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within The University of Queensland

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Emmanuel College

Fiat Lux

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Another Year Begins

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Let's Talk Careers



enriching lives since 1911

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



“ You come to Emmanuel for a few years to learn and experience what you can. You leave having changed for the better. ”

College in an Era of Educational Anarchy

When I was at University back in the 1970s the undergraduate experience was a neat package: four years of study and fun – the hallowed halls, the kindly but often dotty professors, the attractive dating and marriage prospects, beer, sport, graduation. This is still the way that some people think of college life – our views are frozen in time at the point at which we left the institution.

If this is what our university experience ever was, it won't be much longer as we see the university system fragmenting in important ways. Students can get degrees at colleges and universities from inside and outside of Australia and through on-line institutions as we move into the period of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs).

In this period of what we could call educational anarchy, a college such as Emmanuel provides some stability through its more traditional approach to education, offering a balance between the academic, cultural, sport and social life. However, even we need to change in order to offer the very best support and facilities for our students.

In this issue of *Fiat Lux* you are introduced to two new members of staff (Assistant Deans) who offer support to students through developing study skills, mentoring and pastoral care. On the facility side, we have, over the summer break, renovated bathrooms in three of the wings, while last year we opened a new academic study centre to facilitate individual and group study.

As we look to the future, the Council has just approved plans for the revitalisation of the Riverside Precinct of the College which includes a new student centre with recreational and sporting facilities and a multi-purpose space that can be used for performances. The first stage of this project will also incorporate extra room for dining within the College and the accommodation of an important part of Queensland's heritage, the Rare Books Room donated to us by the Supreme Court Library. This will become the Sir Harry Gibbs Rare Books Room and provide an outstanding space for displaying the College's history and also current achievements. Council and students

are excited by these plans and we look forward to revealing more as they develop.

In this new era of educational anarchy the College environment still offers stability in its traditional values and support for students and as it seeks to provide the very best that the 21st century can offer, continues its mission to enrich student lives. Emmanuel is about more than just the pursuit of knowledge. It's about questioning that knowledge and self-reflecting in a community that cares about such things as inclusivity, diversity, morality, tradition, arts and culture, healthy living and sport, poverty and the environment. You come to Emmanuel for a few years to learn and experience what you can. You leave having changed for the better.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the alumni who continue to support their old community through words and deeds.

Stewart Gill
Principal, Emmanuel College

It is interesting to look back 40 years and see what was on the mind of Emmanuel's 1973 Students' Club President, Allan Davies. His message was as follows:

Competition (at University) has become rife in order to gain a position within the quota or at least a pass on the normal distribution of the results. In essence, these "halls of learning" have degenerated into "degree factories". Matters in this respect can only get worse with the introduction of the Semester System. Personal attainment is being emphasised at the expense of character development. Instead of becoming better educated,

Society is becoming more qualified...

...Loss of communal life in past years can be attributed to a change in catering technique (formal dinners were replaced by cafeteria style meals at the end of 1972 – ed.) and a different approach by the University to methods of assessment (continuous assessment and the Semester System replaced end of year examinations in many areas and the three Term system). In both cases individuality has been emphasised, thus producing a more introverted, conscientious College man. Loss of identification with the College is due principally to the abolition of

the "fresher system". A younger College man has few lasting experiences and achievements with which to associate himself and his College. Consequently, these men are over cautious when approached to commit themselves to a College activity...

Therefore, would it be worthwhile reintroducing some form of the "fresher-system" to give future Collegians an identification with the College? Should communal activities be fostered to allow orientation of individual characters within the corporate life of Emmanuel? These decisions rest with you, Emmanuelians!

ANOTHER YEAR BEGINS

by Vice Principal Liza Allen

The Convocation service held in February each year is the first taste of College tradition and formality that our new students experience. This year it was well attended by members of the University executive, including the Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Høj, representatives from the Presbyterian and Uniting churches and local politicians. In fact, we needed extra seating in the College quadrangle to meet demand for the 181 new students and College guests.

