



Alchemy

College magazine issue 12, winter 2007

Inside

- 09 125 stories for 125 years
- 12 Retired Pharmacists' Group
- 16 A picture and a thousand words
- 19 Where are they now?



Cancer research:
college academics
at the forefront

Supporting the college's future

In 2006, we celebrated our 125th anniversary by looking back on the events and people who helped shaped today's college. In 2007 we look forward to a strong future, with a new dean, Professor Bill Charman, and a new research building being opened mid-year.

College alumni and other pharmacists in Victoria, together with other individuals and companies with an interest in pharmacy, are increasingly recognising how important it is to secure the college's future by supporting its Foundation. Their support will ensure that our undergraduates have access to the best teaching and facilities and that the college continues to lead new drug research and can make a unique contribution to bringing Australian drug discoveries into world use. It will also contribute to the development of programs to ensure world-standard pharmacy practice and safe use of medicines.

On behalf of the members of the Board of the Foundation, I wish to thank each donor who has contributed, particularly those who have undertaken to make annual donations.

We are also most grateful to those pharmacists who have advised us that they are making arrangements to leave a bequest to the Foundation in their wills. We are launching a bequest club this year, which will ensure that our supporters receive special thanks and acknowledgement for their commitment. We encourage all those who commit to leaving a bequest to the college to let us know and to become a member of the club.

If the generosity and willingness to help of all who have supported the Foundation so far is now matched by all pharmacists and graduates, we will quickly create a substantial endowment that will ensure the college will become one of the best schools of pharmacy in the world. To those who have not already supported the Foundation, I now strongly encourage your favourable consideration.



Alistair Lloyd AO RFD ED (1956)
Chair, Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation

To find out more about the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, or to make a donation or bequest, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/foundation

All gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible in Australia.

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Mrs Malike Gabriel in memory of Dr Manuch Gabriel
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From the dean

On 1 January 2007, I had the honour of becoming dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy. It is a truly exciting time for the college, staff, students and our stakeholders as we leverage our strengths, focus our efforts and build on the wonderful achievements of the past 125 years.

Colin Chapman stepped down as dean in December 2006 after leading the college for the past 16 years. His numerous contributions and stewardship of the college have been warmly acknowledged – you can read more about Colin's time at the college on page 6.

Two long-serving staff members, Barry Reed and May Admans, retired last year and their careers and

contributions are detailed on page 7. The college, past students (myself included!) and the profession have benefited enormously from the wonderful contributions of these three individuals and I sincerely thank them on behalf of the college community.

Turning to research, cancer is a word that strikes fear as it can mean a life threatening or debilitating illness. Melbourne, as the hub of medical research in Australia, has world leading expertise in cancer biology and clinical research. Scientists at the college are now collaborating with a new government-funded Cooperative Research Centre to discover and design new potential drugs

for treatment of cancer. This project is a major new initiative for the college. Other recent examples of research excellence by our staff and research students are also described in this edition of *Alchemy*.

The college's 125th anniversary drew to a close in December 2006 with the launch of *Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 years of history*. Another book, *Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 stories for 125 years*, has just been published; it is a fabulous and colourful historical compilation of short stories and is essential reading for former staff and students. To find out more about both these books, see page 8.

I look forward to my new role and building on the fabulous successes the college has achieved over the past 125 years.



Professor William N. Charman
(BPharm 1981)



Top honours for pharmacists

Continuing the tradition of college researchers and lecturers receiving tributes from their industry, honours have recently been bestowed on head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice Professor Roger Nation and senior lecturer Kirstie Galbraith (BPharm 1988, GradDipHospPharm 1994).

Breaking new research ground in emerging medications and their effect on patients won Professor Nation the 2006 Australasian Pharmaceutical Sciences Association (APSA) Medal.

His research interests include pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, particularly in relation to anti-infective drugs, optimisation of use of anti-infective drugs, medication and patient safety and, more recently, the development of new areas of professional pharmacy practice.

Professor Nation is highly respected nationally and internationally, as both an educator and a meticulous and productive researcher.

"I am delighted and also very grateful for the great honour that has been

bestowed on me by APSA," he said.

"I have been very fortunate to have worked with some outstanding people – academic staff, research staff and PhD students – over a long period of time. I owe a debt of gratitude to the people with whom I have worked collaboratively and, most of all, to my wife and children for their love, encouragement and support."

APSA president Ross McKinnon said Professor Nation has mentored many current APSA members and been a major supporter of the organisation for many years. The medal was awarded at the closing session of the APSA Annual Meeting held in Adelaide in December.

Kirstie Galbraith, senior lecturer and course coordinator for the Master of Clinical Pharmacy, was awarded the Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award by the Federal Council of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

This prestigious award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions in the area of clinical pharmacy practice.

Despite rarely working in a hospital in her 15 years as a clinical pharmacist, she has made a sustained and important contribution to clinical pharmacy practice, research and education through her roles at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Monash University.

Kirstie has co-authored a distance education unit on evidence based practice that is now offered as part of the Master of Clinical Pharmacy. Since 1997, she has also been an examiner for the Pharmacy Board of Victoria registration exams.

Having worked in the industry for the past 15 years, Kirstie said the opportunity to learn from previous recipients of the award was an inspiration.

"I have been fortunate to work with many of the previous recipients in a variety of capacities and I am extremely proud to be considered in this category with them," she said.



Kirstie Galbraith (right) is presented with her award.



Professor Roger Nation with students in the college's Sigma Room.

Fighting superbugs in China

A senior research scientist at the college has gained a valuable opportunity to further his research overseas into the fight against highly-resistant bacteria, known as 'superbugs'.

Dr Jian Li is one of 64 Australian scientists to have been awarded a grant to visit the Key Laboratory of Experimental Marine Biology at the Qingdao Institute of Oceanology, China. He will embark on the three-week visit later this year as part of a \$4.9 million, three-year commitment by the Australian Academy of Science to international science linkages.

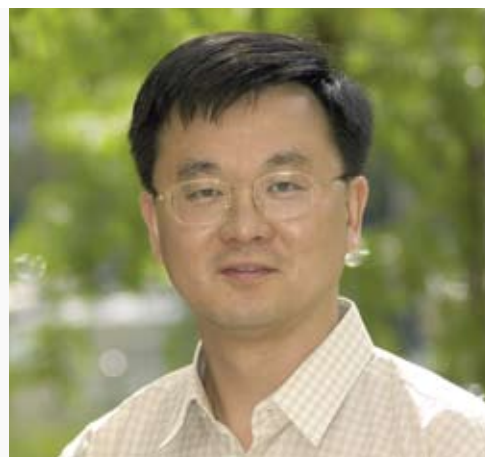
At the Institute, Jian will explore the potential to collaborate with scientists on discovering novel compounds active against superbugs from marine organisms. Superbugs are highly-resistant bacteria and researchers are optimistic that marine organisms may be a promising source of novel antibiotics to treat them. This collaboration will benefit the current cutting-edge research on antibiotics against superbugs being undertaken at the college's Facility for Anti-infective Drug Development and Innovation.

Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, Professor Roger Nation, said the award would help Monash gain an insight into the potential for new anti-bacterial drugs.

"The invitation for Jian to participate in the China Exchange Program is a wonderful recognition for this young and talented researcher," Professor Nation said.

"He will have the opportunity to strengthen existing links with Chinese researchers and develop new collaborations. This will not only be to his benefit but also that of Monash University and both Australia and China."

Late last year, Jian was awarded the National Health and Medical Research Council R. Douglas Wright Biomedical Career



Development Award, which is a five-year fellowship, to continue his internationally leading research on the pharmacology of colistin.

And earlier in 2006, he was awarded an International Young Investigator Travel Award by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. This award enabled him to travel to Toronto in October to present his paper 'Colistin is back, is resistance close?' to the 44th Annual Meeting of the society.

Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal

Natalie Trevaskis (BPharm[Hons] 2002, PhD 2006) is the college's recipient of the prestigious Monash University Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal for 2006.

The medal is awarded annually to a student in each faculty who has fulfilled the requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy, meets an overall level of excellence and is deemed the best doctoral thesis.

Natalie commenced her candidature in June 2002 in the Department of Pharmaceutics, fulfilling the requirements for her degree in January 2006. Her thesis was titled 'An examination of biological factors which influence intestinal lymphatic drug transport in the rat'.

During the tenure of her PhD, Natalie spent time in the laboratories of Professor Patrick Tso at the University of Cincinnati, USA, where Professor Tso was extremely complimentary of her work. Natalie completed her PhD in three years and five months (including the period of studies overseas) and, at the point of submission, had three full (C1) papers accepted for publication and a further two in review. These papers were accepted, resulting in an output of five full original research papers from her thesis in addition to a further five abstracts.

The college commended another student for doctoral thesis excellence in 2006. Leonora Long (BPharm 1999, BPharmSc[Hons] 2002, PhD 2006) was awarded a Dean's Commendation for Doctoral Thesis Excellence in recognition

of the quality of her thesis, research work and publications emanating from the thesis.

Leonora commenced her candidature in July 2002 in the Department of Pharmaceutical Biology, fulfilling the requirements for her degree in November 2006. Leonora's thesis was titled 'Neuropharmacological studies of the effect of cannabinoids on some behavioural and molecular correlates of psychosis'.

Leonora published three papers and presented seven communications at national and international scientific meetings during her candidature. As noted by both her examiners, her article in the high-impact journal *Neuropsychopharmacology* (Impact Factor 5.369) was of particular significance and it demonstrated the potential use of one of the components of cannabis, cannabidiol, to have antipsychotic properties.



Associate Professor Chris Porter presents Natalie Trevaskis with the Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal.



Leonora Long was awarded a Dean's Commendation for Doctoral Thesis Excellence.

Cancer research funding for the future

Research into new drugs for the treatment of cancer has received a major boost, with the announcement of a multi-million dollar project that will involve college staff and researchers.

Funded by the Federal Government and industry groups, the Cooperative Research Centre for Cancer Therapeutics (CRC-CT) will receive almost \$38 million from the Commonwealth CRC scheme to enable a \$148 million drug discovery program.

