Congratulations to CAI Xiaoyin (Yulia) for gaining a Commendation in the Leadership section of the 2013 Victorian awards. These prestigious awards have become a significant recognition of the achievements of a growing number of International students, who gain wonderful outcomes while studying for their Victorian Certificate of Education.

ELTHAM College has had great success over the past two years with CHANG Shun Ming (Candice) winning the Leadership award in 2012 and Yulia receiving a Commendation for the same award the following year. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of students and staff at our College.
ELTHAM Alumni
This is the first of regular feature articles on Ex-ELTHAM students and their graduate outcomes

Graduate News from Kelly Tang
(Class of 2009)
I came to ELTHAM in Year 11 from Yuming High School, a sister school in the city of Dalian, China. Like many of my fellow international classmates, ELTHAM unfolded a whole new world for me, where I immersed myself in the freedom and happiness of study by having the autonomy to choose my favourite subjects while enjoying the Aussie life by being exposed to a wide variety of activities.

I went on the ELTHAM Central Australia trip during the mid-year holiday in Year 11. The well-organised trip highlighted by the amazing Australian landscape along the way left unforgettable memories.

I would like to thank all the ELTHAM staff for being so supportive and enthusiastic, and ELTHAM as a whole for playing such a positive role in the life-changing transition of a teenager’s life.

After graduating from ELTHAM, I moved on to study a Bachelor of Commerce (accounting and finance majors) at the University of Melbourne. I managed to complete the three-year degree course in two and a half years before taking an opportunity to participate in a volunteer project in Egypt for two months. I then went back to China to explore various opportunities, among which I stumbled upon the beauty of translation and interpreting by sheer accident. The strong interest and determination to succeed in this field drove me back to Australia to pursue a master degree of interpreting and translation studies at UNSW while working hard to gain as much practical experience as possible.

I am now a NAATI (National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters) accredited professional translator and interpreter, and I’ve embarked on my professional career at Chin Communications, Australia’s top Chinese translation specialist, based in Melbourne – so I’ve returned to Melbourne where I started out. I am looking forward to making great strides in this new and exciting profession.

Footnote from Chin Communications: Having been providing translation services to ELTHAM College for over a decade, imagine our enthusiasm when Kelly applied for a new translator position with us early in 2014. Seeing ELTHAM College on her CV made a big impact. Now Kelly is an important part of our team. Congratulations to ELTHAM College on your wonderful work with international students, in particular, preparing them for life and work in a new home.
Thai Connections

Vox Pop with Sikarin (Sumo) Nipathiranan
A Great Ambassador

Sumo's home is in Bangkok, Thailand. He won a scholarship for four weeks study at ELTHAM College as the winner of the NJ magazine Thai National Spelling Bee 2013. During his time at ELTHAM Sumo has undertaken Literature, Psychology, Physics, English, Biology and Chemistry. Sumo has made strong connections with both local and international students and assisted as an Ambassador for the recent ELTHAM College Open Day as part of a Chemistry session. He is a confident and articulate young man and an excellent ambassador for Thai youth. Sumo will continue his academic journey in August 2014 when he commences at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand to study Dentistry. We wish him all the very best for his future studies!

What is your first memory of a class at ELTHAM?
Biology class. I was introduced to other students in the class as a new visiting student and everyone welcomed me very well.

Favourite subject and why?
Literature and English. They have always been subjects I wanted to learn back in Thailand. It helps me improve my reading and writing skills and teach me to read thoroughly and analyse every detail of the book.

How is schooling at ELTHAM different to schooling in Thailand?
Everybody can choose to learn any subject they want based on their interests. Students have to walk to different classes with different classmates which helps getting new friends and study in a different environment in every lesson.

What will you be studying at University and where will you study?
I will study Dentistry at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. I will start my university studies this August.

What have you enjoyed most whilst living and studying in Melbourne?
The atmosphere around the town, with a lot of trees and beautiful hills. I can sit down and look at the view all day!! The people I met, friends, teachers and my homestay family. They're very nice to me.

Favourite food (Aussie)?
Barbeque!!

Favourite food (Thai)?
Tom Kha Kai – Chicken and Coconut Soup

Favourite Song?
Too many to list!

Hobbies outside of school?
Photography

Final Comment?
I really enjoyed my stay here in Melbourne. It is one of the greatest experiences I’ve ever had. Thank you everyone at ELTHAM College for welcoming me and treating me very nice.
Raweewan Unsiroj (Wah) recently accompanied Sumo on his scholarship to ELTHAM College. She also won a two week scholarship as his Year 12 English teacher at Bangkok Christian College in Thailand. Wah provided some great insights into teaching in Thailand, including the fact that she is responsible for teaching 8 classes of male students consisting of 50 students per class! That’s 400 reports that she is responsible for writing at the end of each Semester! Wah was able to gain valuable teaching experiences by observing many different classes at ELTHAM across various year levels. She hopes to be able to incorporate some of these teaching methods into her own classes. Wah reflects on her time at ELTHAM:

“I think this is a very wonderful chance for my life to come to this school, ELTHAM College. I have a big experience to observe how the teachers teach in each class. I have got new ideas for adapting in my class in Thailand. Thanks for giving me my big smile here”

Thai Connections continued ....

