

The Alumni
Newsletter of the
**Victorian College
of Pharmacy
Monash University**

Alchemy

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Alistair Lloyd AO with
Professor Roger Nation.

A Foundation for the future

The newly-established Monash University Victorian College of Pharmacy Foundation aims to ensure that the College has the funds it needs to continue and grow its excellent work.

Recently I was given the honour of being elected the first Chair of the Foundation, a body whose mission is to support the College in maintaining its leading edge and reputation as a world-class school of pharmacy.

Achievements so far include supporting postgraduate research scholarships and establishing the Foundation Chair in Pharmacy Practice. Professor Roger Nation has joined the College to take up this new position.

Other plans for the Foundation are to support programs and facilities that allow the College to continue to attract the best quality students, provide the highest quality teaching and perform world-class research. Important goals are the re-energisation of the postgraduate student scholarship program and an expansion of the College's international focus.

The Board of Management of the Foundation is made up of dedicated members from the profession, industry and the medical community, along with senior executives from the College and Monash University. Members of the Board include Professor Colin Chapman, Ms Valda Comber, Mr Neil Naismith AM, Ms Pam Nieman, Mr Tony Nunan, Mr Bill Scott, Professor Peter Stewart, Professor Geoffrey Vaughan, Mr John Ware OAM, Mr Ken Windle, and the Hon Dr Michael Wooldridge. This impressive team is responsible for safeguarding the intentions of donors as well as ensuring that funds are well managed.

The Board will collaborate with the College and Monash University, other health professions and their educational units, the pharmaceutical industry, government and the community. It will work closely with pharmacists and their organisations to assist individual pharmacists and the profession

to achieve the highest standards of hospital and community pharmacy.

I am sure that the profession and the industry will enthusiastically support the Foundation in these goals to ensure the College's most important place in pharmacy education and research into the future.

Alistair Lloyd AO
Chair, Monash University Victorian
College of Pharmacy Foundation

- For further information about the Foundation, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/foundation/ or contact Sarah Vincent, Foundation Development Manager, on tel: 61 3 9903 9507.
- To read more about Professor Roger Nation see page 6.

Brief items



Name the Newsletter competition

The selection process was not easy due to the quality and number of entries. 'Scruple' was a popular choice, harking back to the name of the old student newspaper, as was 'Pharmacy News' and 'Postscript' – unfortunately both clashing with names of other pharmacy publications.

The winner 'Alchemy' was chosen for its originality, catchiness and meaning – although most alchemists were driven by the obsession of turning base metals into gold, a lesser known, more noble ambition of these medieval scientists was to discover a medicine to cure all disease. The winner entry was supplied by Dr Jennifer Marriott from the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dr Marriott (pictured above) is currently supervising a research project that is featured on page 5 (but this in no way swayed the judges!).

Farewell to Michael Watson

Michael Watson retired in March after more than 25 years of distinguished service to Monash University, the past eight and a half years at the College as Registrar, Campus Manager and Director of International Affairs.

See page 4 for excerpts from Michael's inspiring occasional address at the Opening of 2002 Academic Year and Presentation of Prizes Ceremony.



Michael Watson with first year students.

**Point of Interest**

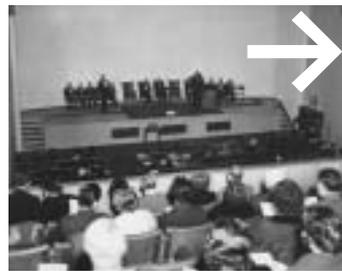
Ann Lane Petry, Author (1908-1997) – The first Black female author to sell over 1.5 million copies, graduated with a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. Her aunt and father were both pharmacists and she worked for several years in her father's business.

40th anniversary of the Sissons Mural

Over the last 40 years, most of the major events at the College have been held in view of the magnificent Sissons Mural, which dominates the stage area of Cossar Hall.

Named in honour of Dean A.T.S. Sissons, the mural measures 21 metres x 6 metres and portrays the development of science, medicine and pharmacy. It is one of the largest mural paintings in Australia and it reveals great scholarship, the artist – Leonard Annois – spending more than a year in research.

The paintings on each of the three walls have been designed in the form of ellipses, which suggest the cosmos. Within these large 'cosmic ellipses' are ten smaller individual paintings, all elliptical in form. The story progresses through the ten paintings as: the cavalcade of evolution in pre-historic times; the civilisations of Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome; the destruction by fire of the library at Alexandria; humanity in the chains of the Dark Ages; the rise of Islam; the Middle Ages with



their superstitions and ignorance; the renaissance of the printing press and the dissemination of knowledge; and finally, the dominance of atomic chemistry.

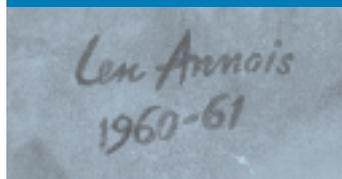
The mural is rich in symbolism; the symbols of beauty (the ovary of the flower), peace (the dove) and progress (the interlocking ellipses) indicate the beautiful, peaceful progress of scientific endeavour.

The central paintings are arranged to give an overall impression of a horse pulling a large chariot of progress, of which the Greek and Babylonian panels are the wheels. This chariot of progress gives the mural a quality of advancement and motion.

