EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Semester One, 2014 Orientation activities ran from 18 February to 3 March 2014. A broad program of academic and social events provided over 12,000 commencing students with information and activities to ease their transition into the next phase of their education and convey the University's sense of pride in the students who have chosen and achieved admission to Sydney.

The attached 2014 Orientation Report contains an overview of Semester One Orientation in 2014 including evaluation of centrally coordinated, faculty based and student organised events.

OVERVIEW

The key aims of the Orientation Program are:

- to welcome students to the University and build a sense of belonging to an inclusive academic community;
- to provide information about the tailored services and supports available to all students during their studies at Sydney;
- to ensure students are aware of academic policies and processes specific to their home faculty;
- to inform about the wide range of academic, social and professional opportunities they can access as University of Sydney students;
- to facilitate peer, staff and faculty networking in promotion of study/work/life balance;
- to orient and familiarise students to the university campuses and built environment.

Several new initiatives were implemented for Orientation 2014 to meet the needs of differing student cohorts and enhance the student orientation experience, including:

- A coordinated communication strategy across all centrally organised Orientation Week sessions, faculty based activities and USU facilitated O Week events included a new, printed booklet and a strong online presence that featured an integrated online planner that allowed students to plan and schedule the their timetable for the week. The evaluation survey suggests the improved alignment of information and events was instrumental in increasing student attendance across all events.
- An enhanced welcome to students entering through alternative entry pathways provided students with fun opportunities to increase their understanding of key university concepts and terms through an interactive trivia quiz and a scavenger hunt that provided both opportunities to engage with each other and assisted them to develop familiarity with the campus and their faculties.
- An increased focus on international student orientation was heightened by the introduction of a cross-promotional partnership with AFL NSW and SUSF that allowed international students a uniquely Australian experience soon after their arrival at Sydney by participating in an AFL skills afternoon led by AFL NSW and a barbeque hosted by SUSF.
- Faculty innovations that included a multi-discipline debate regarding the various perspectives on love held by each school within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences that introduced students to the university academic culture of critical analysis and evidenced based research.
- An extremely popular Parent’s Information Evening to welcome the parents and guardians of commencing students to the university community and acknowledge their ongoing contribution to and influence upon their children’s educational choices and future decisions.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback from new and returning students, faculties and student organisations was that Semester 1, 2014 was the most engaging and informative orientation the University of Sydney has held. The
variety of events and activities organised centrally, by faculties and via students associations units were coordinated to convey an integrated, cohesive message to new students that they were welcome and would be supported to develop and succeed both academically and personally throughout their time at the University.

Once again, the cooperation and efforts of staff, support units, faculties, student ambassadors and volunteers contributed to a highly successful, informative and enjoyable orientation. The Orientation Project Group and the STAR team look forward to partnering with faculties, services and student organisations again in 2015

RECOMMENDATION

That the SEG Education Committee notes the attached report and recommendations regarding the University of Sydney Orientation program.
YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE

ORIENTATION WEEK 2014
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SEMESTER ONE, 2014 ORIENTATION

The University of Sydney Orientation program is designed to facilitate transition to the University for over 10,000 commencing undergraduate and 2,000 commencing postgraduate students regardless of their pathway to the University. Particular emphasis is placed to facilitate the academic, cultural and social adjustments experienced in the commencing year for a diverse range of student cohorts including:

- students entering courses as traditional first year students from secondary school;
- International students;
- students transferring internally between courses;
- mature-age students;
- part-time students;
- rural and interstate students;
- students entering through alternative entry/flexible entry pathways;
- students entering with TAFE qualifications;
- students with a disability;
- students admitted from known "at-risk" demographic backgrounds including equity target groups and other groups that may be identified from time to time;
- students admitted to later points of their courses with Recognition of Prior Learning;
- postgraduate students;
- re-enrolling students.

The key aims of the Orientation Program are:

- to welcome students to the University and build their sense of belonging to an inclusive academic community;
- to provide information about the tailored services and supports available to all students during their studies at Sydney;
- to facilitate peer, staff and faculty networking;
- to orient students to the university campuses; and
- to ease the transition for students into the next phase of their education.

The Orientation Project Group works to ensure a cohesive, coordinated program that provides students with faculty specific academic advice, broad information regarding the wide range of support services for students as well as a social element where students can meet other students and staff, orient themselves to their campus and learn techniques and skills that may assist their transition to University. Program activities are linked to key strategic goals of the University, particularly to enhance the student experience, to develop excellence in learning and teaching, and to encourage participation by students from diverse cultural and social backgrounds.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback from new and returning students, faculties and student organisations was that Semester 1, 2014 was the most engaging and welcoming orientation the University of Sydney has held. The variety of events and activities organised by faculties, students associations and central service units were coordinated to convey an integrated, cohesive message to new students commencing at the University in 2014 to be brave, have a go and challenge themselves.

Many innovations were implemented for Orientation 2014 to ensure the differing needs of students were met:

- A coordinated communication strategy across all Orientation and O Week events included a new, printed booklet format and a strong online presence featuring an integrated online planner allowed the planning and scheduling of activities and assisted students to have a clear idea of the events and activities they wanted to attend.
- An enhanced welcome to students entering university through alternative entry pathways provided students with fun opportunities to increase their understanding of key university terms through an interactive quiz and meet each other during a
scavenger hunt that also assisted them to develop familiarity with the campus and their faculty.

- An increased focus on international student orientation was heightened by the introduction of a cross-promotional partnership with AFL NSW that provided international students the opportunity to have a uniquely Australian experience early in their experience at Sydney and received great feedback.

Faculty welcomes and introductory activities proved to be extremely popular with new students with all participating faculties reporting high levels of attendance and participation across all cohorts of new students.

The USU O Week program was very successful with the Into the Wild theme also encouraging students to step out of their comfort zones and try something new. The increased alignment of information and events across University and USU scheduled activities was instrumental in increasing student attendance to key USU events, especially the USU Sydney Day Trips, which were over-subscribed with over 500 attendees, the Welcome to Sydney Party, with over 1100 students attending and the Into the Wild O Week party that saw the Manning Bar at full capacity. The USU are commended on their successful flagship event, O-Week which saw a vast variety and number of stalls on show, including 159 clubs and societies, 43 corporate stalls, 8 SUPRA and SRC stalls, 12 USU stalls and 34 SUSF stalls, which remained popular and well attended by students despite wet weather on the Thursday and Friday of O Week.

Once again, the cooperation and efforts of a broad range of staff, support units, faculties and student ambassadors and volunteers contributed to a successful orientation and provided a strong platform for new students transitioning into the University of Sydney to base their experiences, both academically and socially. The STAR team looks forward to partnering with faculties, services and student organisations again in 2015.

Several recommendations have been made throughout this report to further improve and streamline future orientation events based on 2014 evaluations and feedback. With the introduction of online enrolments for Semester 2, 2014, the need for time consuming on-campus enrolment sessions will be limited and may allow for potential extension of orientation and transition activities, particularly in relation to multi-campus and on-line activities.

The Orientation Project Group, together with the Student Transition and Retention Team, thanks all involved in Semester 1 Orientation and we look forward to future successful orientation events.

Jordi Austin
Director, Student Support Services
Convener, Orientation Project Group 2014
INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The paramount aim of the International Orientation Program is to facilitate a welcoming and supportive transition for newly commencing international students, underscored by the key messages of:

- **Appreciation** – demonstrating the University’s excitement at welcoming this new, diverse international cohort
- **Support** – reassuring students of the available academic, financial, emotional support services
- **History** – conveying to students their inclusion in the history and traditions of the University and Australia
- **Diversity** – demonstrating University’s commitment to celebrating diversity of cultures, talents and ideas
- **Exploration** – encouraging students to explore the hidden treasures in the University, the city and Australia
- **Challenge** – fostering an open-minded attitude and the spirit of ‘giving it a go’
- **Balance** – highlighting the importance of striking a life balance
- **Proactivity** – encouraging students to seek for help proactively and encouraging students connect with current staff and students through the Ask Me badge campaign.

The International Orientation Program consists of the following four components:

**International Student Arrival Information Sessions**

Over 520 International students attended the three Arrival Information sessions that were held in February 2014. The purpose of these sessions is to provide basic practical information about life in Sydney, the University’s services, accommodation, issues of personal security and safety in Australia and to provide an opportunity for students to ask questions. The sessions involve extensive cross-departmental involvement, as well as talks from external providers including Surf Lifesaving Australia and aim to ensure International students are familiar with the campus and receive comprehensive information prior to the commencement of semester. Other services represented at the sessions included:

- Student Support Services
- Student Ambassadors
- International Advisers
- ICT
- Library Services
- Learning Centre
- Security Services
- Student Union
- Unimates
- SRC/SUPRA
- SUSF
- Surf Lifesaving Australia

The Study Abroad and Exchange teams are becoming more proactive in their approach to ensuring shorter term International exchange students are provided with relevant and necessary information upon their arrival in Australia at organized “Meet and Greet” sessions. Wider promotion to these students in future and further collaboration in the scheduling and promotion of both Meet and Greet and Arrival Information Sessions will occur for the Semester 2, 2014 program to increase the numbers of students receiving key information at these sessions.

**Recommendations for 2015**

From feedback collated from student evaluations of the sessions, the following opportunities for improvement based on student and staff feedback include:
Recommendation 1: Provide a paper-based summary of information, with references to links and other sources of relevant information, to be distributed to students after each session.

Recommendation 2: Reconsider the utility of providing Orientation bags and consider alternative, more cost-effective dissemination of collateral.

Recommendation 3: Consider providing catering for the sessions.

Recommendation 4: Reconsider the timing and location of the sessions to facilitate information for students who do not arrive until the first week of semester.

Recommendation 5: Include other practical information in the sessions including University jargon and acronyms, Health care and OSHC information, Sydney’s public transport system, ticket purchases, routes and information about other University of Sydney campuses.

STABEX Student Welcome

The purpose of the STABEX Student Welcome is to introduce study abroad and exchange students to the University and to Australia, while giving students the opportunity to hear from student speakers and senior leadership staff of the University. It was held on Monday 24 February 2014 in the Great Hall. In 2014, the majority of these students came from North America with the intention of studying at the University for one semester. The event was attended by 650 STABEX students who were welcomed to the University and provided with specific information and tips about settling into life at Sydney and in Sydney by a senior counsellor from Counselling and Psychological Services and a returning Study Abroad student. The USU was represented at the Welcome by President, Hannah Morris who highlighted opportunities available to students through the Student Union and Access cards.

Feedback from attendees indicated the students particularly enjoyed the performance by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance company, Wandabaa Gabinya who provided the international students with a unique experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history. The formal welcome was followed by a morning tea at the International Student Lounge in the Wentworth Building before students were directed to their enrolment sessions.

Recommendations for 2015

Recommendation 1: Consider student safety and relocate venue from Wentworth Building to Quadrangle so students do not have to cross busy City Rd a number of times during the day.

International Full-Degree Undergraduate & Postgraduate Student Welcomes

International full degree students are a cohort of students the University of Sydney is keen to continue to attract. The welcomes to International Full-Degree Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students provide opportunities for commencing international students to attend formal events in the celebrated Great Hall of the University and hear from senior members of the University community and celebrates the cultural diversity at the University of Sydney. The welcomes also provide opportunities for students to meet and network with each other.
and receive information from staff and students to ease their transition into life in Australia at the University of Sydney.

The welcomes were both held on Tuesday 25 February 2014 with a combined attendance of over 1,000 students. The undergraduate event ran from 9:00am -10:00am and the postgraduate event from 11:00am-12:00pm with a combined morning tea on the Quadrangle lawns in-between.

Students were officially welcomed to the University and to Australia by Professor Tyrone Carlin, DVC Registrar and students heard from an international student about their experiences at the University as well as receiving some tips for easing the transition to study at Sydney from Counselling and Psychological Services. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance company, Wandabaa Gabinya provided International students with an insight into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tradition and culture which was greatly appreciated by students. Representatives from AFL NSW also spoke briefly at each session and played promotional film clips of AFL to create interest in the afternoon’s upcoming activities.

