April 2014

Dear Friend,

The first semester of 2014 is now into its fifth week and our students have settled back into College and university life. In February, we welcomed our 2014 Fresher cohort of 96 young men and women. Freshers were quickly immersed in the culture of the College thanks to the fast-paced and exciting O-Week schedule. Teamed with returning student mentors to assist their introduction to College, the week was no doubt a highly memorable welcome to St Andrew’s.

Since my last newsletter in December, there have been several exciting occasions at College. In February, we launched our new College website. As I’m sure you will agree, it is far more dynamic and user-friendly than our previous site, with content relevant for all members of the Andrew’s community.

On the homepage you will find a ‘Welcome to St Andrew's College’ video that was launched in conjunction with the website. The video features many students, both past and present. I encourage you to take a look - you may recognise a few faces. We plan to show this video to prospective students at various schools and career events throughout the year. I am confident it will provide them with a snapshot of all that our community loves about St Andrew’s. I encourage you to visit us online and acquaint yourself with the new digital face of the College.

The InterCol competitions have commenced for another year. I’m pleased to report that the College has secured an early victory, winning the Rawson Cricket. The Andrew’s men beat Wesley and John’s in the first two matches, and claimed an overall victory following forfeiture by Paul’s due to an internal disciplinary issue. I look forward to the commencement of Rosebowl Netball this week. We have also been awarded second place in both the Palladian Oration and Solo Vocal competitions. We are fortunate to have highly talented students competing in both the sporting and cultural InterCol competitions and I am confident of further success in the year ahead.

New Strategic Vision for St Andrew's College

In 2014, St Andrew’s is taking the first steps towards achieving our vision to be the premier residential college in Australia. Academic excellence and diversity are vital aspirational elements of the finest residential colleges and we are undertaking significant measures to help us accomplish even higher standards in each of these.

Our college is serious about our responsibility to assist all of our students in attaining their highest academic ambitions. To help ensure the success of each individual, our Residential Life Program has expanded to include additional academic support resources, which I will detail later in this newsletter. I am confident that all students will benefit from these initiatives.
We are also committed to giving more students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to live at College, irrespective of their financial circumstances. With this in mind, we have expanded our bursaries program. From a total scholarships pool of $477,500, there is now $200,000 in financial assistance available to students to be awarded on the basis of need. This increased financial support enhances access and equity for prospective students, which is expected to result in an even greater diversity of applicants, and a more diverse college community.

2014 has also seen the introduction of new academic standards at College. We have introduced a requirement that each student must achieve and maintain an annual average mark of equal to or greater than 60, with no fails in any subjects. This is a transitional step towards the expectation that residents will maintain an annual average mark of 65, and no fails, from 2015. A system is in place to ensure that these standards are enforced. The full weight of the newly enhanced support program as described above will be brought to ensuring that every resident has the opportunity to reach, indeed exceed, the required standard.

St Andrew’s encourages a vibrant and diverse community and we hope our new strategy will allow the College to flourish in the next few years.

**Residential Life Program**

We are very proud of our Residential Life Program and consider it to be one of College's greatest assets. The program aims to create a foundation for personal growth and to support students in both their academic pursuits and the experience of College life. As previously mentioned, the academic component of the Residential Life Program has significantly expanded this year.

Highlights of a range of new and enhanced elements include the appointment of non-residential Teaching Fellows, each of whom are experts in their chosen field, to provide specialised support to students. We are introducing a mentoring program for students in their third year that will match them with alumni who are successfully working in their field of study. Extension opportunities will also be made available for our high achievers. The Academic Life page on our website outlines the programs available to students if you would like to read further.

The vibrant cultural life of Andrew's also continues to grow. The St Andrew’s Bluebirds are one of our new additions – the first all-male a capella group of the College. We have welcomed The Reservoir Trio, our new Ensemble in Residence, who have already enthralled an audience with a concert in the Chapel. Acclaimed international pianist Avan Yu recently made a return to College, performing to a similarly enthusiastic response. We also have a number of students involved in the new InterCol Musical, _A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum_. Following on from the success of last year’s musical, we anticipate another high standard production.

It is of great importance that College supports our students in developing the ability to lead lives of contribution and meaning. The Residential Life Program will continue to develop with the input of our students, staff and academics. The welfare of our students is at the heart of the program, so it is a highly valued part of the College’s offering. Further information regarding the Residential Life Program is available here.

**St Andrew’s College Master Plan**

I introduced the College’s Master Plan in last semester’s newsletter. To recap, the College intends to expand our accommodation and facilities to accommodate 410 residents. This number will be made up of roughly 300 undergraduate, 80 postgraduate and 30 academic positions. The scale of the new College will allow the
community to retain the intimacy of collegiality yet also provide a dynamic and vibrant environment for our residents. Great care has been taken to ensure that the historical features and facades of the College will be kept intact. The Plan is intended to allow for greater accessibility to St Andrew’s, tying in with our strategic goal of creating a more diverse community.

