Welcome from the Headmaster

The year 2013 marks the 35th anniversary of the College’s foundation. At this year’s Foundation Day Assembly we inaugurated the College Alumni Hall of Fame, and inducted the first recipient, Cr Adrian Schrinner. Another alumnus, Jesse Head, created an on-screen media presentation especially for the inauguration. It was a very moving ceremony for Adrian and his family.

Given the development that has taken place over those 35 years, this is a significant year. As we said last year, we want to focus on telling our story better. That is where you come in: by your willingness to tell us your personal story since graduating. Review is about alumni stories, which we hope will develop a strong feeling of connectedness between our alumni and the College community.

We invite all our College alumni to visit the College’s website [http://www.brisbane.ccc.edu.au] and register on the Alumni Register page so you can continue to stay in touch with us. We are always interested to hear the story of your life after College.

Remember, the College community is about the lives of our students and alumni, and the parents and staff who support or supported them.

Pastor Ron Woolley
Headmaster
Citipointe Christian College – A world of difference
A school that combines the pursuit of excellence with a genuine Christian perspective

Gen’s NYC odyssey

New York City inspires many artists to paint, songwriters to sing and young people to dream.

Gen Leonard (Class of 2002) is living the dream since July last year when she moved to the great city. While working long hours with an influential marketing agency, she is also soaking up the sights and sounds of America.

Through hard work and dedication Gen’s career, which started in Event Management on the Gold Coast, has reached amazing heights in a relatively short time.

After graduating from university with a business degree, Gen worked with a marketing team in Surfers Paradise, producing over 280 events a year.

In 2008 she was offered an events/marketing job in Sydney which she accepted, going on to work with such high-end clients as P&G, Nestle and Lexus, developing marketing strategies and event campaigns.

Then came the fortunate break – Gen’s name being drawn out to receive a US Green Card.

After briefly returning to Brisbane to bid farewell to family and friends and selling everything she owned, she moved to New York and within days landed her current position. “An achievement in the current economy,” said Gen.

"Although my work in Australia let me do some fun projects, being in NYC has really opened doors.

“My clients now are American Express, L’Oreal and Google which have been amazing.

“In nine short months I have had the opportunity to sit front row at Fashion Week, attend A-list premiers at Tribecca Film Festival, deal with diva celebrities first hand and mingle with the political crowd at the infamous White House correspondents dinner.

“I work pretty long hours so I don’t get a lot of free time, however I do love getting out and exploring this amazing city. I’ve also been really lucky to travel around the US with my work, so I try to extend the trips so I can explore.

“With my first full summer over here about to begin I’m really excited about taking full advantage of everything on offer,” she said.

Gen, the high-flying marketing executive, still remembers her days on campus at Citipointe Christian College, a journey she started in Year 5.

“I’m incredibly lucky to call those who were my best friends at age 10 some of my closest friends today,” she said.

“The school camps, lunchtime antics and general mischief we got up to formed some of my best memories as a kid.”
It’s a big step from the country town of Warwick in Queensland to the Cannes Film Festival in France, but totally possible if you have a love of film making like Emily-Jayne McAllister (Class of 2008).

Emily-Jayne produced the film “Shortchanged” working with fellow graduates from the Griffith Film School, with most of the filming taking place in and around Warwick. The film was released late last year and within months was selected for showing at the Cannes Short Film Corner much to the excitement of Emily-Jayne and the team.

“Not only am I very excited about getting the opportunity to attend the best film festival in the world, I’m excited about visiting France!” she said.

The film follows the struggles of an Aboriginal girl, Jacinta, who falls pregnant in a country town. The plot takes viewers through the troubles Jacinta faces with her boyfriend and ex-lover and the loneliness she experiences on her quest for attention.

Emily-Jayne said her love of film-making started at a young age and although she learned drama throughout school, she knew acting wasn’t her strength.

“I guess it wasn’t until doing Film and Television later in high school that my passion for the Arts was sparked – specifically working behind the scenes in Film and Television – and I wanted to explore that.”

Last year Emily-Jayne graduated from the Griffith Film School, completing a course she described as a “practical course with little theory, which was the perfect learning style”.

“The Film School gave me the opportunity to practise filmmaking, and has really opened doors for more work and industry contacts.”

