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A new name, a new research centre being planned, a new postgraduate course, a redeveloped campus, and a new scholarship – these are just some of the recent changes that have occurred within the faculty.

We are currently finalising a $50 million redevelopment of our campus that will provide terrific contemporary facilities to support a new era of achievement in education and research in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences.

While vigorously pursuing tomorrow’s exciting opportunities, we also make sure that we recognise the exceptional contributions of individuals who have provided the faculty with the foundations on which we are building our future. Professor Barrie Finnin and Associate Professor Louis Roller will retire at the end of 2008 – the faculty will miss their contributions in education and research, their expertise and their commitment to excellence. I will personally miss their wise counsel and advice, which has helped me throughout my career.

We have recently unveiled Professor Colin Chapman’s portrait that now hangs in Cossar Hall to recognise and commemorate his period as dean and we held the inaugural Professor Barry L. Reed Distinguished Lecture that was delivered by Professor Ho-Leung Fung from the University of Buffalo, USA.

I trust you will enjoy reading these items in this edition of Alchemy – as well as many other stories of interest detailing recent faculty activities and achievements.

**Honouring Professor Colin Chapman**

A portrait of Professor Colin Chapman was unveiled on 21 August to honour his 16 years as dean.

Professor Chapman graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the faculty in 1970, a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) from Melbourne University in 1976 and a PhD for research at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (Medical Biology) in 1981. He joined the faculty in 1987 as head of the School of Pharmaceutics. He was appointed dean in 1991, a role he held until 2006.

During his time as dean, Professor Chapman had a tremendous impact on the profession, the faculty and the standing of pharmacy within the community. He strategically led the Victorian College of Pharmacy through its amalgamation with Monash University, played a central role in redeveloping the Parkville campus, worked tirelessly with a small number of others to establish the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, and nurtured the excellence for which the faculty, its staff and students are so well respected.

On retiring from his position as dean, Professor Chapman took up his current role as Professor of Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Professor Chapman’s portrait hangs proudly in Cossar Hall alongside those of other deans. It was painted by Rosemary Todman Parrant, well known for her portraits that hang in Anzac House, the offices of Vision Australia and various public and private collections.

“I’m proud to have led the faculty through so many significant changes,” said Professor Chapman at the unveiling. “It’s been a great honour to have had the opportunity to do so.”

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Professor William N. Charman
(BPharm 1981)
New name reflects new era

The Victorian College of Pharmacy, which has been a faculty of Monash University since 1992, recently announced a change of name to the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Faculty dean Professor Bill Charman said that the name change, along with the $50 million redevelopment and new research building at the Parkville campus, represents an exciting step forward.

“The new name clearly articulates our vision as an eminent Australian faculty with a breadth of expertise that enables us to deliver on all aspects of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences,” he said.

“Having proudly honoured our past achievements, there was a need to better communicate the faculty’s present day position and future focus. I’m also pleased to say that we are the first Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Australia.”

As many alumni graduated prior to the 1992 amalgamation of the Victorian College of Pharmacy with Monash University, the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation will retain its name to provide a tangible link to an acclaimed 127-year history.

Originally the school of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, the Victorian College of Pharmacy merged with Monash University in 1992. The faculty now delivers a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences to over 1200 students. Academic and research staff at the faculty collaborate with leading national and international partners and receive substantial research funding. Strategically chosen, the new name clearly conveys the education and research offerings of the faculty. It also heralds the importance of the newly established Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences – the largest pharmaceutical sciences research institute in Australia, housed within the faculty – and the new Centre for Medicine Use and Safety.

“Overall, the faculty is the most experienced of its type in Australia,” said Professor Charman. “Our new name better reflects its distinct position within the healthcare, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors.”

Students commemorate the Victorian College of Pharmacy

The student body recognised the proud history of the Victorian College of Pharmacy by presenting a plaque to the faculty. The plaque has been erected in the Sissons building foyer.
New technologies offer better teaching options that are pedagogy driven and more engaging for students. The benefits are substantial and immediate – low-cost, engaging, internationally accessible teaching tools that give the required results.

Rapid changes facing the pharmacy profession recently led to a comprehensive review of the pharmacy course and the way aspects of the course are taught. A key initiative is the development of an interactive virtual tabletting R&D laboratory, available online through Second Life, which gives students the opportunity to complete a range of activities that are available 24/7.

Developed by the faculty, this new virtual teaching model is a shared practice model involving 10 leading pharmacy schools from around the world. It will allow each pharmacy school to contribute one project that can be accessed by students and staff from the other nine schools. Already, the University of Queensland is working on a calculations project and the University of Kansas is exploring development of a virtual neonatal hospital ward.

The international Pharmatopia team comprises:
- Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University
- University of Sydney
- University of Queensland
- University of London, UK
- University of Keele, UK
- Nottingham University, UK
- Uppsala University, Sweden
- University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- University of North Carolina, USA
- University of Kansas, USA.

Second Life is a commercial, internet-based virtual world that is accessed through a free, downloadable client program. It enables users to assume an identity (avatar) and interact with each other. Avatars can explore, participate in individual and group activities, and create and trade items and services with each other. Communication and interaction occurs by using a keyboard or headphones.

To create a virtual community on Second Life, the faculty purchased an ‘island’ with restricted access. While faculty and students from the partner schools can visit as often as they like, access is denied to outsiders. The cost of the island is low and access for students is free.

Changes to tabletting practicals were necessary for several reasons. Today’s pharmacists do not need to produce or test commercial tablets, but they need to know about tablet properties and how they affect the quality of the final product. Faculty tabletting equipment comprised just one 30 year old single punch press that had to be operated by staff due to occupational health and safety regulations. So students were merely observing and not actively participating in the process. And for security reasons surrounding the use of drugs, there was only one lactose formulation possible.

There was also a strong administrative motivation for change. Tabletting practical sessions involved groups of eight students, with each group undertaking four three-hour practical sessions. Two tutors were required to supervise each small group and, with 240 students, this resulted in a timetabling nightmare.

Pharmatopia – a virtual island for real-world teaching

A Pharmatopia avatar.
In contrast, the virtual world is easy to access and use. It offers learning by participating and doing instead of listening and absorbing, and provides experiences not available in real life. For example, the virtual tabletting lab offers each student the opportunity to make several different tablets, with different ingredients, solutions and qualities.

The major learning objective is for students to be able to demonstrate an understanding of the role of excipients in determining a tablet's properties by formulating a tablet with defined properties. Each student is given a specific tablet to make, for example, hardness = X, Y% disintegrated in 30 minutes, dissolution time = Z minutes. The student needs to formulate a tablet with these properties through iteratively changing excipient concentrations and testing resultant tablets.

