

DEAN'S UPDATE

On behalf of the Faculty I extend a very warm welcome to our new undergraduate students, who have recently completed the enrolment process. As you will be aware, the Faculty has an established tradition of excellence in the training of Pharmacists, and research in pharmacy practice and the pharmaceutical sciences. I look forward with interest to seeing the contributions our newest cohort of students will make in the years ahead and it is encouraging to begin 2007 with such strong student enrolments and a very high calibre of applicants.

The beginning of 2007 is also marked by the provision of ten new Commonwealth Supported Places (formerly HECS places) in

the Master of Pharmacy program along with the existing fee paying places. This year's group totals 48 confirmed enrolments after 201 applications were received, and I welcome our local and international Master of Pharmacy students. With more than 100 years experience in delivering pharmacy education, the University of Sydney is certainly well prepared to create skilled and innovative leaders for the pharmacy world of tomorrow.

I encourage all members to participate in Faculty activities, academic, professional and social, through our award winning undergraduate student association, SUPA (please see separate SUPA Update), the Sydney University Postgraduate

Representative Association (SUPRA) and by keeping up to date with upcoming events and programs which will be outlined in this and subsequent newsletters over the months ahead.

I wish you all a successful and rewarding academic year.



Dean, Iqbal Ramzan

FACULTY MANAGER'S UPDATE



Faculty Manager, Carroll Graham

As many of you will be aware, this month sees the departure of Marlon Ornek, our Undergraduate Student Services Officer, who is moving to another role within the University. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contribution

Marlon has made during his time at the Faculty, and to wish him every success in his new position and for the future. Marlon's departure was marked by a farewell luncheon on 25th January in the Common Room, and faculty members presented Marlon with an engraved pen and desk set as a token of gratitude.

I am happy to advise that this newsletter marks the first of our new format 'monthly' electronic newsletters, which we are trialing in 2007. We invite faculty members and our industry partners to contact us via b.evans@pharm.usyd.edu.au to provide articles for future editions, or ideas for regular

columns. We will provide readers with faculty and industry news, updates on grants, publications and presentations and advice of upcoming projects, staff changes and dates for your diary.

Finally, over the summer break work has continued on the Faculty refurbishment. I thank everyone for their patience and understanding over the past few weeks, and I'm sure you will agree that the spaces that have been created and renovated will certainly prove to be worth the wait!

NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPION

The Faculty extends hearty congratulations to Pharmacy student, Zhao Zong-Yuan, on winning the 2006-07 Australian Open Chess Championships on 9th January 2007, hosted by the Southern Cross Club in Tuggeranong, Canberra, ACT.

Zhao is in his third year of study with the Faculty of Pharmacy. He became Australia's youngest

"international master" at the age of fourteen, and is reportedly well on his way to becoming a "grandmaster", a title which is currently held by only two other Australians, both of whom are in their forties.

Zhao won the national title without dropping a single game, defeating top seed Russian-born Israeli Mark Bluvshstein, a

grandmaster Canadian resident, and also second seed, Australian grandmaster, Ian Rogers.

The Faculty wishes Zhao Zong-Yuan every success for the future – both in his studies and on the chessboard!



POISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT



Dr Kylie Williams, Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, has been appointed as the Faculty's representative on the Poisons Advisory Committee until 31 October 2009. The role of this committee is to advise the Health Minister and the Executive Director

of Public Health & Scientific Support Services on those matters regarding manufacture, distribution, sale, use or labelling of poisonous substances, to ensure that public health standards are maintained.

RECORD BREAKING RURAL ENROLMENT

Following enrolment of new students on January 23 and 24, this year's BPharm Rural enrolments have exceeded previous levels and expectations. 2007 will also see the graduation of the first BPharm Rural students, who

enrolled in 2003. Overall enrolment figures are currently being finalised with international students still enrolling; however local enrolments were completed successfully last week,

and included a trial of the University's new online enrolment process.

Our sincere thanks to all those staff and students who assisted with the 'in-person' enrolments.



