



# FINGERPRINT

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## New Admissions Open Houses are a Hit by Debra Curties '84



Instructor Tomas Rickus '16 answers questions.



Recent grad Cedar Kelly '17 and teacher Sorin Darie '16 are engaged in talking about their student experiences.

We hope to see you at this week's  
Open House on  
Wednesday, October 17, 5:30-7:30.

On March 1 we held our third Open House for prospective students. Arising out of an admissions brainstorming session, the idea was to create a flexible, open-ended event that goes beyond giving preadmission information to helping people experience what being at Sutherland-Chan is actually like.

Knowing that messages about “the best massage school” and “a great but challenging program” are attractive to some and a bit intimidating to others, we wanted to balance that with a sense of our warm, welcoming community (the “I can really see myself belonging there” feeling) as well as information about our extensive student supports.

The Open House takes over Room 2/3 with tables organized to each represent an aspect of S-C's before, during and after the diploma program relationship with our students: preadmission needs, OSAP and financing, course info, clinical program, student services, publishing company, continuing education courses, employment at S-C clinics. There are also experiential opportunities: get some massage, experience an assessment, hot wax on your hands, etc.



Lesley Frow '06 and Sidorela Ymeri '18 demo while current student Danielle McLachlan chats with an attendee.



Student volunteers like Mikayla Connor, Maks Mironyuk and Kelly Marshall are essential to the success of the Open Houses.

Prospective students move from table to table, absorbing information and asking questions, but it quickly became apparent that they like to spend much of their time clustered avidly around current students and recent grads, looking for the “real goods” on what being at the school is like, and hearing about post-graduation employment. Many also bring parents, friends or partners so they can check us out too.

Chatting with faculty members is also very popular, and receiving some hands-on from a teacher or current student is always well received. Many take the opportunity to go on a guided school tour.

Our staff have done an excellent job of creating a well-organized, smoothly flowing event. There is also great food, so people rushing in after work can munch on dinner while strolling around.

With each Open House, it has been wonderful to see more alumni, students and instructors dropping by. Each person adds to the conversation and the richness of the experience for those who are in the process of choosing where to go to for their massage education. Plus, there's the opportunity to catch up with each other.

The monthly Information Sessions are still ongoing, so what makes the addition of the Open Houses relevant?

The Open Houses are more flexible and interactive so individuals can craft their own experience. They can stay as long as they want, linger where they want and converse with the people most important to satisfying their curiosity and addressing their personal concerns. Our Admissions staff have heard from several applicants that coming to an Open House was the deciding factor for them in choosing Sutherland-Chan.