During the service in the chapel, the Principal gave a sermon entitled "What is in a name, Emmanuel" where he spoke about the importance of names and how our names identify us in so many ways. Stewart explained that the name Emmanuel means 'God with us' and that this name challenges us as an institution and as individuals to look at our engagement with Church,

University and Community.

UQ Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj was guest speaker at the Convocation dinner. He spoke about the importance of values throughout life and likened life to constantly juggling four balls representing one's career, integrity, health and respect. Of the four balls, he said, three are glass and one, the ball representing one's career, is made of rubber. This imagery brings home strongly the fragility and importance of an individual's integrity, health and respect compared to that of one's career, which has the ability to bounce back.

We welcome our new students to College and strongly encourage all to savour the Emmanuel experience and the advantage we believe it gives them.



Left: The official party is piped into the Emmanuel chapel for the Convocation service; **Middle:** 2013 Students' Club President Lucinda Bourke and Emmanuel Council Chair Rev Dr Bruce Winter leave the chapel with student leaders and special guests on their way to Convocation dinner; **Right:** The Hon Scott Emerson MP, UQ Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj and the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP.

STUDENT PROFILE – CHELSEA WALLIS

Emmanuel postgraduate student Chelsea Wallis has developed a wide range of interests and an impressive list of accomplishments in her 18 years of life.

Born in Sydney but raised in Noosa from the age of three, Chelsea attended Sunshine Coast Grammar and began her Bachelor of Business degree at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) at the age of 15.

The youngest ever female graduate of USC and winner of the USC's Chancellor's Medal for outstanding academic performance and contribution to university life and community, Chelsea has selected Emmanuel as her College of choice as she embarks on her Master of International Economics and Finance at The University of Queensland.

Apart from being intellectually gifted (she has been judged to be in the genius IQ range

of 165+) and with a photographic memory, Chelsea is a classically-trained singer with a huge love of opera, plays piano and professional standard flute and shows great talent in drama, having trodden the boards with the Noosa Arts Theatre among other thespian pursuits.

But it is on the world stage that Chelsea hopes to see her future unfold, in areas such as economic analysis, public policy and international affairs. She could see herself working in the UN, the OECD or the IMF.

Chelsea plans to complete the last semester of her Masters degree at the University of St Gallen in Switzerland next year and then she hopes it will be on to Oxford for a research masters and PhD.

So much to do, so little time.



EMINENT SPEAKERS INSPIRE YOUNG LEADERS

Chrysalis, an international summer school for young leaders jointly organised by Emmanuel College and International Education Services (IES), was held at Emmanuel at the end of last year and featured dynamic keynote speakers who inspired the young leaders and provided much food for thought during the week-long period.

The Chrysalis programme is aimed at young people of at least 16 years entering their final year of secondary school who are interested in examining some of the major issues of our time. The programme's theme for 2012 was "Sustainable Leadership" and keynote speakers shared their insights and experience in this field.

They were Mara Bun, CEO of Green Cross Australia, a not-for-profit that empowers people to respond to environmental change; Theodora Le Souquet who went from the office of US Senator John McCain, to the American Embassy in Paris, to creating a writing project for Indigenous writers in Queensland and is now Chief Executive Officer at Architectural Information Services (AIS) Australia; Professor Hugh Possingham, Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions (CEED) and the NERP Environmental Decision Hub (NERP Decisions) at UQ; and Dr Martina Linnenluecke, a lecturer at UQ Business School whose research explores organisational strategic adaptation and resilience to global climate change, specifically to the expected increase in the number and severity of extreme weather events.

Emmanuel Principal Stewart Gill said that Chrysalis 2012 attracted 33 students from a variety of backgrounds and cultures.

"Cambodia, Singapore, the United States, Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, Kenya, Indonesia, Japan, Canada, Kuwait and the Philippines were all represented," Stewart said.

