Dear Students,

To our new students, a big welcome to ACU. To those who are returning, welcome back and I hope that you enjoy the improvements that have been made on each of your campuses. These have been funded by your Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF). We invite you to tell us what services and amenities you would like to see SSAF funding used for this year. See page 3 for details.

As the academic year begins, I wish you all every success. Success, however, comes to those who prepare and who use the support that’s available to them. As you begin your semester, I recommend that you obtain a copy of the Student Diary and visit the student website to familiarise yourself with the wide range of services that are available to you. These are designed to help you succeed in your studies and develop graduate attributes that will enable you to gain a good job upon completion of your degree.

This year the Library is offering ‘Leap into Learning’, an online program to assist you to get maximum benefit from library services and to develop academic skills that will help you with assignments. As you will read on page 5, a new library has now opened on the Melbourne campus. Plans are underway for new libraries on both Sydney campuses in the near future.

The Library is a critical tool for all students and it’s also the social heart of our University. I encourage you to get to know your campus librarians and book study rooms, borrow computers and learn how to use the references and databases that are available to you. Understanding the library makes study easier.

This year we are keen for students to develop their health and fitness, and all campuses now support this. Melbourne campus has now gained a gym, while other campuses are offering discounted health and wellbeing programs. See pages 3 and 4 for details.
Throughout the year you’ll receive invitations to get involved in the University’s social life and also in its service to the community. I urge you to take advantage of these opportunities as they will not only enrich your university life, but also provide you with ways to further develop your skills and graduate attributes.

ACU remains committed to partnering with you to ensure that student services and the quality of learning and teaching meet your needs. Often this means asking you to contribute to surveys and focus groups. We understand that at times this can seem like an imposition, however, I ask you to consider giving us your input. Student feedback is critical to driving significant improvements to programs and policies.

2013 will be another exciting year for ACU. We continue to experience enrolment growth, our Law program starts in Melbourne, and new courses in Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and International Studies are being implemented.

We are also increasing the scope of our Career Development Service. This is an important commitment that will help ensure all students are prepared to enter the work force and are supported in their aspirations to seek work in Australia and overseas.

2013 is a year of great promise. I hope for all students it is a year of rich friendships, successful engagement with studies and a balanced life. It’s our intention to do all we can to assist you in achieving those things.

With every best wish,

Anne Cummins
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students, Learning and Teaching)

MEET YOUR 2013 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

We are pleased to announce your Student Senator and Student Association Presidents for Semester 1, 2013. Congratulations to the following students on their election:

**Student Senator:** Samantha Herdman
**Ballarat Student Association President:** Taryn Darlow
**Brisbane Student Association President:** Emma Bromley
**Canberra Student Association President:** Michael Gore
**Melbourne Student Association President:** Dylan Ettridge
**North Sydney Student Association President:** Michael Carayannis
**Strathfield Student Association President:** Jessica Issa
**Postgraduate Student Association President:** Nicamil Sanchez

All students are encouraged to check in regularly with their local campus Student Association office or visit their webpage to find out what services, activities and events will be running throughout the year.
YOUR STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEES: DRIVING IMPROVEMENTS AT ACU

Following the implementation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) in 2012, ACU has been able to make a strong investment in new or improved student services and facilities across all campuses.

Here are just a few new initiatives that students can take advantage of as a result of the SSAF funding:

• Discounted health and wellbeing classes on each campus
• Set up and staffing of the new Melbourne Studio Gym
• Establishment of the Student Jobs on Campus program
• Additional Academic Skills staff, including Saturday services in libraries
• Enhanced Career Development, Counselling and Campus Life services
• Improved sports programs

Other initiatives in progress for a 2013 launch include:

• Legal, financial and tax services for students
• Employment of a full-time Campus Life Advocacy Officer (Sydney) to assist students in matters relating to ACU processes and policies
• Improved student spaces on all campuses, with additions such as new bike racks and lockers, mobile phone charging units and new furniture

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! Take the SSAF student survey.

