TUART COLLEGE

Celebrating Success!

International Newsletter

December 2003
2003 has been another enjoyable, exciting and challenging year for the international students enrolled at Tuart College. As usual they have made their mark on College life and been significant contributors to the overall performance, activities and image of the institution in the last twelve months. Their academic performance, their participation in class and their friendliness have been appreciated by the staff. Many have left a lasting impact on the staff members with whom they came in contact, and I am sure that they have developed friendships with staff that will continue long after they have left the College.

Nowhere is the wonderful international student-staff relationship more obvious than in the International Student Office (ISO). The ISO appears to be almost a second home to most of the international students. They come to the ISO individually or in small groups to get assistance and support, and a lot of time just for a friendly chat. I am sure that the international students really appreciate the services provided by the ISO staff whether it be wise words from the Manager, David Hults or the support provided by the two Student Advisors, Peta Parker and Robyn Stevens, or the solver of many problems and general confidante, Ann Bignell or Dinah Turner who spends so much time ensuring that their accommodation needs are met. It is a great team in the ISO which supports the international students.

The International Students Graduation Dinner which was held just prior to the commencement of the TEE and WAUFP examinations was a great success. The evening was wonderful for the enthusiasm, happiness and camaraderie of the graduating students. They were inspired by the address from Professor Bill Louden from Edith Cowan University, and the comments from Heemal Patel from Zambia, representing the students, were greeted by his fellow students with delight, laughter and enthusiasm. It was an outstanding evening that was appreciated by all who were fortunate enough to attend.

The College’s student village, Tuart Mews, has always been a great place for international students to live but this year’s occupants of the Mews have been an outstanding group who have studied hard, supported each other and developed great friendships. This situation has been achieved by the care and attention they have received from Ray and Jean Tissington, particularly Jean who has become a de-facto mother to 32 international students living in the Mews.

By the end of 2003 there were about 90 international students in the Standard and Fast-Track WAUFP and a further 10 in the TEE program. On the basis of their assessments throughout the year, particularly their performance in the Semester 1 and 2 examinations, most student should be looking forward to achieving results that will allow them to achieve their goal of undertaking tertiary studies in 2004. The staff hope that all international students achieve the results they require to gain entry to the university or TAFE program of their choice next year.

In addition the College has about 80 international students involved in Year 11, Flying Start, Bridging or ECAAS programs who will continue on to the TEE or WAUFP in 2004. The staff hope that all these students are now well settled into the College and well prepared for their important pre-university studies next year.

The College is now looking forward to an influx of more international students in a range of the College’s programs next year. They will join the group who will be continuing in the College in 2004. No matter into which program international students enter they can be assured that the College administration, the teaching staff and the ISO will provide them with the highest possible standard of education and personal support.

Best wishes to you all.

John Anderton
Principal

Meet one of our very talented international students

Mr Wan Wai (Matt) studied in the Foundation Program in 2003. However because of his interest (and obvious talent) in Art he also enrolled in the Art & Design course, even though it is not a Foundation subject.

Three of his paintings were displayed in the annual College Art Exhibition - and two were purchased, one by the ISO. Matt’s painting of a swimmer moving forward off the blocks at the beginning of a race is an appropriate symbol for what Tuart College offers its students.
Once again this year a number of the international students excelled in their studies at Tuart College. At the Valedictory Ceremony held on the morning of Friday 31 October, the top students in each of the Year 12 subjects were announced. As is the case every year, some of these students were international students. This is an outstanding effort as, for most of the subjects, the students are competing against local students whose first language is English and who are familiar with the Australian style of teaching.

In the evening, at the International Students' Graduation Dinner, awards were given to the top three students in the Foundation Program and also to the top student in the TEE Program. In past years, three awards have been made to TEE students, however in 2003 only eight students chose to complete TEE, therefore it was felt that only one award would be presented.

The winners of all of the awards proved themselves to be not only talented but also dedicated students. Of course many other students also completed a very successful academic year, but unfortunately only a few can be formally acknowledged.

We wish all students every success for the future and congratulate them all on completing their secondary studies.

### TEE PROGRAM

1st

Mr Stuart Molloy
United Kingdom

2nd

Mr John Kinyanjui
Kenya (AEC)

3rd

Ms Gong Yi Fei
PRC (Harvard Enterprises)

### FOUNDATION PROGRAM

1st

Mr John Kinyanjui
Kenya (AEC)

2nd

Mr Wong Yu Jhyn
Malaysia East (MMS Kuching)

3rd

Ms Gong Yi Fei
PRC (Harvard Enterprises)

### Subject Award Winners

- Ms Gong Yi Fei: Accounting, Applicable Mathematics, Calculus
- Mr John Kinyanjui: Chemistry
- Mr Wong Yu Jhyn: Physics
- Ms Ameeta Kaur Giren: English Language & Australian Cultural Studies
- Mr Stuart Molloy: Ancient History, Geography

### Engineers Australia Award

- Mr Brent Bush
- Mr Wong Yu Jhyn
- Mr Daniel Wright
- Mr Yeap Poh Hon
- Mr Zhang Zi Wen

- Ms Gong Yi Fei: PRC (Harvard Enterprises)
To see the international students at the Graduation Dinner no-one would have guessed that they might ever have found each other scary! All of the students were so relaxed and comfortable and confident with each other and with the staff who attended.

