This will be my last report in the international newsletter as I will have retired as Principal of Tuart College by the time you read this newsletter. The International Students Office (ISO) will advise you of the name of the new Principal as soon as the Department of Education (DOE) releases the information. He will take up the position of Principal of the College on 19 April this year.

It has been my pleasure over the last 11 years to report on the activities and successes of the international education program at the College, particularly as I have been involved in the program since the first group of fee-payment international students arrived in the College in 1987. It is interesting to note that in the 24 years that the College has enrolled international students about 2000 students from more than 20 countries, with the bulk of the students coming from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China and parts of Africa, have enrolled in the College, and in most cases successfully completed their courses so that they were able to enter the university or TAFE programs of their choice.

Along with all the staff at Tuart College, I am immensely proud of the quality of the education resources, services and care that have been, and still are provided to all international students. In return the achievements and the growth and maturity that the staff have seen in the international students has been a source of joy. The international students have been a credit to themselves and their families, and by their performance and behaviour have enhanced the reputation of the College.

The 2010 international students, like all over the previous 23 years, have settled in well to their academic studies, as well as coping with living in a new and different culture. The international students are spread over the WAUP, WACE and Bridging programs and appear to be coping well with their studies due to the professional approach of their teachers and the caring support they get from the ISO staff, in particular from Peta Parker and Phil Levitzke.

The international students will receive an interim report of their progress in the near future. Each student’s interim report will be carefully examined by the ISO staff, and students will be interviewed and assisted if any issues need to be addressed. Parents will receive a copy of the interim report as soon as it is available.

The results of the international students in the 2009 WAUPF and WACE were satisfying, with the majority of the students achieving the results required to enter their chosen tertiary program. The 2009 international students who undertook one of the College’s Bridging programs, successfully completed their programs which has ensured that they are well prepared to undertake their WAUPF or WACE studies in 2010.

The staff believe in and are proud of the way the College integrates the international students and the local students in the classrooms, which assists the learning experiences of both groups. Each group brings specific skills and experiences to the learning process that help both groups improve their academic performance, learning techniques and interpersonal skills, which are so important at the tertiary level of education.

The staff is again looking forward to a successful year in 2010 both for the international students and local students who are studying together in harmony and to the mutual benefit of each group.

John Anderton
Principal

AWARD CONTINUES IN 2010

In 2010, the ISO is continuing to recognise the achievement of international students through its International Student of the Month Award. This award is not given just for academic achievement, but may also recognise personal achievement such as improved performance and participation and excellent attendance. Each month one of the students will receive this award, which is displayed in the main foyer of the ISO.

The February 2010 recipient was Mr Stanley Teng Yang Yang. During the January Orientation, Stanley participated enthusiastically in the activities, including sharing his ideas in discussions and asking questions during information sessions that showed that he was listening and thinking. He was also thoughtful and friendly in his interaction with the other students. The ISO is sure that he will be a focused and highly successful Tuart College student.

The March recipient is Mr Truong Truong Quyen Sinh (Brandon), who is studying Pathway One (Intensive English) in the Year 11 Bridging Program. He has a winning smile, an outgoing personality and a good sense of humour. He also works well in class, completes his homework – and helps his sister and her husband in their delicatessen! He has made a commendable start to his studies at Tuart College.
The 2009 Tuart College international graduates were a diverse and talented group. While the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program (WAUFP) remained the popular choice of most of the students, an increased number from previous years chose the Tertiary Entrance Examination (TEE) Program. Students in both of these programs were amongst the top students in Western Australia and consequently they have gained places at some of Australia’s most prestigious universities. Students will be entering courses such as Actuarial Science, Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture, Engineering and Commerce.

The list below shows only the top sixteen 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 excellent universities both in Perth and other Australian capital cities.

The ISO would like to thank all the students from 2009 who have emailed or visited the College to thank their teachers and others at Tuart who helped them to improve their knowledge, grow in confidence and progress to tertiary studies. It has been a privilege to watch these students develop into mature young adults. We wish them well and look forward to following their journeys as they continue their studies.

**A NOTE ABOUT TER AND CPS**

Students who studied the 2009 TEE (known as Western Australian Certificate of Education – WACE – from 2010) received a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER). It is not an average. Instead, it is a number, calculated from the average of the scores of the best four academic subjects studied, which is used to rank students. The highest TER is 99.95 and means that students with this rank are in the top 0.05% of the Year 12 students in Western Australia.

The Combined Percentage Score (CPS), by which WAUFP students gain entry to university, is calculated from the average of the scores of the best three academic subjects that the student completes. The CPS is not converted to a TER for university entrance, however if it were, a CPS of 80 would convert to a TER of 97.

