TUART COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER
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At the end of Term 1, the 2008 international students appear to have settled very well into their studies at Tuart College, as well as living in Perth. The staff continue to be amazed at how well this current group of students have adapted to living in a new environment and coping with some of the different teaching and learning requirements of Australian education. The students should feel proud of their achievements. They are a credit to their families and their teachers in the schools from which they have come.

The few problems that the international students have encountered have been quickly addressed and resolved by the staff in the International Student Office (ISO). It is comforting to see that the international students have faith and confidence in the ISO staff and that they are willing to seek assistance from them.

All of the 2007 ISO staff are still there being guided by the Manager, Phil Levitzke, who is just starting his second year in the position. He brings his natural enthusiasm, professionalism and compassion for students to the position, as well as an ever increasing understanding of international education. He is ably supported by his two student advisors, Peta Parker and Robyn Stevens, as well as Chris Lowson who has recently joined the ISO to provide even more support for students.

As usual, the international students have been provided with very special care and assistance from Ann Bignell who has worked as administrative officer in the ISO since its inception in 1987. Dinah Turner continues to look after the students’ accommodation needs with diligence.

On the teaching front, the College has continued to expand the use of information technology in the classrooms. As a result, there are now at least two computers in every classroom with some normal classrooms having up to fourteen computers. Over half of the teaching rooms in the College now have multi-media-electronic whiteboards which provide state-of-the-art learning opportunities for the students. In addition, there are over thirty computers in the Library that students can use to access important learning websites, as well as keep in contact with their parents and friends via email. The College also has an extensive and readily accessible Student Web. This helps students with remediation, revision and enrichment in an on-line mode of learning.

The College’s facilities and services have continued to be upgraded so that students have not only an effective learning environment but also one which is attractive and pleasant, so as to make studying enjoyable.

The staff are looking forward with confidence to the current international students achieving excellent results so that they can move onto their desired degree program in their university of choice. The staff will continue to encourage the students to develop the skills and confidence that will make them independent learners who are well prepared to successfully undertake their tertiary studies.

John Anderton
Principal

>> RECENT VISITORS

Early in the year we had a number of visits from past students who decided to call in and share their news with us. We really enjoyed catching up with them and are always pleased to welcome back faces we know.

Chong Tze How (Alan) from East Malaysia, Yung Ka Wai (Kelvin) and Wong Ting Chak (Tony), both from Hong Kong, were all in the Year 12 WAUFP in 2004. Kelvin has recently graduated from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Commerce, Economics & Marketing. His parents came from Hong Kong for his graduation. Alan is in his final year of IT at Murdoch University and Tony is also continuing his studies in Perth.

William Cundawan and Budi Yudha, both from Indonesia, studied at Tuart College in 2006, William in Standard WAUFP and Budi in the Fast-Track program. William is now in his final year of Biomedicine at UWA (read more about him on the last page) and Budi is in the third year of his Mining Engineering degree and based in Kalgoorlie.

Yusof Nahrawi, from Singapore, was also in the 2005 Standard WAUFP. He is now studying Aviation at Edith Cowan University.
Tuart College students in 2007 achieved some outstanding results that have gained them places in some highly competitive courses at some of Australia’s top universities. As can be seen from the list below, there will be Tuart students studying Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science, as well as the ever popular Commerce and Engineering. The list shows only the top ten WAUPF students and the one international TEE student who also achieved highly commendable results. Unfortunately, there has not been enough space to list the achievements and destinations of all of the 2007 graduates, but it is important to state that many of those not named have achieved excellent results and will be studying their chosen course at their chosen university in 2008. A number of students have decided that it is time to leave Perth so that they can live in a bigger Australian city and study in one of the universities in the eastern states, such as the University of Melbourne and Macquarie University in Sydney. The graduates included students who had been at Tuart just for their Year 12 level studies in the WAUPF program, and also others who had completed one of Tuart’s Bridging programs before commencing Year 12 studies.

The staff of the ISO have enjoyed the visits that a number of last year’s students have made on their return to Perth. We’ve heard about wonderful holidays, the excitement of getting university offers and making decisions about which one to accept, and then looking forward to a new year in a new place. All of those who have returned have been excited about their futures and very thankful for the part that Tuart College has played. They have appreciated the expertise and willing assistance given by the teaching staff and have also commented on the support and encouragement given to them by the ISO.

By now, the students have all settled into their new courses and are dealing with the challenges of university lectures, tutorials, assignments and examinations. Their time at Tuart has given them valuable experience and skills that will ensure that their time at university is far more manageable.
The fourth week of January was a very warm one in Perth and it coincided with the orientation of our new students. Fortunately, Tuart College and Citigate Hotel (where the students spent most of their time) were both air-conditioned!

During the week, the students absorbed a lot of information. Some of it was to do with studying and being successful, some of it was to do with living in another place and culture, and some of it was to do with becoming more independent and self-sufficient.

As well as spending time in the College each day, the students also got to see other parts of Perth and participate in some other activities. Their outings included a trip to Fremantle where most had fish and chips for dinner, some time at Hillary’s Boat Harbour for an ice-cream and a look in the shops and cafes, and an afternoon at Karrinyup Shopping Centre to stock up on items needed for living at Tuart Mews and studying at the College.