The medium used is fresco secco. The special preparation of the surface is an art in itself. Carbonated lime, hand ground to a carefully controlled particle size, and sand are applied first to give a textured surface of intense whiteness.

Lime-resistant powdered colour is then mixed with water and applied.

An item of personal interest is the figure of Galen, the great physician-apothecary in the Roman panel. The sitter was Dean Nigel Manning, the successor to Dean Sissons, a great friend of the artist. Sketches for Galen, the only human in the mural drawn from real life, were taken over several weekends at the Mannings' home. Annois later added a beard, Roman hair-do and toga.

The artist

Leonard Lloyd Annois was born in 1906 in Malvern, Victoria, and died in 1966. He was a distinguished painter in water colour and fresco, and was the only Australian to become a member of the Royal Society of Painters of Water Colours. Annois was in his mid-fifties when he

began the Sissons Mural project, which took three years to complete.

His paintings are in all Australian State galleries, universities and Royal collections, and his murals are featured in many public and private sector buildings.



The section of the mural showing Dean Manning. Note the large scratch – the mural has previously undergone an extensive restoration due to damage incurred from the Hall's high level of usage, but is due for further work.



The mural during several stages of its development; the preparation of the surface (above right), the opening ceremony during the painting process (above) and in its finished stage pre-renovation (above centre).

The renovation of Cossar Hall



Major renovations at the College over recent years have vastly improved many teaching and administration areas throughout the three campus buildings. Now the last piece of the refurbishment puzzle is set to be completed – the renovation of the College's jewel, Cossar Hall.

When the College finally made its home at the Parkville campus in 1960, the centrepiece of the campus was Cossar Hall. It was named in honour of David Cossar and the Cossar family, who were major benefactors to the appeal to build the Parkville campus. The Cossars are a notable family of pharmacists who were principal owners of the Henry Francis pharmacies for over eighty years.

The construction of a complex series of dividers now allows Cossar Hall to be used as a flexible additional teaching facility without compromising its continuing use as a 'great hall'. The creation of one medium-sized lecture theatre and two small tutorial rooms will be facilitated by allowing the top and bottom sections of the mezzanine areas to be closed off with folding partitions. As well, the whole hall has been air-conditioned, making it a much more comfortable venue on a year-round basis. Cossar Hall has also had a coat of paint, new carpet and chairs, new lights, tinted windows and a new PA system.

For more information about the renovations or to arrange a tour, email sarah.vincent@vcp.monash.edu.au



Cossar Hall during the recent six month refurbishment and after the renovations.



Dr David Cossar, Norman Cossar, Dr G. Allen Cossar and Brian Cossar at the presentation of the Francis indentures.





Point of Interest

Coca-Cola was invented as a 'brain and nerve tonic' by pharmacist, Dr. John S. Pemberton, who sold the secret formula for U.S.\$2,300 in 1887 to Asa Candler, a wholesale druggist, who sold the company in 1919 for U.S.\$25 million.

Farewell to Michael Watson

Michael Watson retired in March after more than 25 years of distinguished service to Monash University, the past eight and a half years at the College as Registrar, Campus Manager and Director of International Affairs.

As Registrar, Michael took on the daunting task of student selection with distinction. His door was always open for students and staff (and they came in their droves). As Director of International Affairs, he was instrumental in establishing the College's 'Study Abroad' program, creating experiential placement opportunities for senior pharmacy students in the USA and Singapore, and fostering links with universities in the USA, Japan and Thailand.

He retires after achieving a great deal for Monash University, and for the Victorian College of Pharmacy in particular.

An excerpt from Michael's inspiring occasional address at the Opening of 2002 Academic Year and Presentation of Prizes Ceremony:

"Thank you for inviting for me to deliver the occasional address on this important occasion.

What my résumé doesn't include is that my first paying job was delivering prescriptions for the local chemist after school. Which gives a certain symmetry to my working life.

It also doesn't mention that I dropped out after Year 11 to go jackerooing. I returned home somewhat crestfallen two years later to get a fairly menial job, go to night school, and start my science degree. Which I mention only to show that doors don't slam shut. Opportunities are only limited by a lack of sufficient resolve.

When the Dean invited me to deliver this address, my first instinct was to hide under my desk. Then I realised that it was a valuable opportunity to say something of moment to you, after twenty-five years working at Monash University. And then I thought, what can I say? I'm not a pharmacist or a formulation scientist. I'm not a learned professor. I'm a Registrar on the way out. Better stick to something simple I thought, avoid the big picture stuff. So I decided to talk to you about the meaning of life!

What I want to say is, pursue your careers by all means. Stretch yourselves professionally. And the rewards will be fulfilling. The College will see that you're well fitted to the task. But pursue other things too. Take the time to ask yourselves every now and again, "What am I?" and "Who am I?" I sincerely hope that the answer will always be much more than 'a pharmacist' or 'a formulation scientist'.

If I ask myself, "Who am I?" I'm the Registrar, which determines how I conduct myself for a major part of my time. But I'm also a husband and a father and more recently, a grandfather. I'm a friend, a brother,



Michael Watson at his desk, with the Celia Rosser Banksia water colour, his farewell gift from the College, in the background.

a neighbour. Sadly, not a son anymore, but a son-in-law, a father-in-law. These roles define who I am. They give me my greatest joys and my deepest anxieties. They're important to me. And I make time for them.

