



The Women's College

within the **University of Queensland**

ready to lead

Issue 03 | May 2020

Parent Communique



Student Photographer: Tegan Evert



Your Gift Matters to Korinna

Name: Korinna Nock

Year: First Year Resident

Course: Bachelor of Education (Primary)

University: QUT

Home: Warwick, QLD

What are your career plans?

I am an inspiring primary school educator, and cannot wait to start my career in classroom teaching and eventually make my way to a higher position that allows me to make positive changes to the Australian education system to allow for equity and stability for all young people.

What do you like best about your area of study?

The education faculty at QUT provides a very encouraging aspect of teaching and highlights the everlasting importance of being an educator.

How are you funding your education/residency?

The Brazil Family Bursary has given me the opportunity to get involved at Women's College and fully live my college experience without having to

work full-time during my university studies. Without this support I would not have been able to continue living at Women's College, making my university education very difficult to access. It has truly changed my life. I was completely overwhelmed by my financial circumstances at the beginning of the year and now I can enjoy my time at college without the pressure. This bursary is helping me to establish life-long relationships and treasured memories, making this gift priceless.

What is so special about Women's College?

Women's College is by far the most accepting, inclusive and adaptable environment that I've ever lived in. There is no problem too big for Women's College and there is always time for fun. More importantly, there has never been a moment that I have felt uncomfortable at Women's #neverleaveawoozabehind. I have had many opportunities to shine at Women's College, and I am quickly growing to be the best version of myself that I can be, all thanks to our community. I will forever be proud to be a Wooza.

Your gift will impact our students today, tomorrow and forever

Please give to our 2020 Giving Appeal

www.womens.uq.edu.au/donations



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From the Head of the College

Flo Kearney, Head of College & CEO

Welcome to our first general Parent Communique for 2020. While we have been in regular contact regarding the management of the COVID-19 crisis, we have not had the opportunity to update you on other happenings and events around the College this year.

Like all organisations, Women's College has faced significant challenges during the pandemic, as we have continued to provide accommodation, academic support and pastoral care for our students and ensured the financial sustainability of the College now and into the future. True to our values, our approach has been based on caring for and supporting our students and staff through this time of uncertainty and stress. The College has remained open and we were extremely pleased to be able to provide financial support in the form of fee rebates and other discounts for our students and families.

Under the outstanding leadership of President, Ella Cooper, the Student Club has dug deep to support the College and their fellow students with generous donations. The 2020 Student Club has matched the \$10,000 donation from the 2019 Student Club towards the Study Hub project, and established ten \$2,000 bursaries to enable students in need to return in Semester 2. A number of students have stepped up to accept interim leadership responsibilities, and are working with staff to provide guidance and support for the students who have stayed in College. These gestures will be a lasting legacy of our students and the Student Club in 2020.

Prior to the crisis, we had enjoyed a vibrant start to the year, with many special events and the commencement of the Study Hub project. O Week proved to be a highlight for first year residents and associates, and in early March we acknowledged the exceptional academic achievements of our 2019 students at the Academic Dinner. We also gathered together with many alumnae from across the generations to celebrate the College's 106th birthday.

At the beginning of the year, our wonderful long-standing President, Dr Sallyanne Atkinson AO, announced her retirement from College Council, and we welcomed new President, Emeritus Professor Carol Dickenson AM, in March. Emeritus Professor Dickenson retired as

Provost of QUT at the end of last year after a long and distinguished career in academia, and we are indeed fortunate to have her leading our Council during this time of crisis and in the years to come. Unfortunately, our Farewell Function to honour and celebrate Dr Atkinson's 11 years of service to the College had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, and is rescheduled for a later date.

The College is settled into a 'new normal' routine, with academic and pastoral programs in place for our students, both in residence and at home. Staying connected continues to be a great strength of the Women's community, and the students at home have been able to share in experiences online and through social media.