The CRC-CT will link several of Australia's leading cancer research organisations including the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and St Vincent's Research Institute, with internationally recognised pharmaceutical scientists and medicinal chemists from Griffith University, CSIRO and the college. Industrial partners include Bionomics and successful British cancer technology company CRT, which has a proven track record in taking anti-cancer drugs to market.

The CRC-CT is a significant opportunity for Australia to form the first combined preclinical cancer translation organisation in the country, modelling itself on best practice centres worldwide that have proven commercial success.

Cancer presents an enormous worldwide personal, social and economic burden. It is the nation's biggest disease concern, with one in three Australians developing cancer before the age of 75. With more than 88,000 new cases of cancer and 36,000 deaths per year, cancer causes an annual loss of nearly 480,000 disability-adjusted years of life in Australia, equivalent to 19% of the estimated total for all causes of death and disability.

The CRC-CT will focus on the commercial development of high quality new therapies for treatment and management of cancer in four critical areas:

- disrupting blood vessels that feed cancers
- preventing the ability of cancer cells to spread and invade other parts of the body
- adjunct treatments to minimise the side effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy
- overcoming resistance of tumours to chemotherapies.

Key targeted therapy areas identified by the CRC-CT include disrupting tumour vasculature, prevention of metastasis, adjunct therapies and chemo-resistance adjuvant therapy.

"The CRC-CT will further enhance Australia's position as a significant international player in anti-cancer drug discovery and it will provide a means to capitalise on the tremendous advances made in understanding the biology of cancer by Australian and international scientists," college dean Professor Bill Charman said.

"The CRC-CT brings together pharmaceutical scientists and medicinal chemists from the college with the leading cancer research organisations in Australia, and these groups will be linked with UK cancer drug discovery and development through the technology transfer company CRT."

Academia is becoming increasingly involved in drug discovery and development. In recent years, smaller firms and universities have generated larger numbers of early stage drug candidates. Also, outsourcing to large pharmaceutical firms is resulting in new collaborations between academia and industry, especially biotechnology companies and small to medium sized enterprises.



The nuclear envelope of the well known human cancer cell line HeLa can be visualised by blocking uptake of a fluorescent protein.



Professor Bill Charman.



Professor Peter Scammells.



Professor Colin Pouton.



Associate Professor Susan Charman.

Research and resultant drug therapies developed by the CRC-CT will result in:

- attractive drug candidate investment opportunities with reduced risks due to depth of scientific validation
- increased employment and improved productivity in the pharmaceuticals sector
- training opportunities for medicinal chemists to develop and sustain a capacity in translation
- more cost-effective treatments for selected cancer patients
- improvements in survival rates and quality of life of selected cancer patients
- spill-over benefits in other sectors that interact with the pharmaceuticals sector.

The CRC-CT will involve several academic staff and will provide continuing funding for up to 10 researchers who will be based at

the college. College scientists, including Professors Bill Charman, Colin Pouton, Peter Scammells, Associate Professor Susan Charman and their colleagues, will be core members of the CRC-CT's drug design teams. The college's expertise in medicinal chemistry, lead optimisation and drug development will make key contributions to its success.

"With cancer killing more Australians than any other single cause there is an urgent need for more effective therapies," said Professor Dick Fox, Chairman-elect of the CRC-CT and a medical oncologist.

"Australia invests over \$150 million each year in cancer research and the creation of the CRC-CT provides a catalyst for translation into new therapies through bringing together immense knowledge, expertise and resources to realise the therapeutic potential in the outstanding research being carried out at Australian research institutes."

Professor Colin Chapman



In December 2006 Professor Colin Chapman stepped down as dean of the college after 16 years in the position, ending a tenure that is remembered for its great leadership, strong change management and untiring support for individuals.

Since he started at the college in 1987, Colin's contribution to its growth and success has been significant and, under his leadership, the college has grown to become one of the top pharmacy schools in the world. It enrolls over 1100 students and now offers a diverse range of courses. Through Colin's efforts the Bachelor of Pharmacy was extended from three to four years, commencing in 1997 and including extensive practical experience placements, and new courses such as the Bachelor of Formulation Science, the Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry, the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science, the Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice, the double degree Bachelor of Pharmacy/Commerce and postgraduate programs in wound care, pharmacy management and clinical pharmacy were established.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the college in 1970 and serving as a National Serviceman in the Australian Army,

Colin undertook further studies, graduating with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) from the University of Melbourne in 1976 and a PhD in 1981 for research undertaken at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. He joined the college in 1987 as head of the School of Pharmaceutics and Professor of Pharmaceutics, and was appointed dean and Professor of Pharmacy in 1991.

He contributed his time to many professional organisations and was chairman of the Therapeutic Goods Committee and chairman of the Committee of the Heads of Pharmacy Schools in Australia and New Zealand. He also wrote the guidelines for, and helped to establish, the New Zealand and Australian Pharmacy Schools Accreditation Committee. In 1998 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia for, among other things, his role in establishing the statement on competencies for pharmacists in Australia.

Colin led the college through the period of amalgamation with Monash University, ensuring that the transition was seamless. This involved complex negotiations with different levels of government, prospective partners and regulating bodies. He was able to attract the support of pharmacists statewide to lobby decision makers and ensure that the amalgamation happened to the best advantage of the college community.

Rural health was a particular focus of Colin's tenure as dean, and he was responsible for developing and implementing a range of initiatives to attract and retain health professionals in rural communities, such as the Rural Entry Scheme for secondary students, compulsory rural placements for all pharmacy students at the college and the Monash University Pharmacy Scholarship for high achievers from country areas.

Colin was also a member of the small group of influential college community members who

established the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation in 2001. With his continuing support the Foundation has grown its activities and contributes to a range of college initiatives.

The college's fourth building, at 399 Royal Parade, is nearing completion, something that Colin worked for many years to achieve. Along the way almost every other component of the Parkville campus was refurbished or, in the case of the Manning building, will be refurbished in the near future. He was also responsible for the establishment of the new Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, which will be housed in the new building.

Internationally, Colin has played a major role in taking Australian pharmacy expertise to new markets. He led the proposal that resulted in the college being granted a US\$2.5 million, five-year contract by the University of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates, to assist in setting up a new college of pharmacy at its health sciences campus. He also led the planning for the Bachelor of Pharmacy course that will soon be delivered at Monash University's Malaysian campus.

Colin has had a remarkable influence on the college. He is well respected by students, staff and the profession, and will be greatly missed in the role of dean. However, he will continue to work for Monash University from 2007, focusing on research and educational activities, and fostering the college's links with the University of Sharjah.

On 1 January 2007, Professor William Charman became dean of the college. Bill will be profiled in the next edition of *Alchemy*.

Goodbye to May and Barry

In 2006, the college farewelled two long-serving staff members from the Department of Pharmaceutics. Professor Barry Reed and May Admans both retired after many years of excellent service to the college. Barry and May were formally farewelled at a function in November. Held at the Melbourne Museum, the dinner was a chance for friends and colleagues to say their goodbyes.



May Admans (BPharm 1968, MPharm 1979)

May, the first person to receive a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the college, commenced work as a tutor in 1971. She proceeded through a number of appointments at the college and Monash University before becoming a lecturer.

During her career she principally taught pharmacy students and,

more recently, formulation science students. She was the 'engine room' of pharmaceutics teaching, especially in practical and workshop areas, and was excellent at managing the Department of Pharmaceutics' teaching program. She identified and employed other tutors, supervised technical staff and was involved in the development of a flexible learning program for students.

May also had a strong role in the management of faculty teaching programs through her membership of education committees and her special role in timetabling.

Emeritus Professor Barry Reed (PhC 1963, BPharm 1969, PhD 1975)

Barry's career focused on pharmaceutics and he was Professor of Biopharmaceutics at the college for 30 years.

His research interests were primarily in the delivery of drugs through the skin. After completing the last year of the old apprenticeship course in 1962, which included time at both the Swanston Street site and the new Parkville campus, Barry joined the college staff as a demonstrator on graduation in 1963 and was appointed as the M.A. Nicholas Industrial Professor of Biopharmaceutics in 1978.

In 1998, Acrux Ltd was established to commercialise the 'spray-on' drug delivery technology discovered by Barry, Tim Morgan and Barrie Finnin through their transdermal drug delivery research program. The metered dose transdermal spray is currently being developed and used in clinical trials, and two Acrux products are in the final stage of development for the US market.

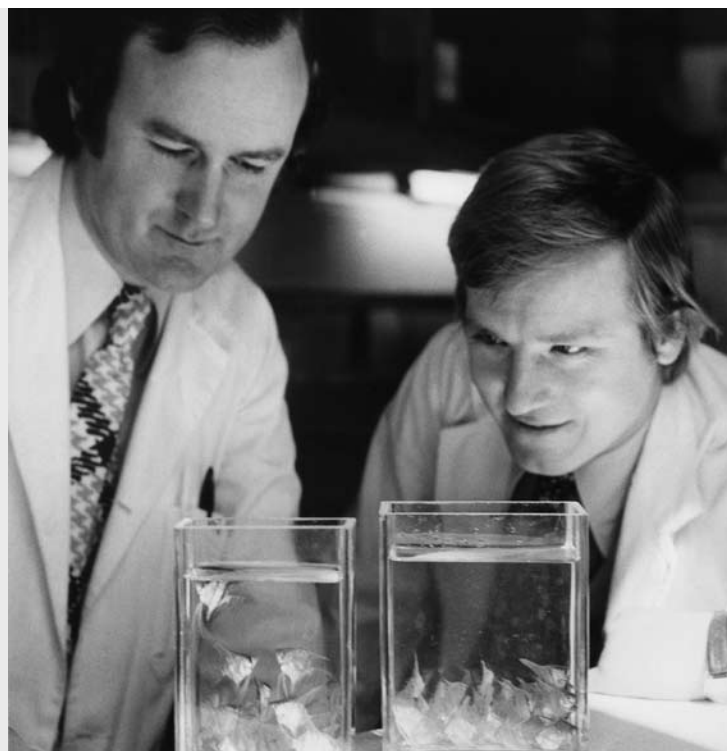
Barry is widely known in the pharmacy community. He has served on the Medicines Evaluation Committee since its inception and on the Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee since June 1984. He has also been a member of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria since 1986 and president of the board since 1997.