EVENTS

Our thanks to all the staff and students who helped out on Information Day on 3rd January which gave prospective students the opportunity to visit The University of Sydney's Camperdown campus, to

seek expert academic advice and talk to current students. The Faculty of Pharmacy was represented in the Great Hall, and also provided prospective students with the opportunity to attend a presentation by the

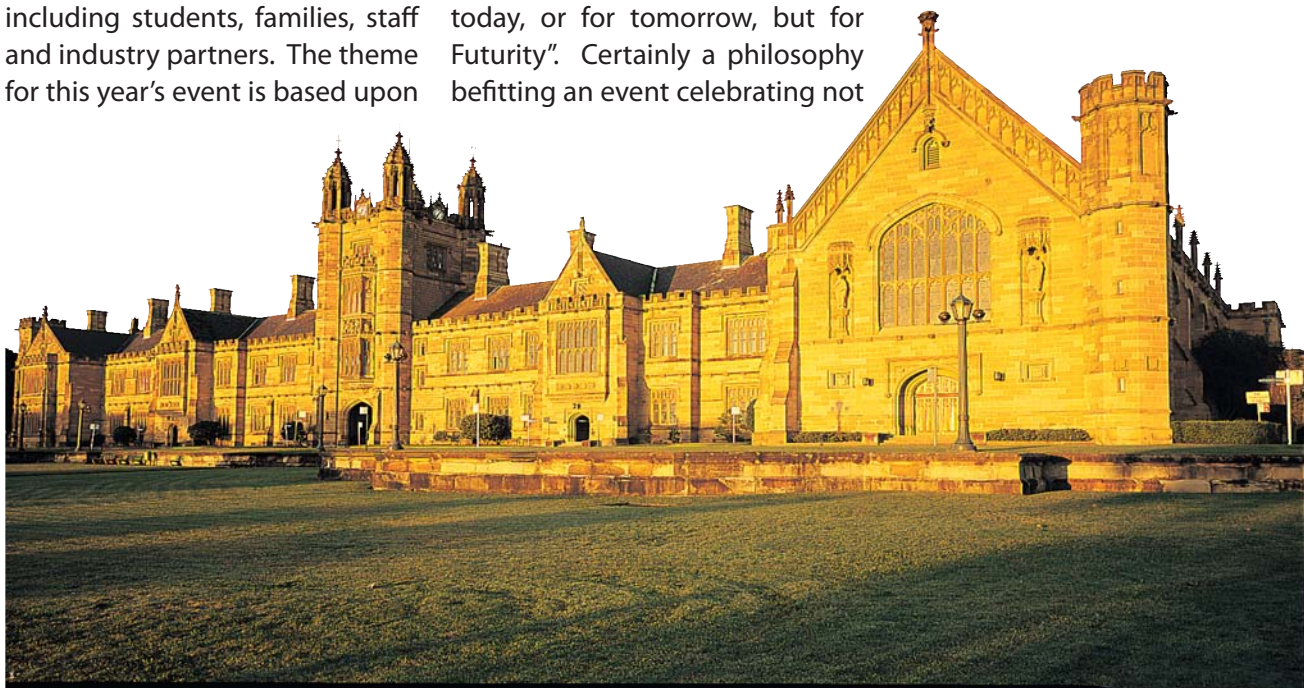
Associate Dean (Admissions and Administration), Dr Joanne Brien. Thank you! to our student volunteers at Information Day: Kim Tran, Vina Nguyen and Vien Letran.

PHARMACY AWARDS NIGHT

Preparations are underway for the 2007 Awards Night which is scheduled for April 19th and will be held in the Great Hall (pictured) on The University of Sydney Camperdown campus. This event will be attended by invited guests of the Faculty, including students, families, staff and industry partners. The theme for this year's event is based upon

the response of Vice-Chancellor Francis Merewether to criticism that the building of the Great Hall was too ambitious given that, at the time, The University of Sydney comprised only three professors and twenty four students...he replied "We must build, not for today, or for tomorrow, but for Futurity". Certainly a philosophy befitting an event celebrating not

only our students' accomplishment of long-term personal goals, but also the achievements of our university in helping to produce industry leaders who will represent and develop the pharmacy profession in the years to come.