Yet, according to Heemal Patel, the International Student Valedictorian for 2003, when he arrived at Orientation in January of this year he looked at the faces surrounding him and found them to be ‘scary people’! Fortunately things changed quickly and in no time Heemal knew he was, in fact, surrounded by friends.

That atmosphere of friendship was so clearly evident throughout the evening. The students provided generous acknowledgement of each other’s achievements, so that every person who received a Certificate of Completion or an award for highest academic success was applauded enthusiastically. When a few photos were to be taken after the formal proceedings, there was suddenly a seemingly endless line of students who wanted photos taken. These included class groups with teachers, the Tuart Mews residents with their wonderful caretakers Jean and Ray Tissington, varied combinations of friends and so on. As the photos on this page testify, the students not only looked spectacular but also are spectacular people!

The Guest of Honour was Professor Bill Louden, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Community Services, Education & Social Sciences at Edith Cowan University. He spoke to the students about the path he took in getting to where he is today. His first
job was in a petrol station in a country town in WA. He still remembers a customer who asked him what he wanted to do in his future and who then laughed when he replied that he’d like to study law. Between then and now, he went to university, left after a year, worked in a bank, went back to uni, taught in high schools, wrote books and taught some more. The point he made was the need to pursue our own goals and determine our own futures and not let others dissuade us from our dreams. He also showed that there are many paths that can be taken and many experiences to be had in life.

Each student was presented with a Certificate of Completion by the College Principal, Mr John Anderton, and then the Foundation and TEE award winners were presented with inscribed plaques made from West Australian jarrah to commemorate their achievements.

Mr Bryan Hughes, the Account Manager (Government) of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and also a Tuart College Advisory Board member, presented Mr John Kinyanjui (top Foundation student) and Mr Stuart Molloy (top TEE student) each with a cheque for $250 to help them with their studies next year.

Photos were taken of each student receiving their certificates and awards. These were later given to the students so that everyone will have a tangible reminder of this wonderful evening - though in years to come it is guaranteed that much more than the photo will be remembered!

Stuart, Mr Bryan Hughes & John
A Day to Remember

On a warm Sunday in October, 18 international students and 2 ISO staff members met at the College at 9.30am in order to venture into the hills beyond Perth to participate in what was for most a new experience. At Bickley Recreation Camp this group barbecued, flying foxed and abseiled.

The following comments are some of Liu Shen (Sally)’s thoughts about the day.

“For the flying fox we needed to climb up into a tall tree and then use ropes to go across a small river. It was a little bit scary because I had acrophobia (fear of high places), but I decided to try and I did it! It was not so scary as I imagined. I felt like I was flying above the water. I think everyone enjoyed the moment when they were on the way to the other shore.

Afterwards we went up the hill to abseil. This was my first time to abseil - a bit scary but a bit exciting! I thought to myself that everything would become simple if we did it. I had three tries on the 5 metre rock-face and then we went to the 10 metre rock-face which was much harder. I tried twice to abseil backwards down the big rock and then tried twice more to abseil forwards. I could feel my hands as well as my legs were shivery when I began to go down. I was not sure whether to keep going or give up. Everyone there encouraged me to go on and said I would achieve. I went on. After I arrived (at the bottom of the rock) I said I would try again because it was not as successful as I wanted it to be. I tried again; this time was better but still not perfect.

“There are miracles in life I must achieve, but first I know it starts inside of me.”

Everything is possible.

That is what I have learned from this special Sunday. I really enjoyed it and I hope more people will go and enjoy it too.”

Why Choose Homestay?

Homestay is a type of accommodation that is increasingly popular with international students. It provides the opportunity to live with people who are familiar with the local area and who can assist newly arrived students to become more comfortable with the place and the culture they now find themselves in. Probably the most important value of Homestay is being able to practise speaking and listening to English beyond the College classrooms.

Dinah Turner is the ISO Accommodation Officer. She ensures that all students live in clean, comfortable and safe homes and that they are well looked after. If students or Homestay hosts have any difficulties, Dinah assists them to find solutions.

Michel Julianto, who arrived from Indonesia in January, has lived in a wonderful Homestay this year. Here are some of his thoughts about the experience.