"We had the help and support of eight Emmanuel student mentors drawn from our student and alumni body to engage with Chrysalis participants," he said. "They were an integral part of the programme and contributed greatly to its success."

Michael D'Arcy, Emmanuel alumnus and one of the eight student mentors, explained that Chrysalis participants' primary task was the preparation of group projects which were completed under the supervision of the student mentors. Each group responded to a question set by the mentors which addressed a certain aspect of sustainable leadership.

"This year's presentations were all of an excellent standard and the expert judging panel was impressed with the students' creativity as well as the depth of their research," Michael said.

"The group work is challenging, and invariably enhances leadership skills; students work with people from different cultures, and with different language proficiencies, in the preparation of their projects. This year, as always, the final presentations were extremely rewarding for the student mentors, as the personal growth and increased self-confidence of their students were on full display," he said.

"Chrysalis students frequently spoke of being inspired during the week and it's important to emphasise that this sentiment was shared by the student mentors.

"Personally, I was as inspired by my students as I was by anyone during the programme. The integrity, talent and strength of character of these students are to be admired and respected.

"It was an honour to be involved in Chrysalis and if these students are to be the leaders of tomorrow, then tomorrow will be in good hands indeed," he said.

Professor Gill acknowledged the contribution that UQ made to Chrysalis.

"The then DVC (Academic), Professor Mick McManus, spoke at the closing dinner and presented certificates to all the participants. Emmanuel College and IES are grateful for the support of the University in running the Chrysalis programme," he said.



Left: Theodora Le Souquet; **Middle:** Chrysalis students enjoy the cultural evening; **Right:** Theodora Le Souquet and Mara Bun enjoy a joke.

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT DEANS – JENN JASINSKI AND SHANE DRAHM

Emmanuel has been fortunate to be able to bring on board two new staff members who are enriching the lives of our students. We want to introduce them to you.



Jennifer Jasinski joined the college as the wife of our current senior resident tutor and fourth year medical student, John Jasinski. However, she was delighted to offer her skills as an asset in pastoral care and academic support and was appointed Assistant Dean in March 2012.

Jenn is a Certified Professional Co-Active Life Coach (CPCC) who has a

passion for helping people grow in their capacity for pleasure in life. She also holds a Diploma in Theatre Studies and Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology).

As a student, Jenn's curiosity about the body, holistic health and making a difference in the world initially led her to a career in injury and chronic pain rehabilitation. At the Canadian Back Institute (CBI) she applied her knowledge, enthusiasm and humour to craft programs that helped her patients regain confidence and motivation as well as physical function. Having a keen eye for performance and a deep and abiding compassion for people, she began to notice patterns of fundamental perceptions, attitudes and behaviours that impacted a patient's recovery.

Jenn and husband John, who was a physiotherapist at CBI, created a coaching model based on what they observed about what helps people rise from adversity to excellence. They call it *Pleasure Capacity Coaching* and they have since presented this model to entrepreneurs, athletes, students and anyone who happens to ask Jenn what she does for a living. This year they are subjecting it to a vigorous research project and hope to publish about it by the end of the year.

Jenn loves sharing her skills and insights with the students and staff at Emmanuel as well as with her private coaching clients. She is wired to hear complaints as opportunities for growth, so if you just want to whine without finding a solution, make sure you let her know! She is just as likely to have you happily giving up smoking, eating your veggies and booking that trip you have been meaning to take.

We welcome Jenn aboard.



Shane Drahm says he is very excited to be involved with a College that has "such a good culture, great values and aspirations to become one of the best Colleges in the country." Shane says he is looking forward to helping Emmanuel College achieve this goal.

Shane is a descendent of the Dharumbal people from the Rockhampton area

and his clan group is Kuinmurrburra (pronounced Ku-im-ma-burra). He grew up in Brisbane and attended Iona College, graduating in 1994 before attending QUT studying a Bachelor of Education.