Therefore, it is worth noting that over 21% of Tuart College’s WAUFP students achieved scores that placed them in the top 3% of Year 12 students in Western Australia in 2009.
The January Orientation for 2010 began on a Wednesday this year in order to allow students to have an extra few days at home with their families and a few less days between the end of Orientation and the commencement of academic classes.

The students arrived at Tuart College for a 10.30am start. They were welcomed by the ISO staff and were soon getting to know each other through a variety of activities. The ice was broken – and friendships were beginning to form already.

For the next five days the students were kept quite busy. There were things they had to know, but there was also a lot of interacting, questioning, laughing, walking, eating, enjoying!

The students visited attractions such as The University of Western Australia where they walked and walked the campus, Caversham Wildlife Park where they fed kangaroos, and touched koalas and a wombat, Hillarys Boat Harbour where they had lunch and were able to shop, and Fremantle where they could have fish and chips and go to the markets. They also danced and danced at the annual CISWA Bush Dance evening and spent an evening in the city for late night shopping.

Even though they completed important tasks like enrolling in their chosen subjects, opening bank accounts and learning about Perth’s public transport system, the most valuable thing they gained was the opportunity to begin to ‘ease in’ to a different place with different people and different customs – and to do it with new friends.

Since Orientation, the students have settled into their accommodation, begun their classes and seem to be adjusting quickly to what is expected of them. Orientation worked its magic again!
In a recent eNews I informed education agents of a new phase in the relationship between Tuart and Canning Colleges brought about by a policy change of the Western Australian Department of Education. The Senior Colleges will retain their sister college relationship, however, we are now producing independent promotional materials and the frequency of our international marketing trips has been reduced. By working in different ways, we aim to continue to support the activities of our international partners in education.

As in the past, we will still be providing students with high quality, widely recognised education programs. Parents can be assured that, as a government institution with a history of close to 25 years of educating international students, Tuart College will continue to provide a safe and secure studying environment for their children.

Tuart College has a number of unique features which place it in a prime position as a destination for international students seeking a pathway to higher education. Presently less than 20% of our student population are on study visas. This means that both in and out of the classroom, the vast majority of students that international students will engage with will be local, Australian students. In addition, our international students are integrated into their academic subjects with local Australian students, giving them a great opportunity to develop their English language skills.

We have worked hard to maintain a high degree of diversity in the country of origin of our international students, with approximately one third of our students mainly come from the People’s Republic of China, and one quarter from Vietnam and one fifth from Malaysia. The remainder of the 2010 group mainly come from South East Asia, along with a number of African nations, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

As our April Start, 18 Week Bridging and Fast-Track programs come on stream; this mix of nationalities will increase. Again, this factor is important in helping to develop the English language skills of our international students, as more often than not, they are engaging in conversations with other students in English, rather than their native tongue.

The environment in which students study has a big impact on their chances of success. Recently, a number of our visiting international guests have commented on the beautifully kept grounds and the up-to-date facilities existing at the College, stating that these features provide a university, rather than a school-like, atmosphere. In addition, our location in a quiet residential suburb, close to all major facilities and transport routes, provides students with an excellent studying environment.

I am confident that the highly regarded position that Tuart College holds in the international education arena will be upheld as a result of the new direction the Education Department has planned for us. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel there is any way that I can act to strengthen our working relationship so that you can continue to promote our outstanding institution in the future.

On a personal note, I would like to express my gratitude to the outgoing Principal of the College, Mr John Anderton, for the support and guidance he has provided to the staff of the International Students’ Office. In many respects, John has been a pioneer in the schools sector of international education in Western Australia. Much of the success of the international programs at Tuart College can be traced to his hard work and tireless efforts. I will certainly miss his immense corporate knowledge and I wish him and his wife, Margaret, all the best for the future.

Phillip Levitzke

WA’S TOP COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT

Tuart College congratulates Guan Zhiyuan (Stanley) who was awarded the Curriculum Council’s Computer Science Award for being the top student in Western Australia in that subject in the 2009 Tertiary Entrance Examination program. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Stanley achieved a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) of 99.05 and will begin his studies for a Bachelor of Actuarial Science and a Bachelor of Finance at the Australian National University in Canberra this year.

Stanley, who comes from the city of Fuzhou in China, joined the Tuart College 18 Week Bridging program in July 2008, after completing an ELICOS course at PICE. From the very start it was obvious to all who came into contact with him that he is an exceptional young man. He had a clear picture of his future and quietly set about achieving his goals. His teachers all admired his work ethic, his contributions in class, his interest in his studies and his willingness to assist other students. As well, he found time to keep fit by cycling to College each day from his homestay – in all weathers!

The Tuart College staff extend their best wishes to Stanley for what they are sure will be a very bright future.
After more than 25 years at Tuart College, Mr John Anderton, who has been Principal for over ten years of that time, has decided to retire.