GRANTS

Dr Sue Taylor, Associate Dean (Rural) has received \$100,000 under the TIES Large grant scheme for her proposal "Online learning modules on rural/remote communities" Dr Taylor will provide the Office of the Acting Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Derrick Armstrong with a report on this project within the next 12 months.

Dr Jane Hanrahan, Dr Greg Ryan, Erica Sainsbury, Dr Romano Fois and Dr Rebecca Roubin have received a TIES grant of \$43,000 for their proposal "Videos for blended learning in practical class teaching".

Dr Lorraine Smith, Dr Carol Armour, Dr Ines Krass and Dr Kylie Williams have been granted \$10,000 from the University's International Office to fund a visit in 2007 from Sue Ziebland, Reader in Qualitative Health Research from the University of Oxford.

Sue's visit will begin a collaborative project between Pharmacy Practice and the Department of Primary Health Care, Oxford University. The collaboration will be modeled on the UK-based project which systematically gathers data on patients' personal experiences of health and illness and will result in the development of an Australian

resource providing linked audio, video and written interviews, combined with evidence based information about health problems.

The Faculty has received a donation of \$315,000 from Professor Yamahara – Chair of Pharmafood Institute, Kyoto, Japan – to support **Dr Yuhao Li's** research over the next three years.

Dr Margaret Hughes and Dr Carol Armour received a 2006 Rebecca Cooper Research Grant of \$19,714 for 2D gel equipment.

SUPA UPDATE



SUPA is a registered club/society with the University of Sydney Union, and is amongst the larger societies on campus with 600+ members.

All SUPA members are also members of National Australian Pharmacy Students Association. All members of NAPSA are also members of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF). This allows our members to gain a national and international perspective, and the associated membership benefits of these larger organisations.

As indicated in the Dean's Update, involvement in societies and clubs on campus is a rewarding and important aspect of student life. We strongly encourage new undergraduates to join SUPA, which provides a number of member benefits including:

- We sell reference books, textbooks, and dispensing equipment required for the course at substantially reduced prices.
- We organise annual second-hand book sales, allowing students to buy and sell second-hand textbooks from other students easily.
- We provide student input at the Faculty of Pharmacy's Teaching and Learning Committee.
- Our year representatives present student issues and represent students at staff-student liaison meetings.
- We design and sell merchandise including the 4th-year jersey, and our (in)famous annual t-shirt.
- We coordinate the Pharmacy teams in the interfaculty sporting competitions.
- We are the contact point between pharmacy organisations, such as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and students - free membership of these organisations is offered at our office.
- We can provide you with advice and refer you to the right people for any issues or enquiries you might have as a pharmacy student.
- We publish our newsletter The Mortar on a regular basis.
- We receive several leading pharmacy publications such as Pharmacy News and offer copies to members for free.
- All SUPA members are automatically members of NAPSA, receive all NAPSA benefits too.
- Over 12 social events annually including pub crawls, barbeques, trivia nights, cruises, the annual ski trip, annual ball and more.
- We are often asked to help out at pharmacy events in Sydney, and SUPA coordinates the student participation at such events.
- Similarly, we assist the Faculty of Pharmacy at student information days and open days at the University.

PRESENTATIONS

On Tuesday 16th January 2007 a special presentation entitled 'Synthetic Responses of Airway Smooth Muscle in Asthma - The London Experience' was provided by Dr Stuart Hirst, Reader in Respiratory Cell Pharmacology, King's College London School of Medicine / MRC & Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma.vv

DATES FOR DIARY

- 27/02/07
Mini-Retreat - Academic staff
- 28/02/07
Orientation Day - new students
- 2/3/07
Careers Advisers & Teachers' Day
- 21/03/07
Harmony Day - activities tbc
- 19/04/07
Pharmacy Awards Ceremony
- 23/04/07
Faculty Meeting

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