INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

CELEBRATING OUR 20th Year of International Education

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New ISO Is Even More Welcoming

Tuart College has a new International Students Office.

The existing Student Services building (where the old ISO was located) has been re-designed and added to. Even though the ISO moved into its new premises in mid-January, renovations continued on around us for another two months. In mid-March all was ready for the other occupants of Student Services to move in as well. Three of the Deputy Principals are now located in the Student Services building, along with the Counsellor and the clerical staff who provide wonderful assistance to all students and their parents.

The ISO staff moved into new, spacious, modern, well-equipped offices in January. This has helped the staff provide even better services for the international students in a really comfortable and professional environment.

All international students received their interim reports at the end of Term 1. These reports brought good news for the majority of the group, and the ISO staff have moved quickly to assist any students who are struggling with any aspect of their studies. This support has helped most of the students who had been experiencing difficulties to overcome their problems. The constant monitoring of student performance and the high level of professional advice and support provided by all areas of the College are of an extremely high calibre and help students achieve excellent results.

The performance of the 2005 international students in the Foundation and TEE programs was excellent, indeed it was even better than the good results of the 2004 group. The international students performed above the State average in many subjects. The staff were delighted with the performance of the 2005 group and are looking for at least as good results from this year’s Foundation and TEE students.

The College has continued to improve the teaching and learning environment for students so that they have every opportunity to achieve the best possible results. The Library has been refurbished and restructured to make it an even more effective learning area with greater ICT facilities to assist students in their studies. In addition more computers have been added to all classrooms and a number now have state-of-the-art electronic smartboards to assist teaching and learning. The College’s student web has continued to expand to include a large amount of educational material that students can use for remedial or enrichment purposes.

I hope that all the College’s 2006 international students have a successful, interesting and enjoyable year, and that they achieve the results which will allow them to gain entry to the tertiary education program of their choice.

John Anderton
Principal
One of the reasons that the ISO staff look forward to the beginning of the academic year is that a number of last year’s students contact us to tell us which university courses they have chosen for themselves while our office has been closed over Christmas and New Year. Some students email as soon as they get their results, while others wait until they are returning to Perth and then either email or visit us at the College. Some of the students are really just passing through Perth on their way to other states or territories in Australia. As the information below indicates, UWA has again been a popular choice with our top students. While we think it’s wonderful that so many students continue their studies in WA, it’s also pleasing to see that others are ready for a change of climate and scenery.

Studying at ANU in Australia’s capital city Canberra will no doubt be something that Hii Lu Hao will enjoy very much. Two of the students in our ‘Foundation Top 10’ studied in the Fast-Track Foundation Program. This means that they began their program in July and sat their final exams in early December, making their achievement highly commendable. If the results of the Foundation students listed below were converted to a TER (the ranking system used for local and international TEE students) they would show these students to be in the top 2% of all those who sat university entrance exams in WA last year.

We are confident that our students will continue their efforts and be rewarded in their chosen tertiary studies.

### Top TEE Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CPS</th>
<th>Placement 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mark Liew Wenjian</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>Curtin - Physiotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tran Thi Hoang</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>UWA - Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Zhu Wei</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>UWA - Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Loh Wey Yen</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>94.5</td>
<td>Murdoch - Vet Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Hii Lu Hao</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>ANU - Actuarial Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top Foundation Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CPS</th>
<th>Placement 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Chang Hui Yi</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>USA - Physiotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Myint Khin Sandi</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>UWA - Commerce/Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Lim Bay Gie</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>Curtin - Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Lim Pei Nie</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td>UWA - Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Fabian Yeo Eng Liang</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>UWA - Sports Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Chen Yi Sho</td>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hard work leads to a variety of options.
The January Orientation was attended by a wonderful group of students. They were friendly and enthusiastic - and at times also very patient and understanding. As the College still had extensions being built and equipment being upgraded in the Library, some of the things that had been planned were either delayed or didn’t eventuate. The students took it all in their stride and just coped with whatever actually happened.

Most mornings the students spent in the College, finding where all the College facilities are located, completing tests, learning about their new programs and enrolling in them, and also gaining information about regulations relating to their visas. ‘After College’ the students had the opportunity to see a few other places in Perth. They visited AQWA and saw sharks and stingrays, corals and jellyfish, starfish and seals. They also visited Murdoch University and, as they walked around the campus, they enjoyed the blend of natural bush setting and formal gardens as they also explored the veterinary science museum, the law court and the media production facilities. On other occasions they opened their ANZ bank accounts at the local shopping centre, where many will do their weekly shopping - and also went to a larger shopping centre where the Tuart Mews residents were able to purchase bedding and other, larger household items.