Shane grew up playing every sport possible and turned professional in 1996, playing rugby union for the QLD Reds. He has played for the Reds, Australia A, Australian Barbarians and Australian 7s before moving to the UK in 2001 to continue his rugby career. During his time in the UK, he played for Bristol, Northampton and Worcester club sides, and England A and Southern Hemisphere XV representative sides. He finished his rugby career playing for Kubota Spears in Japan from 2008 to 2011.

Shane considers himself very fortunate to have played professional rugby, especially for such a long period of time. During his time as a pro rugby player he was lucky enough to travel and play in approximately 20 different countries. He feels fortunate to have built some great friendships with people situated all around the world and was also able to meet some amazing people including Nelson Mandela, General Peter Cosgrove, Prince William, Prince Harry, Tom Jones and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Shane says "It was an exciting time of my life and I would have to say that meeting Nelson Mandela was the highlight. It was an inspirational moment and one I will never forget."

Since retiring from rugby, Shane has worked as a Sports Agent and Business Development Manager for Newstar Sports and started a coaching career with Nudgee College and Brothers Rugby Union. A big part of both roles has been mentoring the players, something he greatly enjoys and a skill he will relish in bringing to the Emmanuel community.

It's great to have him on our side!

LAW DINNER – TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

The Sir Harry Gibbs Law Dinner has developed an illustrious reputation over its eight-year existence and the high calibre of dinner speakers has not lessened over time.

The inaugural dinner in 2006 featured the Honourable Dr Bruce McPherson CBE and other notable speakers followed – Sir Ninian Stephen AK in 2007, the Honourable Justice Roslyn Atkinson in 2008, the Honourable Ian Callinan AC in 2009 and the Honourable David Jackson AM in 2010.

Our 2011 and 2012 speakers, the Honourable John Dyson Heydon AC and the Honourable Justice Susan Kiefel AC respectively, now share a greater connection with our 2013 speaker, the Honourable Justice Pat Keane.

This year Justice Keane was welcomed to the High Court bench at a swearing-in ceremony in Canberra in March. He had served as Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia from 2010 and, prior to that, as a Judge on the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Queensland. He was also Solicitor-General for Queensland for 13 years.

Justice Keane has replaced Justice Heydon who served for 10 years and joins Justice Kiefel as the second Queenslander on the bench of the High Court. We have now welcomed all three

justices to Emmanuel as law dinner speakers and they have lived up to the high standard set by the Hon Bruce McPherson in 2006.

The inaugural law dinner of 2006 was held in the Stevens Bonnin room as guest numbers were relatively small. As its reputation has grown, so has the size of the dinner. This year over 100 guests joined us in the dining hall – a venue large enough to accommodate a growing number of attendees.

The number of Emmanuel students attending the dinner has also grown over the years as it is not just an enjoyable evening, but also provides an excellent networking opportunity for both students and professionals alike. Judges, barristers, solicitors, university academics and executive members, state and local politicians and students all gather over pre-dinner drinks and canapés to meet and mingle – many a professional relationship has been established or nurtured at the Sir Harry Gibbs Law Dinner.

First year Commerce/Law student Genevieve Hallam has been successful in obtaining work at the Supreme Court Library because of her pro-active engagement with the guests at her law dinner table.

We look forward to similar success stories after next year's dinner.



Top left: Students Crispin Scott and Oliver Craven-McLeay with Norton Rose Global Deputy Chief Executive Don Boyd; **Top right:** Guest speaker The Hon Justice Pat Keane; **Left:** Solicitor Tony Allen with Emmanuel alumni and members of the law fraternity Tony McDonald, Chris Cooper and John Davies; **Middle:** Students Alastair and Annika Bell and Chelsea Wallis; **Right:** Principal Stewart Gill and UQ Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Høj.