At his farewell dinner, Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom presented Barry with a melanophore crystal, which had a special significance.

Barry Reed has kept tropical fish since he was a child. He noticed that one particular species of fish had a different colour pattern during the day than that displayed at night. Barry, through his reading, hypothesised that this was brought about by the pineal hormone melatonin. In his early research, Barry proved this hypothesis and went on to study factors affecting melanophores, the cells responsible for skin pigmentation. He devised means of using the responses of melanophores in fish to screen for drug activity and his research continued into factors affecting skin pigmentation and evaluation of depigmenting agents. This work with topical depigmenting agents led to him studying transdermal penetration generally and the discovery of the skin penetration enhancing properties of some sunscreen esters.

Barry's gift was a coloured melanophore in the centre of a crystal, inscribed with 'Inauguration of the Prof Barry L. Reed Distinguished Lecture in recognition of an exceptional career'. The college will present one of these melanophore crystals, suitably engraved, to the Barry Reed Distinguished Lecturer each year.

Following his retirement at the end of 2006, the Council of Monash University conferred on Barry the title of Emeritus Professor of the University. This prestigious title recognises a former professor's distinguished academic service to his field of study and to the University.



Barry Reed's studies of night colouration of certain fish was the first recognised research at the college. In this photograph from the late 1960s, Barry is pictured (left) with co-researcher Barrie Finnin.

Eileen Reed, Barry's wife, also retired from the college in 2006. Eileen started work at the C.L. Butchers Library in 1972, in what was meant to be a six-week position helping out on the circulation desk. That was the start of her 35-year career at the college. Eileen is enjoying her retirement and is spending lots of time sorting out the papers that Barry brought home from his office. "Barry never threw out anything during his 44 years at the college," Eileen laughed.

Launching our history

Stories of inspiring war surgeon Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, the development of the first successful anti-influenza drug Relenza and the amalgamation with Monash University are vital parts of the college's 125-year history.

Former lecturers, deans, students and friends gathered on 12 December last year to celebrate the release of a book charting the colourful history of the college, from its beginnings at a former courthouse in Swanston Street to today's expanding Parkville campus. The launch of the history book was the final celebratory event held to commemorate the college's 125th anniversary.

Written by historian Dr Janette Bomford, *Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 years of history* records the contributions of prominent deans and staff, including former Therapeutic Goods Administration national manager Dr Geoffrey Vaughan AO, as well as humorous anecdotes from past students.

At the launch, Geoff said the history volume described the four key areas of the college: profession, products, places and people.

"The major product of the college has been our graduates, many of whom have been prominent figures in Victorian pharmacy," he said.

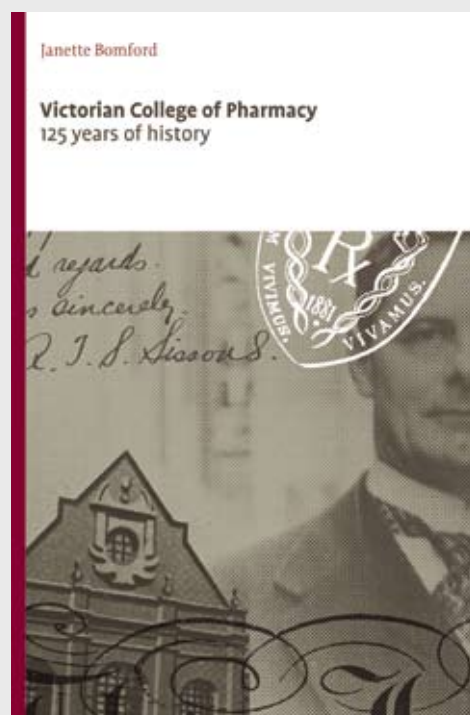
Janette, who spent two years doing research and interviews for the book, said the college firmly established Victoria as the leader in the national pharmacy industry from its inception.

The college was established in 1881 as the school of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria. That society had itself been founded in 1857 by early immigrant British pharmacists to control and develop the professional aspects of pharmacy in the rapidly developing colony.

Weary Dunlop, the late World War II veteran whose medical efforts on behalf of prisoners of war made him a legend, was one of the college's best-known former students. Weary moved to Melbourne to study at the college in 1927 and then studied medicine at nearby Ormond College.

In 1960 the college moved to new premises in Parkville and began providing a full time three-year course in pharmacy. Government approval was given to the merger with Monash University in 1992. Since then, the college has grown from about 450 students and 85 staff to a significant faculty within the University that now has in excess of 1100 students and 140 staff, along with three undergraduate courses.

"The college is a special place and the profession can be proud of what it has achieved in pharmaceutical education and research over its 125 years," Janette said.



Get your copies

To order a copy of either book, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/125/book.html download and complete the order form and return to:

Charis Dossor
Victorian College of Pharmacy
381 Royal Parade Parkville VIC 3052

Cost:

- *Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 years of history*: \$60 per copy (including GST)
- *Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 stories for 125 years*: \$40 per copy (including GST).

For further information contact Charis Dossor, email charis.dossor@vcp.monash.edu.au or tel: 613 9903 9635.



Dr Janette Bomford signs books at the launch.

125 stories for 125 years

Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 stories for 125 years is a collection of short stories that offers a snapshot of the college's milestones and some of the individuals who have contributed to its success.

The book was written to complement the official history of the college, *Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 years of history*, by Dr Janette Bomford, which was launched late last year.

The short stories are another way of capturing the spirit of the people and events that helped shape the college during its proud history.

One of the 125 stories is about Neil Naismith AM (PhC 1958), a remarkable man who had a lasting influence on hospital pharmacy, the pharmacy profession in Victoria and the college.



Neil Naismith

Neil Naismith AM was national president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia 1991 to 1993. He was an outstanding and much loved leader of the pharmacy profession and a driving force for changes in pharmacy practice.

Neil was a founding member of the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, with Alistair Lloyd and John Ware, in 2001. The Foundation has contributed to the college by raising funds to support teaching, research and construction initiatives.

He was closely involved in the management of a number of other important bodies, including the Australian Pharmaceutical Publishing Company, the Australian Pharmacy Research Centre and the Australian College of Pharmacy Practice. Neil was also a member of many other health and professional organisations, including the Victorian Health Services Review Council, a position he retained until his death.

Neil received many professional honours during his career including a Boots Travelling Fellowship in 1966, a Churchill Fellowship in 1972, the Allan and Hanbury Medal in 1975, the Fred J. Boyd Award for contribution to hospital pharmacy in 1982, a Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Honorary Fellowship in 1983 and the Merck Sharp and Dohme (Australia) Medal for Pharmacy Practice in 1993. In 1991 his services to pharmacy were recognised publicly when he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Not long after his retirement from the hospital in 1997, Neil was diagnosed with a medical condition that would later take his life. He refused to give in, continuing to contribute to his many interests, especially his loving family. Neil passed away in May 2002. His funeral was attended by over 700 family, friends, colleagues and pharmacy leaders. He is survived by his wife Maureen, their children Andrea, Simone, Paul and Fiona, and 12 grandchildren.

The annual State of the Nation Lecture has been renamed the Neil W. Naismith Lecture in honour of his extensive contributions to the profession. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd annually sponsors the Neil Naismith Award, which is presented to the college's pharmacy Gold Medallist.

Neil qualified from the college in 1958 and began his career in hospital pharmacy at the Footscray and District Hospital. In 1968 he was appointed chief pharmacist of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, where he remained until he retired in 1997.

During his time at the hospital, Neil saw the pharmacy department develop from being involved in the manufacture and supply of medicines, to a department made up of more than 50 pharmacists and technicians who play a major role in achieving rational use of medicines throughout the hospital. He tutored hundreds of trainees at the hospital, fuelling his passion for the education of pharmacists.

Neil established the first Drug Information Service in Australia to provide the medical, nursing and pharmacy professions with specialised, detailed information about drugs. He introduced 'ward pharmacy' to Victorian hospitals, where pharmacists work with medical and nursing staff, participating in therapeutic decisions and monitoring drug usage. Neil's broad interest in pharmacy led him to become a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian branch) council for 25 years and the national council for eight years, three of which he served as president.

Active in many areas of pharmacy, Neil was heavily involved in the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia for more than 35 years, including nationally as federal secretary, vice-president and chairman of the Education Division; and inaugural administrator of the *Australian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*. He was also a member of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria from 1974 and served as president 1985 to 1989. During his presidency, he was active in shaping policies on the education and practical training of pharmacy students and in the development of competency and practice standards for Australian pharmacists.

Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 stories for 125 years / 1881–2006

001 John Kruse 002 Harry Shillinglaw 003 S
005 C.L. Butchers 006 College dress 007 A.C.
010 Women pharmacists' associations 011
Pharmacy organisations 014 Edward Darnley
017 Muriel Witt 018 Marie Daley 019 Rex Go
022 F.C. Kent 023 RSL Chemists Sub-group
John Coppock 027 Elizabeth Grant 028 Alis
Werner 032 Pharmacy politicians 033 Peter
036 Mel Blanchford 037 Peter Cook 038 Barr
041 Mary Hamming 042 Steve Marty 043 Ti
046 Louis Roller 047 The Sistine Chapel 048
051 War memorial 052 Gold Medal winners
Snowy Cope 056 Jennifer Dressman 057 Tak
Hurley 060 Institute of Drug Technology 061
building 064 Jenny Marty 065 Irvin Newton
Scott 069 The Tonkin Scholarship 070 Anne
Acne Sculpture 073 Bachelor of Pharmacy
Jennifer Marty 077 National Bank Hold-up
078 081 John Ware 082 Tom Watson 083
Monash University 086 Shirley Dixon 087 C
Experience program 090 Peter Stewart 091
094 Commitment to rural pharmacy 095 Al
097 Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science 09
Optimisation 100 Bill Charman 101 Michael
104 Graduate Certificate in Pharmaceutical
107 Clare Magree 108 Medicines for Malaria
110 Michael Hurnan 111 Matthew Peck 112 P
Pharmacy Management program 115 Colin
118 Jan Rice 119 Rachimawati Saputra 120
program 122 The University of Sharjah 123
124 125th anniversary celebrations 125 Sup

Erratum

The last issue of *Alchemy* contained an error in the article on Joseph Bosisto.