Recommendations for 2015

- **Recommendation 1:** Implement clearer communication in web and print channels regarding event start times and location
- **Recommendation 2:** Employ more effective logistical strategies to avoid confusion in the cross-over between the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Welcome events.
- **Recommendation 3:** Consolidate program to avoid clashes with other organised events such as enrolment sessions

**AFL NSW Experience and SUSF Lunchtime BBQ**

International Orientation 2014 saw an inaugural partnership with AFL NSW which culminated to a large-scale event on The Square where students were welcomed to a festive atmosphere and encouraged to participate in AFL sports games. This partnership represented a unique and interactive opportunity for cultural immersion for international students, while promoting and expanding the SUSF Lunchtime sports program. A demonstration match was played between some Sydney University North Eastern Australian Football (NEAFL) representatives that provided International Students with an understanding of the game, prior to many students enthusiastically participating in the skills based activities.
SUSF hosted a BBQ lunch alongside the AFL event where over 1,000 sausages were cooked and the attendance of the Sydney Swans mascot ‘Signatius’ provided international Students with many photo opportunities. The partnership will see the continuation of the AFL Experience event in Semester 2, Re-orientation in 2014 and in Semester 1, 2015.

At the commencement of the activities afternoon, more than 500 international students attended the oversubscribed day trips hosted by the USU to the Rocks, Darling Harbour and Manly; and over 1,100 international students returned that evening to the Manning Bar for a USU hosted Welcome to Sydney Party.

Recommendations for 2015

- **Recommendation 1**: Increase promotion to ensure conversions to lunch time sport teams.
- **Recommendation 2**: Improve liaison with USU re: day trips so students can attend both activities.
TARGETED COHORT EVENTS

Welcome to Undergraduate Students

The Welcome to Undergraduate Students is the University’s formal welcome to new students and opens the University of Sydney Union hosted O Week. An academic procession led by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor with representatives from the senior university executive, faculties, Fellows of Senate and staff signifies the commencement of the academic year and the proceedings conclude with a performance by the organist and carillonist, adding to the sense of ceremony. The Welcome is traditionally very popular with commencing students and is particularly well patronised by the residential colleges who consider it a key event for their commencing undergraduate residents.

Once again this year, the Great Hall was filled to capacity of over 700 students almost 15 minutes prior to the official commencement of the official Welcome to Undergraduate Students. More than 30 academics and Fellows of Senate walked in the academic procession into the Hall where they were welcomed to the academic year by the Chancellor of the University. Attendees also heard from the O-Week Directors and presidents of the Student Representative Council and the University of Sydney Union about the activities planned for O Week and information regarding some of the opportunities that 2014 offers to students.

The demand for this event demonstrates that new students, particularly those residing in residential colleges, value the formality and ceremony of this occasion and measures should be considered to allow a larger audience to experience it.

Recommendations for 2015

- **Recommendation 1**: Consider overflow area and live feed into Quadrangle to allow larger audience for Welcome.

Pathways Welcomes

The University of Sydney is committed to widening participation to ensure a diverse student community and several alternative entry pathways are offered to ensure students with a broad range of skills, experiences and backgrounds can study at Sydney.

The Pathway welcomes ensure that students entering through non-traditional pathways are assured that they are welcome, valued members of the community and provided with information about the support services available to them, both personally and academically, to ensure their successful progress through their studies. The welcomes also provide opportunities for students to meet each other and familiarize themselves with the campus.

Over 700 students attended the pathways welcomes in semester 1, 2014 that were divided into two cohorts:

- E12 students entering through a principal’s recommendation scheme
- Flexible entry that offers concessional entry depending on extracurricular, non-cognitive information
- Broadway Scheme that offers concessional entry to students who have suffered misadventure during their secondary schooling
- TAFE pathway students articulating from a diploma or advanced diploma to a degree course

The first welcome included students from the E12 and Flexible Entry pathways and was the larger event of the two. Round tables facilitated student interactions better than the theatre style that had previously been used and a very popular trivia quiz and scavenger hunt
provided fun, interactive ways for students to learn key information about the University, support services available to them and become oriented to the campus.

Responses from attendees from the survey included:
“*I loved that I got to meet people in my faculty– the scavenger hunt was so much fun!*”

“*The student welcome was excellently organised and I feel it has helped me greatly with my transition from high school to uni.*”

The TAFE and Broadway Pathways welcome attracted a smaller cohort of approximately 100 students but was equally appreciated by students who again had the opportunity to participate in the trivia quiz during the presentations from Student Support Services and Student Ambassadors.

**Recommendations for 2015**

- **Recommendation 1:** Change the division of student groups so that a separate E12 event is held and other pathways are combined to allow increased attendance.

**Country and Interstate Student Welcome**

The University of Sydney encourages students from outside the Sydney metropolitan area to study at the University. A great deal of recruitment effort is concentrated on interested students from rural areas and other Australian states in order to diversify the student population and increase the rich fabric of interests and experiences within our multi-cultural institution. Many students report they are wary of leaving their home and moving to Sydney to study, with many students coming from towns vastly smaller than the city and the changes, while exciting, may also be very daunting; sometimes leading to these students to leave the University early in the first semester due to homesickness or a sense of overwhelm due to the size and pace of Sydney. While this welcome event also provides information about academic issues, support services available to students and allows opportunities to meet other students from outside Sydney, there is also a large focus on orienting students to Sydney and providing practical information about Sydney public transport, accommodation options tips on living in Sydney, including the best walks, budget places to eat and different words used in Sydney than in other parts of Australia.

Approximately 45 students attended the Country and Interstate Student Welcome. Students attending were from as far afield as central New South Wales, north Queensland and Western Australia. Students were very eager to ask questions of the speakers and panel members and reported they appreciated the breadth of information provided, both about University specifically as well as relocating to Sydney.

Students enthusiastically mingled both before and after the evening event and several left together to explore the USU events being held that night – one student commenting that they had wanted to go along but were too nervous to as they did not know anyone else; demonstrating the usefulness of the welcomes to not only learn about the University but also to meet others in similar circumstances.

**Recommendations for 2015**

- **Recommendation 1:** Consider relocating event to assist with access and location.
- **Recommendation 2:** Reconsider catering from sweet to savoury for evening events.
- **Recommendation 3:** Explore interest in offering a campus tour either before or after event.
- **Recommendation 4:** Promote this welcome as a ‘gateway’ opportunity for meeting others before attending the evening’s USU organised activities.
Mature Age and Part-time Student Welcome

Deciding to return to study as a mature age or part time student is often a difficult decision to make as students often feel self-conscious of their age or nervous about the experience, particularly the increasing reliance of online environments that several mature aged students may find intimidating. Many students also have worries about fitting their study in with other commitments including full time work and family responsibilities. Therefore, the Mature Age and Part-time Student Welcome is a very important event during Orientation Week that we highly encourage students to attend in order to demystify some of their concerns and provide them with information and supports available. The event also provides an opportunity for students who may have similar situations and stresses to meet each other, build a network and share their concerns.

More than 50 mature aged and part time students attended this welcome where they were provided with key information about services and supports available to them and facilitating connection between members of this cohort. During the question panel, the most common questions related to Information Technology, with several students expressing concern about the use of learning management systems, podcasts and other non-traditional learning modes. Many students provided feedback that the welcome and information session provided them with reassurance that they would be able to manage the workload and the new technology with the wide range of support available to them.

Some responses from mature age and part-time student in the survey included:
“Great program! Really enjoyed it!”
“Thank you for all info, you made me get more relaxed to start Uni”

Recommendations for 2015

- Similar recommendations have been made for this welcome as those above for the Country and Interstate welcome, including relocating to a more easily accessible venue, offering campus tours and reconsidering catering options.

Commencing Undergraduate Students Scholarships Luncheon

The Scholarships luncheon welcomes meritorious scholarship recipients to the university’s academic community and allows them to meet fellow scholarship holders and staff members over lunch. The application process is for these scholarships is highly competitive and the event recognises and celebrates student excellence in academia, leadership, community service, extra-curricular engagement and other significant personal achievements and ambitions. Historically, data shows that scholarship holders tend to achieve excellence in their studies and careers. As a cohort, they attain very high rates of University medals, first class Honours, high progression rates to postgraduate degrees, and some of the highest graduate salaries; and the University is very pleased to be their institution of choice.

More than 200 scholarship recipients attended a lunch in MacLaurin Hall to celebrate their achievements and network with other recipients and the Deans of faculties. The formal event included an official welcome to the university’s academic community and a presentation from a former scholarship recipient who provided recommendations about available facilities, supports and services for the optimal start to the university experience.

Students expressed they were grateful for the recognition of their efforts and the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Dean of the faculty and meet other students with similar interests and abilities who they may be studying and potentially collaborating with in future, both in their own faculty and others.
Recommendations for 2015

- **Recommendation 1**: Reconsider logistics for awarding certificates to such a large number of students.

Postgraduate Student Welcome

A key strategic priority for the University of Sydney is to increase postgraduate and higher degree research student numbers. However, often students undertaking postgraduate studies have a number of competing priorities and stressors, including full time work, family commitments and financial concerns. The Postgraduate Welcome is an opportunity to congratulate and welcome all commencing postgraduate coursework and research students from both domestic and international cohorts, to inform them about organisations, services and support available to them during their studies, to ensure they are aware of relevant academic policies and to highlight some of the unique aspects and experiences that studying at a postgraduate level at the University of Sydney will bring to them and to the University in return. It also facilitates student networking both with each other and key staff from support services and faculties at the University.

Around 150 new postgraduate students across all faculties attended the welcome event in MacLaurin Hall on the evening of the first day of semester. Students were welcomed by Professor Tyrone Carlin and provided with key information relating to academic policies, particularly plagiarism and intellectual property by the Chair of the Academic Board, Associate Professor Peter McCallum. A representative from SUPRA attended to provide information about services and events offered by the association specifically for postgraduate students.

Upon entering the hall, attendees had been invited to fill in a name badge that identified them by Faculty and/or Division. Towards the end of proceedings, students from each area stood up to identify themselves by faculty of enrolment, assisting students to identify other postgraduate students in their discipline and to facilitate social mingling over refreshments. Feedback from students was that this was very helpful to assist them to easily identify students by discipline area and provided ice breakers in order for them to start conversations and network.

Recommendations for 2015

- **Recommendation 1**: Implement an RSVP process for a better indication of attendance for seating and catering purposes.
TRANSITION SESSIONS

Transition seminars and academic skills workshops, as well as drop-in sessions enable all students to develop academic, personal and social skills to achieve to their potential at University level. These sessions are pivotal in assisting students to develop the frame of reference required to navigate the University environment and to achieve personal and academic success. The sessions run during Orientation week are largely previews to the services’ semester timetables, and are designed to give students an overview of the support available to them throughout their degree.

Between the Wednesday and Friday of Orientation Week, services offered a full program of seminars including:

**Accommodation Services**
- New to Sydney? Information and advice on finding a place to live

**Careers Centre**
- Looking for casual work: tips from the Careers Centre
- Writing a winning resume: advice from the Careers Centre and Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- You are your own brand: how to position yourself as a dream employee
- Creating student profiles on LinkedIn: tips from the Careers Centre and LinkedIn
- Maximising careers fairs: tips from the Careers Centre
- Networking and how to make connections: tips from the Careers Centre and Accenture
- Become a globally minded student: advice from the Careers Centre and global youth network AIESEC

**Counselling and Psychological Services**
- A taste of mindfulness: learn to boost your attention span
- The psychology of flourishing: how to fulfil your potential at university

**Disability Services**
- Accessing Disability Services: resources and support for students with disabilities

**International Services**
- Overseas study opportunities: presented by International Services

**Learning Centre**
- Writing reports for science and engineering: strategies from the Learning Centre
- Successful learning: strategies for first-year students from the Learning Centre
- So many books, so little time: tips from the Learning Centre on conquering reading and research
- Successful essay writing: strategies from the Learning Centre
- What is this thing called university? How the uni works

**Library Services**
- Get a head start: discover your library
- Trivia in the SciTech Library

**Scholarships and Financial Assistance**
- Money matters: how to be smart with your money

A number of changes were made to the programs of these services in 2014 in response to feedback from previous years.

Please see Appendix One for reports from services relating to their activities.
STUDENT BODY AFFILIATES

University of Sydney Union (USU)

Orientation saw a greater level of integration with the University and the USU to provide students with a more seamless Orientation and O-Week experience. This year saw the pioneer of where the USU O-Week promotion was integrated with the Orientation booklet. Increased integration was seen in the Orientation Planner and the Orientation Website. The USU President, Hannah Morris, supported the Orientation by speaking at the International Student Welcome events, the STABEX Student Welcome event, and the University Welcome to New Students.

The USU O Week program was very successful with the Into the Wild theme encouraging students to step out of their comfort zones and try something new. The increased alignment of information and events across University and USU scheduled activities was instrumental in increasing student attendance to key USU events, especially the USU Sydney Day Trips, which were over-subscribed with over 500 attendees, the Welcome to Sydney Party, with over 1100 students attending and the Into the Wild O Week party that saw the Manning Bar at full capacity.

