

YEAR IN REVIEW the ties that bind



We warmly welcome collaboration, support and continued links with staff, graduates, friends and colleagues who share with us a belief in the Mission of ACU National with its fundamental concern for justice, equity and the common good.

We celebrate the graduates who have chosen to keep in touch with us through our Graduate Association. They are inspiring individuals, united by their strong sense of social responsibility and concern for the moral and ethical dimensions of their professional and personal lives.

In 2006, we embraced the support generously given to our operations through the Australian Catholic University Foundation and in other ways. Major donations greatly increase our capabilities. For example, we continue to work towards establishing a named Chair of Law for the University's Institute of Legal Studies, as well as a Chair in Midwifery, in collaboration with Mater Health Services Brisbane.

The wealth of our partnerships extends far beyond our own buildings. In 2006, our Strategic Review Committee formally endorsed our support for education in East Timor. Our work providing education for homeless and marginalised people expanded through the support of Mission Australia and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. We are distinguished also by our work expanding the horizons of Karen refugees on the Thai/Burmese border.

As an authentic Catholic university, we lay claim to 2,000 years of Catholic intellectual tradition, yet we are gladly open to people of all backgrounds, and we actively pursue new relationships. These are the ties that bind.



Australian Catholic University Foundation

The Australian Catholic University Foundation was established in 1993 to nurture the University's diverse areas of interest by providing a focus for individual, corporate and community energy and funds.

The Foundation raises funds to support the University's strategic academic initiatives, teaching and research projects, national and international community and outreach projects, and scholarships and bursaries for its students. The Foundation also raises funds to support the University's capital development program and facilities.

The University's commitment to the development of these and other partnerships with the community has been strengthened through the establishment of a Fundraising and Development Unit within the University Relations Directorate.

For further information visit www.acu.edu.au/foundation, or email foundation@acu.edu.au

Our donors, with gratitude

The 2006 Anne Lyons Memorial Fellowship was awarded to Lucy Kiyiapi to enable her to present at the International Forum on the Eradication of Poverty held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Continuing support from a number of institutional and individual donors enabled the expansion of the Sudanese Pathways Project now called Community Futures Australia, with students now enrolled in Nursing and Business courses at the North Sydney Campus as well as in Teaching at the Strathfield Campus.

ACU National and St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne entered into a partnership to jointly fund a Chair of Nursing Research. The inaugural appointment will be made in 2007.

With the support of Australian-owned funeral company Metropolitan Funerals, ACU National researcher Dr Chris Kynaston will embark on a three-year study into the different ways people cope with the loss of a loved one. The community engagement project will be based on the Brisbane Campus.

The Foundation has been able to build on seed funding from an anonymous donor to endow two scholarships for young women attending the Instituto Catholico Para Formacao de Professores, Timor-Leste with the inaugural Maria Gorete Joachim Scholarships being awarded to Angelica de Jesus Freitas and Angela Maria Gertrude Ole.

Australian Catholic University Foundation supporters, 2006

ACU National is deeply grateful for the generous support of the trusts, institutions and individuals listed, who contributed to the support of the University in 2006.

The University is also grateful to those donors who contributed artworks and books to the University's collections. There are also a number of private donors who do not wish to be acknowledged. The University is equally grateful for their support.

Support for national projects and activities:

Dr Steven Bevans
Marist Brothers (Melbourne Province)
NSW Parliament Asian Pacific Friendship Group
Professor Tony d'Arbon
S A. J Carroll AM
The Burke Fund

Queensland:

ACU National Choir, Brisbane Campus
Alan and Helena Druery
Australian Association of the Sovereign Military
Banyo Priests' Association
Bea Brickhill
Brian King
Brigidine College
David Carrigan
Catholic Church Insurances Ltd
Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton
Catholic Women's League, Bribie Island Branch
Congregation of Christian Brothers, Indooroopilly
Eric Marx
Gary R Lillcrap AM
Joan Armstrong
John Gleeson AM
Leo and Joyce Dunne
Malcolm and Heather Reid
Margaret Vider
Mark McCall and family
Metropolitan Funerals
Order of Malta
Peter and Cathy Quinn
Peter Blakey
Presentation Sisters of Australia and Papua
New Guinea, Queensland Congregation
Queensland Catholic Education Commission
Robin Fisher
Sallyanne Atkinson AO
Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane Congregation
St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW:

