

THE ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE
RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROGRAM

2009

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THE ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROGRAM

St Andrew's College aims to enhance personal growth, development and academic success by providing opportunities for students to achieve academic excellence in a safe, comfortable residential environment. The College seeks to educate, challenge and develop each student to lead lives of contribution and meaning.

Over recent years St Andrew's College has become a community that supports and celebrates inclusiveness and diversity. However academic and professional success continues to be seen by students as an individual endeavour rather than one that is enhanced by residing at College. The Residential Life Program seeks to encourage and empower students to place academic and professional excellence at the centre of the College experience on equal footing with all other activities and endeavours undertaken while resident at St Andrew's College.

In order to achieve this, over the next 3 to 5 years, St Andrew's College plans to introduce the Residential Life Program. This will develop the opportunities available to residents to help them flourish and develop their life, academic and professional skills.

These developments fit into a number of broad structures

1. Academic Program

- Tutorials for all students
- Coaching for first year students
- Visiting tutorial students
- Academic mentoring for first year students
- Expanding undergraduate scholarship program
- Study facilities
- Academic awards

2. Personal Development

- Leadership development for second year students
- Senior mentor program

- Senior undergraduate sub-deans

3. Professional Development

- Professional Mentoring for senior students (3rd year +)

4. The Senior Common Room

- Membership
- Post graduate scholarships
- Fellow and occasional visitor address program
- Redeveloping the facilities

5. The Music Program

- Choral Scholars
- Director of Music
- Piano Scholar
- Music practice rooms
- Instrumental scholars

6. The Social and Cultural Programme

Responsibility for the Inter-college and internal social and cultural programme will continue to rest with the SAC Students' Club. Integration with the Residential Life Programme will continue to be effected through the Senior Student, in his liaison capacity with the College administration.

The following sections in the document provide details on how each of the aspects of the Residential Life Program can be implemented.

2008 has seen the commencement of a pilot project to assess the ease and effectiveness of the proposed changes. This pilot has \$50,000 funding.

1. Academic Program

1.a. Tutorials and coaching

The tutorial program at St Andrew's is well developed and will continue in its current format in 2008. Resident undergraduate students will continue to be utilised as tutors. From 2008 they will be required to undergo a ½ day training course to ensure that they are equipped to tutor. This course will cover adult learning concepts, issues of plagiarism, teaching students to think rather than spoon feeding answers. In 2008 the program budget has been augmented by \$10,000.

In week 2-3 semester one, all freshers were invited to meet with the Senior Tutor, Dean of Students and residential assistant to assess their academic and tutorial needs. These short interviews also allow students to begin to form relationships with academic staff so that they can more easily seek help if and when needed.

1.b. Academic mentors

Goal

In 2008, \$10,000 has been allocated to employ academic mentors. This amount has allowed for the appointment of 5 paid mentors. As a result of this somewhat limited funding approximately 30 places are available to students who are allocated an academic mentor to help them navigate the transition from the school environment to University. It is anticipated that on successful completion of the program in 2008 that this can be offered to all freshers in 2009.

Expectations

The freshers involved in the program met with the Senior Tutor in weeks 2 - 3 of their first semester to assess their tutorial and mentoring needs. On completion of this interview, each student was allocated to a mentor. Mentors meet with students individually on 2 occasions each semester to assist the student in whatever way they require. For example, this may be helping students to choose, change, add or drop subjects to make course/faculty changes, to assist with study techniques and/or planning to best achieve their academic goals. Mentors provide ongoing mentoring and support for subject selection and alteration of subject choice. The mentor's role is to assist the student to thrive in the university setting. The mentor's advice and support will help each student to better balance competing time demands (academic, sport, social, paid work, family and community obligations).

The mentors are not expected to tutor students, but they must have the necessary knowledge to direct the student to existing sources of academic support.

Implementation

Each mentor is allocated 5 students in their subject area. The program now employs 5 paid mentors each of whom is paid \$1000 per semester. Participation by students is highly recommended, however it is not compulsory. This program began in the first semester in 2008.

