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DECEMBER 2005

International

NEWSLETTER
By the time you read this newsletter the 2005 WAUF and TEE international students will have completed their examinations and most will have returned home to family and friends to enjoy a well-deserved rest over the Christmas/New Year period where they will be waiting expectantly for their examination results and offers of places at university. I am sure that the majority of students will receive offers for their first-choice of university course, so there will be the excitement of returning to Perth or some other place in Australia to commence their university courses in February next year.

Except for the small group of hard working international students in the 15-week Bridging (ECAAS) program, all of the international students who were enrolled in the Year 11 Bridging programs will have completed their courses by the end of November. Most of them will have also returned home to be with family and friends for about six weeks before they return with refreshed and enthusiastic minds and bodies to begin their WAUF or TEE studies. I hope that all of these returning students had successful and enjoyable educational and social experiences in the College in 2005, and are looking forward to the educational challenges of 2006 with enthusiasm and confidence so as to ensure they achieve entrance to their first-choice university course in 2007.

2005 was a successful year for the College, particularly for the international and local students who were enrolled in the College’s Year 12 programs. By the end of September the students in the WAUF and TEE had covered the syllabuses in the various subjects they were studying. In the October vacation, the College introduced a new revision seminar program that was well received by all students and well patronized by the international students. At the start of Term 4 the students sat for the Semester 2 or trial examinations, followed by a comprehensive nine-day revision program called Marks Plus. Hopefully all the students were well prepared for their WAUF or TEE final examinations that began in November, and that this will be reflected in excellent results.

The College had a wonderful Valedictory Ceremony to conclude the Year 12 teaching program. International students were well represented at this occasion, winning seven subject awards. Their names and subject achievements are printed on the opposite page. In addition four international students received awards from the Institute of Engineers Australia.

Not only did the international students perform well academically but they also contributed to and participated in all aspects of College life, such as the College Ball, the recreation program and student activity days. The participation of the Fast-Track WAUF students in the City to Surf run and the volunteer work of some of the Bridging and Standard WAUF students in the same event are worthy of note as special efforts.

When the 2005 Bridging students return in February and the new international students arrive in the College in late January, they will see the International Students Office housed in a new, state-of-the-art office. This will help the College provide even better services to international students than it does now, in much more comfortable and professional surroundings. This will provide David Hults, Peta Parker, Robyn Stevens, Ann Bignell and Dinah Turner with an outstanding environment from which they will be able to support all international students. The international students will also notice that the excellent College Library has been further upgraded from the facility that underwent a major refurbishment in 2005.

On behalf of the staff I would like to congratulate all international students on the progress they have made with their education and personal development in 2005. They have been a credit to themselves, their parents and the College. I wish those who will be moving on from the College to commence their tertiary studies, all possible success, and I look forward to seeing all our returning international students in the College on 1 February next year.

Best wishes and good luck to all.

John Anderton
Principal

Scholarship Presentation

The presentation to the 2005 Western Australian Department of Education & Training scholarship winners was held in late May of this year (too late to be included in our June Newsletter). The presentation ceremony was held at Tuart College on a day that threatened rain, but all the outside photographs managed to be taken before the rain fell. Mr Jeff Gunningham, Managing Director of Education & Training International, gave an entertaining address and also presented the certificates acknowledging the students’ excellent academic achievement that had resulted in them gaining a scholarship to study in Western Australia. After the presentation, the students and other guests all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea.

We are pleased to note that many of the scholarship students were among those who achieved excellent results in their studies at Tuart College this year.
The international students achieved some truly wonderful successes in their studies at Tuart College in 2005. This was made clear at both the Valedictory Ceremony (an event that acknowledged the achievements of all of the College’s students, both local and international) and the Year 12 International Students’ Graduation Dinner, at which all students received a Certificate of Completion and the top students were given Western Australian jarrah plaques to commemorate their high academic achievement.

At the Valedictory Ceremony, eight international students received awards for being the best student in a Year 12 subject and four received the Institute of Engineers Australia Outstanding Achievement Award because they scored at least 75% in Applicable Mathematics, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics. These students were from Malaysia, Singapore, China and Vietnam.

At the Graduation Dinner, six students were acknowledged for their amazing academic achievement. Because only a very small number of students completed the TEE Program this year, only one student received a TEE Program award. The other five award winners had studied the WAUF Program, which remains the popular choice for international students. It is interesting to note that only 5.4 marks separated the six award recipients.