The USU were very pleased with the success of their flagship event, O-Week which saw a vast variety and number of stalls on show, including 159 clubs and societies, 43 corporate stalls, 8 SUPRA and SRC stalls, 12 USU stalls and 34 SUSF stalls, which remained popular and well attended by students despite wet weather on the Thursday and Friday of O Week.

Access Cards

In 2014, the USU was able to reduce the price of our ACCESS memberships significantly ($75 for an Annual card, $175 for 3 Year, and $275 for 5 Year) and simplify membership options. The lower membership prices boosted O-Week ACCESS card sales by 50% in comparison to 2013 O-Week sales.

In 2013, approx. 4495 ACCESS cards were sold at O-Week in comparison to 6761 cards in 2014 - a difference of 2266 ACCESS cards!

Not only has the USU experienced a significant increase in ACCESS card sales, but members appear to be participating in clubs and societies and accessing the benefits of the program more than ever before.

Students’ Representative Council (SRC)

The involvement of the Students’ Representative Council (SRC) in Orientation 2014 represented an important component for undergraduate students in their transition to university. The SRC contributed as speakers at the International Student Arrival Information Sessions and various student-specific welcome events including the University Welcome to New Students where the President, Jennifer Light presented. These representatives provided information regarding the services provided to students by the SRC including legal representation, discounted text books, academic advice, student collectives and opportunities for participation, including elections and contributions to the flagship publication, Honi Soit.
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)

The Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) played an important role as contributors to the success of Orientation events for postgraduate students. Their involvement included speaking at the International Student Arrival Information Sessions, and various student-specific welcome events, including the Postgraduate Student Welcome about services that SUPRA offer, including networking, committee representation and academic advice. SUPRA reported they were very happy with the attendance of new postgraduate students at their Orientation event and were pleased to have enrolled many new members.

Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF)

SUSF were very pleased to be involved in a number of successful activities as part of both Orientation and O Week that provide commencing students opportunities to find out about and experience the sporting opportunities, both elite and social available to students and encourage student participation to increase work/life balance and wellbeing.

Events held in 2014 were:

- **International Student BBQ**
  A BBQ was run by SUSF at The Square for approx. 1,000 students – sausage sizzle with fruit, and information provided on all SUSF sporting and recreational activities. AFLNSW supported the event with skills stations, a demo game, DJ, ticket giveaways, and the Swans mascot. From an SUSF perspective, this was a really well run event and was really engaging for the students.

- **O Week stalls**
  SUSF purchased two large SUSF stalls at O Week and 35 stalls for our sporting clubs to promote their club and recruit members. We held boot camp, tennis and various sporting club demonstrations. We also gave away a free t-shirt with every annual membership purchased. We promoted our gym memberships, short courses, interfaculty sport, lunchtime social sport, tennis program, swim program, and fitness services. We received thousands of visitors to our stands and despite the rain; it was a successful O Week for us.

- **Interfaculty Touch Football tournament at O Week**
  SUSF, with the USU, coordinated a touch football tournament where we arranged for different faculties to take part in the tournament and win points towards the overall Interfaculty Sport competition. The weather was perfect and the event was really successful with approx. 60 students actively participating in the competition.

- **Presentations at various faculty and college welcomes**
  SUSF coordinated presentations directly with faculties during O Week to present everything we can offer from a fitness and social sport perspective.

- **Stalls at various societies**
  SUSF had information booths at various events around campus including the Business School, Nursing and MedSoc.

- **Stall during Week 1**
  SUSF set up a stall outside Mint Café on Darlington campus all week to promote our offerings.
PROMOTION & COMMUNICATION

Effective promotion and communication of events are key to the success of Orientation. Although it occurs at the commencement of each academic year, targeted marketing to key cohorts is necessary to build interest and buy in from students, both those commencing and returning.

Together with direct, emailed invitations for specific cohort events, promotion of the Orientation 2014 program included distribution of the Orientation 2014 Booklet through direct mail out to all commencing students; an Orientation 2014 website linked to the look and feel of the booklet that linked extensively to University sites, online information and following its popularity in 2013, an ‘orientation planner’ that allowed students to create their own schedule for the week. A social media campaign via Twitter and Facebook and direct emails to commencing students also ensured word of mouth promotion of the event was strong.

Further detail regarding the various forms of communication is included below:

Booklet

The Orientation booklet is a key source of information and promotion of Orientation at Sydney. Although many people now access their information online, student feedback suggest they continue to appreciate and utilise hard copy versions of information and timetables.

The booklet consolidates a great deal of information about Orientation in a portable, appealing format that includes a welcome from the Vice-Chancellor, information about planning Orientation week, Faculty events, cohort welcomes, transition sessions, information about the online planner and links to the USU organised O Week activities.

The booklet was extremely popular with students in 2014. It was posted to all commencing students in mid-January with a letter inviting parents of first year students to attend a parents’ information evening in March, and this correlated with a spike in the number of hits to the Orientation website, showing receipt of the booklet led to an increase in student interest in the activities. The booklet was also provided to all students attending International Arrival Sessions, the STABEX and International Student Welcomes and the welcomes to UG cohorts including pathways students, rural students and mature-age students.

Although the booklet and mail out are a major expense for the Orientation team, feedback from students verbally as well as from the evaluation survey demonstrate students see them as added value. However, if a mobile application can be developed in the future, as will be explored for 2015, the number of printed copies required may be reduced.

Website

The Orientation website is the main point for students to access information relating to orientation activities, enrolments, transition tips and other key information students may require to successfully embark on their university studies. All other forms of communication, including the booklet and social media, provide links to the dynamic site that can be easily updated as information comes to hand or changes, ensuring an accurate and relevant central source.

There was a large increase in activity on the website this year. The total visitors increased from 57,000 in 2013 to 80,000 in 2014 and page views increased from 145,000 in 2013 to 211,000 with an average of 2.62 page views per person. These increases may be attributed to increase in visibility of the site - changes in the tab name, a more appealing layout, a link from the front page of the sydney.edu.au homepage to the site and promotion through social media in conjunction with offers/future students’ pages.
The majority of activity coincided with previous year's timeframes, though a small spike was noticed in the second week of February, which correlated to students receiving their orientation packs in the mail; as well as the expected large spike in activity during Orientation Week.

Unlike previous years, the site saw the highest activity on Monday 24 February, instead of Wednesday (when 0-Week begins). This may be due to a conscious effort to promote the program as a full week of activities, including updating the 'important dates' in the central CMS and publishing key dates in the heading on the landing page.

No significant changes were noticed in the new and returning visitor breakdowns or geographic locations of access to previous years, with the many logons from China showing the students are preparing themselves better prior to their arrival as international students.

Visits by source show a more even split between the ways people are navigating to the site: about 40% through the Current Students site and 30% of visitors were coming through Google, 30% other sources (normally other search engines like Bing, Yahoo etc.). This change may be attributed to the increased visibility of the site with the direct link under the current students heading from the main landing page.

The most popular content remained quite similar to previous years. The University Welcome is the official opening event so it is fantastic to see this quite formal affair as the most popular event. It is also encouraging to see that faculty welcomes received almost double the activity of USU’s events, given the main message for the Orientation program is that students should be attending their faculty welcome if nothing else.

The Adjusting to Uni pages were also in the most visited pages which is pleasing given that this 'year round' static site, was updated with new content and dynamic information during in the lead up to and weeks following Orientation week. Some information from these pages were also included in the booklet and shows that commencing students are conscious that the transition to University can be rough and they are keen to learn strategies and develop skills to manage change.

Compared to the same timeframe last year, site activity increased by 15 - 45% across the board, including average visit length. As the site necessarily holds a great deal of content, it is encouraging that the streamlined information and layout changes to ease navigation appear to be assisting students locate clear, accessible, up to date information.

Online Planner

The online planner is a feature of the Orientation website that provides functionality for students to search for events being held throughout Orientation and create themselves a downloadable schedule that includes dates, times, venues and information about each event.

For the first time in 2014 also included USU activities as well as centrally arranged welcomes, faculty events.
and transition sessions. Feedback from the survey as well as very high usage statistics demonstrates the level of appreciation by the students who widely accessed this central source of information to plan and coordinate their activities during Orientation week.

Usage Statistics

The planner received more than 50% visits than 2013, with 148,000 page views compared to 67,000 last year.

The planner module accessed 80,978 times with over 25,572 unique schedules created where students saved at least 1 event to their plan.

It is interesting to note – given these numbers represent more than commencing undergraduate and postgraduate students in Semester 1, 2014, it is likely that a significant proportion of these schedules would have been created by returning students suggesting that Orientation and O Week activities are of interest and add value to students throughout their university career, as well as at the beginning.

The events saved to the most number of schedules were:
- University Welcome to New Students
- Opening night party (USU)
- Successful essay writing (Learning Centre session)
- Lectures and how to use them (LC session)
- Science faculty welcome
- FASS faculty welcome

The broad range of these events demonstrates that academic, transition, formal and social events are equally valued by students during Orientation Week and encourage the continuation of the current integrated program.

Recommendations for 2015

- **Recommendation 1:** Develop an online app accessible from smart phones that can link to personal calendars
- **Recommendation 2:** Suggest a recommended timetable of events for students unsure of which events to attend.

Social Media

It is reported that social media platforms are now the most common source of information for University students. Therefore, it is essential in promoting Orientation events that these outlets provide accurate, regular feeds that highlight key features of the program.

Facebook, Twitter and At Sydney were used to support the promotion and coverage of Orientation activities. At Sydney was used to inform students about the arrival of their Orientation packs in early February, and as reminder the week before Orientation. Supported by the Student Communications Manager, Facebook and Twitter had daily updates of the large Welcomes taking place, usually accompanied by photos.

Orientation/O-Week Facebook posts through the February period saw:
- 89,736 reach
- 1616 likes
- 144 comments
- 89 shares

In addition the Student News that went out on 26 Feb had 775 click-throughs on the Orientation link, the highest CTR for the month.
Some of the most popular posts included:

**Building some excitement!**

Twitter
#usydhereicome hashtag - this page received the highest number of Likes of FB pages

**Promoting the online planner**

Encouraging students to attend their faculty welcome
Ask Me

The ‘Ask Me’ Campaign commenced in 2013 as a mechanism to welcome and orient new students into the university community, and to promote confidence in seeking assistance by visibly highlighting senior staff and students who were obviously open to providing advice. Staff and senior students were invited to wear a bright blue badge (featured below) during Orientation and the first two weeks of semester. The badges were delivered with a copy of the Orientation booklet, a Student Guide and a list of Frequently Asked Questions which contained information about Orientation, directions to transport and venues around the University. These packs were delivered the week prior to Orientation and the campaign was promoted through Staff and Student News. Feedback from students in the 2013 Orientation survey was that students appreciated the ability to identify approachable staff and students.

Following the success of the Ask Me campaign last year, the campaign was continued for Orientation 2014. A total of 1008 Ask Me badges were ordered by staff and senior students after an invitation was included in the Staff News prior to Orientation; adding to the 1500 badges distributed across the 2013 campaign.

The response from the Orientation Survey revealed:
- 53% of student respondents said they saw staff and students wearing the Ask Me badge during Orientation, of which 41% asked them a question
- 23% of respondents reported they saw staff and students wearing the Ask Me badge during the first two weeks of semester

ORIENTATION SURVEY

As an additional method of gathering feedback and data from students to inform the development of the Orientation program the survey has been run annually since 2009, and results have been largely consistent across time in the high levels of satisfaction with the program. The survey allows organisers to get a sense of what does and doesn’t work in terms of the Orientation program and also provides a baseline for quality assurance for ongoing innovation and development of the program.

Please contact orientation.info@sydney.edu.au for a full copy of the Orientation 2014 survey for full details of student feedback of individual seminars, events and workshops. Recommendations from the student survey are used to plan for future orientation and transition events.