Joseph was one of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria in 1857, being its vice-president. He was largely responsible for the passage of both the *Sale and Use of Poisons Act 1876* and the *Pharmacy Act 1876* that created the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, becoming its inaugural president in 1877. He relinquished the post in 1882 under pressure of other engagements.

Thanks to David Newgreen (PhC 1964, BPharm 1969) for his vigilance.

Making a difference in Vietnam

Pharmacy graduate Madelaine Nguyen (BPharm 2007), winner of the 2006 Mathew Peck Travelling Scholarship, recently spent 52 days in Vietnam investigating the potential role of Vietnamese pharmacists in HIV prevention.

During her time at the college, Madelaine was an active member of Remedy, a student group that provides resources to pharmacy institutions in underdeveloped countries and educates pharmacy students and the wider community about international health issues. Her passion for pharmacy and helping underprivileged communities strongly influenced her decision to apply for the scholarship.

"I'm continually challenged by the fact that people in the same world can live in such different conditions. My parents fled war-torn Vietnam, where they grew up deprived of so many things that we take for granted today – food, clothes, education and, most importantly, freedom," said Madelaine.

"Vietnam is a developing country and many people are still extremely poor and disadvantaged. I chose to go to there to 'help people help themselves' (Remedy's motto), by sharing the skills and knowledge that I've learnt at the college. In the process, I opened my eyes to the world."

In Vietnam, HIV/AIDS is a rapidly growing epidemic. Originally concentrated among injecting drug users and their partners, and sex workers and their clients, the spread of infection is beginning to extend into the general population. Injecting drug users, however, make up more than half the known population living with HIV/AIDS. The Vietnamese Government has recognised the importance of a comprehensive response to HIV infection and has adopted policies relating to education and prevention, as well as treatment and care of HIV-affected people.

Recent studies have shown increasing potential for pharmacists to contribute to HIV/AIDS prevention through harm reduction activities such as provision of clean syringes. Pharmacies offer an ideal

environment in which to offer health advice and, in the near future, pharmacists may also be involved in drug substitution programs that will help minimise the risks associated with injecting drug use.

As part of her project, Madelaine conducted an informal study of selected pharmacies in Hanoi to gather information that would assist in developing strategies to involve pharmacists in counselling and dispensing opiate substitutes.

"I looked at current practices and attitudes towards pharmacists engaging in HIV/AIDS harm reduction activities, mostly at a community level," she said. "Through interviews with pharmacists, qualitative observations of retail pharmacy practice and quantitative data collection I learned about the provision of needles and syringes, safe sex and injecting counselling, and pharmacists' thoughts on drug substitution programs. I also looked at the number of needles and syringes sold over time and how responsive users were to health and harm reduction advice."

To gain insights into harm reduction activities in the community, Madelaine also interviewed peer educators (from the Hanoi-based Burnet Institute's Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs) and a group of injecting drug users to discover their views on the programs and the role of pharmacies in needle and syringe provision.

"Talking to the users was an eye-opening experience. I don't condone illicit drug use in any way, but hearing about their personal struggles with addiction humanised it and help me understand the difficulties addicts face," she noted. "Whatever their reason for starting to abuse drugs, deliberate or accidental, it's difficult to turn back once that physical barrier is crossed.



Madelaine prepares a HIV awareness poster.



Vietnamese HIV campaign.

"My study emphasised the importance of harm reduction efforts like exchange programs, which are extremely effective, and for health professionals such as pharmacists to lead the way in reducing discrimination by offering their professional services as they would to any other patient. It also stressed the need to cooperate with different disciplines and organisations to ensure positive outcomes in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

A highlight of Madelaine's trip was accompanying John Ware OAM (PhC 1950), president of the

International Federation of Pharmacy Western Pacific Region Office, on his inspections of Vietnam's progress in the second phase of a Good Pharmacy Practice project. This government-approved project aims to improve all aspects of the pharmaceutical sector, including manufacture, distribution and practice, to ensure sufficient supply of quality medicines and their rational and safe use across the country.

"This gave me considerable insight into pharmacy practice in Vietnam through visits to pharmacies, drug distribution companies and the



Madelaine outside a Vietnamese pharmacy.

Pharmacy in developing countries

"Pharmacists play an important role in all countries but their expertise with medicines, their management and use can significantly impact on health and economic outcomes in developing countries," said Greg Duncan (BPharm 1985), lecturer in pharmacy practice.

"They become involved with the development and implementation of medicine policies that address issues such as fair access for all people, managing costs so that medicines services are sustainable and helping people to get the best outcomes from medicines through quality use strategies and programs.

"They play vital roles in procurement and distribution of essential medicines for countries," he added. "Many pharmacists in these settings also work as primary healthcare providers, counselling about medicines, helping manage minor illness and providing health education for individuals and communities with limited resources."

World Health Organization Country Office," said Madelaine. "As well, I met the Vice-Minister of Health and made a speech, in Vietnamese and English, to over 100 local pharmacists on my view of my future role as a pharmacist."

To add to her experience, Madelaine also volunteered at a HIV Awareness work camp hosted by non-profit organisation Volunteers for Peace. As part of a team of eight international volunteers and local helpers, she researched, prepared and presented information sessions to three universities on HIV, with a focus on its transmission and prevention. The team performed role plays to help explore issues of stigma and discrimination, conducted small discussion groups to allow students to voice their opinions and share experiences, introduced the ABC (abstinence, be faithful, condom use) concept and taught practical skills in how to use condoms properly for contraception and prevention.

"The camp was a fantastic experience, working and exchanging ideas with international and local volunteers and having the chance to educate young people about important issues," she enthused.

"It's an amazing feeling, being able to empower others!"

Madelaine found the whole scholarship experience was beyond her expectations, giving her an opportunity to experience international pharmacy in context and to take a personal journey though her Vietnamese heritage.

"It was a challenging yet hugely rewarding experience, one that has helped me develop both professionally and personally," she said. "It really changed my life and the way I view things. Coming home to affluent Australia, I have a new-found sense of appreciation for the opportunities we have here; and my experience has fuelled my aspirations to contribute to the community, both at a local and international level."

The scholarship is named in memory of Mathew Peck, a pharmacy student who passed away tragically in an accident while travelling in 2003. It was established to honour Mathew's life and to continue his commitment to international health issues. College staff from the Department of Pharmacy Practice and associates from the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and the Public Health Centre for

Epidemiology and Population Health Research worked closely with Madelaine throughout 2006 to formulate her project proposal.

"The challenge for young adults like me is to apply our knowledge and skills in areas of the world that are in great need and I feel committed, as a future pharmacist, to assist where I can," said Madelaine. "The scholarship was a stepping stone in achieving this goal.

"I believe that if we can bridge the gap of wealth, knowledge and resources, we can improve the healthcare conditions and overall quality of life of needy countries like Vietnam," she added. "The Mathew Peck Scholarship gave me the opportunity to do exactly this – in the field, in the community, in my home country."

Inter-ethnic drug efficacy research

When a new drug is being introduced to the international market, companies and regulatory authorities need to know if factors not apparent in Western clinical trials will affect the drug's efficacy in a new population. While some influencing factors are genetic, others can be cultural or dietary.

As an ethnopharmacology scientist in R&D at GlaxoSmithKline, Dr Christine Perry (BPharm 2001, PhD 2006) looks at inter-ethnic differences in response to medications and supports new drug applications to national regulatory authorities in Japan and East Asia.

Most clinical trials for new drugs are conducted in the USA and Europe, and as a consequence the people involved are Westerners. Christine takes data generated in Western populations and, through a number of processes including modelling and simulation, makes decisions based on what is known about ethnic differences in metabolic pathways as well as differences in disease profiles. She will either find that the safety, efficacy and toxicity is the same, or she will recommend that certain additional trials are required.

"For example, with a drug manufactured to treat asthma being presented to the Japanese market, we would check if the country uses the same term to describe the disease, if there are the same sub-types of the disease, if the triggers are the same, and if there is an influence of diet or other cultural aspects," said Christine.

"Then we profile the medication itself and what is known about it – its pharmacokinetics from Western studies and how that will apply to this population. Again using asthma medication for Japan as an example, we would see if the lung function is the same in East Asians as it is in Westerners, and if the lung size is the same. If not, we need to see if this will influence how the drug is absorbed. If we know from Western studies that the drug is metabolised by a certain pathway in the liver, it's important to know if that pathway



and the enzymes involved are the same in both Western and East Asian patients.

"Based on all these factors, I would make a recommendation on the need for these aspects to be investigated in the region, or conclude that the clinical data obtained in Western populations is relevant to East Asian populations."

Christine completed her Bachelor of Pharmacy at the college in 2001. Originally seeking a career in retail pharmacy, she won a scholarship in the second year of her degree that involved working on a research project within the Department of Pharmaceutics. From then on she knew that research was what she wanted to do. She completed her PhD in 2006, working alongside researchers in the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation. Her thesis was entitled 'Chemical stability and

pharmacokinetics studies of a new class of synthetic ozonide antimalarial'.

"Working with eminent scientists at the college was great and I learned so much," said Christine. "Good research involves being passionate about the subject and being able to communicate with people on all levels. The skills I learned at the college certainly led me to the job I have today."

In the future, Christine hopes to stay involved in ethnopharmacology and to build on its body of knowledge.

