Recognition of Excellence
Graduation Dinner
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Agents’ Visits
Another successful academic year will have been completed by the time you receive this newsletter. The Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program (WAUFP) exams and Tertiary Entrance Examinations (TEE) and Bridging students, except for those in the 15-week Bridging program, will have completed their studies and, in most cases, returned home to be with their families and friends over the Christmas/summer vacation period.

The College will be closed for about two weeks over the Christmas/Western New Year period to allow a short break for the International Student Office (ISO) staff, the clerical staff and Management. It will also give the hard-working 15-week Bridging students some vacation time before they recommence their studies in early January 2010.

The academic progress and performance of the 2009 Standard, April Start and Fast-Track WAUFP students and the few students studying Year 12 TEE indicates that they should have performed well in their final examinations. Based on their Semester Two trial examinations, most students should be looking forward to achieving the scores they need to gain entry to their chosen university program at their preferred university.

The College had a memorable Valedictory Ceremony on 30 October to conclude the Year 12 teaching program and acknowledge students with high academic achievement. The international students were well represented at this event, winning ten subject awards for top student. The following international students received awards: Guan Zhiyuan for Applicable Mathematics, Calculus, Computer Science and Economics, Arina Hanis Roni for ELACS and Human Biology, Devid Gunawan Saputra for Accounting, Tony Knight for Applied Information Technology, Nicholas Ang Qi Hao for EAL/D and Nguyen Tram Tram for French. In addition two international students, Chen Qianke and Hiu Zhan Yuan, received awards from Engineers Australia Western Australia Division for gaining an average of 75% or better in Applicable Mathematics, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics.

The International Graduation Dinner was its usual success with the international students dressing up to make it a spectacular event. The top student in the WAUFP was Wang Xinyi. The top TEE student was Guan Zhiyuan who is to be congratulated on his outstanding results and for the delightful address he gave to those at the Dinner on behalf of the international graduates of 2009.

The other highlights of the graduation evening were the presentation by Tuart College Advisory Board member, Mr Suresh Rajan, the Executive Officer of the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia, and the staff and students who danced happily and enthusiastically until midnight.

The staff of the College is sad to farewell the 2009 WAUFP and TEE students but know they will continue their academic success as they begin university studies in 2010. It has been a pleasure to have them study at Tuart College. They are delightful young men and women.

2009 is the 23rd year Tuart College has been providing courses to assist international students to achieve their goal of a place in an Australian university. The College is looking forward to the return of the 2009 Bridging students to start their WAUFP or WACE studies in February 2010, our 24th year.

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Tuart College International Student Program and wish them all the best for 2010.

Ian Hanger
Acting Principal

>> INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Mr Le Ngan Thinh (Jimmy) received the September International Student of the Month Award because of his commitment and determination to achieve to the best of his abilities. His smiling face and excellent work ethic have made him a well liked student who, we are sure, will continue to be successful in his university studies next year.

The October recipient, Mr Guan Zhiyuan (Stanley), was another popular choice. During his time at Tuart College, Stanley has shown exemplary attitudes in all aspects of his student life. He is a very capable student, seeking always to improve his performance and attain the highest possible marks. He is highly respected by both his teachers and fellow students, and looks forward to further challenges when he enters university in 2010.

November’s International Student of the Month, Miss Dang Thanh Giang (Katy), is a highly motivated student who sets herself high standards of academic achievement. She has worked in an enthusiastic and industrious manner during class and has also applied herself to tasks in a conscientious way out of the classroom in order to develop independent learning skills. She will continue her studies at Tuart College next year in the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program.
This year’s Valedictory Ceremony, at which the talent of Tuart College’s 2009 students was highlighted, was a wonderful occasion. While the ceremony acknowledged high academic achievement, it also congratulated those who may not have won prizes but who stayed focused, successfully completed the year of study and are now looking ahead to achieving their next goal. Both local and international students featured in the awards and clearly showed that the Tuart model of teaching creates healthy competition and great camaraderie within the student body. International students were the top performers in French, Computer Science, Applied Information Technology, English as an Additional Language/Dialect, English Language and Australian Cultural Studies, Calculus, Applicable Mathematics, Human Biology, Accounting and Economics, and were also given awards from the Institute of Engineers, Australia, the Institute of Chartered Accountants and Edith Cowan University.

The International Student Graduation Dinner was held in the evening and celebrated the achievements of all international students. Many students worked consistently throughout the year and achieved excellent results – but only five were given commemorative trophies for being the most successful in English and three other academic subjects.

The 2009 graduating students have been a lovely group of young people who have helped each other throughout the year to cope with the ups and downs of student life. Some of the students began their studies at Tuart College last year in the Bridging programs, while others joined the College in January, April or June of this year. All have matured and become more independent since their arrival and all will take with them many things they have learned at Tuart College.

The Tuart College staff wishes them every success for the future.
The Graduation Dinner provided the students – and staff – with the perfect occasion to dress up, show their style and have fun.

The Guest of Honour was Mr Suresh Rajan, Executive Officer, Ethnic Communities’ Council of Western Australia. Suresh spoke about multiculturalism and encouraged his audience to look beyond the stereotypes that are often applied to people by the media and others. Another message was to recognise that Australia is a country where anyone can do any job – that there are no restrictions on what we can and can’t do. The speech was entertaining and thought-provoking and appreciated.

