

FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN DAVID HARRIS

Western Clinical School Awards Ceremony was held on the 12 November 2008 and we were lucky to have Dr Grace Warren as our guest speaker. Grace is an international authority on the care of neuropathic limbs, especially those due to leprosy and diabetes, and the reconstruction of hands, feet and faces with deformities that occur in or are similar to those caused by leprosy. Dr Warren built her expertise and international reputation over many years of overseas missionary service in Asia. At Grace's own admission, she didn't have a very illustrious start to her medical career and was not accepted to train as a surgeon in Sydney, particularly due to the male-dominated times in which she commenced medicine. Because of her great aptitude for surgery and in response to opportunity and largely self-taught she went on to a career that has transformed the lives of hundreds of the world's poorest people. Her efforts have been recognised internationally with numerous honours, including a Life Time of Surgery Award from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Order of Australia, the Taiwan Medal of Honour and the Star of Pakistan for humanitarianism. Grace has continued to work in regular clinics at Westmead Hospital. Oddly, and as is so often the case, her iconic stature in Asia has not received its deserved recognition at home!

Despite an untimely failure of the audiovisual equipment, Grace was able to paint a vivid picture of what could be achieved by her reconstructive surgical techniques. What shone through in her presentation was her joy in helping others, her 'can do' attitude and her ability to solve the problems of individual patients. Grace's autobiography 'Doctor Number 49' was published recently; to understand the significance of the title and to be further inspired by her lifetime of service, it can be obtained online at www.theleprosymission.org.au.

Grace's example and service for over 50 years as clinician and teacher is an inspiration for the rest of us. Hopefully



many of our WCS students will be inspired to find time in their busy careers for similar service.

John Morris was also invited to the ceremony to present some of the awards. John has been an inspirational clinician and teacher of Westmead medical students and trainee doctors since the hospital and clinical school opened thirty years ago. John is retiring, but his infectious love of practising and teaching neurology will long remain with us.

What is particularly pleasing about the award ceremony is that there are so many, and all of them deserving! These are listed in full elsewhere in the newsletter as well as some candid shots of the event.

The most prestigious award, The Dominique Clancey and Andrew Donald Memorial Award, went to Richard Atkinson. This award is particularly meaningful because it represents peer recognition of an individual who displays the qualities that are innate to our best doctors. Congratulations are also due to recipients of the academic achievement awards: Danielle Winch for Community, Phoebe Williams for Perinatal and Women's Health, Eliza Butt for Psychological Medicine, Louisa Swain for Medicine and Shaun Francis for Surgery.

It was wonderful to see that more than forty percent of our next year's final year students will be undertaking their electives overseas, and twelve of these in developing countries. We look forward to hearing about their rich exploits!

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FACULTY OF MEDICINE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING 2008 17th November 2008

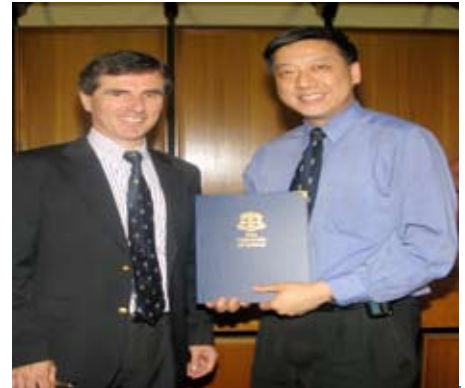
DR DANIEL LIN

Daniel has been involved in teaching with the University of Sydney for over 12 years and is currently Sub-Dean at Blacktown/Mt Drutt Hospitals and the Program Director of the CASE (Clinical Approach to Structured Examination) Program at the Western Clinical School. He has been an inspirational teacher in all four years of the USydMP volunteering to teach in almost every aspect of the course including bedside teaching, small group tutorials and problem based learning as well as in formative and summative assessments.

Daniel's commitment to teaching and learning has led him to develop the CASE program, an innovative educational program to assist Year 3 medical students in integrating patient centred learning with clinical medicine. The program is based on a number of teaching and learning approaches to suit the various types of learning styles. The program was developed in response to medical students' request for assistance in the development of good clinical skills (history taking, physical examination, diagnostic and management problem solving in preparation for the long case examination. The program not only increases student competence and confidence in long case preparation but provides the foundation for the development of clinical skills which students will carry beyond third year and well into their medical careers.