We at College rose before dawn to gather together in circular drive to commemorate Anzac Day, a profound statement of respect and unity. Interim RA and First Year Representative Molly Parker played the Last Post, a moving tribute captured on the front cover of this Communique.

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, we are staying strong as a community and are looking forward to the time when the universities return to on-campus classes and College life resumes in full swing for our 2020 Woozas.



Above At our Academic Dinner with Guest Speaker Griffith University Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans, Dr Sallyanne Atkinson AO, Emeritus Professor Carol Dickenson AM and Florence Kearney.

Student Life

Sally Northcroft, Dean of Students & Deputy Head of College

O Week Reflections

The success of O Week landed directly on the shoulders of the Student Leadership Team. The focus of providing safe and inclusive engagement as well as a wide range of interactive opportunities meant that the leadership team were their authentic selves throughout the week. The leaders were outstanding in their roles and provided an atmosphere that allowed our 137 Freshers (Residents and Associates) to feel at home, supported and encouraged throughout the week.

The orientation for our new students included a full introduction to the College, university life and all the valuable components that make the adjustment to becoming a Wooza so important. The activities ranged from important seminars on self-care, an

Academic Lunch and pastoral support workshops as well as a variety of social engagements with other colleges. The week culminated in the induction of all new Woozas at the first Formal 'Fresher' Dinner of the year with the signing of the new College Register.

With the return of our 2nd and 3rd Year students following O Week, the Commencement Dinner was a celebratory formal occasion to welcome all students to the 2020 academic year. During pre-drinks on the deck, Council President, Dr Sallyanne Atkinson AO, delivered an address about the importance of friendships established at College. At the dinner, a welcome speech was presented by our Head of College, Flo Kearney, and Student Club President, Ella Cooper, gave a heart-felt speech about being at the best College.

"There wasn't a moment during O-week that I didn't want to participate in an activity or felt uncomfortable. Everything was fun and enjoyable"

"I think that there was a really good variety of parties and more casual events, and we really got a chance to meet so many new people and make heaps of new friends"

"The RA's were absolutely fantastic. All of them were so nice and really made the effort to make sure everyone felt comfortable and enjoyed themselves"

"The RAs were always super friendly, helpful, and down to earth; made transitioning from home to college so much easier"





Academic Mentors

To support the academic success of first year residents and associates with their transition from high school to university, an Academic Mentoring program has been introduced this year. The launch of the initiative in Week 2 was a huge success with more than 80 freshers taking part.

Our academic mentors are returning students who have demonstrated excellence in their studies and are aligned with a group of fresher students who are studying in the same field.

Mentors have continued to work with their mentees remotely during the COVID-19 crisis scheduling Zoom sessions with their group to see how students are handling the transition.

Academic Mentors



Tharushi Abeyratne



Caitlin Bartlett



Maisy Blair



Courtney Box



Eva Bunker



Jemma Cawood



Ellie Ferguson



Alice Fowles



Emily Fox



Maddy Kennedy



Paris Leung



Isabella Maccarrone



Bella Morosini



Meilabella Nezc-Moon



Lizzy Ostwald



Chloe Pearce



Saje Ranasinghe



Claudia Schmelzer



Ella Sinclair



Georgie Snare



Rani Stephensen



Annabel Suttor



Alana Topsfield



Risa Utama



Eliza White



Larissa Young

2020 Academic Dinner

Academic Excellence Prize Winners *In our 106th year, we acknowledge and celebrate the next generation of young women exhibiting academic excellence.*

Chislehurst Prize

Chloe Pearce

Joan Robinson Prize

Courtney Box

Principal's Prize

Nadia Barrow

Ethel Raybould Prize

Maddy Kennedy

Lisbeth Hopkins Prize

Eliza White

The Women's College Standing Committee Prize

Ella Sinclair

Henderson Foundation Prize

Hannah Cook

Margaret Piddington Prize

Georgie Snare

Vera Jones Prize

Lucy Bowden

Harriet Marks Bursary

Tharushi Abeyratne

May McLean Hancock Prize

Risa Utama

Hazel Francis Prize

Catherine Custance

Molly Budtz-Olsen Prize

Ricqui Bradley

Academic Excellence Awards *Awarded to 2020 Residents who have achieved a GPA of 6.0 or above)*