Carroll & O'Dea, Solicitors
Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Sydney
Catholic Education Office, Parramatta Diocese
Council of Catholic School Parents (NSW)
CPA Australia
Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the
Solomon Islands
Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club
Graeme Banks
Independent Education Union
Jeff Egan, Flagship Communications
John and Frances Coll
M and S Jarecki
Marist Brothers (Sydney Province)
Minter Ellison, Lawyers
Moore Stephens Sydney Ltd
NSW Minerals Council
RSL LifeCare Ltd
Siloam Korean Presbyterian Church, Strathfield
Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Five Dock

ACT:

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
Canberra Southern Cross Club
Catholic Education Commission, ACT
Catholic Education Office, ACT

Victoria:

Allan Myers
Australian Government's National Heritage Investment
Initiative Grant (2005-2006)
Capicchiano Family Trust
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
Family of Sir Bernard J Callinan
Ian Potter Foundation
Maria Myers
Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini Hospital
Salesians of Don Bosco
Sarah Frawley Trust

Scholarships and bursaries

In 2005 and 2006, ACU National increased its commitment to finding ways of assisting students with particular financial pressures, as well as those from rural and regional areas, to study at the University.

Through the support of a number of donors the following scholarships and bursaries have been established for students in 2007:

- The Elizabeth Ann McCall Scholarship (Brisbane Campus) for a student with a commitment to Social Justice, was established in memory of a graduate from McAuley College, the predecessor of Brisbane Campus
- The Francis Carroll Scholarship (Canberra Campus), established as the result of a public appeal through GreaterGood, the Capital Regional Community Foundation, with Sir William and Lady Deane as joint Patrons
- The George Alexander Foundation Scholarships and Bursaries (Ballarat Campus) – five scholarships and 10 bursaries
- The Gleeson Family Scholarship (Brisbane Campus) through the support of the Gleeson family from Townsville
- The Nano Nagle Scholarship for postgraduate study for Indigenous students (Brisbane Campus) was established by the Presentation Sisters, Queensland Congregation.

The University also gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organisations who provide support for our students through the direct awarding of established scholarships, prizes and bursaries.

Archdiocesan Council of St Vincent de Paul Society,
Canberra and Goulburn
Association of Catholic School Principals Inc
Australian & New Zealand College of Mental
Health Nurses Inc
Australian Catholic Historical Society
Australian College of Educators (NSW Chapter
– Parramatta/Hills Regional Group)
Australian College of Midwifery
Australian Computer Society Inc (NSW Branch)
Australian Confederation of Paediatric
and Child Health Nurses
Australian Council for Educational Leaders, Inc
Australian Council of Health, Physical Education
and Recreation, NSW
Australian Human Resources Institute
Australian Psychological Society Ltd
Ballarat Diocesan Schools Board
Bill Ritchie Family Trust
Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (Bendigo)
Catholic Education Office, ACT

Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Sale
Catholic Schools Office, Broken Bay Diocese
Centacare, Sydney
Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses
Elsevier Australia
GreaterGood (Capital Region Community Foundation)
Institute of Industrial Arts and Technology
Education (IIATE)
John Wiley & Sons Australia Ltd
Johnson & Johnson Pacific
King and Amy O'Malley Trust
Mathematical Association of New South Wales
Inc (MANSW)
McGraw-Hill Australia
Queensland Community Foundation
Queensland Orthopaedic Nurses Assn
Rotary Club of Ballarat South
Royal College of Nursing, Australia
Royal Life Saving Society Australia (NSW)
Society of St Vincent de Paul (Broken Bay)
Society of Vincent de Paul (Canberra and Goulburn)
St John of God Health Care, Ballarat
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Wexford Senate, Australia
Zonta Club of Sydney North

Faculty medal winners

- Ms Lauren Burt
Bachelor of Exercise Science (Honours)
Strathfield Campus
- Ms Samantha Flasz
Bachelor of Information Systems
North Sydney Campus
- Ms Rosemary Radford
Bachelor of Education (Primary)
Canberra Campus
- Ms Leah Santilli
Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design (Honours)
Melbourne Campus
- Ms Natasha Scully
Bachelor of Nursing
Melbourne Campus

