February 2011 Issue

Sydney Campus Celebrates Chinese New Year ... take a look!

The Student Mentor & Leadership program is on track for term 1, 2011. Earlier this week the Student Services department held a training session for the prospective new student mentors. They were also acquainted with the experienced and ever popular mentor, Halley Tian, who provided valuable first hand information about the initiative.

The program is designed to assist new undergraduate and postgraduate students in making a smooth transition into their first year of studies. Student Mentors are knowledgeable students who through their own experiences and awareness act as guides. This concept of peer support also aims to promote a feeling of belonging while increasing and enhancing communication within the student body, staff and academics.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or would like more information please contact student services available on level 1 or call (02) 9324 5008.
“What is ...... ?”

The CQUUniversity Student Association?

During your studies at CQUUniversity, you may need advice in understanding University policies and procedures as well as active support with situations and enquiries regarding your academic rights and responsibilities. The Academic Advocacy and Support Officers are available to listen to your academic concerns and can direct you to the appropriate person or department within the University to help you. The Academic Advocacy and Support Officers can help answer questions about certain policies and procedures and actively promote, form and create a student association and community for each and every student studying at Sydney campus.

Some questions the CQUUniversity Student Association answer ... ?

- What do I do if I am ill on the day of the exam or suffer an injury in days leading up to the exam?
- I missed my exam due to confusion over the date and time. What should I do?
- What community events can I visit in Sydney as I would like to see more of Australia?
- How do I go about writing an application for a Review of Grade?
- What is plagiarism?
- I have a bullying or harassment issues. What can I do?
- How do I make a complaint?

Student Leadership Opportunities

The CQUUni Student Association creates opportunities for exceptional student leaders to develop skills and be involved in the development of the campus culture. This opportunity allows and helps students to become involved, as representatives of the student community.

My day starts with an hour-long train ride into the city from the south-west. This is my chance to listen to music, read, or check in with email or facebook before starting work. When I arrive at the campus, my duties are different depending on the time of year. I’ll write about the first day of term, as it is always busy and exciting. The Library starts opening longer hours during Terms 1 and 2, so Library staff could be working 9am-5pm, 10am-6pm, or 12pm-8pm. I am on the late shift, so I begin work at midday. When I arrive the rest of the Library team are already hard at work; some are helping people at the desk and two Librarians are teaching a Library/LSU workshop in a computer lab.

One of the Library’s biggest tasks at the beginning of each term is ensuring prescribed texts are available for students and staff. As new books arrive, the Library team works together to prepare them for borrowing. We add these to the Library system (so you can find them on the catalogue), cover, and put them on the shelves as quickly as possible.

One of my most vital responsibilities is arranging with your Lecturers for Librarian to visit your lectures, if your course assignments require research skills. Look out for us in your lectures in the next few weeks!

Then there are the usual assortment of tasks, such as ordering books, collecting statistics for monthly reports, and helping students and staff find the information they need. I also spend some time each day communicating with my colleagues in the libraries at other CQUniversity campuses around Australia. This is by a combination of email, phone, shared documents and videoconference. We keep in close contact to ensure we offer the best quality services to our students, and to share ideas.

Altogether this variety makes my job interesting and rewarding.

Your first day of term is also my first day back at uni, as I’m studying for a Master of Information Studies (Library Leadership) by distance... so like you I have to read my course profile, buy the textbooks, and on the train journey home I’ll start reading my course materials.

Thanks to everyone who helped the Library celebrate Library Lovers Day on 14 February. The romantic DVDs and heart-shaped chocolates were quickly snapped up and enjoyed. We look forward to celebrating again next year.
From walkie-talkie to doctoral studies, Monica tunes into English

Meng Yi (Monica) Huang has worked as a teacher of English in Taipei in Taiwan for 10 years. She teaches primary children in language school as well as adults at university.

Monica decided to enrol in the CQUniversity Doctor of Professional Studies in 2008 because her father encouraged her to develop her career.

In fact, her father had a unique approach to teaching Monica how to speak English as child, he bought a walkie-talkie set and practiced with his little daughter.

He encouraged Monica to listen on this system to English-speaking crews on ships in the harbour and got her to translate for him. Then he encouraged her to begin conversations with the sailors.

Monica developed links with a walkie-talkie pal from Greece who spoke with her in English and helped develop her speaking and listening skills.

This gave Monica the idea of deploying more up-to-date technology with her child learners of English in Taiwan, by linking them with Australian primary learners of Mandarin using Yahoo Messenger technology.

Monica is co-presenting a paper reporting preliminary findings from this doctoral research with her supervisor, Associate Professor Alison Owens, at the Asia-Pacific International Education Conference in March this year. Monica expects to graduate with her Doctor of Professional Studies later this year.
Save The Date ..

For University.....

Friday, 11th March 2011
Last day to Enrol / Swap courses
Tuesday, 22nd March 2011
Last day to drop courses without academic or financial penalty (subject to refund policy)
Wednesday 26th January 2011
Australia Day-Campus Closed
Wednesday 11th May 2011
GRADUATION DAY!!

For Fun ......

Welcome to The Big Meet
Australia’s Biggest Careers Expo for Undergraduates and Graduates

Stay Connected ...

Would you like the chance to win an new MP3 player?

www.facebook.com/cqu.sydney

All you have to do, is go the CQUniversity Facebook page, become my friend and tell me ...

“what is your number 1 favourite thing about living in Australia??”

An answer will be selected and the lucky friend will win a brand new MP3 player!!!

*Verification of prize winner will be requested following selection

Student Mentor Program
photograph acknowledgement (page 1)

Ashish Poudel
Supul Amunugama
John Rajib Nokrek
Win Kyaw Kyaw
Avantika Singh
Kanisha Shah
Halley Tian
Kanisha Shah
Shazhi Yaghi (Student Advisor)
Marian Osman (StudenServices Assistant)