Wah with Clare Sansom who teaches English as an Additional Language (EAL)
Nine International students represented ELTHAM College on a visit to Government House on Wednesday 19 March 2014. Students were welcomed by His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria as well as The Honourable Martin Dixon MP, Minister of Education. The students were treated to various musical performances including a Chinese zither, walking through the formal dining room and gardens as well as a delicious morning tea. Another highlight was hearing an Ex-ELTHAM student CHANG Shun Ming (Candice) speak at this event. Candice was awarded the Victorian International School Student Leadership Award in 2012 and spoke about her transition from schooling in China to schooling in Australia. Candice encouraged international students to take the opportunity to be involved in school activities, council and leadership roles, as this enabled students to gain confidence and independence. Candice also spoke about how her education at ELTHAM College also prepared her for university. The students were able to reunite with Candice after the formal ceremony.
Inaugural Year 12 Soiree

The inaugural Year 12 Soiree was held at ELTHAM College’s Swipers Gully restaurant on Tuesday May 20. The Guest Speaker for the evening was Dr Helen Durham, an Ex-ELTHAM College student. Helen’s career in International Law has seen her make significant contributions to the legal negotiations of important global issues.

Dr Helen Durham is the Strategic Adviser, International Law for Australian Red Cross and has a long history with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. She has worked previously with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as Legal Adviser for the ICRC Regional Delegation for the Pacific as well as Head of Office Sydney. Helen has a doctorate in the area of international criminal law and is admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria and High Court of Australia. She has been involved in international legal negotiations in New York, Rome and Geneva and has also undertaken short operational missions with the ICRC in Burma, Aceh and the Philippines. Helen is also a Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School and teaches in the Masters program on International Humanitarian Law related topics.

Dr Durham speaking at the Year 12 Soiree

Students at the Year 12 Soiree
Nicolas Zoumboulis
Class of 2014 \ Year 12
Studying \ English, French and legal studies. Completed psychology and theatre studies last year, as well as a block credit from screen and media.
I am best at ... writing and debating.
Most inspirational teacher and why \ My Year 9 teacher, Joseph Sassone. He taught us a lot, not just the class content but about life and he helped us to develop ourselves as young people. He made every person feel special, and recognised talents and passions.
What I love most about my school \ There is freedom to be yourself and to express your individuality. It encourages difference and uniqueness, which is a wonderful thing.
Role as school captain \ To act as a student voice and express the needs, concerns and desires of the student cohort.
My standout leadership trait \ Strong interpersonal skills
Study tip \ Set up a quiet, comfortable and distraction free study zone. Classical music is especially good to listen to when getting in the zone.
Beyond the books \ Reading, karate training, playing guitar, and hanging out with friends.
Secret vice \ Doctor Who, and countless other similar shows.
Pets \ A bumbling cat named Mili.
The person I admire most is ... my parents, who’ve always been there to guide and support me along the way.
Footy or theatre? I’m more of a soccer fan, so I will have to say theatre! Theatre is extremely diverse and enriching; it can educate and entertain in many ways.
If I could be anywhere in 10 years it would be ... somewhere where I am happy (hopefully overseas) and doing what I love.

In 10 years I will probably be ... working abroad and providing aid to people who are disadvantaged.
How I’d make the world a better place \ Encourage tolerance, and exercising our humanity.
Advice to future school captains \ Get involved with as much as you can, and don’t hold back.
Thai CETA Tour April

From April 13 until May 11, ELTHAM College was host to 10 students and their Group Leader from CETA (Complete Education and Touring Australia). The students spent one week utilising ELTHAM’s City Campus for study and exploring Melbourne’s CBD. The remainder of their stay was based at our Research Campus and involved immersion classes in a range of subjects, intensive English language classes and film making. The students produced some high quality and interesting films about their experience at ELTHAM and the differences between study in Australia and Thailand.

Year 10 & 11 Formal

On Saturday 10 May the College held the Year 10 and 11 Formal at the Manningham Centre in Bulleen. It was a wonderful night with dancing, a meal and a few awards. International students WANG Qing (Wayne) and DONG Roushan (Stella) won the awards for Best Suit and Best Dancer respectively. There was a great deal of energy on the night with both the students and staff ‘dancing the night away’. It was a wonderful night for local and international students to make connections outside of school and celebrate together.

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It is with great pleasure that I write this, my first contribution to Global Connections, as the new International Registrar at ELTHAM College. My appointment to this position marks the next step in my career in the international education sector, one which has thus far taken me from Taipei, Taiwan, to Shanghai, China, and now to the heart of Eltham in Melbourne, Australia. My international focus and participation in global communities began at a young age in Hong Kong where I completed primary school and the early years of my secondary education. My senior secondary studies were then divided between Singapore, the UK and boarding school in Melbourne. At the University of Melbourne I completed a Bachelor of Arts, Asian Studies where I focused on developing proficiency in Mandarin Chinese. These experiences have been invaluable to my work in international education, and I look forward to working with agents, parents and students at ELTHAM College.

I follow my passion for internationalism and Asia outside work, volunteering as an Asia Literacy Ambassador at the Asia Education Foundation (www.asiaeducation.edu.au). The Ambassador program seeks to educate school aged children on Australia’s culturally diverse neighbours through interaction with Ambassadors who have personal experience living, studying or working overseas in Asia. Students are introduced to the history, politics, cultures and languages of countries like China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, to name but a few.

As our globalised world continues to grow smaller through international education, business and cultural exchanges it is clear to see how important intercultural understanding, bilingual language abilities and the capability to work confidently in multicultural international work environments will be.

In my mind, our international student cohort at ELTHAM College is well placed to skilfully navigate this new and exciting working environment and have the potential to become tomorrow’s global leaders. I know I speak for the international team as a whole when I say we are all focused on supporting their endeavours while in Australia and guiding them to achieve their future goals.