TUART STUDENTS CONTINUE TO FLY HIGH

A GUEST FROM TIANJIN

JOHN ANDERTON, PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

ORIENTATION – A MULTI-CULTURAL EVENT

AND MUCH MORE...

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TUART COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009
The 2009 international students have settled well into their WAUFP, TEE or Bridging programs. Any problems encountered by individual students have been quickly and effectively addressed by the staff in the ISO. Early indications of classroom participation and performance suggest that the 2009 international students can look forward to academic success by the end of the year.

The reasons for the successful start to the year are many and include the following significant services and structures that exist in the College.

- The ISO staff provide an excellent orientation program which prepares international students to study and live successfully in a new culture. It also provides practical and sensitive on-going support throughout the students’ programs.
- The counselling and advising staff are experienced and sensitive to the needs of international students in terms of program and subject selection.
- The teaching staff are experts in their teaching areas which ensures international students of the highest quality teaching and learning opportunities.
- There is a whole range of extra support for international students both for extension and remediation through the optional tutorial program, the student web, the revision seminar program and one-to-one discussions between teachers and students.
- Excellent, flexible Bridging programs which provide the opportunity to develop English language skills and improve academic background.

While the prime objective of the College is to ensure that the international students achieve their educational goals, it also aims to make their study at Tuart College and in Perth an enjoyable and interesting experience which will help them grow into mature young adults who are capable of independent learning. The success of international students at Tuart College over the previous 22 years suggests that the College helps their international students achieve these outcomes. The 2009 group has taken the first step to follow in the footsteps of the previous students.

The results of the 2008 WAUFP and international TEE students were very satisfying as exemplified by the students achieving above State average for literacy through the ELACS subject. In addition there were a number of students who gained outstanding WAUFP results.

The College is also proud of the way it integrates the international students with the local students in classrooms to the mutual learning benefit of both groups. Both groups bring specific skills to the learning process and these help both groups become more successful learners. While the international students achieved good results in the WAUFP, their local peers achieved some outstanding results in the TEE. Five local students gained Tertiary Entrance Rankings (TERs) of greater than 99 which was an outstanding performance, and ranked the College sixth amongst Government secondary schools in the State.

The College is looking forward to similar outstanding academic achievements from the 2009 international and local students.

John Anderton
Principal

>> INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

This year the ISO has introduced another way of recognising the achievement of international students. The International Student of the Month Award is not necessarily given for academic achievement, but may also recognise personal achievement, or a contribution made to sport, the community or the College in general. Each month one of the students will receive this award, which is displayed in the main foyer of the ISO.

The inaugural recipient was Miss Minas Proctor. During the January Orientation, Minas was a willing and active participant in all activities. She also included and encouraged other students who responded instantly to her friendly manner.

The March recipient was Mr Nguyen Ho Nghiem who was acknowledged for his excellent attitude to his work and his willingness to follow the advice of his lecturers, often completing extra tasks in order to improve his English – and his results.

John Anderton
Principal
In 2008, Tuart College students again performed admirably. Their excellent results have meant that they are now continuing on their education pathways, studying courses such as Optometry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Advanced Science, Law, Engineering and Commerce. The list below shows only the top fifteen students and their highly commendable results. There were, of course, many others who also studied hard and achieved results of which they can be proud. They too are studying at quality universities both in Perth and other Australian capital cities.

This year the staff in the ISO have had some wonderful visits and emails from last year’s Year 12 students. All have been very pleased to tell us where they will study this year and all have thanked their teachers for all the support, encouragement and excellent teaching they gave that has enabled the students to fly high. We wish them well and look forward to following their progress as they continue their studies.

TOP FOUNDATION STUDENTS

Student Name: Ms Meera Ruparelia
Country: Kenya
CPS: 97.3
Placement 2008: Curtin – Pharmacy

Student Name: Mr Rizwan Hussain
Country: Malaysia
CPS: 95.4
Placement 2008: UWA – Advanced Science

Student Name: Ms Lee Pei Ying
Country: Malaysia
CPS: 95
Placement 2008: Uni of Melbourne – Optometry

Student Name: Mr Li Rui
Country: PRC
CPS: 92.7
Placement 2008: Uni of Melbourne – Engineering

Student Name: Ms Onn Wan Sing
Country: Brunei
CPS: 90
Placement 2008: Uni of Queensland – Pharmacy

Student Name: Ms Sharene Chong
Country: Malaysia
CPS: 88.1
Placement 2008: UTAS – Medicine

Student Name: Ms Mak Wing Yin
Country: Hong Kong
CPS: 87.3
Placement 2008: Not for publication

Student Name: Mr Quentin Gallot
Country: France
CPS: 86.1
Placement 2008: Curtin – Physiotherapy

