EMPOWERING LEADERS

ACU National’s early achievers program, introduced this year, has attracted applications from 1,000 school leavers who have enriched their school, church and other communities through cultural, sporting or religious contributions.

The program is integral to the University’s mission to empower leaders to work locally, nationally and internationally to support social justice and the common good.

The University looks forward to welcoming these and all prospective students to its six campuses in Queensland, NSW, the ACT and Victoria, during 2009.

All prospective students and interested friends and family are warmly invited to explore our campuses and discuss study options with academic staff and current students.

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane Campus</td>
<td>Monday 22 December</td>
<td>5:30pm to 7:30pm</td>
<td>Elizabeth (Liz) Fisher</td>
<td>(07) 3623 7423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Sydney Campus</td>
<td>Friday 19 December</td>
<td>2pm to 7pm</td>
<td>Andrew Profilio</td>
<td>(02) 9701 4031</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strathfield Campus</td>
<td>Thursday 18 December</td>
<td>2pm to 7pm</td>
<td>Andrew Profilio</td>
<td>(02) 9701 4031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canberra Campus</td>
<td>Thursday 18 December</td>
<td>5pm to 6:30pm</td>
<td>Shawn Walker</td>
<td>0407 691 784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballarat Campus</td>
<td>Tuesday 16 December</td>
<td>5pm to 7pm</td>
<td>Danielle Ferguson</td>
<td>(03) 5336 5383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Campus</td>
<td>Wednesday 17 December</td>
<td>5:30pm to 7pm</td>
<td>Lynette O’Boyle</td>
<td>(03) 9953 3300</td>
</tr>
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LEADING IN AUSTRALIA, LEARNING IN MANILA

Melbourne Campus second-year nursing student Sarah Rose will spend her Christmas holidays in the Philippines, assisting the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) sisters.

A huge challenge
“In Manila, there is a very large rubbish dump which many people live near and off,” said Sarah, pictured left.

Sarah is also the Student Member of Senate and Chair of the ACU National Student Association.

“The FCJ sisters run health clinics, schools, education centres and an orphanage for the people that live on the dump. I will hopefully be helping them in these ministries.

“I will be there for two months so the prospect is a bit daunting but very exciting as well. It will be a huge challenge and not easy, but it will definitely be very rewarding. I feel happier that I am going there for an extended period of time so I can get to know the people and their culture and hopefully not feel like a tourist. This has been something I have always wanted to do, so it is great that the time has finally come!”

INVOLVED

Second-year arts and nursing student Christian Colangelo wasted no time getting involved when he began studying at ACU National.

Sharing ideas and resources
A former treasurer and incoming president of the Melbourne Campus branch of the Student Association, Christian was also a pilgrim group leader during World Youth Day (WYD) 2008 in Sydney, and has helped make a number of improvements at the campus.

As a member of Australian Catholic University Students For Awareness (ACUSA), Christian, pictured right, helped introduce fair trade coffee to the campus cafe. ACUSA ran a stall selling fair trade chocolates, bags and greeting cards earlier this year.

He has also become involved in another initiative, Conversation Corner, which links international students with local students to make new friends and share ideas and resources.

Friendly atmosphere
“I chose to study at ACU National as they have a reputation as one of the leading universities for nursing,” Christian said.

“I felt at home when I visited the University on Open Day. As each campus is small, there are opportunities to involve and concentrate on all students. You can’t help but get involved and get to know other students, which makes for a friendly atmosphere.

“I speak to friends about how they are travelling at their university and they say they only speak to two or three people in their course. They find that they go to university for classes and then leave, while I come into university for a one-hour tutorial or lecture and spend the whole day catching up with people.”

Christian enjoys the location of the campus, close to the city but in culturally diverse Fitzroy. He has also enjoyed travelling to other campuses and meeting other students at ACU Alive, a national showcase of students held at the Strathfield Campus last year, and during WYD.
Why did you choose to study at ACU National?
My decision was mainly based on locality and reputation. Each Friday, for three years, I had been tutoring an Ethiopian girl at a school for migrants and refugees just down the road from ACU National. I really wanted to continue this tutoring so I chose ACU National partly because of its location.
I also chose ACU National because of the reputation of its nurses as the best and most desirable to employ.

Why nursing?
Firstly I wanted to work with and care for people. I could not think of anything worse than sitting in an office all day, so I wanted to do something where I could be on my feet. Being with people brings me such happiness, so I knew that if I were to do nursing I would always be happy.
I also wanted a profession in which I would be able to give back to society. The notion that “to whom much is given much is expected” has been firmly instilled in me by my family and school. I wanted a profession in which I could be with those on the fringes of society and that would allow me to connect with people who have fallen between the cracks. I would also like to travel and I know that nursing will allow me to do this.

Why did you choose to study at ACU National?
What do you enjoy about your studies and University life?
Nursing – every placement I do is a joy. I love nursing and everything about it. In a way I believe it is my vocation and I believe I am so lucky to have found this first time round.
University life – there are so many opportunities to try new things. I love having time to catch up with friends for coffee, joining associations and meeting new people.

What is special about ACU National?
The University’s commitment to community engagement is very rare and sets it apart from other universities, and it is not just through money or token, one-off volunteering. The University is presently helping people in many communities for the long term and, in turn, developing students who are committed to engaging with the people around them. The new Early Achievers program is an extension of this and further proves the University’s commitment to community engagement, striving for the dignity of human beings.

‘Exciting time’
The arts courses he has studied so far include psychology and sociology.
“I chose to study nursing and arts as I have always been interested in youth work as well as nursing. Having the double degree will set me apart.
As for the University’s Catholic heritage, “Catholic students at ACU National have the opportunity to attend mass at lunch on certain days and be involved in events such as Drinks for God, held at the local pub. Bishop Tim Costello came and talked. This event was not just open to Catholics but all who were interested.
“This is an exciting time to be at ACU National,” Christian said. “I am really pleased to be involved.”