Emily-Jayne’s first major experience of a high-budget film was working at Movie World Studios on a feature film “Bait 3D” which featured Julian McMahon and Lincoln Lewis. She has also worked with the ABC on television shows such as Landline and Australian Story.

“I am currently working on a feature film due to shoot in June. The film is a bit of a crazy concept – a Zombie-Western, but hey, at least I won’t be bored.

“Filmmaking is tough work. It isn’t glamorous but I do get to work with people, which I love. I love to organise and make things happen.

“Making films or TV I have the ability to affect people’s emotions, making them see things differently, or just creating an escape for them. I get to help tell a story – and that is exciting.”

Another way Emily-Jayne is influencing people’s lives is through her ongoing four-year involvement with Red Frogs Australia and their work at Griffith’s Nathan campus.

“It is great, we play board games and make food for the students and yes, there are some wild college parties – and we look after the students who have had a bit too much alcohol – but most of the time we hang out and meet new people.”

With the world of filmmaking beckoning, Emily-Jayne said she is grateful for her schooling at Citipointe.

“A lot of my close friends are people I went to school with, and I still keep in regular touch with them.

“I still remember all of my favourite teachers, and I can’t forget all of the crazy things that happened at camps. They were the best!”

“Shortchanged” pays off for Emily-Jayne

Film: “Shortchanged”
Jacinta [Jadene Croft] takes the bus home, after escaping the pre-natal class.
Born to be a nurse

Sascha Harder is reminded of the purpose and results of her work before she leaves home every day. It’s in the eyes of her almost three-year-old son Darien.

As a nurse working in the operating theatres of Melbourne IVF, Sascha (nee Fitzpatrick, Class of 1998) works with couples, many on a desperate journey to start their family. Beyond the tests, medical procedures and appointments, she is fully aware of the unseen struggle.

“I love that I am providing people with the opportunity to start their own families,” said Sascha, who explained that she and husband Brad experienced similar challenges themselves. After marrying in 2006, the couple gratefully welcomed Darien in 2010.

“After our own struggle with infertility I am acutely aware of how intense the desire to have children is for some people and how deeply not being able to fall pregnant can affect you.

“Being a part of helping other people start their own families gives me a massive buzz and I am so thankful I get to work in this area every day.”

For over a decade, since graduating from the Australian Catholic University with a Bachelor of Nursing, Sascha has been fulfilling her lifelong dream. She worked in a number of different nursing areas – everything from plastics to brain surgery – until finding her niche in fertility nursing.

“Ever since I was a toddler I knew that I wanted to be a nurse,” said Sascha. “In some ways I feel it was genetically programmed – nearly all the women in my family have been a nurse at some stage of their working life.”

Her first encounter with fertility nursing came when she worked in the Women’s Preoperative Unit at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH), assisting with anything from caesareans to major gynaecology cases.

After five years working in this role, Sascha and husband Brad moved to Melbourne where she became a “Jill of all trades” in Melbourne IVF.

Looking back, Sascha recalls many significant moments and events in her relatively short career.

“During my graduation year in the operating theatres of RBWH I cared for a number of victims of the 2002 Bali bombings. Whilst extremely traumatic, this really shaped my ability to work in high pressure situations and develop team work skills in order to better care for patients.

“When working in the obstetrics/gynaecology theatres I would occasionally assist in surgeries reversing female circumcision on migrant women. This was a fascinating area of work which required great sensitivity and care and provided me with education and experience that I hope will enable me to work overseas in the future.”

Sascha already has three trips to Africa under her belt, working in Kenya and Uganda in schools and medical clinics, and in 2008 working in Rwanda with the Salvation Army.

“Rwanda grabbed my heart more than I can ever begin to explain – so I hope one day to take my family over and be based there in some kind of women’s health service.

“I have wonderful memories of my time at Citipointe. I had the best friends I could ever ask for in the “Chapel Chicks” and most of my high school memories involve fantastic times at the annual music camp at Mapleton.

“I remember sharing D&M’s (deep and meaningful conversations) with Cherie Csikos, Amanda Biggs and Liz Graetz and am so grateful to still call them friends 15 years later.

“I also want to say a special thank you to Mrs Passmore who let me cut up pregnant frogs and mice and probably kick-started my interest in obstetrics and gynaecology.”
It was the best of times. As part of the Investment Club during his final year at Citipointe Christian College (CCC), David Moore (Class of 2007) and his mates took on the challenge of playing the stock market as a project. Under the guidance of Mr Bettinson, the club watched their stocks perform like circus animals over a 12 month period, leaping and jumping through every hoop with an impressive 25% return.