Semester 1, 2019

Tharushi Abeyratne
Jody Arulventhan
Caitlin Bartlett
Lucy Bowden
Courtney Box
Ricqui Bradley
Jaime Bretherton
Eva Bunker
Camille Cherbuin
Phoebe Cuskelly
Catherine Custance
Karis Edwards
Alice Fowles
Emily Fox
Madeline Kennedy
Paris Leung
Isabella Morosini

Meilabella Nezc-Moon
Olivia Papallo
Chloe Pearce
Ella Sinclair
Georgie Snare
Rani Stephensen
Annabel Suttor
Risa Utama
Kate Utting
Eliza White
Larissa Young

Semester 2, 2019

Tharushi Abeyratne
Jody Arulventhan
Nadia Barrow
Caitlin Bartlett
Lucy Bowden
Courtney Box
Ricqui Bradley
Jaime Bretherton
Jemma Cawood
Camille Cherbuin
Hannah Cook
Phoebe Cuskelly
Catherine Custance
Sofie Doyle
Ellie Ferguson
Emily Hutton
Madeline Kennedy

Paris Leung
Isabella Maccarrone
Isabella Morosini
Meg Munro
Meilabella Nezc-Moon
Olivia Papallo
Chloe Pearce
Grace Porter
Ella Sinclair
Georgie Snare
Rani Stephensen
Alana Topsfield
Risa Utama
Kate Utting
Eliza White
Larissa Young

Scholarship Awards *The generous support of a wide range of philanthropists, has enabled young women to benefit from the College experience.*

The Women's College Scholarships

Taylor Busbridge
Isabelle Coleman
Keeley Dunne
Noor Kahloon
Sarah Taylor

Academic Scholarships

Kelsey Bretherton
Olivia Papallo

Sports Scholarships

Phoebe Cuskelly
Jacqueline Palmer

Cultural Scholarships

Nadia Barrow
Kirsten Brown
Hannah Cook



Student Leadership Team Report

Ella Cooper, Student Club President

2020, certainly wasn't the year we were expecting, but it is the year that happened. Amidst all the changes of the past few months, there have been inherently positive outcomes. The 2020 Student Club Executive have created 10 *Student Club COVID-19 Support Bursaries*, targeted to residents and families who have been affected by COVID-19 with the money offsetting residential fees for Semester Two 2020. It has been devastating to see girls having to leave College due to financial hardship and we hope that these bursaries can relieve some of the financial strain during these tumultuous times. The creation of these bursaries is a true testament of never leaving a Wooza behind.

The completion of the Study Hub has been another positive and uplifting change. This modern, open and fresh facility is perfect for individual and group study. The girls have already utilised this new study space and the Student Club is proud to have been able to provide a donation for this much-needed renovation. Our Cultural Convenor, Ellie Ferguson, has also begun works on renovating the Music Room and we are excited to reveal the finished product in the coming weeks.

Whilst this semester looks very different from normal, the Woozas remaining at College are responding well to all the social distancing rules in place; it has become our new normal. We have remodelled the calendar for the rest of the semester, with weekly events to encourage engagement and interaction in College Life. Our past Council President, Dr Sallyanne Atkinson AO, always spoke of friendship as the mainstay of Women's and it is clear in this tumultuous time that new genuine friendships are forming. To me this speaks volumes of the power of community, positivity and creativity in sustaining and improving the culture of Women's in 2020 and beyond.

One thing that has not changed is the heart of Women's. Wherever we are geographically, we will always be a sisterhood. Even from a distance the feeling of sisterhood is overpowering, infectious and one that engulfs us all. It is a feeling that unites all Woozas, past and present, and it is a feeling we will never forget.



Above Women's College places 4th at the 2020 ICC Swimming Carnival.



