



President's October Memo

October has been a busy month for the USU as we celebrated a number of student achievements.



1. USU Events

The USU hosted a number of balls in celebration of student clubs and societies, programs and groups on campus. We hosted Glitter Gala, a ball dedicated to the celebration of queer students. The USU is committed to a campus free from homophobia and transphobia. Earlier this year, we introduced sanitary bins to all USU bathrooms to accommodate for a diverse range of gender identities. We also thank our guest speaker Matthew Yeldham, the outgoing CEO of Out for Australia, for speaking at the event.

Debates Dinner saw the celebration of the USU's debating achievements over the past year. Notably, the USU won the 2018 Women's Championships, was a grand-finalist at the Worlds Championships, Australasian Championships and semi-finalist at the Easter's Australian Championships. Special congratulations also to Abby McCarthy, Steph White and Sam Trodden who received special recognitions of their service to the society and we wish them the best as they leave the USU debating program.

C&S Ball was held at Courtyard this year and we celebrated the various achievements of our fabulous clubs and societies. Congratulations to all the winners and highly commended clubs and societies - it was difficult process selecting winners from such a strong pool of nominations. In particular, congratulations to the Vietnamese Students Association for winning Most Successful Large Club or Society (Over 150 Members) and the Sydney Filipino Society for winning Most Successful Small Club or Society. The full list of winners can be found here: <https://www.pulp-usu.com/blog-rallycategoryoncampusnews/2018/10/19/usu-declares-winners-of-clubs-and-societies-awards>.

2. Annual Dinner

The USU Annual Dinner is our chance to thank our friends and supporters, congratulate and acknowledge our amazing student leaders and celebrate their achievements. The night hosted Brandon Vu, the winner of the inaugural USYD's Got Talent perform his yo-yo talent as well as a guest speech from Kate McClymont, a leading Australian investigative journalist. Congratulations to our all our new USU Life Members Courtney Thompson, Esther Shim, Koko Kong, Grace Franki, Gina Tran, Christina Lee, Alison Xiao, Tim Seguna, Alexander Shu, Kevin Lee, Ruindu Ranhotty, George Bishop, Jack Kabilfkas, Jimmy



Nguyen, Jenna Schroder and Anja Bless. Congratulations also to Christina Lee for being Volunteer of the Year.

3. Verge Festival

Congratulations to Alex and Nell for coordinating Verge Festival at the start of the month. The annual festival dedicated to bringing art and culture to students and celebrating creative student talent. This year, Verge Festival hosted daily activities and events including highlights like a Jazz Night under the stars at Courtyard consisting of performances by USYD and Conservatorium of Music students.

4. USU Creative Awards Ceremony & Hermes Launch 2018

The USU Creative Awards and Hermes Launch happened this month at our own Verge Gallery. Hermes is our annual journal which publishes a variety of creative works created by USYD students. The USU has proudly published Hermes since 1886 which gives it bragging rights as Australia's oldest literary journal. Congratulations to our winners in the art, word and music category: Rosie Eliza Thomas, Gabriela Bourke and Sam Parker. The full list of our 2018 Creative Awards winners can be found here:

<https://www.usu.edu.au/Get-Involved/USU-Creative-Awards.aspx>.



5. Incubate Demo Day Class 12

The Incubate Demo Day was a huge success as Class 12 showcased their start-up ideas to a keen crowd at the Maritime Museum. Congratulations to Ashlea, our head of the innovations department, and all the Incubate staff and volunteers for a successful event and the completion of Class 12.

6. 2019 PULP Editors

Congratulations to our newly decided 2019 Pulp Editors! Our chosen editors are Alexi Barnstone, Haydn Hickson and Madeline Ward. There was a lot of incredible talent and we would strongly encourage people who weren't successful to still contribute as a reporter.

7. Interfaith Council

The USU Interfaith Council met this month and discussed a number of ongoing projects such as providing Kosher/Halal food options on campus and updating the Council's Charter. The Interfaith Council was founded in 2016 to provide a place for faith-based clubs and society executives to discuss ongoing issues related to religion on campus with one another and representatives of the USU.