Particular points for reference for the 2014 program include the below findings:
- Total responses: 404
- Demographics:
  - 50% respondents were first years
  - 63.19% respondents were local undergraduates
    - 17.9% moved to Sydney to study
  - 13.46% respondents were local PG
  - 9.89% respondents were full-degree INTL UG
  - 11.81% respondents were full-degree INTL PG
  - 1.65% respondents were STABEX
  - 42.54% respondents were from NESB
  - 23.82% respondents were first in family (less than 2012 and 2013)
- Top 3 faculty respondents:
  - 25.49% - FASS
- 14.85% - Business
- 18.77% - Science
- The sample was not quite representative of the population - 75% of respondents were female, 43% from a NESB and even split of first year and non-first year students.
- Highest attendance recorded was on Wednesday 26 February, with 70.63% respondents reporting that they attended Orientation on Wednesday.
- There were higher proportions of students attending Orientation events: faculty attendance was up from 77% in 2013 to 83% in 2014, and attendance at academic seminars was up from 24% to 29%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most visited webpages</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Sydney home page (sydney.edu.au)</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty home page</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On enrolment day</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START website (sydney.edu.au/start)</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation website (sydney.edu.au/orientation)</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USU O-Week website (<a href="http://www.oweek.com.au">www.oweek.com.au</a>)</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation booklet (mailed out to local students)</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USU O-Week brochure</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Guide (received at Enrolment)</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email from International Services</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral by a Sydney University staff member</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most attended activities</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Faculty or School Welcome</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Welcome (Wed 26 Feb)</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Welcome (Tues 25 Feb)</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic seminars - Successful essay writing; successful report writing; so many books, so little time; strategies for successful learning; developing critical thinking skills; lectures and how to use them; plagiarism and how to avoid it; oral presentation skills, collaborative learning; writing reports for social sciences.</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition information sessions - well-balanced lifestyle; social networking; happiness; a taste of mindfulness; mindsets; money matters; ‘New to Sydney’ accommodation sessions; accessing Disability Services.</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathway student Welcome (Fri 21 Feb)</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature age and part-time student Welcome (Wed 26 Feb)</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country and Interstate student Welcome (Tues 25 Feb)</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers Centre sessions - Think beyond your degree drop in sessions: Casual employment talks; employer presentations</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A competition was again held for a $200 Coop voucher for the survey respondent with the best answer to the following question: In 25 words or less, please tells us if you could create one event to add to the Orientation week program that would help your transition to University what would it be? (Be as creative as possible - pretend that time and money is no object).

The winner was voted by the STAR team for the following response and the voucher awarded to the winning student: “A whole university-population attempt to break a world record (not sure what though!). It would create a sense of teamwork and be heaps of fun :)

PLANNING FOR SEMESTER 2, 2014

Semester 2 Orientation is a much smaller event than occurs at the beginning of the year. Preparations are currently underway for the following events at the end of July, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Booked venue(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Student Arrival</td>
<td>Friday 18 July</td>
<td>9am – 11am</td>
<td>Chemistry Lecture Theatre 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Session 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STABEX Student Welcome</td>
<td>Monday 21 July</td>
<td>9am – 11am</td>
<td>Great Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 July</td>
<td>10.30am – 11.30am</td>
<td>Great Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL Activities</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 July</td>
<td>12pm – 1.30pm</td>
<td>The Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Arrival</td>
<td>Wednesday 23</td>
<td>9am – 11am</td>
<td>Chemistry Lecture Theatre 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Session 2</td>
<td>July</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemulwuy Pathway Academic Skills</td>
<td>Thursday 24-</td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
<td>Ivan Turner Lecture Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Friday 25 July</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Arrival</td>
<td>Friday 25 July</td>
<td>9am – 11am</td>
<td>Chemistry Lecture Theatre 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Session 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Student Welcome</td>
<td>Monday 28 July</td>
<td>5pm – 8pm</td>
<td>MacLaurin Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USU Re-O Day</td>
<td>Wednesday 30</td>
<td>10am – 3pm</td>
<td>Eastern Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX ONE: STUDENT SERVICES REPORTS

Alumni and Development Office

A letter from the Vice-Chancellor was sent to the parents of commencing students with the Orientation Week booklet. The letter invited parents to attend an evening on the 18 March 2014 to hear academic and student speakers from the University provide insights into academic and student life at the University. This was followed by refreshments on the Quadrangle Lawns where parents had the opportunity to meet the Deans and other academics of the University, as well as talk with staff from Student Support Services about supports available to students from Accommodation Services, Careers Services, Scholarships and Financial Support and Disability Services. Counselling and Psychological Services also attended and distributed coloured copies of their Parents’ Information Calendar which were extremely popular and offer practical, timely tips for students to help their child at different times of the university year.

The evening was over-subscribed with over 800 parents attended the evening, requiring the Quadrangle General Lecture Theatre be used for a live feed to the audience overflow. The event was also filmed for online distribution to parents who could not attend. The popularity of this event suggests parents remain invested and take a great deal of interest in their children after they turn 18 and appreciate information about how best to support them during this transition.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support

The Cadigal Alternative Entry Program is an access and support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to study at the University of Sydney. In 2014, the Cadigal program expanded to include a Cadigal Reduced Load (Pemulwuy Pathway) pilot program. If Cadigal and Pemulwuy students are successful with an offer to the University they are required to attend the Cadigal Academic Skills program before Semester 1 commences.

The Academic Skills Program is a two week program designed to equip new undergraduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with skills in Academic Writing, Essay Structure, Critical Thinking, Oral Presentation, Research Methods and Time Management skills and other necessary skills essential to developing competency to assist with the first year of Academic study at the University of Sydney. The Learning Centre redeveloped the 2013 Academic Skills workbook which allowed for further early diagnostic analysis.

Also scheduled into the program is a tour of the university, museum tours, college lunch and tour, money matters session and a tutoring (ITAS) sign up session.

The objective of the program is to:
- provide academic skills and knowledge prior to the commencement of studies
- ensure skills and knowledge are established at the outset rather than trying study and gain academic skills and knowledge concurrently
- allow students to network and bond with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled at the University
- connect students with appropriate faculties and staff prior to commencing studies and
• feel comfortable with the university system, structures and environment before they begin classes.

The workshop also included an Orientation Day which gave students the opportunity to meet and be welcomed to the University by the DVC (Indigenous), Director of Student Support Services and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Team.

The students also got the opportunity to:
• meet and get to know each other
• meet support staff from across campus and find out what their roles are
• talk with current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
• get scholarship and financial services information
• find out how to register for tutors (ITAS), accommodation, careers, counselling and free courses through the learning centre
• find out about the Student Union, Student Representative Council and university sports and how to get involved and
• speak with a representative from Centrelink about any Abstudy enquiries.

For the first time, Cadigal Health Science students were invited to participate in the program on main campus as this is where they would spend their first year of studies. The new Pemulwuy students were also required to attend the program with further one on one Academic skills support built into their program throughout semester.

Overall 42 Cadigal and 16 Pemulwuy students were offered a place in all but 2 of the 16 Faculties. 33 other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mainstream students were also made an offer.

An average of 37 students attended each day of the Academic Skills program, increasing from 20 in 2013.

At the conclusion of the two week Cadigal Orientation and Academic Skills Program, students are asked to provide an evaluation of the program, followed by a general question and answer session and is wrapped up with a certificate of attendance being awarded by the DVC (Indigenous) continued by a lunch for all staff, students, external partners and guest speakers that had been involved in the two weeks program.

In general students thought the welcome and orientation was a great introduction to university services and that it was informative and set a good platform for the weeks to follow. Students reported the Orientation Day was important in making them feel comfortable in a university environment and also with each other.

The Cadigal students found the Academic Skills program to be extremely useful in:
• setting expectations for university academic studies
• gaining greater in-depth knowledge of academic skills
• re-capping skills learnt at school

The Pemulwuy Pathway students found that the Academic Skills program was:
• A great indicator of what to expect at University, having not studied for 20 years it was an eye opener for some students
• Helping them to understand why they were only offered a reduced load entrance.
• Giving them a sense of security on campus and confidence to go to their first lectures

Semester 2, 2014 Planning

Academic Skills continues in semester 2, 2014, with a two day intense workshop scheduled in the last days of midyear Orientation. This workshop will focus on area’s students may have struggled with in Semester 1, such as types of essay writing, time management and how to source information from the library.
Individual appointments with the Learning Centre will be built into student’s semester 2 timetable and the Learning Centre staff will also work with students individual group tutor. Any midyear Cadigal applicants who are made an offer in Semester 2, will also have individual appointments scheduled into their timetable with the Learning Centre.

**Careers Centre**

The Careers Centre aims to promote to first year undergraduate and postgraduate students a suite of career and skills opportunities on campus, including Job Alert, the Careers Centre staff and expertise, and the fact employers are keen to engage with students at all stages of their degree. It is essential that students are thinking about their careers and potential employers early in their studies as it allows them to scaffold their learning and provides an additional avenue for them to engage with their studies.

The Careers Centre ran eleven workshops in Orientation Week with the following numbers in attendance:

1. Looking for Casual Work, 26 Feb 11am–12 noon  
   *Attendance: 158 students*
2. Maximising Careers Fairs, 26 Feb 3pm–4pm: 40 students  
3. Writing a Winning Resume (by Commonwealth Bank), 26 Feb 12pm-1pm  
   *Attendance: 120 students*
4. Tips to Land Your Dream Job (presented by Red Balloon), 26 Feb 1pm–2pm  
   *Attendance: 80 students*
5. What do you Look Like Online? (presented by Social Check), 26 Feb 2pm–3pm  
   *Attendance: 80 students*
6. Networking - How to Make Connections (by Accenture) 26th Feb 3pm–4pm  
   *Attendance: 140 students*
7. Looking for Casual Work, 27 February 12pm–1pm  
   *Attendance: 80 students*
8. Making the Most of Your University Experience (by AIESEC), 27 Feb 10am–11am  
   *Attendance: 20 students*
9. How to Succeed in an Interview (presented by PwC), 27 Feb 11am-12pm  
   *Attendance: 90 students*
10. How to Gain an Internship or Vacation Program (EY), 27 Feb 1pm–2pm  
    *Attendance: 140 students*
11. How to Make a Great Presentation (presented by Teach NSW), 27th Feb 3pm–4pm  
    *Attendance: 80 students*

The Careers Centre piloted employer involvement in the Orientation Week 2012 workshops and due to the success of those workshops, has continued to increase the range of workshops offered. In 2014, a total of 1028 students attended Careers Centre workshops presented over two days.

**Outcomes**
- Greater understanding and awareness of purpose of Careers Centre, Job Alert and how to look for part time and casual work
• Enhanced sense of belonging and to welcome students to the University of Sydney
• Offered a range of workshops based on Kift’s transition pedagogy – designed, evaluated and implemented during a transitive phase so the diverse student population can engage with their studies.

Counselling and Psychological Services

Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) presented workshops and seminars across an array of topics and issues relevant to commencing students. Following from feedback at 2013 Orientation, seminars were developed to be more interactive which was responded to positively by participants. Future seminars will continue to build upon such an interactive experience in order to promote engagement with peers and with holistic learning opportunities.

Students were reminded at each seminar about the availability and range of student services available, and how to utilise online assistance, to ensure the message of how to access resources was delivered consistently and explicitly.

Following the success of the 2013 program in 2014, seminars were provided on the following topics:

- The Power of Flourishing: to help students learn to use their time and talents to live with meaning and purpose
- A Taste of Mindfulness: to help students develop self-awareness and effective coping skills for managing stress, anxiety or depression

In 2014, the Mature Age and Part-time Students’ Welcome; the Broadway welcome, Country and Interstate and E12 welcomes were MC’d by CAPS. The theme ‘ask me’ was stressed in these programs to encourage students to approach all university staff during their transition to study and throughout their academic program.

CAPS also produced resources for students and parents in the form of an academic calendar signaling and assisting students to be prepared for the different challenges that unfold over a semester. Being prepared or well-organised is an aspect of conscientiousness known to be associated with academic achievement.

Innovation in 2014:

As a result of the difficulties around accessing a stall for Orientation Week, CAPS developed and engaged in a roaming event that focused on enhancing student's awareness of their values. CAPS encouraged students to have their photo taken with a range of celebrity cardboard cutouts that represented different character traits they wanted to “unleash” this year. Students were then asked to upload their photographs to Instagram with the hashtag “unleashmyinner”. The event enabled CAPS to engage in a dialogue with a range of students about preparedness and well-being in university life. [http://instagram.com/usydcaps](http://instagram.com/usydcaps)

Disability Services

In Semester 1, 2014 Disability Services held two Orientation days. One was specifically for incoming students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the second day was a general orientation days for all incoming students with disability, where the afternoon session of the day was focused on students specifically with a vision impairment and was facilitated by the Guide Dogs.

We had 5 students attend the ASD workshop and 18 attend the general.
The low numbers may be attributed to a delay in emailing invitations and the promotion of the events. In future, particular effort will be made to ensure that commencing students are invited to attend orientation events run by the Disability Services with plenty of lead time and that the services and assistance offered by the Service are promoted across a wide range of media and forums for accessibility and planning purposes.