The University consults with ACUNSA and considers student feedback when determining how SSAF funding is spent. Be sure to tell us what your priorities are!

Complete the 2013 SSAF survey and tell us which new services and facilities you would like to see on your campus. The SSAF survey closes on 24 February 2013.

COMING SOON: ACCOMMODATION FOR SYDNEY STUDENTS

Development is underway for a new student residence in Camperdown, Sydney. The Living and Learning Community, which is due to open in mid-2013, is a purpose-built facility featuring state-of-the-art self-contained and multi-bed apartments for approximately 150 local and international students.

Interested students should email studentaccommodation.nsw@acu.edu.au to receive more information once it becomes available.

ACU’s Living and Learning Communities team has been working hard to build the University’s capacity to accommodate students nationally; feasibility studies are currently being undertaken for new student residences in Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra. Existing accommodation has also been a focus, with Ballarat’s Camillus student residence and off-campus housing recently transitioning to a new ‘Living and Learning Communities’ model that better enables student harmony and safety.
HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROGRAMS NOW ON CAMPUS

ACU’s new Health and Wellbeing program offers students on all campuses the opportunity to take advantage of discounted fitness classes, wellbeing programs and gym visits.

The following activities will be held each week during Semester 1, starting 25 February. Please check the Student Event Calendar for locations.

**STRATHFIELD CAMPUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Pilates</td>
<td>11am - 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hip Hop dance class</td>
<td>3pm - 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>12pm - 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Kundalini Yoga</td>
<td>11am - 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>12pm - 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pilates</td>
<td>12pm - 1pm</td>
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</tbody>
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**NORTH SYDNEY CAMPUS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Boxing for Fitness</td>
<td>1pm - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Kundalini Yoga</td>
<td>1pm - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Tai Chi</td>
<td>11am - 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>12pm - 1pm</td>
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**BALLARAT CAMPUS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Boxing for Fitness</td>
<td>5pm - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>1pm - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>4pm - 5pm</td>
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**MELBOURNE CAMPUS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>1pm - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>1pm - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>4pm - 5pm</td>
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**CANBERRA CAMPUS**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>12:30pm - 1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>12:30pm - 1:30pm</td>
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**BRISBANE CAMPUS**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>10am - 11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Body Attack</td>
<td>10am - 11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>11am - 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Boxercise</td>
<td>10am - 11am</td>
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Each class costs $5. Please pay at your local Campus Life office prior to attending. ACU’s Health and Wellbeing program is supported by Student Services and Amenities Fees.

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**Coming soon: Free legal service for students**

Ever been in a position where you’ve needed legal advice? You may be interested to know that a free legal service is set to launch this semester.

The Student Legal Service, which is the first of its kind at ACU, will empower you to resolve your own legal issues.

Via the soon-to-be-launched website, you’ll be able to find fact sheets and valuable information concerning a range of common legal issues, from tenancy problems to infringement notices. You will also be able to submit an online request for free legal advice, which a lawyer will respond to via email or a scheduled telephone appointment.

Please keep an eye on the student website and ACU Facebook pages for further information.

ACU’s Student Legal Service is supported by Student Services and Amenities Fees.

**ACU Business polos available**

Students studying Business in Sydney and Brisbane are now able to order men’s and women’s polo shirts from the Faculty of Business.

Sydney students [click here to order](#).

Brisbane students [click here to order](#).
NEW CAMPUS LIBRARY NOW OPEN IN MELBOURNE

The Melbourne Campus Library underwent a complete refurbishment during the summer semester break, with library services and the entire book collection temporarily relocated to a cabin on Victoria Pde car park.