"I love my job, it's so interesting," said Christine. "I get to explore things from a new perspective and try to predict the unknown. It's a unique job that I find challenging and enjoyable every single day. Working with a great team helps a lot too."

Retired Pharmacists' Group



The first meeting of the group will include a tour of the new building.

A new group established by the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation will give retired pharmacists increased contact with the college and a great social network.

The group will meet monthly at the college for morning tea, followed by a 20-minute presentation on topical issues relating to pharmacy and pharmacy practice.

"This group will be a fantastic way for us retired pharmacists to keep in touch with each other

and to keep up to date with the latest trends in pharmacy," said Valda Comber (BPharm 1972).

The first meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday 31 July, 11am – 12:30pm at the college. The guest speaker will be new dean, Professor Bill Charman, and will include a tour of the college's new building.

If you would like to attend the first meeting contact Vanessa Williams, tel: 613 9903 9087 or email vanessa.williams@vcp.monash.edu.au

Graduates on the go

Andrew Roberts

While working in Alice Springs in 2004, Andrew Roberts (BPharm 1987) attended a conference where he heard about the lack of pharmacists working in remote areas. Recognised as a valuable part of mainstream health, pharmacists are largely 'missing' from remote Aboriginal healthcare.

Andrew was soon working on a project with the Ngaanyatjarra people, who live in an area of about 250,000 square kilometres from the Northern Territory / South Australia / Western Australia border through to about 400km from Kalgoorlie, covering the Gibson and Great Victoria Deserts.

He explained that his work can be a little different to that of a suburban pharmacist.

"I regularly visit our aged care facility, do audits, chart reviews and drug usage evaluations across the lands," he said. "Most of our clinics have had their dispensaries revamped, with new shelving and small bench space to dispense and write on. There are no spare handymen out here, so this work has been done by me using an angle grinder and welder."

Andrew's dispensary imprest is solid, with about 270 medicine items. The same dispensary is kept at each clinic and patients with chronic diseases have their own medication box. This enables medications to be taken into the treatment room with the patient to be discussed while being dispensed.

"Many Ngaanyatjarra people had no idea what a pharmacist was. When they discover I'm a 'specialist in medicines', they hand over the dose administration aid (DAA) or ask for their tablets," he explained. "By involving them as I fill their DAAs and offer basic information about each medicine, I hope to influence their medication-taking behaviour. It certainly helps to establish a relationship; out here relationships are critical to long-term achievements."

With the difficulty of finding staff to work in remote areas and no nurse currently in the community, Andrew represents the entire health service. A lot of his work involves treating boils, infections, emergencies such as head wounds, burns and follow-up treatment.

"These emergencies present at your front door," he said. "There's no phone call. They're in front of you, at any time of day or night, perhaps carried on their grandmother's back or as a passenger in a car screeching up to the house."

Occasions when moral and professional dilemmas overlap present difficulties for Andrew. During his first year, he was at an unstaffed clinic in a small community and a young man came for a benzathine penicillin injection to treat his rheumatic heart disease. No other health professional was due for a week and there was no guarantee the patient would return.

"I now regret I didn't administer it because he wasn't there when



Remote pharmacist Andrew 'Robbo' Roberts with his pet dingo, Girl.

the nurse came," he said. "This patient should have been 'rewarded' for coming to the clinic because compliance is a huge problem. One of the doctors said to me: 'Why didn't you? We all need to be generalists out here'."

According to Andrew, in remote areas such as this, the principles of 'continuity of care' crumble into rhetoric – there is none.

"Our patients may end up in Adelaide, Alice Springs, Kalgoorlie or Perth. One pharmacy department told me they wouldn't provide liaison with discharge advice because there was no one who had that job," Andrew explained. "Our patient liaison officer informs me of all evacuations and I contact the hospital pharmacy departments. Actually, not always. If I know the

diabetes educator or the renal nurse, I'll contact them. The earlier I know patient medications on discharge, the more likely I can arrange for any non-imprest drugs to be on the lands before they return home.

"Neighbouring health services and pharmacy and medical departments in Alice Springs, Kalgoorlie and Perth hospitals have copies of our imprest, as do all the consultants we deal with. We hope that this increases the chance of our patients being put on medications on imprest and be supplied, no matter where they go across the lands."

This is an abridged version of an article originally published in the *Australian Journal of Pharmacy* (March 2007, pp22-24). It is republished here with permission from the AJP. Readers can also view the original article on AJP Online by visiting www.ajp.com.au

Stephen Richmond

Stephen Richmond (BPharm 1991) registered in Victoria before moving to South Australia three days later. After working as a community pharmacist for three years, he decided to return to university to study a Graduate Diploma in Agronomy and Farming Systems by correspondence.

Steve currently works as an agronomy account manager for Landmark in Minlaton, Yorke Peninsula. His job is fairly seasonal,

involving dry land farming production of cereals (wheat, barley, oats) and legumes (chickpeas, field peas, faba beans, lentils) for both domestic use and export. Steve also consults to farmers who grow malt barley for beer production that is sold to companies such as Coopers Brewery and exported to China. He still works as an occasional locum pharmacist in Gawler, 40kms north of Adelaide.

Steve sees lots of synergies between pharmacy and agronomy.

"You need people skills to communicate with growers and you need to assess situations in the same way that a pharmacist would assess a patient's medical history," he said. "You have to know your product and be able to tell the grower how to best use it in order to get maximum value from the product."

Australia Day honours

Congratulations to two of our alumni who received Australia Day honours. Neill Decker (PhC 1948) received the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the welfare of people with diabetes and Robert Peck (BPharm 1969) was awarded a Public Service Medal for his service in improving medication outcomes for the Australian veteran community.

Pharmacy students go abroad

Over the summer break, 11 pharmacy students travelled the globe and explored the practice of pharmacy through the Pharmacy Abroad program.

Where did they go?

Drake University, USA

Kelly Barton-Smith
Jenny Dao

University of Kansas, USA

Loo Yee Cheah
Jing Yi Tan

University of Nottingham, UK

Wooi Lynn Goon
Christina Loh

King's College London, UK

Yu-Tzu Chang
Monique Allekian

National University of Singapore

Tran Huynh
Han Nee Koay
Eric Luong



Wooi Lynn Goon

"Pharmacy Abroad was an amazing experience and adapting to the UK environment was challenging but rewarding.

Pharmacists in England can now take a course to become supplementary prescribers and will soon be able to advance to independent prescribers. At minor ailments clinics, pharmacist prescribers give patients greater access to primary care, reducing the need for a doctor's consultation and freeing up resources for patients who require a doctor's intervention. Surgeries with pharmacist prescribers

have reported excellent results. The change has also increased respect between professions, as pharmacists and GPs begin to value each other's knowledge and contributions.

Another difference was the adaptation of the Medicine Use Review (MUR), which is similar to Home Medicine Reviews here, into patient care. Regular patients at each pharmacy are given MURs on a yearly basis or when required. Anyone can elect to have an MUR conducted – the patient, pharmacist, nurse or GP. I think MURs really helped the patients understand their medicines. Pharmacists record the MURs, send a summary to the GP and are reimbursed by the National Health Service for every MUR conducted.

I was invited by my preceptor to Continuing Pharmacy Education lectures, which were very informative and a great opportunity to meet other pharmacists. On the weekends I had time to visit the sights of Nottingham and Lincoln. I had a wonderful time."



Kelly Barton-Smith

"Pharmacy Abroad broadened my horizons and taught me that I can survive when I'm colder than I've ever been before – the average temperature in Iowa during our stay was -5C to -10C, with a windchill that froze our cheeks.

Discovering the differences in pharmacy across the two nations was interesting. It was quite a shock to arrive at a community pharmacy and not be able to jump right in. It's not just brand names and drugs that are different – it's uses, doses, insurance, money, laws, language,

scheduling, patients and more. One major difficulty was counselling patients who elected to have their prescription label in Spanish, due to my total lack of Spanish!

Another major difference I observed was the role of the clinical pharmacist during a ward round. The cardiology specialist consulted with the pharmacist and genuinely respected his opinion, and the pharmacist was given the opportunity to educate medical students on antibiotic use.

One of the downsides was the growth of supermarket-pharmacies, which consist of aisles of supermarket-style goods in a giant warehouse, with a tiny pharmacy tucked in the back corner. Another downside was the drive-through window; understandable in the freezing temperatures, but it really decreased the personal contact, medication safety and security aspects of pharmacist-patient interaction.

On the social side, exploring Iowa was a lot of fun; we even found the Bridges of Madison County!"



Tran Huynh

"One of the most interesting differences between Australian and

Singaporean pharmacy is the supply of chewing gum. Only chewing gum for so-called 'dental use' is available and it is considered a pharmacy-only item. People can purchase chewing gum if, and only if, they provide their ID or passport numbers!"



Han Nee Koay

"I realised how well-developed the Australian healthcare system is. Everyone can

afford medications and receive fair medical treatment."



Jing Yi Tan

"The advanced technology in the USA is certainly a major advantage. Robots and

automated machines are commonly used in the delivery of pharmacy services, which is a huge time-saver in areas such as dispensing, manufacturing and stock imprest."



Eric Luong

"Pharmacy services in Singapore differ from Australia in many ways

– from dispensing, subsidy of medicines and use of traditional Chinese medicines to regulation of medicines."

Rural scholarship winners

Congratulations to Annabelle Hargreaves and Alexander Bongers, winners of the 2007 Monash University Pharmacy Rural Scholarships.



Annabelle Hargreaves

"Winning the scholarship is very important to me and to my family. It's especially valued in this time of drought, as my family's main source of income is our farm and they are supporting me in my studies away from home.

I've always enjoyed living in the country and belonging to a small, close community. I grew up in Wedderburn, a town in north central Victoria with around 800 people. It's great studying in Melbourne and getting a taste of city life. There are so many things to do! But I'd like to return to work in a rural area eventually, after I do a bit of travelling.

Good job prospects and the high demand for pharmacists worldwide, especially in rural areas, were great incentives for me to study pharmacy. I've always wanted to work with people and pharmacy combines my interests in healthcare and science. I know that it's a respected profession, where trusting and rewarding relationships can be made with patients."