Scholarships and Financial Support Services

Scholarships and Financial Support Service assisted the STAR team with the organization of the Scholarships luncheon where students who were awarded merit scholarships were recognized and provided opportunities to network and meet the Dean of their faculty. Additional programs offered through the Orientation week included:

- Money Matters: How to be smart with your money 1 hour session was given on 26 February and was well attended, as well as delivered to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students entering through the Cadigal program.

- Financial Support and ASIC co-hosted a ‘Be a MoneySmart Rookie and make smart decisions about your money - financial literacy skills for young people’ session on 27 February, which was attended by 50 students. Information about scholarships, prizes, student loans and bursaries available through Scholarships and Financial Support Service was also provided at O Week stalls and at welcome events via brochures and SFSS staff attending panels during International Arrival Sessions and student cohort welcomes.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

ICT had a good orientation. The department held a stall and a lecture on info day to get access to commencing students.

This was followed by our general orientation activities. 1881 students attended the various ICT locations, a 54.31% increase from last year. The focus this year was on showing off a number of new innovations that ICT has bought to the university so that the stall featured a collection of technology; 3D printing capacity was demonstrated in the lab; and tours of the digital strategy showcase were conducted. ICT also supplemented this with a number of speaking engagements for various student groups at welcome events.

All up it was a very positive experience.

Learning Centre

The Learning Centre offers a number of programs to support students during their transition to university studies.

Bridging Programs

Three different Bridging Programs are offered, namely:
- The Cadigal Orientation and Academic Skills Program for indigenous students.
- The Academic Literacy and Learning Bridging Course for students experiencing some form of disadvantage and entering the University with ATARs below 85.
- The Bachelor of Social Work Bridging Program for students transitioning into the accelerated program from TAFE.
Personal e-mail invitations are sent out by the Learning Centre and Student Support Services to all potential participants in the latter two bridging programs. Bridging programs are especially important for non-traditional students and evaluations have shown not only their value in developing the academic skills necessary for successful university study but also their role in enabling students to develop social support networks.

**Orientation Lectures and Welcome Sessions**
The Learning Centre offers a suite of face-to-face lectures as part of Orientation Week activities. These clarify academic expectations for new students and also inform students of all Learning Centre programs and resources, in particular, those workshops offered in the first 6 weeks of the semester. In 2014, these lectures included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Attendance (approximate)</th>
<th>Feedback (/5)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Successful essay writing</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing reports for science and engineering</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing reports for the social sciences</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategies for successful learning in first year</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So many books, so little time</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is this thing called university?</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing critical thinking skills</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures and how to use them</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plagiarism and how to avoid it</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation skills</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative learning</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Learning Centre staff are also involved in International and Faculty Orientations and Orientations for students entering under alternative pathways; for example, University Welcome to New Students; Mature age and Part-time Welcome; Pathways Welcome; Disability Services; Orientation Student Support Services; AusAID Orientation for students; CET Direct Entry Program Intro to University; Cadigal Orientation Day; Postgraduate Student Welcome.

In 2014, the Learning Centre also offered the following faculty orientations during the Orientation Week: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Law and Faculty of Education and Social Work (HDR); Faculty of Agriculture and Environment (UG and PG); Early Childhood Education (UG and PG).

**Central Program workshops**
A concentrated program of generic workshops is offered during the first 6 weeks of first semester. Workshops target the full range of academic skills that students are required to develop competence in during their studies. These foundation skills include critical thinking, analytical writing, essay and report writing, oral presentation skills etc. All workshops are evaluated and student feedback is incorporated into repeated offerings, which continue throughout the whole year, during semester and also during break periods.

**Faculty Program**
The Learning Centre collaborates with faculties on devising transition activities that can be embedded into unit of study curricula. These can include the early use of a diagnostic written assessment task such as the MASUS, which identifies students ‘at risk’ and then enables follow up activities to support these students. Other activities can involve Learning Centre staff team teaching with faculty staff on making explicit the requirements of the first assessed assignment through example texts and draft writing and feedback activities.
Cadigal Alternative Entry Program

The Cadigal Alternative Entry Program provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with access to University of Sydney courses and appropriate support for their studies, starting with the two week Orientation program. In 2014, the Learning Centre was again involved in the Cadigal Orientation through its Academic Skills Workshop program, which involves a writing diagnostic task and follow-up support workshops during the two-week period. Recommended changes for next year, following (mostly positive) student feedback is to include more examples from the sciences and engineering, and make more use of multi-media and interactive activities to engage students.

Student Accommodation Services

Student Accommodation Services (SAS) provides affordable accommodation for more than 450 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Accommodation options are available across three campus settings: Camperdown/Darlington, Camden and Cumberland. Our accommodation consists of students that are international, rural and/or remote, first in family, students from a financially disadvantaged background, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students in their first year of University (aged under 25 years).

SAS hosted multiple accommodation sessions in semester 1 for the arrival of international and domestic students. There were in total approximately 150 students that attended these sessions.

Please see below the following changes implemented for the 2014 intake:

- All students attended a ‘Welcome Session’ upon checking into Student Accommodation Services. During these sessions students were informed on the terms and conditions of their License Agreement and advised on how SAS operates. A ‘Release to Personal Information’ (Next of kin) form is attached to the License Agreement. The student is to provide a nominated contact point should any concerns of their safety and wellbeing be raised and they are unable to be contacted.
- Students are also informed on WHS procedures and provided with a first point of contact in any case of an emergency.
- A welcome package is offered to each student after these sessions. These packages consist of a University of Sydney map, information on Security services, services provided within Student Support Services and other relevant services in the University. There is also information on external services such as the train & buses time table, City of Sydney brochures a note pad and a pen.

University Library Services

1. Summary

Activities were designed to welcome new and returning students:

- Quick online Library quiz – to highlight important information on the Library website and support services available. Participants were eligible for the draw to win a Nexus 7 tablet - 566 entries.
- Discover Your Library – one-hour sessions were scheduled to demonstrate how the Library can assist students achieve better marks - 312 attended across six sessions at Fisher and SciTech libraries.
Discover Your Library and trivia sessions were scheduled to avoid conflict with other major orientation activities such as faculty talks.

**Total cost for prizes: $883.95**
- 1 x Google Nexus 7 tablet $447.95
- 20 x $20 Coles/Myer cards $400
- 3 x Cadbury Favourites 600gr $30
- 1 x Cadbury Favourites 300gr $6

2. **Activity descriptions**

2.1 **Quick online quiz: Mon 25 Feb to Fri 8 Mar.**

The aim of the two week online quiz was to encourage new students to use the Library’s website and search for information that would be useful to them.

There were four questions:

1. Name one faculty liaison librarian that covers your subject area
2. Name a library in which that faculty liaison librarian is located
3. How long can you borrow an item for a standard loan? (excluding 2 Hour collection)
4. What is one thing you can do in MyLoans?

2.2 **Discover Your Library Results from the Orientation 2013 Survey**

Survey showed that students wanted more Library tours and information sessions on how to use the Library and resources and for the sessions to be publicised.

Six one-hour sessions were presented by five Library staff in the Fisher and SciTech libraries. Each session opened with a five minute talk by ICT staff to explain computer and printing services. This was followed by a Library presentation to introduce our services and resources, ending with a Q&A.

Attendance exceeded expectations and included undergraduate and postgraduate students. Results were presented at a First Year Experience Working Group meeting.

2.3 **Library tours statistics**

- 33 Fisher Library tours ran between Wed 26 Feb and Fri 14 Mar
- 309 participants

2.4 **Trivia:** The two pub-style trivia sessions were easy to prepare and run by two staff members. Anecdotally, the students enjoyed the trivia. Prizes were well received and easy to distribute. Peer to peer marking was a good bonding exercise among the students and alleviated additional staff involvement.

**Planning group:** Michael Arndell, Matthew Davis, Rebecca Goldsworthy, Anne Goodfellow, Kate Masters, Rhonda Myers.
APPENDIX TWO: FACULTY REPORTS

The majority of faculties participated in Orientation for Semester 1, 2014, holding the following events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture and Environment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Welcome</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day trip to Plant Breeding Institute, Cobbitty</td>
<td>Friday 28 February</td>
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<th>Architecture, Design and Planning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Welcome</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBQ lunch and activities</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<th>Arts and Social Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Welcome</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>First year BBQ lunch with mentors</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Letters, Art and Media: Film Studies showcase</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics Welcome Breakfast</td>
<td>Friday 28 February</td>
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<tr>
<th>Business School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Welcome</td>
<td>Tuesday 25 February</td>
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<tr>
<th>Education and Social Work</th>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Welcome</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<th>Engineering and Information Technologies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBQ and FSAE racing car on display</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Aeronautical Engineering and Aeronautical (Space) Engineering Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineering Discipline Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Chemical and Bio-molecular Engineering Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Civil Engineering Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Electrical and Information Engineering Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Information Technologies Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical and Mechanical (Space) Engineering Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechatronic and Mechatronic(Space) Engineering Welcome</td>
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<td>Project Management Discipline Welcome</td>
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<th>Health Sciences</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Welcome</td>
<td>Monday 24 February</td>
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<th>Sydney Law School</th>
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<td>Faculty Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Laws mentoring program launch</td>
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<td><strong>Sydney Nursing School</strong></td>
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<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Tuesday 25 February</td>
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<td><strong>Pharmacy</strong></td>
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<td>Faculty Welcome</td>
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<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>SciSoc BBQ</td>
<td>Wednesday 26 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences School Welcome</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sydney College of Art</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation Week</td>
<td>Monday 3 – Friday 6 March</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sydney Conservatorium of Music</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Session</td>
<td>Monday 24 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>Monday 24 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Research Showcase</td>
<td>Tuesday 25 February</td>
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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Student Support Programs coordinated and delivered the Orientation program for Arts and Social Sciences in Semester 1, 2014. This included activities for both undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students and targeted initiatives for students who may traditionally not participate in activities during Orientation Week (O-Week).

The program for Semester 1 included:

- Arts Network Mentoring Program
  - Welcome Day
  - First Year BBQ Lunch
- Undergraduate Faculty Welcome
- Postgraduate International Student Information Session
- Postgraduate Coursework Welcome Reception
- Campus at Dusk
- School Activities (coordinated and delivered locally)

**Arts Network Mentoring Program - Welcome Day (Monday 24 February)**

The Orientation and Transition Program in Arts and Social Sciences began this year on Monday 24 February with the Arts Network Mentoring Program Welcome Day. The Dean, Student Support Programs, colleagues across the Faculty and over 200 senior students welcomed over 1000 first year students. Welcome Day begins with a fast-paced registration in MacLaurin Hall where mentees meet their mentors for face-to-face for the first time. The Dean also gives an informal welcome to begin the day for each group. Welcome Day 2014 also activities such as small group sessions led by a senior student mentor, a Morning Tea on the Quadrangle Lawns, a Degree Forum with Program Director and a ‘Must See, Must Have, Must Do’ first year survival campus tour.

The graph below shows the number of participants over the past five years, as well as the ratio between mentors and first year participants. In 2013, the program saw huge growth in first year registrations, which lead to large group numbers (some as large as eleven). This year saw a similar number of first year students (a total of 1324 registrations) and with an increase mentor participation (314 registrations in November 2013, which decreased to 212 by February), the average ratio was 6.25 first year students per mentor on Welcome Day.
First year students were matched with senior student mentors based on their degree program and unit of study choices. When a First Year student opts into the 25+ Mentoring Program, they were matched with fellow Mature-age students so they could share their experiences and expectations as non-recent school leavers.

As numbers rise, matching is becoming an increasingly challenging task, both in terms of the time taken to complete the task and in terms of creating groups that are meaningful for participants. Ideally, small groups are created on the basis of degree and students’ major. In this way the common factor uniting participants in a group is their experience of a given subject area in the context of a given course.

In practice it is difficult to find the perfect solution for every student with the available pool of mentors. It is often necessary to ask mentors to take on a group who are studying the same subject area in a different but related course, or a group in the same course but in areas of study outside their expertise. In the end, group sizes ranged from three to nine, depending on the numbers of participants for each course.

**About the Arts Network Mentoring Program**

The goals and aims of the Mentoring program is grounded in building a sense of belonging through interaction with peers and campus life at the first point of contact with the University as an enrolled student. It aims to

- Form a first year cohort by creating a sense of belonging
- Reduce attrition rates by providing key information about degree programs, support services,
and important dates utilising social media and technology

- Introduce students to key student support services and staff members
- Familiarise students with the physical environment on campus
- Encourage students to join clubs and societies to broaden their University experiences and connections.