“Firstly I would like to introduce my Homestay family members. There is Russell Vladich ‘my Dad’, Kaye Vladich ‘my Mum’, their son and daughter Brad and Shelly, Cindy the dog, and last but not least, Jason, my fellow international student housemate.

I have been living at this Homestay for about 10 months now. I have learned and experienced a lot of things from learning Australian colloquial language to cooking on the gas barbecue. The first colloquial term I learned was ‘stubby holder’ and the most recent was ‘hard yakka’!

On the third weekend of living in Perth, we went crabbing in Mandurah. Before we actually went crabbing, ‘Dad’ taught me how to catch a crab by illustrating it in the water of our swimming pool.

On the day we caught only a few small crabs but couldn’t bring them home because they were under-sized. We instead surprised ‘Mum’ by buying six large crabs and telling her we caught them!

‘Dad’ also taught me how to BBQ and how to repair a motorbike.

By helping others I am learning.

Sometimes ‘Dad’ and ‘Mum’ take Jason and me to eat at different restaurants that include Indonesian and Italian. This means that I get to taste different types of dishes that I have not eaten before.

Both of my Homestay parents are very caring, especially ‘Mum’. Of course the most caring people in our lives are our natural parents, however I regard my Homestay parents as my God-parents.

I enjoy living and studying here in Western Australia because of the kind hospitality, generosity, care and friendliness I have experienced. I would like to thank the ISO staff members for their excellent care in meeting the needs of the international students.”

Michel Julianto
WOW, what a year 2003 has been in the ISO. It seems it was only January and now we are currently farewelling our 2003 Year 12 students. This time of the year there are mixed emotions based on bringing closure to the past year and the expectancy of new opportunities emerging on the horizon. Our Year 11 students are approaching the end of their teaching year and even our 15 Week Bridging students will soon have their mid-course break!

The year has demonstrated the remarkable academic talents of our Foundation and TEE students detailed elsewhere in the newsletter. I must commend two outstanding Foundation students. John Kinyanjui was our top student overall in the Foundation Program and he was the top Chemistry student at Tuart College. Another outstanding achievement was attained by Gong Yi Fei, who won prizes as the top student in the College across three subjects (Accounting, Applicable Mathematics and Calculus). Our top TEE student, Stuart Molloy, also was an academic prize-winner for Ancient History and Geography. It is important also to highlight that five of our students were awarded the prestigious Engineers Australia Award. This was a magnificent achievement and a tribute to the effort of these students and their teachers. The students were Brent Bush, Wong Yu Jhyn, Daniel Wright, Yeap Poh Hon and Zhang Zi Wen.

While it is appropriate to acknowledge such outstanding achievement, I also want to congratulate all our Year 12 students for the effort and commitment they demonstrated to their studies during the year. We wish them every success for their exam results and they carry our best wishes as they continue to pursue their life’s dreams beyond Tuart College.

The success of all our students is not easily achieved. The year brought its share of ups and downs: all the usual problems of missing family; cultural differences; ebbs and flows of friendships and relationships; worries about managing money; fitting in part-time work; family crisis far away at home; pressures of study and high expectations and hopes. All these challenges mixed together with the wonderful opportunities and excitement of study abroad in our fantastic city of Perth!

Working in partnership with our students has been the dedicated and talented staff of the ISO. It brings me great pride to see how committed they are to all our students, whatever their needs! Our efforts are frequently commented on by the students and their appreciations motivate us to work all the harder on their behalf. We are both fortunate and honoured to be part of their lives!

While most might think that academic success is the primary achievement for our students, we may risk missing a far greater treasure that our students gain by studying with us at Tuart College. My understanding of Tuart crystalised as a relative newcomer to the College on the day of the Valedictory Ceremony and our own ISO Graduation Dinner. It demonstrated the wonderful contribution our overseas students provide to the College by broadening our understanding of the world. They in turn are supported by being recognised and applauded as valued members of the wider Tuart community. The Graduation Dinner brought into focus the warm and enduring friendship and camaraderie formed by our students. Our distinguished guests commented that one could not help but be inspired within a troubled world by the fact that our students from across the globe could display such unity and a sense of real community, sharing in and celebrating the joy of each other’s success. They depart with a life changing experience they will always treasure.

In closing, I wish all of our students and colleagues a relaxing holiday and look forward to welcoming our returning students back to a productive year in 2004. See you then!

Dave Hults
ISO Manager
Orientation - a most valuable experience!

Both the July and September/October orientations provided an important opportunity for newly arrived students to familiarise themselves with new surroundings, new expectations, new educational requirements and new friends. The days of orientation were busy and the activities were varied. The aim to give students an idea of what to expect when classes began and of how to find their way in the College and in Perth was achieved and has resulted in most students settling in well to their studies.

The value gained from attending orientation cannot be overstated!