In this issue:

- Orientation weeks: Road Safety, Absafe, Music Event, Manual Handing, Customer Service Training & more
- Intern’s Point View of the Family Pizza Night
- Intern of the Month
Welcome message from the Project SEARCH University of Aberdeen onsite Team.

This month has seen the interns complete their Orientation weeks, apply for and begin their first internships as well as taking part in several training sessions. To round out their Orientation, Interns enjoyed a Music Event hosted by the University of Aberdeen, and the onsite team kicked off the family involvement group with a Family Pizza Night. Written by Lisa Mant

Interns were busy during the Orientation weeks preparing for their first internships. They spent time making their CV’s and One Page Profiles as they learned about the different internship options available to them. Interns were able to apply to and interview for their desired internship, having prepared cover letters and interview questions in the classroom. One by one interns have been able to start their internships in a wide range of University departments, including Catering, Administration, Maintenance and IT Services. We look forward to telling you more about their Internships as the term goes on.
Health and Safety

Throughout the remainder of the Orientation weeks, Interns met lots of new people and took part in several different training sessions, several based around Health and safety.

Allan Petrie from the University of Aberdeen came to deliver Health and Safety training. Interns took part in an interactive session and conducted their own risk assessments around the Project SEARCH classroom.

Gareth and Jane from Local Area Co-ordinators came to visit the Interns to discuss road safety and a range of other services they can provide support with.

Interns visited Absafe to take part in the first of three interactive training sessions, this one was all about health and safety in the home. Interns took part in a quiz to test their existing knowledge of safety at home. Congratulations to Matthew for having the highest score! Interns were split into smaller groups so they could visit the home set up rooms and spot as many hazards as they could in the Kitchen, Living room and Bedroom displays. Interns all enjoyed their visit and are looking forward to returning again next month to learn about Health and Safety at work.
Additional Training

Skills Development Scotland

As part of Skills Development Scotland’s involvement in Project SEARCH, Natasha Findlay hosted a brief session at their centre on Union Street so that Interns would be familiar with the centre and know what sort of support and advice is provided there. Interns took part in a personality quiz called Buzz Feed which identifies general personality traits and provides suggestions about suitable work environments.

Worldhost Principles of Customer Service

Sheena Holt from North East Scotland came to deliver Customer Service training to the Interns over two half day sessions. The training session covers a range of customer facing activities and role playing scenarios, where the Interns gained insight into the best ways to handle a wide variety of customer situations. Upon completion of the training, Interns will gain a certificate in Worldhost Principles of Customer Service, the training utilised for all staff in the Olympic Village during the London 2012 Olympics.

F1 Manual Handling Training

Gordon from F1 Training visited the Interns to deliver Manual Handling Training. The Interns all thoroughly enjoyed the session and appreciated how interesting, engaging and funny Gordon made the informative session. All Interns are now fully training in Manual Handling.
As a final communication and team building activity in the orientation weeks, the Interns were invited to take part in a **Music Event** with the Music Department and Pete Stollery, Professor of Composition and Electroacoustic Music. Pete introduced the Interns to a software package called Audacity, for editing mp3 files. Pete had some pre-cut mp3 files, all snippets form the same song, a Skrillex track. The activity for the session was for Interns to listen to the short clips and use the software to piece together each clip, without any overlap, and recreate the full song, like a musical jigsaw. Interns were split into pairs for the activity and utilised a mixture of listening, communication, IT and teamwork skills to create their own piece of music. Interns enjoyed the session so much that we installed the software in the classroom for Interns to continue the activity the following week. Another massive thank you to Pete Stollery for hosting the session.
Other Activities:

Denise Porter from NESCOL came to meet our interns, they started typed up their cover letters, before lunch they visited the Library. After lunch they did a bouncy ball activity about the different internships & where they are and the difference between skills & qualities.

The Interns played an communication game to demonstrate active listening with a game of Chinese Whispers, they wrote messages for the other group & email Etiquette.

The interns wrote directions for another group & followed the directions of the other team’s to work out what building the directions lead them to, later in the day they designed their own logo for their own Made-up company & interviewing their classmates to see which two they would choose to employ.

Heather Crabb came to talk about being the face of the University of Aberdeen & examples good/bad Customer Service.

Kieran L Payne came to talk to our 4th cohort about his time as an intern & how far he’s come.

The interns talked about self confidence, they split into two groups to come up with words that support confidence, roles & places that may need confidence.
Intern’s Point of View on the Family Pizza Night:

Tuesday 20th September

Matthew: I was one of the Servers, helped order the pizzas on the night, I truly think it went very well and everybody worked very well.

Aiden: the pizza night went really well, there was enough pizzas to go around so that was good. Me and my group were finding out what pizzas people wanted but we weren't getting to much info so we had a group talk on how many pizzas we were going to get, so we got 8 boxes.

Jordan: The part I had played on the pizza night is chosen the flavour of the pizza and I have thought that the pizza night went very well because the pizza was gone very quickly so we had chosen really good toppings. The thing we could of done better if there was more pizza so everybody could of got more.

Erin: We watched the presentation about Project SEARCH as we waited for the pizzas and when they came, I helped to serve and pour people drinks. I got my parents to meet some of my friends in the class and show them the work that we have placed on the walls. It went well and everyone had a great time.

Owen: I think the Pizza Night was successful and enjoyable for the people who attended. My role on the night was to give a welcome PowerPoint. I think the Pizza Night was a good idea for the intern’s parents to meet each other and get to know each other.

Sam: I helped with the slideshow with other at the pizza night. I have to say the night went pretty well and it was fairly enjoyable.
Sean: (alongside Emily) I gave a talk about what we did during the orientation weeks. I messed up a one point, but nobody seemed to notice, and we even got the audience laughing at one point.

Callum: I think that the Pizza night went well the presentation went well the pizza came on time and everyone got some. The parents also found out about coming up fundraising events like the fire walk.

Aaron: it was good and fun at pizza night, my job at pizza night was doing presentations helping with technical issues

Zoe and Keelan: We organised the drinks and went out to buy what was needed on the night.

The Interns organised an pizza night for their Parents to meet each other, some of the interns gave a talk to them, helped with sideshow, or served refreshments. It was a good night, the interns seem to have enjoyed it and overall their Parents went home with more info on Project SEARCH and a letter with their intern’s review meetings dates.
Intern of the Month

The reasons Interns gave for nominating Aiden:

1. He's nice and very good at the tasks we have been doing like helping his classmates with the cleaning of the kitchen.

2. He has improved his confidence, isn't as quiet as he was when he was on his first day also he has tried his hardest on all tasks and activities. He has treated everyone equally.

3. He has shown strength, stood out this month and has coped with the tasks set for us this month.

4. He has been working hard through this month, he has been kind to others and has been very helpful to everyone by helping others during the ice breakers at the beginning of the month.

5. He is good, kind, helpful toward others and did well at organising the Pizza evening