Australia Day also occurred during Orientation Week. As it is a public holiday, most businesses, offices and shops were closed. The students began this day with an energetic walk from their hotel to the Barrack Street Jetty and then boarded a ferry and sailed down the Swan River to Fremantle. The E-Shed Markets were open, as were a number of coffee shops and restaurants, so the students were able to experience a little of Fremantle - but will need to return on a more normal day so that they can enjoy Fremantle as it should be enjoyed. They later went to Cottesloe Beach for ice-cream and/or a paddle in the water just as the sea-breeze began to be felt, and then stopped at the Subiaco Markets for yet another chance to shop.

The evening Bush Dance was probably the highlight of the week. The students combined with other international students at Trinity College (one of UWA’s residential colleges) to learn some Australian bush dances which involved lots of energy and lots of laughing - and resulted in some very tired people the following day!

Orientation allowed the students to form friendships and familiarize themselves (at least a little) with their new city. Because of it, settling into College routines has been much easier for most - if not all - of them.
Sundowner ’06
On a balmy Friday evening in early April, a sundowner for Tuart students was held at the Perth Dinghy Sailing Club, Matilda Bay near UWA. The venue was beautifully decorated with opalescent balloons and tea-lights. There was a range of activities that students could participate in, such as twister, limbo, hula-hoops, dancing to a hip-hop band and, later, dancing to music from the DJ. The caterers from the College Refectory provided some delicious finger-food and there were also plenty of soft drinks. The students who attended had a great time.
The year 2006 is a time to celebrate. Tuart College is in its 20th year of teaching international students.

While recruiting for Tuart began in 1986, the first international students began at the College in 1987. There were 65 students that year, all studying the Tertiary Entrance Examination (TEE) Program, the year-long matriculation program by which local students gain entry to university. Most of these students came from Malaysia and Singapore, with Hong Kong and Indonesia also being well represented.

It soon became apparent that many students required additional preparatory English language tuition before they could be taught other subjects in English. Thus a variety of preparatory courses of different durations were added to the courses available to international students. These courses, which varied in length from 4 to 18 weeks, were called Entry Course for Australian Academic Studies (ECAAS). Currently these courses are known as Bridging Programs and cater for the English language and academic upgrading needs of students entering the College at a variety of times during the year. Because of them, students are able to progress to Year 12 courses with much greater confidence and chance of success.

In 1993 Tuart College enrolled its first group of students in the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program. 51 students chose this program that year, while 72 preferred the TEE Program. The bulk of the students continued to come from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong. The Foundation Program, as it is more commonly known, has grown in popularity since that time and is now chosen by almost all of the Year 12 international students. Its popularity is largely due to the fact that students need to study fewer subjects, there are fewer regulations on subject choice, results and tertiary offers are notified within a few weeks of the completion of the final examinations, the score required to enter university courses is set the previous year so students know what they must achieve, and the program is more appropriate to the academic and cultural backgrounds of international students.

In some years we have had a large number of international students and in other years the number has been smaller. The reasons for this have included the changing value of some currencies against the Australian dollar, the development of more on-shore opportunities in some countries and the difficulty of obtaining visas in some countries. However, throughout such changes, the College has remained committed to international education, continually looking for new ways in which to best support and provide for international students. With each group of students that have studied at the College, we have met wonderful people who have enriched our lives as we hope we have enriched theirs.

Where Are They Now?

Ferry Rustandi

Ferry came to Tuart College from Bandung, Indonesia, in November 1997, joining the 8 Week ECAAS Program. After completing that program, he enrolled in the WAUF choosing to study ELACS, Applicable Mathematics, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics. He had his sights set on Chemical Engineering and, consequently, was a dedicated and diligent student who impressed all his teachers and the ISO staff because of his work ethic and quiet, unassuming personality. At the College Valedictory Ceremony in November 1998, Ferry was the top WAUF student overall, and was also the top ELACS and Calculus student. He also earned a Certificate of Excellence from the Institute of Engineers, Australia, for outstanding achievement, meaning that he scored 75% or higher in both of his maths and both of his science subjects.

When the final WAUF results for 1998 were published, Ferry was the top student from all of the Colleges with a Combined Percentage Score of 92.4. He quickly received offers from all of the universities, including a part scholarship from one, but because of his desire to study Chemical Engineering he accepted Curtin University’s offer and began studying there in 1999. He completed his degree and is now working towards a PhD in Chemical Engineering, giving his attention to combustion of bio-maths.

While Ferry’s family still live in Bandung, he became a permanent resident of Australia in 2004. He aims to become a researcher at Curtin once he has completed his post-graduate studies, and remains pleased with his chosen area of study. He remembers Tuart College as an enjoyable, positive experience. His WAUF studies not only helped him get to Curtin in the first place, but also helped him cope with undergraduate first year as the knowledge he had gained in Calculus, Chemistry and Physics was invaluable to survival.
This edition of the Tuart International Newsletter has been published a little earlier than usual because we are publishing at least one extra edition this year to allow us the opportunity to focus on celebrating 20 years of International Education at Tuart College.