Students (via their avatars) arrive at the island – Pharmatopia. From the main meeting place, they are directed to the tabletting lab (in the future, they will be able to choose from a range of activities). On arrival they enter the virtual reception area, where they are asked to put on a lab coat, safety glasses and a hairnet before proceeding into the main lab.

Inside the lab itself, which they access via an airlock, students select ingredients, move to a mixer and then go to a tablet press (both are exact replicates of commercial machines) to make their tablets. The mixer and tablet press are 3D animated to show how these machines actually work, and students have a 360° view so that they can see what happens from every angle. At the end of the virtual tablet making, students each receive four jars of tablets, one for each of the four quality tests. They then move to the testing room, which replicates world standard testing equipment. Again, the instruments are animated and results are shown on LCD screens. These results can be cut and pasted into a Word document for retention. The results comprise many variables and students will be required to refer to their lecture notes to review formulations and repeat the process correctly.

The island also contains a meeting room, where representatives from each of the partner pharmacy schools can log on to Second Life and meet there, via their avatars, in real time. This is faster and more efficient than video conferencing.

A group of students from the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science will pilot the program later this year and it is planned to go ‘live’ with second year pharmacy students in 2009. Evaluation of the teaching and learning qualities is being conducted in collaboration with Monash’s Centre for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching, and student feedback will be used to improve the site.

“There is so much we can do using online teaching tools. We are already looking at ways to combine pharmacy teaching with other health professions,” said Dr Ian Larson, senior lecturer and member of the project team. “For example, there could be a virtual hospital site that combines the skills of doctors, pharmacists and nurses, so that each cohort can fully understand the role the others play in patient health. The future possibilities for this type of teaching are almost limitless.”
In any two-week period, around 70% of Australians (and 90% of older people) will have taken at least one medicine. Nearly 80% of visits to the local doctor result in a prescription and over 200 million prescriptions are dispensed in community pharmacies each year. The majority of people admitted to hospitals and those living in residential aged care facilities are receiving one or more medicines.

While medicines can have amazing beneficial effects in relieving symptoms of disorders, curing diseases and improving quality of life, they may also cause problems – many of which are preventable. Inadequate systems for the prescribing, dispensing and administration of medicines, or a breakdown in the application of the systems, can lead to medication errors or incidents that can have adverse outcomes for patients, such as a wrong drug prescribed, dispensed or administered. In addition, the prescribing of an appropriate medicine in an appropriate dose may lead to an adverse event or may not be effective, especially if the patient does not adhere to the directions for the correct use of the medicine.

The faculty is establishing CMUS to develop, implement and evaluate new models and systems of healthcare practice, especially those involving pharmacists, with the ultimate goal of making the use of medicines as safe and effective as possible. The centre has two research nodes – one within the faculty’s Department of Pharmacy Practice in Parkville and the other located in the Department of Pharmacy at The Alfred.

Co-directors of the centre are Roger Nation, Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Michael Dooley (BPharm 1987), Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the faculty and Director of Pharmacy at Bayside Health.

“The two-node structure of CMUS is unique and gives the centre’s researchers excellent access to multidisciplinary research collaborators,” said Professor Dooley. “It puts them in an ideal position to address issues around medicine use and safety across all sectors – the home, the broader community, hospitals, residential aged care facilities and the interfaces between these sectors.”

Professor Nation explained that researchers within the centre have extensive experience in the application of quantitative and qualitative research methods. “They also work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals and researchers nationally and internationally to address issues around the safe and effective use of medicines,” he said.
The annual Cyril Tonkin Scholarship, established in 1976, supports outstanding students in the faculty to gain higher degrees by research.

The scholarship was founded in honour of Dr Cyril Tonkin (PhC 1910), a Gold Medal winner who subsequently graduated from Melbourne University as a medical practitioner in 1921. He was also an esteemed lecturer and examiner at the faculty between 1920 and 1953. The recipient receives a scholarship of $20,007 that may be renewed annually for up to three years (with the possibility of an extension by negotiation), to be used as a contribution towards the student’s stipend or to augment the stipend by supporting travel or other needs.

The 2008 Cyril Tonkin scholarship recipient is Ann Li Lim (BPharm 2008). Ann works within the Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Action theme of the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) and her PhD project is Investigation of the antipsychotic activity and mechanism of action of cannabidiol.

An image from the work of PhD student Fiona McRobb (BMedChem(Hons) 2008) has been highlighted on the cover of volume 61 of the Australian Journal of Chemistry.

A peer-reviewed international chemical science journal, the publication focuses on original primary research and reviews articles on all aspects of chemistry.

This is an outstanding achievement for Fiona, who began her PhD program in March, supervised by Dr Ben Capuano, Dr Elizabeth Yuriev and Dr Ian Crosby.

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CMUS researchers have recently attracted three grants, and a fourth grant together with the University of Tasmania, through the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement Research and Development Program managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The grants provide support to undertake research to enhance the role of community pharmacists in delivering healthcare to the Australian public. Also under this program, Associate Professor Kay Stewart, together with several other researchers within CMUS and at other universities, has been awarded a $1.25 million research tender to improve medication compliance (see page 8).

Among several other grants received by researchers in the centre, Kevin McNamara has been appointed as an NHMRC National Institute of Clinical Studies Quality Use of Medicines research fellow, and Professor Michael Dooley and other researchers have received NHMRC project funding to improve the use and safety of anticoagulation therapy.

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Addressing non-compliance with antihypertensive regimens

How can community pharmacists increase their involvement in the prevention of cardiovascular disease?

That is the question that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia recently proposed and that researchers from the faculty’s Centre for Medicine Use and Safety set out to answer.

The centre’s Associate Professor Kay Stewart, Dr Johnson George (PhD 2005) and Kevin Mc Namara, together with researchers from the University of Tasmania and Curtin University of Technology, successfully tendered for this $1.25 million Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing grant. The general intention of the research project is to develop and evaluate an efficient means for community pharmacists to detect and address blood pressure medication non-compliance.

The basis for the non-compliance detection method is a data mining tool, initially developed by the University of Tasmania. Linked to dispensing software, the tool will be modified to identify patients with antihypertensive medicine dispensing patterns that suggest poor compliance.

Associate Professor Stewart said the research group will also develop a personalised motivational interviewing method that community pharmacists can use to address patients’ individual reasons for not taking their antihypertensives.

