All you want to know about SLAMs
Study Tips
SLAMs share their story
SLAMs updated news
Talk with your lecturer
Meet your peer
Meet a SLAMs mentor
& Have fun with us
Hello and welcome to the first ever SLAMS Newsletter in Vietnam. I’m afraid this letter is slightly biased to the north but that’s because Hanoi has only just joined Melbourne and Saigon South in running SLAMS. Last semester saw many changes in the Hanoi Learning Skills Unit (LSU). I became the new Learning Skills Advisor (LSA), we moved out of the dark office on the ground floor and up into the library where Ms Van joined the team bringing with her yet more light to the LSU. With this new brighter outlook we introduced SLAMS to Hanoi.

This newsletter is an example of the energy and commitment that the LSU, and especially Ms Van and the volunteers have put into SLAMS. In one semester, their efforts and that of the academic staff involved, have helped firmly place SLAMS at the heart of the RMIT community. A big thank you to you all!

Here we hope to share some of the enthusiasm surrounding SLAMS. We want this newsletter to not only reflect the experiences through the comments and stories of those involved, but also help build on the promising future of the program. And build we will, next semester in Hanoi, we will be introducing SLAMS to four more courses bringing the total to seven.

If you enjoy this newsletter and would like to contribute something to the next, or have spotted any of the deliberate mistakes, please don’t hesitate to get in touch -especially if you have some better jokes! If you’re in Hanoi, I’ll see you all at the Open to All workshops, or when you pop in to the LSU for a chat and a look at the works on display in the new gallery. If you’re in SGS, go see Dave, Rachel and the guys and tell them you want to contribute to the next newsletter!

Good luck with your studies,

Mike C

The LSU - We’re here for you!

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If you have any questions, requests or feedback on the program, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you!
SLAMs are

... students who received an HD or DI in one of the courses included in SLAMs program and volunteer 2 hours per week to support new and commencing students in their academic studies.

SLAMs stands for Student Learning Advisor Mentors.

5 Reasons to see SLAMs are:

- SLAMs know your courses well
- They know what gets high marks
- They are willing to share study strategies and tips with you
- They can answer your specific questions when you are struggling to understand any aspect of the coursework or assignments
- SLAMs can meet you without an appointment!

SLAMs timetable

SLAMs are available from week 5 to week 11 every semester. Visit Intranet>Learning Skills Unit>SLAMs for more information about the SLAMs timetable for your courses.

SLAMs X-changed X-mas cards in SGS.

In this very interesting project, each mentor prepared a X-mas card with their wishes inside. After being displayed in the Learning Skills Unit (SGS) during Christmas and New Year occasion, these cards were exchanged among mentors. Through this, many new relationships started and developed.

The SLAMs Forum is open to all RMIT students

This is the place for students and mentors to discuss anything related to SLAMs courses. You can find useful topics about study tips for specific courses given by SLAMs as well as “small talk” topics that help connect yourself with the RMIT community and mentors. Visit Intranet>Learning Skills Unit>SLAMs>SLAMs Forum and join discussion with us! If you subscribe, you can keep up with what’s going on.

SLAMs shared great moments in the Recognition Dinner

After 7 weeks of working together, SLAMs at both sites joined together in the Recognition Dinner. It is not only the occasion to recognize the efforts of all mentors but also for them to share great memories. Though their mentoring period finished, there was something to look back on.
Semester I 2011 is another great time ahead and SLAMs will accompany with you through the following courses:

In SGS campus:
1. Introductory Accounting
2. Business Computing
3. Commercial Law
4. Business Statistics
5. Prices and Markets
6. Introduction to Logistics and Supply Chain Management
7. Management Accounting and Business
8. Writing for Advertising and PR purposes
9. Programming II
10. English (NEW)

In Hanoi campus:
1. Introductory Accounting
2. Marketing Principles (NEW)
3. Commercial Law
4. Business Computing (NEW)
5. Business Statistics (NEW)
6. Intro to Logistics and Supply Chain Management
7. Prices and Market (NEW)

Come and see a SLAMs mentor from week 5 to week 11 if you need help studying these courses!

BECOME A SLAMs VOLUNTEER!

Have you achieved an HD or DI in one of the courses listed above?
Are you willing to help other students to achieve success in their studies?
WAIT NO MORE - SLAMs recruitment will start in the beginning of Semester I 2011 - Check your mailbox regularly as we will send you email about this! If you receive the email from SLAMs, please quickly sign up at Learning Skills Unit.

LET’S JOIN US to
• Expand your network
• Make your CV stand out
• Take part in LEAD training
• Work towards LEAD certificates
• Improve your communications skills
• Give back and be a part of RMITVN
• And make a difference!

“One word I can say about being a SLAMs mentor is GREAT. The most valuable reward that I received were the enjoyable time, confidence and friendship. I will never forget all the great memories of SLAMs. Join SLAMs to enjoy the best time ever”.

