Just as pharmacists must constantly keep pace with new technologies and methodologies, so too must the schools that train them, and with that in mind, the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Pharmacy will refurbish the iconic Dispensing Lab into a state-of-the-art teaching space, reaffirming the Faculty as a world-leading teaching institution.
Hello once again and welcome to the 2013 mid-year edition of FIAT MIST. It is hard to believe that the middle of the year has arrived so fast, but that is a sign of how busy and productive these past few months have been for the Faculty.

In April the Faculty of Pharmacy Foundation held its AGM at which all the current Councillors were confirmed for an additional term of office. In addition we were very fortunate to welcome two prominent community pharmacy alumni to the Council. Mr Gerard Stevens AM and Mr Niels Bowen, well known to many of you, have agreed to accept their nominations to assist in the activities of our Foundation. I am very grateful for the hard work of all our Foundation Councillors in assisting with the philanthropic effort of the Faculty.

In early May I attended the annual Golden Graduates luncheon in the Great Hall along with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Michael Spence, the Chancellor Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM and a wonderful assembly of senior Sydney alumni. I was pleased to see Pharmacy so well-represented at the lunch with four tables.

It was an excellent event and it was my pleasure to connect with our cherished alumni community. Particularly pleasing for me was to be able to provide an opportunity for a group photo (see right).

Recently, several new staff have joined the Faculty. We welcome Associate Professor Veysel Kayser and Dr Carl Schneider to our academic ranks in the areas of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Practice respectively. Professor Kayser’s work in the area of vaccine characterisation will bolster our Pharmaceutical Sciences profile while Dr Schneider who is a BPharm graduate of the Faculty will combine his prior nursing and recent academic experience from the UK to give our Pharmacy students a unique and holistic exposure to healthcare professional roles.

I would also like to congratulate Dr Claire O’Reilly on her recent continuing appointment as lecturer; Claire has been in the Faculty in fixed term roles and I am pleased she has now secured a more permanent position. Dr Danijela Gnjidic has also been appointed to a continuing lectureship in the Faculty while also holding a NHMRC Early Career Research Fellowship. Danijela’s research focuses on clinical studies in older people, pharmacoepidemiology and analysis of large linked databases. Dr Sarah Cui joins us as the Faculty’s Laboratory and Research Services Manager, overseeing our teaching and research facilities and infrastructure. We have also completed interviews for the Professor of Medicines Use and Health Outcomes which attracted an international pool of applicants. I will be in a position to provide more details on this recruitment in the next several months as the appointment process for this Chair concludes. We are also currently advertising for the Chair of Pharmacogenomics, or Personalised Medicine, with a closing date of end of July.

Finally, we bid farewell to the legendary Old Dispensing Laboratory, which for many decades has become famous among our graduates. The last classes were held there at the end of Semester One, and work will soon commence on renovating the space into a new, state-of-the-art teaching laboratory. This lab has always been a charming feature of our Faculty building and is no doubt the setting of many fond memories for many graduates and alumni. However, it is an exciting opportunity for the Faculty to modernise the facility and provide an optimal teaching experience for our students, keeping pace with many rapid innovations in technology.

As you can see many positive things have been happening in the Faculty this year and I am grateful to our vibrant alumni community for the many Faculty successes. I wish you all the best for the coming winter months, and look forward to seeing many of you at future alumni and other University events.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan
Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy
The prestigious honour awards individuals who demonstrate leadership and make a significant contribution to the field of pharmacy practice research. The award is recognition of Associate Professor Aslani’s international reputation as an expert in her fields of research, consumer medicine information (CMI), and adherence to therapy.

A current holder of the prestigious University of Sydney Thompson Fellowship, Associate Professor Aslani is conducting research to develop and evaluate usable patient medicine information documents to meet consumer needs, and ensure optimal delivery by healthcare professionals.

Her research in CMI has in recent years attracted several significant grants and fostered a number of collaborations with researchers from the United States and Europe, as well as with other Australian universities. “It is a great honour to receive this award and to be recognised for the quality and significance of the research that I have done and continue to do so in the area of medicine information and adherence,” said Associate Professor Aslani. “I believe the award is not only a recognition of the work that I do, but also that of the research teams I am a part of, and most importantly the students who I have worked with in the last 14 years.”