Student Support Programs are in the process of evaluating the Arts Network Mentoring Program for 2014/15, however preliminary results of the Welcome Day survey, 98.7% of respondents agreed that it was worthwhile attending Welcome Day with “Meeting peers”, “Getting to know the campus” and “Information and knowledge about uni life and degrees” ranking highly.

First Year students meet their Mentors in MacLaurin Hall on Welcome Day 2014.

Student Mentors play a crucial role in welcoming and supporting first years.

Our mentors are engaged, solution-orientated and are keen to help their peers settle into the Faculty.
Mentor groups take a break on the Quad Lawns while enjoying Welcome Day morning tea.

First year students and mentors attend a Degree Forum as part of Welcome Day.

Mentor De-brief after the first year survival tour.

Support from Week 1 - 4

Senior student mentors continued to support first years over the first three weeks of Semester 1, by keeping in contact with over email, sms and group catch-ups. This year, Student Support Programs added weekly program bulletins that included first year tips, Faculty news and updates. The bulletins were sent in conjunction with special mentor-only broadcasts and the ‘SMS Loop’ campaign. The ‘SMS Loop’ campaign involved sending an sms to first year students asking how their first two weeks
of semester went and whether their mentor had been in contact. A consecutive sms was sent to mentors asking how they were tracking with their role as mentor and to share their experiences. This proved to be a good way to receive concurrent feedback of the program, support mentors who may have experienced challenges along the way and address unanswered questions from first year students with individual responses and incorporating information into the final program bulletin. We also continued regular communications such as daily Facebook updates and the First Year Student eNewsletter, which included timely information about timetable changes, student card collection, census dates and support services across campus. For the first time, we experimented with a Twitter account.

**Official Undergraduate Faculty Welcome (Thursday 27 February)**
The official Undergraduate Welcome for New Students to the Faculty was held on Thursday 27 February in the Great Hall. This provided an opportunity for students to be welcomed by the Dean and the Pro-Dean Teaching and Learning and introduced to the academic culture and perspectives of the Faculty in a light-hearted debate about ‘love’. This was also a good way for our Program to connect with new students who did not attend on Welcome Day. In the past, the FASS Marketing and Recruitment team managed this event but, after their recent review, Student Support Programs undertook management and delivery of the event. Accordingly, we changed the venue from the usual venue in Wallace Lecture Theatre to the Great Hall and incorporated an academic procession and several other relatively minor changes that lent the occasion a little more playful pomp and ceremony. The changes were extremely successful with record numbers of students attending – an estimated 650 with many more crowded around entry points eager to participate in the fun. Professor Vras Karalis was crowned the winner of the debate.
First year students filled the Great Hall for the official Faculty Welcome to hear our academics speak on the topic of love from their respective disciplines.

Professor Colm Harmon speaking on love and economics
(Photo by Nicholas Fahy, Student Mentor and SASS Publications Officer)

First Year BBQ Lunch with Sydney Arts’ Students Society (Thursday 27 February)
Following the Undergraduate Welcome, we continued with a similar the follow-up event from 2012 and 2013, with a BBQ lunch co-hosted by the Sydney Arts Students Society (SASS) and Student Support Programs on the Botany Lawn. The fact that the official Undergraduate Welcome was held at the Great Hall also meant that it was easier for us to guide students directly outside to the Botany Lawn (rather than having to guide them up from Wallace Theatre as we have done in the past). We organised for our mentors to meet their groups at the Botany Lawn for a meet and mingle over a BBQ lunch, followed by a walk through the O-Week clubs and societies stalls. Once again, this was an extremely well-attended event and students were happy to queue and mill about despite the light rain.
First year students joined SASS and Mentors on the Botany Lawn for a bbq lunch.
(Photo by Nicholas Fahy, Student Mentor and SASS Publications Officer)

The rain didn’t dampen interest in a free sausage sizzle and chat with a mentor.
(Photo by Nicholas Fahy, Student Mentor and SASS Publications Officer)

Once again, the SASS hosted a weekend orientation camp that a hundred new Arts and Social Sciences students attended and we helped promote the camp, which by all accounts was a great success.

Postgraduate International Student Coursework Information Session (Thursday 27 February)
This one-hour information session has evolved over a number of semesters to now take place during O-Week as a way of providing International postgraduate students with essential information they need to feel equipped to begin study, understand central student administration requirements and faculty processes and provisions.

The session included an introduction to postgraduate learning, student support services and networks (Dr Rebecca Johinke, Director of Student Support Programs), academic writing support (Dr Louise Katz, Program Coordinator for ARTS7000), postgraduate international student-visa requirements (Eveline Overink, International Student Adviser) and Faculty student administration (Anne MacMillan, Student Services Manager). Approximately 65 students attended the information session, which was held before the official Postgraduate Faculty Welcome Reception.
Postgraduate Faculty Welcome Reception (Thursday 27 February)
The official Postgraduate Welcome Reception was held on the evening of Thursday 27 February. Once again, FASS Marketing and Recruitment has traditionally managed this event, however due to the review of Marketing and Communications Student Support Programs team undertook the management and coordination of the event from early 2014. Accordingly, we followed the usual successful event brief with the Dean and Faculty colleagues welcoming students and presenting scholarships to recent recipients, in addition to an entertaining evening with a string quartet and canapes. We had approximately 225 register to attend the event (138 Local students and 87 International students) and have the opportunity for students to meet their peers, academics, Student Support Programs, and staff from various student organizations. The reception is often the first time Postgraduate students spend time on campus in the early evening before classes commence and in light of online enrolment, this will also be the first time students come onto campus after accepting their offer.

School Activities
A couple of the Schools in Arts and Social Sciences organised local showcases and activities to engage with students studying in specific units of study.

The School of Letters, Art and Media hosted a Film Studies showcase for all students undertaking a major in film studies or interested in film in general. The School of Economics hosted a breakfast for all first year undergraduates on the last day of O-Week. Students met with the Head of School, Professor Colm Harmon over a light breakfast, met with senior students and received a School of Economics t-shirt as welcome gift to the School.

School of Economics T-shirt for first year students were a big hit!
(Photo courtesy of Professor Colm Harmon)

Campus at Dusk (Tuesday 4 March)
The development of the Campus at Dusk initiative is based on feedback from the Orientation Survey conducted in Semester 1 2013. The survey included feedback from a significant number of part-time students who had missed out on the “campus experience” during O-Week due to factors such as timing, accessibility and content. By hosting Campus at Dusk in Week 1 in the early evening, we hoped to attract undergraduate first year students who work full-time business hours, have primary carer responsibilities during the day or complete enrolment process after O-Week activities have taken place.
Attendance of targeted cohorts of students at Campus at Dusk in 2014.

Campus at Dusk aims to attract students who are unable to attend orientation activities during O-Week.

Library Research Skills and Mentor Study Skills sessions in action
Students also had the opportunity to attend a Blackboard 101 skills session, facilitated by Dr Jennifer Dowling, Educational Designer in Arts and Social Sciences.

The session was held in the Fisher Library Exhibition space, which provided an appropriate setting for concurrent sessions to take place and introduced the library support services in an accessible and practical way.

Planning for Mid Year Orientation and 2015

Planning for mid-year orientation has commenced with a suite of activities for both undergraduate and postgraduate students that align also with the implementation of the Sydney Student online enrolment module. This includes:

- Faculty Orientation Day, Wednesday 23 July – for first year undergraduate students
- Postgraduate Information Session and Welcome Reception, Thursday 24 July – for postgraduate coursework students
- Campus at Dusk, Tuesday 29 July – for mature-age and alternative pathway students and late arrivals

The aim of these activities is to ‘fast-track’ the transition for mid-year students as we’re keenly aware that they will be engaging with peers in the classroom who’ve already have a semester worth of experience behind them. We also see mid-year orientation as an opportunity to pilot initiatives as a way of forecasting whether an activity or approach may be scalable for the first-semester intake.
Overall the activities cover a range of essential information for both undergraduate and postgraduate students:

- Student administration and processes; University policies and Faculty provisions
- Blackboard skills
- Library research skill
- Enrolment advice (provided by Student Services)

**Looking forward to 2015**

We have already commenced planning for 2015 but as FASS Student Support Programs is still awaiting the implementation plan following the Review of FASS Teaching and Learning and other related reviews, we understand that our plans may need to be revised later in the year. We are also conscious that our events will need to take into account changes to the enrolment process that will occur as Sydney Student is implemented university-wide. As a preliminary step, we have already booked the necessary training and event venues required to replicate the 2014 program. If it transpires that Student Support Programs retains the two official FASS undergraduate and postgraduate welcomes, then we may need to move the postgraduate event to another evening in order to manage so many events. Discussions of this nature will continue to take place, including process mapping the coordination of orientation to factor in staffing and resources prior to the implementation of reviews and planning ahead.

**Acknowledgements**

The activities outlined in the report reflect the collective contributions and expertise of the Student Support Programs team (Dr Rebecca Johinke, Deborah Rodrigo and Dan Smith), our summer assistants (Sean Sidky and Ruya Ahmed), and our Student Mentors.

We are also grateful for expertise and time from colleagues across the university colleagues of the University Library (Dr Marian de Saxe, Matthew Davis, Rena McGrogan, Michelle Harrison, Karen Chilcott, and Kim Wilson), ELeaming (Dr Jennifer Dowling), International Student Advisor (Eveline Overink), Student Services Manager (Anne MacMillan), and Postgraduate Writing Support (Dr Louise Katz).

For our events, we have the dedicated support and presence of colleagues from across the Faculty and Schools who assist in the smooth running of each event, taking care to ensure our students receive a friendly welcome to the Faculty.

---

Dr Rebecca Johinke, Director of Student Support Programs
Deborah Rodrigo, Programs Officer
Dan Smith, Administrative Officer
June 2014
University of Sydney Business School

Business School Students were welcomed at enrolment by an Orientation representative. Students were provided with an informative enrolment pack inviting them to attend the Business School Orientation Week Program. Students were directed to access further information from the Business School Orientation website and Business School Orientation iPhone app and to register their attendance at each of the Business School Orientation activities. Specific schedules and room locations were only available online to encourage students to register for each event to enable us to track availability of sessions.

The Orientation Week schedule began with a Student Information Expo and BBQ for each student cohort. The informal exhibition setting encouraged students to network over lunch while meeting with representatives from various clubs, societies and University departments. Students registered for their Student Mentor prior to their campus tour.

Student attendance:
Undergraduate Student Information Expo = 400 attended
Postgraduate Student Information Expo = 400 attended

Following the Student Information Expos, a formal Welcome Event was held by the Associate Deans and Director of the Business Programs Unit for each student cohort. The Welcome Events included presentations from a Student Panel to provide students with an opportunity to learn from their peers and ask questions. Orientation bags were distributed to students as they entered their Welcome Event. Students were encouraged to utilise the information inside which contained a New Student Handbook on a USB stick and E Learning, PASS, Maths Learning Centre and CEO (Careers Employment Office) flyers. An iPad was offered as a lucky door prize to kick off the Welcome Events.

Student attendance:
Undergraduate Welcome Event = 750 attended
Postgraduate Welcome Event= 800 attended

There were 48 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Transition Sessions scheduled across Orientation Week. Transition Sessions are one hour ‘workshops’ covering the skills needed to transition to University life. Students were encouraged to go to the following Transition Sessions:

- My Business Degree, My Future
- Learning in Lectures
- Activate Your Learning
- Getting Business Experience While Studying
- Quoting and Paraphrasing: Referring to the Work of Others
- Referencing: The Key to Success in Assignments
- Effective Reading Strategies
- Learning in Tutorials

Between 100 and 300 students attended each Transition Session.

The Postgraduate students were also encouraged to attend a Program Specific Information Session to learn more about their degree and specialisation. There were 12 Postgraduate Program Specific Information Sessions.

Students were encouraged to provide feedback online which gave them another chance to win an iPad. We use this feedback to determine the success of our Orientation Week Program and make improvements for future Orientation Week Programs. In 2014, we used a slide in our Welcome Events to address the feedback we received in the previous Orientation
Week Program and the changes we have made to demonstrate how important their feedback is.

The Business School Orientation Week Program provides an engaging week of activities to welcome students to their first semester of study. Student feedback continues to demonstrate that the significance of Orientation Week is valued, utilised and appreciated by students.
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies ran its welcome program for newly enrolled students on Wednesday 26 February 2014.