Nguyen Duy Anh - Mentor | Intro to Logistics and Supply Chain Management

WE KNOW - WE’VE BEEN THERE!
“Nobody teaches others, we all learn together”

By Bui Thi Thuy Linh - Logistics and Supply Chain Management Mentor

There is no doubt that seven weeks doing SLAMs can be seen as a memorable time that gave me a lot of feelings as well as experience. I have known about SLAMs program since semester II 2010 when I was studying Logistics and Supply Chain Management and having a lot of problems with the assignments of this subject. At that time, I found the timetable of SLAMs on BB but it was only available in Saigon South campus. I was totally surprised and of course a bit proud when receiving an email from SLAMs—“SLAMs is here and you have been selected”. I just thought that it might be helpful if I could share my experience in studying Logistics and Supply Chain Management to other students who also face difficulties as I used to.

During seven weeks of SLAMs, I and other mentors worked together, and shared a lot of memories, especially when we prepared a video for SLAMs promotion. In some very first sessions, many students had the same question “What is SLAMs?” After a few weeks in action, more and more students came for help. Some students returned to us several times. I was very happy to see them returning as it meant SLAMs was really helpful to them.

Some of you are going to be SLAMs this semester. You have the right of being proud of your studying results and should not keep it to yourselves. For all other students who have had questions or problems in studying academic subjects, please do not be shy. Come to us! Answering your questions helps us improve ourselves. There is no denying that “nobody teaches others, we all learn together.”

MEET A MENTOR

Tran Tuan Anh - Logistics and Supply Chain Management Mentor

SLAMs mentors are very close to you. They are also students as you are. Have a talk with one of them to understand more about what they are doing in SLAMs.

Q: Why did you join SLAMs?

TA: Well, because I was interested in being a mentor. It gave me a sense of pride. But more than that, I can practice my interpersonal skills, my English and my knowledge. Moreover, SLAMs brought a change to widen my networking. I made friends with other mentors, mentees and the staff. I think SLAMs did introduce me to a lot of interesting people.

Q: What is the most rewarding thing about being a SLAM?

TA: I can use my knowledge to help other students whilst at the same time helping myself. Also being a student, I knew that they had to struggle with all the assignments and exams that they deal with for the first time. I used to have many questions, many uncertainties in the course, and I really needed someone who can give some advice. Each student that came to me was an experience that I respect very much. I thought of and tried different methods to help them. Giving advice, motivation, showing them the basis and essence of the subject. Believe me or not, by helping others, I improved myself! I see my growth and am proud of that. That’s the most rewarding part being a SLAM.

Q: What is your advice to other students?

TA: SLAMs is a group of excellent students who have experience of the course they are mentoring. They are equipped with knowledge, experiences, tips and tricks to help you learn specific courses much easier. Do go to SLAMs if you have questions, even just asking about a concept that you are struggling to understand. They are willing to help with a friendly and devoted manner.

Q: What is your advice to students who are going to be SLAMs?

TA: First, revise your knowledge thoroughly. The student can ask about anything in the course, make sure you are ready enough to answer their questions or at least tell them where they can find their answers. Second, be confident, it makes you look reliable to the students. Third, be friendly but also professional. The last, try to guide the students to work on their own rather than do it for them.
Commercial Law is not so difficult if you know how!

By Ha Thi Phuong Thao - Commercial Law mentor

Most students think that Commercial Law is the most difficult subject at RMIT. However, actually it is not too hard if you know how to adapt to a law environment. Here are some tips for you:

**While studying:**
- Read the textbook carefully and other slides and outlines of other teachers of RMIT.
- Understand all cases and be able to link to particular situations.
- Remember each case has two sides and the reason why you choose that side (your own idea, do not follow ideas of the teacher or other friends).
- Practice some cases before exams to be acquainted with the structure of the answer

**While preparing A4:**
- Mention only terms that will be clear for you during exam time.
- Should write terms with special cases.

**While taking exams:**
- Do not copy questions.
- Be specific in answers, shorter answers are much better than long ones.
- Always follow the structure so you will not miss any point.

Introductory Accounting Top Tips

By Lee Seul-A - Intro Accounting Mentor

1. **Practice, practice and practice**
   You should experience as many types of questions as possible. New types of questions can appear in your exams and you may be asked the same questions in many different ways as well.

2. **Be familiar with accounting terms**
   Sometimes even though you know how to solve a problem, since you misunderstand the terms, you may be confused and get the wrong answer.

3. **Read questions carefully**

4. **Work with friends**
   Introductory accounting is not an easy course to work on alone. It is recommendable to study in a group so that you can check answers with group members and exchange useful information with one another.