John joined the Tuart College staff in 1985 as Deputy Principal, Curriculum, a promotion from his position as Head of the Science Department at Balga SHS. In time he was further promoted to the position of Vice Principal and then, in October 1999, was selected to be our Principal.

John’s long association with international agents, students and their parents began in the late 80s. From that time until 1992, he travelled to all of the College’s major markets, such as Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Macau. Then marketing strategies changed, and marketers became responsible for specific markets. Indonesia became John’s market until 2000, but he also started visiting Singapore and Malaysia from 1999. Vietnam was added in 2002 and the Middle East in 2003. Over the years, John has made over seventy marketing visits, travelling in excess of one million kilometres and staying in over five hundred hotels! He has also been required to make over fifty train trips and numerous car journeys in his highly successful marketing for the College.

John has seen many changes in international marketing. Initially marketing involved meeting agents and conducting seminars, but as marketers and agents developed their knowledge and became more aware of their clients’ needs, other methods such as exhibitions and student interviews became more common. Diversifying strategies and catering to the particular requirements of each market, rather than making each market fit a single model, was recognised as essential, especially as competition to attract international students has increased. The highly professional way in which agents now operate has made a significant impression on John.

Some of the highlights of his involvement in international marketing include the excitement of being in new cultures, meeting new friends, learning how to promote the College’s programs, eating outstanding food in Malaysia and Vietnam, enjoying the coastline on a drive from Hue to Da Nang, experiencing Changi Airport and the overall organisation of Singapore, seeing the volcanic regions outside Surabaya and Bandung – and even drinking Bollinger champagne on some Singapore Airlines flights in the early 90s! John has also been impressed with the increasing English skills of many of the students he interviews in all countries, which are often better than their parents. The noticeable westernisation of the big cities in Asia may have had something to do with this, but John is not sure if it is such a good thing as with it there may be a loss of traditional culture. John’s regret is that he is not talented at learning languages and hence, in some countries in the early years, he had to rely on interpreters rather than develop his own skills in the local languages.

In retirement, John plans to take a break so that he can enjoy his three grandchildren and have time to do some of life’s mundane and personal things like relax with a coffee, watch more sport, read, exercise more regularly and improve his health.

John says that he couldn’t have accomplished the work he has done without the support of his wife, Margaret. She was able to travel with him on five of his overseas trips, doing the things that tourists do while he worked. These times are clearly part of the memories he will ponder in the future while he drinks his coffee.
Where Are They Now?

Prabjeet Kaur Sandhu

Prabjeet, her brother, Sukhdeep, and her sister, Parminder, have all studied the Fast-Track WAUF at Tuart College. Sukhdeep came to Perth first in 2002, then Prabjeet in 2006 and then Parminder in 2009. All proved themselves to be talented students who successfully gained entry to university – Sukhdeep and Prabjeet to Curtin to do Pharmacy and Parminder to UWA to do Medicine.

Read below what Prabjeet has to say about her time at Tuart College.

“I came from Kenya in June 2006 to start my Fast-Track course at Tuart College. Australia was my decided destination of study due to the positive recommendations that I got from my relatives living here in Perth, and my brother, who had also completed the same course at Tuart. Coming to Perth opened up many opportunities for a better and promising future in this multicultural country.

Tuart College has given me plenty of memories that I will always cherish. Orientation was a very good time of meeting the rest of my class mates. We carried out several activities together and were shown around Perth by the lovely ISO staff. It actually felt as if I was here for holidays rather than studies and it made it much easier to cope with the new people and environment in a new country away from home. In addition to this, when classes started, we had lots of fun during our ELACS excursions which were very interesting and meaningful. We even enjoyed picnics and barbeques that were organised by the Tuart staff. When it came to studies, the teachers went the extra mile to ensure that we got nothing but the best. They were always ready to help us whenever we had trouble understanding different concepts. Studying with students who had different backgrounds and were from different countries helped me to understand them better and have an open mind to the different cultures. This has also helped me a lot in university, as I am studying with people of different races and cultures as well.

After completing my Fast-Track course, I decided to pursue my career in Pharmacy at Curtin University.

To those intending to study at Tuart College, you will absolutely love and enjoy your experience and have no regrets whatsoever. You will learn a lot and make new friends. Even after Tuart you will find it is a small world, as you will end up meeting other students who also went to Tuart College and it will feel very good having a common background.

There will always be ups and downs in life that we should be prepared to face but we should never give up. There are times to enjoy and times that we should be serious with our studies. My advice is to take the extra step, try out something new and make a positive difference in your life.

I am currently studying, working and enjoying my life here in Perth. My experience and the time I spent at Tuart College have been invaluable and have played a major role in helping me reach where I am today.”