

In the Recipe for a Great First Year, Just Add a Little SAGE!

Kelly Dunn, Director of First-Year Experience Corey Bailey, SAGE Logistics Coordinator

### **Overview of Presentation**

- Introductions
- Get to Know Emmanuel College (EC)
- History of Peer Mentor Programs at EC
- SAGE Program Structure
- What Worked/What Didn't Work
- Future of the SAGE Program
- Small Group Work/Logic Models
- Q & A

### Introductions

- Kelly Dunn, Director of First-Year Experience
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- Corey Bailey, SAGE Logistics Coordinator
  - Junior (Class of 2015)
  - Management and English Communication, Media, and Cultural Studies double major
  - Involvement on campus as an Administrative Orientation Leader, Dance Marathon Coordinator, and SAGE Coordinator
  - baileyc@emmanuel.edu

### **Emmanuel College**

- Location: Boston, Massachusetts
- 4 Year Private Catholic Liberal Arts Institution
- ~1800 students
- 29% male/71% female
- General Course of Study
- Most Popular Majors: Psychology, Biology, and English Communications
- Community Service heavy (85% serve)
- Residential (94% of first-years live on campus)

# History of Mentor Programs at EC

- 2004 mentor program: EC Connections
- 2009 Present
  - SAGE (Student Adjustment Guided Effectively)
  - Program numbers dwindled so moved from the Office of Student Activities in 2010 to the Office of First-Year Experience

• More focus on the first-year

- 2011: 96% retention rate
- 2012: 98% retention rate

# SAGE by the Numbers

	2004	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	EC Connections	SAGE	SAGE	SAGE	SAGE	SAGE
# of Mentees	unknown	9	6	55	125	150
# of Guides	unknown	6	3	25	55	80
Office	Student Activities	Student Activities	Student Activities	First-Year Experience	First-Year Experience	First-Year Experience

### **SAGE** Today

### Teamwork and Leadership

• Program Advisor:

- Director of First-Year Experience
- Student Coordinator Team
  - Logistics Coordinator
  - Communication Coordinator
  - Marketing Coordinator
  - Social Coordinators (2)

# Guide Selection

- Requirements
  - Sensitive to concerns of first-years
  - Strong interpersonal skills
  - Knowledgeable about campus resources and services
  - Work well with students unlike themselves
- Specific qualifications include but are not limited to:
  - Must have attended Emmanuel for a minimum of one semester.
  - Applicants must have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5.
  - Applicants must be able to make the minimum time commitment (training, socials, tagalongs, 3 encounters with mentees)
  - Must serve as a positive role model.
  - Good judicial standing

### Guide Selection cont'd

• Application Process:

- Online application month of February
- Interview Process:
  - Individual interview with minimum of two Coordinators
- Decisions Released:
  March

# Guide Training

• Spring Training

- Saturday at end of April (all day)
  - Teambuilding
  - College resource training
  - Program content training
  - Specific mentoring training
- On-going Training
  - Monthly in-service training

### Marketing to Mentees

- Presence at critical times for new students:
  - Open House (2 in Fall)
  - Accepted Student Visit Day (2 in April)
  - New Student Orientation
  - Family Orientation
  - Welcome Week Information Sessions/Fairs
  - SAGE Second Chance Program

# Marketing Materials





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Juliette Luchini '16 Marketing Coordinator luchinij@emmanuel.edu

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Arianna Pagan `15 Communications Coordinator pagana@emmanuel.edu







Student Adjustment Guided Effectively



You care about making the most of your college experience, You want to learn the ropes quickly, get involved and find your niche at Emmanuel. S.A.G.E. is here to guide you on your way.

#### What is S.A.G.E.?

Student Adjustment Guided Effectively (S.A.G.E.) is a year long program for all first-year and transfer students interested in maximizing their first year on campus and easing the potential stressors that can arise from a major life transition.

By joining you will be paired with a full-time Emmanuel student who has been enrolled at the College for at least one year. These knowledgeable guides are trained to help you navigate the many academic, co-curricular, and social opportunities available and serve as a trusted resource when you need them. Together you will work to ensure that your first steps at Emmanuel are the right ones for you.

#### What is involved in the Program?

Some examples of the individual encounters that you may take advantage of with your S.A.G.E. guide include:

- On and Off-Campus events
- Social Activities
- Academic Activities
- Program-wide Socials
- Tag-alongs with other Guides and Mentees
- Workshops

#### Interested?

To get more information about S.A.G.E. as well as learn how to join, simply mark this program as an interest on the Student Involvement Survey you complete during Orientation. For more information or additional questions, please contact Kelly Dunn, Director of First-Year Experience, at dunnke@emmanuel.edu



"S.A.G.E. was absolutely essential in helping me to gain my footing at Emmanuel. I was having a tough time transitioning and it was heartening to know that not only did I have an upperclassman to call a friend, but also that my S.A.G.E guide had experienced the same feelings that I was. S.A.G.E. gave me the confidence to try new things and know that I will never feel alone at Emmanuel College."