"Both the detection method and the intervention will be designed for efficiency," she said. "The idea is that the intervention, if validated, will be something that community pharmacists can readily implement."

To examine the effectiveness of this community pharmacy intervention for antihypertensive compliance, the collaborators will conduct a randomised controlled trial within three states – Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia.

"The main outcome we will be looking for is improvement in patients’ blood pressure control," said Associate Professor Stewart. "An important further part of the analysis is to look at the economic and business impacts of providing this community pharmacy service."

Early Career Research award

Dr Tony Velkov is the recipient of the 2008 award, which recognises research excellence as an early career pharmaceutical research scientist. He will receive $5000 toward conference attendance or further professional development.

Dr Velkov has made a significant contribution to developing a new area of research within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS), working with Dr Martin Scanlon and Associate Professor Chris Porter to examine the role of intracellular lipid binding proteins in drug absorption and drug disposition. He received a Monash Research Fund postdoctoral fellowship in 2004, a Peter Doherty NHMRC postdoctoral fellowship in 2006 and has already published 22 research papers.

2007 Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal

The 2007 Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal for excellence in a doctoral thesis has been awarded to Dr Lauren Boak (PhD 2008) for her thesis titled Towards reducing resistance and haematological toxicity of linezolid.

The medal is named in honour of Professor Mollie Holman, who has made a long and distinguished contribution to Monash University and has been a vigorous champion of postgraduate education.

Dr Boak is now in the UK, working at Roche as a clinical science specialist. She will be presenting at the faculty’s research seminar series in January (see back page for details).

Outstanding contributor to student learning

Dr Elizabeth Yuriev has received this year’s Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (formerly known as the Carrick Institute).

The Citation recognises and rewards the diverse contributions that individuals and teams make to the quality of student learning. They are granted to people who have made a significant contribution to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period.

Dr Yuriev’s citation was awarded for ‘improving the teaching and learning of pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry, by relating abstract conceptual materials to everyday events familiar to students’. 
Postgraduate courses on offer in 2009

### New course: the Master of Pharmacy Practice

The Masters level program that pharmacists have been asking for has now arrived.

From 2009, the faculty will deliver an off-campus, coursework based Master of Pharmacy Practice, flexible enough to fit into any pharmacist’s professional development plan.

Associate Professor Kay Stewart, director of the faculty’s Postgraduate Studies and Professional Development Unit, said that the Master of Pharmacy Practice was designed to give working pharmacists a more accessible way of gaining a Masters level qualification.

“Evidence-based practice’ is the only compulsory unit, necessary because it lays the foundation for other learning and for the modern practice of pharmacy.

Associate Professor Stewart said that, with the expansion of pharmacy services into areas of disease state management, the Master of Pharmacy Practice is a means for pharmacists to develop expertise in their individual areas of interest while gaining a higher qualification.

She also said that pharmacists have identified formal education as a way to stay engaged and enthusiastic about their profession.

“What we’ve noticed is that a healthy proportion of interns from the Pharmacy Internship program go on to enrol in the Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice and are keen to complete other electives. The Master of Pharmacy Practice will give pharmacists a chance to continue their professional development.”

Pharmacists can enter the Master of Pharmacy Practice directly or from the faculty’s related programs – the Master of Clinical Pharmacy and the Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice – with eligibility for recognition of prior learning.

There is also the option to enrol in single units, without the need to complete the entire Masters program.

### Coursework

#### Clinical Pharmacy

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<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
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The Master of Clinical Pharmacy provides pharmacists working in clinical settings with the opportunity to develop their skills in evidence based practice, quality use of medicine, practice based research and the provision of high level clinical pharmacy services.

#### Pharmacy Practice

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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
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The Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice allows students to develop further knowledge and skills in a range of pharmacy practice related areas. The Master of Pharmacy Practice expands on this and fosters a deeper understanding of pharmacy practice.

Note: At the time of printing, the Master of Pharmacy Practice is subject to University approval.

#### Wound Care

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<td>Graduate Diploma</td>
<td>2 years part-time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>3 years part-time</td>
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The Master of Wound Care prepares health professionals for advanced practice in wound care. All the wound care courses are designed to meet the diverse needs of all health professionals with a responsibility and interest in wound care.

#### Research

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<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>4 years full-time</td>
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The Master of Pharmaceutical Science and PhD courses are awarded for research in the areas of drug discovery biology, medicine use and safety, medicinal chemistry and drug action, drug candidate optimisation and drug delivery, disposition and dynamics.

For more information about postgraduate courses, eligibility and application details, visit [www.pharm.monash.edu.au/courses](http://www.pharm.monash.edu.au/courses).
**50s**

Keith Smith (PhC 1950) served his apprenticeship with Ruby Walker (Gold Medallist 1923) at Buckhurst’s Pharmacy in Camberwell. He married Elizabeth McCurrach (PhC 1957) and they purchased the business. After a time at Cowes Pharmacy, Phillip Island, they purchased Nelson’s Pharmacy in Glenroy which they ran for 28 years, along with pharmacies at Pascoe Vale and Prahran. Together with Vic Feehan, former registrar of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Keith formed the History of Pharmacy Chapter when he was a councillor of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian branch). He later became the inaugural President of the Australian Academy of Pharmacy History and is still involved today. Keith and Elizabeth are now retired and enjoying their 11 grandchildren, travel, golf, bridge and voluntary work.

After graduation, Ken Wanden (PhC 1954) undertook locum work before joining his father Cyril’s pharmacy in Northcote. There Ken and Cyril also established a significant photographic business. Ken continued on after Cyril’s death in 1963, selling the business in 1994. Together with Ian Herbert, he founded the Cameraworld photographic group, finally retiring in 2002. Ken stays active and has just celebrated his 13th year as an MCG tour guide. He was recently joined there by fellow graduate Brian Cossar (BPharm 1960).

**60s**

After Frank O’Sullivan (PhC 1964) graduated, he managed pharmacies in Box Hill and Colac before moving to a pharmacy in Camberwell, which he managed and then purchased. For eight years he lived above the business, one of the last resident chemists in Melbourne. After 33 years, he sold the business in 1999 and began working full time conducting home medication reviews and residential medication management reviews throughout metropolitan Melbourne, a job that he continues part time today. In 1990, Frank began dispensing methadone through his pharmacy, generating an interest in the important role that pharmacists play in combating drug addiction. This led to a position on the Board of Odyssey House, a role he has held for the past three years.