Chair of the Pharmacy Research UK Board of Trustees, Professor Anthony Smith said Associate Professor Aslani was a most deserving recipient of the award. “Her research focus shows an ambition to improve healthcare for the benefit of patients which is at the heart of our aspirations for Pharmacy Research UK,” said Professor Smith. “It is important to build relationships with international colleagues to promote the spread of knowledge and engage in dialogue about shared interests.”

Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Professor Iqbal Ramzan also commended her accomplishment. “On behalf of the Faculty, I congratulate Parisa on her great achievement. This award is due recognition for the outstanding work she has performed here,” said Professor Ramzan. “Parisa demonstrates a diligent and dynamic approach to her research, which is not only evidenced by her achievements, but also the influence and benefits her work will yield for the pharmaceutical industry, consumers, health practitioners and policy makers in Australia and other countries.”

The Pharmacy Research UK conference will be held in Birmingham, UK on 8 and 9 September. Associate Professor Aslani’s lecture will present the ‘story’ of CMI, with specific emphasis on recent research within Australia and collaborations with researchers at the Universities of Leeds and York.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

I’d like to congratulate our Alumni Award winners for 2013, Ms Nina Huynh (BPharm 2006) and Mr Paul Sinclair (BPharm 1981)! It is inspiring to hear of the endeavours of pharmacy alumni – their contributions to the profession and the community is enormous and it is fantastic that we have this mechanism for recognition. Nominations for the Alumni Awards in 2014 open early next year, so start thinking about who you would like to recognise and contact the Alumni Office if you would like some assistance with completing the nomination form.

Remember those good old days at uni? We’d love you to share some of your old university photos with a pithy caption, and the best ones will be included in the next issue of FIAT MIST. Only one rule – keep it clean and fun! Photos can be emailed to pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au.

I look forward to seeing you at the next alumni event.

Lachlan Rose | President

SUPA UPDATE

The Sydney University Pharmacy Association (SUPA), in conjunction with the Faculty of Pharmacy held a first ever Pharmacy Expo on Friday 3 May at the exclusive MacLaurin Hall. There were over 25 stalls from leading pharmacy companies, organisations and professional bodies from all aspects of pharmacy – community, industry and hospital. It was a great opportunity to network with potential future employers, and for students to kick start their career in pharmacy!

There were clinical education talks from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Australian College of Pharmacy. Stallholders signed up hundreds of students who, in turn, reaped the benefits, sampling all that was on offer from the multitude of industry bodies.

The University of Sydney finals for the Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY) was also held. Congratulations to the winner, Andrew Allchin, who will go onto the NSW finals.

This was the 2012–2013 Committee’s final major event for their term so it was a great way to end with such a successful event. The response from both the students and stallholders was highly positive with both parties finding the experience highly exhilarating. We hope that the Expo will be an annual event in the future.

Elizabeth Kim | President
2012 – 2013
THE NEW JAMES MILLNER PHD SCHOLARSHIP

Many of us would like to leave a legacy and for it to somehow have a lasting, positive impact on peoples’ lives. One of our alumni has done just that.

One of the University of Sydney alumni, an anonymous donor, has generously established a new scholarship, in perpetuity, for PhD students at the Faculty of Pharmacy. In recognition of this transformational gift, the Dean, Professor Iqbal Ramzan, was delighted to offer for this new scholarship to be named in honour of one of our eminent Pharmacy alumni, Mr James Millner AM, Chairman of the Washington H. Soul Pattinsons Pty Ltd group for some 30 years.

This leadership gift has provided funds for the James Millner PhD Scholarship in Pharmacy to be awarded to one promising PhD scholar, every three (or three and a half) years. The recipient will be selected for their academic excellence and have committed to pursuing a PhD degree by research in the area of Pharmacy (Medicines Use and Health Outcomes) at the Faculty of Pharmacy.

The fact that this is an endowed scholarship, established in perpetuity, means it will give many generations of talented scholars the opportunity to undertake further studies and research, no matter what their background or financial circumstance. It will also ensure the name and legacy of this distinguished pharmacy leader is not forgotten.

“The Faculty of Pharmacy thanks the Millner family for sharing and endorsing our vision through this wonderful gift,” said Professor Iqbal Ramzan. “The pivotal role of scholarships is to enable students to attend University where they might otherwise not be able to do so. Scholarships enable students the freedom to discover and dedicate their efforts to pursuing excellence in learning and research.”