Alexander Bongers

"My keen interest in science, especially chemistry, led me to work experience in a hospital and community setting. I found that I really enjoyed working with people and helping them with their health, so pharmacy was a logical career choice for me.

I grew up on a farm near the Twelve Apostles on the Great Ocean Road. So the move to Melbourne has been a big change, but one that's challenging and exciting.

The scholarship is great because it gives people like me the opportunity to experience the best university in Australia, in the best city in Australia. More importantly, it's helping to address the demand for rural health professionals in country towns.

I'm certainly planning on going back to a rural area when I graduate because the demand for professionals in rural areas is enormous. I also love the increased emphasis on communication in a rural setting. It means that you can really get to know a patient and help them as much as possible. Working as a pharmacist in a rural area can be very rewarding."

Rural workshops

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, will offer professional development workshops in regional areas during 2007. All interested pharmacists are invited to attend.

The workshops are a great opportunity for pharmacists to earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points and to improve their knowledge base. Visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/alumni/workshops/ to register online (registration is essential). For more information contact Vanessa Williams, tel: 613 9903 9087 or email Vanessa.Williams@vcp.monash.edu.au



Jan Rice lectures on practical wound management in Albury-Wodonga.

Jan Rice, manager of the college's Wound Foundation of Australia, delivered the first rural workshop in Albury-Wodonga on 29 March 2007.

Over 50 pharmacists from north east Victoria gathered to hear Jan's insights on practical wound management in aged care. With many pharmacists and pharmacy assistants often remarking that they don't know what is actually contained inside a packet, the workshop focused on the question, 'Do you know what's on your shelf?'

Participants were given the opportunity to touch and feel wound dressings and, more importantly, to learn how to apply and remove them correctly.

"I hope that the workshop allowed pharmacists to return to their pharmacy equipped with the right advice on practical wound care treatment options," said Jan.

"Everyone present certainly now knows more about the latest wound care products on the market."

Workshop	Location	Date	Time	CPD points
Putting evidence into practice	Seaford	Sunday 3 June	10.00am–3.00pm	8
Putting evidence into practice	Shepparton	Sunday 12 August	10.00am–3.00pm	8
Heart failure and psychiatry	Traralgon	Monday 8 October	6.30pm–9.30pm	4



A picture and a thousand words

A new lecture capture system now in use at the college may help students to improve their marks and catch up on course work.

Students starting classes in first semester 2007 are benefiting from Lectopia, an easy-to-use system that records lectures and automatically uploads them to the internet. Lectopia was developed in 1999 by staff at the University of Western Australia to give students access to lecture recordings at their own convenience.

Department of Pharmaceutics senior lecturer Dr Ian Larson said the system allows lecturers to simultaneously record their words and what the data projector shows.

"These lecture recordings should allow for more detailed revision of the content, hopefully leading to increased student learning," Ian said.

"Today's students seek greater choice in how, when and where learning takes place. As these recordings are available to students in many formats, they can access the content whenever and wherever they wish."

Above: Students show the benefits of using the Lectopia system by downloading lectures on a laptop and transmitting to an MP3 player.

The system is currently in a trial phase, with seven teaching units being recorded and a variety of lecturers participating. The trial covers all year groups and courses on offer at the college.

Lectopia capture devices have been permanently installed in four of the five lecture theatres and two portable capture devices are available for seminars and offsite recording.

Anecdotal evidence from other universities that use this system suggests that 60 to 70 per cent of students increase their marks due to the benefits of Lectopia.

Excellence in teaching

Two college lecturers received prestigious awards at the end of 2006 in recognition of their excellent teaching methodologies.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

The 2006 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching was awarded to Dr Elizabeth Yuriev from the college's Department of Medicinal Chemistry. Elizabeth was one of only four recipients across the University.

The annual award recognises and rewards exemplary teaching. Nominees are assessed on their approach to teaching, curriculum development, assessment, respect and support for student development and scholarly activities that enhance learning and teaching. Each recipient receives a medallion, a permanent citation and \$5000.



Victorian College of Pharmacy teaching award

Dr Paul White received the college's 2006 teaching award. Paul demonstrated innovation in many aspects of teaching, including the implementation of the KeePad audience response system and a pilot project involving WebCT Vista. Paul chairs the college's teaching technologies committee and was an invited speaker at the Vice-Chancellor's Showcase of Teaching Excellence 2005.

Lecturer of the Year

In late 2006, the Monash Parkville Students' Association (MPSA) surveyed over 700 college students in search of the Lecturer of the Year.

Congratulations to:

First year

Best notes: Elizabeth Yuriev
Best lecturer: Betty Exintaris

Second year

Best notes: Ben Capuano (MPharm 1991, PhD 2001)
Best lecturer: Ben Capuano

Third year

Best notes: Ben Capuano
Best lecturer: Daniel Malone (BPharm 1994, BPharm[Hons] 1996, PhD 2001)

Lecturer of the Year

Ben Capuano.



New teaching technologies improve interaction

College lecturers can now get instant feedback during lectures, thanks to new KeePad technology.

In true *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* style, students use a hand-held KeePad to instantly respond to a lecturer's question. The technology allows lecturers to pose opinion or subject related questions during their

lectures and receive immediate responses from their audience.

"The KeePads improve student engagement and allow lecturers to receive immediate feedback on comprehension and perception of ideas," said senior lecturer Dr Paul White. "This all leads to improved teaching practice within the curriculum."

2006 academic prize winners

On 2 April 2007, the college celebrated the success of its 2006 academic prize winners with sponsors, lecturers, friends and families gathering in Cossar Hall to recognise their achievements. The college is grateful to all the companies and organisations that supported the 2006 academic prizes.

Prize	Recipient	Donor
Bachelor of Pharmacy		
First year exhibition	Jing Hean Loo	Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd
Second year exhibition	Su-Seang Sam Koh	Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Third year exhibition	Jade Eyles	Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (Victorian branch)
Fourth year exhibition	Rachelle Downie	Guild Insurance Co Ltd
Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science		
First year exhibition	Leanne Capewell	CSL Ltd
Second year exhibition	Adam Tilley	Australian Society of Cosmetic Chemists
Third year exhibition	Abhinetiri Maharaj	Mayne Pharma
Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry		
First year exhibition	Anna Truong	GlaxoSmithKline
Second year exhibition	Marsewi Ngatimin	Biota Holdings Ltd
Third year exhibition	Fiona McRobb	AMGEN Australia Pty Ltd
Overall excellence		
Faculty Honours Prize	Andrew Lin and Corrine Kluvers	Symbion Pharmacy Services
Monash Pharmacy Pre-registration Prize	Alana Meaklim and Joanne Gross	Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd
Master of Wound Care Prize	Robyn Rayner	ConvaTec
Master of Clinical Pharmacy Prize	Esther Chan	Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (Victorian branch)
Pharmacy Management Program Prize	Andria Maggs	Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Bachelor of Pharmacy Gold Medal and the Neil Naismith Award	Rachelle Downie	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian branch) and Therapeutic Guidelines
Bachelor of Formulation Science Gold Medal	Tracy Chung	ACCORD
Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry Gold Medal	Fiona McRobb	Starpharma Pty Ltd
Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal 2005	Johnson George	Monash University
Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal 2006	Natalie Trevaskis	Monash University
Dean's Commendation for Doctoral Thesis Excellence	Leonora Long	Victorian College of Pharmacy
Vice-Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Scholarship	Victoria Oliver and Elaine Wong	Monash University

Gold Medallists



Tracy Chung
Formulation science

Tracy chose to study formulation science after attending Open Day in 2003,

attracted by the course because it was unique and broad-based.

Involved in both the academic and social side of university, Tracy mentored new students and was a committee member of the Formulation Science Society. During third year, she also spent a month on an industrial placement at a chemical analytical company.

"It opened my eyes to working life," Tracy said. "I had to deal with

the application of sophisticated analytical techniques and present a professional report."

In 2007, Tracy is pursuing an honours degree in pharmaceuticals under the supervision of Professor Peter Stewart.



Rachelle Downie
Pharmacy

"Our local pharmacist inspired me to study pharmacy," said Rachelle. "I really admired

the trusting relationship that existed between him and my family."

During her time at the college, Rachelle threw herself into campus life. She represented the college at Open Day, mentored new students, and was a Student Ambassador and

Victorian Pharmaceutical Students' Association committee member.

Currently completing her pre-registration year at Heidelberg Central Pharmacy, Rachelle is looking forward to pursuing further studies at postgraduate level in the future.

"It's the daily interaction with people that makes being a pharmacist such a rewarding profession," she said.



Fiona McRobb
Medicinal chemistry

Fiona has always had a flair for chemistry and is very interested in science, so the medicinal chemistry course gave her a perfect opportunity to pursue her interests.

Like Rachelle and Tracy, Fiona was also heavily involved in student activities during her studies, in the Medicinal Chemistry Society and the Monash Parkville Students' Association. She recently participated in the college's Summer Vacation Scholarship program, using molecular modelling to investigate peptidomimetics of cholecystokinin.

Fiona is currently completing her honours year under the guidance of Dr Ben Capuano, Dr Ian Crosby and Dr Elizabeth Yuriev. Her project is titled 'Synthesis and molecular modelling of novel antipsychotic agents'.

Reunions in 2007

1974

John Jackson is planning a reunion for the students who graduated from the college in 1974. If you are from the class of '74, email John, john.jackson@aphs.com.au and he'll include you on the invitation list.

1982

David Manallack is trying to track down graduates from 1982, as that class celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. If you are interested in attending the reunion in October, email david.manallack@vcp.monash.edu.au

1997

If anyone from the class of 1997 would like to form a reunion committee to plan the 10th anniversary celebrations, email Jane Mitchell at jane.mitchell@psavic.com.au

Past reunions

1952

A unique year in pharmacy

The college's 1952 alumni first began meeting six months after their final examination. This event was so successful that they decided to meet three times a year. Originally the gatherings were evening affairs, but now that most have retired, lunches have proved more popular.