After many months of work by the Major Works Committee (a sub-committee of the College Council), the Master Plan Development Application (DA) was lodged with Sydney City Council (SCC) in December. This initial submission, named the Stage 1 DA, encompasses the entire Master Plan, which has a timeframe of potentially 15-20 years to complete it in its entirety.

Once SCC approval for Stage 1 is granted, the College will progress with more detailed designs for individual buildings after deciding upon an order of construction. You can learn more about our Master Plan here. We will endeavour to keep our community informed of progress to the Plan via our website.

St Andrew’s College Children’s Camp

The second St Andrew’s College Children’s Camp (SACCC) was held in December and just like the inaugural camp in 2012, was a huge success. Volunteers from Drew’s and the Sydney University community welcomed special needs children to College for four days of activities, giving the children a great experience, and granting some respite for the parents. The College is very proud of our men and women who were entirely responsible for the planning, management and execution of this rewarding event. Camp co-ordinator James Daniel (fr 2012) has written a terrific review of the camp, which you can read here.

University Medallists, Honours and Prize Recipients

Several of our past and present Andrew’s students were awarded University Medals, Honours and Prizes by the University of Sydney in 2013. A complete list is available here. The College wishes to congratulate all recipients.

Alumni Events

The opportunity to reconnect with our former students is of great importance. Our Advancement team has been busy planning a full calendar of alumni events. We have several upcoming reunions within Australia and internationally. Details can be found here, with events updated as required in the coming months.

I recently attended an event in London with some of our alumni; it is always enjoyable to reconnect with past students, to hear stories of their time in College and in turn, inform them of our plans for the future of St Andrew’s.

Another recent reunion was for our Young Alumni in Sydney last month. Leesa Hamilton and the SAC Alumni Society did a terrific job of organising this event.

I also encourage all alumni to update their contact details with us so we can stay in touch and keep everyone informed of upcoming activities. If you would like to learn more about these events, or advise us of your current information, please contact us.
Investing In Our Future

The College is committed to investing in the future of outstanding young people. Our students have the potential to make a significant contribution to society thanks to the education they receive at university and enhanced by their experiences at St Andrew’s.

We need your help to invest in these vibrant young people and, this year, will ask you to help us through our Annual Giving program. Annual Giving gives us all the opportunity to provide an outstanding experience for our current and future students via Scholarships, Bursaries, Heritage programs and a Students’ Club project: this year, building a bike shed for the increasing number of bikes at College.

In late April, I will be sending you more information about these programs and projects. In the meantime, if you’d like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Fiona McQueen, Director of Advancement, +61 2 9565 7303 or advancement@standrewscollege.edu.au.

Farewell to John Sergeant

We have recently bid farewell to Vice Principal John Sergeant (FR 1983). John has contributed extensively to the life of the College, both as a student in the 80’s and throughout his thirteen years as a College officer in residence; three years as Dean of Students and ten years as Vice Principal. John’s deep affection for St Andrew’s College has always shone through, and not only has he been a loyal and devoted deputy, but he is one of the very best leaders this College has had.

One of the legacies left by John and his wife Jenny is the donation of the University Cup, which as many will know, is a sporting competition for the co-residential colleges and runs alongside the Rawson Cup and Rosebowl. It was created in order to celebrate the combined achievements of the men’s and women’s teams in InterCol sport and aims to promote equality. John will be missed by both staff and students, but we are sure he will remain a familiar face around the College. In this regard, John continues to coach the women’s crew for the Rosebowl Rowing campaign.

Dr Hester Wilson has now taken on the role of both Vice Principal and Director of Residential Life. Hester was formerly our Senior Tutor, and brings her professional expertise and a caring commitment to the residential experience of our men and women in residence. I look forward to working closely with her in this senior position.

Eloise Howse has re-joined the College as our new Senior Tutor. Previously, Elly was one of our two Deans of Students until her departure in 2013. Elly made significant contributions to St Andrew’s as a student here and I’m pleased to welcome her back as a member of staff.

We await the challenges and opportunities that will present themselves this year as we work towards our new strategic goals. I am optimistic that, given the great foundations of St Andrew’s College, we will make great progress towards achieving our vision of becoming the premier residential College in Australia.

Please follow us on Facebook for a ‘window into Andrew’s’ with ongoing updates about College events and the various achievements of our students.

I hope that 2014 has found you in good health and looking forward to the year ahead.

Warmest regards,
Wayne Erickson
Principal