The Millner family join an esteemed list of donors who have established scholarships for the Faculty of Pharmacy, including Mr Ross Brown AM RFD ED, Mr William H and Ms Elizabeth M Deane and Ms Elizabeth Wunsch. For many years their gifts have attracted and supported the most academically gifted students with a passion for the pharmacy profession and the potential for leadership.

“We are grateful for the generosity of these donors because they have greatly enriched the Faculty by supporting excellent students and specific areas of research in pharmacy,” said Professor Ramzan. “This extra funding, provided by donations for unencumbered gifts, is needed because existing University funds are primarily pre-allocated, so extra funds enable students and staff of the University greater academic freedom – to pursue blue sky research and take larger risks, which invariably lead to higher rewards. Our many research successes and student achievements over the years were assisted by scholarships; such gifts truly embody our heritage of academic excellence, opportunity and community. I would like to thank all of our fantastic alumni who have contributed in this way; it is what keeps Sydney so high on the global scale of research and academic leadership.”

The University always seeks to recognise donors who make a significant impact on the development of the University. Principal donors who may wish to fully support a scholarship, can request a name to honour a family member, friend or company. Please do not hesitate to contact the Faculty’s Development Office to commence a confidential conversation of what it is that would be a meaningful gift for you and your family. Leaving a legacy which helps others in so many ways.

2013 FACULTY ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

The Faculty warmly congratulates our alumni for their excellent achievements and valuable community service.

Paul Sinclair (BPharm 1981) – Alumni Award for Achievement

Paul is a well-known and respected community pharmacist who holds positions on several industry boards including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacists and the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

Nina Huynh (BPharm 2006) – Young Alumni Award for Achievement

Nina is a young Pharmacy Manager, popular with both staff and clients, and thoroughly committed to the quality use of medicines. Altruistic and patient-oriented, she is an inspiration to her staff and general community.
The new-look lab will feature a new configuration of benches to comfortably accommodate a larger class of students (~60). The most significant improvement will see new computers fitted to the benches, one for each student.

The computers will be linked via a local network allowing tutors greater interaction with students, and will have up-to-date dispensing software installed.

The computers will allow students to view demonstrations at their station and to also access the software they need, without having to move around the lab. There will also be important upgrades related to work, health and safety (WHS), including clean-up stations and improved student flow.

In redesigning the lab, the architects have aimed to retain some of the historic charm. The capacious ceiling rafters will remain, as well as the gabled roofline and the heritage windows. Adorning the lab will be special cabinets displaying traditional bottles and containers from the past as a nod to the profession’s rich history and tradition.

The new lab is scheduled to be completed and ready for the commencement of classes in March 2014. The Faculty of Pharmacy will offer the opportunity for naming rights for the new facility to a donor willing to assist with this very important project in the ongoing development of the Faculty.

If you are interested in learning more about the lab refurbishment project and the rare opportunity to have your name bestowed on this major teaching space, please contact:

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Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy
T +61 2 9351 2831
E pharmacy.dean@sydney.edu.au
QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS FOR PHARMACY ALUMNI

Congratulations to the three University of Sydney Pharmacy alumni recognised in the 2013 Queen’s Birthday Honour List.

Mr Richard Owens AM (Materia Medica-Pharmacol), awarded for valued service to the community, particularly in the Hunter region.

Mr Gerard Stevens AM (BPharm 1968), awarded for valued service to the pharmaceutical industry, and to community health.

Dr Lynn Weekes AM (BPharm 1982), awarded for valued service to community health through the promotion of quality use of medicines.

It is thoroughly rewarding for the Faculty, and the University, to see its alumni so honourably and publicly recognised for outstanding achievements in the community.

FUTURE ALUMNI PROGRAM

Fun, Fare and Future Alumni is a program connecting new international students with alumni. Gatherings hosted by alumni encourage students to foster new friendships and share experiences. For more information, email us at alumni.projects@sydney.edu.au.

SAM TRAVEL PHOTO COMPETITION

The Sydney Alumni Magazine has a proud tradition of sharing the amazing stories of our alumni, students, staff and donors. This year we are pleased to launch our first ever travel photography competition, aimed at sharing experiences and travels with each other.

So whether you’re a seasoned professional, or simply a happy snapper, we want your submission and the story behind your image. There are some great prizes on offer for the winning entries.

Photographs can be from anywhere in the world, and must have been taken after 1 March 2011.

View the top 40 photos of the month so far, and vote for which you think should go in the running for the People’s Choice Award.

Submit your photo and vote online: sydney.edu.au/alumni/photo-comp
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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