**70s**

Since graduating, Toni Riley (BPharm 1976, GradDipCommunPharm 1986) has worked in pharmacy settings in Melbourne, rural Queensland and now rural Victoria. A major focus in her current pharmacy is providing pharmacy services to residential care facilities and involvement in pharmacotherapy programs, as well as delivering primary healthcare services in the pharmacy. In 2003, Toni was elected to the National Council of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and is also Chair of the Guild’s Health Economics Committee. She was actively involved in negotiating the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement with the Federal Government and is currently involved in preparation of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement. Toni is a strong advocate for women in pharmacy and improving services to rural pharmacies.

**80s**

Sue Kirsa (BPharm 1983, GradDipHospPharm 1995) moved to Traralgon and worked in a busy community pharmacy after graduation. In 1985, Sue returned to Melbourne to marry and commence a position at the Friendly Society Pharmacies in Wantirna and Mount Waverley before returning to hospital practice at Monash Medical Centre in 1989. After six months as a base grade pharmacist, she began what has become an enduring interest in oncology pharmacy practice. Between 1999 and 2005, she worked in drug usage evaluation and the Clinical Governance Unit at Austin Health. In 2005, Sue was appointed Director of Pharmacy at Peter Mac, a role she holds today. She maintains an active interest in the profession, taking on various roles within professional organisations.

After substantial experience as a clinical pharmacist at Western Hospital Footscray and in community pharmacy, David Ford (BPharm 1984) held Director of Pharmacy positions at Sunshine Hospital, Western Hospital and North Western Health between 1990 and 1999. He then took up the role of Director of Pharmacy and Chairman of the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee at Melbourne Health. Since 2003, David has also held the additional roles of Executive Director of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, and most recently, General Manager Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, also at Melbourne Health. David is a special lecturer and principle associate of the faculty’s Department of Pharmacy Practice.
After completing his PhD, Joseph Nicolazzo (BPharm 1999, BPharmSc(Hons) 2001, PhD 2005) commenced at the faculty’s Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation. In 2007, he was appointed lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutics. Joseph’s main teaching duties focus on oral drug absorption, pharmacokinetics and biopharmaceutics, and he teaches in both the Bachelor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science courses. He is a member of the Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics theme within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, where his research efforts focus on understanding the mechanisms involved in drug transport across the blood-brain barrier (BBB), novel formulation approaches to improve BBB drug transport, and the impact of Alzheimer’s disease and epilepsy on the permeability of the BBB.

Arthur Christopoulos (BPharm 1990, PhD 1997) is currently Professor of Pharmacology, NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, and co-director of the Drug Discovery Biology theme within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the faculty and at the Department of Pharmacology (Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences), Monash University. Arthur has developed an outstanding international reputation in the field of G protein-coupled receptors, accepting major leadership responsibilities in his discipline including membership of seven international editorial boards. Over the last five years, he has successfully attracted over $12.8 million as Chief Investigator on competitive grants and industry contracts. Indicators of his success include over 100 publications, two books, national and international science awards and over 50 invited international and 30 invited national presentations.

Now a researcher in drug design at GlaxoSmithKline, UK, Benjamin Tehan (PhD 2003) previously held a postdoctoral position at Monash in partnership with the Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing and the Victorian Infectious Disease Research Laboratories. His work there included investigation of dynamic G protein-coupled receptors, analysis of homology models of mutant viral receptors in relation to ligand binding resistance, and non-linear scoring functions for protein/ligand docking complexes. At GlaxoSmithKline Ben’s work supports psychiatry department programs with membrane bound receptors, with a specific interest in G protein-coupled receptors. He is also involved in all other aspects of drug discovery, from pharmacophore development and library design to compound selection and ADMET analysis.

After registering as a pharmacist in 2007, Rachelle Downie (BPharm 2006) commenced a graduate law degree, the Melbourne Juris Doctor, at the University of Melbourne. In addition to study, she continues to work part time as a community pharmacist. After graduating from law, Rachelle intends to combine the knowledge she has acquired from both degrees by practising in the area of intellectual property law.

Shelly Whittle (BFormSc(Hons) 2008) is currently working in the R&D department at PZ Cussons as a development chemist in their graduate program. She is primarily focusing on the formulation of dishwashing liquid (Morning Fresh), which is sold both in Australia and internationally, and is also researching the formulation of dishwasher tablets. Shelly is enjoying her work in this field of chemistry and is looking forward to seeing products she has helped formulate appear in the supermarkets.

Khay Fong (BFormSc(Hons) 2008) decided not to start a full time job or a PhD immediately after completing her studies, so her 2008 has been an eclectic mix of work and travel. She worked at Orica Mining Services in Kurni Kurni (NSW) as a summer vacation research assistant, enjoying the opportunity to apply her knowledge and to “blow things up”. Khay is currently on a six-month trip in Asia doing some volunteer work and travelling. She spent two months in Indonesia and is currently in Chennai teaching English/music/kindergarten and running holiday programs for an orphanage. Khay will be applying for a 2009 PhD scholarship and hopes to return to the faculty next year.
Our $50 million renovation and refurbishment of the Parkville campus is nearing completion. A new building, new laboratories, new offices, a new library, new sporting facilities and a new café certainly make the Parkville campus a fabulous home for the faculty and the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Students enjoy the new basketball court outside the Manning building.

Primary Café is located on the ground floor of the new building. The cafeteria is a space for students to socialise.

Historic pharmacy artefacts are displayed in the foyer of building 4, kindly donated by Pharmaceutical Defence Limited.

One of our new state-of-the-art laboratories.
New Pharmacy Library open

The C L Butchers Pharmacy Library has moved back to its permanent home in the Manning building, offering a more convenient facility to students and staff and almost doubling its previous size.

Now occupying the majority of the ground floor, the library is designed to be technologically enabled, more adaptable to changing study styles and easier to navigate. With 67 computers, including 27 in a dedicated training room, students have access to more computer workstations, as well as separate areas for quiet and group work.
As part of its proud history of celebrating and supporting excellence, the faculty has awarded Gold Medals to its highest achieving students in each undergraduate course since 1885.

Guest speaker at the event was Olympic swimming champion Brooke Hanson, who spoke about her own journey and passion for success. She described missing out on both the Atlanta and Sydney Australian Olympic swimming teams by fractions of a second and her determination to make the Athens Olympics team, outlining the sacrifices she made plus her training regimen over four years to achieve this goal. She stated that, in her mid-20s, she had many detractors telling her she was too old to be an Olympian. With great self belief and focus, she went on to win gold and silver in Athens.