Earlier functions were honoured by such guests as A.T.S. Sissons, Dr Byron Stanton, Allan Callister, Gerald Nye, Miriel Witt and Norman (Snowy) Coe. The original group of students who commenced the course in 1949 included ex-servicemen, who were held in high esteem by the teenagers who had left school in 1948, and the ratio of male and female students was approximately two to one.

Over the years, alumni have come from England, Greece, interstate and Victorian country districts to enjoy the meeting. Apart from regular lunches, weekends away are held in country resorts, where partners and friends come to join in the fun and comradeship. The 40th away reunion was held at Lorne, and the 50th was celebrated at Mt Buffalo. The 2007 away weekend will be at Marysville.

The numbers may be diminishing but the friendships grow stronger and stronger – if that's possible!

— John De Ravin

1956

Golden Anniversary Reunion

4 October 2006

A week after the AFL Grand Final, the college hosted an equally important occasion – the Golden Anniversary Reunion of the class of 1956. The day was a remarkable success with the dean of the college, Professor Colin Chapman, addressing an enthusiastic group, who were 'unemployed at last'.

Those words, 'unemployed at last' are the opening words of Joseph Furphy's classic Australian novel, *Such is Life*, written a century ago while Furphy was carrying his swag through the Riverina. There was a stigma attached to being unemployed at that time but not so for us. We are part of the first swell of the hundreds of thousands of intellectuals and professionals from the first thoroughly educated generation in Australia's history. We could well be the beginning of a golden era for Australian seniors.

In our 50 years, as the practice of pharmacy changed from that of extemporaneous dispensing to emerge as a 'knowledge' profession, we gently guided the community's effective use of medicines. We modified the community misuse of barbiturates and benzodiazepines, counselled care in the administration of wonder drugs and administered the birth control of a nation. We gave a lifetime of service to pharmacy of which to be proud!

— Jim Mitchell



1952 group: Max Hall, David Tattam, Geoff Chappill, Alan Williamson, Ian Clarke, Graeme Campbell, Harry Davies, Neil Hookey, Max Roberts. Missing are John De Ravin and Ken Wanden (photographer).



Dorothy Carter and Graham Carter at the Golden Anniversary Reunion.

50s

Ian Walker (PhC 1954) retired from pharmacy in 1993. He has practised in many areas of Melbourne, including Carrum, Patterson Lakes and heart of the city Elizabeth Street. He has now moved to the Gold Coast and is enjoying an asthma-free life with wife Judith.

David Black (PhC 1957) graduated as a chiropractor 20 years ago and continues full time work in this area. He also is proud to be a registered pharmacist.

John Bohn (PhC 1958) has practised in the field of hypnotherapy and psychotherapy for over a decade now. John finds both areas very rewarding.

60s

Samuel Bali (PhC 1966) is semi-retired after having a business in Pascoe Vale for 37 years. In June 2006, he had the great honour of becoming a life member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

70s

Peter Stuchbery (BPharm 1973, MPharm 1977) returned to the college to complete his masters before undertaking a career in hospital pharmacy administration. Previous appointments have been at Latrobe Valley Hospital, Moe and at PANCH, and he is currently director of pharmacy at Northern Health. Peter and his wife Jenny live in Templestowe and are keen travellers who enjoy long-distance walking and exploring new places.

80s

Jennifer Semmler (nee Lewis) (BPharm 1983) worked as a community and hospital relief pharmacist after graduation. In 1988 she commenced a winemaking degree part time while raising her children and completed her honours in 1997 while tutoring chemistry at Victoria University of Technology and microbiology at Charles Sturt University. She tutored in pharmaceuticals at the college and lectured in winemaking at Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE until 2000, when she relocated to South Australia. Jenny now works for Hardy Wine Company as quality systems manager for Berri Estates, the largest winery in Australia. She has been responsible for ISO 9000 and HACCP risk management systems at the site and is cooperatively developing and trialling new wine soft packaging.

Li Ling Ng (BPharm 1987) completed her traineeship at Prince Henry's Hospital before embarking on a trip to Singapore in 1990, where she worked for a year at the Kandang Kerbau Hospital for Women. In late 1991, Li Ling joined Western Hospital and was appointed senior oncology pharmacist in 1994. She was married later that year and has two sons, Michael (8) and James (5).

90s

Pauline Lai Siew Mei (BPharm 1991) is currently undertaking a PhD in pharmacy practice at the University of Malaya.

Peter Nguyen (BPharm 1997) worked part time in both hospital and community pharmacies. In the community setting, Peter has worked in very busy pharmacies (dispensing more than 800 scripts), forward dispensing, semi-rural (Whittlesea) and small medical centre pharmacies. Each has presented its own challenges. Peter hopes to become a pharmacy owner one day, so he can draw his past experiences together and make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Robyn Stone (GradDipClinPharm 1999) spent 10 years in Melbourne before taking up a position with Roche in Sydney in 2005. Robyn is Roche's medical information manager, managing a team of seven medical information associates (she is the only pharmacist!) who handle enquiries regarding all aspects of Roche drugs. Robyn reviews promotional material to ensure that it complies with the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct and provides training to product specialist representatives.

00s

Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali (PhD 2006) is an academic staff member at Universiti Sains Malaysia in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Kiran Manya (GradCertPharmPrac 2006) enrolled in the graduate medical program at the University of Sydney after completing his pre-registration year. He works part time as a community pharmacist and locum pharmacist in rural areas of Australia.

Rebecca Kanati (BFormSc 2006) works as a development chemist for Ross Cosmetics, a cosmetic and personal care manufacturer. Her role involves formulating preparations using the latest techniques and materials. Rebecca must carefully balance the technical attributes of the formulations and ensure that all requirements of compatibility, stability, regulatory standards and client expectations are met. She works closely with clients to maximise product potential, providing the latest marketing information and formulation updates.

Where are they now?

**What are you doing now?
We'd love to hear your story.**

**If you'd like to be included here,
email alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au
with your name and a short
description of what you've done
since graduating.**



Three of the Community Spirit award winners (L-R) Rachelle Downie, Sharlina Lingam and John Nguyen.

Student Community Achievement Awards and Swish 06

The annual Student Community Achievement Awards were announced at Swish 06, the final year celebration for college students.

Recipients were Casey Wong (formulation science), Rachelle Downie (pharmacy), John Nguyen (pharmacy) and Sharlina Lingam (pharmacy). The Outstanding Community Achievement Award was jointly awarded to John Nguyen and Sharlina Lingam.

John has been involved in many activities at the college – he was the 2005 president of the Victorian Pharmacy Students' Association, chair of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) committee and part of the team that brought NAPSA 2007 to Melbourne. He has been involved with the Parkville Multicultural Society and is one of the organisers of the Shave for a Cure fundraiser at the college. He was a co-founder of the Parkville International Students' Association and has been a representative on many national and international pharmacy congresses and committees.

Sharlina is a passionate member of student association Remedy and is co-president this year. She has

also been a very active member of the VPSA and has revolutionised the role of the 'local exchange officer', making many international links and personally hosting a student from Spain.

Swish 06, the official college end-of-studies celebration for all graduating pharmacy, medicinal chemistry and pharmaceutical science students, their partners and parents, was a great night of dancing and fun. The event had a Latin theme with tapas food and 10-piece band Combo La Revelacion. Special guests included Steve Marty (BPharm 1970), registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria; Maurice Sheehan, director of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Victorian branch); and Charles Khallouf (BPharm 1976), CEO of Quality Pharmacy Services. Many thanks to Quality Pharmacy Services for sponsoring the event since its inception in 2005.



Students lead the way

Ancora Imparo, the Monash motto, roughly translates as 'I am still learning' and is the title of a new student leadership program established by Monash vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins.

The program is open to all first year students at the University and students must demonstrate academic achievement as well as high levels of achievement in extracurricular activities, such as community service, sport, music, drama, public speaking and fine arts, in order to be selected.

Hiba Marfour and Deepak Prakash are the first college students to be selected into this prestigious program, which was designed to help passionate and idealistic students prepare for future leadership roles. They will have an opportunity to work with like-minded students and will be provided with an understanding of the visionary and inspirational principles that guide current leaders and have guided leaders in the past.

The program involves theoretical and case study components, discussions, debates and seminars, as well as the study of past and present models and contexts of leadership. *Ancora Imparo* will equip Hiba, Deepak and the other 37 students involved with the necessary skills and experience to live, learn, work and contribute globally in today's fast-changing world, where a commitment to social justice, human rights and a sustainable environment has become increasingly important.

For more information visit www.monash.edu.au/students/leadership/



Deepak Prakash.

Sporting success for pharmacy student



First year pharmacy student Evgeniya Averina achieved two outstanding second places in the Australian University Games held in Adelaide late last year. Evgeniya brought home silver medals in the 200 metre sprint and the 4x100 metre baton relay.

The Australian University Games are Australia's largest annual multi-sport event and the flagship event in the national university sporting calendar. Held each year, the Games are renowned for providing a friendly but competitive environment for Australia's university athletes, many of whom are of Olympic standard.

In 2006 the Monash University team placed second overall at the Games, ahead of 38 other universities and the best result since 1998.

"The athletes' behaviour on and off the field was exemplary," said general manager of Monash Sport, Martin Doulton. "They were a credit to the University and wore their Monash uniforms with a real pride."

Wound care graduates

Michelle Gibb (from Queensland) and Robyn Rayner (from Western Australia) are the first students to graduate from the college's Master of Wound Care.

Postgraduate studies in wound care commenced at the college in July 2000, with a graduate certificate. The program proved to be popular and, over the past seven years, developed into graduate diploma and masters qualifications. The courses have a multidisciplinary focus and cater to a wide variety of healthcare professionals located both in Australia and internationally.