Not only were David and his fellow club members able to leave school with the profits from their investments, David also left with an OP1, a QUT Vice-Chancellor’s scholarship and an Australian Student Prize. True to form, David has continued in the area of finance, now working as a chartered accountant with Virtu Super, specialising in self-managed super funds – and how his clients dream their returns matched those of David and the CCC Investment Club!

“Fortunately for us we graduated the year before the big market collapse so had already cashed in our profits,” recalled David.

Besides financial returns and achieving the highest academic standards during his schooling, it seems David had extra time available for many other pursuits, many not in the curriculum.

“Fortunately for us we graduated the year before the big market collapse so had already cashed in our profits,” recalled David.

“I ran a T-shirt designing business with my best mate Aaron Puller for our Year 12 Business Organisation and Management Project which was very successful in our first release.

“Then we got over-ambitious and went for a second batch which flopped miserably. We ended up surrendering our excess stock as payment for the small loan we took out to fund the business.

“On the plus side, it meant the business department had great T-shirts to give out as prizes for years and years to come – they may still be giving them out!”

So what does an OP1 student with a head for business do after graduating from school?

David studied a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) at QUT and worked four days per week as an undergraduate accountant at Marsh Tincknell in Mount Gravatt while studying.

In 2009 he took some time aside to tutor subjects at CCC, and the next year “did lots of travelling and not a lot of study” as an exchange student in Germany.

He graduated in the second half of 2010 with distinction and recently completed his Chartered Accountant studies. David retains a strong involvement with the Citipointe campus, leading the production/tech team of the church’s Youth department and a Life Group of around 10 young men most of whom have attended or still attend CCC.

His production tech team have worked on major Youth events which have attracted thousands of attendees, and David also runs the multimedia team for Citipointe Church, recruiting, training and rostering volunteers.

David’s full life is capped off with a little touch football with a team from Virtu Super, and training for an upcoming Tough Mudder event.

“I work with great people with a great culture,” said David of his work at Virtu Super. “Accounting jobs aren’t usually considered interesting by the rest of the population, but I look after the tax and compliance for super funds of some interesting people – cinema owners, sheep traders, property developers, pilots and plenty of others.”
When Emily Bell looks at her two children she sees their incredible potential. Though they are still both under three, she can see the amazing people they will become.

It's a “mum thing” you know.

To complement her natural maternal instincts, Emily added a little experience in spotting potential in people from her previous role.

Working in the employment sector for several years before becoming a mother (she and husband Jeremy have two children, Mia 2 and Oliver born in February), Emily picked up a thing or two about helping people achieve their goals.

She became skilled at getting people from Point A to Point B.

While reveling in her time at home with the children, Emily says she is grateful for her time working with Job Services Australia.

“I worked with a company that specialises in working with marginalised and disadvantaged youth and enjoyed working with youth and seeing them prosper in employment or training placements,” Emily said.

“Whilst working in employment services I found the greatest satisfaction in assisting someone who was unemployed to find a job they loved, and often turn their life around.”

Since graduating from Citipointe in 2001 Emily has been involved in children's ministry, worship teams, Youth and ladies ministry, and she went on a missions trip to the Philippines. She and Jeremy married in 2005.

Emily also worked for six months in a women’s and children’s crisis centre. “While it was incredibly challenging at times, it was an absolute honour to work with a team to support and encourage those women to turn their lives around.”

Now a contented full-time mum, family is everything.

“I love that my husband and I are raising our children in church,” she said. “Since becoming a mother I have realised the importance of home and family being your first ministry, and I consider it a privilege to teach my children the love of Jesus every day.”

“I have great memories of my years at Citipointe – all 12 of them! I wasn’t always the most diligent student, but I had wonderful, patient teachers who worked tirelessly to see me through to graduation.”
Congratulations to **Councillor Adrian Schrinner** (Class of 1994) – Inaugural Recipient of the Citipointe Christian College Alumni Hall of Fame Award

It is with much pleasure that Pastor Woolley awarded Councillor Schrinner with Citipointe's first Alumni Hall of Fame Award at the Foundation Day Assembly. More than simply recognising success in his career, this award also recognises his commitment to the wider Community – one of the qualities this College values so highly.

