The CBS Cohorts Program

A donor-supported program for CBS freshmen, now in its second year
Program Goals:

1. Students will develop a sense of community within the College of Biological Sciences by building relationships with peers, staff, and faculty;

2. Students will become aware of the research mission of the university, and will better understand the value of research, especially as it relates to the undergraduate experience. They will learn to access published research;

3. Students will take responsibility for their academic success and connect their education to their future well-being.
CBS Freshmen are divided among six Cohorts

- Each Cohort is named after a branch on the evolutionary tree of life. Students will discover much about this branch in the third quarter of Introductory Biology.

- Each Cohort takes one class (BIS 98/005) together and has other opportunities to interact throughout the year. Faculty describe their research and their career paths to the students during the class.

- The organismal theme of each cohort is continued through the course Library Research assignment. Students study an assigned organism on their Cohort’s branch and contribute to content on that organism's Wikipedia article.
Fall Welcome Event:

- Each freshman receives lunch and a Cohort specific T-shirt. Students meet other members of their cohort and get to know those who might be in classes with them. The goal is to reduce isolation and create cohort identification. Students produce questions for a peer-mentor panel and questions are answered at the event or later via the website.

- 2013 Fall Welcome Event student attendance: 823
- 2014 Fall Welcome student attendance: 732
Student-Faculty Lunches

Student-Faculty Lunches are informal student-faculty discussions on a topic of interest. Attendance is limited to 15 students maximum.

- 2013 - 2014: 33 lunches
- Faculty participants: 28, 5 faculty hosted 2 lunches last year.
- Student participants: 249 unique attendees, 157 students attended more than one lunch, total student attendance: 406
- Fall quarter 2014: 8 Faculty participants hosted lunch
- Student participants: 123, all unique
Cohorts Field Trips

Cohort Program field trips are academically oriented, showcase resources available to CBS students, and provide excellent opportunities for students to form relationships with peers and faculty.

- **Bodega Marine Lab Field Trips:** BML graduate students and BML-CBS faculty guide students on a tour of the research facilities and the reserve. This field trip is a great opportunity for students to consider taking spring quarter or summer sessions classes at Bodega Bay.

- *2013 /14 Student Attendance: 195. Fall Quarter 2014 Student Attendance: 91*

- **2014 Spring Tahoe Snapshot Day:** Students volunteered to help conduct near-shore water quality sampling and habitat assessments. The event is a citizen-based environmental effort designed to take a “snapshot,” at one moment in time, of the water quality throughout the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watershed.

- *Student Attendance: 48*
Student comments on cohorts:

- I feel extremely grateful that this program exists. I am shy and have little experience approaching faculty/people of stature/importance and I believe this program will give me the tools to begin those conversations.

- I felt the cohort program is very helpful in connecting CBS students with faculty, and as a result makes internship and job opportunities seem more accessible. Hearing speakers’ personal journeys as well as their professional focus was very enlightening, and I sincerely hope the cohort program continues to provide such valuable experience.

The first day all the CBS students got together was great because even though I didn’t have friends, I felt like I really belonged ...