It was a thrill to hear insights into what it is like to be an Olympian and what our athletes had experienced so recently in Beijing. Brooke urged the crowd to follow their own dreams, with the prize not being the medal itself but the resolve to give everything you do your best. She generously handed her precious gold and silver medals to the audience for everyone to touch.

On 21 August, 240 students, staff, former staff, alumni and industry representatives joined Gold Medallists from as far back as 1945 to unveil the faculty’s new Gold Medal honour boards.

At the event, Mark Feldschuh (BPharm 1971), President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian branch), spoke of his pride in the faculty (formerly the college) and its achievements since 1891.

Dean Professor Bill Charman also spoke about the faculty’s own striving for excellence.

“As a faculty, we embrace our responsibility to inspire and extend tomorrow’s generation of students, researchers and leaders within pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences,” he said.
The Stan Robson Rural Pharmacy Equity Scholarship

Dr Graeme Robson of Ripplebrook has generously established a new scholarship in honour of his late father, Stanley George Robson, a respected pharmacist who conducted pharmacies in Hamilton from 1935 until his passing in 1995.

Born in Stawell in 1910, Stan was one of a family of eight. On graduation from Stawell High School in 1926, he took up an apprenticeship in Tom King’s pharmacy in Stawell rather than enter his father's monumental masons business, G.H. Robson and Sons. In 1929 he moved to Melbourne and was apprenticed to Alex Holmes, then to A. Mansell. He graduated on 8 July 1931, becoming the first in his family to take up a profession.

Stan excelled in his studies at the Victorian College of Pharmacy. In his final year he received certificates of honour in chemistry and materia medica, the lecturer’s prize in botany, the president’s prize in practical pharmacy and the Sigma Company prize in organic chemistry, coming second in his class. At one stage he worked at a pharmacy in Glenferrie Road Hawthorn, which led him to play for the Hawthorn Football Club seconds.

Out of work for five months during the Depression, Stan would ride his bicycle 13 kilometres between Burwood and the city to seek temporary work, finally managing a pharmacy in the Federal Hotel in Collins Street. In June 1934, he completed his Fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria.

Stan and his wife Bessie had managed to save £600 when he was encouraged by a Sigma apprentice to open a pharmacy at Hamilton, Horsham or Warracknabeal, where Sigma was not well represented. After inspecting each town, Stan chose Hamilton and on 14 November 1935 he commenced business at 164 Gray Street. His first day’s sales were £4, 7s and 1d, and one of his first customers was Mrs Reg Ansett.

Stan’s pharmacy prospered. In 1958 he acquired Rountree’s Pharmacy at 124 Gray Street, which he conducted with Lloyd Hocking, a previous apprentice. Stan’s eldest son David trained under him and in 1963 David and Lloyd became partners with Stan in this pharmacy, renamed David Lloyd and Co. In 1968 David Kennett, a former apprentice, joined the partnership and David Robson left after graduating in medicine in 1970.

During the 1960s, Robson’s Pharmacy moved to 160 Gray Street. In 1966, Stan acquired a farm on the outskirts of Hamilton and spent most of his time working the farm until his retirement in 1980. He continued to be actively involved in the management of the pharmacy until his death in 1995.

In addition to the pharmacy, Stan operated a photographic division, initially developing and printing the films on site as well as selling cameras. His other interests were his involvement in St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church as treasurer, in the Hamilton Golf Club as president and in his farms, initially a bush block at Heywood then Glencotta at Hamilton.

Stan and Bessie’s sons David and Graeme both studied medicine. Their youngest son, Ross, graduated in law and commerce and is now a Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Stan was a true gentleman, renowned for his warmth, cheerful manner, integrity and sincerity. He achieved great success in his chosen profession and was committed to his customers and the Hamilton community. One of his favourite sayings was “it’s all done by kindness”.

“I want to acknowledge the generous and thoughtful support given to me by my father in encouraging my career and fostering those values of fairness, loyalty, personal responsibility and integrity which he regarded as so important in living,” said Graeme Robson.

“I wish to acknowledge this by awarding a scholarship in a sphere of interest that was particularly dear to my father: the practice of pharmacy and the intellectual stimulation of the science of pharmacy. I hope to assist those who are less fortunate, and in particular rural and Indigenous students who may wish to obtain training in pharmacy.”

The scholarship, awarded every four years to a first year pharmacy student, is valued at $4000 per year. It is awarded to a school leaver from a rural or isolated area and is based on financial hardship, with further consideration given to Indigenous Australian students.

For more information about the scholarship visit www.pharm.monash.edu.au/futuresstudents/robson-scholarship.html.

Vale Geoff Treleaven

Geoff Treleaven (PhC 1955), the inaugural editor of the Prescription Proprietaries Guide, passed away recently. Geoff, a pharmacist at Drug Houses of Australia, was instrumental in the launch of the Guide, which was first published in 1958 by the Australian Pharmaceutical Publishing Company (APPCo).

The first edition was a cross-referenced compilation of manufacturers’ data on their prescription medicines, with glowing descriptions of the drugs’ therapeutic effects and little mention of any side effects, which were presented as abnormal, as if the patient was to blame.

Geoff soon changed this style and added a section about drug interactions as this issue became more prominent in the 1960s. Approaching its 37th edition and available online, the reference is now known as the Prescription Products Guide and comprises more than 3900 entries.

“Geoff’s passing marks the end of an era. He was a pioneer as the editor of Australia’s first drug information compendium,” said John Coppock, Chairman of APPCo.

“I met him when I was a student at the college, and as a 20-year-old I looked up to him. He was a thorough gentleman, a very private person and a fine fellow with the very best personal attributes.” Geoff leaves behind his wife, Margaret.
Faculty alumnus and Chair of the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, Alistair Lloyd AO RFD ED (PhC 1956), was awarded Monash University’s Distinguished Service Alumni Award at the University’s 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner in July.

The award recognises an ‘individual’s contribution to Monash University through the participation in alumni and University activities, student engagement, promotion of Monash in the broader community and/or strengthening of alumni communities’.

“I am delighted and honoured to receive this important award. I have always been proud of my pharmacy qualification,” said Alistair. “In my lifetime, the faculty has made enormous advances in pharmacy education and research. It gives me great pleasure to continue to do what I can to support its development as a world renowned centre of pharmaceutical education and science.”

From 1961 until his professional retirement in 1998, Alistair served on various college managing bodies and was a major advocate for the Victorian College of Pharmacy’s merger with Monash University in 1992.

His commitment to forging the bonds between the faculty and its alumni networks began in 2001 when, together with the late Neil Naismith (PhC 1958), John Ware OAM (PhC 1950) and dean at the time Professor Colin Chapman (BPharm 1970), he established the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation. The Foundation was created to ensure that the faculty and its alumni have a lifelong relationship and to see that the faculty has the financial means to continue providing world-class teaching and research.

Having chaired the Foundation since its inception, Alistair has been the catalyst for many of the faculty’s highly successful alumni and student engagement events and activities.

“I am privileged to have the opportunity to work alongside Alistair Lloyd,” said dean Professor Bill Charman. “He is pharmacy’s Don Bradman – his tireless efforts and contributions have made our faculty, Foundation and alumni networks the strong and vibrant programs they are today.”

Two young pharmacists – two international positions

John Nguyen (BPharm 2007) has been elected to the position of World President 08/09 and Mary Poon (BPharm 2007) to the position of Secretary General of the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF).

IPSF represents over 350,000 students and young pharmacists in over 70 countries. It was established in 1949 and promotes improved public health through provision of information, education, networking and student exchange.

PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year competition

Julia Gilmartin, fourth year pharmacy student, was given an honourable mention in this year’s Victorian final of the PSA Alphapharm Pharmacy Student of the Year competition. Aimed at final year pharmacy students, the competition recognises the importance of communication and counselling skills in best pharmacy practice. Competition was tough this year, with 21 students from Monash University competing against many other students.

Pharmaceuticals leader links values to growth

Managing director of Ego Pharmaceuticals Alan Oppenheim discussed the importance of company values and product quality for growth at a recent seminar at Federation Square.

One of the key points of the Gearing for Success professional development seminar for Monash alumni was that people make the difference at Australian-owned Ego Pharmaceuticals, which has 220 staff in 23 cities around the world.

“Our most important asset is our people, who sign up to a charter of values when they start at Ego. All employees are chosen based on whether they match the company’s values,” said Alan, who took over the family business in 1990.

Alan also attributes Ego’s success to its aim to continually improve product quality rather than any desire to make money.

“Profit is not the primary reason for our existence. Ego has its customers at the top of the chart and is committed to achieving a good outcome for our customers worldwide,” he said.
Thank you and farewell to Barrie and Louis

Two long-serving staff members will soon retire after many years of valuable service to the faculty and to the profession – in fact, almost an unbelievable 100 years between them!

Professor Barrie Finnin
(PhC 1967, BPharm 1969)

Professor Finnin graduated with a PhC in 1967, followed by a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1969 and a PhD from the University of Melbourne in 1980.

Currently leading an internationally recognised transdermal drug delivery program, he was appointed the faculty’s chair of formulation science in 2005 – the first in Australia and one of only a few worldwide.

His general research interests are in transdermal drug delivery, topical drug delivery, mucosal drug delivery and cosmeceuticals. Professor Finnin’s current research is in the localisation of drugs during penetration through the skin, the mechanism of action of transdermal penetration enhancers and drug uptake by the buccal mucosa. His transdermal drug delivery research program led to the establishment of pharmaceutical company Acrux Ltd in 1988. The metered dose transdermal spray is currently being developed and used in clinical trials for a number of different drugs. One product using this technology has been released onto the market in the USA (Evamist™).

Professor Finnin’s teaching responsibilities have included biopharmaceutics, pharmaceutical microbiology, formulation chemistry and product development. As chair of formulation science, he leads, organises, develops and manages formulation science activities within the faculty. His duties include management of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, strategic research development, and the further development of linkages with the many industries that depend on formulation science.

“My time at the faculty has been anything but boring,” said Professor Finnin. “You just need to look at all the activities and changes that have occurred over the last 40 years, including advances in research and being constantly challenged and stimulated by so many amazing students. It’s particularly interesting when one of your graduate students becomes dean!”

Professor Finnin’s retirement is also going to be anything but boring. While continuing in an honorary role at the faculty supervising graduate students and being involved in research, he will consult to pharmaceutical companies. He also intends to spend time improving his golf.

Associate Professor Louis Roller
(PhC 1963, BPharm 1969)

Associate Professor Roller is interested in health and wellness, pharmacy practice, clinical pharmacy and pharmaceutical microbiology. He specialises in pharmacy practice, clinical pharmacy, rational use of medicines and drug interactions.

“I’ve stayed here for so many years because I love my profession, teaching and the challenge of getting professional messages across to so many wonderful students,” said Associate Professor Roller. “I would also like to pay tribute to my colleagues. I have been blessed to have worked, laughed, debated, agreed and disagreed with a wonderful group of people.”

After retirement, Associate Professor Roller will return to the faculty to lecture and will work on the second edition of Disease State Management for Pharmacists and Other Health Professionals. He will also be involved with the PSA, work in medication management and remain an examiner for the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

Barrie Finnin (right) with fellow researcher Barry Reed, late 1960s.

Barry Roller, senior demonstrator in pharmaceutics, 1965.

Barry Roller, senior demonstrator in pharmaceutics, 1965.
Professor Ho-Leung Fung (PhC 1967) visited the faculty on 5 May to deliver the inaugural Professor Barry L. Reed Distinguished Lecture and the occasional address at the Monash University graduation ceremony, where he was awarded a Monash University Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) by Dr Alan Finkel AM, Chancellor of the University.

During the address, Professor Fung spoke about the faculty as a catalyst for his success and emphasised the importance of three characteristics of health professionals: knowledge, integrity and compassion.

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, he joined the staff as a demonstrator on graduation in 1963 and was appointed as the M.A. Nicholas Industrial Professor of Biopharmaceutics in 1978. Widely known in the pharmacy community, he served on the Medicines Evaluation Committee and the Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee. He was also a member of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria for 22 years, serving over 11 years as its president.

More than 220 people attended the lecture by Professor Fung entitled ‘The Victorian College of Pharmacy and my pharmaceutical journey’. The lecture addressed research, educational and practice issues in pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy, and left a great impression on all in attendance.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Emeritus Professor Reed presented Professor Fung with an award, commenting that Professor Fung’s stature would enhance the status of the lecture series into the future.

“It was essential that the faculty recognise Barry’s academic career and exceptional service to both the college and profession,” said Professor Bill Charman, dean. “I was extremely pleased that Professor Fung, who stands among the elite international leaders in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, was the person to deliver the first lecture in what will be an annual lecture series.”

Professor Fung is a leading international expert on the discipline of pharmacokinetics (the study of drug movement into, within and out of the body) and pharmacodynamics (the study of the relationship between the concentration of a drug and its pharmacological effects). He has particularly applied these disciplines to understand the mechanisms of action of a class of cardiovascular drugs called the organic nitrates, which include the well-known drug nitroglycerin.

