FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE – FROM CAROLYN CRAIG-EMILSEN

Ten years is a good chunk of anyone’s life. It is time enough to have learnt about what it means to be part of a community and to belong to a place. You will be reading this just after Synod has been grappling with the big questions facing the Uniting Church. The UCA faces its future in a volatile world now on our doorstep where how we relate as Christians to those of other faiths, and especially to our Muslim sisters and brothers, is critical. Faith and knowledge are vital. I have been privileged to be a part of a wonderful community here at Centre for Ministry.

For the first two years I lived here I worked for Eremos, an organisation committed to providing spiritual and faith resources for its membership. For most of these ten years I have lectured in academic writing and reasoning, been the UTC Study Skills Tutor and more recently, first year student mentor. I will finish in these roles at the end of October. What a gift it has been to support students in their BTh studies and witness their ever deepening journeys of knowledge and faith as they seek to be equipped for ministry. We have shared much together and their costly journeys of study and faith. This work has not happened in isolation. It has been a great privilege to be part of a dedicated team of Student Support Services including members of Faculty, the Library and the student administrative staff. I have also been excited to have embraced public theology in action – public events held here and nearby where big ideas have been aired – for example, the Faith and Atheism and Scriptures and Violence Conferences, and the recent inspirational Uniting Women Conference.

These ten years have been dynamic. I have lived, taught, studied, participated in celebrations and conferences, made friends, witnessed deep change and experienced the pain of the loss of some close colleagues. My family have been central to this journey and many of you also have played a key part. William and I will leave at the end of January to live in Leura in the Blue Mountains. We will remain committed to the life of the UCA, to ongoing books and projects (William’s ongoing NT Goulburn Island – Warruwi - Centenary Project for example), developing spirituality resources and retreats and enjoying family life.

Our community here is an intricate ecosystem where all relationships matter and where Christian grace, while sometimes tested, is real and visible. We simply could not function without each other. My thanks to the generous gift of these years in this place and to my colleagues and friends here – UME, the candidates and student body, UTC and Faculty, the Library and Uniting Venues staff. William and I look forward to saying a more personal thank you to many of you individually before we leave.
**Worship**
Remember across the semester you are welcome to join us for Chapel each week; Devotions during Semester at 9.20am on Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays, the Wednesday Service of Word and Sacrament during the Semester is at 11.30am.

And don’t forget that you can join us for Community Lunch at 12.40pm on the Wednesday during the Semester time.

**End of Year Service**
Friday 17th October service commencing at 7:30pm.
Please RSVP before Wednesday 8th October to carlah@nswact.uca.org.au

**FROM THE FACULTY**

**New Colombo Plan Scholarships**
The Australian Federal Government has released the second round of the New Colombo Plan Scholarships. These scholarships are designed to support high achieving students to undertake a semester study at a university in targeted Asian destinations. Scholarships are of significant value both financially as well as in relation to the recognition of the student and the university.
For further enquiries contact Gerard Moore gerardm@nsw.uca.org.au

**FROM STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

**End of Year Celebration**
The UTC Student Association 2014 warmly invites students, staff, faculty, family and friends to our End Of Year Celebration - a time to commemorate the end of the 2014 academic year, and to farewell our graduating students and exit candidates.

**Date:** Friday 17th October  
**Venue:** United Theological College, 16 Masons Dr. North Parramatta  
**Time:** Canapés and live jazz from 6:30pm; closing service at 7:30pm; dessert to follow.  
**Dress:** Black and White (smart-casual)  
**Cost:** Adults $15; children $5

Tickets are now on sale, and will close on Monday 13th October.
To purchase tickets, go to: http://www.ticketbo.com.au/utccelebration or purchase directly from the UTC reception desk.  
For any queries, please contact Radhika Sukumar-White (rads.sukumar@gmail.com)
We look forward to celebrating with you!

**FROM STUDENT ADMIN**

**2015 Timetable**
The timetable for first semester 2015 has been released this week. Please see the following link to download a copy 2015 Timetable or copies are available from Student Admin. We hope you will like the new format which highlights the sub-disciplines to help students with their subject selection. We are also introducing classes on Monday mornings and Wednesday nights.
If any students have any questions or concerns about the timetable, please feel free to contact Joanne on joannes@nswact.uca.org.au or phone 8838-8967
2015 New Students
For new students interested in studying Theology in 2015, on time applications to CSU for session 1 2015 close on the 30th of October, late deadline for applications is 30th of November and FINAL DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS is the 6th of February 2015. If you know of anyone who is thinking of studying with us next year, please feel free to circulate these dates to them. If potential students have any queries about the application process, they can contact Renee or Jenny on 8838-8914.

Study Link
Study Link Terms, including extended enrolment periods, bridge all session breaks specifically to enable you to use lecture down time. Everything about Study Link subjects is flexible so you can fit your other studies around them and take up to 5 months to finish them off! Take advantage of them this session break. Enrolments and information at: 
http://www.csu.edu.au/student/studylink/

Student Counsellors are available at CSU
Information on counselling services can be obtained from the website at http://student.csu.edu.au/support/counselling or contact the Manager of Inclusion and Counselling, Vicki Pitcher on 6051 9972.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Season of Creation
Uniting Earth Ministry is compiling video sermons, church stories, and all ages talks to help churches celebrate the Season of Creation this September. We have an even broader range of contributors this year on the themes of Forests, Land, Wilderness, Rivers and Francis of Assisi/Blessing of Animals. Resources can be accessed free at: http://unitingearthweb.org.au/worship/soc

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Remember to visit the NSW ACT Synod Community Connection http://nsw.uca.org.au/e-news

The newsletter is from the Faculty & College Assistant
Please direct news items to carlah@nsw.uca.org.au