Above Ellie Ferguson wins ICC College Idol.



Above Annual 'Babes, Bowls and Banter' event during Wooza Week.



Left Women's ANZAC Day tribute.

Below Our Student Leadership Team welcome Freshers to O Week.

Below O Week Fresher Dance.



Below New Study Hub opens.



Advancement Update

Susan McGinley, Engagement & Marketing Manager

Recognising multi-generational families

This year we had planned to introduce a new tradition of recognising our multi-generational families at the inaugural Mother & Daughter Dinner. This special presentation, which we hope to reschedule later this year, will honour our students who are daughters and grand-daughters of alumna with a Family Badge.

We are always delighted to welcome back our alumnae as mothers and grandmothers; we deeply value partnering with our families in continuing a college tradition that is close to all our hearts. Our alumnae are part of the fabric of Women's College and integral to our ongoing story – we are proud to recognise you, your daughters and your grand-daughters as part of our Women's family.

We caught up with some of our multi-generational families at Family Day.

Below (L-R) Alumna Fiona Smaha (mother), Sophie Smaha (Associate Fresher) and Alumna Mary Johnson (grandmother)



Fiona Smaha **Memories**

I remember my first week at Women's College in 1982 as very momentous. Having only turned 17 just before finishing school, I still felt so young and inexperienced at life when I first moved into Women's College. Bringing my daughter to Women's recently has reminded me of the incredible community and many wonderful friendships made during my three years at College.

My years at Women's College gave me a safe and supportive

environment to grow and develop into a confident young woman ready to take risks and embark on the adventure of life in 'the real world'.

Advice

I would advise Sophie to make the most of all the opportunities that Women's College provides and get involved and contribute to college life as much as possible. We are so thrilled and thankful Sophie is able to be a third-generation Wooza!!!

Thea Shoyer **Memories**

When I entered the dining hall on Family Day my initial thoughts turned to the sense of comfort and support I felt when I was living in that environment.

I know that I gained an awareness of the humanity and goodwill in my fellow students. Seeing these qualities impressed me and has stayed with me to the extent that it inspires me to

embrace them in my everyday actions. It most likely has contributed to my career as a nurse.

Advice

I encourage Chloe to make the most of the substantial benefits of belonging to such a supportive group and to immerse herself in as many of the great extracurricular activities the college offers to the extent that her studies allow.

Below Alumna Thea Shoyer assists her daughter Chloe Shoyer (Fresher) with the move into College on Family Day.



Social Media

Stay connected and join our Women's College community for all the latest information and events for parents.



@TheWomensCollegeJQ



@womenscollegeuq



The Women's College within
The University of Queensland

Louise Brown

Memories

Given that I lived at Women's for six years, it really does feel like coming home whenever I return. While there certainly have been some changes since I left, there are familiar smells and it's lovely to hear the general noise and chatter of current Woozas. I have many close friends whom I met at Women's. Certain people stick in our minds for their antics, mannerisms or behaviours. We recall particular events and happenings as if they weren't really that long ago.

Living in a College that supported, nurtured and inspired women to give and be their best

was the greatest start anyone could have hoped for as they studied and then ventured out to begin their career. Meeting like-minded women from a great variety of backgrounds and with a whole myriad of ambitions helped develop understanding, tolerance and empathy—all fantastic traits that I use both personally and professionally. Whenever I meet another Wooza, whether they resided in College at the same time as me or not, there's a particular understanding and bond. Once a Wooza, always a Wooza!

Advice

Embrace all that Women's has to offer. Meet as many people as you can and enjoy new adventures.

Take part in social, cultural, sporting and service events. Appreciate the great food, the fantastic support and excellent facilities. Remember to exercise, get enough sleep, stay safe and study hard.

Below Alumna Louise Brown, Kirsten Brown (Fresher), Tony Brown and Miranda Brown at Family Day.



