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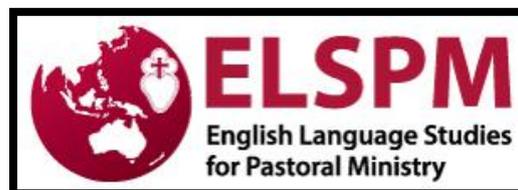
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As another semester begins and ELSPM completes its fifth year it is good to look back and reflect on some of the achievements that have been made.

Over 150 students have passed through the ELSPM doors. These students have come from 33 different Religious Congregations, Church groups or Dioceses in Australia and overseas. The networking that this enables is a wonderful support for students when they return home or connect through their mission.

This year ELSPM made a slight adjustment to its legal trading name. We have changed the S to read *studies* rather than school. All our students are adult learners and in many cultures there is a resistance to returning to 'school'. Taking up further studies, however, is a desirable concept to ongoing learning and formation. So the use of the phrase "Language Centre" has come into use. Students are encouraged to take up the challenge of ongoing learning that includes self direction, independent study and a choice of interest topics. This can be challenging for those coming from educational systems in their own country that still rely on rote learning and large amounts of teacher input. At ELSPM we are aware of these challenges and support students in adjusting to a new style of learning.



Partnerships

Over the past few years strong partnerships have been formed with a number of Religious Congregations who have English as their international language. Recently the students engaged with Catholic Religious Victoria (CRV) who has moved their quarterly meetings to the YTU Study Centre in Box Hill. The chance to have morning tea together has been a wonderful opportunity for students to meet their own Congregation leaders as well as others who have contact with their countries of origin.



The Catholic Mission team from Victoria have also formed a close relationship with ELSPM over the last year. Norah McCluskey has been a guest speaker at a Tuesday assembly and in recent months a number of students have used their speaking skills to support the Catholic Mission Appeal for Myanmar' educational project of forming teachers. Most of the students spoke at St Francis Church in the city. Despite their nervousness the students were able to speak passionately about how education can bring about justice.



July 2018 also gave us the chance to gather a number of Congregations together to highlight some of the programs and initiatives we have developed and to maintain good links with those we consider stakeholders in ELSPM. We hope to make this an annual event. The topic of Summer School which ran for the first time in 2018 fuelled much discussion and support. It was great to have Mr Bill Sultmann at that meeting to represent the Board of Directors.

Graduation



Graduation at the end of each semester is a special moment of celebration and gratitude. In June we said goodbye to 6 students who have completed their studies. During the semester we said farewell to another 7 students who left to take up other commitments. Community members and volunteers always support students at the Graduation Mass and enjoy the opportunity to see them share cultural performances and mark their progress.

Each of the students who graduate receives a candle and the message “Take your candle, go light your world”.



The speeches of thanks that the students make are always a highlight. This graduation was no exception as Marco represented the views of the students in thanking the Staff for their dedications and patience in teaching English. He also reflected on the wonderful opportunities the students are given by their Congregations or Churches to come to Australia.





Volunteers play a special part in the support of the students at ELSPM and the chance to say thank you is always appreciated at Graduation.



We have welcomed Br John O’Leary cfc to the staff as a temporary replacement for both Margaret Hughes and Jackie Warrick. ELSPM has had a long association with the Christian Brothers. They were influential in the beginning in setting up the Language Centre. Br Patrick Cronin was part of the initial development of ELSPM and chaired the Advisory Committee which supported the Board in the early days and especially with the move to Melbourne. Br Peter Downs was the first Academic Manager at ELSPM and apart from teaching, orchestrated the move from Adelaide to Melbourne. So it is great to have Br John to maintain the links.

Recently we received the sad news that Br Peter Gilfedder fsc passed away. Peter, a De La Salle brother was one of the very first volunteers at ELSPM in Melbourne. He came twice a week and helped the students with homilies and also conversation and writing. He was a true educator with a gentle spirit and a great enjoyment of life. Vale Peter and thanks for all you did for us at ELSPM.



Catch up on the latest news through the Student Bulletins which can be found at www.elspm.org.au/news