2008 has seen an expansion in the residential academic staff with the creation of an additional position, Dean of Studies. This position will be taken by an academic resident experienced in navigating the Sydney University environment. Dean of Studies for 2008 is Michele Gairn, Development/Marketing Manager at the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Recruiting

It is likely the academic mentors will be employed at the University of Sydney or UTS. They may be tutors, lecturers or professors, resident post graduate students or College tutors with a good understanding of how the university and in particular how their faculty functions. They will have a genuine interest in student development and capacity to relate to students in the residential environment. Selection of suitably qualified and interested mentors will be informed by the experiences of current residents, based on their interactions with potential mentors in their course of study.

In 2008 mentors will be limited to 6 subject areas.

Evaluation

Both mentors and students will be asked to assess the success of the program at the end of each semester. Mentors report to the Senior Tutor via email after each meeting.

Faculties/Subjects

Future academic mentors are likely to be needed in the following areas: Engineering, Economics, Commerce, Liberal arts, Languages, Law, Science, Pharmacy/allied health, Vet science, History, Sports scholars/leisure studies, Education, Psychology, Med science, Architecture, Agriculture, Media and communications, International studies, Music, Fine arts, UTS, others.

1.c. Visiting tutorial students

This program is already established, and provides a fee-paying opportunity for non-residents to participate in formal dinner and tutorials.

From 2008 this program will be marketed to all St Andrew's applicants. It could be more widely promoted in the future to further attract Alumni and students from the broader university community to participate in the program.

1.d. Undergraduate scholarships

Prospective students can apply for and be accepted on scholarships prior to entry into College whereas in previous years, students had to be accepted into College prior to applying and being awarded scholarships. It is expected that this may help address the imbalance in the private/public school ratio.

This change needs to be marketed, so that academically gifted students who would need financial support will apply to College.

1.e. Academic faculties

St Andrew's College is currently upgrading one tutorial room to better reflect its use for learning and has created a new tutorial room in the new accommodation wing.

The College computer system supports students also with internet access, college computers and printers and this is upgraded regularly.

1.f. Academic awards

The College wishes to support and reward academic achievement. In semester 1 students are awarded scholarships, bursaries and prizes which are celebrated at the annual School and University Dinner. The College plans to expand this and reward students' performance in semester 1 by setting up the Thistle Awards.

Thistle Awards

Students' semester 1 results to be collated with high distinction counting for 5 points and distinction for 4 points, credit 3 points, pass 2 points (based on 6 credit point subject). Students scoring 17

points or greater are awarded with a bronze thistle. Those who get the points for a bronze thistle 2 years running will be awarded a silver thistle and those who get the points for a bronze thistle 3 years running will be awarded a gold thistle. These awards are presented at Formal dinner By the Student Club Executive and occur on the same night as the College Sporting Blue presentations.

These awards focus on semester 1 results only. Details of the 2007 thistle awards are available on the College website.

St Andrew's Medal

In 2009 St Andrew's College will award the St Andrew's Medal for the first time. This will normally be awarded to the resident with the highest academic achievement over the first three years of their undergraduate study. The award will take place at the Schools and Universities dinner in May of each year.

2. Personal development

2.a. Leadership development for second year students

Goal

After completing study and entering the workforce many students will become leaders, they will manage and direct others in their chosen fields. Students in second year at St Andrew's will be provided with the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills.

Expectations

2008 sees \$10,000 allocated to this initiative. This is an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills. All second year students will be encouraged to take part in leadership training. Those who complete this training will be able to volunteer and take part in the senior resident mentoring program.

Implementation

Initially leadership training will be provided by an external provider. Further development of this program will be undertaken during the second half of semester 1 with training to commence in semester 2.

In the future this program may be undertaken by in-house trainers. The training will be broad enough to be attractive to the vast majority of students in College. It is planned that a series of two-hour workshops be conducted during the semester, with a view to preparing second year students

for leadership roles in their third year. The aim of this training is to assist individuals to work better with colleagues and peers, and to understand the elements of the mentor relationship and other leadership roles in the college.

Evaluation

The training will be evaluated by the students involved in the training. The impact of the training will also be assessed by College administration.

2.b. *Senior Mentor Program*

Goal

This program is well established in St Andrew's College. The program will be further developed and enhanced to improve the breadth and impact of the program.