We are pleased to announce that the new refurbished library is now open to students. Spread out over three levels, the library provides a variety of individual and group study spaces and access to state-of-the-art technology including full wireless coverage and new printing and copying equipment. The new premises also houses a revitalised print collection, plus over 150 PCs, 14 small group study rooms, three large silent study rooms, a teaching lab, a multimedia space and a legal resources area which hosts ACU’s law collection.

A section of the library will be available for use beyond the normal opening times, allowing students convenient access to study spaces, PCs, printing and copying.

As always, library staff will be on hand to direct and help users with the many print and online resources available. IT and Academic Skills staff will also be available to provide expert assistance as required. The library staff look forward to sharing this great new space with you.

ORDER YOUR ACU CARD ONLINE!

This year students can avoid long queues at the Student Centre by ordering their ACU Card online. The process is easy - just upload a suitable photo and then wait for notification that your card is ready for collection from the Student Centre.

Don’t forget that you can also transfer funds to your ACU Card for the purchase of goods and services from the Student Centre and Library. Simply use the EFTPOS machine located in the Library to add funds from your savings or credit accounts.

Visit ACU Cards to learn more about how to order an ACU Card and load it with ‘credit’.

Apply now for scholarships!

ACU offers a wide range of scholarships and bursaries to commencing and continuing undergraduate and postgraduate students across all fields of study.

ACU’s scholarships recognise outstanding academic achievement. ACU’s bursaries acknowledge the University’s responsibility to provide support to students who might otherwise be excluded or disadvantaged.

Visit www.acu.edu.au/scholarships and see what scholarships are on offer. As long as you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for as many scholarships as you like. Any new or current ACU student can apply. The scholarships available to you may depend on selection criteria including the campus you attend, your year of study, if you are from a rural or regional area or academic merit.

Applying is easy – visit www.acu.edu.au/scholarships and use the browser to see what scholarships are available. Don’t forget to check the eligibility criteria and look at our application tips. Apply using the online form and make sure that you include all your supporting documentation.

Applications for most scholarships close on 17 March 2013.
SUPPORT FOR NEW STUDENTS

ACU’s Counselling unit is running a wide range of workshops and activities during Orientation Week that are designed to help new students adapt to university life.

Detailed information about these events can be found in your Orientation booklet or on the Counselling webpage.

NAVACU
An online discussion forum to help first-year students navigate their way around the University. NAVACU is:

• A place to share ideas, feel encouraged and check out what other students are doing to handle the first weeks of university.
• Assisted by experienced students (OPFs: Online Peer Facilitators) who are moderating the blog and forum will share their know-how and point you in the right direction.

To get started, log on to LEO and find NAVACU on your unit list. Sign in, introduce yourself and discover the keys to surviving and thriving at uni!

Balancing Work/Life and University Demands
A workshop that will provide students with ideas on how to balance competing demands, so that they can achieve their academic goals and enjoy their university experience.

Cyber World
A workshop outlining issues which students need to be aware of in order to communicate safely using technology.

Mentoring Programs
More experienced students act as mentors to help first-year students smoothly transition into university life. Mentors support and encourage students to become involved in campus activities and provide them with practical ideas on how to get the most out of their course.

International Buddy Program
A program that assists to connect international students with local students and supports their cultural transition to studying in Australia.

Non-Recent School Leavers
A range of activities catering to mature age students, from lunches and social gatherings to workshops exploring how students can balance their work/family life with study.

Indigenous Students
The Counselling team at Strathfield works in collaboration with the Indigenous unit to run activities supporting Indigenous students in their university experience.

Students are also welcome to book one-on-one appointments with Counsellors. Visit the Counselling webpage to learn more about the services, workshops and resources that are available to you.
Study the Core in Florence!

This year students will once again be invited to study a Core unit in Florence over the European summer.

The CORE Florence Program gives students an opportunity to study a cross-institutional unit at the Florence University of the Arts and work with Misericordia, an organisation that provides support to the marginalised, aged and refugees in the city.