Student Name: Ms Nguyen Diem
Country: Vietnam
CPS: 84.9
Placement 2008: Curtin – Pharmacy

Student Name: Ms Lu Xin
Country: PRC
CPS: 84.6
Placement 2008: UWA – Commerce

Student Name: Mr Zhang Fan
Country: PRC
CPS: 84.3
Placement 2008: ANU – Medical Science

Student Name: Ms Nguyen Diep
Country: Vietnam
CPS: 81.8
Placement 2008: Curtin – Pharmacy

Student Name: Ms Jessica Lesmana
Country: Indonesia
CPS: 77.1
Placement 2008: La Trobe University

Student Name: Ms Hong Kah Yan
Country: Malaysia
CPS: 76.8
Placement 2008: UTAS – Commerce

Student Name: Ms Lee Kim How
Country: Malaysia
CPS: 76.8
Placement 2008: UWA – Engineering
The 2009 January Orientation brought together students from very diverse cultural backgrounds. There were French, Iraqi, Malaysian, Chinese, Vietnamese, American, Singaporean, Indonesian and Burmese students who all mixed together, shared their experiences and formed almost instant friendships.

The students met at Tuart College on a warm Sunday afternoon and after a few introductions and form completion, they were treated to a welcoming Australian barbecue of sausages, steak, marinated chicken, grilled vegetables, salads – and a pavlova style dessert! The delicious food was prepared in Tuart’s refectory – as were the morning teas and lunches for the rest of the orientation. The students ate well and appreciated the variety of food they were offered each day.

The orientation program provided information sessions held at Tuart College in the mornings and outings to different places in Perth in the afternoons. The morning ‘lessons’ allowed the students to learn about course and subject details, enrolment, how to be successful, public transport, overseas health cover and living in a different country away from family. The afternoons were spent at places like the local shopping centre where they opened bank accounts, Murdoch University where they toured the campus and saw engineering activities and the veterinary science area, and Fremantle where they shopped and then ate fish and chips and ice-creams.

The group stayed at Rotary Residential College, which offered safe and secure accommodation with a range of recreational activities from board games to table tennis and snooker.

One of the highlights of the week was the annual January bush dance. The students were able to meet students from other colleges, learn new dances, expend lots of energy, laugh – and have lots of fun!

As always happens, the orientation week resulted in students looking forward to their studies at Tuart College because they had been able to make new friends, get to know the ISO staff and have an understanding of what their new school and ‘home’ would offer them. They are now comfortably settled into their programs and coping well with the routine of life and study in Perth.
A SUCCESSFUL MULTI-CULTURAL EVENT
There has been a great deal written in the last six months about the global financial crisis. The international education sector in Australia has been waiting anxiously to see how these hard economic times would impact upon student enrolments. Initially it appears that parents are taking the view that a quality education must take first priority to secure the future of their children.

It is useful to reflect upon the reasons why it is more important for students to be well educated in times of economic crisis and lower employment opportunities. An international education provides a number of advantages which cannot be overlooked in this period of financial gloom. I believe that Tuart College can add value to the advantages that are realized when a student completes their education overseas.

Studying alongside others from a variety of nations, and different cultural backgrounds provides a ‘world view’ for students. At Tuart College we are proud of the great diversity that exists in the nationalities of our students, with no single group representing more than 30% of our total international population. This cultural diversity provides a great opportunity for students of Tuart College to develop their English language skills to a high degree. As international students are integrated with Australian students in their academic classes at Tuart College, they are immersed in an environment where English is not only the language of instruction, but the language that is used by all students in classes to communicate. This goes a long way to help rapid development of English language skills.

The development of a high degree of independence is another outcome of an international education. When I look back at the international students I have had the pleasure to teach and administer during my career, I can think of many cases where they have developed good problem solving skills and have acted in mature manner as an outcome of having to think for themselves. This life skill certainly places students at a great advantage during their university studies and when they begin their careers. Our adult ethos promotes further development of this feature by encouraging independent learning.

I have great admiration for our international students who leave their homes and families and must go through a great period of adjustment in all aspects of their lives to become successful. I am sure that this period of adjustment and the changes that international students must make in their lives puts them at an advantage in the longer term.

It is clear that the parents of our current student group maintain a view that a good education is of paramount importance to the future of their sons and daughters, particularly in these tough economic times. I concur with this view and would continue to recommend Tuart College as an institution which provides excellent standards of tuition and student support, along with high class facilities to help our students gain a competitive edge in a very competitive world.

Phil Levitzke
ISO Manager

Some readers may already be aware that Tuart College’s Principal, Mr John Anderton, was named the Western Australian Department of Education & Training’s Principal of the Year, 2008.