None of this comes without a cost. Your resolve to have a rounded life will be tested many times. There'll be strong corporate pressures to compete, to conform, which you'll need to weigh up against your own lifestyle demands. It will involve choices, and quite possibly sacrifices. A relentless preoccupation with work, unreasonable travel demands, the culture of working ridiculously long hours, might put at risk things or people of more value to you. If you have a clear view of who you are, who you love, and what you care about, the choices will be clear. And if the foundations of your life are secure, you'll find more often than not that the choices you make will be bolder, and the outcomes more successful, than if you'd been more single-minded.

What I'm saying is, have a life. Have a good life. I wish you well."

Michael Watson, Registrar 20 March 2002

Professor Colin Chapman, dean, pharmacist, vet, farmer, family man

The many lives of Professor Colin Chapman have been featured in the latest issue of the Monash magazine, covering his career as a pharmacist, vet, farmer and his long connection with the College.

- For further information, consult your copy of the Monash magazine – or view the magazine online at www.monash.edu.au/pubs/monmag/ (If you are a graduate of the College and don't currently receive the Monash magazine, make sure you update your details on the update form at the back of this newsletter.)



Dr Kay Stewart – a 'woman of substance'

The College's own Dr Kay Stewart won the Monash Postgraduate Association's Supervisor of the Year Award for 2001. Dr Stewart, from the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was taken by surprise when a regular departmental meeting turned into a presentation ceremony.

The Monash Postgraduate Association has made the award annually since 1992. This is the first time a supervisor from the College has won.

Dr Stewart was nominated for the award by two of her postgraduate students – Phyllis Lau and Johnson George – who described their supervisor as 'supportive, understanding and motivating' and 'a source of inspiration'.

They wrote in their nomination ... 'When you first meet Kay, she may look to you like the friendly lady next door. It is not easily apparent that she is a Doctor of Philosophy and a leader in her field of research, a senior academician at a major university as well as a daughter, wife and mother. Once you get to know her, it does not take you long though to realise that here is a woman of substance.'

'Kay has a very broad-based knowledge in all areas concerning the practice of pharmacy. She actively involves herself in education and research, and strives to maintain excellent professional relations with educators and researchers in allied fields.'



Dr Kay Stewart being presented with her award by Professor Colin Chapman and two of her PhD students – Phyllis Lau and Johnson George.

In accepting her award Dr Stewart said she felt touched that her students had nominated her and appreciated her supervisory style.

Dr Stewart's research interests include the quality use of medicines, community pharmacy services, quantitative and qualitative aspects of medication usage and continuing pharmacy education.



Professor Colin Chapman with Bill Suen, Course Director and Professor Rob Willis, Director of the Monash MBA program.

A pharmacy pathway to the prestigious Monash MBA

To meet the needs of current pharmacy managers, and to give aspiring health professionals a new flexibility in their career paths, Monash University has developed Australia's first pharmacy pathway to an MBA called the Pharmacy Management Program (PMP).

The PMP is a joint project between the College and Monash's Faculty of Business and Economics. Developed with significant input from the relevant peak pharmacy bodies, the course will foster management skills development for pharmacists, nurses and health professionals, utilising the considerable education capabilities of Monash University.

Combining the strengths of the two faculties makes for a cutting edge education program. It offers professional track electives such as Retail Pharmacy Management, Pharmaceutical Economics, the Australian Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Environment, and Pharmacy Risk Management as well as core MBA units such as Managerial and Leadership Skills, Information Systems, Marketing and Managing People at Work.

The course offers a high degree

of flexibility in exit points, from pharmacy continuing professional education (CPE) points to Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and, ultimately, the prestigious Monash MBA. This allows individuals to choose their own levels of participation depending on their needs and resources. It is envisaged that participants will be able to achieve the Graduate Diploma level by part-time off-campus mode within two years, allowing rural, interstate and international candidates to undertake the program. The commencing units will be offered from second semester 2002.

"The strengths of this course are its flexibility and the impressive list of professional organisations that have been involved in its development through the course advisory committee," says Course Director Bill Suen.

- For further information and course description, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/postgrad
- For enquiries and expression of interest, email bill.suen@vcp.monash.edu.au

The new Professor of Pharmacy Practice



Professor Roger Nation in the Sigma Counselling Room at the College.

Professor Roger Nation joined the College in November 2001 as the Foundation Professor of Pharmacy Practice. He brings with him an impressive background in teaching, research and collaboration with the profession and industry at national and international levels.

Professor Nation was previously Professor of Pharmacy in the School of Pharmacy at the University of South Australia, where he worked for the last eighteen years. He completed his undergraduate training in pharmacy at the Tasmanian School of Pharmacy. After working in community pharmacy in Tasmania for a period, he moved to the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney, where he completed a Master of Science degree followed by a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

His research, teaching and clinical activities have taken him to the College of Pharmacy in Chicago, Illinois, the Glaxo Inc. Research Institute in North Carolina, USA, the University of Sydney and the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre in Perth.