LET'S TALK CAREERS

One of the great advantages of Emmanuel College is the networks that are created between current and past residents. In recent years this can be seen through the generosity of alumni in the creation of mentoring, and more recently e-mentoring, programs and the provision of work experience.

We have been able to build some wonderfully-productive relationships with alumni, many of whom are achieving great things in their careers on local, national and international stages. To complement our work in this area, we held a Careers Dinner recently for second and third year students (and some first years too) where Emmanuel alumni met up with students for dinner to talk about career direction and life after graduation. At this dinner, the focus was on engagement with professionals from the disciplines of Business/Commerce, Engineering, Law and Medicine.

The evening was very successful with students initially engaging with alumni over pre-dinner drinks, followed by dinner conversation and later, tea and coffee with more opportunity for one-on-one time. This was a format that allowed for both group and more personal interaction and helped students gain real-world insight into the areas they are studying.

We would like to thank the alumni who took time out of their busy schedules to come back to Emmanuel, meet our students and offer invaluable advice and answers to practical questions. Tom Bennett, Imé Britz, Don Graham, Marc Orchard, Doug Eady, Chris Lilburne, Nelson Martoo, Ubong Ntuk, Phil Terrill, Peter Williams, Susan Anderson (Emmanuel College Council), John Davies, Simon LaBlack, Murray Bingham, Ginene Carmody and John Gavranich, please accept thanks on behalf of Emmanuel students and staff. And thank you, too, to Craig Chudleigh and Mark McCauley who accepted our invitation to take part but, due to circumstances beyond their control, were unable to attend on the night.

The next Careers Dinner is scheduled for 6 August, so if you'd like to participate and talk careers with Emmanuel students, contact Director of Advancement Margy Chatburn on (07) 3871 9342 or email m.chatburn@emmanuel.uq.edu.au.



Top: Marc Orchard and students; **Above:** Medical students dine with Dr John Gavranich.



Bottom left: Dr Ginene Carmody with Emmanuel med students;
Bottom right: Students Amelia Bell, Jordan D'Arcy and Alex Buckmaster with barrister John Davies.

SHOWING THE WAY ON THE ACADEMIC FRONT

by Dean of Academic Studies, Dr Lesa Scholl

The 2013 academic year was ushered in by yet another impressive Academic Awards Dinner at Emmanuel College. Just as the Mississippi Mud Cake we enjoyed for dessert was delightfully sweet, so was the students' success. Again, the large number of awards earned by our students indicates that Emmanuel is living up to its reputation for nurturing academic excellence.

The dedication of our student body to achieving strong results has come from their commitment to obtain, not just a degree, but an education. Our guest speaker for the evening, Professor Andrew Griffiths, Dean of the School of Business at The University of Queensland, spoke of the importance of both critical thinking and critical engagement in the global community. His paper resonated with the values of Emmanuel College, which include, in the words of our founder Ernest Northcroft Merrington, "an education for life, not just for livelihood." What is gradually unfolding for our students is the revelation that if they seek a well-rounded education, that will take care of the livelihood as well.

Beginning her university career with great promise, Kalina Duffell was awarded the Foundation Medal for Academic Excellence for the highest GPA in the first year of university studies. The Students' Club Prize for Academic Excellence, for the student achieving the consistently highest GPA across first and second year, went to our Wing Leader Coordinator, Lachlan Armstrong.

The Mark McKay Memorial Scholarship, established by Dr Brian Maher, is awarded each year to a high-achieving Law student. This year, the scholarship went to Crispin Scott. Crispin's success in this regard is poignant, as he is from Mackay, which is the town where Mark McKay was a practising solicitor. Law students were in their element for the evening, with Emma Szczotko deservedly being presented with the Dr Diana Cavaye Scholarship, which is awarded for academic excellence and service to others.