University medal winners

- Ms Lauren Burt
Bachelor of Exercise Science (Honours)
Strathfield Campus
- Ms Ninawa Butrus
Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)
Melbourne Campus
- Mr David Parsons
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Brisbane Campus
- Ms Leah Santilli
Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design (Honours)
Melbourne Campus

Reaching out to prospective students

In 2006, we reached out to prospective students in new ways, introducing website initiatives such as video testimonials and online forums as part of the University's change of preference website. Student recruitment campaigns were refined following careful monitoring of growing interest in the University's courses through data analysis.

Research in 2006 focused on assessing the media habits of current students along with the annual surveying of commencing students' backgrounds and expectations. Results provided for further development and fine-tuning of recruitment and communications strategies.

Joining forces

ACU National was pleased to collaborate with the following organisations in 2006, through memorandums of understanding and other agreements:

Anglican Schools Commission Queensland and St Francis Theological College
 Australian Defence Force Academy
 Australian Lutheran College
 Australian Sports Commission, ACT Academic of Sport, NSW Institute of Sport, Queensland Academic of Sport and Victorian, Institute of Sport (Elite Athlete Friendly University Agreement)



Student recruitment staff within University Relations, with the support of ACU National student ambassadors are involved in a wide range of activities to promote the University to prospective students and the broader community. Among other things, they represent ACU National at careers and education expos, visit secondary schools and conduct campus tours.

Our Student Ambassador Program extends the leadership opportunities available to undergraduate students while they study and allow prospective students to speak directly with current students about ACU National courses and student life.

State	QLD	NSW/ACT	VIC
Schools accessed	293	405	381
Expos	13	29	30
Schools visited	21	44	17
Prospective students	45,981	62,591	63,607

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education for the conduct of a Carrick Institute Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education project
 Bureau of Catholic Education, Diocese of Mauritius
 Canberra Institute of Technology
 Caritas Francis Hsu College, Hong Kong
 Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Hobart to offer the Postgraduate Certificate in Religious Education
 Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Darwin
 Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta for offering the Master of Religious Education
 Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Tonga
 Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Wollongong for delivery of the Master of Religious Education
 Catholic Education Office, Melbourne to provide postgraduate education
 Catholic Education Office, South Australia for the delivery of Master of Educational Leadership and Master of Religious Education
 Catholic Education System, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
 Catholic Institute of Sydney
 Catholic Institute of Theology, Auckland, New Zealand
 Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Broken Bay
 Catholic Theological College, Melbourne
 Curriculum Corporation
 De La Salle Schools



Faculty of Education, Assumption University,
Bangkok, Thailand
Instituto Catholico Para Formacao de Professores,
Timor-Leste
Melbourne Health for education, research and research
training, and professional development
Notre Dame College (Shepparton) and the Catholic
Education Office (Diocese of Sandhurst) to provide
the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)
Notre Dame Institute of Education, Pakistan
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre Inc
RSL Veterans' Retirement Villages Limited
Shanghai Second Medical University, China
St Kevin's College (Waterford Campus) to offer aspects
of the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)
in an alternative school-based mode
St Paul's Theological College, Banyo
St Vincent's Health, Melbourne for a joint appointment
of a Chair in Nursing Research
TAFE NSW
The Australian Conservatorium of Music for cooperative
teaching
The Australian International Academy for offering
methodology in religious education
The University of Melbourne for cooperative delivery of
the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) in
Shepparton
Trustees of Christian Brothers to establish the Catholic
School Studies journal
Wellington Catholic Education Centre, New Zealand

ACU National offshore teaching

Caritas Francis Hsu College, Hong Kong
Catholic Institute of Theology, Auckland, New Zealand
De La Salle University Health Sciences Campus,
Dasmariñas Cavite, Philippines
Institut Catholique de l'Île Maurice
Instituto Catholico Para Formacao de Professores
Timor-Leste
Manila Doctors College, Philippines
Notre Dame Institute of Education, Karachi, Pakistan
Shanghai Institute of Health Sciences, China
Wellington Catholic Education Centre, New Zealand
Yun Yang Medical University, China