Professor Nation has a broad range of research interests that are focused primarily in the area of basic and clinical pharmacokinetics. His research activities have included investigation of pharmacokinetics in the elderly, therapeutic drug monitoring to aid in the selection of optimal drug dosage regimens for individual patients, the disposition of drugs in pregnant women, the transfer of drugs across the placenta and the handling of drugs by the newborn, and investigating the practice of the crushing of tablets prior to administration to residents in aged-care facilities.

Professor Nation has been involved in teaching across many parts of the Bachelor of Pharmacy program in Adelaide, from basic aspects in pharmaceutical science through to pharmacy practice and applied pharmacotherapeutics.

“I enjoy teaching as much today as I did when I started my career and believe that there is no more important academic activity,” he said.

Professor Nation has attracted substantial research funding from a number of sources. He has published 240 research and review papers in peer-reviewed international journals and research communications. His professional affiliations have included membership of the Pharmacy Boards of South Australia and Victoria, a long period as a Councillor of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in South Australia and as Chair of the Drug and Therapeutics Committee at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital. He serves on the editorial boards or as a reviewer for a number of journals and books, including the Australian Medicines Handbook. Professor Nation is an author of a number of sections in the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook, designed to support the practice of pharmacy.

Professor Nation is excited about the move to his new position. “While there are challenges confronting the tertiary education sector in general, including the pharmacy component of it, there are also significant opportunities. I look forward to working with others in the College, with members of the profession and the wider community to enhance the practice of pharmacy.”

For further information about the Department of Pharmacy Practice, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/practice/

“ I look forward to working with others in the College, with members of the profession and the wider community to enhance the practice of pharmacy. ”

Community liaison pharmacist trial to curb drug confusion

As the focus on health care in Australia becomes acute, a project is aiming to solve one of the system's most vexing problems. A six-month trial in the Alfred and Austin hospitals is about to tackle medication misadventure, the often life-threatening result of a discharged patient's confusion over an altered medication regimen.

During hospitalisation, a patient's medication is often changed: doses are reduced or increased, new medication is prescribed and old medication stopped.

According to trial supervisor Dr Jennifer Marriott, lecturer in clinical pharmacy at the College, the problem is one of continuity of care.

"Patients often become confused following discharge from hospital," Dr Marriott said.

"They come home with a lot of information and sometimes get into trouble. They can take the wrong dose, start taking medication they were taking before they went into hospital, or take a double dose of the old and new medication."

Under the trial funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services, a community liaison pharmacist (CLP) at each hospital will help ensure that patients at risk take the correct medication in the prescribed doses. Tam Vuong is investigating the issues associated with implementation of the CLP as her PhD project.

The CLP will form a bridge between the hospital and all the community services, including the patient's GP and their pharmacist, Dr Marriott says.

"The idea is to send the CLP to the patient's home in the first few days following their discharge from hospital to sort out any problems, and to ensure the patient has appropriate information. In addition, the CLP will communicate with the community health practitioners. Everybody then knows what is meant to be happening with the patient's medication."

In the past, many patients who had just left hospital simply fell through the cracks in the system, Dr Marriott says.

"There was no one to liaise between them, their community pharmacist, their GP and the hospital. Many ended up in hospital again because they had not taken their medication as intended."



Tam Vuong.

Discharged patients are usually given medication designed to cover them for three to seven days, after which time they are expected to go back to their doctor for further supplies.

There are two problems with this, Dr Marriott says.

"Firstly, it puts the onus on the patient, who may still be recovering from their illness and secondly, they have to make an appointment with their GP that may need to be several days in advance. While all this is going on, their community pharmacist knows nothing about their altered medication regimen, what has been changed and why. Whilst the GPs are sent discharge information concerning their patients, the community pharmacists receive no information from the hospital.

"The CLP service will especially benefit the elderly and chronically ill, but can help anyone who has a lot of medication and is at risk of medication misadventure.

"This project is being conducted not only to show that it is economically viable, but also to develop a model that will see the CLP service able to be implemented more widely throughout Victoria and the rest of Australia."

For further information about research in the Department of Pharmacy Practice visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/practice/research.html

Team working to solve irritable bowel syndrome



Pharmacologist Dr Ian Coupar, Medicinal Chemist Dr Magdy Iskander and their research team are investigating chronic constipation and diverticular disease, while working to design a drug to treat patients with irritable bowel syndrome.

The overall aim of the project is to examine the biological roles played by 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) in the human colon. 5-HT is a naturally occurring substance of the body, normally involved in

controlling many body activities. In this project, relevance is placed on the possibility that 5-HT is involved in causing or contributing to certain clinical conditions, either by excess or deficiency. There are no specific treatments for these conditions to date. The project will increase knowledge in this area so that treatments can be developed.

The project has received a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant of \$345,000 over three years to investigate 5-HT receptors.

Dr Ian Coupar (above right), Dr Magdy Iskander (below left) and their team.

**Point of Interest**

Prior to the invention of the kerosene lamp in 1854, crude oil was sold as a patent medicine.

Digging for Gold – a decade of gold medal winners

Since 1881, the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, followed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian Branch) has awarded a gold medal to the College's top student. (The only gap was in 1999 when there was no graduating year due to the extension of the Bachelor of Pharmacy from three years to four.)