The highest award for the evening, though, was bestowed on an outstanding Engineering and Science student: Jye Sawtell-Rickson was named as the 2013 Emmanuel College Foundation Scholar. This is Jye's fourth year at Emmanuel, and from the moment he stepped into our halls, he has shone in terms of his academic success and his desire to contribute to the overall life and vision of the college community.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the awards night is to see the academic success of our student leaders. Whether they are members of the student club executive, or wing community leaders, it is evident that the value of educational success has been embraced by the members of the college. Out of this value, we expect to continue to see great things from these outstanding young men and women in the years to come.



Top left: Dr Diana Cavaye Scholarship recipient Emma Szczotko is congratulated by Dr Doug Cavaye; **Top middle:** Foundation Scholar Jye Sawtell-Rickson receives his award from Emmanuel Council Chair Rev Dr Bruce Winter; **Top right:** Kalina Duffell receives the Foundation Medal for Academic Excellence from Foundation and Council member Bruce Pearce; **Bottom left:** Students' Club President Lucinda Bourke presents Lachlan Armstrong with the Students' Club Prize for Academic Achievement; **Bottom middle:** Emmanuel alumnus Nelson Martoo presents Crispin Scott with the Mark McKay Memorial Scholarship on behalf of Dr Brian Maher; **Bottom right:** Principal Stewart Gill with guest speaker Prof Andrew Griffiths.

EMMANUEL STUDENTS' ROAD TRIP TO END POVERTY

by Jayme Ellis

Right now, over a billion people live in extreme poverty around the world. But we have the power to change this. In the past 20 years, our generation has already halved extreme poverty. Now it's time to finish the job. On 9 March, I and two other Emmanuel students, along with a 1,000 other young people from all corners of the country, road-tripped to Canberra to call on the Government and Australians to do their fair share in the fight to end extreme poverty.

Roadtrip was a life-changing experience. Nick Lindsay, Bella Stone and I have been inspired to make a difference to the lives of those living in extreme poverty, and we believe we can end poverty in our lifetime. At Emmanuel we live in an environment where we are taught to do our best to succeed in life and to strive towards our futures. If we don't solve the problem of poverty, those billion people living in extreme poverty will not even get a future.

The Roadtrip was an initiative of the Oaktree Foundation, Australia's first and largest youth-run aid organisation. Oaktree fundraises for education in developing countries, creates high impact campaigns on government policy and equips thousands of young Australians to take real action to end extreme poverty.

The fight continues...The next step in our students' continuing fight against poverty was to "live below the line". In May a group of Emmanuel students set their minds to living off less than \$2 worth of food a day for five days to raise awareness and funds for billions of people who live under the extreme poverty line every day. Last year they raised over \$2,500 for the cause by selling cupcakes and receiving donations from friends and families. This year, with the help of generous supporters, Emmanuel students raised almost \$6,000. Yay team.



Emmanuel students Isobella Stone, Nick Lindsay and Jayme Ellis in Canberra.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW? — GINENE “NENO” CARMODY (1976-1978)

After completing my medical degree in 1981 I did my first year in Rockhampton where my registrar was Jillian Halligan, one of the first year of females at Emmanuel. Mary Dunne, also from the 1975 intake, was there too.

I moved south to NSW the next year, working at Lismore Base Hospital, which was good rural training. I then had a break from working for the next 18 months, travelling in Africa, Europe and the UK, with a six month stint doing ENT work in the north of England.

On return to Australia we moved back into our house in Ballina and started doing locum work around northern NSW while buying a house and setting up a general practice with my husband.

We stayed there for the next 13 years working in our practice and doing on-call for Ballina Hospital.

While we were there, Bob Blackburn, also from Emmanuel, bought the Lennox Head Pharmacy and his wife bought the pharmacy next door to us – small world. We socialised a lot with them and had children around the same time. One of their girls is currently a student at College.

In 1999 we sold up and packed the car and caravan and headed off with the two children and four bikes for a four-year trip around Australia. We had a lot of great adventures, worked in an Aboriginal health centre in Katherine for 18 months, did a six month job in Karratha/Dampier in the mining industry, 12 months in Albany followed by a year in Hobart.