Expectations

Two senior students are allocated 6 freshers from O week for 2 semesters. Mentors greet freshers, orientate them to the College and University environment and support them through their first year at College.

Implementation

Prospective mentors will have completed leadership training in their second year at college. Mentors are selected by the house committee in consultation with the Principal.

Evaluation

Mentors, freshers and the Principal will evaluate the program at the end of each semester.

2.c. *Student Subdeans*

2008 has seen the introduction of three subdeans or student residential assistants. These students are senior students who have been resident in college for at least one year. Their role is to provide a point of contact for students with issues that may range from accessing rooms to health and welfare.

Students who take up these roles are supported by College administration and undergo a period of training to prepare them for the role.

Successes and difficulties encountered with current programs at other Sydney University Colleges such as Women's and Wesley have been useful in informing the initial setup of the St Andrew's program. Meetings have been held with co-ordinators at Women's and Wesley College.

3. Professional Development

3.a. Professional Mentoring for Senior Students (3rd year +)

Goal

The goal of this professional development is to assist senior students to prepare for professional life. This program is already in place with alumni attending faculty and discipline-based dinners and cocktail gatherings and chatting informally to students. The College plans to formalise and further to develop this to create a collaborative partnership between mentors and students to provide a bridge between formal academic training and professional life. An additional component sees academic staff from the university invited to join students and professionals from the relevant fields to enhance networking opportunities.

Expectations

In 2008, \$10,000 has been allocated to this initiative. Mentors may be allocated up to five students in their professional field. However, it is likely that numbers will be less than five. Mentors meet with the students at least twice each semester. These meetings may take place in College or other venues as suits those involved. It is envisaged that the program will utilise up to 20 mentors. Participation by students is highly recommended, however not compulsory. Mentors will be offered membership of the Senior Common Room and encouraged to attend for formal dining on a regular basis. They will be encouraged to give senior common room talks. Professional mentors will not be paid for their time. The allocated funds are to be used to cover food, drinks, occasional accommodation in the College's guest room and other expenses.

Implementation

To begin semester 1, 2008. Mentors to be recruited through established networks including but not limited to the Alumni Society. Students will be interviewed in Semester 1 2008 to assess which professional would be most useful to assist them. The Vice Principal will oversee this program.

Recruiting

Professional mentors will be working in their field. It is expected that they will have an interest in assisting graduates to develop their professional life.

Evaluation Both mentors and students will be asked to assess the success of the program at the end of each semester. Mentors will be required to maintain periodic contact with the Vice Principal to ensure that the program succeeds.

Professions

Professional mentors are likely to be needed from the following areas: Engineering, Economics, Commerce, Liberal arts, Languages, Law, Science, Pharmacy/Allied health, Vet Science, History, Sports scholars/leisure studies, Education, Psychology, Med science, Architecture, Agriculture, Media and Communications, International Studies, Music, Fine Arts, UTS, and others.

4. The Senior Common Room

4.a. Membership

It is envisaged that membership of the Senior Common Room (SCR) will be expanded over the next 3 - 5 years to approximately 100 members. There will be 7 categories;

Category 1 - Residential Fellows

This includes the Principal, Vice Principal, Senior Fellow, Senior Tutor, and Chaplain.

Category 2 - Resident Post Graduate Members

All resident post graduates are members of the SCR. Currently few actively take part in the SCR. It is hoped that other planned changes will help to alleviate this issue.

With changes in configuration in 2008 there are now up to 16 rooms specifically for post graduate residential accommodation in 2008, and that this is expected to expand to 20 when the Gatehouse lease ends in 2014.

- 5 in Sulman House
- 4 in The Old Laboratory
- 4 in downstairs Harper
- 4 in Gatehouse
- 2 in Lower Carillon

Category 3 - Honorary Fellows

The SCR currently has 36 Honorary Fellows. Fellows will be encouraged to attend regularly.

Category 4 - Tutors

Non residents who tutor through the St Andrew's academic program will be encouraged to attend SCR events on a regular basis.

Category 5 - Academic Mentors

Academic mentors are automatically members of the SCR, and may utilise the space and resources to meet with their students.

