Whitley College is a dynamic educational community, committed to academic excellence, with a vision to develop leaders for a different world:

- a place to live, to receive support and make friends, while studying at the University of Melbourne;
- a place to study theology, pastoral care and mission through the Melbourne College of Divinity;
- a community of ongoing support in lifelong service and leadership.
It is evident from this edition of Whitley College Life that the College continues as a vibrant community, achieving excellence in many areas.

The College Council has commissioned a review of its own work as a governance body. Several working groups are exploring plans for capital developments in areas such as Distance Learning in Theology, digital technology for the Chapel, and a comprehensive review of our databases. Our Library has installed the latest cataloguing system and is linked up with all the libraries of the MCD. We have installed a wireless network in the Library area which will be extended to the Theological School later in the year.

The staff of the College is undertaking training in Occupational Health and Safety, as a continuing expression of our commitment to care in every aspect of our life together.

This year the College has presented to the Baptist Union a further nine candidates for ordination. We have also welcomed another 11 new candidates into our training program.

Whitley College is a deeply caring community. May I simply say, ‘Thank you’ to all those who have been so kind, in expressions of love and support, kindness and prayer, in my time of need during these last months.

Rev Dr Frank Rees

Collier Fund support for TransFormation Program in 2010

The Whitley College TransFormation Program has received a very generous injection of funding from the Collier Charitable Fund in 2010. The Fund has made available $12,000 to support students undertaking this course of study. This funding will be used to subsidise students enrolled in the program and reduce the financial burden of fees for many students.

Many students who seek enrolment in the TransFormation program have come to Australia as refugees from Burma, Sudan, Liberia, Vietnam and Cambodia. They often are working a variety of jobs to support themselves and their families, whilst undertaking further study in the program.

The TransFormation program was introduced at Whitley College in 2003. It has been developed to provide training for Church leaders from non-English-speaking backgrounds now living in Australia. Rev Jillian Stewart has been coordinating the program over this time.

Individuals who enrol in the TransFormation program commit to ten Saturdays per year for 3 years at the College. Enrolments are accepted at the beginning of each year to join the three year program.

The program is taught in English but allows time for participants to work in groups with others who speak their own first language. Students benefit from study in Bible, theology, pastoral care, leadership and mission.

TransFormation Program students during lunch
With much excitement construction of the Whitley College all-purpose Sports Court began on Tuesday 2 February 2010.

The all-purpose sports surface is for use by students who are resident in the College. The surface is 16 metres x 8 metres in size. The playing area is covered with a synthetic grass with painted lines for sports such as soccer and basketball. The facility also has a reversible basketball/netball tower and a soccer goal and net. The entire sports surface is enclosed by 55 x 3 metres square of netting.

The court is located at the northern end of the residential college, adjacent to Royal Parade.

As part of the College strategic plan we are committed to maintaining and improving facilities on offer to all students who live and study at the College.

These photos show the sports court at each stage of development through to completion at the end of February.

Orientation Week is a special week at the College for all first year students. Activities ensure that all new students have the best opportunity to become familiar with the University and College life.

Activities are student led and many firm friendships are cemented at the end of a tiring yet action packed week of fun.

Ms Margie Welsford
A Muslim woman was recently the guest lecturer in a unit on global mission today. A bus load of students took a tour of Melbourne Baptist churches in a unit on Baptist church history. A class on God and hope collected jokes about heaven and the end times to see what theology they express. They also watched and discussed the film *As It Is in Heaven.* Another class spent two weeks analysing a case study in which a smaller church past its glory days seeks to re-engage with the community. These are just some of the interesting things that happen in theological education today.

This is part of Whitley’s commitment to developing the next generation of theological teachers.

A morning tea for all teaching staff was held on Tuesday 16 February to bring all staff together for the beginning of the academic year.

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They are happening more and more as the theological school moves more deliberately towards the integration of faith and life, setting life-related assessment tasks and moving beyond the classroom.

These and other changes are all results of a review of the theological school’s curriculum and life which the Faculty have conducted over the last two years or so.

The Melbourne College of Divinity, of which Whitley College is a part, celebrates a hundred years of high-quality ecumenical theological education this year. Celebrations include a Centenary Conference in July (see www.mcd.edu.au) and we look forward to another century of Christians exploring together who God is and what God is doing amongst us and the world.