Daniel has developed a comprehensive web-based program which describes in detail all the components and resources necessary for and underlying the CASE program. This includes a comprehensive and rigorous self and group assessment of performance and competency. The program itself is undergoing continuous assessment and refinement. It has been an extremely popular and effective program at the Western Clinical School and one of the showpiece educational programs for Year 3 of the USydMP. It is being considered for use by other clinical schools with modifications to suit local circumstances and other universities have sought collaboration. Student feedback has been extremely positive and the program's excellence has also been recognized at ANZAME conferences.

In developing the program Daniel has been assisted by students, clinicians, patients and nursing ward staff at Westmead Hospital, but in particular by Karen Garlan, the former Executive Officer of the Western Clinical School, and Daniel Burn, Computer Systems Officer in the Faculty of Medicine.



Dr Daniel Lin

Other Awards

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS PRIZE

The Award objectives are to foster medical student teaching of anaesthesia, its related disciplines, and perioperative medicine; and to raise awareness of the specialty and its image among medical students and recent graduates. It is awarded to a final year student with the best overall performance in the anaesthesia module of the clinical curriculum.

Phillipa Rains (Undergraduate Prize Winner) achieved the highest mark in anaesthesia and is pictured right receiving her well deserved award.



Phillipa Rains (2008 ANZCA Undergraduate Prize in Anaesthesia)

AUSTRALIAN LEARNING AND TEACHING COUNCIL CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT LEARNING

Dr Smita Shah

Dr Shah was awarded the citation for creating an evidence-based educational program which involves medical students in community outreach, education and action and for integrating this within an inter-professional learning context.

The Hon Julia Gillard MP presented Dr Shah with her citation.

FINAL YEAR LUNCHEON

Westmead Associate, along with the Arab Bank hosted a luncheon to farewell Final Year students. It is very gratifying to see students at this stage of their journey and as you will see by the photos included here, the event was well attended and very much enjoyed.



Lisa Lee-Horn CEO Arab Bank (Westmead), Dominic Dwyer, Professor David Harris.



Sahil Mathur, Richard Atkinson, Michael Seitz, David Barrett.



Nick Lo, Rashi Kalra, Sahil Mathur, Daniel Lee, Lawrence Ong, Sukhwant Khanijaun, Julian Ng.



Louise Robinson, Yen-ni, Cara Morris



Matt Cubin, Danielle Winch, Katie McCloy, Phillipa Rains, Dr Amanda Harrison.

WCS AWARDS CEREMONY



Jeff Liang, Robert Brooks, Tyler Chang, Theresa Ly, Nyasha Gwata (pre-presentation luncheon)



Rittu Hingorani, Izam Mujir, Shanika Hewa-Gegganage (pre-presentation luncheon)



Dr Grace Warren

DR DANIEL LIN GOES TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!

On September 27th 2008, I had the great pleasure of travelling with 43 primary school students from Eastwood Primary school and 18 other adults (teachers and parents) to the USA to attend a week's intensive learning at the Huntsville Alabama NASA Space Camp for kids. I initially thought it would be a great holiday from work and an opportunity to spend some quality time with our eldest daughter Melissa. It turned out to be an amazing week quite different to what I had anticipated.

BACKGROUND

The study trip is lead by Assistant School Principal Jackie Slaviero who won an elite teacher training scholarship at the Huntsville Space Academy in 2007. Inspired by her learning in the US, Mrs Slaviero has driven the inaugural study trip that will be the start of an ongoing program for future students.



SPACE CAMP

It is located in Huntsville, Alabama. The two main factors of Space Camp are courage and teamwork. It is a program which involves many programs about aviation and Space. Space Camp's course involves a week of fun, learning and teamwork. Space Camp teaches basic Space science and history. Space cadets have access to the stimulators, museum, cafeteria and the habitats.



HISTORY

Space Camp was founded in 1982 as a camp for children using the United States space program as the basis to excite children in the areas of math and science. The idea for the camp came about as a result of a discussion between Dr. Wernher von Braun and Edward O. Buckbee. During public appearances, Buckbee has stated that the camp was the idea of Dr. von Braun who was touring the U.S. Space & Rocket Center with Buckbee in 1977 when he noticed children studying rockets and making notes. According to Buckbee, von Braun commented "We have band camp, football, cheerleading; why don't we have a science camp?"



PROGRAM

The program I attended was called Advanced Space Academy which was based on the program at the U.S. NASA Space & Rocket Center. The curriculum is designed to balance a strong emphasis on education with a spirit of fun. You spend the week living in the habitat which is an amazing building like a base space station, dress up in space training uniform and train as if you were an astronaut!

ACTIVITIES

There are many unique activities and areas of study during the program in the areas of space, aviation and robotics. The activities are conducted in small groups to allow personal interaction. Activities include-

FLIGHT SIMULATORS

The Space Camp simulators are machines that substitute the reality. In Space Camp there is a variety of simulators such as the Mars Mission. This simulator simulates being on Mars and a rollercoaster which the some people in the simulator find on Mars. Some other simulators include the MAT which stands for the Multi Axis Trainer, the 5DF chair which stands for 5 degrees of freedom which allows you to feel as if you're in space. The moonwalk allows you to feel as if you're on the moon.



AVIATION CHALLENGE

Aviation Challenge was an activity which allowed us to experience flying and landing a jet fighter plane in a simulator and well as experiencing 3Gs of gravity in the centrifuge machine.



PAMPER POLE

The Pamper Pole is a pole stuck in the ground. The participants are harnessed up and clipping into a belay system then climb the 40 foot pole then stand on the top, and the attempt is to reach the red ball by jumping 3ms hanging in the air. The activity required us to really trust the equipment, the belay crew and the instructor. Most of us had a fear of heights. There is nothing to grab but air when you are at the top of the pole. We had to rely on the sense of balance, the ability to be calm and the courage to push through the fear.

Space Camp 2008



SCUBA DIVING

Scuba diving at Space Camp took place in the Underwater Astronaut Trainer (UAT), a circular tank approximately 7 metres deep. The UAT is used to simulate neutral buoyancy, similar to that experienced by an astronaut in space.



MISSION FLIGHTS

We practiced 3 space flight missions during the week and took on various roles in the Mission Control, Space Shuttle and Space Station. Different scenarios and experiments were conducted culminating in a final Extended Mission Flight which took 6 hours.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Every year Space Camp invites famous guest speakers from NASA who have had some impact on Space history to tell their story. This year we were fortunate to meet Ed Buckbee the founder of Space Camp and Dr George Von Tiesenhausen (94 years old) one of the famous German rocket engineers who along with Werner von Braun designed and created the rockets and equipment to land the first men on the moon.



GRADUATION

At the end of the program we all graduated with our certificates, badges and space wings. It was a wonderful coming together of all the students, parents, teachers and sense of achievement.



HIGHLIGHTS

There were many highlights during the week at Space Camp. The most striking was to watch both students and adults challenging themselves to do their personal best and push themselves beyond their own expectations. Many were fearful about attempting the activities but the group and counsellors were very encouraging. With the support of the whole team, the activities were successfully completed. It reinforced the importance of teamwork and having a positive "have a go" attitude.



IMPRESSION

It started with a vision to share the experience of Space Camp with 43 children. There were many hurdles to overcome along the way but amazingly students, parents and teachers all came together to unite for a common goal. I thought it would be a nice holiday from work but boy I was wrong. All of us were challenged in many ways – physically, mentally and emotionally. When you travel overseas with 62 people you learn very quickly how to work together, communicate and depend on each other. The Adult program (Advanced Academy) was jammed pack with learning, hands on work, space mission role plays and scenarios. The friendships and experiences will last forever!



Dr Daniel Lin
Sub-Dean Blacktown Mt Druitt Hospitals
Paediatrician
Father of 4
Flight Commander

Students in Action

EXTRACURRICULAR STUDENT EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Daniel Bunker, John Morellato & George Pappas – Med 4

On Wednesday 26 November 2008, Daniel Bunker, John Morellato and George Pappas represented the Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG) as presenters at the annual (Australasian College of Emergency Medicine) ACEM scientific meeting held in New Zealand. The EMIG is the first documented group of its kind in Australia and is a student led interest group designed to deliver clinical teaching to

students outside of regular teaching hours. Their talk highlighted the benefits of student led education to address extracurricular student educational needs.

There was extremely positive feedback across the conference regarding the presentation and considerable interest in establishing similar groups at other hospitals, including in New

Zealand. Visit www.emig.org.au for further information.