The College has tracked down the past decade of gold medal winners to see where their lives and careers have taken them. Following is a fascinating snapshot, covering all areas of pharmacy and pharmaceutical research in

urban, regional and international settings, showing the career flexibility and diverse options open to College graduates.

Many thanks to the gold medallists who have helped with this project, sharing their news, travels, successes and some interesting diversions with us. We wish them well in their careers as community and hospital pharmacists, researchers, managers, product specialists and even as doctors and missionaries.

Jane Lennan 1992



92

Since finishing the pharmacy degree at the College in 1992, I have worked mainly at the Bendigo Hospital in my hometown of Bendigo in central Victoria. Also in my career I spent a year as a practical class demonstrator in the pharmaceuticals department at the College, **teaching** first, second and third year pharmacy students.

Being a keen traveller, pharmacy has given me many opportunities to travel, the latest being during 2001 where I worked at the Radcliffe Hospital in **Oxford**, England. In 2002 I will commence a **Masters degree** at Sydney University, as well as a part time Certificate in Theology, with my long-term goal being to use my skills to serve as a Christian missionary overseas.

Beatrice Teo 1993

93

After graduating in 1994 and completing a year's traineeship at St Vincent's **Hospital**, Melbourne, I went back to **Malaysia**. Almost immediately, I landed a job at a private hospital in Kuching, my hometown.

Three years later I took up a full time MSc course in Clinical and Health Service Pharmacy in **Manchester**, UK. The course provided a greater insight into the ins and outs of pharmacokinetics, a good and thorough introduction into pharmaco-economics and a lot of clinical education. At the end of the course I went into a job as a **community pharmacist**. Since then, as **Branch Manager** of a pharmacy chain in the UK, I am now quite familiar with the National Health Service (NHS). In the meantime, I continue to enjoy the vocation I have chosen, and look forward to facing all the challenges it will bring.

Stephanie Tang 1994



94

In 1995 I did my traineeship at Dallimore's Pharmacy in Malvern, Victoria. From 1996-1997 I was a Product Executive for B.Braun **Pharmaceutical** Industries, Penang, **Malaysia**. I then undertook and completed a Masters of Business Administration with Heriot-Watt University of Edinburgh, **Scotland**, by distance learning. In 1998 I was a Product Specialist for Merck, Sharpe & Dohme, Malaysia.

In September 1998, I was granted permanent residency status in Australia and returned to Melbourne. From November 1998 to September 1999 I worked at the Royal Melbourne **Hospital**, and then at St Vincent's Private Hospital until June 2000. From November 1998 until now, I have worked as a weekend pharmacist at Keate Woodgate Pharmacy, Croydon. In July 2000, I was accepted into the **Graduate Medical Course** at the University of Melbourne. I am currently in the third year of the course and will graduate in 2004. On a personal note, I tied the knot in January 2001 and was blessed with a baby boy, Isaac, early this year.

Angela Wong 1995

95

I studied pharmacy simply because I did not want to be ignorant of the medicines I was prescribed. I graduated in 1995 and then I did a traineeship in a **retail business**. It took me another two and a half years before I was fully convinced that I could make pharmacy my lifelong career.

While working as a part-time pharmacist, I went on to further studies at RMIT. I completed a **Graduate Diploma in Business Systems** and have almost finished a **Master in Business (Information Technology)**. These studies, though unrelated to pharmacy, help me to broaden my thinking, increase my interest in business, remove my computer phobia and equip me with the computer skills that are so essential today.

Gold medals – the future

Natalie Trevaskis with Professor Colin Chapman.



This year's gold medal winner is Natalie Trevaskis, who was presented with her award at the Opening of 2002 Academic Year and Presentation of Prizes Ceremony by Valda Comber, President, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian Branch).

Where will Natalie be in ten year's time?

Silver medals – the past

The silver medal kindly donated to the College by the Towl family.



Silver Medals are awarded to the top final year students in a subject. The pharmacy medal pictured has kindly been donated to the College by Douglas Hutchinson, descendant of Edward Towl, a pioneer pharmacist of the Ballarat goldfields and patriarch of a family of pharmacists who opened his first pharmacy in 1853.

Pharmacy – and the winning of medals – runs in the Towl family. Edward's son Charles gained a gold medal in the final examinations at the College in 1881, opened a pharmacy in Collins Street in the late 1890s and was elected President of the Pharmacy Board in 1913, holding that office for six years. The medal shown is that of Douglas E. Towl, who was the son of Charles, won in the subject of *Materia Medica*.

Min-Hui Lau 1996

96



After graduating with Honours in Pharmaceutical Science from the College in 1997, I went home to **Singapore** where I practiced in the largest tertiary **hospital** there, the Singapore General Hospital. However, I felt that practicing pharmacy was not my calling. I decided to take on a sales job. My first sales experience was with Roche, where I was a Product Specialist (a fancy name for a sales representative) for the anti-obesity drug, orlistat.

My present position is **Product Manager** in Abbott Laboratories. My job responsibilities revolve around all aspects of marketing an ethical product from the pre-marketing stage, through the launch phase, to the day-to-day marketing support of a team of sales representatives. I am currently **marketing** another anti-obesity drug, sibutramine. I conduct product training, take part in trade shows and congresses, deal with the media, and work closely with the sales managers to formulate and execute marketing plans. I have found my calling in marketing. It is truly rewarding.