Over 600 new undergraduate students took part which resulted in both lectures theatres in the PNR Building being over capacity. The official faculty welcome ran from 11.30am to 12.30pm. The sub dean (students) welcomed the new undergraduates and also quickly run them through the Flexible First Year program. While Dr Karl provided some light hearted entertainment, the current SUEUA president informed students about the engineering and IT societies and student life at Sydney. The UG advisers introduced themselves during the official welcome; this went well as students were able to put a face to their school adviser's name. The welcome ran simultaneously in two lecture theatres.

Afterwards students were invited to join the free BBQ on the engineering lawn to meet their cohort and chat to members from the societies. This is usually the time when they sign up for memberships while SUEUA or SUCES offer mentoring programs that students register for and they also promote the First Year Camp for new students.

In the afternoon students attended their school welcome which usually introduces the heads of school and academics to them, they are taken on lab and facilities tours and have a chance to find out about life and academic expectations in their respective schools. The overall aim is to introduce the students to the faculty and schools, for them to meet their fellow students and ease them into the new environment they will be studying in.

On the following Friday SUEUA usually organises a big pub crawl for everyone and a few weeks into semester one the First Year Camp takes place which usually is a big hit with the new students as they get to know each other outside the class room and make friends for life which probably helps with the nerves and excitement and they get to share their experiences with the older students who help them along.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Orientation at the Faculty of Health Sciences in 2014 was held on 24 February for the Undergraduate Group and on the 27 February for the Graduate Entry Masters Group.

Each year orientation offers the students an opportunity to learn more about the Faculty including the staff and fellow students, to participate in the discipline talks, campus tours and library talks. There is a wide range of support services and information made available to students enrolled in Undergraduate courses and Graduate Entry Masters courses during Orientation.

The campus, library and computer lab tours are offered to the Undergraduate group and are conducted by student volunteers. These tours provide an opportunity for students to network and make new friends, as well as embrace the student experience. The welcome sessions and course talks are a vital part of orientation and provide the students with a range of information which will prepare them for the challenging curriculum that will be part of their University learning experience.

At the conclusion of orientation week, new students are invited to complete the survey to provide feedback on the activities during orientation week. The results and findings of this survey can be found on the following pages.

It was felt that Orientation 2014 was an improvement in most areas on Orientation 2013.
RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Welcome Talks

1. Shorter Welcome talks - duration of the welcome talk may need to be revisited as students find that 45 to 50 minutes is a long time.
2. Learning Centre to be part of the Welcome Session for the Undergraduate group.
3. Presentations by the Chair of the Welcome sessions will use links to relevant websites.
4. Based on the numbers who attended this year, it would be more efficient to combine the GEM sessions into one Welcome session.

Course Talks

5. Longer Course Talk (1 ½ hours) for the UG Exercise Physiology group.
6. Bachelor of Health Sciences and combined Nursing students will start off in the same room for ½ hour and after that each will have an hour with their students in separate rooms.

Lunch breaks

7. The duration of the lunch break may also need to be shortened. This will need to be visited by the Committee in conjunction with Cumberland Student Guild to see if this is possible with the number of students who queue up for lunch.

Promotional items and website

8. Promotional items such as notepads and pens are given out.
9. An A4 flyer with the campus map on one side and links to various information on the other side of the map such as help with emails and IT problems, important Semester dates (which are hard to find on the website), links to access course handbooks, where to find help for finances, medical issues, special considerations, problems with coursework. This will be handed out to the new students at the welcome sessions.
10. The Marketing department will be responsible for creating and updating the Orientation website.
11. The design and printing of flyers and posters and any other printed materials to be assigned to the Managed Service Provider.

Volunteers and tours

12. Students involved in the mentoring program are to also volunteer as orientation student volunteers.
13. PA systems to be used by the campus tour guides.
14. More visibility of the Clubs and Societies.
15. The option of a Campus tour for GEM students.
16. Library will use their casual students to conduct the library tours.

Orientation Committee membership

17. Increase the FHS Orientation Committee membership. Currently it is only the Director of Student Affairs and the Project Manager. More committee members, academics and professional staff, would bring innovation to the project. The recommendation would be for 4 and 6 members to be part of the Committee.
Changes, new additions and other information

Overall changes and additions to both Undergraduate and Graduate Entry Master’s Orientation incorporated into Orientation 2014

Based on feedback from the students in 2013, changes were made to Orientation 2014.

As there were no folders handed out at Orientation 2014, A3 posters replaced the folders and the posters were posted around the campus prior to orientation and included the orientation program for the day.

Undergraduate Orientation 2014

This year we had 40 Undergraduate volunteers including volunteers for the Bachelor of Health Sciences group.

Approximately 34 Undergraduate student volunteers attended a pre-orientation training workshop which was chaired by Karen Aylott and Peggy Timmins. The volunteers were taken on a tour of the campus. The volunteers also received training on access lab tour from Glenn Russell, Computer Operations Supervisor for the access labs, and training on the library tour from Caroline Regan, Acting Manager of the Health Sciences library.

An email was sent to all the student volunteers about the Belong@FHS mentoring program. The response was excellent. There were 17 students who applied.

This year we hired a photographer.

Welcome session speakers will be required to attend the full welcome session to avoid disruptions to the session.

Student volunteers were provided with written instructions with the map of the campus and were also taken on a mock-up campus tour when they attend training the week prior to Orientation. Staff assisted with getting the volunteers and students into smaller groups for the campus tours.

This year, Cumberland Student Guild provided the entertainment during the first two days of semester. Their reasoning was that the tight timelines for Orientation did not allow the students much time to participate in the entertainment. They received positive feedback from majority of the students, both new and current students.

Bachelor of Health Sciences 2014

A library talk was included in the welcome session.

Graduate Entry Master’s 2014

This year Dr Michael Millington introduced a new model to the Discipline Talk for Rehabilitation Counselling. The Discipline talk was well attended and well received by all. The Course Director, Dr Michael Millington wanted to provide the students with a quick social exposure to their new community. He integrated library (John-Paul Cenzato) and WIL (Kate Thompson) presentations into the formal first half of the orientation, and hosted guest presentations from ASORC (the professional body for rehabilitation counseling) alumni, and current students in the second half.
The ASORC presentation provided an opportunity to advocate for student membership. The students met the ASORC members and were presented at the professional level the perspectives on the profession after graduation. The alumni/student presentations gave the students a near term and current perspective from someone in their milieu. As a result, two of the student presenters are also organizing a formal student/alumni mentor group through the university club program. The Discipline also had a post-orientation meeting to establish some basic ground rules.

Dr Millington commented that “The orientation was actually fun and the students were engaged in the Q & A, even at the two hour mark. Further fun was had at the social event, where ASORC professionals mixed and met with students individually. Next year, I will consider expanding the orientation to include an employer and a disability advocate”.

Based on Dr Millington’s input, this could be a model that other disciplines might incorporate in 2015.

There were 120 GEM students who participated in the cocktail party in the LOFT.

Feedback from students from all groups:

BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS

The Bachelor of Health Sciences had approximately 250 attendees. There were 63 respondents to the Orientation on-line survey. 91.53% of Bachelor of Health Sciences respondents gained what they came for. (Appendix A)

Bachelor of Health Sciences Group – Most Useful (Appendix D)

- Most students found the Official Welcome sessions to be useful and provided a welcoming atmosphere.
- Most of the students who responded to the survey said that the speakers made them feel welcome and confident.
- Majority of the respondents found the Course talks very informative and useful and they enjoyed the question and answer section. They found the information given by the Course speaker helped them to understand their course in more detail
- New students also welcomed the opportunity to meet other students and found the ‘ice-breaker’ to be a good exercise in getting to know other students in their degree.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The Undergraduate group had approximately 520 attendees (excluding the Bachelor of Health Sciences group). There were 173 respondents to the Orientation on-line survey. 93.33% of Undergraduate respondents gained what they came for. (Appendix B)

Undergraduate Group – Most Useful (Appendix D)
Most students found the Official Welcome sessions to be useful and provided a welcoming atmosphere. The students found most of the speakers interesting especially the information given to them by the FHS Abroad speakers.

Majority of the Undergraduate students found the campus tours informative and enjoyed learning more about the campus and the university from their student volunteer guide.

A large percentage of the students found their course talks to be valuable and interesting as it provided them with relevant information about the semester ahead. Many of them found the course talks to be the most useful part of orientation.

GRADUATE ENTRY MASTER’S STUDENTS

The Graduate Entry Master’s group had approximately 330 attendees. There were 170 respondents to the Orientation on-line survey. 94.05% of Graduate Entry Master’s respondents gained what they came for. (Appendix C)

Graduate Entry Master’s Group – Most Useful (Appendix D)

Most students found the Official Welcome sessions to be useful and provided a welcoming atmosphere.

Majority of the students who responded to the survey found the Course talk the most useful part and enjoyed the presentations given by the former students. They found it valuable getting specific course information and the expectation of course demands from the former students.

Students enjoyed the networking side of orientation.

What students would like to see for other students at future orientations?

For 2014

Many students are requesting a hand out of the campus map.

UG students find it hard to hear the tour guides on the campus tour so purchasing a couple of PA systems will be explored by the Orientation Committee.

The use of student mentors will be explored as more volunteers for certain disciplines are required. Students want the interaction but there are not enough volunteers for some of the disciplines.

Duration of the welcome talk may need to be revisited as students find that 45 to 50 minutes is a long time and also the duration of the lunch break. This will need to be visited by the Committee in conjunction with Cumberland Student Guild to see if this is possible to manage the large number of students who will be queuing up for lunch.

More visibility of the Clubs and Societies.

Library staff or trained library students to take them on the library tour.

GEM students are requesting campus tours especially those who come from other universities

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS FEEDBACK REGARDING ORIENTATION

The general feedback from the student volunteers was:

It would be good to provide something for students to take home; otherwise they would not see the point in coming and would tell future students it is not worthwhile to come. Maybe an information brochure that
includes: A map, where to access help with emails and IT problems, important Semester dates (which are hard to find on the website), links to access course handbooks, where to find help for finances, medical issues, special considerations, problems with coursework etc.)

- It would be nice to include something free from the faculty as a promotion or just as a gift i.e. free notepad, free pen, stress ball etc. future students are less likely to come to a half day event as it might be out of the way or will not bother attending as they are used to accessing everything online.

GENERAL FEEDBACK FROM STAFF

- Megaphones or a PA system to be provided to the campus tour guides.
- The design and printing of flyers and posters and any other printed materials to be assigned to the Managed Service Provider.
- Marketing involvement in Orientation in relation to the creation and regular updates to the website would be beneficial
- Promotional items such as pens and notepads should be distributed to the new students at all Orientation sessions
- Based on the numbers who attended this year, it would be more efficient to combine the GEM sessions into one Welcome session
- It would be ideal if students involved in the mentoring program were to volunteer as orientation student volunteers
- Include the Learning Centre in the Welcome sessions for a 5 minute presentation
- For the presentations by the Chair of the Welcome sessions, as request has been made that the website and links are up on the screen for students to readily view: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/
- Bachelor of Health Sciences and combined Nursing students will start off in the same room for ½ hour and after that each will have an hour with their students in separate rooms

OTHER INFORMATION

Stats on visits to the orientation website are below and the visits for orientation 2014 are up from orientation 2013:

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Faculty of Pharmacy

The Faculty of Pharmacy conducts separate orientation sessions for the three coursework programs (one Undergraduate and two Postgraduate) and also one for higher degree research students.

Bachelor of Pharmacy
Orientation lecture held on Thursday 27th February: 11.00am – 12.30pm
- Session was very well attended by students
- Faculty presentations by the Dean, A/Dean L&T and Year 1 coordinator
- University presentations by Library and Student Services
- Student presentations by student associations

With a commencing cohort of just over 300 a lecture format is the easiest to get the same information to all students at the same time. Over a few years the session details have been refined and the Faculty has determined that this is the optimal length and format.

The focus of the orientation session is on providing students with the tools for getting information and help throughout their studies. The Faculty is also trying to ensure student behaviour meets professional standards right from the beginning and to help them understand the range of options available to assist them in most situations.

The session is organised by the Faculty Operations Manager, who liaises with the Dean, Associate Dean and Year 1 coordinator and other speakers, for example; student services and the library.

The Faculty also offered an international mentoring session for new students that was well attended and received positive reviews. This assists international students in making the transition to studying here and also gives second year students a chance to share their experiences with others. The orientation session is purposely scheduled to immediately succeed the in-person enrolment session for international students.