The following two scholarships will be available to eligible students:

**Study Overseas Short-term Mobility Program**
This is a student subsidy offered by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. It offers ten ACU student scholarships each valued at $2,000. Eligibility criteria will be advertised to students shortly.

**ACU Vice-Chancellor’s Travel Grant**
Students undertaking international Core curriculum activities may be eligible for up to $2,500 in travel assistance. Students must be enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate by coursework course. Further criteria apply. Please [click here](#) to download detailed eligibility information.

The Program will take place from 26 June to 25 July and cost approximately USD$5,000, which covers tuition, housing, airport transfer, some meals and excursions and the Misericordia placement. **Applications open from 2 March until 22 March.**

ACU International will post updated information about the Program as more details are confirmed. Students are advised to keep their eye on this [webpage](#) for updates.

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**STUDENT JOBS ON CAMPUS**

ACU recently launched Student Jobs on Campus (SJoC), an exciting program that connects current students to relevant short and long-term jobs on their campus. It offers students opportunities to gain meaningful work experience and to develop graduate attributes and transferable life skills – all while earning an income.

**INTERVIEW: ANGELA MERVYN**

MBA student Angela Mervyn was the first person hired through the Student Jobs on Campus program. Below she shares her experiences and discusses the advantages of being employed at ACU.

**Tell us a little bit about your background.**
I’m an international student from Sri Lanka. I obtained my Bachelor of Business Management, with a specialisation in HR and Marketing, from Imperial Institute of Higher Education and then spent five years working in the staffing business at Randstad, the world’s second largest HR services provider. Eager to further advance my HR knowledge, I moved to Australia and enrolled in ACU’s MBA program in July 2012.

**What role did you find through the SJoC program?**
I was hired as the Media and Communications Assistant within ACU’s Student Engagement and Services unit, which involves providing support for student communications. Due to my HR experience, the role was expanded to include providing HR support to the unit.

**How did you find the application, interview and hiring process?**
Overall it was quite easy. I submitted an application via ACU CareerHub and was invited to attend an interview within two weeks. I was offered the job the following day.

**What is it like to work at the University?**
I’ve been an ACU employee for a few months now and I have to admit that I’ve never been more impressed with an organisation’s work environment. It is goal-oriented while also being easy-going, and I enjoy the amount of operational independence I am given.

**What are the advantages of working at ACU, over other employers?**
One of the major advantages is that ACU understands that students have study commitments and therefore offer flexible working hours. I am given some choice over the hours and days that I work each week and that makes it a lot easier to manage my other commitments.

**How do you think this role will benefit your future career?**
This experience has given me some valuable insights into ACU’s operating environment. It has enabled me to perceive some of the best practices of the University, as well as to understand the significance of strategic planning prior to execution and to appreciate the importance of systems that work well. I believe that the skills I gather here will certainly be advantageous to my future career.

Student Jobs on Campus is supported by Student Services and Amenities Fees. For more information and to start searching for job vacancies on your campus, visit [http://students.acu.edu.au/482300](http://students.acu.edu.au/482300).
ACU offers a range of services that are designed to equip students with the skills and attributes they need to secure suitable employment after graduation.

Below you’ll hear from two Sydney-based graduates who completed their degrees last year and, with some assistance from the University’s Career Advisers, have now succeeded in gaining full-time employment in the education sector.

**Dominic Fricot**

**Degree:** B. Ex Sc. Grad Dip Ed (Rel) M. Teach

**New job:** Junior secondary teacher at Bethany College Hurstville, teaching subjects such as English, Religion, History and Italian.

Is it the type of role that you were hoping to gain after graduation?

I was hoping for a full-time PDHPE/R.E position and so given the subjects I’m teaching, yes and no. However I am extremely happy to have found a full-time teaching position.

How easy, or difficult, was it to find relevant employment after graduating?

It was easy to find casual teaching positions. Finding a full-time position, however, was extremely difficult - it took six months of searching and applying before finding employment at Bethany College.

