

# Alchemy

College magazine issue 11, summer 2006

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## 125 years

Celebrating the past,  
building our future



# A will to build the future

Over the past 125 years, bequests to the college have provided funding for teaching, research, resources, scholarships, bursaries and prizes.

Friends and alumni have chosen to make bequests to support the college – a commitment made in the present but realised in the future. They are keen to ensure that our graduates and researchers continue to compete with those from the world's top schools of pharmacy. They also want their profession to continue to expand and develop.

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 Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University in their will to inform the Foundation, so their support can be recognised during their lifetime.

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



## The Tonkin Scholarship

The Tonkin Scholarship, which promotes innovation and leadership in the profession of pharmacy, was established through a bequest. Miss Sarah Amy Lloyd, whose father conducted a pharmacy business in Geelong, established the fund to honour her family doctor and great friend Dr Tonkin.

Since the first Cyril Tonkin Scholarship was awarded in 1976 there have been 37 recipients, including research fellows and masters and doctoral scholars. Other recipients have been graduates who wish to study or

experience important areas of practice development in Australia and overseas. Many scholarship winners have gone on to become excellent ambassadors for the college, the profession and the scholarship. Recipients currently work in all areas of the profession, in academia and in industry, both nationally and around the globe.



## Brian Cossar: continuing a family legacy

The Cossar family were the principal owners of the Henry Francis pharmacies for over 80 years and have a long connection with the college.

David Cossar (1880–1960) and his son Norman (1908–1987) were generous benefactors to the college. During its relocation from Swanston Street to its current location in Parkville, David donated £25,000 to the statewide appeal. A pharmacy journal noted Cossar's donation was 'possibly the largest single gift made to a pharmaceutical teaching

institution in Australia at any time', and was more than double the amount of the next largest donation to the appeal. Cossar Hall in the Sissons Building was named after David in gratitude for his significant contribution.

Brian Cossar, David's grandson, qualified in 1960. He was in the last group of students to go through the apprenticeship system and saw the last year of the old Swanston Street building. Brian was elected to the Victorian branch of the Pharmacy Guild in 1990, representing the pharmacists in the central business district and inner suburbs of Melbourne until 1996. He was also treasurer of Community and Pharmacy Support (CAPS) in Victoria. CAPS was a national

pharmacy group formed in 1989 to fight Federal Government changes to the National Health Scheme.

For the past 30 years, Brian has been part of a group of graduates from the finishing year of 1959 who meet regularly to catch up and share their news. In 2004, Brian decided to include the college in his will.

"The college was a big part of my life, with many happy memories that I treasure, and the future of the profession is important to me," said Brian. "We all benefited in our time as students from the generosity of donors, and I felt it was important for me to contribute to the education of future generations of pharmacists."





# From the dean

Our 125th anniversary year has been a significant one, providing us with an excellent opportunity to reconnect with alumni, former staff, colleagues and friends of the college.

Memorable moments have included our fantastic 125th anniversary dinner and the unveiling of the plaque at Swanston Street, both fitting ways to commemorate our history and our future. I am also very pleased that a full account of the college's history will be published in December (see page 6 for details).

This year is also personally significant. After 16 years, I have decided to step down from the position of dean. However, I will continue to work at Monash University, focusing on research and educational activities, and fostering the college's links with the University of Sharjah, Monash Malaysia and Monash South Africa.

During my years at the college, I have had the privilege to work with wonderful staff and to teach many bright and enthusiastic students. It has been a very rewarding time, both personally and professionally.

Completion of 399 Royal Parade, the college's fourth building, has been a goal of mine for some time. I am happy to report that the building will be ready for occupation in February 2007, providing the college with much needed space. The building will primarily be used for research purposes. State-of-the-art laboratories will occupy three levels, with the remaining three levels leased to synergistic tenants.

Over the years, the college has had many teaching and research success stories. In teaching, extension of the pharmacy

program in 1997 to four years so that substantial amounts of clinical pharmacy and practical experience placements could be included was a highlight, as were the introduction of the Bachelor of Formulation Science in 2000 and the Bachelor of Medicinal Chemistry in 2003. I am particularly proud that many other programs were also introduced – Bachelor of Pharmacy/Bachelor of Commerce; Master of Clinical Pharmacy; Master of Wound Care; Graduate Diploma in Pharmacy Management; Monash Pre-registration course; Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice; and Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science. The college is now a very substantial tertiary education provider.

In research, some of the highlights have been the establishment of the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation, development of Relenza, the launch of Acrux to exploit long term research into transdermal drug delivery, and the ongoing success of the Medicines for Malaria project. I'm very confident that the new building and the forthcoming refurbishment of the Manning building will provide research teams at the college with the infrastructure to allow further research successes.

This will be my last *Alchemy* report as dean. I hope you have enjoyed reading this magazine as much as I have enjoyed contributing to it.



Professor Colin Chapman (1970)

A full article on Professor Chapman will feature in the May 2007 edition of *Alchemy*.



The old car park site, April 2005



The building works, August 2006



Architects' impression of 399 Royal Parade, due for occupation in February 2007

## Chemists fly the flag

The annual Anzac Day lunch held by the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) Chemists Sub-branch on 20 April this year saw a special presentation to members by dean of the college, Professor Colin Chapman.

A brass plaque, thanking the members for the generous donations that enabled the college to install a flagpole at the Royal Parade entrance, was presented to Sub-branch president Allan Beavis.

The flagpole was erected to coincide with Remembrance Day in 2004. It commemorates the establishment of the Parkville campus of the

college as a War Memorial Building and honours those pharmacists who served in the Australian armed services.

A Book of Remembrance, permanently on display in the college's reception foyer, honours those Victorian pharmacists who died in World Wars I and II. This list of names is also being printed in the college's history book, which is due for publication in December.

Professor Colin Chapman with Chemists Sub-branch president Allan Beavis



# Extreme leadership at the end of the world

Each year, the college's Foundation holds an event for student club representatives and Student Ambassadors. This year, they had a lesson in leadership from Rachael Robertson, who spent 12 months leading the 58th Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition to Davis Station.

Davis Station is the largest and busiest of Australia's three continental stations. Over summer, it is home to over 80 expeditioners undertaking important research in areas such as glaciology, biology, seismology, geology, and space and atmospheric science. It's a complex operation that involves the use of airplanes and helicopters to deploy scientists into very remote parts of the continent.

As Station Leader, Rachael was responsible for all aspects of life on station, from the safety and welfare of the expeditioners to the delivery of the Australian Government's \$10 million science program. Rachael's story of courage and resilience in a harsh and lonely environment was inspirational to all who attended. With experience in managing a variety of coastal and marine issues through her leadership roles at Parks Victoria and the Australian Antarctic Division, and as a member of the Western Coastal Board, Rachael has a demonstrated commitment to developing innovative solutions to the management of protected areas. With breathtaking photographs, Rachael recounted her experiences during a year in the highest, driest, coldest and windiest place on earth.

"In today's fast-paced world, it's not unusual for managers to try to squeeze in meetings with staff wherever possible and this has given rise to an increase in the popularity of so-called breakfast meetings. In many cafes, in most cities, on any day, it's not uncommon to see managers meeting with their teams over a bowl of muesli and a latte. It's quite a normal, everyday thing.

Now suppose it became just that. A normal, **every day** thing. That is, you have breakfast with your team every single day. What about sharing every single meal of every single day with your team? How about sharing every meal, every day of every week for a whole year? This is the stark reality for the men and women who live and



An inquisitive Adelie penguin

work at each of the three Australian Antarctic research stations. They are geographically and physically isolated from the rest of the world, sharing meals, bathrooms and living areas, for an entire year. There is no respite and no going home.

The small, self-sufficient community must survive and thrive in the most hostile and remote environment on the planet. It's an environment of extremes – extreme cold, extreme interpersonal pressure and, for the Station Leader, extreme leadership. Like all good extreme sports, once you make that commitment, there's no turning back. And in Antarctica, no-one hears you scream.

At Davis Station, I had the honour, privilege and sometimes very challenging role of leading this diverse community. The role varied greatly between summer and winter but the one thing that never changed was the 24 hour a day, seven day a week requirement to be the leader. In summer, the Station Leader manages a complex logistical exercise. Deploying scientists hundreds of kilometres out into the vast expanse of Antarctica requires a team of experts including pilots, aviation engineers, radio operators and weather forecasters as well as a



A young Weddell seal

support team that includes a doctor, a chef, telecommunications experts and field training officers.

However, a dramatic change takes place at the station in February, when the ship arrives to take the summer personnel home and 18 people remain behind to spend winter in Antarctica. These people won't see a new face until nine months later when the summer personnel arrive, and now the job of Station Leader moves from a management role to a leadership role. For me it was time of exploration and discovery and I learned many valuable leadership lessons along the way. While keeping the team safe was my number one priority, maintaining morale and building a supportive community was also high on the agenda. With no family and friends around, we relied



A beautiful and rare strata-berg

on each other as much for companionship as for safety. The lines between personal time and professional time became blurred. Socialising with work colleagues (by necessity) created additional challenges, particularly during the long, dark winter when the sun doesn't rise for six weeks and especially when there was alcohol involved.

Being forced to stay indoors for months on end due to the extreme cold (around minus 30) placed all of us under great personal pressure. Living in such close proximity was testing to say the least but as the leader it also gave me a great chance to get to know each individual well. You learn quickly about motivation, idiosyncrasies, passions and beliefs. After a full year together you can



A regal Emperor penguin

even predict meal choices and conversation topics. But it also provides an important opportunity to learn about and value the other skills, knowledge and attributes a person brings to their work team.

This knowledge and understanding contributed to a second important element, which was that it allows the leader to match the right people to the right task. As is the case anywhere in the world, people work in Antarctica for a variety of reasons. For some it's the chance to experience a totally new and different lifestyle; for others it's the lure of adventure in a beautiful and remote wilderness; and for some it's the higher salaries and a chance to save money. I had to learn to appreciate and understand these motivations.

The next leadership lesson was the critical importance of the leader remaining calm in a crisis. During the summer, we had an incident where a plane was damaged on landing at a remote site 500 kilometres away from station. This grounded the plane and stranded the four expeditioners on board. While they had all the emergency provisions they would need for survival, it was still uncomfortable for them and the aim was to bring them home as soon as possible.

The plan was to fly an aviation engineer out to the site in the second aircraft. However, bad weather delayed this flight for several days. During this time it was critical for me to remain calm and assure staff that the situation would soon be resolved.

This incident also reinforced the importance of communication. Throughout this time we were in regular contact with the stranded expeditioners via a satellite phone. Information was relayed to the station community through daily news updates. By doing this, we could stay calm and staff were confident that everything was being well managed.

Another valuable lesson was the importance of taking care of little things. Obviously, in such an intense personal environment, relationships can be placed under pressure. Especially in winter, when there isn't the distraction of wildlife or the chance to get off station, the propensity for people to focus on one another is much greater. Things that were usually insignificant took on a life of their own. Simple things such as how the bacon should be cooked, removing lint from the clothes dryer and putting a near-empty milk jug back in the fridge all had the potential



Rachael Robertson (left) and friends

"Rachael provided us with insight into both the fulfilment and the loneliness that can come with leadership in a harsh environment. She inspired us with her ability to remain level-headed and resilient while in a position of great responsibility."

Julia Gilmartin, second year pharmacy student



A base camp on the Amery Ice Shelf

to become divisive issues within the community.

I had to treat every issue that was brought to my attention with care and sensitivity. It may have been only a small thing in a normal situation, but in our pressure-cooker environment these small things could divide a community if left unattended. Addressing each issue in a pragmatic and sensible way created a more harmonious community and ensured we functioned well as a team when it came to important tasks.

I also learned the importance of laughing often and looking after myself. To understand and accept that you will probably not eat a meal without interruption for an entire year, nor sleep peacefully without the possibility of someone knocking on your bedroom door, is huge. But it is also important to accept that being an effective leader means ensuring you operate at your best and get plenty of rest and exercise. It also means having fun and sharing plenty of laughs.

My year in Antarctica was simply amazing. I had the time of my life and I experienced sights and sounds beyond my wildest dreams.

In the end I did get used to having breakfast every morning with my team. I even got used to the knocks on my bedroom door at all hours. But the one thing I never got used to was meeting someone in the hall at 3am as I wandered to the kitchen for a drink of water, resplendently attired in my pajamas and dressing gown. There are some things a team probably should never see – their boss dressed in PJs is one of them."



# Capturing the college's history

A new book, which will be published in December, celebrates the college's first 125 years of contribution to the pharmacy profession.

Written by historian Dr Janette Bomford, *Victorian College of Pharmacy: 125 years of history* was commissioned to mark the college's 125 year anniversary. While the book documents years of professional activity and achievements, it also touches on the lighter side of college life, as the following excerpt shows ...

"Stephen Marty was a student in the late 1960s and became the registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria in 1998. He recalled an occasion when flour bombs were being thrown in the college and then the antagonists moved into Royal Parade: 'I think the police must have been prepared because within minutes about five police cars

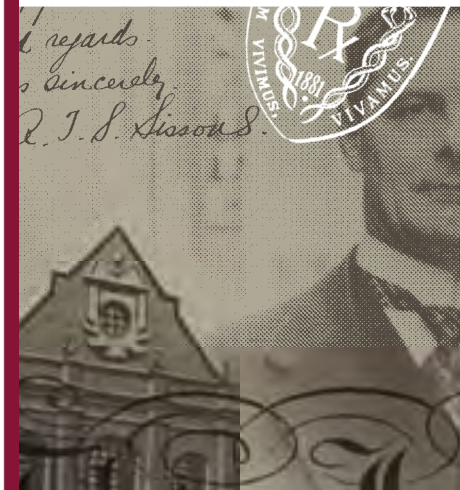
turned up ... and a television news crew happened to bear some of the flour the wind blew over them and it was reported on the news that night that pharmacology students from Melbourne University had conducted a demonstration in Royal Parade resulting in damage to private property. So everybody thought that was pretty good – the Pharmacy College didn't get any blame and yet there had been a lot of fun enjoyed by everybody'.

On another occasion there was a college board meeting and members were looking down into what was the driveway and VIP parking. Marty recalled that: 'There was laughter in the boardroom. "Look at them throwing flour about. Look at them throwing – That's *my* car they've just put flour all over!" It was a different attitude'. Other pranks included holding up traffic by constantly filing over the pedestrian crossing and unfortunate demonstrators or students were dumped into the horse trough outside the college."

**The book is due for release in December and will be available for purchase. If you would like to be invited to the book launch, or if you would like to order a copy of the book, contact Charis Dossor, tel: 613 9903 9635 or email [charis.dossor@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:charis.dossor@vcp.monash.edu.au)**

Janette Bomford

**Victorian College of Pharmacy**  
125 years of history



## 125 stories for 125 years

To commemorate our 125th anniversary, the college has completed the *125 stories for 125 years* project, which captures the stories of remarkable individuals and events that have influenced pharmacy and the development of the college.

Joseph Bosisto is one of the individuals who made a mark on pharmacy in Australia.

### Joseph Bosisto – a father of Australian pharmacy

Born in Cookham, Berkshire in 1827 and died in Richmond, Victoria, 8 November 1898.

Joseph Bosisto was a pharmaceutical chemist who arrived in Adelaide from England in 1848. Encouraged by the famous Victorian Government botanist Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, he set up the first commercial eucalyptus oil distillery on the banks of the Dandenong Creek. He soon set up other distilleries at Emerald, Menzies Creek and Macclesfield.

Joseph was probably the earliest manufacturer of essential oils in Australia on a commercial scale and gave special attention to the manufacture of eucalyptus oil. He was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly twice, serving from 1874 to 1889 and from 1892 to 1894. He was Mayor of Richmond from 1865 to 1867. Bosisto's Lane still exists today in Richmond and is lasting testimony to the birthplace of his business and his many achievements.

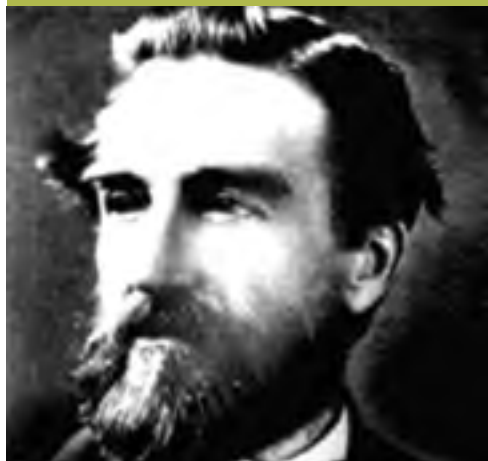
Through Exhibition Commissions and Royal Commissions, he exercised considerable influence over the direction, manufacture and utilisation of products from indigenous vegetation.

Joseph was one of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria in 1876, created under the *Pharmacy Act 1857*. He held the post of Vice-President for six years until he relinquished it

under pressure of other engagements. He was appointed Examiner in Materia Medica, a post he held until his death in 1898.

Bosisto's Eucalyptus Oil was awarded five bronze medals at the London Colonial and Indian Exhibition and is still a household name today, over 150 years later. Joseph was knighted CMG by Queen Victoria in London in 1886. He helped to establish the Melbourne College of Pharmacy (later the Victorian College of Pharmacy) and was made an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

**To read the 125 stories for 125 years, visit [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/125/stories](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/125/stories)**



# 125th anniversary plaque unveiling at 360 Swanston Street



John Jackson, Professor Colin Chapman and Alistair Lloyd AO

Over 120 guests assembled at the Oxford Scholar Hotel on 6 June to unveil a plaque that commemorates the old site of the Victorian College of Pharmacy at 360 Swanston Street.

The college, established in 1881 by the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, moved to 360 Swanston Street in 1884 before settling at its current location in Parkville in 1960.

Many graduates who spent time at the old campus met to reminisce and renew old friendships. The Oxford Scholar was a favourite watering hole for many, as it was right opposite the old college and a place to go for those who wanted to avoid a lecture!

Professor Colin Chapman said the profession and the teaching of pharmacy had changed considerably since its beginnings.

"There is a greater emphasis now on providing medication advice and acting as a triage – interacting with customers, assessing what their symptoms are and determining whether they can be treated on the spot or referred on," he said.

Chair of the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, Alistair Lloyd AO (PhC 1956), said the event provided an opportunity for graduates, particularly those who graduated before 1960, to celebrate their time as students.

"As apprentices we trudged through the city two or three times per week in our college blazers to gain our qualifications – very different to today's students – but no less an important part of the college's long history," he said.

John Coppock (PhC 1955), Chairman of Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd, commented on the old building's characteristics, its characters and the calibre of graduates. John Jackson (BPharm 1974), President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) (Victorian branch) and Brian Grogan (PhC 1960), National President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, also spoke at the ceremony, which was a very special event on the college's 125th anniversary calendar.



John Coppock



## 2007 Swanston Street reunion

The college has received lots of great feedback from those who attended the plaque unveiling. If you studied at the Swanston Street campus and would like to receive information on the 2007 Swanston Street reunion, contact Elizabeth Welch, tel: 613 9903 9087 or email [elizabeth.welch@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:elizabeth.welch@vcp.monash.edu.au)





## Career achievement award

**Professor Bill Charman (BPharm 1981), Director of the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation at the college, has received the International Career Achievement Award in Oral Drug Delivery from pharmaceutical company Eurand and the Controlled Release Society (USA).**

The award is regarded as the premier international award in this field and is designed to encourage, recognise and reward innovative approaches in oral drug delivery.

Professor Charman delivered the keynote address at the Eurand Awards Special Session at the Controlled Release Society's annual conference, which was held in Vienna in July. His presentation, 'Lipids, lipophilic drugs and oral drug delivery', discussed the implications of recent discoveries concerning drug absorption and drug delivery.

Professor Charman has research interests that include the bioavailability of poorly water-soluble drugs, lymphatic drug transport and drug candidate optimisation.

Dr Stephen Perrett, Corporate Technology Director at Eurand, said it was a pleasure for Eurand and the Controlled Release Society to recognise the scientist behind such an extensive body of high calibre work.

"Professor Charman has made a major contribution to the science of drug delivery," Dr Perrett said. "This has not only been through his own efforts, but also through the inspiration that his enthusiasm and excellence gives to new generations of scientists."

## All in the family

Associate Professor Ossama El-Kabbani and his group have discovered common structural features between mammalian and single cell organism enzymes, constituting a novel family of proteins.

The enzyme dihydrodiol dehydrogenase, which is predominantly present in a monomeric form in mammalian cells, plays a pivotal role in the metabolism of endogenous steroids that are important for the development of neurotransmitters and hormones.

A recent study revealed a dimeric form of mammalian dihydrodiol dehydrogenase that metabolises sugars and shares similarities with gene products of single cell organisms. This finding suggests that mammalian dimeric dihydrodiol dehydrogenase is a member of a novel protein family that includes proteins from single cell organisms.

Associate Professor El-Kabbani said his group has determined the first 3D structure of a dimeric dihydrodiol dehydrogenase.

"In collaboration with researchers from Gifu Pharmaceutical University in Japan, a sister university of the college, we have been able to grow crystals of the enzyme," he said. "Then, by using a synchrotron in the USA, we produced a detailed 3D image of the enzyme."

"A comparison between the 3D structures of dimeric dihydrodiol dehydrogenase and another sugar metabolising enzyme from single cell organisms, glucose-fructose oxidoreductase, revealed very important information regarding the common structural features between mammalian and single cell members of a novel protein family," he added. "This exciting discovery would not have been possible without the support we received from the Australian Research Council."

Associate Professor El-Kabbani plans further studies in 2007 at the Australian synchrotron, where he will investigate the interaction between the enzyme and its natural substrate and inhibitor.



## Travel award recognises battle against 'superbugs'

**Jian Li, a young researcher at the college who is investigating the use of the antibiotic colistin in treating 'superbug' infections, has been awarded an International Young Investigator Travel Award by the Infectious Diseases Society of America.**

He travelled to Canada in October to present his paper 'Colistin is back, is resistance close?' at the 44th Annual Meeting of the society.

The travel award is granted to the top 10 international young researchers whose Infectious Diseases Society of America conference papers represent outstanding work.

Although use of the antibiotic colistin was abandoned in the 1970s, it is now used increasingly as the last-line antibiotic against bacteria – so-called 'superbugs' – that are resistant to virtually all other antibiotics.

"I am very excited to receive the award, as it acknowledges the international significance of our colistin research," Dr Li said.



# Anti-ageing claims put to the test



“We need to apply scientific measures to determine whether these claims are correct. This may help give some credibility to the cosmetic industry, where in the past it has been all smoke and mirrors.”

Professor Barrie Finnin (PhC 1967, BPharm 1969), a researcher at the college, is testing the anti-ageing claims of cosmetic products by analysing the penetration levels and effects of moisturisers.

Applying similar technologies to those used to determine the impact of drugs on the body, Professor Finnin is looking at the chemical make up of cosmetic creams and their impact on the skin.

The studies have stemmed from Professor Finnin's work in transdermal drug delivery. In the 1990s, Professor Finnin and his colleague Professor Barry Reed developed technology that enables pharmaceuticals to be delivered through the skin using a hand-held spray device.

Professor Finnin is now working with cosmetic companies in Australia and overseas to determine if the active ingredients in anti-ageing creams, such as anti-oxidants and collagen, actually penetrate the skin and, if so, whether they are effective in reducing water loss from the skin.

The tests are being undertaken on human skin – donated after surgery or post-mortem. They include

sticking adhesive tape to the skin after cream has been applied, removing the tape and analysing it to determine how many layers of skin the cream has penetrated. The process is repeated until the skin layers removed with the tape no longer show evidence of cream penetration.

In separate tests, scientists are measuring the time it takes for the ingredients in the creams to penetrate the skin, making a cast of the skin surface that can then be used to accurately determine the number and depth of wrinkles, and magnifying images of the skin to measure the number and depth of wrinkles before and after cream has been applied.

Professor Finnin said that, because people were becoming more concerned about ageing and their appearance, it was important to know what effect cosmetic creams had on the skin.

“While it may be dismissed as vanity, ageing and changes to the skin can have a significant psychological impact on some people,” he said.

Professor Finnin said companies often made claims about their products that had never been scientifically tested.

“For instance, some companies claim that their product will deliver collagen to the skin, but there haven't been any studies to show whether collagen actually penetrates the skin,” he said.

“We need to apply scientific measures to determine whether these claims are correct. This may help give some credibility to the cosmetic industry, where in the past it has been all smoke and mirrors.”

## Boost to pharmaceutical sales careers

The Graduate Certificate in Pharmaceutical Sales covers a range of technical and sales skills and prepares participants for a career in this dynamic sector of the industry.

The college has partnered with the Faculty of Business and Economics and the team from Sales Cadetship Pty Ltd to offer an intensive six week program, which is delivered in both Melbourne and Sydney.

Available to graduates of any discipline, the course is designed for those interested in pursuing a career in the pharmaceutical sales field. It includes industry visits, and several days are spent learning about the dynamics of pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare companies and their sales departments.

The first cohort of students completed the course in July. A large majority of graduates have already gained employment in major pharmaceutical companies, with the remaining few still going through job interviews organised by Sales Cadetship Pty Ltd.

"This course has had support and input from major pharmaceutical companies right through its planning, development, delivery and cadet recruitment process," said Bill Suen (BPharm 1981), course director. "The high employment rate of our first group of students, so soon after completing their coursework, is an indication of the calibre of our students and the course's relevance to employers."



Pharmaceutical sales students

**The next intake will be in January–February 2007.**  
**For more information, visit [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/pharm-sales](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/pharm-sales)**

**"The course coordinators have done a fantastic job integrating the right amount of industry knowledge, sales techniques and pharmacology to prepare us for positions as sales representatives. I am now proudly employed by Pfizer Australia as a Professional Sales Representative."**

**Alan Haszard, 2006 pharmaceutical sales student**

## First recipient of the Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Management

Amanda Galbraith is the first student to graduate from the college's Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Management.

Amanda initially enrolled in the course to ensure that she had sufficient business and financial knowledge before purchasing her first pharmacy. She has since been busy running her pharmacy in Canberra, which won the 2005 Quality Care Pharmacy Program Pharmacy of the Year.

In the meantime, Amanda has become Vice-President of the ACT branch of the Pharmacy Guild and helped to organise Canberra's first Women for Pharmacy network dinner, as she believes strongly in being a part of her industry. She is also a keen hot air balloonist and is pictured here flying over Canberra.

"Amanda was an excellent student and is a fine ambassador for the profession," said Bill Suen, director of the Pharmacy Management Program.

**For more information about the Pharmacy Management Program, visit [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/pharmacymgt](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/pharmacymgt)**



Bill Suen, Amanda Galbraith and Professor Colin Chapman at the graduation ceremony



Ashlea Siacci with John Jackson, President of the PSA (Victorian branch)

## PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year

Ashlea Siacci has been named the Victorian winner of the PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year competition. Aimed at final year pharmacy students, the award recognises the importance of communication and counselling skills in best pharmacy practice.

"The competition provided a valuable opportunity to practise my counselling skills and receive feedback," said Ashlea.

As Victorian state finalist, Ashlea received a \$1400 Alphapharm State Travel Prize to attend the Pharmacy Australia Congress in Cairns, including attendance at the President's cocktail party and the

gala dinner. The 2006 national award winner, to be announced at the Congress, receives an Alphapharm National Travel Prize valued at \$6500 for pharmacy-specific education.

"Ashlea did very well, showing great communication skills and knowledge of medication and other health advice," said Jaclyn Baker (BPharm 2001), Professional Development Officer at the PSA (Victorian branch).

PSA National President, Brian Grogan (PhC 1960), highlighted the fact that the Pharmacy Student of the Year award is very popular.

"This competition provides an ideal opportunity for students to

demonstrate to our profession the high level of counselling skills they possess," he said.

Ashlea is a final year Bachelor of Pharmacy student at the college and will be taking her counselling skills to the Northern Hospital as a pre-registrant in 2007.



# Pharmacy in Malaysia

One of the college's long-held goals will be met in 2008, when the first intake of students begin their Bachelor of Pharmacy at Monash University's Malaysian campus.

The Malaysian campus is successfully established as an excellent provider of higher education in the region. Student numbers are steadily growing, with a significant proportion of the student body being drawn from neighbouring countries such as Singapore. The range of courses on offer is expanding, with recent growth in postgraduate coursework and research degrees.

Construction of a new campus at Bandar Sunway, where the Bachelor of Pharmacy will be taught, is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2007.

"The new facility will have purpose-built laboratories that will enhance the learning experience of our students," said Dr David Kong (BPharm 1990, MPharm 1994, PhD 1998), a lecturer at the college.

The course curriculum will be identical to what is offered at the college, with some small changes that better reflect the Malaysian and South-East Asian environment. Dr Kong is working with staff from the Malaysian campus and with the Pharmacy Board in Malaysia to tailor elements of the course to meet local requirements.

The demand for a pharmacy course from within Malaysia and from surrounding countries is expected to be high. Malaysia has a population of approximately 26 million, with a pharmacist to population ratio of 1:7230. The Malaysian Government has targeted a pharmacist to population ratio of approximately 1:2000. To achieve this, the number of pharmacists required will be at least 13,000 but is expected to be greater as the population grows. In Malaysia alone, there is an enormous shortage of pharmacists and similar circumstances are anticipated in surrounding countries, given the current chronic worldwide shortage of pharmacists.



Architects' impression of the new campus at Bandar Sunway



Teaching the Bachelor of Pharmacy at Monash Malaysia will add considerable prestige to the university and to the Malaysian campus. It is hoped that, in the future, students studying here in Australia will be able to go on semester exchange to the Malaysian campus and vice versa.

"Offering the Bachelor of Pharmacy in Malaysia is a huge step forward for the college," said Professor Colin Chapman. "It presents excellent opportunities for international linkages and for more global recognition of our pharmacy course."

"Offering the Bachelor of Pharmacy in Malaysia is a huge step forward for the college."

Professor Colin Chapman

**For more information about the Bachelor of Pharmacy course at the Malaysian campus, contact Dr David Kong, email [david.kong@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:david.kong@vcp.monash.edu.au)**

## Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society Conference

The college sponsored a 'Meet your Peers' session at the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society Conference on 8 September at the Crown Princess Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. The event was well attended and allowed staff from the college to meet with their Malaysian colleagues and to catch up with college alumni who are working as pharmacists in Malaysia.

"The pharmacists I met at the conference were very excited about Monash offering the pharmacy course in 2008," said Dr David Kong. "They were very supportive."

# Mathew Peck Travelling Scholarship



**Established in 2003 to honour the life of Mathew Peck, who was a Bachelor of Pharmacy student, the scholarship assists one pharmacy student each year to work on a health program in a developing nation.**

The scholarship is partly funded by the college, which has made a commitment of \$2000 per year for five years to ensure its long term success.

Fourth year pharmacy student Madelaine Nguyen, the 2006 recipient, will travel to Vietnam in November. Madelaine worked out the details of her project with the help of staff from the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Madelaine was born in Melbourne but has a Vietnamese background.

"I've only been to Vietnam once, about 10 years ago, and at the time I didn't have the maturity to appreciate the culture, history and people. Now I'm older and a little wiser I really want to learn more about the country," Madelaine stated.

Madelaine is a member of the student club Remedy, which is concerned with pharmacy education and practice in underprivileged countries. When deciding to travel to Vietnam, she was strongly influenced by Remedy's mission.

"I hope to use the skills I've learnt in Australia to help the Vietnamese people to help themselves and, in the process, open my own eyes," she added.

Previous recipient Michael Nunan (BPharm 2005) travelled to Vanuatu over the summer of 2004–2005 and worked in the central medical stores at Vila Central Hospital and in the hospital on the island of Malekula in Norsup. Jana Dostal (BPharm 2006), winner of the 2005 scholarship, spent six weeks in East Timor in 2006 researching the availability and sale of narcotic and psychotropic medicines in the private sector of pharmacy in East Timor's capital, Dili.

**For further information about the scholarship, or to make a donation, visit [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/students/mpeckscholar](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/students/mpeckscholar) or contact Sarah Vincent, tel: 613 9903 9507.**

# Crystal under the Tuscan sun

**Studying a double degree in pharmacy/commerce resulted in Crystal Wong spending three weeks at the Monash University Prato Centre in Italy. Crystal studied Australian Company Law, a commerce elective, in the beautiful medieval town of Prato in Tuscany.**

The Monash University Prato Centre occupies the first floor of an elegant 18th century palace – Palazzo Vaj – in the historic centre of the ancient Tuscan city. Opened in 2001, it is one of two European centres established by Monash as part of its active internationalisation plan, which includes major campuses in Malaysia and South Africa.

The Centre aims to develop and expand Australia's connections with European universities, governments, cultural organisations and industry and is now the largest Australian academic institution of its kind in Europe. It is located near the European University Institute at Fiesole and other distinguished universities that conduct undergraduate and research programs in and around Florence.

Crystal was keen to explore Italy while studying in Prato, which is a quiet village with very few tourists.

She took Italian classes before her journey and found the locals to be warm, friendly and entirely forgiving of her fledging Italian.

"Monash is very lucky to have the use of this fantastic place. No traffic, no cars, just cobblestone streets – it was surreal," said Crystal. "It opens your eyes to be exposed to another culture that is so unlike Australia!"

While in Prato, Crystal met many Monash students from all campuses and disciplines, although she was the only pharmacy/commerce student.

"I chose a double degree because I wanted more opportunities when I graduated," said Crystal. "I would never have had the chance to study in Italy if I hadn't enrolled in both commerce and pharmacy, so it was the right choice."

Crystal is currently working part time as a clinical pharmacist at the Monash Medical Centre. She hopes to travel again and definitely plans to return to Italy.

**"Monash is very lucky to have the use of this fantastic place. No traffic, no cars, just cobblestone streets – it was surreal."**







Student Ambassador Mary Poon

## Mentoring for the future

**Mentoring is providing the college's Student Ambassadors with valuable industry knowledge that is a vital complement to the skills they are learning in their studies.**

The Student Ambassador program builds skills and offers personal development opportunities for students, who represent the college at a range of events during the year. Each ambassador is also matched with an industry representative, preferably a college graduate, who provides guidance and valuable industry knowledge.

Student Ambassador Mary Poon, a third year pharmacy student, is keen to pursue a career in hospital pharmacy. Her mentor is David Lau (BPharm 1995, MClinPharm 2006), Chief Pharmacist at Eastern Health.

"Having David as a mentor is great – we've talked a lot about career possibilities in hospitals and public health, where my interests are," said Mary. "To have someone this experienced and knowledgeable to answer my questions is invaluable, and I really appreciate the opportunity."

David recently offered Mary some insight into the profession, beginning with the characteristics and qualifications required of a successful pharmacist.

"Pharmacists need to have excellent communication skills, empathy, responsibility and a willingness to help the community. You need a good memory because there are so many different drugs on the market. And good pharmacists quickly develop skills in logistics – finding fast and easy ways to get products from one place to another," said David. "If you have an ambition to be a senior pharmacist, then postgraduate study is almost a prerequisite – around 30% of hospital pharmacists have postgraduate qualifications."

Mary then asked about the transition from study to work, and the difficulties she might encounter.

"When you begin work, the hardest thing will be putting your theoretical knowledge into a practical situation," David noted. "You are making decisions every day that have an effect on people so you have to understand that responsibility. Also, it's hard to stand on your feet for eight hours a day!"

While the pharmacy degree teaches the skills currently required by industry, Mary expressed concern about the changing nature of the world, asking David how change is affecting the pharmacy profession.

"In pharmacy, things change fairly quickly, and you are learning all the time. For instance, today dispensing robots are being introduced into workplaces and technician roles are being upskilled," he said. "Pharmacists themselves are providing more advice on patient health issues. And it's getting harder to own your own pharmacy, with more competition and rising prices."

Finally, Mary asked David about the salaries available to pharmacists after graduation.

"The average salary is about \$30,000 during your pre-registration year. Graduates earn between \$50,000 and \$60,000 a year, depending on seniority, and this can rise to \$75,000 to \$90,000 after years of experience," he added. "If you own your own pharmacy, and it's doing well, you can earn more than \$140,000 a year."

## Developing our future leaders

The college's 14 Student Ambassadors completed the Monash Future Leaders Program during the mid-semester break. Participants Andrew Lee and Tracey Williams wrote the following account.

"As Student Ambassadors, we really benefited from this practical program, which explored issues such as optimising team performance and the critical success factors involved in developing a team culture. The practical format showed us how to put a new perspective on basic concepts.

It's not easy to maintain the interest and energy of 14 students for two full days, but that's what Marcus and Leo, our Future Leader Program facilitators, managed to do. They customised the course to meet our needs and organised activities that helped us to put our knowledge into practice.



Student Ambassadors (L-R) Andrew Lee, Paul Bui, John Nguyen and Matt Loft

The program gave us advice on different leadership skills and styles and showed us the value of knowing ourselves before we lead others. It also taught the 'vision model', including the importance of preserving values while adapting and changing future goals.

It was a fantastic experience, bonding with a great group of people and learning from enthusiastic facilitators."

## Alumni mentors

An integral part of the Student Ambassador program is linking ambassadors with graduates working in the profession who can offer an insight into working life and tips on achieving career objectives. Mentors and students are encouraged to meet approximately four times over the ambassadors' 12-month term.

**If you are interested in becoming a mentor, contact Jessica Dobbie, tel: 613 9903 9119 or email [jessica.dobbie@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:jessica.dobbie@vcp.monash.edu.au)**

# Reunions in 2007



## 1974

Remember the days of 1974? This was the year that *The Godfather Part II* won the Oscar for best picture and Alvin Stardust's *My Country, My Country* reached number one on the charts. In 1974, Mohammed Ali regained his world heavyweight title and on a more sombre note, Cyclone Tracy flattened Darwin on Christmas Day, leaving 68 dead and 43,000 homeless.

John Jackson (BPharm 1974) is planning a reunion for the students who graduated from the college in 1974. If you are a 1974 graduate, contact the Alumni Office on tel: 613 9903 9087 or email [alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au)



## 1982

1982 was the year that Peter Carey won the Miles Franklin award for his novel *Bliss*, Carlton won the AFL premiership and the first bionic ear was successfully implanted in a patient.

In 2007, the class of 1982 will celebrate their 25th anniversary. If you graduated in this cohort and would like to organise a reunion for your year group, contact the Alumni Office on tel: 613 9903 9087 or email [alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au)



## 1997

Crown Casino opened its doors in 1997, Australia retained the Ashes, Might and Power won the Melbourne Cup and many will remember where they were when the tragic news of Princess Diana's death came through.

Doesn't it feel like only yesterday that the class of 1997 stepped onto the stage to receive their degrees? Well, it's been 10 years! If anybody from the class of 1997 is keen to organise a reunion, contact the Alumni Office on tel: 613 9903 9087 or email [alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au)

## Help us find lost alumni

The Alumni Office is keen to track down these graduates. We are missing their postal details and would like to ensure that they receive invitations to their reunions. If you can help, contact Elizabeth Welch, tel: 613 9903 9087 or email [elizabeth.welch@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:elizabeth.welch@vcp.monash.edu.au)

### 1974

Noela Coleman  
Roger Dolphin  
Gillian Derryhouse  
Janverin McCombe  
Sheila Morgan  
Rodney Nettleton  
Caroline Padbury  
Richard Paul  
Charlotte Schultz  
Naseema Shaik  
William Simmie  
Choon Tan  
Rhonda Tulk  
Joan Varney  
Anna Wadman  
Rosemary Warren  
Lee Wilson  
Peter Winstanley  
Louise Wishart

### 1982

Jocelyn Beith  
Michael Buckley  
Diane Cameron  
Shona Cooper  
Lisa Coughlan  
Susan Davis  
Deborah-Anne Denton  
Raymond Dickson  
Karen Hopla  
Michael Knyenburg  
Ian Krycer  
Bee Lee  
Beng Lee  
Janine Lewis  
Mary Lodge  
Basil MacReadie  
David Maxwell  
Otto Mendedoht  
Vincent Kuok Yong Ng

Terence Ng Wai-Fu  
Elizabeth O'Dea  
Debra Ooi Sze Lin  
Gita Patel  
Susan Reynolds  
Hussein Shefki  
Tan Shiao Shya  
Joanne Stephens  
Richard Teed  
Anna Trantino  
Anna-Rita Viola  
Yuit Vong  
Fiona Wailes  
Tiang Wee  
Peter Young

### 1997

Melissa Bolton  
Michelle Christopher  
Cassie Fersterer  
Esther Garcia  
Debra Hancock  
Maggie Hemedah  
Natalie Hetherington  
Dallas Koch  
Valerie Lee Way Li  
Michael Moloney  
Ruth Murray  
Leanne Stewart



# 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](mailto:alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au)  
with your name and a short  
description of what you've done  
since graduating.**

## 50s

**John Ware OAM** (PhC 1950) was recently awarded a Fellowship of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). John received the honour in recognition of his representation for the FIP to the regional office of the World Health Organisation for the Western Pacific region and his current role as President of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum, the regional body representing FIP in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Janice Lumsden** (nee Reader) (PhC 1956) worked for three years in the Pharmacy Department of the Royal Children's Hospital. She married fellow pharmacist **David Lumsden** (PhC 1954) in 1959 and they conducted their own pharmacy in Caulfield for 35 years. Now retired from pharmacy, Janice still keeps in touch with many friends from her student days at the old Swanston Street site.

## 60s

**David Newgreen** (PhC 1964, BPharm 1969) works part time with the Pharmacy Board of Victoria and co-authored its history. David is a member of the Medicines Evaluation Committee and has written several major reviews for the Therapeutic Goods Administration as well as drawing up Fiji's new medicines and pharmacy legislation, in conjunction with La Trobe University. He lectures in forensic pharmacy and would like a holiday in Canada.

## 70s

**Gillian Swinnerton** (nee Whitelaw) (BPharm 1975) is a Business Development Associate in the Vascular Division at sanofi-aventis Australia. Her role involves encouraging optimal health outcomes in patients. She works with a wide range of proponents of chronic disease management (especially vascular disease) to enhance quality use of medicines principles, facilitate best practice guidelines, improve communication and narrow the treatment gap.

## 80s

Since she left the college, **Annette Kerr** (BPharm 1988) has worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Now Associate Director – Regulatory Affairs and Market Access at Biota Holdings, responsible for the development of compounds for treatment of respiratory syncytial virus, she has studied Intellectual Property Law and Pharmaceutical Economics, travelled the world and become mum to two boys.

## 90s

In May 2002, **Angela Calandra** (BPharm 1992) joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the college to assist with the delivery of the Monash Pre-registration course. She continues to work part time in community pharmacy. Angela enjoys spending time with her young children and helping with their school activities.

## 00s

**Phil Abramson** (BFormSci 2002) works for Acrux in Melbourne. He is an R&D scientist working on formulation development for transdermal drug delivery systems. Phil's role includes formulation design and in vitro feasibility studies of drugs permeating the skin.

**Anthony Agnew** (BFormSci 2003) is a formulation scientist in the Injectables Development Formulation Group at Mayne Pharma. He specialises in the research and development of injectable drug formulations for the treatment of cancer (oncology) and infectious diseases.

**Cathy Amarantidis** (nee Smith) (BFormSci 2003) works as Project Coordinator at Cardinal Health, managing major projects for multinational drug companies within Australia and Asia. She also looks after local OTC projects, including leading vitamin and mineral supplement brands within the Australian market. This includes everything from speaking with the customer to making sure the product is delivered on time.

**Alana Meaklim** (BPharm 2006) is completing her pre-reg year at the Austin Hospital. In addition to her busy pre-reg workload, Alana has been actively involved in NAPSA and has just finished a 12-month term as national secretary.

In December 2005, **Dhinele Perera** (BPharm 2006) started her pre-registrant position at Austin Health, Heidelberg. She has since accepted a position with Youth Challenge Australia to embark on a two-month project to Guyana in February 2007, involving HIV prevention programs and women's capacity building. Dhinele looks forward to completing her trainee year and is excited about the future.

**Elizabeth Dyson** (GradCertWoundCare 2006) was a clinical nurse consultant for the Northern Chronic Wound Service and is now Clinical Specialist and Assistant Lecturer for the Wound Foundation of Australia. This involves being a Graduate Certificate unit advisor and delivering educational programs for practice nurses and nursing homes. Elizabeth is also a committee member for the Wound Management Association of Victoria.

# Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science

From 2007, the college's Bachelor of Formulation Science will be known as the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science.

The new name better reflects the broad nature of this undergraduate course. It is a more recognisable name for many in the community, especially prospective students, and will also allow the development of electives within the course.

The Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science has two major areas of study – formulation chemistry and pharmaceutical biology. Formulation chemistry involves inventing, making and testing new products in fields such as pharmaceuticals, food and cosmetics. Pharmaceutical biology investigates the biotechnological aspects of drug design and evaluation.

Pharmaceutical science plays a vital role in improving human health by translating advances in medical research into medicines. A pharmaceutical scientist is trained to select new targets for drug therapy and convert these targets into reliable, accessible and effective treatments for patients.

**For more information on this course, visit [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/pharmsc](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/pharmsc)**



## Pharmaceutical science: Year 11 Chemistry Challenge

Ten talented VCE students spent two days over the September school holidays discovering the science behind everyday products.

Teams from Melbourne High, Presbyterian Ladies' College, MacRobertson Girls High, Balwyn High and Penleigh and Essendon Grammar competed in the college's Year 11 Chemistry Challenge for a prize of two iPod Nanos.

The day began with tutorials – one on skin structure and function, and the other on formulation chemistry, focusing on moisturisers, why we use them and how they work. This theory was put into practice when each team created a moisturising cream in a hands-on laboratory session. Teams then moved to the computer lab to develop packaging and advertisements for their products. The expert panel judged five lively and creative advertisements and announced Claire Knowles and Pravin Rajasekaran from Penleigh and Essendon Grammar winners of the Challenge.

"There were some great ideas and products created, and each team showed real insight into this application of pharmaceutical science," Professor Colin Chapman said.

Claire and Pravin created Mirage Springs Hand and Body Moisturiser, a specially formulated cream with all natural ingredients, to 'prevent dryness and replenish the moisture in your skin to give you that smooth feeling you have always wanted!'

The Challenge gave students an insight into university-level chemistry and pharmaceutical science in particular. It focused on pharmaceutical biology, which covers the biotechnological aspects of drug design and formulation chemistry, which addresses the making and testing of new pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, foods and industrial products. Both pharmaceutical biology and formulation chemistry will be taught in the college's Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science, which commences in 2007.

"The workshop was great fun and I thoroughly enjoyed the practical sessions," said Claire Knowles, a member of the winning team.



# Pharmaceutical scientists making an impact: creating better inhalants



The efficiency of delivering drugs through inhalers could be dramatically improved by research being undertaken at the college. The work will particularly help people in developing countries, where governments could save millions on the cost of lifesaving drugs.

Professor Peter Stewart and Dr Ian Larson are working to improve the effectiveness of dry-powder inhalers, most commonly used in the treatment of asthma. Despite being used for around 40 years, the inhalers are far from efficient.

"In most of the asthma sprays, about 80% of the drug in a dose is lost; that 80% either stays in the device or stays in the mouth and only 20% gets right down into the inner part of the lungs," Professor Stewart says. "We're trying to understand how to improve their efficiency."

While the ideal drug delivery method remains oral – most patients are comfortable taking a tablet once a day – many drugs cannot be taken this way because they are not absorbed, are broken up and unstable or are rapidly metabolised in the liver.

Drugs administered through the lungs can be delivered very rapidly and could be used to replace injections where the effect needs to be fast.

Professor Stewart says biotechnology companies around the world are developing inhalant drugs to treat many diseases. After years of research, inhalant insulin, which will partially replace the injected form, has been approved and is available in European and US markets.

While some companies have developed sophisticated and expensive systems to better deliver drugs into the lungs, the Monash researchers want to understand the existing, simpler system, using applied physical chemistry to learn how powders disperse. If they succeed, their work will make inhaled drugs cheaper, reliable and far more efficient.

"There is a huge market, particularly in developing countries, for low-cost effective delivery devices," Professor Stewart said.

# Students get into big business

**Three third year pharmacy students are set to become young business achievers with the help of the Young Achievement Australia (YAA) Business Skills Program.**

The program is offered nationally to secondary and tertiary students who wish to learn and apply business skills by actively developing a business. With guidance and support from sponsors and members of the YAA team, they form a company, develop a company structure and brainstorm innovative product ideas.

"Throughout the program, students develop and implement employability skills that can't always be taught or applied in a conventional classroom setting," said Mary Vasilevski, YAA State Manager Victoria. "As well as obtaining an understanding of how a business is established and managed, students gain specific skills including decision making, negotiating, risk taking, creativity, communication, teamwork and customer service."

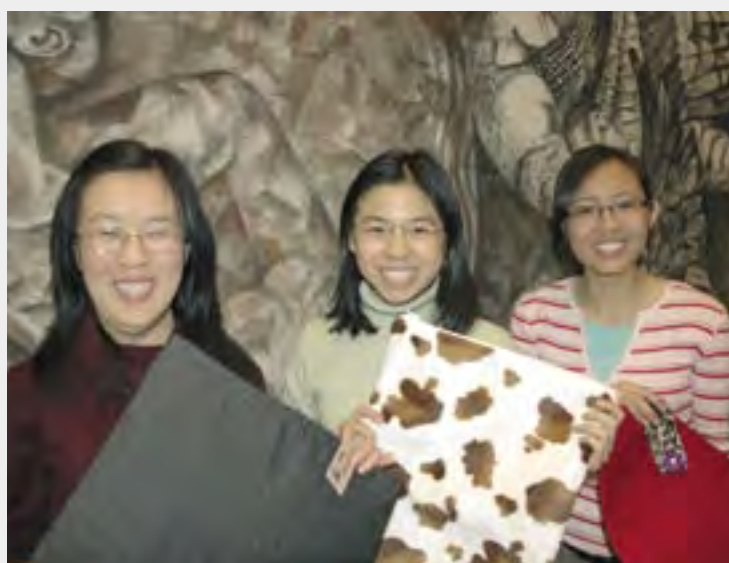
Jenny Kayu Lau, Jing Yi Tan and Wooi Lynn Goon hope to develop skills that will assist them in opening a pharmacy business in the future.

Their group, which also includes nine students from RMIT, Melbourne University and Monash University, is named 'Euphorya' and is sponsored by BHP Billiton. Euphorya has created fashionable laptop pouches and iPod cover accessories that feature innovative design, quality and affordability.

Euphorya started off by selling shares on campus and to friends and family to gather the initial funds for their product. So far business is going well, with positive responses and a mention in the *Herald Sun*. The pouches are selling quite well, especially to their target market – university and secondary school students (Professor Colin Chapman has also been spotted carrying a Euphorya pouch). The program wraps up in October and the students hope to exceed their target of 30% profit return to their shareholders. National awards for best company and business persons occur in November.

"I've learnt a lot about business organisation and structure. It's basically like running a real company – we have to write business plans, submit paperwork, meet deadlines, hold board meetings, do audits and write an annual report to all our shareholders," said Jenny.

**For more information on the program, visit [www.yaa.org.au](http://www.yaa.org.au) or visit the company blog at <http://euphorya-co.blogspot.com>**



## Alan Oppenheim the entrepreneur



**Alan Oppenheim, Managing Director of Ego Pharmaceuticals, has won the Retail, Consumer and Industrial Products Category for the Southern Region of the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.**

As the first and only truly global award of its kind, the Entrepreneur of the Year celebrates entrepreneurs who build and lead successful businesses, recognising them through regional, national and global award programs across 40 countries.

"I see this award as recognising the whole of Ego Pharmaceuticals, which is a team of entrepreneurs working closely with dermatologists and pharmacists to help improve skin quality in 24 nations," said Alan.

Ego Pharmaceuticals are supporters of the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation.

"The college community would like to congratulate Alan," said Professor Colin Chapman. "His award is well deserved."

## 2006 Rural Health Award

**Involvement across a range of educational and professional improvement areas has resulted in pharmacist Anne Leversha (BPharm 1971) earning a 2006 Rural Health Award.**

One of five state regional winners, Anne was nominated by Rohan Elliott (BPharm 1991, MClinPharm 2005), Chairman of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists (Victorian branch), for her work in practising and promoting Victorian rural clinical pharmacy over a 25-year career.

Anne is the Manager, Pharmacy Services at Latrobe Regional Hospital and is a senior lecturer at the college. She is also the National Rural Advisor to the Society of Hospital Pharmacists and was appointed last year as a regional representative on the new Victorian Medicines Advisory Committee.

"It's especially pleasing to be nominated by peers for this award, because their opinion on how you do your work is important," said Anne. "It's also a nice recognition of the role we play as pharmacists, when these awards are open to all health professionals."





# Queen's Birthday honours

Congratulations to Geoff Vaughan and Geoff Sussman, who both received awards in the 2006 Queen's Birthday Honours List. In addition to their community work, both men have made an extraordinary contribution to the college. There must be something in the name ...



**Dr Geoffrey Vaughan AO**

Dr Geoffrey Vaughan was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his extraordinary leadership in education and research. The award recognises his service to scientific research and development, particularly through the development of government policy initiatives, growth of innovative technology-

based Australian companies, and mentoring and supporting young scientists. His 2001 Centenary Medal recognised his outstanding service to medical and pharmaceutical research.

Geoff's connection with the college began in 1961, when he was employed as a lecturer in pharmaceutical chemistry. He became head of department in 1963 and dean of the college in 1979. In 1986, he was appointed Director of Chisholm Institute of Technology until it was absorbed into Monash University, where, in 1990, he became the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) until 1992. From 1992 to 1996, he was National Manager of the Therapeutic Goods Administration within the Department of Health, Canberra, and Chairman of the Cooperative Research Centres Committee from 1996 to 2005.

As dean of the college, he initiated a strong focus on research into drug development and health

advancement, establishing global links that brought the college an international reputation and commercial success.

Geoff has contributed greatly to research and development in Australia. On a personal level, he is a passionate mentor and supporter of young researchers. At a government level, he has been active in developing public policies and administration initiatives. In education, he has overseen significant growth in the tertiary institutions he managed. As a member of several company boards he has made a substantial contribution to pharmaceutical and biotechnology start-up companies, where he encourages research, development and innovation.

Geoff is currently a Director of the Institute of Drug Technology Australia Ltd and a Director of Cytopia Ltd. Since 2001, he has been a board member of the Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation, a role that

involves being an active and passionate advocate for the college and its programs.

"I see this award as recognition of the efforts and accomplishments of those people I've worked with over the years," said Geoff. "It's been a team effort."

Dr Jennifer Martin (BPharm 1982, MPharm 1986), Associate Professor at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland and winner of the 2005 Roche medal, was keen to congratulate Geoff.

"I was delighted to learn that Geoff's contributions to science have been recognised. I have known him for 25 years," she said. "In that time, he has been my teacher, mentor, advisor and now colleague, and I have benefited enormously from his wisdom, insight, advice and, of course, his wry humour."



**Geoffrey Sussman OAM**

Geoffrey Sussman (PhC 1961), a senior lecturer at the college, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to pharmacy, wound care and sport.

Geoff, who earlier this year was made a Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, received the award for his work as a clinician, researcher and educator in wound

care and for his involvement in diving and gymnastics.

Over the past 30 years, he has established an international reputation in wound management and is well known across the pharmacy, medicine, nursing and other health professions for his work. In 2003, he received a Centenary Medal for his service to sport, in particular gymnastics.

About 12 years ago, Geoff co-founded the Wound Foundation of Australia, which is based at the college. He is chairman of the Education Commission of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies and former president of the Australian Wound Management Association. He works with the Divisions of General Practice and the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation to provide continuing education for doctors, the PSA and pharmacy schools around Australia and New Zealand. He also established wound management training for pharmacy schools in Ohio, USA.

He has been involved in sport for more than 40 years. He was president of Gymnastics Victoria from 1987 to 2006 and was a member of Sports Medicine Australia and the Doping Advisory Control panel for Swimming Australia from 1988 to 2005. He helped form the Australian Diving Association and was chairman for 10 years. He was also a delegate to both the Victorian Olympic Council and the Victorian Commonwealth Games Association, and was the team attaché for the Mauritain team at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Geoff said that he was humbled by the announcement of his award.

"This is not something that you ever strive for or set out to achieve," he said. "I do the work because I'm very passionate about improving the cause for people with wounds.

"It's very gratifying because, other than Dr Fiona Wood, few people have been recognised for their involvement in wound care. This is an important area of work that needs to be seen as critical to the general health of the community."

Geoff's award was welcome news to many in the pharmacy, wound care and sporting communities. Letters of congratulation have been flowing in from all around Australia, with almost every letter referring to Geoff's tireless commitment to his work.

"I congratulate Geoff on being awarded the OAM from a personal and professional standpoint," said Dr Fiona Wood, Australian of the Year 2005. "Geoff has been tireless in his promotion of issues relating to wound care over many years, and the recognition of Geoff is recognition of the importance of wound care in our health system."

## Careers Week

This year, the successful annual Victorian College of Pharmacy Careers Expo became part of a week-long Careers Week event that gave students the opportunity to focus on life after university and develop employability skills.

Held in the first week of May, Careers Week saw students take part in basic careers counselling that involved resume writing and interview skills. They had the opportunity to undergo 'personality profiling' to help identify what makes them tick and listen to expert panels that provided insight into the job hunting process. Students also took part in employability workshops that covered topics such as leadership and service excellence.

"In response to the growing needs of employers and to ensure our graduates have the skills required to get the jobs they want, we are giving students the opportunity to develop key employability skills in these workshops," said Marcus Pitt, marketing manager of Monash University's Campus Life.

The Careers Expo was popular again in 2006, providing students with the opportunity to acquaint themselves with potential employers and research a career path to suit their individual needs.

One student commented that 'it's a good opportunity for us to learn more about what we are going to face in the job hunting process', while another said that the Expo was an 'excellent opportunity to find traineeship positions'.



### 2006 exhibitors

- ARCS Australia
- Australian Defence Force
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Healthwise Pharmacy Group
- Mayne Pharma
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Pharmacists Division of APESMA
- Pharmacy Board of Victoria
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia
- Pharmore Pharmacies
- Pulse Pharmacy
- Quality Pharmacy Services
- Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia
- Slade Pharmacy Services
- Victorian Friendly Society Pharmacy Association.

For information about exhibiting at the 2007 Careers Expo, contact Jessica Dobbie, tel: 613 9903 9119 or email [jessica.dobbie@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:jessica.dobbie@vcp.monash.edu.au)



## Pharmacy Ball

Over 800 students 'frocked up' to attend the Monash Parkville Student Association (MPSA) annual ball on 1 September. The 'Science of Chocolate' theme was brought to life with a spectacular chocolate fountain, which was enjoyed along with the smooth tunes of a jazz band. Living up to its long history, the Ball proved to be the key social event in the student calendar, with plenty of photo opportunities and a full dance floor.

## Rural students visit the college

Sixty students from rural and remote areas of Victoria visited the college in July. The students were in Melbourne as part of a program that encourages rural students to study health sciences. While on campus, the students talked to current pharmacy students, went on a tour of the college and learnt about courses on offer, the Rural Entry Scheme and rural scholarships.

## Pharmacy Abroad visitors

The college recently welcomed students from the University of Nottingham and the National University of Singapore, who were visiting as part of the Pharmacy Abroad program. Anna and Su (Nottingham) and Carol and Jasmine (Singapore) also undertook practical experience placements at The Alfred and The Northern Hospital in July.

Fourth year pharmacy students Sharlina, Xiang Tian and Charini, who travelled to Singapore and Nottingham as part of the program in 2005–2006, joined Professor Colin Chapman in welcoming the visitors and giving them a campus tour.

The Pharmacy Abroad program provides college students with a great opportunity to experience pharmacy in an international setting and helps to build partnerships with other pharmacy schools around the world.



College students with the Pharmacy Abroad visiting students

## Formulation Science Society Dinner

Staff, students, graduates and sponsors attended the annual Formulation Science Society Dinner at Butleigh Wootton on 17 August. The dinner provided plenty of opportunity for socialising, networking and celebrating, and was enjoyed by all.

"The dinner was a great success," said third year formulation science student Carol Gee. "It was great to see students, lecturers and industry representatives all enjoying themselves."

The Formulation Science Society would like to thank Mayne Pharma for their support in 2006.





## Open Day

On Saturday 5 August, a record number of prospective students soaked up the atmosphere at the Victorian College of Pharmacy Open Day.

The day was a huge success, with tomato sauce experiments designed to provide an introduction to formulation chemistry, the opportunity to make flubber, and a simulated 3D game that demonstrated the complexity of computational chemistry.

Prospective students spoke with academic staff and course advisers, explored teaching and research facilities and chatted to current students about life on campus.

Open Day also provided another way for graduates to reconnect with the college. Alumni were invited to come and see how the college has changed.

A chalk artist drew a small section of the Sissons Mural in the front courtyard of the college. Professor Colin Chapman hosted a special afternoon tea, where attendees were treated to cupcakes decorated with a 1970s photo of the college and the 125th anniversary commemorative logo.

Graduates Franz Fischer and Jack Fisher (both PhC 1957) attended Open Day and were amazed at the changes at the college. Franz was visiting Australia from his home in Tel Aviv, Israel, where he works as a community pharmacist.



Jack Fisher and Franz Fischer

## Gearing for success

As part of the 125th celebrations, the college joined with the Faculty of Business and Economics in September to host a Gearing for Success breakfast on the topic 'Maximise your marketing efforts: Multi-channel marketing – why you need it.'

The event was a sellout, with 160 community pharmacists and other retailers in attendance to hear words of wisdom from Steve Ogden-Barnes, program director at the Australian Centre for Retail Studies.

For a full transcript of the seminar, visit [www.monash.edu.au/alumni/events/gearing-for-success/september-2006.html](http://www.monash.edu.au/alumni/events/gearing-for-success/september-2006.html)



## 2006 reunions

### 1949–1952 reunion

Graduates who began their studies at the college in 1949 at the Swanston Street campus have been meeting regularly since graduating. They get together three times a year, and this year met in Anglesea over the Anzac Day weekend.

Any graduates from this era who would like to be put in touch with the group can contact the Alumni Office on tel: 613 9903 9087.

### Class of 1956 Golden Anniversary reunion

The Golden Anniversary of the class of 1956 took place at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 4 October. A luncheon was organised by a diligent committee that included Jim Mitchell, Janice Lumsden, Ray Barry, Bev and Graham Blackman, Trudi McKay and Anne Rumpf.

Professor Colin Chapman addressed the enthusiastic group, congratulating them on their personal and professional achievements.

The reunion was a great opportunity to remember those halcyon student days at the Swanston Street campus. Each of the graduates submitted a written reflection on their time at the college and their individual journeys. The book put together for this special occasion was generously supported by Pharmaceutical Defence Limited.



### 1981 reunion

The 1981 reunion organised by Fiona Landgren went off with a bang on 3 June. Over 60 graduates from the class of 1981 assembled at the college to renew friendships and catch up with colleagues.

Professor Bill Charman, a graduate and now director of the college's Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation, spoke about the changes in pharmacy over the last 25 years and the new drugs and technologies unthinkable to graduates in 1981. He then led a tour of the college.

A photo display board put together by Peter Ryan featured candid shots of the class of 1981, with haircuts and clothing that many would prefer to forget. Music from the '80s, fine food and plenty of good cheer meant that the night stretched on into the wee hours.

"I renewed old friendships and had a great time catching up," said Bill Charman. "Looking around the room, I thought we should all be proud of our excellent education in pharmacy."

# Students direct the future of pharmacy

Students at the college have taken the university concept of self-directed learning one step further, having recently attended, contributed to and organised conferences on a variety of industry-related issues.

## Remedy: Beyond Our Borders Pharmacy Conference

Students, pre-registrants and pharmacists from local, interstate and international pharmacy schools met for Remedy's first Beyond Our Borders Pharmacy Conference, held on 28–30 July at The Amberley in Lower Plenty.

The weekend's theme of 'International Health' provided participants with an insider's look into what it takes to work as a pharmacist in resource-poor settings – the principles, challenges and rewards.

Topics included pharmacists' roles in primary care, essential drug programs, capacity building, procurement and management, donations in emergency settings, global management issues, HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. All topics were followed by workshops, where students worked in small groups with a pharmacist to solve challenges faced by pharmacists in developing countries.

Many prominent speakers guided students throughout the weekend, including Beverley Snell (PhC 1957) (Burnet Institute), Fabion Kong (Victorian Poisons Information Centre), Sara Anderson (Royal Melbourne Hospital), Michelle Sweiden (National Prescribing Service) and Greg Duncan (BPharm 1985) (Victorian College of Pharmacy). Mathew Peck Scholarship winners Michael Nunan (2004) and Jana Dostal (2005) also shared stories of their experiences in Vanuatu and East Timor respectively.



All material presented by speakers is available on the Burnet Institute's Centre for International Health website at [www.internationalhealth.burnet.edu.au](http://www.internationalhealth.burnet.edu.au) (follow the links to Resources, then Conference Presentations).

The event would not have been possible without the help and dedication of many people, especially the speakers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help Remedy plan and execute this conference. Thank you to everyone who attended – this will definitely be the first of many Remedy conferences to come!

## IPSF Congress

In July, 25 students escaped Melbourne's winter chill to attend the 52nd annual International Pharmacy Students' Federation (IPSF) Congress. Students from over 40 countries met in Cairns to learn more about pharmacy around the globe.

Several college academics were invited to present, with Greg Duncan speaking on the essential medicines list, Dr Jennifer Marriott (BPharm 1971) covering innovations in pharmacy education and Geoff Sussman giving a workshop on wound care. Other components of the weekend included a patient counselling competition and a varied social program.

"The students' enthusiasm is promising for the future of the profession," said Greg Duncan.

"They will be the leaders in practice, research and development of policy in all areas of pharmacy and I think the profession will be in very good hands."

Delegates were given the opportunity to contribute to the development of IPSF. They decided that, in 2007, the focus would be on a student exchange program, a survey that will analyse pharmacy curricula, student learning experiences and quality pharmacy education worldwide, and a pharmacy awareness campaign.

"IPSF is a great way to learn about the wider world of pharmacy, meet new friends from around the world and be inspired by their enthusiasm," said John Nguyen, Asia-Pacific Regional Office Chair and fourth year pharmacy student.

## VCPA Symposium

The Victorian College of Pharmacy Postgraduate Association (VCPA) held its first-ever career symposium for research students on 24 October. The symposium gave postgraduate students a way to showcase their work to other students, researchers and faculty staff, and to gain experience presenting their research in a formal yet non-threatening setting.

"The postgraduate students at the college represent the next generation of researchers," said Robyn Brown, President of VCPA.

"Requisite to a researcher's existence is the ability to publicly present work, share ideas with colleagues and form collaborations as a result," she added. "In addition to preparing our postgraduate students for a career in research, we hope to foster an inclusive research atmosphere in the faculty."

## NAPSA Conference 2007 in Melbourne

For the first time in over 25 years, Melbourne will host the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) Congress in January 2007. The event will be organised by an enthusiastic team of pharmacy students from the college and La Trobe University, and will bring together 350 pharmacy students from across Australia.

The NAPSA Congress will provide students with the chance to learn and share ideas, meet new and old friends and experience the hospitality of Melbourne. The theme 'Pharmacy – On the Move' refers to the fast pace at which the pharmacy profession is changing and the program will, for the first time, include debates between students on some of the hottest issues facing the industry today.

For more information, visit [www.napsacongress.org.au](http://www.napsacongress.org.au)





## Victorian College of Pharmacy 125th anniversary partners

### Principal partners



### Supporting partners



### General partners



## Eucalypt tribute to pharmacist

John Kruse (1822–1895) was a German-born pharmacist who practised in Melbourne and became a key figure in the development of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria (later the PSA). He made significant contributions to the pharmaceutical industry and, in turn, the establishment of Victoria's first school of pharmacy. Kruse's Fluid Magnesia, just one of the many products he developed, is still available today.

Eucalyptus kruseana is named in honour of John Kruse. The plant, part of the Myrtaceae family, is a very distinctive species with closely-spaced, stemless rounded leaves and greenish yellow flowers.

(Source: <http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/e-kru.html>)



Eucalyptus kruseana © Dr N J Barrow, whose permission to use this image is gratefully acknowledged

*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 May 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](mailto:alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au) or write to *Alchemy*, Victorian College of Pharmacy, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia

# 125 wonderful years

- 1 Commemorative logo
- 2 2006 started with a fantastic Orientation Week
- 3 Friends of the college kicked up their heels at our gala dinner
- 4 A.T.S. Sissons was profiled in our 125 stories for 125 years project
- 5 Helen Noonan sang at our gala dinner
- 6 Commemorative postmark
- 7 The Student Ambassador program was launched in our anniversary year
- 8 Swanston Street commemorative plaque
- 9 Students were inspired by Rachael Robertson's presentation on leadership in the Antarctic
- 10 Performers added spark to our Open Day
- 11 Chalk drawing of the Sissons Mural
- 12 Gearing for success breakfast
- 13 Dr Betty Exintaris delivered a public lecture on 'Pacemaker cells in the prostate gland'
- 14 Commemorative wine
- 15 Our history book will be launched at the end of the year

