

DEAN'S UPDATE

I would like to welcome staff and students within the Faculty to a new academic year. I would also like to thank everyone in the Faculty for their hard work and efforts throughout 2007, and hope that 2008 is a prosperous and rewarding time for you.

January has seen the admission of the 2008 cohort, and I extend a very big thank you to all of the administrative staff for volunteering their time to make this a smooth and efficient process for our new students. I would especially like to thank Carroll Graham, Jane Hanrahan and Jo-anne Brien who were intensely involved in the admissions process with me.

Iqbal Ramzan
Dean

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Welcome back! January has been a very busy time for the administrative staff with 2008 admissions and enrollment. While numbers are still being finalised, we look forward to a large group of new students joining us this year.

The building works are progressing well. By the beginning of Semester One we will see the work in offices and teaching spaces in the Badham Building finalised, with work in research laboratories and offices in the Bank Building to be completed in April.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Carroll Graham
Manager

APSA MEDALLIST

Professor Carol Armour from the Faculty of Pharmacy at The University of Sydney was announced as this year's Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA) medallist.

In announcing the award, it was said:

"Professor Armour spans the breadth of APSA activity and has research expertise in both pharmacology and Pharmacy practice and has made



an outstanding contribution to research over the last two decades. In particular she has made an outstanding contribution to pharmacy practice research in Australia and overseas. She is currently the Professor of Pharmacy and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Sydney and was

instrumental in the establishment of the Community Pharmacy Research Support Centre - a national, collaborative consortium established for the promotion of pharmacy-based research in Australia. She is recognised

internationally for her contribution to the body of knowledge associated with the mechanism involved in the pathophysiology of asthma as well as the role of the pharmacists in asthma management.

Professor Armour has always been a major supporter of APSA serving on the Executive for many years and has both directly and indirectly contributed to the presentation of world-class research at APSA conferences, both in the science and practice disciplines. She has also been actively involved with the NHMRC

and has played a leading role in the development of training fellowships which has important implications for Australia's current and future research community. Congratulations to Professor Armour."

The Faculty congratulates Professor Armour on this distinguished and worthy award.

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STUDENT PROFILE: NEW CHESS GRANDMASTER



Zhao Zong Yuan at the World Cup in Siberia in December 2007.

A fourth year Bachelor of Pharmacy student has become the nation's third chess grandmaster. Zhao Zong Yuan, a 21 year old student who has already been featured in *Hygieia*, has achieved this extraordinary feat in record time and at a record age.

As published in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper by Dylan Welch on January 31, 2008:

Part-time chess player Zhao Zong Yuan - now the highest rated Australian player after the nation's first grandmaster, Ian Rogers, retired from competition last year - completed the requirements to become a grandmaster in two months - a process that normally takes several years. Achieving the top title in international chess at the age of 21 has never before been achieved in Australia.

"It's extraordinary," said Jonathan Paxman, an Australian chess commentator and writer.

"It's certainly the most impressive chess performance by an Australian in many, many years. We haven't seen anything like Zhao in decades," Dr Paxman said.

Zhao achieved the prestigious title after defeating French player Gildas Goldsztein in a tournament at the 2008 Gibraltar Chess Festival this week.

"A lot of players take years to complete all of these performances [to become a grandmaster] and he's done it in two months, it's incredibly impressive."

It was all the more impressive, Dr Paxman said, because the path to achieving grandmaster status was that much harder for Australians.

"In Europe they have a lot of competitions to take in but in Australia you have to travel to Europe to do that, so it normally takes more time."

Zhao is now expected to take "first board" - equivalent to the captaincy - of the Australian team at the Chess Olympiad in Dresden, Germany, later this year, one of the most important chess tournaments in the world, said Dr Paxman.

"That team has always been captained by Rogers so Zhao has come along at just the right time."

Zhao first broke into the international chess scene when he became Australia's youngest International Master at 14.

Australia's two other grandmasters, Rogers, 47, and Darryl Johansen, 48, both achieved that status at the respective ages of 24 and 35.

Zhao Zong Yuan has also continued to do well in his studies and progresses into Year 4 in March 2008.

The Faculty of Pharmacy once again extends warm congratulations to Yuan and wishes him well in his coming studies and chess tournaments.



Zhao Zong Yuan in Siberia.

END OF THE YEAR PARTY



The Faculty members enjoyed a lovely End of the Year Party on 13 December 2007.

The barbecue on the Manning Building balcony was a great opportunity for academics, general staff, research students and key Faculty contacts to relax and celebrate the end of the year together.

Left, up close: Bruce Tattam and Bill Rae at the End of the Year Party

FACULTY AWARDS

The Faculty Awards acknowledge individual members of staff who demonstrate outstanding performance. These are the recipients of the 2007 awards:

The Faculty of Pharmacy Award for Outstanding Teaching:

Dr Beata Bajorek and **Dr David Hibbs**

The Faculty of Pharmacy Award for Support for the Student Experience (Academic Staff):

Dr David Hibbs and **Dr Beata Bajorek**

The Faculty of Pharmacy Award for Support for the Student Experience (General Staff):

Narelle Da Costa and **Desmond Lee**

The Faculty of Pharmacy Award for Support for the Student Experience (Casual Staff):

Erdahl Teber and **Ben Basger**

Staff members Highly Commended for this award were Ian Dean, Desmond Heng and Celina Seeto

The Faculty of Pharmacy Award for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision is still to be announced.

Congratulations to the award winners. The Certificates for all awards will be presented at the Awards Night 2008, scheduled for 29 April in the Great Hall.

GRANT SUCCESS

Professor Andrew McLachlan received \$50,000 in the latest round of The University of Sydney Bridging Support Grants 2008. Bridging support grants are provided to applicants who are first named on an ARC Discovery or NHMRC project grant application submitted by the University of Sydney. The application must be within the top 10% of unsuccessful applicants to ARC Discovery, or Category 5 applicants to NHMRC Project Grants.

The outcomes of the TIES Large Grant Scheme 2008 brought great news to our Faculty. The recipients of these grants are:

Associate Professor Greg Ryan – Embedding and implementing the “Bridging the Rural gap” program.

Dr Bandana Saini – An inter-professional learning and teaching experience in health education and prevention.

Kathryn Aufflick – Developing student motivation and interest.

Lenka Munoz received a \$10,000 Grant-in-Aid from the Arthritis Australia Foundation. Her project entitled “Targeting inactive p38 α kinase as novel strategy to treat rheumatoid arthritis” aims to conduct the first phases of early drug discovery: identification of small molecules that target inactive p38 kinase, which will provide compounds with better selectivity profiles for safer treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr Ramin Rohanzadeh received US\$10,000 grant from the American Academy of Implant Dentistry for his project entitled “Hydroxyapatite coating on titanium implant as a carrier for enamel matrix derivative (EMD)”.

Congratulations to all!

INFORMATION DAY

On 3 January the University of Sydney was once again visited by prospective students who had the opportunity to seek academic advice and talk to current students about courses of interest.

The Faculty of Pharmacy was represented by academics, administrative staff and SUPA volunteers in the Great Hall. Students also had the opportunity to attend a

presentation by the Associate Dean Professor Jo-anne Brien. A number of our incoming Year 1 cohort indicated that this opportunity has been an important part of their decision to accept a pharmacy offer

Our thanks to everyone who participated!

Right: Meredith Kennedy, SUPA president and volunteer, providing information to interested students.