Darlene Smith (nee Ockwell) 1997

97



I graduated from the College in 1997 then began my traineeship at the Alfred **Hospital**. During my trainee year, I was married. In May 1998, I was awarded a scholarship by the Monash University Golden Key Association. I successfully completed the Final Examination in 1998, and registered in 1998. During my traineeship at the Alfred Hospital I also worked part-time at Gelb & Ischia **community pharmacy** in Blackburn. On completion of my traineeship, I began working at Knox Private Hospital, part of the Hospital Pharmacy Services group. From January 1999 to January 2001, I provided a broad range of pharmacy services while working for this company.

In January 2000 I became accredited with the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacists. In January 2001, we moved to **Horsham**, and I accepted a position at Wimmera Health Care Group as the **Deputy Director of Pharmacy**. In March 2001, I will fill in as the Director of Pharmacy at the hospital for six months.

Joseph Nicolazzo 1998

98



Following completion of undergraduate studies at the College, I undertook a traineeship at My Chemist in Broadmeadows. I then registered as a qualified pharmacist at the end of 1999 and was employed at that pharmacy for several months. At this time, I decided that I would like to enter the world of **pharmaceutical research**.

In 2000, I commenced a postgraduate degree (Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science – Hons) working on a project that focused on the enhancement of testosterone transdermal delivery. In 2001, I embarked on a **PhD** project, which is an investigation of the delivery of drugs through the buccal mucosa and the use of various chemical agents as potential enhancers for drug delivery. I am now approaching the end of the first year of my PhD and am enjoying the challenges that it delivers. In December 2001, I presented my work on testosterone transdermal delivery at the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA) annual conference held in Melbourne.

Jaclyn Baker 2000

00



I have only been out of uni a year and a bit so there isn't a lot to tell (yet). I completed my traineeship with the Alfred **Hospital** and Bristol-Myers Squibb **pharmaceuticals** last year. It was good to do a joint traineeship because I saw a wide range of situations that will help me become ready to be a pharmacist.

I continued on at the Alfred since passing my Board exam, working on the wards. I will be rotating through other areas throughout the year – next will be drug info/HITH/**clinical trials**. I have been enjoying the break from study (five years was long enough) although I have been to the SHPA 'Seminars in Clinical Pharmacy' and some of the CPE lectures. I'm hoping to take some holidays later in the year and go overseas for a bit of an adventure.

Let us know your news. Send your news to: alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au

Alumni in profile: Dr Colin Reddrop

A distinguished graduate of the College, Dr Colin Reddrop (1971), recently returned to Australia to present the keynote speech at the CSIRO's 'Beyond the Genome' conference in February. He also returned to the Parkville campus for a tour of the new facilities with Professor Colin Chapman.



Dr Reddrop is now Vice President and Head, Respiratory and Inflammation Therapy Area, AstraZeneca Research and Development in the UK.

After qualifying as a pharmacist, he continued his studies in the USA and the UK (PhD, Brunel, London) in biochemistry and drug disposition in models of liver injury. In 1974 he joined the pharmaceutical industry in Basle, Switzerland, working for the recently merged Ciba-Giegy.

In 1980, Dr Reddrop joined Astra Pharmaceuticals in Sydney, where he served in a number of executive positions, ultimately leading the medical affairs function in Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia.

He has been an active member of the Australian PMA, the Drug Information Association and was a founding Executive of the Australian Association of Regulatory & Clinical Scientists. He has served on the boards of Astra Pharmaceuticals Ltd (UK), Loughborough University and De Montfort University, Leicester.

Dr Reddrop is married with three grown-up children and lives with his wife Janette in a village just outside Loughborough, Leicestershire. He enjoys sports, including golf, skiing, scuba diving and tennis, as well as reading, theatre and walking the family dog.

Inaugural regional dinner in Bendigo

On 21 November last year the College held the first in a series of dinners to thank preceptors and their staff who hosted pharmacy students on their placements. The dinners are also a way of keeping in touch with our regional graduates.

The Bendigo dinner was attended by 25 local pharmacists, along with Professor Colin Chapman, Professor Roger Nation, Sarah Vincent, manager of the alumni program, and Vanessa Pellat, an administrator of the placement program.

Professor Chapman spoke about the great many changes to the College in the past few years, including new staff

members, the four year pharmacy course, the introduction of the placement program and the extensive campus refurbishments. Professor Chapman introduced Professor Roger Nation, the new Chair of Pharmacy Practice and Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Professor Nation spoke of how highly the College was regarded, his plans for the department and issues regarding the future of pharmacy practice.

• For information about the placement program, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/placements/



The Neil W. Naismith Lecture



The first Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian Branch) continuing education lecture of each year, traditionally known as the State of the Nation Lecture, has been renamed the Neil W. Naismith Lecture in honour of the extensive contributions to the profession of Neil Naismith, AM (1958).

At the inaugural Neil W. Naismith lecture on 5 February 2002, Valda Comber

(1972), President of the PSA (Vic Branch) outlined Neil's extensive contribution to the PSA, the SHPA and pharmacy practice in Victoria and Australia. In addition, she noted Neil's contribution to the broader healthcare industry through his work on the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards, the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, the Victorian Drug Usage Advisory Committee and the Health Services Review

Council. Despite ill health, Neil was able to attend the lecture to thank PSA Council and members, and to express his appreciation for the honour granted by his peers.

As the first CE lecture of the year often addresses important practice issues and the broader philosophy relating to pharmacy, it is most appropriate that this should be named in Neil's honour.

John Ware OAM

Congratulations to John Ware (1950), who received an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) in this year's Australia Day Honours List.

John was a community pharmacist for over 33 years, also serving on the College Council and as a past President.

He is a past national President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and has served as a Councillor of the Victorian

Branch since 1981. He is the founding President of the Pacific-based pharmacy forum, established by the World Health Organization Western Pacific Region and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) on which he is a representative. He also serves on the Board of the National Asthma Council. John has previously received a Rural Health Week Award for outstanding

contribution to the health of the community of the Hume Region, and is a Life Governor of the Seymour & District Memorial Hospital.

John's award recognised his contributions to pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences and to the health care of the community of Seymour. It is a richly deserved public recognition of his many activities and achievements.



Photo courtesy of PharmacyNews.

Alumni cricket match

Interstate Cricket Challenge – NSW vs Victoria Sat 27 and Sun 28 April, 2002

The College joined forces with the PSA (Vic Branch) for the right to keep the Chemists' Interstate Cricket Shield in Victoria. The shield was last played for in 1934 and has been contested 19 times since 1908.

The match, a challenge from the University of Sydney Alumni Association, was played at the historic Bradman Oval at Bowral on Sunday 28 April 2002, with a pre-match dinner the night before. Guest speaker at the dinner was Jim Maxwell,

the leading and most experienced member of the ABC's cricket commentary team. A pre-match presentation was made to both teams of their souvenir Pharmacy Match Cricket caps in their State colors by Ian Craig OAM, Chair of the Bradman Foundation.

Unfortunately, Victoria lost the game and the shield now resides in NSW (temporarily, we hope!).

- For information about joining next year's team, contact Sarah Vincent on tel: 61 3 9903 9507
- See the next issue of the newsletter for a full match report.



Members of the team, their family and friends at a practice match (above) and Bradman Oval (below).



Alumni words of wisdom

As part of Orientation Week 2002, all first year students at the College were treated to a presentation by David Slade (1997, 1999), a 27 year old graduate who now manages 140 staff!

David is the College's first graduate of the Pharmacy/Commerce double degree and is now a manager in his family's business, which incorporates a community and hospital pharmacy, with services to nursing homes and eight private hospitals. David spoke of how useful the double degree had been in his career with his pharmacy qualification giving him a profession, and the commerce degree giving him the necessary business skills to be a manager. The students enjoyed hearing a real-world perspective from such a successful graduate.

What does alumni mean?

Graduating doesn't mean your connections with the College are at an end. We hope that your years of study are just the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the College.

There is no joining fee and no membership forms to fill out. If you are a past student, a retired or past staff member, or a parent of a current or past student, we are keen to stay in touch and to involve you in the life of the College.

Twice a year we will send you a newsletter with teaching and research news, continuing education developments, historical items of interest as well as future developments at the College and updates on alumni in Australia and around the world.

The College can also help you to:

- contact friends from the College
- share your news with the College community or update your details
- organise a reunion
- find information about further study at the College
- hire a room at the College for an event or function.

Please also note that we take your privacy seriously. Monash University is subject to the *Information Privacy Act 2000* (Victoria). Personal information supplied to the alumni program is only accessed by the University staff in conducting the business of the University. Staff do not give out names and addresses to other organisations or individuals, but we are always happy to pass on messages. We also do not print news about the careers or lives of alumni without permission.

- For further information about alumni activities, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/alumni

The 70s reunion

The College is organising a huge reunion for its 1970, 1971 and 1972 alumni.

The organising committee for this event is made up of graduates from this era, including Colin and Margaret Chapman (1970), Valda Comber (1972), Anne Leversha (1971, 2001), Steve Marty (1970), Dr Jennifer Marriott (1971, 2000), Pam Nieman (1971) and Bill (1970) and Helen Scott (1971).

The night will include a sumptuous dinner, dancing and tour of the new facilities at the College. If you are a 1970-72 graduate, make sure that the College has your correct address details so that we can send you an invitation to this memorable event.

VALE Nanette Green OAM



The College community was saddened by the passing of Nanette Green in January 2002.

Nanette (1955, 1981) undertook her apprenticeship at the College, and then returned to complete a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy. She was Director of Pharmacy at Wangaratta & District Base Hospital 1972-1987 and President 1996-2000. She was extremely active in the advancement of rural hospital pharmacy and continuing education for pharmacists.

Through a broad range of roles, Nanette contributed enormously to her community.

She was a Rural City of Wangaratta Commissioner 1994-97, and served as State President of Business and Professional Women, Wangaratta Historical Society President and President Wangaratta Institute of TAFE Council 1987-1996; Wangaratta Music Theatre president 1978-1983 and she established the Wangaratta Chorale in 1985.

Nanette received an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) in last year's Queen's Birthday Honours List. Her award recognised her contribution to health, education, history and women's issues.

Online drug training service to help rural Australia

There are an estimated 74,000 Australians addicted to heroin. The Victorian College of Pharmacy is helping to tackle this major health crisis by hosting Australia's first online training program to help health professionals provide drug services to regional and rural Australia.



Irvine Newton (1970), who contributed to the development of the program, in his Kensington pharmacy with Paul Loughran, Director of the College's Centre for Continuing Education.

The program was launched by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon John Thwaites, at the Bendigo Regional Arts Centre in February and is designed to train pharmacists, doctors and nurses to deliver drug substitution and withdrawal programs to illicit drug dependent people across Australia.

The College developed the program in partnership with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian Branch), Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre and the South City Clinic, with funding from the Department of Human Services.

It was developed in response to the Penington Report, which highlighted an urgent need to train more regional and rural pharmacists and doctors in how to deliver methadone services within the community.

Director of the Centre for Continuing Education at the College, Paul Loughran, said the program would go a long way towards

helping drug dependent people gain access to drug maintenance and withdrawal treatments in regional Victoria.

"Health professionals who service rural and regional communities are often hampered by a lack of resources and limited services," he said.

"Using the Internet is one way to counter the reduction in services and missed educational opportunities experienced by rural communities. Since the launch of the first online program in May last year, more than 100,000 screens have been viewed by more than 7,000 health professionals."

- The program is hosted on the College website at www.pharmace.vic.edu.au

International News



The international research edge

Two College researchers successfully obtained grants in the latest round of Funding Opportunities Research Grants from the Monash Research Fund (MRF) 2002. The MRF provides funding to support internationally competitive research in identified areas of research strength or emerging potential.

Dr Craig Rayner from the Department of Pharmacy Practice was granted \$30,000 for his project "Placental transfer and perinatal metabolism of anti-HIV protease inhibitors". This research will provide important insight into the dosing of anti-HIV drugs to prevent transmission of HIV from mother to baby.

A group of senior staff in the Department of Pharmaceutical Biology led by Professor Colin Pouton, Professor of Pharmaceutical Biology, was granted \$255,000 to be used to develop assays using mammalian cells in culture, for use in drug candidate selection. The project will generate precise data on the selectivity of drug action at biological receptors, in relation to the interests of the co-applicants (Drs Ian Coupar, David Taylor and Helen Irving) in neurotransmitters. The cell-based assays will be a valuable tool for selecting the most promising drug candidates from within a small library of compounds.

The Monash Pharmacy Practice Symposium Prato, Italy 2002 Experiential Teaching and Learning in Pharmacy 9-10 September

This symposium presents an opportunity for academics, preceptors and students to explore and share the experience of novel teaching in pharmacy around the world. Speakers from across the globe will present their experiences and share some of their insights into dynamic and flexible teaching in pharmacy.



The Symposium will take place at the magnificent Palazzo Vaj, Monash's Italian Centre, Prato, Italy (on the outskirts of glorious Florence) and is conveniently timed to start four days after the FIP Congress in Nice.

For further information about the Symposium, visit www.vcp.monash.edu.au/practice/prato



The magnificent Palazzo Vaj, the Monash Italian Centre, Prato, Italy.



Victorian College of Pharmacy
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Victoria 3052 Australia
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www.vcp.monash.edu.au

2002 Pfizer Quality Care Pharmacy of the Year competition winners

Four Victorians were among the 14 finalists in this year's Pfizer Quality Care Pharmacy of the Year competition.

Mark Feldschuh (1971) of Belvedere Park Pharmacy, Seaford, was awarded second place and Cheryl Symons (1969) from Symons Amcal Pharmacy, Wangaratta, was placed third. The finalists also included Allan McCasker (1969) of McCasker's Amcal Pharmacy, Kerang; and Alison Tolstrup (1973) of The Medicine Shoppe, Malvern.

The Quality Care Pharmacy of the Year award recognises and rewards excellence within the Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP). The award has, since its inception in 2000, developed into one of the most prestigious recognitions of pharmacy excellence on the calendar. Entrants provide details on how the QCPP has influenced the day-to-day management of their pharmacy, their staff and customer relations.

The competition is a Pfizer initiative, which has the full support of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian Institute of Pharmacy Management. With \$54,000 in prizes, consisting of \$18,000 in cash, \$36,000 in advertising plus a prestigious trophy, it was hotly contested.

Congratulations to all the Victorian finalists and their staff.



Mark Feldschuh (1971), second place winner, at his Belvedere Park pharmacy.

Alumni news

News

*Let us know your news!
Fill in the update form and
keep us informed about
your personal and career
achievements.*

Update Form

Please help to keep us – and your fellow alumni – up to date with your latest news. Fill in the update form, tear it off and send it to:

**Alumni Newsletter
Victorian College of Pharmacy
Monash University (Parkville Campus)
381 Royal Parade
Parkville Vic 3052 Australia
or fax to: 61 3 9903 9581
(confidential fax).**

Name

Home address

Postcode

Country

Business address

Postcode

Country

Telephone (H/B)

Email (H/B)

Fax (H/B)

News about yourself

Have you received any postgraduate or additional professional qualifications since graduating?

Would you like further information on ...

- Becoming involved in the Practical Experiences Program?
- The Pharmacy Management Program?
- The 1970-72 reunion?