How did ACU support you in preparing and searching for employment?

ACU staff provided crucial assistance in my preparation and search for full-time employment. Ms Robyn Cosier, my Careers Advisor, and Dr Nicki Brake, my Health Education lecturer, were both extremely helpful. Nicki provided a valuable reference and support for my application, while Robyn worked tirelessly to help me improve my resume and teaching applications.

I highly recommend ACU’s Career services to current students. Some have no idea how helpful they are.

**Sarah Belle**

**Degree:** B Education (Primary)

**New job:** Full-time kindergarten teacher at Santa Maria Del Monte in Strathfield.

Is this the type of role that you were hoping to secure after graduation?

Yes. It is a great role and I am very grateful to be working at such a lovely school.

How easy or difficult was it to find relevant employment after graduating?

It was challenging to find full-time employment. I spent the first term after graduation working as a casual teacher. I applied for dozens of teaching positions and was offered a full-time position at a school I had done some casual teaching for. This year I have changed schools and have started at Santa Maria Del Monte.

How did ACU support you in preparing and searching for employment?

My Careers Advisor, Robyn Cosier, provided such wonderful support...
in helping me to succeed in interviews. She offered valuable advice regarding my resume and interview skills and, even after graduating, made herself available to help me. I recommend that other students take advantage of the assistance offered by Careers Advisers.

Career Advisers are available on each campus for one-on-one consultations and assistance in areas such as building interview skills and writing effective resumes and job applications. 

Visit the Career Development Service webpage to make an appointment or to learn more about the career services on offer.

TURNITIN NOW AVAILABLE

ACU recently adopted Turnitin, an electronic text-matching tool that can assist students with their written assignments. Turnitin helps students to recognise possible shortcomings in their academic writing by highlighting problems such as weak paraphrasing and referencing. Once identified, these issues can be addressed via online resources and help from the Academic Skills Unit.

Please note that Turnitin will not be used for all units or all assignments. Its use will be made clear via the unit outline and lecturer.

How Turnitin works
Students will submit their assignments via a Turnitin Assignment link in their LEO units and these will be matched against a database consisting of electronic journals, webpages and assignments previously submitted by students from around the world. An ‘Originality Report’ will then be generated, showing any similarities to other works. The ‘matched’ text is underlined, colour coded, and linked to the original sources. Students will have the opportunity to address paraphrasing and referencing issues and resubmit their assignment to Turnitin until the assignment’s due date.

When to submit assignments
In order to use Turnitin effectively, assignments must be submitted well before the due date. The time taken to generate an Originality Report will depend on how many students are using the system at once. Rewriting and resubmitting may also take longer than planned. The first Originality Report may be produced within a few minutes, however a second Report for the same assignment could take 24 hours.

There are a number of places where students can get assistance with assignments before and after submitting them to Turnitin.

In person support:
• For help with assignments, click here to make an appointment with an Academic Skills Advisor in person or via the web. Be sure to book your appointment well before the assignment is due.
• Library staff are available to provide assistance with referencing.

Online support:
• Visit the Academic Skills webpage for academic writing resources
• Leap into Learning is a helpful LEO unit that is available to all students. Further details will be made available shortly.
• LEO guides for students are available via the Resources block in LEO. Click on the Turnitin tab to learn how to submit an assignment and interpret Originality Reports and lecturer feedback.

New Chapel now open on North Sydney campus

ACU’s newly constructed Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel has now opened on the North Sydney campus. It was consecrated by Bishop Julian Porteous, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Sydney, on 15 December.

The Chapel - which is dedicated to the patron of Catholic Universities around the world - can be found adjacent to the Vice-Chancellery on Edward Street. Built in the Romanesque style, the Chapel includes a reflection garden at the entry and Mary Garden to the east, featuring plantings associated with Our Lady. It provides a spiritual and community focal point, where students and staff can come together in fellowship and worship.