A new initiative this year was forming an informal support network for students who enrolled via the E12 entry pathway. Regular meetings held by the Year 1 Coordinator and BPharm Co-coordinator were organised.

With the move to online enrolment in future, there will no longer be the opportunity to hand out necessary documents at in-person enrolment sessions.

The Faculty will need to address this at orientation to make sure students have the right information about clinical placements.
The Faculty of Science Student Transition Workshop and Parents' Program are a wonderful chance for students to meet new friends and for parents to have any last minute concerns and questions addressed. Since 1997, these events have been held simultaneously on the weekend before O-week. To address declining numbers of students attending over recent year, these two events were separated for the first time in 2013 with the Transition Workshop moved to Tuesday of O-week. Following last year's attendance increase the Transition Workshop was once again run the day before O-Week to accommodate international and interstate students and to show the campus when it was alive and busy.

The Transition Workshop included welcomes from staff, talks from current students including hints on how to survive and prosper in first-year, formation of peer groups, tours of the campus and a scavenger hunt run by the student science society ‘SCISOC’. The Parents' Program included formal welcomes, a short seminar on the challenges students face in making the transition from school to university, reflections on first year from two senior students, and a presentation about employment possibilities for science graduates from the University Careers Centre. These were followed by a very lively question & answer session. The Transition Workshop was given a more peer-to-peer approach this year with mentors meeting prior to the workshop so to better get to know each other and the academics they would be working with. The medical science students were provided with a different program to incorporate their degree and the shown the new facilities at the Charles Perkins Centre. Similar to last year the academics involved also showed students how to download their personalised assessment calendar, each new student was also was given the opportunity to download the Sydney and Blackboard apps. This year we had over 550 first year students attend. The high demand meant closing registrations a week prior to the event due to overwhelming numbers and not enough seating space.

The transition events also introduced the new students to the Faculty of Science’s mentoring and leadership program. This program, which includes SLAM ('Science Link-up & Mentoring') lunches, provides on-going support and encouragement throughout the semesters and builds active participation and discussion with research staff. Although students on the BLAS degree were invited to this event, this year separate transition workshops for this cohort were held in the first tutorial of their compulsory unit in week 1. Their subject tutors with close to 100% attendance ran these workshops from the new students. Alongside logging into the LMS and downloading the assessment calendar and apps, the new students actively engaged with the unit outline and course information leading to completion of their first online mastery quiz.

The Science Faculty's Welcome to New Students was held on Wednesday, 26th February in the Eastern Avenue Auditorium. The hour-long event was packed out with over 600 new students. A warm welcome was expressed by the Professor Trevor Hambley, the Dean of Science, who then introduced the Science and Mathematics Ambassador Adam Spencer. Adam MCed the remainder of the event introducing the First Year Directors of each School in the Faculty. The Directors presented objects chosen to summarize the nature of their disciplines including a Rubik’s cube race, a levitating magnet and an oscillating chemical reaction. The event concluded with a visit from Dr Karl who packed life, death and everything in between his advice to the new students. After the Welcome, the new students were invited to the first SCISOC barbeque of the semester. The smell of sausages (both meat and vegetarian, of course) filled the laboratories for the remainder of the day.

Other events run during orientation week for new and returning students were lunchtime barbeques given by the Schools of the Faculty, a chemistry magic show by the postgraduates students from Chemistry and a series of introductory talks for students planning to be involved in the Faculty’s Talented Students Program. The Parent session was held on a weeknight this year and had around 185 parents attend which was a 20% jump in attendance.
Sydney Law School

In 2014 the Law School revised the program for the "Dean's Welcome" orientation session to be more relevant to commencing students. The re-badged "Orientation and Induction" sessions for LLB and JD students in 2014 contained:

- A presentation on how to study for law subjects, how to read law texts, and how writing for law is different to writing for other disciplines.
- Advice from the Associate Dean to students on managing their candidature, managing their expectations and dealing with hardships such as illness or misadventure.
- An explanation from the Dean of the values of the Law School and the three attributes which would help students in their time here: resilience, responsibility and respect.
- A discussion about mental health issues affecting law students (and lawyers) and the support available within the Law School and University.
- A brief introduction to the four law student societies.
- An introduction to the Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) program.
- The first session of the Peer Mentoring Program.

In addition to the above, the JD session included a discussion about academic honesty and integrity, an overview of the eLearning system, and an introduction to the first-year teaching team.

No formal evaluation was conducted, but the attendees seemed engaged and focused throughout the session.
Sydney College of the Arts

Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) holds three dedicated orientation sessions for all new students: Bachelor of Visual Arts, Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) and the Graduate School students each semester. During orientation the students are welcomed to SCA and provided with both important information about the facilities and resources available to them, and given an overview of their responsibilities as a member of the SCA community.

This year SCA refined the format of the Bachelor of Visual Arts orientation. The orientation was held in the first teaching week, 3 to 7 March. The various activities offered to the BVA students during the orientation week were specifically devised as a point of connection with fellow members of the cohort, the SCA community and its staff.

Bachelor of Visual Arts Orientation Program:

Monday, 3 March

A welcome to new students by the Dean, Professor Colin Rhodes was followed by an overview of the Bachelor of Visual Arts program by the Head of Contemporary Art Department, Mr Oliver Smith.

A lecturer, Dr Oliver Watts discussed the work and creative practice of SCA lecturers Dr Julie Rrhap and Ms Joyce Hinterding and led a panel discussion with a range of SCA staff reflecting on their undergraduate experience and future projects.

Tuesday, 4 March

There was a welcome by the First Year Co-ordinators Mrs Rebecca Beardmore and Dr Michael Doolan and a meeting with key staff, fellow students and representatives from the Sydney College of the Arts Student Society (SCASS). The students heard from the following key people: Mr Shaun Hay, A.V Services Manager; Mr Vlad Da Cunha, Technical Staff Manager; Ms Sophie Hague, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Services; Ms Leah Weber, Students’ Representative Council (SRC); Ms Kerry Stern, Undergraduate Manager; Ms Marah Weston, Exchanges and Scholarships and Mr Nick Greenwich, Print Services Manager

Wednesday, 5 March

Lead by the First Year Coordinators, the students met at SCA for campus tours, Poster, Zine and T-Shirt Workshop, Films & Popcorn, BBQ and an array of other activities, e.g. SCA Library inductions, Photoshop and Adobe Suite demonstrations.

Thursday, 6 March

At lunch time, Mr. Nicholas Tsoutas held a Sydney Biennale Talk, featuring a presentation by an International Biennale Artist. This was followed by an SCA Colour-Run and an exhibition of the works created during the Wednesday Workshops held in the Faculty Gallery. There was also a SCASS Art Trivia Night at 4pm.
Friday, 7 March

The students met at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Circular Quay for a Gallery Hop and Scavenger Hunt organised by their fellow students from the SCA community.

All session were well-attended and SCA received positive feedback from students.
Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Orientation 2014 Overview

Report Prepared by Dr Christopher Coady
First Year Advisor
Lecturer – Musicology
Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Following on from the success of our Orientation program last year, the 2014 Conservatorium orientation program had three central features: a morning information session on the Monday of “O” week, an afternoon workshop on the same day lead by the CSA [Conservatorium Student's Association] peer mentors and an undergraduate research showcase held on the Tuesday of “O” week. Details of these events follow below. New components of our program for 2014 are written in **bold** font.

**Information Session**

The goal of the information session was to instill in students a sense of the Conservatorium learning culture and to introduce them to some of the key faculty figures they would need to know in order to troubleshoot enrollment, audition and general paperwork problems. Senior faculty members were asked to present about different facets of the Conservatorium learning experience. Themes discussed included: taking advantage of the professional networks the Conservatorium provides, the use of peers as part of one's own learning process and the importance of studying a creative industry. **For the first time, we incorporated student performances in between speeches during the faculty welcome.** These speeches were followed by presentations from administrative staff and library staff. At the conclusion of the information session, the heads (or senior representatives) from each unit (Musicology, Jazz, Woodwinds, Piano, etc.) came on to the stage and introduced themselves and their unit to the first year cohort.

**Mentoring Program**

As they did last year, CSA mentors designed a series of ice-breaking activities for the first year cohort as a whole and delivered these in our large venue Music Workshop following the morning information session. First year students were then broken up into mentoring groups (approx. 4-6 students per group) according to instrument/area of primary study. These groups were given tours, engaged in a goal setting activity and then set a time for their next meeting.

Subsequent mentoring meetings occurred (and continue to occur) throughout the semester.

**Undergraduate Research Showcase**

The musicology department has continued its tradition of hosting a symposium for original undergraduate research on the Tuesday of “O” week. Submissions for the symposium ranged from papers on Miley Cyrus to papers on Wagner. Such diversity allowed us to cast a wide net in terms of attracting incoming first-year students. There was also an interactive sound installation presented by Composition students during the catered lunch.
APPENDIX THREE: ORIENTATION PROJECT GROUP

Terms of Reference

The Orientation Project Group is involved in the planning, delivery and review of the welcome, orientation and transition activities for commencing undergraduate and postgraduate students, both local and international, at the University of Sydney Camperdown and Darlington campuses.

The first year activities within faculties on the Camperdown and Darlington campuses are promoted through the Orientation website and booklet.

The welcome orientation and transition activities at other campuses of the University are included in the Orientation website and booklet.

Terms of Reference

- develop the Orientation Strategic Plan for First Year Academic Orientation and Transition in line with University's Strategic Directions 2011-2015, Learning and Teaching and the Student Experience, jointly with Faculty Strategic Plans
- develop coordinated, visible and active involvement of the University in academic orientation and transition
- develop timetable of activities including Chancellor's Welcome, International Welcomes, Faculty and Department Welcomes and the activities of central student support services including Alumni & Events Office, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), International Services (International Exchange Program), Learning Centre, Library, Marketing and Student Recruitment, Mathematics Learning Centre, The Sydney Summer School and Student Support Services.
- develop the Orientation website and booklet
- promote the Orientation Program to prospective students and families, enrolled students, and staff of the University
- determine and organise best publicity options for Orientation, including the Orientation booklet and website
- liaise with the University of Sydney Union regarding O-Week activities
- develop a (Re)Orientation Program for Second Semester commencers and other First Year students
- develop ongoing orientation, transition and retention support at the University throughout the First Year by central student support services including Alumni & Events Office, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), International Services (International Exchange Program), Learning Centre, Library, Marketing and Student Recruitment, Mathematics Learning Centre, The Sydney Summer School, Student Support Services, and within Faculties and Departments.
Membership as at June 2014

Ex-officio members and nominees:
Student Support Services - Ms Jordi Austin (Convener, Orientation 2014)
Alumni & Events Office - Ms Angela Raven
Cadigal Alternative Entry Program - Ms Tanya Griffiths
Careers Centre - Ms Nitsa Athanassopoulos
Counselling and Psychological Services - Dr Philomena Renner
Information and Communications Technology - Mr Matthew Etherden
International Services – Ms Veronica Wong
Learning Centre – Dr Arlene Harvey
Marketing and Student Recruitment - Mr Kaveh Ghezel
Media Office/Student Communications - Mr David Als
Scholarships Office - Mr Danny Sun
Social Inclusion Unit - Ms Mary Teague
Student Centre - Mr Geoffrey Hammett
Sydney Summer School - Dr Jillian Stewart
University Library - Mr Michael Arndell
University Library - Ms Rhonda Myers

Faculties
Faculty of Agriculture and Environment – Dr Brian Jones
Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning – Mr Jonathan Hulme
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - Dr Rebecca Johinke
Business School - Ms Amy Rossington
College of the Arts - Mrs Nerida Olson
Conservatorium of Music – Dr Christopher Coady
Faculty of Education and Social Work – Dr Louisa Peralta
Faculty of Engineering and IT - Ms Lesley Vanderkwast
Faculty of Health Sciences - Ms Annamaria Brancato
Faculty of Law - Mr Peter Lead
Sydney Nursing School – Mrs Emilia Pirri-Depares
Faculty of Pharmacy - Dr Lorraine Smith
Faculty of Science – A/Prof Adam Bridgeman
Faculty of Veterinary Science – Mr Stuart Skene

Invited:
University of Sydney Union - Hannah Morris (USU President)
University of Sydney Union - Mr Alistair Cowie (Marketing Manager)
Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness - Ms Jessica Laycock
UG student representative group – Ms Jennifer Light (SRC President)
PG student representative group – Ms Joanne Gad (SUPRA President)

Support:
Student Transition and Retention – Ms Ana Munro
Transition Support Officer – Mr Albert Lee (Minutes)