The evenings were busy too. On one evening the students went to the Lake Monger Bowling Club to play lawn bowls and/or have a walk around the lake and see the swans and the ducks, and then have a sausage sizzle. Some of the students proved to be very competitive and thoroughly enjoyed participating in a different activity. On another evening the students went to the annual bush dance held at Trinity College. Once again, they were able to experience something new and have lots of fun at the same time. Even though the days were hot, the evenings were very pleasant and hence the outdoor activities, with their Australian flavour, were a good part of the week.

The January orientation was really successful. The students enjoyed themselves, made new friends and became more familiar with their new surroundings – all of which has made the start of the academic year much easier for them all.
As usual, the year is racing away with students having completed their orientation program in January, progressing through a period of settling in during first term, and now the WAJFP and TEE students preparing for their first semester examinations. Time ‘flies’ when you are having fun!

All students will have received their interim report during April which will act as a point of focus for the remainder of the academic year. The majority of students will have received reports which reflect their sound preparation, attentiveness and good work habits – keep up the good work. For those students who have received disappointing reports, it is now time to take action and use all the resources of the College and harness your efforts to make improvement.

It is pleasing to see the results of our highest ranking students from 2007 published in this newsletter. Most of these highly successful students shared a number of characteristics and, with the bulk of the College year ahead, it is an opportune time to reflect upon some of the features and techniques used by these students in attaining their academic success.

Firstly, most of these students have come to Tuart College with sound academic backgrounds from their country of origin and they have been able to match subjects studied at home with subjects offered at Tuart College. This is a simple, but important, factor in their success.

Another feature of these students was their realistic view of their academic standing and their academic goals. Without too many exceptions, these students had a clear view of their academic progress and whether it was sufficient to attain the university course they were aiming for. This is a critical factor in maintaining focus to achieve success.

Without exception, our successful students have 100% attendance, arrive at class on time and ensure that they don’t miss vital information by taking breaks during class.

Most successful students soon come to realise that they need to commit as much time out of class as they do in class to their studies. This is in order to complete summaries, revision and homework as well as prepare for assignments, tests and examinations. For some students, this may require adjustment as they are not used to an education system with an ongoing assessment system.

It is important that all students are made aware of the processes and procedures that they must follow in order for them to be as successful as possible. A major part of our role in the International Student Office is to do this. However, we do call upon education agents and the parents of students to assist us with this task by reinforcing the points outlined above.

You can rest assured that the staff of Tuart College will do everything in their power to ensure that their students are able to reach academic potential.

Phil Levitzke
ISO Manager

The ISO has a new addition to its staff. Chris Lowson began working in the ESL Department at Tuart College about twelve years ago. After some years of teaching both international and local students, Chris and his wife decided to live and work in the Middle East, spending five years in Qatar and one in Oman. On their return to Perth, Chris was welcomed back to Tuart College.

Chris enjoys traveling and has spent time in such regions as South East Asia, East Asia, Europe and Africa. He is looking forward to working with the international students and assisting them to make the most of their time at Tuart. He says that he is impressed with the courage of young people who leave home to live and study in another country where the culture and language are often very different. Even though he has only been in the ISO for a few weeks, he has already met a number of the students, chatted with them and assisted them with study strategies. Chris’s contributions will be a benefit to both the students and the staff in the College.
Jason Loh Jing Ren
2008 – Optometry at The University of Melbourne
2007 – CPS 95.6, the highest amongst Tuart’s international students.

Choo Jin Jin
2008 – Dentistry at The University of Western Australia
2007 – CPS 95.3, the second highest amongst Tuart’s international students.

Ng Thern Hooi
2008 – Commerce at The University of Western Australia
2007 – CPS 94, the third highest amongst Tuart’s international students

Loh Wey Mey
2008 – Medicine at The University of Western Australia
2007 – CPS 93.4

Yang Yi
2008 – Architecture at The University of Melbourne
2007 – CPS 92.2

Loh Wey Yin
2008 – Veterinary Science, Murdoch University
2007 – CPS 91
William Cundawan

“I am William Cundawan, from Indonesia. I studied the 15-Week Bridging program from October 2004 until January 2005 and then the Year 12 WAUFP from February to November 2005.

It was a wonderful and exciting experience for me being overseas for the first time. My first orientation in Perth with Tuart College is my best memory ever. Many people say Perth is a quiet and boring city, but for me and for many international students, Perth is the best place to study.

Tuart College helped me a lot to adapt to new things in a new environment. It gave me good accommodation with an Australian family, from whom I learned so many positive things about Australian life, such as egalitarianism, working with others and leading a healthy life through sport.

Tuart College was such an important platform for me before going to university. Through its professional advising and teaching staff, it gave me important basic knowledge in subjects that I wanted to study in more depth at uni. ELACS (English Language and Australian Cultural Studies), Chemistry, Human Biology and Physics that I studied at Tuart College have helped me a lot in my Biomedical Science study at UWA. I want to say again and again to Tuart College, my many thanks to you.

I really enjoy living in Perth. People are very friendly. They like to help each other as much as they possibly can. They respect each other. All these things are the reasons why Perth is the best place to study. I am now in the final year of my Biomedical Science degree and I also work as a casual staff member for Coles Express. I really enjoy my study and experiences of working with other people because of the wonderful and supportive conditions here in Perth and, in general, in Australia.

I advise prospective international students to choose Tuart College as a bridge to university. Tuart College will really give you wonderful experiences, a nice environment to study in and an opportunity to make a lot of friends – and surely it will give you first class teaching experiences from its professional staff who will really support and help you with your studies.”