International study agreements

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany
Catholic University of Daegu, Republic of Korea
Catholic University of Korea, Republic of Korea,
College of Notre Dame of Maryland, USA
De La Salle University Health Sciences Campus,
Dasmariñas Cavite, Philippines
ESPEME School of Business, France
Fachhochschule Darmstadt, Germany
Fachhochschule Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Fachhochschule Fulda, Germany
Fachhochschule Giessen Friedberg, Germany
Fachhochschule Wiesbaden, Germany
Fairfield University, USA
Georgia College and State University, USA
Hijiyama University, Japan
Hochschule für Gestaltung, Offenbach am Main,
Germany
Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst,
Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität Giessen, Germany
Justus Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany
Kagoshima Immaculate Heart University, Japan
Katholische Universität Eichstätt Ingolstadt, Germany
Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare, Japan
Lund University, Department of Nursing, Sweden
Malmo University, Sweden
Manila Doctors College, Philippines
Nagoya University of Arts and Sciences, Japan
Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, Japan
National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland
Nazareth College of Rochester, USA
Nipissing University, Canada
Philippis-Universität Marburg, Germany
Regis University, USA
Rovaniemi Polytechnic, Finland
Santa Clara University, USA
Shanghai Institute of Health Sciences, China
Shoaguan University, China
Sophia University, Japan
St Jerome's University, Canada
St John's University, USA
St Martin's College, Lancaster, UK
St Norbert College, USA
St Thomas University, Fredericton, Canada
State University of New York, Oswego, USA
Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany
The Hague University, The Netherlands
Universidad Iberoamericana Plantel Golfo Centro,
Mexico
Universidad Panamericana Campus Guadalajara,
Mexico
Universidad Santo Tomas Santiago, Chile
Universität Kassel, Germany
Universite Catholique De Lille, France
Universität Konstanz, Germany
University of Gävle, Sweden
Universität Heidelberg, Germany
Universität Hohenheim, Germany

Universität Karlsruhe, Germany
Universität Mannheim, Germany
University of Limerick, Ireland
University of North Carolina at Greensborough, USA
University of St Thomas, St Paul, USA
University of St Thomas, Texas, USA
Universität Stuttgart, Germany
University of the Sacred Heart, Japan
University of San Carlos, Philippines
Universität Tübingen, Germany
Universität Ulm, Germany
Wilfred Laurier University, Canada

ACUcom

ACUcom delivers quality continuing education programs for business organisations and the public sector such as management, communication, and leadership training. In Victoria, the main clients are from the state government sector. In NSW, clients are from major corporations.

ACUcom also provides specific programs in Education, such as TESOL and LOTE and Inclusive Schooling. This year 90 people graduated from TESOL with 25 graduating from Inclusive Schooling. The LOTE classes are delivered on behalf of the NSW Department of School Education and in 2006 there were 70 graduates. Participants were from a wide variety of countries, including Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Vietnam, Brazil, Greece, Columbia, China and Thailand. These students will teach their own language in specialist classes.

The International sector of ACUcom provided English Language and Diploma Pathway programs for entry into the University. English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) are at peak levels and we have recently opened an ELICOS unit in Brisbane. The Diploma Pathway programs are also attracting substantial numbers and are a vital part of the International program.

Keeping communities informed

In 2006, University Relations spread the word about the University's Mission and diverse activities, reaching out to future students, to current students and staff, to graduates, friends of the University, benefactors, collaborators and the broader community.

A key focus was on strengthening and building consistency into the University's visual identity to enhance recognition of our unique Mission and quality teaching, research and service.

We liaised with print and broadcast media about events and activities at the University, receiving coverage as diverse as CNN in Hong Kong, national radio, opinion columns and news pages in metropolitan daily and community newspapers, specialist magazines and more.

In 2006, in response to a proactive media approach and improved communication with the University's staff, coverage of our Mission-based activities increased, particularly in relation to the Clemente/Catalyst Education for Homeless and Pathways to Retirement programs. A number of Mission-related events received air time on ABC Radio National.

Media interest also increased in relation to the unique student experience the University offers, and the way we empower our students with a strong sense of social responsibility. Quality teaching and research at the University also received increased media attention during 2006.

