

Student finds home away from home

By T'Nerra Butler
Multicultural Editor | @DEN_News

Though he lived in Australia all of his life, coming to America was not a culture shock for Nicholas Stuart.

A second-year accounting major, Stuart said only three years are required to earn a bachelor's degree in Australia as opposed to America's four-year requirement.

Stuart is in his second year and is earning credits here through a foreign exchange program.

He has received \$5,000 in a scholarship in June to study at Eastern.

Stuart is from Rockhampton, Queensland and Central Queensland University is his permanent school.

Coming from a campus of about 20,000 students, Eastern is still similar to his main university.

Stuart said the university is split into four campuses, so he still gets the small campus feel back at home.

The only difference between the two countries is the scenery.

Stuart said when he thinks of home he envisions brown and gold.

When he steps outside in America he sees a variety of colors.

He said on campus back at home, there are a lot of artificial plants outside, which compensates for the hot climate in Australia.

He said Eastern is refreshing because he can experience four seasons and what they bring.

Stuart said in Australia, in order to be eligible for the scholarship, he had to have a certain GPA and at least eight credit hours.

"Particularly now, with fees, it could be hard on students to be financially comfortable and not

worry about how to pay this, or get approved for that," Stuart said. "If you're not thinking about your financial situation, you're going to be more clear headed."

He said the scholarship is allowing him to have an extra sense of financial security.

Stuart said he can travel and experience the country more now, than if he had the burden of paying on his own for his studies overseas.

Along with experiencing the

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- Nicholas Stuart, second-year accounting major from Australia

campus and the scenery of Eastern, Stuart said he is learning about the culture of America, though it is not vastly different from his own.

"Back in Australia everyone had this idea of the ignorant American and that's not true," Stuart said. "Everyone here is very welcoming, very accepting, and willing to learn more."

He said the only difference he really sees in this country is the cost of living.

Stuart said many things are cheaper here, including food, which has bigger proportions than



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Nicholas Stuart, second-year accounting major, talks about how Eastern compares to his university at home in Australia. He said even though he is homesick, he wouldn't trade his experience at Eastern for anything.

back at home.

"A meal here wouldn't look too much out of place in Australia," Stuart said. "If anything what we call the food would be different. Like biscuits, what we call biscuits are cookies, which is far off from what you guys say here."

Stuart said he wished he could say one of the biggest myths about Australia was wrong, but the tale holds some truth.

"Everyone kind of thinks that we see kangaroos all the time, and where I live, on my campus, there is a family of about 40 kangaroos living there," Stuart said.

He said the kangaroos are probably just unique to where he stays in Australia.

Back at home, Stuart said it is uncommon for students to live on campus.

Many students stay at home because their university is typically close by.

He said staying in Thomas Hall is more convenient than his commute back home.

While at Eastern, Stuart said he has been experiencing a little homesickness.

Stuart said the hardest part was not being able to see some of his

loved ones before he left.

He said though it is minimal, he still wants to see his family.

"It's just not being able to be there for someone else if they need it," Stuart said. "You know, you can talk to someone over Facebook, but that doesn't substitute for being physically there."

Stuart said even with his thoughts of home, he would not trade this experience at Eastern for anything in the world.

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New music recording resources available at Booth

By Luis Martinez
Entertainment Editor | @DEN_News

Booth Library is offering a new way for Eastern students to record music, creating more music options this semester.

The purpose of these new recording places is to help promote more interest in Booth Library.

Stacey Knight-Davis, the head of library technology services, is in charge on these new recording rooms in the fourth floor of Booth.

"This was part of a read-in grant project," Knight-Davis said. "This one was written to encourage peo-

ple to come to Booth Library to use our music collections and also to learn how to play and learn how to make their own music here at the library."

Booth Library had previously offered two digital Yamaha pianos students could use. Now, students will have access to not only the digital pianos, but also two electric guitars and advanced amplifier emulator software used for the guitars.

Students can also access more than 64 amplifiers, 77 cabinets and 113 effects.

"What we did with the grant is we brought in some Mac-minis that were actually transferred to us from

(the Center for Academic Technology Support) for this project," Knight-Davis said. "The piano is hooked up into the computer and the guitar runs up to (a Behringer guitar link) next to the computer."

For the guitar, students can access different apps to help monitor and control the tempo of the sound as well as maintaining its pitch.

"What we've got for the guitars is we've got a really simple program called Appkit," Knight-Davis said. "(It) includes many, many different amplifiers, speaker cabinets and effects and you can turn off and on and recombine them in many different ways."

Other than Appkit, students will also have access to two other programs, Pod Farm two and Guitar Rig, which offer even more effects for students test.

All of the equipment in these rooms all connected to a large monitor, where students can see what they record and are able to edit as well.

"You can record from the guitar, you can record from the piano," Knight-Davis said. "You can lay down tracks from both in Garageband if you want to, there's all kinds of loops and effect you can use in Garageband."

Students can use the equipment Booth has provided or bring their

own.

Anyone who wants to access the room can bring their own equipment if it is compatible with the cables used to record the audio.

"We haven't had too many people in yet," Knight-Davis said. "We've have had at least one person while I've been working."

These room are available to all students, and any student who wishes to reserve one of the rooms must do so on a first-come first-served basis.

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