The prestigious award recognises Mr Anderton’s skill in handling the complex management task of leading a college such as Tuart, which offers programs and support facilities for both local and international students who are looking to further their education and realise new opportunities in their lives. The task is a diverse and difficult one, and he has been acknowledged for how well he accomplishes it.

“At the end of the day, what really matters is that we send these students away having had a good educational experience, having achieved the best that they can, having become independent learners and having gained control of their lives,” John said when interviewed about his award.

The award is one of the highlights of John’s career, and is not only an honour for our Principal, but for the College as well.
Yang Yang

Yang Yang began her studies at Tuart College in 2005 in the Year 11 Bridging program. She showed commitment and dedication to her studies and earned herself a partial scholarship from the Western Australian Department of Education and Training for her Year 12 studies. Again she had another very successful year and was the third top international student, with a CPS of 93.2, when the final results were released. The ISO staff and Yang’s Tuart College lecturers always enjoy her return visits. Her thoughts follow here:

“I am Yang Yang. I came to Perth from China over four years ago, and that is one of the best things that ever happened in my life. I love the country, the people, the weather, the food, the life style. After completing an ELICOS course in Perth, I spent two years at Tuart College doing Year 11 and 12. In my final year I did Calculus, Applicable Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and ELACS – and I am currently in my third year of Civil Engineering at UWA.

Life is pretty good at the moment. I am getting Distinctions and High Distinctions for my uni reports, I have a part-time job, I worked in an engineering company in my second year of uni – and I found a place to live which is only 10 minutes away from the campus (and where I can put my photos on the wall!). I have also met a bunch of awesome, exciting people at uni. I joined UWA Rowing Club this semester and absolutely love it! I have to get up at 5am three times a week to train, but just being able to watch the stunning view before sunrise is already an amazing reward. I am also planning to do volunteer work for Freedom Centre, as I believe that everyone has equal rights to be happy. There is a lot on my plate right now, but I am enjoying it all.

However, life is not just about fun. I work hard too, for myself, my family and friends and everyone that I care about deeply. I do not have wealthy parents, but I have the best you could ever ask for. As their only child, I am simply so grateful and proud to be brought into our family. I understand that it is not easy for my parents to work hard so they can send me here studying. I try my best to help. Everything I have got by now, I worked for.

Many people wish for a harmonious life; but unfortunately it does not work in that way. In my first year of uni, I went through a lot of difficult times. Nobody saw when I sat in front of the computer for hours trying to figure out who I was and what I wanted in life. Life is not easy, so the best we can do is accept this fact and try to make everything work. We need to look forward, have a plan in our life and remember to enjoy the process of achieving our goals.

Looking back, the experience I had at Tuart College is especially unforgettable and valuable. It helped me build the foundation of my Australian life. The friendships I have gained are so precious – and I still go back every now and then to annoy everyone! Growing up is a process; there are a lot of things we have to go through in order to understand life, and even ourselves, better. It is nice that Tuart College is a part of my life.”

MMS Visit

Recently Tan Soh Har, the Executive Director of MMS, East Malaysia, spent some time in Perth and was able to include a visit to Tuart College in her schedule. She met with the Vice Principal, Ian Hanger, the ISO Manager, Phil Levitzke, and the students that have been assisted by MMS to study at Tuart this year. Soh Har enjoyed meeting the students and hearing how they have settled into their studies and life in Perth. She also offered them useful advice and encouraged them to make the most of opportunities that will be presented this year. The students appreciated talking to her as they shared morning tea together.
In November 2007 one of our ESL teachers, Ms Jacki Caldwell, visited Tianjin No. 21 Middle School, with which Tuart College has a sister school agreement. While in Tianjin, Jacki was able to exchange teaching ideas with the English staff, teach a number of classes and sample a little of life in China. She had a wonderful and memorable experience. Our Principal, Mr John Anderton, accompanied by Mrs Li Ping Wilson who is one of the College’s agents, also visited the school during the latter part of 2008.

These visits were so successful that in mid-February 2009, Tuart College was very pleased to host a reciprocal visit from Mr Dong Le Tao, an English teacher from the same Tianjin school.

Mr Dong spent two weeks in Perth. Each day at Tuart he had the opportunity to work with members of the ESL Department both in their office and in the classrooms and hence was able to see how English is taught to both local and international students. He also met with various other staff members, some of whom explained how the College operates and others who accompanied Mr Dong on outings. He visited some other government schools, went to King’s Park, had a river cruise to Fremantle, walked on the beach at Cottesloe and paddled in the Indian Ocean, was taken to the Swan Valley for some sight-seeing – and managed to shop for gifts to take home as well! Mr Dong enjoyed exploring the city and finding different places to sample Australian-Chinese food.

The staff at Tuart College was delighted to spend time with Mr Dong and to learn a little about Tianjin. It is hoped that there will be more exchanges of staff and also a student study tour in the future.