In addition to developing marketing strategy for student recruitment and fundraising initiatives, University Relations supported the work of the University's Faculties and Directorates in diverse ways, at Open Days and Orientation week and at the many lectures, forums, exhibitions and book launches listed in *Serving the Common Good*.

At the same time, we provided professional advice on designers, proof reading and printing services to other University staff.

We published three issues of *acunique*.

Living Heritage, released in April, featured the roles ACU National's predecessor colleges and Catholic intellectual tradition have played in shaping our unique Mission, campuses and activities.

Qualified for Life, released in September, focused on the impressive contributions our graduates are making, serving the common good locally, nationally and internationally.

Living and Learning, released in December, showcased our award-winning and Mission-related quality teaching, learning and research.

Keeping staff, students and friends of the University informed, we also produced the University's fortnightly ACU National Update online newsletter.

For prospective students and other stakeholders, campus and courses guides and other publications were also produced.

We also worked with Information Technology and Communication Service (ITCS) to update and improve the University's website.

The Graduate Association

The Graduate Association is now one year old. After a successful 2005 pilot program, 2006 saw the Association move forward in leaps and bounds. Membership grew from 1,484 to 3,355 members.

For the past two years, the main source of new members has been through inviting graduates to join at graduation ceremonies, so they can keep in touch with colleagues through reunions and other University events and opportunities.

Those from previous years, including the predecessor colleges, are also warmly welcome to join, and as word of the Graduate Association spreads, more and more are joining up, many of them online, at a new Graduate Association website www.acu.edu.au/graduates

Along with a membership form, the Graduate Association website provides a whole range of information about the University and services available to graduates. Among the features of the site are profiles of graduates and Honorary Doctorate recipients and a section on the unique history of the University.

Graduates, staff and friends of the University are welcome to join the Graduate Association. We welcome any comments and are pleased to answer your questions regarding any Graduate events or activities.



Celebrating our graduates

In 2006, ACU National congratulated more than 3,700 students who graduated from the University, at 12 ceremonies, held in Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Hong Kong, Melbourne and Sydney. An inaugural ceremony was held in Baucau, East Timor and other celebrations took place on the Thai-Burmese border.

In 2006, 43 doctoral awards were conferred – 14 in Philosophy, 22 in Education and seven in Psychology.

As our graduates took their skills out into the world, they joined the ranks of more than 40,000 ACU National graduates, and many more who graduated from the University's predecessor colleges: the Catholic College of Education, Sydney (NSW), the Institute of Catholic Education (Vic), McAuley College (Qld) and Signadou College of Education (ACT).

The University values its graduates and postgraduates of all disciplines and from all corners of the world. They share a unique tertiary education, gained within the framework of a Mission which empowers them with a strong sense of social responsibility and concern for the moral and ethical dimensions of their study and their professional and personal lives.

Qualified for life

In 2006, ACU National celebrated its graduates in a number of ways. The *Qualified for Life* issue of *acunique* showcased the achievements of graduates working in diverse fields, in education, health services, business, government, politics, human services, the arts, the church, the environment, and more. Many of the stories featured in *Qualified for Life* clearly demonstrated how our graduates continue to live out the Mission of the University.

To order our publications please contact University Relations on (02) 9739 2363, email editor@acu.edu.au or visit www.acu.edu.au/publications



Honorary doctorates

The following distinguished recipients were awarded honorary doctorates on 2006:

Reverend Tom Boland, eminent Australian church historian, in recognition of his outstanding achievements as a priest, a teacher and a historian.

Sister Kath Burke rsm, in recognition of her never-waning commitment in her various roles as Sister, teacher, lecturer, advocate and member of various groups.

Archbishop Francis Carroll, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, in recognition of his tireless contribution to Catholic Education and the communities which he has served so well, and his unwavering commitment to ecumenism and interfaith relations.

Justice Susan Crennan, Justice of the High Court of Australia, for her extraordinary service to the judiciary, to the legal profession and the Australian Community.

Father William Jordan, Bachelor of Theology, Licentiate in Sacred Theology, Doctor of Sacred Music, musician, parish priest, liturgist, author, and consultant to ACU National's music course development, for his outstanding contribution to Church music.