The College is not only very proud of these students but also of the many other students who have also worked hard all year and who have achieved results that will guarantee them a place at university. We wish all of the 2005 Year 12 international students success and happiness in the future.

### TEE PROGRAM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Miss Chang Hui Yii</td>
<td>East Malaysia (MMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Mr Tran Thien Hoang</td>
<td>Vietnam (IDP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Mr Loh Wey Yen</td>
<td>West Malaysia (ASA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Place</td>
<td>Mr Hii Lu Hao</td>
<td>East Malaysia (MMS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Place</td>
<td>Miss Zhu Wei</td>
<td>PRC</td>
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### FOUNDATION PROGRAM

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Mr Mark Liew Wen Jian</td>
<td>Singapore (IDP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Mr Tran Thien Hoang</td>
<td>Vietnam (IDP)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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### SUBJECT AWARD WINNERS

- **English As A Second Language**
  - Miss Chang Hui Yii
  - Miss Rowena Singkang Menjun Poh

- **English Language & Australian Cultural Studies**
  - Mr Loh Wey Yen
  - Miss Zhu Wei
  - Mr Hii Lu Hao

- **Calculus**
  - Miss Zhu Wei
  - Mr Hii Lu Hao

- **Applicable Mathematics**
  - Miss Lim Bay Gie
  - Miss Yan Geng

- **Chemistry**
  - Miss Lim Bay Gie

- **Physical Science**
  - Miss Yan Geng

- **Physics**
  - Mr Mark Liew Wen Jian

### INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA, OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Miss Chang Hui Yii
- Miss Zhu Wei
- Mr Tran Thien Hoang
- Mr Hii Lu Hao
Graduation Dinner

Sanjilitha Sivabalan

Jeff Gunningham

2005
The recent Graduation Dinner for the Year 12 international students was held at Rendezvous Observation City Hotel, located by the sea at Scarborough Beach. Those who arrived early were able to see the waves washing onto the shore as the sun set. It was quite a magical start to the evening.

The students all looked absolutely fantastic! Some wore national dress, while others bought new outfits (suits, shoes, shirts, dresses – everything in fact!) in order to make the occasion really special and memorable. Lots and lots of photos were taken. At times, some cheeky young photographers even pushed in on the official photographer, making him wait until they had taken the shots they wanted!

The Guest of Honour was Mr Jeff Gunningham, Managing Director of Education & Training International. He was born in Wales and has lived and worked in both the UAE and Australia, and so knows what it’s like to live away from home. He was therefore able to empathise with the students, understanding some of the ups and downs they have had to deal with during their time in another country. He also marvelled at their successes in studying in what for many was their second language.

Once again, Mr Bryan Hughes attended the Dinner, and presented the top student, Mr Mark Liew Wen Jian, with a cheque for $250 from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Mark was both surprised and delighted and will make good use of the money in his future studies.

Miss Sanjilitha Sivabalan spoke on behalf of the 2005 Year 12 students. She spoke eloquently and from the heart, combining humour and passion as she delivered her messages to the staff of the College and to the students themselves. Her encouragement to accept who we are and to value ourselves was clear in the poem she read to conclude her speech.

“Dare to believe:
that you are a wonderful, unique person;
that you are a once-in-all-history event;
that it’s more than a right, it’s your duty to be who you are;
that life is not a problem to solve, but a gift to cherish;
and you’ll be able to stay one up on what used to get you down.”

The Graduation Dinner is always a wonderful way to end the College’s academic year. This year, as always, it was lovely to see the students all together and to see the effort they had gone to with their appearance. The jeans, jumpers and track shoes were nowhere to be seen. Instead there was glitter and glamour and lots of smiling, radiant faces. It really provided the best way to remember the year.
A Word from David

For our Foundation students, the teaching is over, the examinations are all finished and some students are starting to head back home. We still have our Bridging and Fast-Track students in the home stretch, so to speak.

This year has flown past. For most of our students, the year has not been just about seeking that desired place in next year’s university program. While it has included a major focus on academics, we should not though forget that these same students have grown in maturity and independence as well. We sometimes fail to remember that their time here in Australia has required them to look after finances, organise their daily program, cope with the complexities of living with others, cook meals, do laundry and ironing, do shopping and get through the academics. These life skills are invaluable. It is about developing their full potential as people.