Dr Ross Langmead
A collection of photos from the Whitley College theological school end-of-year celebration ‘The Big Night Out’ held at Syndal Baptist Church on Thursday 19 November 2009.

Whitley is shaping its curriculum around a three year cycle on the biblical theme of forming faith, hope and love.

2010 is the year of Hope and Mission, and this theme will permeate College life.

A new unit on the God of Hope has been taught in Semester 1 by Rev Dr Graeme Garrett.

The College has received a substantial bequest from the estate of Winsome Abbott.

Winsome was the wife of Ollwyn Abbott, a Whitley Council Treasurer and President for 40 years.

The administration wing of Whitley College was named the Winsome and Ollwyn Centre many years ago.
College life is well underway for the year. There is always a sense of excitement as the students return to college and the various activities begin.

Providing a nurturing and supportive environment for students who live and study here as well as a healthy and encouraging workplace for staff is very important to me. Staff and students alike need to be provided with the best facilities we can possibly offer. Managing the resources entrusted to us to meet these needs is a constant challenge.

The provision of financial assistance to students has continued to grow over the years and we are very grateful for the support received for this area. This support comes from individuals and groups, churches and a number of companies, including suppliers. Our students and their families often comment on how much the assistance we provide means to them – see the other articles in this edition. I feel privileged to be in a position where we can help take off some of the financial pressure.

Mr Ian Prentice

Volunteering at Whitley

Students and staff are actively involved in volunteering and fundraising in the community.

Student have been involved in the ‘World’s Greatest Shave’ and the Oxfam Trailwalker which involved running or walking 100 kms in 48 hours.

Many activities are student driven and funds raised and participation in events are regularly recorded on the Whitley College Community Service Facebook page.

Staff members are also active volunteers. Melissa Collins, the College receptionist, was recently involved in the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal staffing phones and hosting celebrities.

Principal’s Birthday Celebration

A staff morning tea was held on Monday 1 March 2010 to celebrate a milestone birthday of the Principal, Rev Dr Frank Rees.

The celebration was of particular significance as it was on this day in 1968 that Frank left home as an 18 year old University student to come and study and reside at Whitley College.

Scholarships is 2010

Scholarship recipients for 2010 are:

Caitlin Fawcett
– Tatterson scholarship

Rae Carter
– Uebergang Foundation scholarship

Jessica Ward
– Uebergang Foundation scholarship

James Date
– Uebergang Foundation scholarship

Jack Payne
– Gwen and Edna Jones Foundation scholarship

Ryan Mitchell
– Gwen and Edna Jones Foundation scholarship

Jackie Steeper
– The Snowy Nominees Trust scholarship

Zoe Creelman
– Invergowrie Foundation scholarship

Rachel Powell
– Invergowrie Foundation scholarship

Joshua Smith
– CaterCare scholarship
From the Student President

The 2010 Student Club Executive has had an amazing start to the year. Starting it all off with weeks of planning and hard work, the residential leadership team, our senior students, residential advisors and tutors produced a successful and harmonious Orientation Week for our 70 new students. Transition and Orientation Week included activities to familiarize new students with our local area, including Brunswick, the City Centre, St Kilda Beach and the Flagstaff Gardens.

Whitley College has participated in many inter-collegiate activities so far this year – softball, cricket, pool and darts, just to name a few. We look forward to many more healthy competitions this semester: with rowing, squash, hockey soccer, chess and cards coming up over the next few weeks.

The ‘Fresher Dance Off’ involving other residential colleges was a huge success, with many of our new students embracing the ethos of ‘College Pride’.

Whitley’s Christian group, GLO, has a fantastic year ahead of them. The events to date have been a gelati night on Lygon St, a Pancake Day to raise funds for our sponsor child in the Phillipines and an entirely student run Chapel service.

2010 is proving to be a wonderful and exciting year and I look forward to the rest of the year as it unfolds.

Haylee Walsh
Whitley College Student Club President 2010

Alumni Profile – Douglas Lawrence OAM

Douglas Lawrence was a residential student at Whitley College in the 1960’s. After completing a Masters Degree in performance at Melbourne University Douglas spent two years with Anton Heiller in the Concert Class at the Vienna Academy and during that time began a concert career which has since taken him throughout most of the Western world.

His first important concert was in 1972 on the world’s oldest playable organ in Sion, Switzerland. That instrument was built about 1420.

Douglas has given concerts there on six subsequent occasions. He performs each year internationally, earning the enthusiastic praise of critics. He has given over 2,000 concerts as organist, harpsichordist or conductor and released a number of recordings. 2001 saw five new CD releases, featuring the Bamboo Organ of Manila, the new organ in the Scots’ Church, the Choir of Ormond College and the Choir of the Scots’ Church with organist Robin Batterham.

Amongst several inaugurals Lawrence played the first concert on the organ of the Sydney Opera House and Melba Hall at Melbourne University; and gave the first solo recital on the organ in the Melbourne Concert Hall. In March 2000 Scots’ Church in Melbourne inaugurated a new 68 stop organ from the famous Austrian builder Rieger. This instrument, designed by Douglas Lawrence is regarded by many eminent European, American and Australasian organists as the finest organ to ever come to Australia.

In Melbourne, Douglas Lawrence is Director of Music to the Scots Church. He founded and directs the Australian Baroque Ensemble and the Australian Chamber Choir. He teaches organ for the Faculty of Music at Melbourne University and the Australian Catholic University. He was a sessional lecturer to the United Faculty of Theology. In 1992 he was awarded an Order of Australia for services to music.

Alumni News

Whitley graduate, Dr Beth R Crisp, has recently published a book entitled Beyond Crucifixion: Lenten meditations on surviving sexual abuse. Drawing on daily Bible readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, and words from many survivors, Beth explores the path from desperation to hope.

Engagements


It is often said that people give to people, so show them the people – the students whose lives will be changed forever by the education their donation will support. The human stories are the most powerful for they show the multiplier effect of helping to change lives for the better.

For example, the young person who is studying to be a doctor may go on to treat the sons and daughters and other relatives of the person who made a donation to medical training. The young men and women training to be teachers may in the future instruct the children of a donor. Today’s student engineers may build the roads and bridges future generations will travel on. And the young people studying literature, history or media may entertain you with a book, solve a riddle of the past, or inform you on the television news.

Scholarships and bursaries for students whose education would otherwise be interrupted are vital. This edition of Whitley College Life highlights the contributions that many have already made to supporting the education of both theological and residential students studying and living at Whitley College.

Ms Kerry Cook

Contact Us

If you would like any information on making a bequest or to donate to Whitley College please contact the Community Relations Office:

Tel: +61 3 9340 8018
Fax: +61 3 9347 8052
Email: kcook@whitley.unimelb.edu.au

Jackie Steeper, a tertiary student from Macedon has been awarded the inaugural Snowy Nominees Trust scholarship at Whitley College. She has been awarded $5,000 by the Trust to assist with the cost of accommodation and food while at Whitley College.

Jackie is a past student of Braemar College in Woodend and she is studying Nursing at the Australian Catholic University (ACU). She is a fine ambassador for the Macedon region.

‘This scholarship was a wonderful surprise to me. It takes the financial pressure off both me and my family’, said Jackie. ‘I am so grateful; this scholarship is making a real difference to my tertiary years.’

When Jackie completes her studies she hopes to gain employment as a nurse in midwifery or theatre nursing. Upon completion of her degree she may return to a rural area or pursue her career overseas for some time.

Jackie describes Whitley College life as an environment of support and care. “The welcome by this community has made a real difference to my transition from home to University. I’m settled and feel comfortable with new friends” she said.

The Trust is contributing in this way because rural students undertaking tertiary studies in the city need to feel that others are behind them. Their success needs to be an educational priority for us all. Residential college life provides security, community and support that is vital to young people’s academic success.

We wish to recognize and thank the following donors for their generosity in 2009/10:

- Collier Charitable Fund
- William Angliss Charitable Fund
- The Tatterson Family
- Dr R S Culbard
- Snowy Nominees Trust
- The Uebergang Foundation
- The Gwen and Edna Jones Foundation
- The Estate of Winsome Abbott
- Ladies Fellowship of Warrnambool Baptist Church
- Friendship Group of Grovedale Baptist Church
- Chadstone Baptist Church
- RACV Foundation
- CaterCare Australia
- Mr B.T. Swanton

Snowy Nominees Trust Scholarship in 2010

Jackie Steeper - 2010 Snowy Nominees Trust Scholarship recipient