5. **Don’t miss the theory part**
   As long as you study and have a clear understanding of theory, it is achievable to get full marks.
   How do you get higher marks in the theory part? Write your own words - Show your understanding - Give an example, you can find an example from the textbook or from your lecturer.
Talk with

WESLEY KENDALL - Lecturer | Commercial Law

By Bui Tu Anh - Commercial Law mentor

Q: Commercial Law is a big challenge for most RMIT students. What are the difficulties that students have to face?

Wesley: One of the greatest challenges is it requires a lot of diligence and discipline because of a lot of reading involved. Much reading deals with concepts and terminologies that many Vietnamese students have never been exposed to before. So it’s a very new and foreign subject.

Q: Do you think SLAMs are helpful to your students?

Wesley: Yes. There are a number of reasons for saying that. One is students have commented that SLAMs are very responsive and dedicated. If they have questions or problems, SLAMs always make time for them. Another is they have a deep knowledge of Commercial Laws and a strong record of academic success. The third one is they have a positive outlook that they transfer to students. If a young student is uncertain about his or her ability, SLAMs help them not only enhancing study habits but also motivating them. They help students not only understanding the concepts but also raising more inspiration in studying. SLAMs act as big brothers or sisters also. I think SLAMs are really helpful. I advise students to take advantages of this exceptional program.

Q: SLAMs is a brand new program. Do you have any recommendations for improving it?

Wesley: It is a young program but it has managed to have an incredibly powerful impact on student’s life. To have a greater impact, my suggestion would be to expand the program, making it bigger. It may recruit more mentors.

Thanks for your time in this interview!

MEET YOUR PEER

Nguyen Phuong Lan shares with you what she experienced from SLAMs as a mentee.

Prepared by Lee Seul-A - Introductory Accounting mentor

Q How did you learn about SLAMs?

Lan I had heard about SLAMs through e-mail first and also my friends talked about it.

Q What was your first impression of SLAMs?

Lan When I got the e-mail from LSU introducing SLAMs, I actually did not pay much attention to it. Then, after my friends, who had already known SLAMs, talked about it, I got a bit interested. But, there was not a strong impression about SLAM, to be honest.

Q Then, what motivated you to come to see the SLAMs mentors?

Lan I was studying Introductory Accounting. For the first few weeks of the course, we learned basic theoretical concepts of Intro accounting so there were not many difficulties in studying; but as the course went into its main parts encompassing balance sheets and income statements, it became quite complicated. Thus, I had to spend more time to study and came up with many questions and problems. Then, I remembered the SLAMs and decided to go to ask for help.

Q How was the mentoring? Was it helpful?

Lan Of course! The mentor was really friendly and kind as well. When I could not understand his explanation, he did not give up, but kept trying to explain in many different ways until I could understand clearly. From then, whenever I had questions, I went to see the mentor.

Q What do you like about SLAMs?

Lan Um, firstly, I appreciate that the mentors are approachable. I felt it is easier to go to see the mentors when I had problems rather than going to see the lecturer. Also, it was great to be able to form relationships with them.

Q Finally, do you have anything to say to RMIT students who have not participated in SLAMs yet?

Lan SLAMs is a great program, it helped me a lot in studying during the semester. This was the first term that RMIT Hanoi campus implemented this program, many students did not know about it and some were skeptical about it. I would like to say when having problems in studying and if it is difficult to go to see lecturers and ask questions, they should not let the problems remain unsolved. There are SLAMs mentors waiting to give help. They have already gone through the same path and so they know and understand what we feel difficult, and can explain from the same level of viewpoint. I would urge them not miss this great opportunity.
Across:
1. Owner of part of the capital
4. Plan or policy for a particular purpose
5. Result or profit produced
6. Fault or imperfection
7. Company’s plan of action
9. Examination or investigation
10. Refusal of employees to work
12. Promise to fulfill conditions

Down:
2. Contract of arrangement
3. Money paid to owner of a copyright or patent
8. Make to suit the buyer’s wishes
11. Break a promise or contract

Mice and language

Three mice are being chased by a cat. The mice were cornered when one of the mice turned around and barked, “Ruff! Ruff! Ruff!” The surprised cat ran away scared.

Later when the mice told their mother what happened, she smiled and said, “You see, it pays to be bilingual!”


A Mad Cow

Two cows are standing in a field.
One says to the other “Are you worried about Mad Cow Disease?”
The other one says “No, It doesn’t worry me, I’m a horse!”


Telephone Soup

A teenage girl had been talking on the phone for about half an hour, and then she hung up.

“Wow!,” said her father, “That was short. You usually talk for two hours. What happened?”

“Wrong number,” replied the girl.

Learning English

Teacher: “Nick, what is the past participle of the verb to ring?”
Nick: “What do you think it is, Sir?”
Teacher: “I don’t think, I KNOW!”
Nick: “I don’t think I know either, Sir!”

Answer:
1. I’m your eye
2. When it is ajar, it is pronounced the same as “a jar” (= a glass container)
3. I’m nothing.