The 2009 International Student Valedictorian was Mr Guan Zhiyuan, known as Stanley to his friends and teachers. Stanley made mention of the horizons that had been widened in coming to Australia and the friendships that had been made, and reminded...
his fellow students to be proud of their achievements as they look ahead to their future.

Not only was Stanley the valedictorian, he was also the top international student for the year. Part of this recognition came in the form of a cheque from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, which this year was presented by International Student Office Adviser, Mrs Robyn Stevens.

Once the formalities were over, some of the students showed their dancing abilities while others were happy to watch. The staff heard some new music and learned some new dance moves – and enjoyed the chance to see the students having fun in a very different environment. The ‘colour’ of the clothing may have been black – but the mood at Graduation Dinner was more like a rainbow!
The students who had been enrolled in the Bridging programs during 2009 were invited to attend the graduation ceremony in late November. International and local students, many of whom will study a Year 12 program in 2010, were congratulated on their achievements. Four of the students, who were chosen to represent the whole group, spoke about the help they’d received from their teachers and the positive experience they’d had this year. Six international students – Miss Chang Ying, Mr He Longsu, Miss Huo Qingxiu, Miss Ji Jing, Miss Pham Kim Nhung and Mr Xiao Chchuan – received the Certificate III. This is quite an achievement as it requires that students earn Level 3 in ESL as well as Level 3 in at least two academic subjects, such as Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biological Science, Commerce, Economics, Information Systems. We congratulate these students and all other international students who studied at Tuart College in 2009.

As you are aware, the majority of our graduating students in 2009 completed the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program (WAUFP) which is specially designed for international students. A small group of students chose to study the Tertiary Entrance Examination (TEE). Due to changes in the Western Australian education system the TEE is to be replaced in 2010 by the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). The WACE will have the same recognition as the TEE and assessments in this course will produce an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). This ranking system will be used by all Australian states from 2010 onwards. It is important to note that the conditions for graduating in the WACE are quite complex and that students contemplating enrolling in the program will be given comprehensive advice prior to doing so. Generally speaking, the majority of international students will be better served by completing the WAUFP.

I would like to join the Principal, Mr Ian Hanger, in passing my congratulations to those students who received awards at both the Tuart College Valedictory Ceremony and the International Students’ Graduation Dinner. I am sure that they will build upon the strong educational foundation that has been provided by Tuart College and continue to make excellent progress in their university studies.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to all those people who have helped our students continue in their academic journey in 2009. The entire staff of Tuart College deserve recognition for the support and advice they provide to our international students. Our extensive network of education agents who are always willing to help and give information also deserve mention. Finally I would like to acknowledge the parents of our students who put their trust in Tuart College to nurture their sons and daughters on their pathway to a global education.

Phil Levitzke
ISO Manager
Throughout the latter part of the year we have been fortunate to welcome a number of overseas agents to Tuart College. We would like to thank the agents from the Middle East, the principals from Bali, the mixed groups of agents from Kenya, Hong Kong, India, Thailand, Mauritius, Indonesia and Malaysia for visiting Tuart. Each group has been impressed by the College's staff and facilities and has enjoyed meeting some of the College's international students.

We look forward to further developing our working relationship with these agents and to welcoming them back to the College in the future.

The 15 Week Bridging Program Orientation was attended by a small group of students who were instantly friendly and enthusiastic. They enjoyed getting to know the ISO staff and each other, and also enjoyed the outings. Each evening the group were taken to a different restaurant, tasting food from Italy, Korea and Vietnam – and ate everything put in front of them! Day visits to Hillary’s Boat Harbour, Perth Zoo and Fremantle provided a balance with the classroom work which involved such things as learning about their program, College practices, Immigration regulations and the study habits they should adopt.

Since Orientation, other students have joined the program and all have made a good start to their studies at Tuart College.
Tuart College is aware of the importance of assisting students to gain information about future study options so that good decisions can be made when applying to universities. One of the ways in which this is done is through the annual Education Expo held in the College in August. Students are able to talk to representatives from each of the Western Australian public universities and also some of the TAFEs about courses, entry requirements, employment opportunities and so on.

Of course, students are also given individual assistance by the ISO. Prior to applying to the universities, many students will talk to one of our staff members about what courses involve, or how to complete their forms, or what will happen when their final results are available.

The ISO enjoys this interaction with the students and being able to help them.

>> CITY TO SURF

This year a record breaking 38,800 participants took part in the 35th annual City to Surf for Activ on Sunday 30 August 2009. Once again, some of Tuart College’s staff and students volunteered to be part of the event.

Judy Smith, Head of the ESL Department, completed the full 12 kilometre distance from Perth city to the surf at City Beach, while Chris Lowson, one of the ESL teachers, walked the 4 kilometres from Perry Lakes to City Beach with four international students – Varun Agarwal, Hiu Zhan Yuan, Tang Tung and Tran Chi Hung.

Sandy Taylor, who works with Judy and Chris, organised a large band of volunteers to work at the clothing collection point in the city. These students were all really glad that they left their beds early on a Sunday morning in order to join in a community event that they had not experienced before.