-Siobhan Billings Pearce '16

"As a first-year, my S.A.G.E. guide helped me find my niche here at Emmanuel College. Now as a S.A.G.E. guide myself, I've been able to be a resource to my mentees so they can find their place as well. There is nothing better than seeing mentees transition into everything Emmanuel College has to offer!"

-Amy Chung '15



Do you want to find your place on campus? Reach your fullest potential in academics? See all that Boston and Emmanuel have to offer? Make lasting friendships and connections?

Emmanuel College S.A.G.E. is the program for you!

# Student Adjustment Guided Effectively

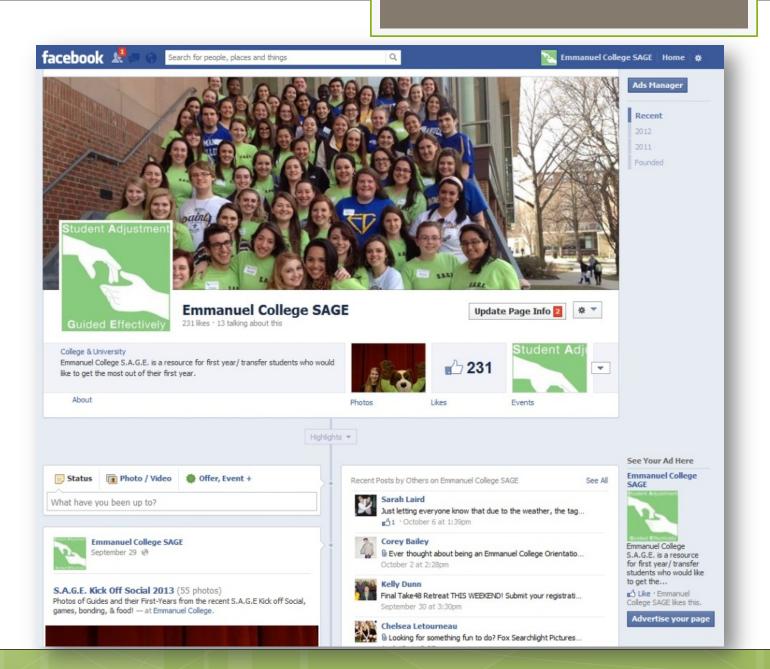


The S.A.G.E. Guides welcome you to Emmanuel College! Student Adjustment Guided Effectively (S.A.G.E.) is a year-long program for all first-year and transfer students interested in maximizing their first year on campus and easing the potential stressors that can arise from a major life transition.

Upon joining the program you will be paired with a full-time Emmanuel College student who has been enrolled for a full year or more. Guides are here to help you navigate the many academic, co-curricular, and social opportunities available. They can help you experience everything Emmanuel has to offer all while living your first year to the fullest potential.



'Like' Emmanuel College SAGE on Facebook!



# **Application and Pairing**

• Application Process for Mentees

- Fill out interest survey
  - Intake includes gender, gender preference of Guide, intended major, intended clubs and organizations, general interests, text about what they want to get out of the program.
- Interest based pairing
- Pairing customization
  - i.e.: Gender preference

# Guide-Mentee Relationship

- Major Events:
  - Kickoff Social
  - End of Year Social
- One-on-one Encounters:
  - Frequency (at least once a month)
  - Categories (academics, social, etc.)
- Tag-A-Long
  - Opportunity to expand mentee relationships with peers and upperclassmen
- Program Workshops
  - Stress management, course selection, financial management
- Encounter Evaluations
  - Gage pulse of Guide as well as mentee
  - Gage pulse of the overall class beyond the program

### Data Tracking and Success Monitoring

• Records

• Statistics

• Student Evaluations

• Program improvement

### What Didn't Work?

- Those who sign up don't really want it
- Guides think they get too busy
- Not a perfect matching system sometimes people say they want to be matched with someone in their major but don't really want that
- Program Expansion difficulties (size continues to grow – considering a more automated system outsourced)

### What Did Work?

### • Retention Numbers

- Program reputation changed from an organization for those severely struggling to adjust to a powerful resource all new students should take advantage of
- Leadership development of Coordinators
- Stronger focus on the first-year as a process and not a set of orientation sessions

### Small Groups

• Get into small groups by institution type

- Community college, large university, small college, faith based, etc.
- Make two lists:
  - Identify why a peer mentor program is necessary at your respective college and include what resources would be needed to create such a program
  - Identify potential challenges or adversities your college might face trying to implement a peer mentor program

### Small Group Discussion

### Logic Models

• Work together to fill out logic models to bring to your respective institutions