CELEBRATING OUR 20th Year of International Education

DECEMBER 2006

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From the Principal’s Desk

City to Surf

The annual Activ Foundations City to Surf fundraiser was held on a beautiful, fine, warm Sunday in late August. Thousands of people participate, either by running or walking the 12 kilometres from Perth city to City Beach. Once again Sandy Taylor, one of the ESL Department’s teachers, arranged for some of her students - and their friends - to assist with one of the many tasks that are required for the event to be successful. This year they were based in the city. The photos here show the popularity of the City to Surf and also the fun that even the volunteers have without ever making it to the surf.

The 2006 College year is over for all of the WAUFP and TEE students and all the international Bridging students except those enrolled in the 15 Week program. The College’s 2006 international program was very successful due to a wonderful group of young people from many countries who enrolled in the various College courses, the dedicated, hard-working staff in the International Student Office and the committed and expert teaching staff in the College.

For the international students who were in the Bridging programs, the College is looking forward to their return to take-up their further studies in the College with enthusiasm, commitment and, ultimately, success. They will have the advantage of having settled into their studies in the College and to living in Perth, so they should be looking forward to achieving their educational goals with confidence and to enjoying their experiences living in another culture.

The Graduation Dinner that was held in early November was a great highlight for the international students who were undertaking Year 12 studies in 2006. The evening provided the opportunity to acknowledge the academic success of the group, and the special achievement of individuals who had performed outstandingly. The evening was also a joyous event as staff and students relived many wonderful and funny memories of the time the group spent in the College. The whole evening was capped off by a wonderful valedictory address from Zhang Fan, better known to us all as Oliver. I am sure that the 2006 international graduates from Tuart College will look back at their friendships, experiences and studies in the College with pleasure.

The College is looking forward to a new group of international students commencing their programs in late January 2007 who will be joining those international students returning to the College. On behalf of the staff, I would like to congratulate all the international students on the progress they have made with their education and personal growth in 2006. They have been a credit to themselves, their parents and families and to the College. I wish those moving onto university every possible success and look forward to seeing our returning international students back in the College on 2 February 2007.

Best wishes and good luck to you all.

John Anderton
Principal
Friendship & support create healthy competition

Three students completed the TEE Program this year, and two of them were among the award winners at Graduation Dinner. The other four award winners had studied the WAUF Program, which remains the popular choice for international students in Year 12. It is interesting to note that all six of the overall top international student achievers lived at Tuart Mews in 2006. All six were also scholarship recipients. Obviously they are talented students – but they are also thoughtful, caring and well adjusted young adults. They have worked together and helped each other and been genuinely pleased for each other’s success. In fact, this encouragement and support has been apparent across the Year 12 international student body this year. Even though only six students could be acknowledged as ‘top students’, so many of the Year 12 students of 2006 achieved their own successes.

They have been persistent in their efforts to overcome the difficulties of being educated in a language that is not their first language and have earned themselves some really pleasing results. At the Valedictory Ceremony (an event that acknowledged the achievements of all of the College’s students, both local and international) held in the College on 3rd November, six international students received awards for being the best student in a Year 12 subject and two received the Institute of Engineers Australia Outstanding Achievement Award because they scored at least 75% in Applicable Mathematics, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics. These students were from Malaysia, China, Zambia and the Netherlands. The College wishes all of the 2006 Year 12 international students success and happiness in the future.

Top TEE Students

1st Place
Student Name: Miss Tan Wei Ling
Country: West Malaysia (ASA)

2nd Place
Student Name: Mr Zhang Fan
Country: PRC

Foundation Program

1st Place
Student Name: Miss Priya Bharat Patel
Country: Zambia (DALP Consultancy)

2nd Place
Student Name: Miss Diana Seah Peck Wean
Country: West Malaysia (Studylink)

3rd Place
Student Name: Miss Yong Ching Ling
Country: West Malaysia (Studylink)

4th Place
Student Name: Miss Elizabeth Ma Lee Ching
Country: East Malaysia (MMS)

Subject Award Winners

English as a Second Language
Miss Diana Seah Peck Wean

English Language & Australian Cultural Studies
Mr Zhang Fan

Chemistry
Miss Priya Bharat Patel

Human Biology
Miss Priya Bharat Patel

Information Systems
Mr Mwansa Mwango

Ancient History
Mr Shamil Ibragimov

INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA, OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Miss Elizabeth Ma Lee Ching
Miss Yong Ching Ling
Graduation - a time for looking back and looking forward

The 2006 Graduation Dinner was a balance of elegance and individuality. The occasion revealed how much the students support each other and how they have grown in confidence during their time at Tuart. The boys and girls had shopped together for their outfits and chosen individually stylish dresses, ties & suits; and the girls had done each other’s hair and make-up – and everyone of them looked fantastic!

The evening, however, was not just about appearances. It also provided the opportunity to reflect on 2006. Some of the reflection was prompted by the guest speakers – but some came about as students and staff talked with each other and remembered events of the past 10 months or more. Many of the staff members commented that they enjoyed the Graduation Dinner as much as the students did because the students were happy to spend time with their teachers and vice versa, as both realised and appreciated the efforts of the other.

The Guest of Honour and Chairperson of the Tuart College Advisory Board, Dr Norm Hoffman, spoke about traveling in Canada in order to bring into focus starting points and destinations. He helped his audience understand that where we start from will often make the destination easier to reach – and concluded that Tuart College is an excellent starting point for international students, as it can lead them to any number of desirable destinations.

The student guest speaker, Zhang Fan (Oliver), spoke of the friendships he has formed and the skills he has developed at Tuart. Not only has he been successful academically, but he has also become the ‘resident cook’ in his Tuart Mews home, making many dishes that satisfy his housemates and neighbours. It was easy to see the confidence that Oliver has gained since he began his Bridging studies here in January 2005, as he humorously told of admiring his female neighbours and of trying to convince his Maths teacher that he deserved 2 extra marks so that he could be the top Applicable Maths student as well as the top Calculus student!

Priya Patel was acknowledged as being the top international student for 2006. She was given a cheque for $250 from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in recognition of her achievement. This year the cheque was presented by Dr Norm Hoffman, as Bryan Hughes, who normally makes the presentation, was unable to attend our function.

The evening was not just about what has been, however. The students are also looking forward to what the future will bring – further study, new friends (but also continued contact with old friends), new destinations. They know, too, that their time at Tuart will be more than just a memory, because it has played a part in the development of who they are now.
Graduation - a time for looking back and looking forward

Dr Hoffman

Oliver
This afternoon I spent an hour talking to the Flying Start students about their program for next year in 2007. As they plan their course for next year, they have been called upon to consider what courses they might like to do at university and indeed what their possible careers will be when they finish university. That way, they can ensure that they have taken the right subjects to lead them on their way to success.

After working at Tuart College for a few years, you soon grow to understand and appreciate the ‘ebb and flow’ of students. Like the tides, we have new arrivals, while we also deal with those about to leave us to enter the next stage of life’s journey. The interesting thing is that we are arranging the new arrivals while at the same time arranging for the departure of our graduates.

On Friday 3rd November, the College celebrated the 2006 Valedictory — that is the formal graduation of our class of 2006, which included our international students. Later that day, in the evening, the international students shifted to the Parmelia Hilton for a gala graduation dinner to join together, perhaps for the last time as a group, to celebrate the hard work and success of the year. It was an occasion that brings great pride to our hearts. The students also enjoyed the evening as a very special event in their lives. The evening and its success are shown on pages 4 & 5 in the newsletter.

In closing that night, I drew the attention of the students to those we needed to thank. At these events, there are always those we need to remember and thank for their efforts that made it all possible or happen. It was my pleasure to also remind the students that they must especially thank their parents. It was their parents who had the faith and funds to commit to their son’s or daughter’s study in Australia.

Having just finished their examinations, I am confident that the investment will pay rich rewards as the Class of 2006 go on to future challenges. They carry with them our hope for success and the confidence that we have ably assisted them on their journey.

This time of the year is a time when the College year draws to a close. In Australia, our thinking shifts to the holiday season associated with Christmas and New Year. For us, it is a time of relaxation with families, reflection on the year, resolutions for the future and the hope for a better world for all.

One great joy of working in the International Student Office is to observe how our students from so many places and cultures can live harmoniously with each other and in fact can actively help each other in the day-to-day reality of life. My wish for the New Year is that the rest of the world might learn from these wonderful students.

Many thanks for your support and trust in 2006. We look forward to a wonderful 2007 here at Tuart College.

David Hults
Manager, ISO
Bernice Fong

Bernice came to Tuart from Kuching in East Malaysia. She was a cheerful, dedicated and talented student who was the top student in both ELACS and Human Biology and finished the year as the second top student of the WAUF Program. She was quickly accepted into Commerce and Law at the University of Melbourne. These are her reflections on her time at Tuart.

"I was a WAUF student at Tuart College in 2001. When the College asked if I would contribute to the newsletter to mark the 20th year of international students at the College, I did not hesitate. It was a small request considering the fantastic year that I had at the College and in Perth. Finishing school and leaving home is not a small step by any means and I attended a number of education fairs and met representatives of schools and colleges in Australia as well as in England before finally deciding on Tuart College. Besides having classmates who were applying to come to Tuart, I got the impression that the college was a friendly place, and I relished the opportunity to meet both international and local students. I was not disappointed. The academic and administrative staff at Tuart were always very warm and approachable. I felt that I could talk to my lecturers about personal issues, and that they cared about my well-being and personal growth, not just what I could achieve in class. Studies aside, the weather was beautiful for most of the year, and this was one of the reasons why I chose to come to Australia (Perth, in particular) over England. There was also the opportunity to meet many students from Australia and abroad, and I learnt a bit about the various nationalities and cultures that are represented at Tuart. Being one of very few girls who played basketball, I was welcomed by the male players and encouraged by the sports coordinator, so I never felt intimidated or out of place. The city itself is beautiful and clean, and its people friendly. The easy access to the CBD and Northbridge from Tuart Hill certainly did not discourage us from regular trips into the city to shop, eat and play! My year in Perth held me in good stead for what was to come in the near future: I did not just have strong academic results in the end (I worked hard, but it is also testimony to the quality of the lecturers at the college); I had also developed better social and intercultural skills that helped me settle into life at the University of Melbourne much quicker than I might have otherwise, as the university and indeed, the city, has a very multicultural population. Currently in my final semester of a double degree in Commerce and Law, I hold fond memories of my time at Tuart College and in Perth. I congratulate the College on two decades of a successful program for international students, and hope that many more students will benefit from the program in years to come.”

Bernice has become an ‘Aussie’ at heart. She now follows Australian Rules Football (her team is St Kilda) and is hoping to become a permanent resident. She’s a great ambassador for Kuching and Tuart – and, no doubt, for Melbourne as well.

When the Chinese Consul General came to Tuart

In August, Tuart College had the privilege of hosting a visit from Mr Li Shugang, the Chinese Consul General in Perth, who was accompanied by a member of the consul staff, Mr Her. Whilst at the College, Mr Li was taken on a tour of the College and had lunch before meeting some of the Chinese students currently studying in the Year 11 and Year 12 programs. He had particularly requested to meet with the students so that he could inform them of the assistance that the consul can give them and answer any questions they might have. The students enjoyed being able to talk with Mr Li. He was also introduced to Miss Yang Yang and Mr Zhang Fan (Oliver), who were awarded partial scholarships for their 2006 studies based on their dedication and success in the 40 Week Bridging Program in 2005. They have both continued to work hard and achieve pleasing results in Year 12 and are role models for other students, especially the Chinese, who see what can be achieved with effort.
Guddy Bahirwani

Guddy completed the 18 Week Bridging Program in 2000 and then chose the TEE Program in 2001. She was always friendly, conscientious and delightful, was the top Year 12 Indonesian Advanced student in her year and achieved a highly creditable TER that allowed her to pursue her goal of studying Commerce at Curtin University. This is what she wrote recently.

"I came to Perth in 2000 as an international student from Indonesia. I did the Bridging course and Year 12 TEE at Tuart College. I chose Perth as my destination because I would get to experience a different culture, whilst still relatively close to home. Perth is also resident to some of the most reputable education providers in Australia, and of course, it is a beautiful and a very pleasant city. For me, Perth was definitely 'love at first sight'.

Upon my first arrival in Perth, I was quite nervous and overwhelmed. I wasn't sure of what to expect and I also experienced a bit of a culture shock, which apparently, is quite normal. However, within a few days, I became more excited than ever to start my journey as a student at Tuart College.

Tuart has a friendly atmosphere and offers a very supportive environment. The teachers and staff were extremely helpful and very accommodating towards students' needs. They made me feel welcomed and enabled me to view Perth as my home away from home and its people as my 'adopted' family.

My experience at Tuart provided me with a strong foundation to embark on my next journey as a university student. My experience in Australia as a student has been nothing short of amazing. I recently completed my Masters degree and obtained a position as an Accountant at a telecommunication firm in Perth. I am hoping to start my Chartered Accounting qualification next year.

My advice to prospective international students is to be prepared for a major change in your life. Things are going to be quite different from the way they are at home; but be excited, as you are about to start a positive and challenging journey. I must admit that things can be a little overwhelming at first and it is very normal to feel homesick, but it would be wise not to dwell on it for too long. Enjoy your time as a student and make the most of every opportunity that comes along. Finally, utilise all the resources made available to you. All the best!"

Guddy's new employment is keeping her very busy. She is enjoying the challenges and looking forward to continuing her life in Australia.