As I write, I am about to fly out to East Malaysia on a marketing trip. These trips provide an excellent insight into the hopes and aspirations of both students and parents. In some cases, parents see the education of their children as a major investment for the family. In other cases, there is the recognition that within an increasingly competitive global economy, today’s students must clearly have ‘an edge - and advantage’ over the competition.

International Education provides both of these. In many cases we know that students find their experiences to be life transforming, often providing a unique opportunity for the student to grow from being a dependant child to a young adult with a new array of life skills. These life skills are the basic ‘know how’ of living and are often critical in determining success and failure in life.

My colleagues in the ISO share a common interest in working alongside our students to realise their ambitions and those of the family. In most cases, it is a truly rewarding experience. In a few instances, it is exceptionally challenging because the students’ hopes do not mesh with the present realities. Usually there is a successful outcome based on the fact that reality generally wins over fantasy.

For us, the fruition comes with the student being able to move on to the next stage of their dream and commence their undergraduate studies at university. In some instances, we are able to celebrate that triumph in the company of the student and their family when the family visits to ensure the student is settled into their new course. We recently had such a case with one of our delightful students, Sanji, who is now studying Civil Engineering at the University of Western Australia. Her efforts and success were a priceless, special moment to share with her family and remind us of how fortunate we are to be doing what we are doing!

David Hults
Manager, ISO

ISO Managers – Past and Present

During our 20 years there have been just three ISO Managers - Tony de Gruchy, Joy Boothman and David Hults.

Tony was the first manager and under his guidance and enthusiasm the international program developed within a market hungry for the opportunities education in Perth could offer. Tony remained the manager from 1987 until January 2002, when he decided the time was right for him to take on new challenges elsewhere. He is remembered fondly by many of our past students. When they come to visit Tuart again, sometimes after many years away from formal education and Perth, they always ask after him and wish to be remembered to him.

Joy was the acting manager in 2002. She worked tirelessly throughout the year, introducing new systems and practices to better serve our changing clientele and to meet the new policies being put in place by the Department of Education and Training and other bodies with an interest in international education. Joy contributed a great deal to the ISO in her short time as manager and, since returning to her previous role in the College as Head of the Personal Development Department, has continued to support the international students and staff whenever she can.

David is our most recent manager, officially taking on the position in January 2003. His own experiences as an international student, a parent, a teacher and an administrator have all contributed to the way he has seemingly so easily taken on his new role. He has continually demonstrated his patience, enthusiasm and compassion, along with his willingness to go beyond his job description to help a student in need, his energetic promotion of the College, and his ability to work with the many different organisations who regulate international education in Western Australia.

The care, nurture and support that is provided to our international students today is the direct result of the professionalism of all of our managers - past and present.
Hoang, who comes from Vietnam and lives with his aunt in Perth, began his studies at Tuart College in 2004. He entered the 40 Week Bridging Program, completing two excellent semesters of work. He rarely missed a class and truly impressed his teachers with his commitment to learning, his willingness to help others and his academic ability. In 2005 he enrolled in the WAUF Program, studying ELACS, Applicable Mathematics, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics. Once again, his teachers found him to be focused and hard working. He managed his time well, finding a balance between the demands of being a successful student and also working in his aunt’s restaurant. Clearly proving his ability is the fact that Hoang scored an A in every subject and was second top WAUF student based on College assessment for the year. He was also awarded an Institute of Engineers Australia, Outstanding Achievement Award.

After the final external WAUF examinations, Hoang earned a Combined Percentage Score of 95.2, which made him Tuart's equal second top WAUF student for the year. He has chosen to study Civil Engineering at UWA.

Hoang said that there were many differences between the schools in Vietnam and Tuart. At Tuart, classes are smaller so the teachers can pay more attention to each student. They are also easier to approach to ask about things you don’t understand. There is quite a lot of laboratory work with good experiments in the science subjects and the Library is a nice, quiet place to study, find resources or even send an email to friends. Another good place to relax is the gym, where Hoang played sports such as badminton, ping pong, soccer and basketball with his friends.

Tuart taught him to be able to work independently which he is finding a very important thing to be able to do at uni. While he is unsure of his future beyond completing his degree, he says that he intends to study hard in order to find a good career so that he can repay the hardship of his parents and family.

He believes that being an international student has a lot of advantages. You can enjoy a new environment and freedom and can make new friends from different nationalities. At the same time however, studying in a new country means you need to be ready to accept new concepts and have an open mind as a lot of things, like culture and food, will be different from your own country.