The other achievement of these students is the fact that they have learned to handle all of the above within a new and different culture. In many cases, this cultural difference has been enormous. Living in Australia is not just the challenge of Australian English but it involves a whole new way of life. Little things like our Australian quirky sense of humour or our ‘tasteless’ chicken all take adjustment.

Against all these challenges, we must highlight notable successes. I wish to extend my congratulations to our top students. Entrance into university is highly competitive and the following students have gained exemplary results: Mr Mark LIEW Wen Jian (Singapore), Miss CHANG Hui Yi (Malaysia), Mr TRAN Thien Hao (Vietnam), Mr LOH Wey Yen (Malaysia), Mr HII Lu Hao (Malaysia) and Miss ZHU Wei (China).

In addition, many of the top students for individual subjects have been our international students. Special mention must be made of the Institute of Engineers Australia which requires excellence in Physics, Chemistry, Applicable Mathematics and Calculus. This achievement was attained by Miss Chang, Miss Zhu, Mr Tran and Mr Hii.

We in the ISO are very much aware of the hopes and dreams that our students have brought with them to Australia. I am certain that these are very important to parents too! It is our hope that we have in some small way contributed to the realisation of those dreams.

At the time of writing, the ISO is surrounded by the chaos of a construction site. Out of this chaos, new facilities will bloom in January. The new extension will be completed in the new year allowing the ISO to provide even better levels of services to our students.

I am also pleased to advise that Tuart Mews is undergoing a major refurbishment over the holidays. The College does not own these properties, but we have worked closely with the agents to encourage the owners to undertake the necessary expenditure to do some desired improvements on the units in terms of furnishing and utilities.

In closing, I wish to express special thanks to my colleagues: Ann, Dinah, Peta and Robyn. They share a common characteristic of ‘being there’ for our students over and above the call of duty. Their dedication is more akin to family than the workplace.
Zhu Wei Compares East & West

One of Tuart’s Year 12 WAUFP students is 20 year old Miss Zhu Wei (Winnie), who comes from Zheng Zhou in China. Earlier in the year, she was asked to write her thoughts about education in China and Australia for a Chinese newspaper in Perth, The Oriental Post. Her article was both thoughtful and detailed, as you can see from the excerpt printed here.

"Education is one of the most important things for every country in the world, due to the demand for progress. Western education focuses on widening understanding of knowledge and cultivating the ability to learn; whereas Chinese education focuses on a specific area of information in depth.

In China, chemistry, physics and biology are separate subjects and teachers only change the topic after completely finishing one area, so that students learn the information deeply and only once. However, in Australia, the information is mixed together and revisited, with the contents getting harder each year.

Another difference is the teaching methods. Compared with the students in China, Australian students tend to like going to school because they play games more in class and use the textbooks less. Through the games, they learn and have more opportunity for hands-on experience, like with laboratory experiments and investigations. Doing this not only trains the students in their abilities to do things, but also makes them communicate with each other and therefore they gain the information in a variety of ways. In contrast to this, due to the limited equipment and environment, the students in China cannot do lab experiments often and must rely more on textbooks alone.

In Australia, the students can ask questions whenever they want to during the lessons, sometimes even joking with the teachers. Because the teachers try to understand students and think about them, the students feel able to speak out and say what they think. Compared with this situation, the classes in China seem to be more formal. No one can speak apart from the teachers, and hence the Chinese students receive the information passively.

In conclusion, Australian education is informal, relaxed, interactive and involves many activities, whereas Chinese education is more formal, serious and exam focused. What has caused such a big difference between these two education systems? The possible answers could be the population density and economics. Because the number of students in China is still much larger than the total population of Australia, competition is very intense. If everyone in China could go to school like everyone in Australia, and then get a good job to support their families, Chinese wouldn’t get so stressed. But the world is not perfect. Everyone wants a good quality of life, which comes from a good job. When many people come to compete for one position, education is the best judgment. No matter what education system every country uses, it must be the best way to suit the situation and develop it.

Out & About

There are many benefits to be gained by being an international student. One that springs quickly to the minds of most people is the formal education and qualifications received in another country. However the benefits go beyond what is taught in the classroom. The photos on this page show some of the other activities students have enjoyed, such as a visit to UWA, and a ‘Physics’ day at Adventure World.
Orientation - a time for students to meet each other and to begin to see Perth