app that was popular about 7 months ago, we had a pokemon themed pub-crawl “Theory of Evolution”. The pub-crawl was a success with 270 shirts sold. This semester, we have organised the “Ein-Stein” pubcrawl theme and are hoping for it to be a hit.

The Quiz night last year was also a huge success with 134 people attending. The most notable highlight of the event was having themed tables. Special mention goes to our two bartenders of the night, Galina and Brittany. Without you guys, people would have actually gotten more questions right (and not be as tipsy as they were). I would like to mention that for the past 4 quiz nights held by AUScA, the same team has been winning, so I suggest to future Quiz Night subcommittees to really lift their game with the questions.

For the first time since AUScA's revival, we collaborated with another club, Adelaide Health Student Society (AHSS) for a barbecue, and had a lot of activities together. Shout out goes to Bridget, president of AHSS at the time, to get her committee and club involved. I hope to see more collaborations with other clubs in the future.

While I was happy with all that was achieved throughout the year, it was not without its difficulties. I do believe that 2016 was a year filled with more disruption than previous years since the club has formed. AUScA is primarily the manifestation of the Science community at the University of Adelaide. I have spoken with past presidents and people who were at university before AUScA was reformed, and the picture that I am painted in almost every case was a social scene where the only way you could meet someone was in a tutorial or by sitting next to them in a lecture. I think it's safe to say AUScA has expanded the way that people can meet new friends and colleagues. It would therefore be my suggestion that future committees focus far more on organising events for students, and far less time focusing on transforming AUScA into a strict, rules-oriented club. Making the club more rules oriented greatly restricts the number of active members who feel comfortable contributing to the committee as many people simply want to offer their time to make the student experience at the university a better one. They have little time for learning the ins and outs of "proper procedure". AUScA should not be used for people's political aspirations.

The membership of AUScA reached 396 last year, which was a dramatic decline from the 486 members in 2015 and 519 members in 2014. However, this year, we've already reached 201 memberships and noticed that the participation of the members in the club has increased. It's wonderful to see so many new faces being interested in contributing.

2016 saw the introduction of two new committee positions, Communications Officers and Associates. Joshua and Lauren were our first Communications officers, or as we call them, CoCo's and were thrown blind into the role, without knowing how much work it would be. Without these two, we wouldn't have as many dank memes and emails, and I surely wouldn't have the remaining amount of hair that I have.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of AUScA, and in particular, first years. It's with this in mind that I'd like to talk about Associates of the committee. The Associate position codifies the role of a volunteer in AUScA. There's no steadfast commitment required, it allows you to taste test the committee. Associates are appointed at any time by the committee and there's no limit to how many there can be. No other example comes to mind when talking about the success of associates other than Michael who succeeded Kim as our Treasurer half way through the year and managed to do an excellent job.

In the past year, AUScA has built even closer ties with the Faculty of Sciences. The Faculty has promoted numerous AUScA events throughout the year and have provided funding for the club. Most notably for National Science Week and the First Year Magazine. National Science week included our bake sale where we learned vital culinary techniques, such as remembering to put icing sugar in the icing – my strong advice to the next committee would be to really nail the icing – we owe it to our members to improve upon our craft.

The First Year magazine, officially as the “First Year Survival Guide” was written by the committee for First year science students to inform them about everything they needed to know about University and first year Science courses offered Friendships. The magazine is also being used by the Faculty has been so popular amongst first years that the Faculty has informed AUScA that they will use it as a part of their student outreach program to promote Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

Since I’ve joined the club, I’ve seen science students come together and enjoy events, and meet new people through AUScA. I can’t even begin to count the number of people I’ve met and the friends I have made since my involvement. I hope to see the traditions of the club grow and to see more and more people becoming involved.

Yours truly,

Urwah Nawaz

AUScA President 16/17