Category 6 - Professional Mentors

See point 3.a. for more details about professional mentors. All professional mentors invited to join the SCR and regularly encouraged to attend SCR events.

Category 7 - Non Resident Members

This category is to attract SCR members with diverse backgrounds and interests that bring diversity, interest and colour to the SCR. Members of SCR to nominate non resident members

4.b. Post Graduate Scholarships

St Andrew's aims to encourage more research post graduates to reside in College. Scholarships will be offered to students undertaking research masters, PhD, post doctoral studies. Academics are also encouraged to apply.

Up to five scholarships (normally \$6000 per year) were created in late 2007 to be open to students studying a PhD or research masters to encourage post graduate research students to apply for residency to St Andrews. Regular tutoring and/or mentoring in scholars area of expertise is a condition of scholarship.

The objective is to have at least 40 students applying for the scholarships by 2010.

4.c. Fellow and Occasional Visitor Address Program

Occasional talks from experts in diverse fields with opportunity for students to ask questions, debate issues and understand the broader context of issues.

4.d. *Redeveloping the Facilities*

The Senior Common Room needs revitalisation. This will be done by expanding membership, changing the environment and facilities of the SCR and encouraging post graduate student ownership.

5. Music Program

To foster the cultural development of the students and to reflect the learning image of the College, St Andrew's plans to continue to develop the music program.

As well as opportunities to perform at College concerts and dinners St Andrew's offers the following;

5.a. Choral Scholars

Substantial scholarships have been awarded again in 2008 to attract and retain choral singers to St Andrew's College.

5.b Director of Music

In 2007 a non resident director undertook this position. In 2008, resident post graduate student, Adrian Chong, has been appointed Resident Director of Music. It is hoped that the College will be able to attract a residential director each year.

5.c. Keyboard/accompaniment Scholar

With the purchase of the new Series 200 Overs grand piano, St Andrew's will offer a scholarship each year to attract a student currently studying or commencing study at the Conservatorium of Music. In 2008 no resident student qualified.

5.d. Music Practice Rooms

From 2nd semester 2008, there will be more rooms available for music practice. The Reading Room, Gillespie Hall, Carol Raffan Room, Chapel and the Senior Common Room (where the virginal is located) are available for music practice

5.e. Instrumental scholars

College to consider specific scholarships for instrumentalists in the future.

6. Social and Cultural Program

6.a. Social Program

The Students' Club manages a comprehensive schedule of social events during the academic year. These events are staged in conjunction with the University's Inter-College community, on a college-only basis or on a smaller, intra-mural scale.

6.b. Cultural Program

A wide ranging collection of opportunities for residents to participate in sporting, performing arts, debating, community service and other activities is managed by the Students' Club in cooperation with the Inter-College community.

Marketing

The Residential Life Program needs to be promoted to past, present and future students, their families, the College Council, the university and the general community. The following options are under consideration;

- Discuss changes with student club executive
- website to reflect changes in structure
- pamphlet to give to out at marketing venues
- promote through Alumni society
- press releases
- promote changes through University of Sydney

Timeline

2007 Semester 2

Tutorial program continues ✓

Thistle awards ✓

Begin advertising for academic/professional mentors ✓

2008 postgraduate accommodation options finalised ✓

Recruitment of post graduate/post graduate scholarships advertised ✓

Director of Chapel Music recruited ✓

Summer Break 2007-8

Chapel choral and scholars finalised ✓

Leadership training rolled out ✓

Senior student mentors appointed ✓

2008 Semester 1

Freshers appointed student mentors ✓

Fresher interviews ✓

Third year interviews for those interested in professional mentoring ✓

Pilot academic mentor program begins for 20 Freshers assigned mentors ✓

Senior students assigned professional mentors ✓

2008 Tutorial program in progress ✓

2008 Semester 2

Leadership training further developed ✓

Thistle awards ✓

2009 Semester 1

Full implementation of academic and professional mentors program.

CONCLUSION

The 6 areas described in this document form part of an integrated strategy for a Residential Life Program. This program provides a depth of choices and experiences to enhance the College's product offering to allow it to position itself as the leading residential College at the University of Sydney.