This opportunity was sponsored by the Westmead Association.

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST?

There are several ways to spend the precious two weeks following the third year barrier. Having caught "Motorcycle Madness" some 6 months before (a very serious disease) I set my sights on a six and a half thousand kilometer journey through the scorching Simpson Desert to the blistering heart of Central Australia. I emailed everyone I knew with an enticing PowerPoint presentation (full of lies of nice scenery and the peaceful outback) and gauged the response to my call to arms. All told seven brothers in arms took up the call to do battle with the desert.

Macca our chief mechanic, who drives the world's biggest dozer shifting mountains in the Pilbara. Rus the enigmatic bush nurse from Arnhem Land. Salvo, Harry and Stu the three IT gurus from Melbourne who's bikes were fitted with all the latest trimmings from GPS to a fully functioning kitchen sink. Adam the engineer met us in Birdsville. He was a voice of reason in a group when all about him were prone to losing theirs.

We set off at six in the morning the day after the barrier, well hydrated from the night before, into the Wild West to meet the lads from Melbourne at Broken Hill. Having no time to lose on desert art and other fine things we made our final oil and tyre changes before leaving the bitumen behind.

We set off up the Dog Fence dividing NSW and SA following our GPS and keen sense of smell. Wary to be on the lookout for the infamous Boundary Riders, the hard outback men and agents of the state, who's sworn duty since colonial times it has been to keep dingoes on one side of the country and more recently keep motorbike riders completely away from it. They are quick with a shot gun (so we're told), so a quick trip through was essential. Having evaded the Riders, we headed northwest through Innamincka and up the legendary Bourke and Wills Track...hoping we would fare better than those two hapless souls.

All was as well as could be under a baking Central Australian sun until Carnage came to call on the gang. Harry had dismounted his bike at

incredible speed along a mean little goat track between Nowhere and Dunno. He felt the full force of his hurtling motorcycle pulverize him into the rocks of this harsh lunar landscape. The guy was bleeding from the head, stunned and couldn't quite feel his arms. All hands were on deck to see that this barren no-man's land should not be his final resting place. Rus and I watched him attentively to see if he would 'come good' and save for the 'wink test' we performed every neuro-exam that came to mind while we all waited, hoped and baked in the merciless desert sun. An ambulance was surely our first preference but being without a phone and truly off the map, there is absolutely no passing traffic to flag down out here.

We limped on to Birdsville by nightfall with our wounded comrade. He was worse for wear by the time we arrived so the RFDS was called in and Harry was loaded onto the plane, off to clear his brain-basket and c-spine.

Having rested for a day to make repairs and contemplate the tenuousness of mortality, we saddled up with the 40 liters of fuel and all the other provisions we would need for the treacherous crossing of the Simpson itself. Some 1100 sand dunes span over 540 km, constituting some of the hottest most inhospitable landscape known to mankind, with not so much as a gecko as a sign of life. The first dune to be met was "Big Red" who, being a 40 meter high wall of

sand claimed two more of our fellows. Salvo's ribs were broken after the desert tossed his bike back at him and hit him rather hard. Stu wrestled his bike as hard as he could but it was a case of one step forward and three steps back and alas, he surrendered a broken man. As the Melbourne Boys turned back for greener pastures and medical attention, we that remained ventured on into Satan's Sandpit. Each dune had some lesson to impart; constantly we were bucked off our bikes only to be ordered to dig the stead out of the sand, wheel right back to the bottom and attempt launching ourselves up once more. The Dunes of The Simpson will take everything you have and then some like a cruel slave driver with cat o' nine tails in hand.

We eventually made it though. Bashed, broken, out of fuel and out of water but smiling from ear to ear through gaping crapped lips, we rallied our weak bodies and ventured on to Alice Springs to bask in our triumph, pausing of course to remember our fallen. The ride home circumvented the Simpson through the beautiful Painted Desert along the Oodnadatta Track a rough corrugated road stretching on for a thousand miles. The remaining lads were quite saddle-sore from the long days on this new fancy road.

For the next adventure we have our eyes set on the croc-infested mangroves of the Cape York Peninsula. This time we will raise some money for a good cause. All are welcome!



Taking in the view

RALLYING FOR PLACES

Westmead students and doctors were prominent at a rally in November to call attention to the issue of clinical training places for the expanded graduating cohort in 2012.

In 2012, our current Stage 1 students will graduate alongside the first group from the newer medical schools, putting pressure on teaching and training places. 1028 new doctors will be in need of teaching and a place on the training programs, compared to 553 in 2007.

Speakers at the rally emphasised that in spite of the NSW Government being aware of this issue, very little has been done to prepare for the strain that this will place on hospital budgets, teaching programs and senior clinicians who provide much of the teaching without payment. The participants felt that the urgency of the situation had been greatly underestimated.

In the photograph is Dr Katherine Jeffery, Chair of the AMA (NSW) Doctors in Training Committee (front row left) and Genevieve Peek, Community Liaison Officer for the Australian Medical Student's Association.

Please help us keep this important issue on the government's agenda.



WCS Award Ceremony Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients.

WCS Academic Achievement

Danielle Winch - Community
Phoebe Williams - Perinatal & Women's Health
Eliza Butt - Psychological Medicine
Louisa Swain - Medicine
Shaun Francis - Surgery

Dominique Clancey and Andrew Donald Memorial

Richard Atkinson

ED Director's Prize

George Pappas
Daniel Bunker

Scholarship Recipients

Clarendon Scholarship – Oxford University 2009 Masters in Global Health Science

Phoebe Williams

Student Elective Scholarships in Indigenous Health or Developing Countries

Tyler Chan
Shaun Francis
Pavan Judge
Ainslee Maddock
Xavier Moar
Rajneel Prasad
Sarah Simon
Sara Wahlroos
Rebecca Koncz

Hoc Mai Scholarship

Theresa Ly
Julie Nguyen
Khanh Nguyen

ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS & TITLES

JUNE TO DECEMBER 2008

CSL Clinical Senior Lecturer
 CA Clinical Associate
 CL Clinical Lecturer
 CAP Clinical Associate Professor
 PF Postdoctoral Fellow

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|------------|
| Gordon Dandie | CL | 7/10/2008 |
| Jones-Caballero Maria | CL | 7/10/2008 |
| Gunja Naren | CL | 20/10/2008 |
| Reppas Napoleon | CL | 20/10/2008 |
| Lowe Penelope | CL | 7/11/2008 |
| Arrage Naim | CSL | 13/11/2008 |
| Arunanthy Shalini | CSL | 27/10/2008 |
| Clarke Simon | CAP | 27/10/2008 |
| Lin Ming-Wei | CL | 19/11/2008 |
| Jammal Walid | CL | 3/12/2008 |

GENEROUS SANTA



Santa came early to Amanda Burke's (Executive Officer) family, delivering baby Nicholas William on December 1st. Nicholas is the first grandchild and will no doubt bring the family much joy as well as keeping them on their toes.



Western Clinical School
WESTMEAD

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WCS Staff at Work

Dr Hua Chang leaves the School on January 27th after successfully completing her fellowship year with the clinical school. Dr. Chang, our teaching fellow, will be leaving us to continue her training in Emergency Medicine. Her enthusiasm, dedication and innovative teaching will be dearly missed. We wish her all the best in her future endeavour.

Angela Wallace (Administrative Support) spends most of her working life at Blacktown but has been with WCS on Wednesdays for a short time. Angela now joins us on Thursday and Friday as of February 5th. Angela will support Izam Mujir mostly but with Angela's 'can do' attitude I'm sure you will notice her presence in your interactions with WCS.

Dr Fernella Gardiner and Dr Henry Swan will return to the WCS family on January 16th as well respected colleagues who take care of the specimen collection in the John Stephenson Museum. They will be in-house on Fridays and spend their time in the company of their beloved pots in the JS Museum. We most warmly welcome them back and thank them for their generosity in volunteering time to a valuable resource of the School.

WCS Staff at Play

SILVER JUBILEE

Margaret Fernandes (Education Support – Med 1 & 2) celebrated 25 years of marriage on December 17th. Margaret and her husband married in Bombay, immigrating to Australia in 1999 and have raised their family in Blacktown. Although Margaret is a relatively new member of the WCS, joining the team in 29 January 2008, she quickly established herself as a much valued colleague. We congratulate her on celebrating a very significant event in the life of her family.



Margaret and Family.

GUESS WHO?

Some of the staff at Western lead quite exciting and adventurous lives! Dr Amanda Harrison is captured here enjoying a spot of caving on a recent sojourn.



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