Councillor Schrinner completed Year 12 in 1994. Throughout high school he was part of the Air Cadets. He developed a love of flying which led him to join the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). It was here that he realised the need to serve in Politics rather than the Military. He received his Bachelor’s degree majoring in Government at The University of Queensland followed by his Graduate Certificate in Governance and Public Affairs. He began his political career by volunteering at the Liberal Party Headquarters and he ran polling booths for several elections. He was noticed by Gary Hardgrave who then offered him his first contracts. In an area where loyalty is expected, Councillor Schrinner excelled. Adrian has served as the local Councillor for Chandler Ward since 2005. By 2011, he was elected by his colleagues as Brisbane’s Deputy Mayor – the youngest in the city’s history. He is the Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee and the former Chairman of the Finance, Administration and Economic Development Committee (2008-2012). Councillor Schrinner is involved in numerous community organisations including environment and bush care groups, sporting clubs, church groups and charities, Neighbourhood Watch and seniors associations. He became a board member and Director for the Hope Foundation in 2012.

While it is true that Councillor Schrinner has achieved much professional success around Brisbane and the wider community it is the heart of service, commitment, loyalty and hard work that truly deserved acknowledgement through this award.

Upon receipt of his award, Cr Schrinner’s response included, “It’s an incredible honour to be recognised by the College in this way.”

He also shared some advice. “Looking back, I’ve learnt some very important lessons. Most importantly, dream big, aim high and take risks. Now when I say, “take risks”, I don’t mean physical risks. I’m not talking about putting your body in danger. I’m talking about taking risks with your dreams and goals and getting out of your comfort zone. The biggest limitations on each of us are not our abilities or talents; they are the limitations we place on ourselves. Life passes far too quickly, so make the most of every opportunity you are given. I am grateful to the entire College Community. Attending the College has given me a wonderful network of friends right across Brisbane and our local area. I am always coming across people who are connected to the College in one way or another, and it excites me to see the great things former students are achieving in so many different fields.”

“[Receiving this award] is a great honour and I feel very humbled to be acknowledged in this way!”

Cr Adrian Schrinner, Class of 1994, Inaugural Member of the College Alumni Hall of Fame, Deputy Mayor of Brisbane.
Jeremy Allen took a few deep breaths and walked out to the reception of 35,000 people at Suncorp Stadium. The place was buzzing, the excitement at fever pitch, then Jeremy and his team kicked off.

This was not a football match. It was much better than that – Jeremy and his rock band known as The Smart playing as support act for iconic rockers Bon Jovi during their 2010 tour.

The half-hour set, played to a full house at Suncorp Stadium, was first prize in a radio station competition. It was a high energy, adrenaline-pumping step for the unsigned group in their quest for national and international success.

During the same year the band enjoyed another opportunity for wide exposure, playing to a growing fan base through a different medium. This time The Smart went national when they won a radio competition called “New Artist to Radio”.

The year before, Jeremy and the band completed their first album “Take Control”, and as a result of winning the radio station competition in 2010 their first single “City Lights” received guaranteed six weeks high rotation in most commercial radio stations across the country. They also performed at the Australian Commercial Radio Awards in Melbourne.

It was a great reward for Jeremy and the band who had worked hard, touring throughout Australia and New Zealand over the previous two years, and who had taken many risks for their passion for rock music.

“After the six weeks of rotation the majority of radio stations kept our song on ratio and we were able to do our first successful tour of the east coast,” Jeremy recalls, adding that “City Lights” was also featured on the soundtrack for River Fire in 2011.

“Since the Bon Jovi concert we have released four more singles off the album with varying success. Many commercial radio stations added these singles to their rotation, which is unheard of for an independent Australian artist.

“We are currently writing songs for a new album which we expect to release by the end of the year, while we have begun pushing out into the overseas market,” said Jeremy. “The band has already signed licensing deals in Russia and surrounding territories and is currently negotiating similar deals throughout Europe”.

Some of Jeremy’s greatest fans may not have heard his music. Jeremy supports his musical career as a Youth worker/house manager for Silky Oaks, a not-for-profit organisation providing 24-hour residential care for teenagers under child protection orders.
“Working as a Youth worker has been extremely challenging, and is often more discouraging than rewarding,” said Jeremy.