Returned to Brisbane in 2004 and have been in general practice in Coorparoo since.

1) What do you remember most about college?

Coffee breaks from study where most of the block piled into one room and we drank the cheapest instant coffee going, usually Pablo – haven't been able to stomach instant coffee since.

2) How did being part of the Emmanuel community shape your life?

The close friendships and bonds I developed living at college have remained with me and I still keep in contact with those people regularly. We're able to relate to each other so easily when we catch up, just like it was yesterday.

3) If you had anything to say to your peers who attended college at the same time as you what would it be?

Wasn't that the best time of our lives? Let's have a drink and reminisce.



Left: Ginene Carmody and Dave Homewood; **Middle:** Paula Brennan, Liz Bashford, Rozia Mohammed, Linda Marsden, Ginene Carmody, Rufus and Horse, and Julie McGowan at bottom; **Right:** Block 11 girls outside the sunroom – Julie McGowan, Paula Brennan, Ginene Carmody, Rozia Mohammed and Linda Marsden.

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS CLOSE THE GAP AT EMMANUEL COLLEGE

*This article is reproduced from
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of writer Dianne Jensen.
Photographer is Holly Jewell.*

A university residential scholarship program is helping to close the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Dianne Jensen talked to students and staff at Emmanuel College, Brisbane.

A growing band of young Indigenous students are taking their place at university graduation ceremonies, thanks to the scholarship program at Emmanuel College, a University of Queensland (UQ) residential community.

The Indigenous scholarship program was created in 2008 to provide full or part residential scholarships to students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background who have been accepted into UQ. It is funded by the college and private benefactors.

Adjunct Professor Stewart Gill, Principal at Emmanuel, says that the program enables students to live within a community which provides pastoral care, academic support and the opportunity to network.

"We don't engage in tokenism where Indigenous recruitment is concerned. We use the same criteria for acceptance for all students — we are interested in students who have performed well academically, who want to contribute to the college community and be good ambassadors for the college."

Former college resident Keiron Laifoo from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait graduated last year with a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a dual major in Accounting and Finance.

"The more that society can see Indigenous people succeed; living at Emmanuel, going to university, graduating with a degree, I think is for the better," he says. "I also believe that it's important [that] other students who might become doctors and work in remote Indigenous communities have a chance to meet, speak with and understand some of the issues that an Indigenous person encounters growing up."

This year Emmanuel will support six Indigenous students including Maccalla Fenn, from north east New South Wales, who is studying a Bachelor of Science (Preliminary Medicine).

"I have found that being part of the college community has made the transition from school to university a lot easier and a lot less daunting," she says. "There are always people to talk to, get advice from or to help with a question. It also helps with the social aspect as I have made countless new friends since starting at Emmanuel."

The college recently appointed an Assistant Dean (Indigenous Students) to provide strategic direction and support for the initiative. Former professional footballer and teacher Shane Drahm will help build community partnerships and provide mentoring for college students.

Founded by the Presbyterian Church in 1911, and now under the auspices of both the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches, the college aims to provide a supportive Christian environment for the students in its care.

"Being a church-related college adds an extra dimension to whatever we do," says Adjunct Professor Gill. "The Gospel was at the heart of the founding of the college and an important part of that is a commitment to social justice issues including acknowledging the special role that our first nation plays in Australia."

For Keiron Laifoo, faith is important to his future.

"Faith will always be a factor in my decision making. I believe that what I am aiming to achieve now is the path that God has set out for me."



Principal Stewart Gill, Assistant Dean (Indigenous Students) Shane Drahm and Emmanuel College resident Maccalla Fenn.

SOME EMMANUEL MOMENTS



Front cover image: 2013 Students' Club President Lucinda Bourke and Wing Leader Co-ordinator Lachlan Armstrong at the Academic Awards



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