ConvaTec Education Grant inaugural winner

During 2006, the college joined with ConvaTec (a division of Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia) a supplier of ostomy, wound and skin care products and services, to launch the ConvaTec Student Education Grant. This award is open to students in the final year of the masters program. The prize is \$10,000, which the recipient uses to attend a recognised international wound conference.

The inaugural winner of this award was Robyn Rayner. Robyn will travel to Toronto, Canada in June 2008 to attend the Third Congress of the World Union of Wound Healing

Societies, where she hopes to present a poster based on her masters project 'A review of the types and proportion of wounds healed in clients attending a nurse-led community wound clinic'.

For more information about postgraduate studies in wound care, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/woundcare or tel: 613 9903 9509.

Robyn Rayner.



Victoria wins cricket carnival

Pharmacy teams from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and (for the first time) Tasmania met to play at the Gold Coast earlier this year, with Victoria the overall winner.

On day one of the tournament, Victoria played their old rivals, NSW. Victoria posted a good total of 6/202 off their 50 overs. NSW in reply were 1/30 after 10 overs when a typical Queensland thunderstorm turned the ground into a lake. Play was abandoned with the result of a draw.

On day two, the ground showed no signs of the previous day's downpour. Victoria, in a game limited to 40 overs, scored 6/168 with Paul Wickham (BPharm 1997) retiring at 52 not out. Tasmania with four ducks were dismissed for 72. David Ford (BPharm 1984) taking 4/4 off 7 overs was named the 'Man of the Match'.

The match to decide the carnival winner was played at nearby Somerset College. With the threat of possible rain, play was restricted to 40 overs. Victoria batted first and were 2/28, before Peter Cramp (BPharm 1981) and Divesh Sanghvi (BPharm 2003) both scored 22 and took the score to 6/151 after 40 overs. Queensland in reply were soon in trouble, dismissed for 128 in 38 overs. Paul Wickham was named the 'Man of the Match'.

2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Cricket Carnival and the matches will be held in Victoria. Anyone who is interested in participating should contact Steve White, email stevekat@bigpond.net.au



NAPSA congress

Almost 300 students from across Australia converged on the college in January for the annual National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) Congress, the first time that the Congress has been held in Melbourne for more than 25 years.

The Sissons Mural acted as a reminder of the past as students looked to the future with a program themed 'Pharmacy on the Move'.

Educational sessions addressed many of the contemporary issues facing the profession, including specialisation in pharmacy and whether dispensing machines can replace human pharmacists in rural and remote Australia.

The congress also saw the launch of a PSA Patient Counselling Event where the winner at congress is able to participate as a wildcard entry in the PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year competition to be held at PAC Melbourne 2007.

Congress is not complete without a healthy social program and this year was no exception. Students enjoyed the Welcome Party, Australian Tennis Open, Toga Party, Pubcrawl, Australian Defence Force Academy Trivia Night and the '007 Down Under' Gala Ball.

Thank you to our host sponsor, the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, for its support. We are all looking forward to NAPSA Sydney Congress 2008!

— NAPSA Melbourne Congress 2007 organising committee



NAPSA Toga Party.





Student Ambassador program 2007

Divesh Sanghvi.

Congratulations to the 15 college students who have been selected as volunteer Student Ambassadors for 2007.

This year, the program will build on its success with a new group of students who are committed to being enthusiastic, knowledgeable and friendly representatives of the college. At the same time, they are given the opportunity to further develop their skills through initiatives such as Monash University's Future Leaders program and team sailing. New training in emotional intelligence and assertiveness has been added to the 2007 program.

When asked how he would describe the experience to classmates, 2006 Student Ambassador Matt Loft said "Awesome! A perfect way to interact with alumni, industry, the college and other students. You can learn and gain so much."

Mentoring opportunities

An integral part of the Student Ambassador program is linking ambassadors with alumni mentors. Our graduates can offer these ambitious students an insight into working life and provide hints to help them achieve their career objectives. Mentors are encouraged to meet with the student approximately four times over the ambassador's 12-month term.

Alumni mentors are required in the following fields:

- clinical pharmacy
- community pharmacy
- drug development
- drug research
- hospital pharmacy
- international pharmacy
- perfume industry
- personal care and cosmetics
- pharmaceutical industry
- rural pharmacy.

For more information about becoming a mentor contact Jessica Dobbie, tel: 613 9903 9119 or email jessica.dobbie@vcp.monash.edu.au

Thank you to the following people for acting as mentors to our Student Ambassadors in 2006:

- Anthony Agnew (BFormSc[Hons] 2004)
- Andrew Elnatan, (BPharm 1989, MPharm 1994)
- Amyna Helou (BPharm[Hons] 2004, GradCertPharmPrac 2006)
- Rebecca Kanati (BFormSc 2006)
- Fabian Kong
- David Lau (BPharm 1995, MCLinPharm 2006)
- Divesh Sanghvi (BPharm 2003)
- Albert Shen (PhD 2000).

Keep an eye out for the college's Student Ambassadors at future Foundation and college events.



Frances Ng.

The 2007 Student Ambassadors are:

- Alice Brandli**
Third year medicinal chemistry
- Stephanie Chau**
Third year pharmacy
- Yi Cheng**
Third year pharmacy
- Luca Crea**
First year pharmaceutical science
- Souhiela Fakh**
Third year pharmacy
- Adam Hardi**
Third year pharmacy
- Ruth Harris**
Second year medicinal chemistry
- Boon Phiaw Kho**
Third year pharmacy
- Gemma Lay**
Second year pharmacy
- Danika McLean**
Second year pharmacy
- Frances Ng**
Second year pharmacy
- Tra-My Nguyen**
Second year pharmacy
- Suyi Ooi**
Second year pharmacy
- Marene Ter**
Second year pharmacy
- Nirisha Yellapah Chetty**
First year pharmaceutical science.

The Cossar Club

for all those committed to the future of pharmacy

The college owes an enormous debt to the people who have donated or bequeathed funds to support its continuing development. These donations and bequests have resulted in additional buildings, equipment, land, scholarships and endowments, assisting the college to become one of the leading pharmacy schools in the world.

The modern college, with state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research, was a long-held vision of Victoria's pharmacy profession and one of the biggest developments in the college's history was its move from cramped facilities at Swanston Street to the new Parkville campus in 1960. This major expansion was made possible by an appeal to Victorian pharmacists, wholesalers and the pharmaceutical industry throughout the world. The appeal was a great success, raising £750,000 (about \$15 million in today's terms). The Cossar family was the largest individual donor to the appeal and Cossar Hall was named to honour their generosity.

The Cossar Club

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation is establishing a society to acknowledge those who are prepared to support the college with a bequest. In recognition of the leadership of the Cossar family with previous and current appeals, the society is to be named the Cossar Club.

Open to anyone who commits to making a bequest to the college, membership is free. The Club will hold several functions each year, acting as a social group and a way for members to stay connected with the college. It will be officially launched in September 2007.

The Cossar Club's committee comprises dedicated volunteers who are all passionate about the future of the college:

- Mr Alistair Lloyd AO (PhC 1956), Chair
- Mr Barry Butcher (PhC 1954)
- Mrs Val Constable (PhC 1955)
- Mr John Coppock (PhC 1955)
- Mr Brian Cossar (PhC 1960).



How to join

To join the Cossar Club, contact the Foundation office and indicate your decision to make a bequest to the college.

For further information about bequests or to discuss a bequest with the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation (in confidence) contact the Foundation office, tel: 613 9903 9507 or visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/foundation/bequests



Brian Cossar: continuing his family's legacy

"In recognition of the significant part that pharmacy has played in my life, and the happy memories I have of fellow students, lecturers and the college, I am pleased to support the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation with a bequest.

I think that those who are in a position to leave bequests should do so and contribute to future generations of pharmacists by making our college even better.

If you would like to speak to me about what a bequest can mean to the college, please contact me on tel: 613 9415 6707."

— Brian Cossar (PhC 1960)
Cossar Club committee member

Leaving a legacy for future generations

"A bequest is a wonderful way to give something back to the next generation and many people are able to make a larger contribution to an organisation through a bequest than they can in their lifetime.

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation welcomes the opportunity to thank benefactors for their intention to support the college in this very special way. The college encourages those who have

included the college in their will to inform the Foundation, so that their support can be recognised during their lifetime.

I invite all my colleagues to consider becoming Foundation Members of the Cossar Club – if you would like further information, please ring me on 0417 148 141."

— Alistair Lloyd AO (PhC 1956)
Chair of the Cossar Club committee



Supporting our students: the 2007 Student Enhancement program



Students experience rural life in Broken Hill.



Student Leaders' function.



Students at Swish 06.



Careers Expo.

Our students are the future of the pharmacy profession and the pharmaceutical industry.

To ensure they have access to opportunities that will enable them to reach their full potential, the college has developed the Student Enhancement Program – a program of five professional activities aimed at:

- enabling our students to develop the highest level of communication skills
- identifying leadership potential and fostering that potential
- raising career awareness and ensuring our students make the most of the many pathways available to them, including rural opportunities
- providing interaction for all our students with the pharmacy profession and the pharmaceutical industry to maximise professional attitudes among them and ensure they are 'job ready'.

The five activities in the program for 2007 are:

- the annual Student Leaders' function, on 19 July
- the Student Ambassador program
- Careers Week, from 23–27 April

- the Rural Road Trip, on 5 May
- Swish 07, on 15 November.

To find out more about the Student Enhancement program, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/students/undergrad/enhancement or contact the Foundation office, tel: 613 9903 9507.

Alchemy, the alumni magazine of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, a faculty of Monash University, is published twice a year. The next issue is due for publication in November 2007.

The magazine is published for the Victorian College of Pharmacy community, which includes alumni (both pre and post the Monash amalgamation), current and former staff, students and their families, friends and colleagues of the college.

To contact *Alchemy*, tel: 613 9903 9504, email alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au or write to *Alchemy*, Victorian College of Pharmacy, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia.

The program would not be possible without the support and involvement of the pharmacy profession and the pharmaceutical industry, and we thank the following companies and organisations for their sponsorship:

Principal partners:



Supporting partners:

