As we celebrate 50 years of Whitley College life, it’s been interesting to observe the development of research during this time. So far we have collated a list of the doctorates undertaken by former students, by staff and those supervised by Whitley staff. It’s a remarkable list: I had hoped we might be able to name 50 doctorates for 50 years, but the list far exceeds that number. You can see the list (so far) on our website, at http://whitley.unimelb.edu.au/50Doctorates

Research has become an increasingly important part of the College’s life and output. Indeed, this year Whitley College has been identified as the leading centre for higher degrees by research in the University of Divinity. Whereas in the early days there might be one person doing a doctorate (often overseas), now there are as many as twenty at any given time.

It’s also significant that the research activity spans all aspects of the College’s life. We have resident tutors working on their research, as well as full and part time theological researchers, and faculty members constantly undertaking further research as well as providing supervision.

Another striking feature of the list is that in the early years of the College most doctoral study was undertaken overseas, whereas now it is almost always local. One very positive reason for this change is that there are scholarships to support doctoral study today (even in theology!), whereas for example when I sought to do my own PhD there was basically no support for theological research anywhere in Australia. I hasten to add that whilst there are scholarships today, there are never enough!

The breadth of topics undertaken by Whitley researchers is quite amazing. From a music scholar’s perspective, the breadth of research is truly impressive. Many researchers belong to teams, including some who have made a massive contribution to our world and the College can be justly proud of them.

What all this shows is something significant about Whitley College life. It is academically committed: it takes a lot of hard work and sheer determination to finish a doctorate. It also captures audiences with its powerful Dies Irae, intense Lacrimosa and utterly beautiful Benedictus. This concert will also celebrate Whitley’s relationship with the indigenous community and will include Dhungaal Dreaming, Exaudis Interlude as well as The Lord’s Prayer from Deborah Cheatham’s opera Pecan Summer.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated towards a scholarship in support of an indigenous musician.

Date: Saturday 7 November 2015 at 7.30pm
Venue: Collins Street Baptist Church, 174 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.
Costs: $40 / $40 concession
Tickets: http://www.trybooking.com/HGTF

CONCERT 2 : A Spanish Gypsy

In this original 1915 chamber orchestra version of Manuel de Falla’s El Amor Brujo internationally-acclaimed mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell will become Candela, an Andalusian Gypsy Girl who is haunted by her dead husband’s ghost. The second half of the concert will feature Manuel de Falla’s Siete canciones populares espanolas as well as traditional Catalan folk songs.

Date: Monday 31 August 2015 at 6.30pm
Venue: Whitley College, 271 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052.
Costs: $20 / $15 concession (includes paella and drinks)
Tickets: http://www.trybooking.com/HGSL
As we prepare for Christmas in May celebrations to mark the end of first semester, it is hard to believe that only a few months ago we were welcoming 71 new students to the College for Apoc-O-lyptic Week. All the usual events have been enjoyed and successes celebrated, lots of socializing enjoyed, sports played and arts activities have engaged our creative tendencies. Orientation Week seems like a distant memory. In addition to the popular Yoga party, beach visit and skit night we were shown Royal Park the way the indigenous inhabitants would have seen it.

Commencement Dinner was a wonderful way to mark the start of the academic year. Our guest speaker, Andrew Watson, former Student Club President and Tutor in the 1980s was an engaging speaker. Andrew is a lawyer who also studied maths in his undergraduate years. His advice to students to "do something you are passionate about" regardless of where it takes you is helpful for all of us to keep in mind.

We recognized a number of academic achievements: Those with exceptional school results were Frank Du and Ghanisht Juwaheer. The Most Improved student was Jack Sozanski. Those who achieved an average above 80; Olivia Grosfeld, Eliza Honybun, Georgia Kelly and Damon Symons. And these students who received straight First Class Honours: Clare Browne, Trishya John, Shashank Murali, Mandy Tsai and Margaret Zhou.

A number of events have been held since the start of this 50th Year in our history. At the President’s Drinks, Pat Au, former student Club President, spoke about his time at College and what he learnt along the way and the value of his experience at Whitley in his current work with a small architecture firm. Friday 22nd May saw a full house in the Dining Room for the Guitar Extravaganza, the first of the Celebration Concert Series. Organized and conducted by Mario Dobernig, we were treated to the inaugural performance of the “Mathiske Suites”. Bruce Mathiske composed the music and played the guitar, backed by a group of talented young musicians, The Melbourne Concert Band. This was followed by delicious food and drinks and then the Whitley All Star Jazz Band comprised of current and former Whitley residents.

The annual Boat Cruise in May saw a joyful gathering of current and past residents cruising around the bay. Games of cricket, softball, hockey and soccer have all been played enthusiastically. Rowing training continued in the early hours in the lead up to the rowing regatta on 2nd May in cold but sunny conditions. Common Room Dances and Intercollegiate Activities Council events provided creative and social outlets. College Day on March involved bouncing and eating and dancing and eating some more. The Football and Netball auction saw people paying good money for food and other items. We look forward to Glo cafe on the last evening of semester before the quiet diligence of Swot Vac and Exams.