“I have had the privilege of connecting with some of the young people I have cared for after they have left care and entered into adulthood. Witnessing the change that can be made in a young person’s life, and seeing that I can play a part in breaking the cycle of abuse is very rewarding.”

Jeremy married Sarah over three years ago and, as a member of the Citipointe Church music team, leads worship regularly only a hundred metres or so from his old school yard.

“I have great memories of Citipointe. It was an excellent school. I am still very close to a lot of people that I went to school with, and I intend to send my kids to Citipointe as well.”

Oh, and if you look up The Smart on YouTube you can see a film clip for City Lights featuring the band riding some of the small-engine Japanese motor bikes from the 1970s that Jeremy restores as a hobby. He calls them “café racers”.

When planning for his future Peter Bang’s thoughts are filled with sights and sounds. Whether he is looking through a camera lens or creating pulsating beats as a DJ, Peter is progressing toward an artistic career.

Peter (Class of 2008) is currently preparing to start a Bachelor of Photography, but not without a good deal of prior practical experience.

His camera is always close by, ready for use. As a freelance photographer, Peter has covered a host of Korean Christian events both in Australia and Korea, as well as weddings and birthdays.

After graduating from Citipointe, Peter completed a TAFE certificate in automotive engineering and held part-time jobs in automotive workshops and Sushi Train to pay the bills, but photography always beckoned.

Peter also took the time to return to Korea in 2008, undertaking Disciple Training School with Youth with a Mission (YWAM) and a three month mission trip to Turkey.

The other string to Peter’s creative bow is DJ-ing, a craft he says he loves and is still honing.

“T have done some DJ-ing at some small parties and last year I did some DJ-ing at ‘I Love K-Pop’ Dancy Party. I’m still practising hard to be a better DJ,” he said.

“I have a lot of good memories from Citipointe – memories of making friends, hanging around, school activities and sports.”
The fourth Annual First XI vs Alumni match was a nail biting encounter with both teams playing at a high level. The Alumni team was made up of men aged up to 35 many of whom are still playing in the premier Queensland competition. Our first XI team consisted of our top senior schoolboys who are competing in numerous competitions this year, playing schools such as St Gregory’s Terrace and Churchie. The game was played at an intense level with both teams challenging well to gain ascendency. The lead swayed between teams but with the Alumni up 3-2 with a minute remaining our First XI captain Jay Burton scored a cracking goal to notch up his hatrick. Goal scorers for the Alumni team were Scott Dixon, Luke Howell and Kristen Waters. This led to a penalty shootout with the alumni scraping home with the win. It was great to see the Burtons, Myhill and Howell brother combinations in action again. The alumni under 25’s vs over 25’s curtain raiser was dominated by the overs but the unders scored a late flurry of goals to take it out 8-7. A huge thank you to all who participated and made the event so successful.

If you would like to be involved next year please register on the Citipointe Alumni website at: http://www.brisbane.coc.edu.au/index.php/community/alumni/

Tim Andrew
Football Coordinator
Alumni Reunion Groups

To view additional photographs go to the College website under College Alumni

Our website is now a major tool for two-way communication and enables the collection of information to help provide an improved level of service to our Alumni.

Looking to organise your reunion for 2014 please call the Development Office on 3347 5899 if you require assistance.

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Citipointe Class Reunions

Class 1993 20 Year Reunion
Saturday 19th October 2013
6pm GUSTO da GIANNI, Portside Wharf, Remora Rd, Hamilton
Reunion coordinator:
Louise Cant Mobile 0424 563 474
Email louisecantf@gmail.com

Class 2003 10 Year Reunion
Saturday 26 October 2013
7pm Chalk Hotel, Platform 3 room, 735 Stanley Street, Wooloongabba
Reunion coordinators:
Victoria Byrne (George) vbyrne@faithlutheran.qld.edu.au
Jessica Teunis (Brown) Mobile 0401 564 690
Email emm.taipaleti@hotmail.com

Please visit the College Alumni website for further details: www.brisbane.coc.edu.au/community/alumni
If you have not registered before you will need to login as a first time user with your name/DOB/graduating year. This enables you to view the reunion events and photo boards.

Alumni Reunion Groups

To view additional photographs go to the College website under College Alumni

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The Wiz

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Based on the story: “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” by Frank Baum

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