



The Women's College

within The University of Queensland

ready to lead

Thursday 19 October 2023
Valedictory Dinner

Fellow's Address

Kim Lyons

Fellow of The Women's College

Alumna 2001 – 2005

Senior Resident Assistant 2005

Council Member 2012 – 2023

Council Deputy President 2012 – 2023

Good evening,

- Distinguished guests, as previously mentioned
- Emeritus Professor Carol Dickenson AM – President of the College Council
- Mrs Flo Kearney – Head of College and CEO
- Ladies, gentlemen, and students

It is an absolute honour to be awarded a Fellowship of The Women's College.

Since walking through the front doors in 2001, I have been fortunate to have spent over half my life at Women's. My five years as a resident – including two as Resident Assistant and one as Senior Resident Assistant – were undoubtedly formative years in my development as a confident and well-rounded young woman. Subsequent involvement in the former alumnae association, The Chislehurst Society, introduced me to so many treasured alumnae and friends of the College and gave me the opportunity to 'give back' to a place that had given me so much.

I have also celebrated many of the happiest times in my life here, from my years as a uni student to personal celebrations, including our wedding reception and baby shower.

This evening, I would like to formally thank the Council and the College for this very special honour.

It has been a privilege to serve on The Women's College Council over the past 11 years. I have gained invaluable experience in so many aspects of governance and have been extremely fortunate to have been mentored, supported, and encouraged by fellow Council members, former and current.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the hard-working team of staff at the College for the incredible work they do each and every day in delivering the College's mission, vision and values. It not only takes a hard-working, loyal and committed group of individuals to achieve this goal but, more importantly, an unwavering dedication to teamwork and 'living' the College spirit.

Although not personally known to many of you in the room this evening, I would like to pay tribute to the late Dr Maureen Aitken, former Principal of The Women's College. Through her grace, compassion, kindness and a love for the College like no other, she encouraged, supported and believed in me during my years at Women's. Valedictory Dinners were one of her favourite events of the year and I have no doubt that she's looking down on us all tonight with a gentle smile and twinkle in her eye.



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I would also like to acknowledge and express sincere gratitude to my family.

Firstly, to my parents, in particular my mother who has driven from Wallumbilla to be here for this special occasion – thank you for the sacrifices you made to allow me the opportunity to call Women's my 'home away from home'. You gifted me a life-changing experience and all the ingredients for a bright, happy and positive future. I am blessed to be your daughter.

Secondly, to my husband and beautiful girls – thank you for sharing me with College for so many years, even when you would have preferred me to be at home, just as 'Mum'. Your endless support, patience and love have afforded me the chance to keep giving and see my 'Wooza Bucket' continue to overflow.

I am and always will be a proud Women's alumna and advocate for the life-changing value of the College experience.

As a student, The Women's College provided me with an exemplary platform for personal growth, a nurturing environment for academic success, an enriching community for participation in cultural, sporting and community service activities and a multitude of incidental and formal opportunities for leadership. Most importantly though, it was my home and a place where friends became family.

So tonight, I conclude by simply saying 'thank you' to our incredible College for affording me so many invaluable opportunities to share the gifts I have been fortunate enough to receive and for helping to shape the woman I am today. No matter where I go or what I do, one thing I know for sure is that Women's will always hold a special place in my heart.