The faculty was recently honoured with an all-too-brief visit from one of its most distinguished alumni, Professor Val Stella (BPharm 1968) from the University of Kansas.

Professor Stella temporarily abandoned his normal fare of richly detailed hi-tech pharmaceutical chemistry and gave a very entertaining talk on the foundation of the US Food and Drug Administration. This was illustrated by a vivid description of the key people, events and disasters that have highlighted medicines use during the last 150 years, mainly in the USA but also in other countries.

Despite the overcast weather, almost 1000 potential students and their families visited the faculty’s Open Day on Saturday 2 August. Visitors were able to immerse themselves in pharmacy practice and explore molecules in the faculty’s new virtual practice environments, visit the new library for the very first time and find out about the faculty’s pharmacy and pharmaceutical science courses.
Young people and the power to change

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation’s annual Student Leaders function this year attracted 100 people on a wintery night.

Designed to help student leaders understand what it takes to become a leader in life, the evening enabled them to mingle with industry high-flyers.

The main event was a presentation by Arron Wood, winner of the 2007 Prime Minister’s Environmentalist of the Year Award. Arron’s inspiring presentation literally had everyone out of their chairs and thinking about an individual's role in making change.

Arron is an exceptional example of the contribution young leaders can make to the community and his environmental work has been recognised with numerous significant awards, including:

• 2001 Young Australian of the Year (National Environment Winner)
• 2003 Centenary Medal for outstanding contribution to conservation and the environment
• 2006 United Nations Individual Award for Outstanding Service to the Environment
• 2007 Melbourne Award for Contribution to the Environment
• a Churchill Fellowship, which took him to New York and Geneva working with the United Nations.

A leadership panel that featured leaders from industry and the profession provided insight into the graduate attributes employers might seek.

Would you like to be a mentor?

Individuals from all areas of the pharmacy and pharmaceutical science profession are required to mentor our Student Ambassadors. If you are interested in becoming involved contact Jessica Dobbie, email jessica.dobbie@pharm.monash.edu.au or tel: +61 3 9903 9119.
France proved a colourful location for honours student Ranelle Anderson (BPharmSc 2008), who recently undertook an eight week study placement in Lyon at ITECH University.

After completing a Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science specialising in formulation science, Ranelle’s interest in cosmetics led to an honours project based on the formulation of long last and normal wear lipstick and exploring whether these lipsticks penetrate into the skin or remain on the surface.

“I chose to go to France as they are world leaders in the cosmetics industry and have a number of technical universities that focus on cosmetic science,” explained Ranelle.

While in Lyon, Ranelle was based in a colour cosmetic laboratory.

“The lab was well equipped with a wide variety of cosmetic ingredients and colour agents, perfect for the formulator. This part of my project involved formulating a normal wear lipstick and a long lasting lipstick while using the same pigment,” she said.

“I also developed some protocols for testing the physical properties of these lipsticks and distinguishing their lasting properties. As the colour produced is important in lipstick, I also carried out colorimetry measurements that measure the colour properties of the sample such as lightness, concentration and tint.”

Ranelle used her time away well, squeezing in a few weekend trips to neighbouring countries.

“Staying at a student residence and youth hostels, I met many international students, including Americans, Mexicans and Canadians,” she added.

“An eight week studying experience is something you never forget. I recommend studying overseas to any student who is ready to explore a new culture, gain a large amount of independence and meet some fantastic and inspiring people.”

Matthew Loft, who visited King’s College London, tells his story.

“Pharmacy Abroad was an incredible experience for me, an unforgettable few weeks in a community pharmacy in the south of London. Despite the apparent similarities between the Australian and UK healthcare systems, it took me a while to get accustomed to their pharmacy way of life. Adapting to their generic prescribing, dispensing from bulk packs and their interesting computer system was a challenge. But the most startling thing for me was their lack of limits on prescribing quantities. To see people walking out of a pharmacy with shopping bags of medicines is a sight to behold, something I still find hard to believe.

While I was over there, there were big debates going on, particularly on the BBC, about the morning-after pill being dispensed by pharmacists for girls under the age of 16. Almost every day I would hear something about it on the radio, discussing its effectiveness in reducing unplanned pregnancies versus the appropriateness of pharmacists being able to provide an adequate level of care to these patients. It was very interesting to hear this, not only on the radio but from the pharmacist and other people in the pharmacy.

I loved the opportunity to do a placement overseas, and made the most of it – both the experience in the pharmacy and life in London, an amazing place to be in the lead-up to Christmas!”

Other students travelled to Drake University and the University of Kansas, USA; National University of Singapore; and the University of Nottingham, UK.

IPSF congress in Romania

On 1 August, Australian pharmacy students, including three from Monash, attended the 54th annual International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) congress in Cluj Napoca, Romania.

“It was an unforgettable experience, with over 30 countries represented. Worldwide pharmacy issues were brought to the forefront in discussions that often led to heated debates,” said Matthew Loft, fourth year pharmacy student.

“Socially, an amazing repertoire of events was provided, including a gala ball with fireworks, a traditional Romanian wedding and the infamous International Night, where no-one could upstage the incredible Aussie rendition of Waltzing Matilda,” he added.

“Once again, the congress was a massive success and it was a privilege to be a part of it.”
Diabetes study in Fiji

2007 Mathew Peck Travelling Scholarship recipient Jaya Soma (BPharm(Hons) 2008) recently returned from six weeks in Fiji, where she conducted a drug use evaluation study on Type 2 diabetes.

"I chose to travel to Fiji, as my mother was born in Suva and my parents were married there. For six weeks I was based at the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services Centre (FPBSC), which looks after the supply, procurement and distribution of all pharmaceuticals to 221 government health facilities. I worked there in collaboration with Ministry of Health pharmacists to undertake a drug use evaluation study on Type 2 diabetes in Fiji Islands. It was a very interesting topic to research, due to the magnitude of the problem in Fiji as a result of the lifestyle and diet and increasing Western influences on society.

Diabetes patients in Fiji are treated according to the Fijian Guidelines for the Management of Diabetes Mellitus. This standard treatment guideline contains three oral antidiabetic agents: Metformin, Glipizide and Glibenclamide. These are the only three oral antidiabetic agents on the Fiji Essential Medicines List (a restricted list of medicines that meet the priority needs of the population). In such a resource-limited setting, it is critical to survey adherence to treatment guidelines as there are resultant problems with management, supply and availability of essential medicines if guidelines are not being followed.

