Welcome to 2010
Greetings from RMIT, and a belated happy Chinese New Year of the Tiger!

It is a great pleasure to write to you all in my new role as Pro Vice-Chancellor International and Development at RMIT. I worked at RMIT for two years in the early 1990s before moving to Kuala Lumpur as Academic Director of RMIT’s programs at Metropolitan College, so after a long absence, it is good to be back. I look forward to visiting many of you as I travel to your part of the world over the coming months.

I have spent the past six weeks absorbing the details of our offshore programs and partners, some of whom may already know me. I spent six months of my four years in Malaysia based at Taylor’s College Subang Jaya campus, attended my first overseas graduation at SIM in 1992 while working in Malaysia, and attended a VTC graduation in late 2004 while PVC (International) at Swinburne University. Now that I am back at RMIT, I am looking forward to renewing some of those relationships and to building strong relationships with all our partners.

This is an exciting time to be at RMIT as we begin to develop our next five-year strategic plan. Internationalisation will continue to play a central role in RMIT’s activities and I look forward to working with you to determine the shape of our future international profile.

Best wishes,
Stephen Connelly
Pro Vice-Chancellor
International and Development

Offshore manuals
RMIT University continues to develop and refine the Student Information Guide and Program Administration Manual for use with each offshore partner. These are already employed by most of the university’s larger partners and we expect to have them in use at all current partners over 2010. The manuals are an excellent way to keep partners informed of changes to policy and procedure and will be kept relevant through annual reviews and updates. Academic Registrars Group (ARG) will manage and be responsible for the content of the manuals, but each partnership manager will work with their partner to ensure any special country/cultural contexts and specific institutional requirements are considered.

Offshore graduation dates for 2010
The dates for RMIT University graduations have been confirmed and detailed information can be found at www.rmit.edu.au/graduation/offshore. In summary, the venues and dates are as follows:

Hong Kong
Sunday 29 August at The Grand Hyatt (Grand Ballroom), with two sessions at 10 am and 2 pm.

Malaysia
Saturday 18 September at Hotel Nikko (Grand Ballroom), Kuala Lumpur at 2 pm.

Singapore
RMIT Singapore graduation:
Monday 20 September at The Raffles City Convention Centre (Stamford Ballroom) at 7.30 pm.

RMIT graduation with the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM):
Thursday 26 August at 10 am, 2 pm and 6 pm, and Friday 27 August at 10 am and 2 pm.

Vietnam
Friday 26 November in Ho Chi Minh City and Sunday 28 November in Hanoi.

Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT)
Tuesday 6 July 2010, Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, Songjiang Campus, No 1900 Wenxiang Road, Songjiang Shanghai.

Partnership managers will be in contact shortly to assist with invitations and collation of attendee registers for each ceremony.

Melbourne ceremony
The 2010 RMIT graduation ceremony in Melbourne will be conducted on Wednesday 15 December at 7.30 pm. All RMIT students eligible to graduate are welcome to take part in the Melbourne ceremony instead of one of the offshore ceremonies. Applications to graduate at the Melbourne ceremony close on 3 September 2010. Detailed information can be found at: www.rmit.edu.au/graduation
Transition to myRMIT

RMIT will be moving away from the current student portal to myRMIT. myRMIT is not a completely new resource, but a rebranded and updated version of the student portal. The existing student portal will continue to be supported in conjunction with myRMIT, but this support is unlikely to continue after April 2010. The version being developed for use offshore will be customised slightly to ensure its relevance for students studying with our partners outside Australia. We will be in touch shortly to discuss the contents of an official communication to students regarding this change.

Ten-year partnership with the University of Maryland

In 2010 the School of Business Information Technology and Logistics celebrated its 10-year collaboration with the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park, with a luncheon hosted by the Provost of the University of Maryland and Professor Brian Corbitt.

Each January since 2000, RMIT University, in association with the University of Maryland, has conducted a two week study tour program to Washington DC and New York.

To date, 568 postgraduate and undergraduate students have taken the opportunity to enhance their business and cultural understanding of the USA and immerse themselves in the American college environment. Highlights of the study tour include visits to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a range of transnational corporations, such as Black and Decker, GE, AOL and Intelsat. Students attend classes at the University of Maryland and at Georgetown University for two weeks, while also visiting Fortune 500 companies.

In their free time, students can explore all that Washington DC has to offer, visiting famous landmarks such as the Smithsonian Institute, Jefferson Memorial, the Capital Building and the White House, and attending college basketball and Washington Wizards ice hockey matches.

‘The study tour to the USA was career defining for me. The academic and personal challenge of studying overseas helped me to build my leadership and communication skills and gave me at a great advantage when the opportunity arose to move into a management role,’ says Seonaid Porter, current Master of Business Information Technology student.

Dr Paul R. Cerotti, Senior Lecturer in the School of Business IT and Logistics, developed the study tours with the assistance of Associate Professor Eveline Fallshaw and Dr Joan Richardson.

‘The globalisation of a student’s learning and teaching is one of the most important processes a student can be involved in as they face the challenges of an interdependent international business landscape that demands global knowledge and capabilities,’ says Dr Cerotti.

The USA study tour has won the Australian Learning and Teaching Award for the ‘development of sustainable study tours enhancing internationalisation of the student experience’, and in 2007 won the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for ‘outstanding team teaching and excellence in curriculum’.

In 2011 the College of Business and School of Business Information Technology and Logistics is looking forward to hosting its first inbound tour from the Robert H. Smith School of Business, as well as continuing staff exchange and collaborative research activities.

Contacts

For further information relating to the RMIT offshore partnership programs, please contact:

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For contact details of RMIT staff holding key roles as part of the partnership management model, please visit www.rmit.edu.au/gbd/tne/pmcontacts.

Marketing sign off

The coordination of marketing activities for partnership programs presents various challenges. Tight deadlines, the involvement of multiple stakeholders at RMIT and partner institutions, the importance of negotiating varying institutional requirements, and feedback and approval management procedures in different countries combine to make this a process that requires concentrated effort and organisation.

The need to meet these challenges effectively and efficiently has led to the development of a marketing sign off process for offshore partnership programs. This process designates the partnership manager as the single point of contact for each of RMIT University’s offshore partners, making things simpler for all concerned. The RMIT partnership manager will ensure academic and corporate input is obtained for any material used to market RMIT programs, including brochures, posters, web and newspaper advertising. We hope all of RMIT’s offshore partners will find this a major improvement and will work with us to ensure the new system operates smoothly.

Feedback

Your feedback on the Transnational Education News is always welcome. Please send your comments or queries to:

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