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By the time you are reading this newsletter the College will have completed another successful year for both local and international students. As in previous years, the two groups have worked together harmoniously, both in their studies and extra-curricular activities. The College is proud of its long involvement with international students, and looks forward to it continuing for many years to come.

The international students enrolled in the TEE and standard WAUFP programs completed their final examinations at the end of November. Based on their assessments throughout the year and their final College examinations, the majority of them should achieve good results in their final examinations.

The 17 students enrolled in the Fast-Track WAUFP this year have again proved to be an enthusiastic, hard-working and delightful group of students. There is something special about each year’s Fast-Track group.

The College’s Valedictory Ceremony was again a highlight of the year. Marco Brenna, an international student from Switzerland, received a number of awards. His academic achievements were the most outstanding from the good group of international students graduating in 2004.

The International Students’ Graduation was a highlight of a very successful and, hopefully, enjoyable year for international students in the College. Not only was the evening a wonderfully celebratory affair but it also gave the international students the opportunity to showcase their talents and also it provided an opportunity for their achievements to be recognised by the staff and their peers. It was obvious at this happy event that the students had not only made great progress academically but had developed a maturity and confidence that will be of great value to them for the rest of their lives. The College is very proud of them all.

Mr Bryan Hughes, a Manager with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and a member of the College Board, used TUART as an acronym to present a students’, staff and personal view of the best features of the College. The students seemed to really appreciate his input to the evening’s entertainment.

Another highlight of the graduation evening was the address from James Joo on behalf of the students. His presentation was stimulating and delightful and most appreciated by the students and staff who acclaimed his speech with enthusiastic applause.

The College also had a large group of students enrolled in its various Bridging programs. Most of these students completed their courses in early December. Students in these programs have been improving their level of English language skills and/or upgrading their academic backgrounds so that they can undertake either the TEE or WAUFP in 2005. They have also progressed well academically, and successfully settled into studying and living in Australia. They should all be looking forward to achieving good results in the TEE or WAUFP in 2005.

While the College has continued to upgrade its facilities and services for students in 2004, it was disappointing that the planned extensions and refurbishment of the Student Service Centre, which includes the International Students’ Office (ISO), did not commence this year as planned. However, the project will start in June 2005 and result in more extensive and comfortable surroundings for all students, particularly for students and staff using the new ISO facilities.

The College has made big advances in the study material available to students on the Student Web. Students can now access the wide range of study support materials on the Student Web from the many computer stations around the College and from their home computers. This has greatly improved the learning environment in the College, particularly in the area of e-learning.

We are now looking forward to an influx of new international students for 2005. No matter which program international students enrol in they can be assured that the College will provide them with the highest possible standard of education and personal support, as the College is totally committed to providing quality educational opportunities to students from other countries.

Best wishes to you all.

John Anderton
Principal
Meet our Top Students for 2004

Once again this year, most of the College’s Year 12 international students chose to study the WAUF Program. In fact, only four international students completed the TEE in 2004. This meant that it was decided not to acknowledge individual students in the separate programs of TEE and Foundation, but instead to make awards to the top five international students regardless of their program. This year, all five were studying in the WAUF.

Unfortunately, one of the top five students was unable to attend the Graduation Dinner, at which the awards were presented, because he was ill. Fortunately however, he has been well enough to complete his exams and hence we were able to get an impromptu photo of him to be printed on this page.

This year’s award winners came from varied nationalities and will go on to study in varied areas in the future. All have been successful because, despite living in another country and culture, they have adapted to their new environment and committed themselves to their studies. In this way, all of the international students have experienced some success simply by completing their course. We therefore congratulate all of our students on the achievements they have made.

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN 2004

1st Place  
Mr Marco Brenna  
Switzerland

2nd Place  
Mr Yong Linn Zhian  
West Malaysia

3rd Place  
Mr Wang Yun  
PRC

4th Place  
Miss Loh Xin Hui  
Malaysia

5th Place  
Mr James Yek Hui Na  
East Malaysia

### SUBJECT AWARD WINNER

Mr Marco Brenna  
English Language and Australian Cultural Studies  
Chemistry  
Physics

### Fast-Track

This year 17 students enrolled in the Fast-Track Foundation Program. They came from China, Indonesia, Malawi, Malaysia, Kenya, Korea, Singapore and Zambia. Even in such a short time, they formed some strong friendships from which they gained the support and the encouragement they needed to cope with the pace and the hard work required of their course. They were an enthusiastic and dedicated group of students who now eagerly await their results and the university options they will lead to.
Graduation Dinner

As you look at the photos on these two pages it will be clearly apparent to you that this year’s Graduation Dinner for the International Students was a wonderful occasion, enjoyed by all.

The students not only looked fantastic, but clearly showed their enjoyment at being in a beautiful setting for a special event. From the moment they arrived, there were cameras flashing as they captured each other – and often themselves – with various friends and teachers.

The Guest of Honour was Mr Bryan Hughes. Bryan has been a guest at four previous Graduation Dinners and at each one has presented an award from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to the top Foundation and TEE students. This year he generously agreed to also present the keynote speech to the students. He spoke to the students about words that came to mind when one thought of the letters that make up the word TUART, and offered a range of possibilities to both delight and inspire his audience.

Other guests included Mrs Lilian Nkhoma, an agent for some of our African students, Mr William Chi, an agent for some of our Chinese students, and Dr Norm Hoffman, the Chairperson of the Tuart College Advisory Board.

The recipient of the top student award – and hence the Commonwealth Bank award for $250 – was Marco Brenna. Marco gave an impromptu speech to thank his lecturers for their teaching and support and also to thank his fellow students for the competition they provided that further motivated him to achieve his best.

As the evening came to an end, many of the students found themselves reluctant to leave, knowing that their time together as a group was almost over. They will go their separate ways in the future as they pursue their different goals – but they will take with them many memories, including those of a wonderful Graduation Dinner.
James Joo Jin Jian was selected to be the 2004 Valedictorian. He spoke with great sincerity about the support he had been given at Tuart by the ISO, his lecturers and his friends, especially those who had lived at Tuart Mews. His speech also reflected on some lighter moments of the year, something that his audience appreciated.

A special part of the evening came when a presentation was made to Jean and Ray Tissington, who have been the caretakers at Tuart Mews for the past 4 years. Unfortunately, they are leaving the Mews at the end of this year in order to take up new challenges. They have been absolutely wonderful in their role at The Mews and have given all the students who have come into their care practical advice, helpful guidance and loving support. They will be greatly missed. Yung Ka Wai (Kelvin), who has lived at The Mews since September 2003, was chosen to present a gift on behalf of the ISO to Jean and Ray.

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2004 — almost over but not forgotten

As we approach the close of the academic year and the holiday season of Christmas and New Year, it is an exciting time within the ISO. It is a time of looking back over the past year and looking forward to the possibilities of the New Year. It is also a very busy time for us, even though much of the College is winding down for holidays.

As I write, many of our students are completing their final examinations. I can assure readers that the College has done everything possible to maximize the success enjoyed by each of our students.

The formal closing of the academic program took place at the ISO Graduation held at the Parmelia Hilton. It was a wonderful night of celebration. To the parents of our students, you would have been extremely proud of each and every one of them on that evening! On behalf of the College community, I express our congratulations to Marco Brenna, our Dux, and our thanks to James Joo for his wonderful valedictory address.

Now is a time of expectation and hope as students wait to hear on their university offers. For example, one of our very talented students is to have her interview for enrollment into Dentistry at UWA. As one program comes to an end, it provides exciting and challenging opportunities for the future.

On a personal level, this year I have had the opportunity to visit a number of countries: Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. These visits have allowed me to meet with a number of our agents and to ensure that we can work closely as a team to look after our clients more effectively. It also often provides a chance to meet parents and broaden my understanding of their expectations and hopes for their sons and daughters.

Within the western world, the Christmas season is a time to wish for peace in the world. One of the great joys is seeing how our students representing a diversity of nations, races and religions can not only work harmoniously, but actually work to assist each other. Truly inspirational!

It is an appropriate opportunity for me to express thanks to my colleagues in the ISO – Ann, Dinah, Joy, Peta and Robyn. As the people responsible for the welfare and achievements of our overseas students, they bring a true dedication to their job that demonstrates their genuine care and concern for our ISO students.

To our students who now leave us, they go with our best wishes for their future in the wider world beyond Tuart College. To those returning next year, we hope you have a relaxing holiday and enjoy the company of family and friends.

Dave Hults
ISO Manager
Since the last International Newsletter was published, we have held two more orientations – one in July for the Fast-Track and 18 Week Bridging students and the other in October for the 15 Week Bridging students. Both orientations provided the students with a range of activities aimed to help them adjust as smoothly as possible into their new lives in Perth. Activities included coming to Tuart College each morning and learning about its courses and facilities and what is required to be a successful student, hearing guest speakers talk about what the health care cover provides and also the Perth transport system, opening bank accounts, exploring the local shopping centre where most students will shop and visiting some tourist attractions like Kings Park, Fremantle and Tumbulgum Farm.

It is really important for students to attend orientation as, apart from the information it provides, it allows the opportunity to make friends who will help them through the rest of their time at the College – and even beyond.
At least once a year, the ISO organises a Homestay Hosts’ Evening. This allows the hosts the opportunity to meet others who, like them, are opening their homes and their lives to international students. They can learn from each other through sharing their successes and their frustrations and by asking questions of each other. These evenings also provide the ISO with a chance to update the hosts on any changes that are made either by the College or by DIMIA in order to improve the services that are offered to international students. Here’s what some of the hosts said at the most recent homestay evening.

John & Donna – “The Host Family Night gave us more empathy for our student as we learnt more about the course he is doing and where it fits into his education. We felt we gained a better insight into his world through going to the College, meeting staff and the general discussion. All the Host families approach things differently, but a recurring theme was that communication with the student, College and host family can nip most issues that arise in the bud.”

Quoc & Ginne – “Being young ourselves, homestay involves earning trust and being a friend. Older people automatically get respect, so talking to other young homestay people helped us share experiences.”

Keila – “It was good to know other people have problems as well. The Host Night gave people a chance to meet other host families and the ISO staff.”

Each year in August, there is a ‘fun run’ from Perth city to the coast at City Beach. This is known as the ‘City to Surf’ and is a popular event that attracts many participants, some who are highly competitive and others who are just having fun. Along the 12 km route there are stations from which runners can get water to drink or simply to pour on themselves to help them cool down.

One of the ESL teachers at Tuart College, Sandy Taylor, has been a volunteer assistant for many years at this event. She has sometimes had help from some of her students and this year had eight students from ELACS and ESL join her. The morning was cool and the volunteers had to be up early, but as this photo indicates, it all provided a lot of fun.