My study involved analysing diabetes prescribing patterns at three separate health facilities – CWM Hospital (Suva’s main hospital), the National Diabetes Health Centre and a smaller health facility, Valelevu Health Centre. Patient therapy was evaluated in the context of patient specific factors, concomitant drug therapy and biochemistry results relevant to diabetes treatment. Another aspect of my study involved interviewing diabetes patients to assess their attitudes to medication and to identify barriers to compliance with treatment. A diabetes pamphlet was developed targeting the gaps in knowledge that were identified. To obtain a broader picture of the diabetes issues in Fiji, I visited the National Centre for Health Promotion, World Health Organization office and I attended a divisional Drugs and Therapeutics meeting. These visits highlighted what is being done to tackle the diabetes epidemic and what further strategies can be utilised.

At the end of the six weeks I compiled my research into a report and presented it to senior pharmacists at FPBSC, detailing my recommendations and highlighting the problems I found in prescribing patterns. I hope these findings help to promote awareness in Fiji of the diabetes standard treatment guidelines to ensure all patients receive the most appropriate therapy. I also hope it creates more awareness in Fiji about the diabetes epidemic and the urgent need to take action through education of patients, ensuring availability of medications and making best use of available resources.

For the six weeks of my visit, I lived on campus at the Fiji School of Medicine and I made a whole family of friends there. Students from all over the Pacific (Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and local Indians and Fijians) come there to study medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and radiography. I loved the students; they are some of the friendliest and most down to earth people I have ever met.

I assumed my role as the 2007 Mathew Peck Travelling Scholarship recipient with a great sense of responsibility and duty. I wanted to make the most of the wonderful opportunity that I had been given by Mathew’s family and the faculty. When I look back, it is this sense of responsibility that ensured I worked hard and focused on interacting in...
my new environment. It has been a very valuable experience.

I believe that anything is possible if we have the motivation and vision to succeed. I fully appreciate life and the people in my life, family and friends, without whom life would be meaningless, as it is through the people we know that we learn and live together as a team and try to improve ourselves and our world.

I speak only praise of Fiji and international health, and of working and living in a developing country. This experience gave me an amazing opportunity to learn and grow. I take nothing for granted now, we are so lucky in this rich country. My friends in Fiji have to fight for everything they want; their resilience and optimism is inspiring.

For any students interested in international health, or in applying for the scholarship, my advice is to apply. This wonderful opportunity is only available to students at the faculty. Other pharmacy schools must be so envious of us!

There are many individuals who I would like to thank for their help with my scholarship project. I would like to especially thank my mentor, Beverly Snell (Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Health, Burnet Institute). Beverly was instrumental in the development of my project, providing me with key contacts in Fiji as well as continual support throughout the entire process.

Remedy, the faculty’s international health student group, would be happy to answer any queries about the scholarship and helping in the developing world (vcp.remedy@gmail.com). International health is a fascinating and a relatively new area – something everyone should keep in mind as a potential career pathway.

About the scholarship

Mathew Peck was a pharmacy student who tragically passed away while travelling in South America. He was passionate about living and working in the developing world, as he knew of the mutual rewards that can be gained from the experience. The scholarship is a tribute to his life and his family established it in collaboration with the faculty to continue his ideals of commitment and contribution to international health. One scholarship per year is awarded to allow a pharmacy student to experience international health first-hand and directly contribute to an overseas health project.

Third-year pharmacy student Jane O’Connor is the recipient of the 2008 Mathew Peck Travelling Scholarship. Jane will travel to the Solomon Islands and undertake a project supervised by Michael Nunan (BPharm 2006) – the first recipient of the scholarship.

A recent trivia night to raise money for the scholarship was a great success, raising over $12,000. Over 200 people attended this evening to help support the scholarship and honour Mathew’s memory. To donate to the scholarship contact John Allen, email john.allen@pharm.monash.edu.au or tel: +61 3 9903 9507 or mobile 0434 126 688.
Alchemy, the alumni magazine of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, is published twice a year. The next issue is due for publication in May 2009. The magazine is published for the faculty community, which includes alumni (both pre and post the Monash amalgamation), current and former staff, students and their families, and friends of the faculty.

To contact Alchemy, tel: +61 3 9903 9504, email alumni@pharm.monash.edu.au or write to Alchemy, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052.

Upcoming events

Research seminar series

All seminars will be held in lecture theatre 3, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville. The seminars are free and all are welcome. Contact Carolyn Fox, email carolyn.fox@pharm.monash.edu.au or tel: +61 3 9903 9622 if you would like to attend.

Friday 17 October 4pm–5pm
Professor Colin Pouton
Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences
The dawn of drug discovery models derived from stem cells

Friday 14 November 4pm–5pm
Professor Peter Scammells
Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Design, synthesis and evaluation of novel adenosine receptor ligands

Friday 28 November 4pm–5pm
Professor Istvan Toth
Chair in Biological Chemistry, University of Queensland
Liposaccharide based peptide, gene and vaccine delivery systems

2009

Friday 9 January 4pm–5pm
Dr Lauren Boak
Clinical science specialist, Roche UK
A perspective on the move from academia to industry based clinical research

Friday 27 February 4pm–5pm
Dr Tony Velkov
Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Structural details of the ligand dependant protein-protein interaction mechanism between intestinal fatty acid binding protein and peroxisome proliferator activated receptor

Friday 13 March 4pm–5pm
Professor Arthur Christopoulos
Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Location, location, location: The role of topography in drug discovery

2009 Prize Giving

Alumni and friends are welcome to attend the faculty’s 2009 Prize Giving ceremony, to be held on Tuesday 7 April 2009 at 6pm in Cossar Hall. Email jessica.dobbie@pharm.monash.edu.au to register your attendance.

Retired Pharmacists group

This is the perfect opportunity to catch up with classmates and colleagues and to make new friends. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month (February to November inclusive) 11am–1pm. New members are always welcome. Attendance is open to pharmacists who are retired, semi-retired or over 50. Contact the alumni office on tel: +61 3 9903 9507 or email alumni@pharm.monash.edu.au if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 28 October 11am–1pm
Come and enjoy a personal tour of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), led by fellow graduate Brian Cossar (BPharm 1960).
MCG, Yarra Park, Jolimont
Bookings essential.

Tuesday 25 November 11am–1pm
Associate Professor Louis Roller will describe some of the modern advancements in drug technology and design.
Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.

Student Enhancement program:

This program, of which the Student Leaders function is a part (see page 20), is supported by the following companies and organisations:

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