Helen Atkinson

Memories

I have many very happy memories of the Dining Hall. I remember sitting around the tables drinking coffee and talking, talking, talking until we were asked to leave. I remember attending the Formal and Informal events in the Dining Hall.... and the smell of bundy rum coming out of the floor for days after!

I was so shy and sheltered before going to Women's. However I learned to be more outgoing and to be someone who joined in one way or the other. I had the first taste of feeling like I could be and do whatever I

wanted and that my life or career did not have to conform with what society deemed to be a woman's role. I remember being so proud of going there as I was the first person in my family to attend tertiary education.

Advice

Join in, join in, join in. Be a part of as much as you can as often as you can. Get to know the women you are sharing your life with because they will be some of the most amazing and enduring friendships you will ever make. In the early '80s we didn't have formal dinners and networking was not a thing, but if someone had shown me how, I would have tried harder

to do it. So try and meet as many of the inspiring people who are invited to be guest speakers at College as you can. It may be hard to see the value in some things when you are this age, but do not hold back because you do not want to regret not taking these opportunities.



Above Colin Atkinson, Alexandra Atkinson (Fresher) and alumna Helen Atkinson.

Celebrating 106 Years!

A highlight on the College calendar is the annual College Birthday event.

This year, we celebrated the College's 106th Birthday with a special High Tea for our College community, joined by alumnae and their daughters and members of our 2020 Student Leadership Team.

The special occasion was a great opportunity for our students to network and connect with alumnae, hear some interesting stories and enjoy the memorabilia on display—which included a copy of the 1914 Women's College calendar—as well as discover how our alumnae make a difference by giving back to the College.

Right Ella Cooper cutting the cake with alumnae Barbara Page-Hanify, Judith Anderson and Sallyanne Atkinson AO.



Advancement Update continued

2020 Giving Appeal

The Women's College is committed to providing access to world-class education for all our young women. For some students, however, the road to completing their university studies is challenged by financial hardship. Our Annual Giving Appeal seeks to ease these burdens.

The Equity Future Fund is the main focus of the annual appeal, which embodies the goal to ensure equitable access to both quality university education and the rewarding College experience for all women, regardless of their background.

In 2019, we introduced scholarships for the first time, for new and returning students, to support high achievers who excel in the areas of academia, culture, sport and leadership during their university studies. With your generous support, we can open doors



Your gift will impact our students today,
tomorrow and forever

Please give to our 2020 Giving Appeal
www.womens.uq.edu.au/donations

for Women's College students' education and assist them in achieving their university goals and aspirations in becoming the next generation of young leaders.

Operations Update

Jeff Sipek, Operations Manager



New Executive Chef

Earlier this year, we appointed Michael Mueller to the position of Executive Chef.

Michael is a qualified European-trained Chef with 40 years' experience in hospitality and he has a Masters degree as a Chef in hotel management from the Hotel Management School in Heidelberg, Germany. Michael has worked in numerous five-star award-winning hotels in Europe, England, China, South-East Asia and Australia.

The College welcomes Michael to this role and looks forward to sampling his cuisine from around the world.

Work Place Health & Safety

Health and safety is a major priority for all industries, and at the Women's College the safety and wellness of all students, staff, contractors and guests is paramount.

An audit was completed in March as per standard AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018.

The College was compliant in all aspects, with key findings including the following.

- The Women's College demonstrated a high level of conformance with the requirements of the relevant standards and all levels of the organisation not only understood the foundation concepts of health and safety, but felt empowered by senior management to raise any concerns they may have.
- Management of the College demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the health and safety of their residents, staff, contractors and visitors with a clear positive culture evident.
- A high level of communication exists across the organisation with clear mechanisms of consultation for change in place as required.



Finance Matters

Elsa Geringer, Business Manager/Deputy Head of College

As with many other not-for-profits, The Women's College has been severely impacted by COVID-19 with the cancellation of all our conferences and functions due to government restrictions, as well as the College seeing a number of students returning home.