A graduate dinner was held on the 15th May in the Crocket Room. Nine of our graduate students were treated to a special dinner. They enjoyed taking time out of their busy schedules to socialize together, share experiences and build their relationships. A Graduate Skills Seminar, was held on 21 May with special panelists Professor Mark Brett from Whitley and Professors Peter Scales and David Grayden from the University of Melbourne.

The Aspiration Initiative (TAI) promotes University aspirations for indigenous students from Year 8 onwards. Through tutoring, support, mentoring and camps they work to encourage and engage young students on their path to tertiary studies. On Saturday 16 May, Whitley hosted a lunch and college tour for 12 students and their families from rural Victoria and NSW visiting the university. Professor Ian Anderson, former Head of Murrup Barak, will be joining our indigenous students at Hall on Monday night, 25 May. He will then address the student body on the significance of Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.

Students have already signed up to help at ‘Run for Kids’ for the Royal Children’s Hospital and involved themselves in letter writing for Amnesty International. Former resident, Nathaniel Taylor, spoke at Hall about the ‘Sunday Dinners’ program run by Collins Street Baptist Church: a number of Whitley residents now assist in the program. The Christian Glo Group conduct small bible study groups and host a program of speakers called Night of Open Minds. Two members of the group have commenced assisting in the English Program as part of TransFormation.
From the Dean

Rev Dr Gary Heard

Religion is never far from the news. The struggles of the Rohingya people in Myanmar, the persecution of Christians in Syria, the rise of Islamic State, and the discussions about our national approach to refugees all find ground in religious questions. All this while there is a push to exclude all religious education from our schools – at a time when there is great need for religious literacy, knowing that it impacts upon all aspects of life in a now global village. The call for Christians to be able to dialogue about matters of faith and identity with those who do not share our faith perspective yet at the same time wrestle with similar questions has never been greater.

There is a growing need for theologically aware and literate Christians to enter this debate at all levels, from the local church, into the neighbourhood, and into wider spheres of influence. Grappling with these questions - and wrestling with the shape of the response - is a journey which followers of Jesus through all ages have undertaken. Theological formation is not primarily about coming up with the “right” answers so much as about entering a conversation. Partners in that conversation includes not only the fellow students in a class, but the great thinkers and practitioners of faith across the history of the church, in a diverse range of settings. It is through that conversation that we are formed as followers of Jesus, and equipped in our ability to share the good news in a searching world. It is a journey we would love to share with you.

As we reach the end of semester, we pause to celebrate the growth and achievements of all of our students. It was a joy to share in the graduation ceremony in March during which Elizabeth Huglin was congratulated, as part of the recognition of all graduands, knowing the her PhD, as part of the affirmation of the College’s leadership over that time under our Principal Rev Dr Frank Rees, supported by College Deans Ross Langmead and Bruce Tudball, who have lead a committed and creative faculty and staff team, whose academic work and commitment to pastoral formation of students has been outstanding, alongside their significant contributions to academic and mission work around the world.

Whitley is committed to building on this wonderful foundation as we continue to serve the mission of God’s kingdom through Equipping Leaders for a Different World.
Theological School

Whitley College
Bridging the gap
and equipping leaders for a different world

Preparing
Are you looking to grow in your understanding of faith and ministry? Are you ready and equipped for the challenges of ministry in your neighbourhood?

Whitley College offers a wide range of learning opportunities and courses to prepare you to serve whether it be in your workplace or local community, or for service in much wider spheres.

Prepare yourself through studying at Whitley College, where you can be part of a learning community equipping leaders for a different world.

Enrol now for semester 2.

Exploring
Many of the heroes of the Christian faith set out on a journey, following the call of God, not knowing what the journey or the destination might hold. They stepped out in faith.

Courses at Whitley College provide opportunity for you to explore this rich tradition of faith – to encounter and learn from the great people, communities and moments in the life of the church since the time of Jesus, and reflect on the implications for life and ministry today.

Join us in a journey of exploration at Whitley College, where you can be part of a learning community equipping leaders for a different world.

Enrol now for semester 2.

Flourishing
The Psalmist talks of the person who is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither, and whose actions lead them to prosper (Psalm 1:3).

Studying at Whitley College provides you with the resources and opportunity to flourish in your faith.

Through the study of scripture, exploration of theology and church history, and through many practical ministry and mission subjects at Whitley College you can be part of a learning community equipping leaders for a different world.

Enrol now for semester 2.

Caring
Human challenges vary from the intensely personal to the global. Demonstrating Christian care in a hurting world is God’s call upon his church.

Studying at Whitley College, you have opportunity to reflect on and be equipped for the ministry of care: from personal health and relationship challenges through formation of local communities to the global questions of asylum seeker’s climate change.

Learn to show the love of God through learning how to care, through studying at Whitley College – where you can be part of a learning community equipping leaders for a different world.

Enrol now for semester 2.

Residential College

Open Day

University of Melbourne
Open Day
At Whitley College

Come get a Taste of Whitley College

16th August 2015
271 Royal Parade Parkville