



From the Principal



As yet another year speedily comes to an end, I refer to the comments I made at the Valedictory Dinner in October.

Principal's Address at Valedictory Dinner

As this academic year draws to a close, we gather to acknowledge our valedicts and to celebrate what we have shared this year as a community.

In this our 70th anniversary year, we have celebrated, in a number of ways, the achievements of Duchesne both past and present. I know that for many of you, the highlight was the special formal dinner in May, attended by a number of alumnae, where we heard from 5 Duchesne old girls across the decades about their experiences. As they talked of the lasting

friendships they made at college and the impact Duchesne had, and continues to have, on their lives, I think you gained some insight into the role you are all playing in our ongoing history.

In a physical sense, our college changed this year with 44 new rooms bringing our numbers to 200; we opened the Rose Philippine Wing, much to the joy of our senior students who have benefited from the luxurious rooms and of course, we gained a quadrangle which already forms an integral part of our environment. However, the true nature of the college has not changed: it continues to be a caring and welcoming community where all are encouraged to play their part.

We have enjoyed success in many areas, which we celebrated last week at our awards dinner. In sporting, cultural, service and social activities, Duchesne girls have shown once again that whilst they do want to succeed academically, the university experience is so much more than studying. It delights me that our average GPA continues to increase, with a large proportion of students achieving higher than a 6. Yet we are able to encourage strong participation in college

and ICC events and to demonstrate our zest for life. I would like to pay tribute to the student club executive and resident assistants, the majority of whom are valedictory students, for their leadership, commitment and enthusiasm, not just in their final year but throughout their time at college.

It gives me great pleasure to undertake interviews with the students who wish to return next year. You have made constructive suggestions, many of which can be easily implemented. What has shone through is your support of Duchesne and the great pride you have in our college.

Our AGM last Sunday, when you elected the Student Club Executive for 2010, was a clear demonstration of this. So many of you were committed to offering your support to the college in this way. Many students applied to act as Resident Assistants and it was a difficult task indeed to finalise the team as every applicant had much to offer. With Erin Dunne as our president, the Executive and Resident Assistants working together, we are assured of strong leadership again next year and I wish them well.

As we acknowledge our valedictory students and prepare

for Swotvac and exams, spending time with our families and planning for next year, I ask you to reflect on this quotation which I know I have mentioned before from Janet Erskine Stuart, RSCJ, said of Sacred Heart Education:

“So we must remember that it is better to begin a great work than to finish a small one...the work in the rough...may look ugly and yet be full of promise...A piece of finished insignificance is no true success... Our education is not meant to turn the children out small and finished, but seriously begun on a wide-basis. Therefore they must leave us with some self-knowledge, some energy, some purpose...If they leave us without these three things they drift with the stream of life.”

We are fortunate at Duchesne to have a strong sense of community: our staff, our valedictory students, new student leaders and all our students and families are part of this and I am proud to share with you in our endeavours.

As students head home for the summer, to spend time with their families and to earn some money for next year, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

**Nanette Kay
Principal**



THE ROSE PHILIPPINE WING AND THE QUAD

Second Semester Cultural Events

Duchesne performed wonderfully in the ICC one-act play competition. 20 residents were involved and had several rehearsals a week under the watchful eye of 2nd-year resident, Bernadette Young.

Dancefest had an amazing show of support and involvement. Duchesne performed solidly, coming 7th place. Special mention must go to Polly Crawford who put in tireless hours to put the show together. First year resident, Rory Broadbridge provided great entertainment at the ICC oratory night.

2009 National Association of Australian University Colleges (NAAUC) Report

Two Duchesne girls mixed it with the best in the field of college leadership at the National Association of Australian University Colleges Conference in Sydney. The terrific twosome of Tillie Walsh and Liz Doneley set off at the start of the June holiday. The two girls easily settled in to St. Andrew's College within the University of Sydney. Throughout the week the girls attended a variety of forums and discussions about issues that affect students living in residential

colleges as well as the wider community. The delegates at the Conference shared ideas about social events, O-Week, non-alcohol related events, amongst other things. Social events were also organised and the two girls had a fabulous time at a Charity Auction. Many new friends were made by the girls at the Conference, and their ideas for next year are incredibly fruitful.

Tillie and Liz came back with much excitement about how

the Conference was both informative and inspiring. The University of Queensland has also secured the Conference for next year and planning is already underway for the Conference, which will be held at King's College.

Second Semester Sporting Events

Second Semester saw Duchesne College involved in four major team sports – basketball, squash, hockey and soccer. It also saw the finalisation of the ICC Sporting Cup and Duchesne College came SECOND. We placed quite well in second semester sports with our placing listed below.

Basketball	Equal Second	Squash	Sixth Place
Hockey	Equal Third	Soccer	Sixth Place

Valedictory Dinner and Sporting, Cultural and Service Dinner

Our two main formal dinners for second semester were the Valedictory Dinner and the Sporting, Cultural and Service Dinner. The Sporting, Cultural and Service Dinner was an exceptional event which saw a large number of residents receiving awards for their commitment to College activities. Guest Speakers for the evening were Andy Gourley from Red Frogs and Sean Hardman, the most capped Queensland Reds Rugby player. Andy interviewed Sean on a variety of issues which highlighted to the students that professional sport can also involve a commitment to charity and worldly issues.

For the Valedictory Dinner we farewelled a number of students from third year and fourth year. The Guest Speaker for this evening was Rebecca Sparrow, author and Sunday Mail Columnist. She provided all students with an insight into how to continue to strive to achieve and to not let one comment make you give up. The speech was both comedic and thought-provoking for the students.

Resident Assistants Formal Dinners—Greek themed Formal Dinner

On Thursday the 30th of July, the Resident Assistants organised a fabulous Greek themed formal dinner which was followed by a Trivia Night. The attendance at both the formal dinner and Trivia Night was immense; and the feedback from all the students was great. The students dined on Greek Food in the aptly decorated Blue and White Dining Room. (It was good to see the correlation with the Duchesne Colours.) The Trivia Night was fiercely contested with only a few points separating the top few teams. The winning team for the night was a mixture of first and second years that showed their general knowledge stretched across a wide variety of fields including sports, music, films and history.

It was a fabulous night and special thanks must go to the Resident Assistants who were involved in the planning and execution of the night.

Resident Assistants Formal Dinners—Harry Potter themed Formal Dinner

In second semester our Resident Assistants organised another successful themed formal dinner. With suggestions from some of our first year residents, it was decided that a Harry Potter Formal Dinner was in order. The Dining Room was transformed into the Hogwarts Formal Dinner, complete with specific tables for each of the four houses from Harry Potter.

The residents dressed up in an amazing assortment of costumes – with Mrs Kay, even wearing a Dumbledore mask. Special mentions in terms of costumes must go towards Alana Rowan, who dressed up as Dobby and perhaps was cuter than Dobby from the books. Dinner was served in Hogwarts style with an amazing amount of food on offer. A Harry Potter styled Trivia Competition was also held, and it was surprising the amount of knowledge that the residents know in relation to Harry Potter. All in all, it was an amazing night although my self-made wand did not seem to be able to make the Dining Room tidy itself up!

Bandfest

Bandfest 2009 was a night that will be hard to forget for anyone who attended 2009 ICC Bandfest, hosted by International House College. The standard of performance this year was outstanding and our Duch girls were no exception, judging by the reactions from the huge crowd of fellow Duchies who rocked up in force to support us. We sold nearly fifty tickets this year during the ticket raids, equating to nearly a quarter of the college and a direct result of the event being open to under agers for the first time.

Duch's 2009 Band – the aptly named “ Quad Squad” – consisted of Emily “Bono” Durkin and Katherine O'Halloran on lead vocals, Erin Dunne on guitar, Bec Power on bass, Gen Vella on keys and talented fresher Hilary Simmons on drums. For two months, we practised till our fingers bled and blistered and our voices grew hoarse in preparation for the big gig, and had an absolute blast annoying everyone trying to study within a 500m radius of the dining room.

Our line-up included U2's “Vertigo”, “What I Like About You” by the Romantics, a funk-inspired rap song penned by our very own Miss Emily Durkin (who is, for anyone who's unaware, actually a gangster), and finally, Ida Maria's “I Like You so Much Better When You're Naked”. We certainly achieved our main goals of having fun, putting on a great show and playing as a tight group, and placed 9th by a close margin. We'd like to thank our roadies, Maudie and Polly Crawford, and everyone who put up with our practice sessions and came to support – we hope you had as much fun as we did!!!

From the Dean of Students

It is with sadness and excitement that I am departing Duchesne College. My Masters Degree is coming to an end—I only have two subjects left to go and then I will be embarking on a new journey of my life, something which I am looking forward to immensely—being a tax accountant.

As a former Duchesne girl, this job has highlighted to me that although the residents of Duchesne College come and go, the ethos very much remains the same. There have been moments that have challenged me and special times—such as girls leaving boxes of chocolates in my in-tray. Perhaps my fondest memory is the open-ended availability of ice-cream every night at dinner.

I would like to especially thank the residents of Duchesne College, who have offered me many moments of laughter, and through the new kitchen, taught me how to bake some wonderful recipes.

Thank-you to all the staff at Duchesne College for providing me with kind memories that I will keep with me forever. A special mention must also go to Mark, who has managed to not blow the leaves outside of my bedroom window before 9:00am.

I wish everyone wonderful success in their lives and remind the residents to think back on Rebecca Sparrow's speech at the Valedictory Dinner. In life you will have ups and downs but you must continue to persevere.

Pictures of Great Events from Throughout the Year



ICC ATHLETICS COMPETITION



THE OPENING AND BLESSING OF
THE ROSE PHILLIPINE WING



THE OPENING AND BLESSING OF THE ROSE PHILLIPINE BUILDING



FIRST YEAR RESIDENTS AT A FORMAL OCCASSION

Newsletter Compilation

Thank you to all those who help make the newsletter happen.

If you would like to contribute photos or written material please send them to:

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DUCHESNE COLLEGE FROM THE AIR IN 1959