The Honourable James Spigelman AC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, in recognition of his significant contribution to the betterment of public life.

Mr David Wenham (pictured), Australian actor, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the arts and noting his strong commitment to social and environmental issues.

The Wiggles, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to early-years education and child development through the arts. The Wiggles members honoured at the ceremony were Mr Jeff Fatt, Mr Anthony Field, Mr Greg Page and Mr Murray Cook.

Snapshot of ACU National graduates

Nathan Buhagiar

Triathlete Nathan Buhagiar, graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Exercise Science (Hons). Working with a physiotherapist as an exercise physiologist, his work involves helping people with injuries recover fitness and mobility. Nathan will shortly begin giving exercise classes to people with diabetes and cardiovascular disease, some of whom are recovering after open heart surgery.

Nathan followed his undergraduate studies with an honours year at ACU National, which "opened the door to where I am now" says Nathan. His research project involved researching the effectiveness of a 40-week fitness training program with 20 Vietnam veterans from Sydney's northern beaches.

The project's success cemented Nathan's belief in the healing and life enhancing powers of exercise as a cost-effective medicine. He says it is gratifying to be able to use his degree from ACU National to improve the quality of life of others.

Innes Harriman

Innes Harriman's desire to positively influence children provided him with the motivation to study a Bachelor of Education (Primary). "During my school-based placements, I gained an understanding of the commitment and responsibility required of those entering the teaching profession. As an ACU National graduate, I contribute to the community by educating the future decision makers of the world," says Innes.

Innes, who currently works at St. Joseph's College (Gregory Terrace), cites the best part of his current position as "making a connection with my students and helping to shape them into young gentlemen".

"My future career ambition is to have an enjoyable job that allows me to positively impact the world while allowing me to live comfortably and safely, maintain quality relationships with friends and family and travel extensively," says Innes.

Jean Madden

Teacher Jean Madden, who graduated from ACU National with Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education and Master of Arts (Theology) degrees, has taken the challenge to care for others literally – in 2006 she designed a lightweight 'street swag' for people who are homeless.

"Because people who are homeless sleep on cement, it is very crippling, hard on their internal organs as well as their muscles and bones, and the sleep deprivation can also affect mental health problems," Jean explains. Regular swags are heavy and hard to handle, so Jean designed a lightweight, waterproof street swag that could be easily rolled up holding possessions securely, looking like a normal bag.

The swags are being made by the Woodford Correctional Centre, and a commercial arm producing the swags for camping stores is also evolving, and her vision continues. Jean is seeking aid organisations to manufacture and distribute the swags for refugees and emergency aid. To make a tax-deductible donation, or to order some swags for a community, visit www.streetswags.org

Shawn Walker

When 2006 graduate Shawn Walker made the decision to study a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) he wanted to make a difference and inspire and empower others with the gift of education.

A former Student Association President and student ambassador, Shawn joined the staff of ACU National as a Marketing Officer (Student Recruitment) and is now the National Student Recruitment Coordinator. Shawn works with fellow student recruitment staff across Australia to promote the University. "My future career ambition is to continue to assist others to achieve their education aspirations," says Shawn.

"I formed valuable relationships with the staff from the secondary schools in which I completed my professional experience and still keep in contact with many of the teachers who supervised me," says Shawn who coordinates a wide range of activities to promote the University to prospective students and the broader community.

Leah Williamson

Leah Williamson studied the Bachelor of Social Science/ Bachelor of Theology degree, along with a Diploma of Education (Secondary) and Certificate of Religious Education. Since graduating in May 2006, Leah has been teaching at an Anglican girls school. "I now realise that teaching is a profession where you are constantly learning, engaging and growing as a person," says Leah. "It's not only about teaching. I have had the opportunity to be involved in many other facets of the school including Chapel, school camps and co-curricular activities."

A former student ambassador, Leah believes the University has profoundly influenced her life. "I found I was adequately prepared and inspired to enter the education sector with the skills and experience that ACU National gave me," she says. "The university has such a community atmosphere, everyone knows everyone. The lecturers know you and you know them."

Leah plans to start studying for a Master's degree at ACU National in a few years, and has the ultimate goal of completing Doctoral study in Educational Leadership to become a School Principal.