We thank you for your patience while we were tirelessly working with the Council to determine a fair and reasonable fee rebate to those students who made the decision not to be in College during this time. Thank you to those families who took up the room holding fee option and to those families who subsequently paid their Term 2 fees, as this will assist us in offsetting our fixed expenses.

We look forward to many Woozas returning for Semester 2 and will be issuing Term 3 invoices on 19 June 2020, payable on or before 17 July 2020. This invoice will reflect the room holding fee as well as the credit for Term 2. A reminder that payment plan options are available to families who have been financially impacted by COVID-19.

Through the generosity of the Student Club, there will be 10 bursaries of \$2,000 each available to students who would like to return to College in Semester 2, but are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. The Student Club COVID-19 Support Bursary application form is available on the student portal, at www.womens.uq.edu.au/student-portal/support-bursary-application-form-guidelines. Applications close at 5:00 pm on Sunday 24 May 2020 and should be emailed to registrar@womens.uq.edu.au. All applicants will be contacted by mid-June on the outcome of their application.

Australia has been struck this year first by the ongoing droughts, then the bushfires and now the coronavirus pandemic. We acknowledge that these unprecedented events will impact families' abilities to continue supporting their daughters at Women's and for this reason we ask those who can to donate generously this year to our bursary fund at www.womens.uq.edu.au/donations. Your generous donation will support our students and families who require urgent financial support during these times. 100% of your tax-deductible donation will go directly to students in need.

Applications for 2021 are now open. Similarly to last year, we will offer a \$500 referral fee that will be paid to current residents in the form of a fee deduction for every successful referral.

For a referral to be successful, the prospective resident must:

- be offered a place at The Women's College (i.e. meet our selection criteria);
- confirm their acceptance by signing the residency agreement and pay their deposit; and
- identify the current resident as the person who referred them during their interview.

Right Student Club President, Ella Cooper and Florence Kearney, Head of College and CEO.



University Semester Dates 2020 adjusted for COVID-19

We understand that the university start dates for Semester 2 are varied and, as such, the College will remain open for students during the mid-year break. If students wish to remain in/return to College during their break, they will need to make arrangements with the College so that we can accommodate everyone during this time.

There will be a weekly fee for students who wish to stay at College during their mid-year break – this will be discussed with each individual based on their requirements. Please contact the College via email with your request/queries as soon as possible so that we can give you all the information you will need to determine your stay at College.

Institution	Sem 1 start	Sem 1 end	Sem 2 start	Sem 2 end
UQ	24 Feb	11 Jul	3 Aug	21 Nov
QUT	24 Feb	19 Jun	20 Jul	13 Nov
Griffith	24 Feb	6 Jun (T1)	13 Jul (T2)	24 Oct
ACU	24 Feb	14 Jun	27 Jul	22 Nov
CQU	9 Mar	19 Jun	13 Jul (T2)	23 Oct
USC	24 Feb	19 Jun	20 Jul	13 Nov

As a newlywed (many years ago), my husband and I watched the film *Cinderella Man*. This movie was an eye-opener and shaped all the financial decisions we took thereafter. I encourage you to watch this with your family.

Place your mark on our new Study Hub

How you can support?

Named gifts are lasting reminders to future generations of the generous contributions by our donors. For this reason, the Women's College is delighted to offer a naming opportunity and welcomes the chance to honour families whose philanthropic support will make possible the finishing touches to our new Study Hub.

This is a joint project with The Women's College and the Student Club and we have secured naming opportunities of all study spaces, the meeting room, common room and tea room.

For only \$250, opportunities are still available for families to give to the project by having their name recorded on a donor recognition plaque, as a permanent gesture of gratitude.

Your help will be greatly appreciated by the students at Women's College who will use the Study Hub, both now and in the future.

To support our new Study Hub project, please visit our website or contact our Engagement & Marketing Manager:
Website: www.womens.uq.edu.au/donations/study-hub-naming-opportunities/
Email: advancement@womens.uq.edu.au
Phone: (07) 3377 4500

**Last
opportunity
to donate**

