Congratulations are extended to Professor Steve Simpson and Emeritus Professor Ian Hume who were both elected to the Australian Academy of Sciences. Election to the Academy is one of the highest accolades for an Australian scientist, not least because it is an election to an elite establishment by peers.

I would like to show my appreciation to everyone who made the Inaugural Allen Keast Lecture and Workshop Weekend so successful, especially the postgraduate students. Professor Andrew Austin, an alumnus of the School, and currently Professor at the University of Adelaide, presented a fascinating lecture that included a profile of Allen Keast. He then accompanied the postgraduate students to Warrah for a weekend of mentoring, reflection and fun. A good time was had by all. I invite all readers to make nominations for next year’s Allen Keast Lecture.

Finally, I would like to announce that Professor Francis Ratnieks, Laboratory of Apiculture & Social Insects, Department of Animal & Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield, UK, has been selected as the inaugural Murray Visiting Fellow. Professor Ratnieks will be here sometime in the last half of 2007, when he will present a public lecture, a School seminar and be involved with other School activities.

Every year the Australian Academy of Science hosts Science at the Shine Dome. About fifteen new Fellows are inducted, awards are given out, and the annual general meeting and dinner occur. They also invite around forty early career researchers (ECRs) from around the country to watch and mingle with the luminaries, and to attend a workshop. A similar number of science teachers are invited. The Faculty of Science and the School very kindly sent me to participate this year.

The weather in Canberra was glorious, and I was feeling no pain as I approached the striking dome. After a 30 minute talk by a medal-winner, entitled What excites statisticians today?, it was time for each of the new Fellows to sum up their career achievements in 12 minutes. There were talks on a wide range of subjects, from the use of ionic liquids for “green chemistry”, to nanobionics, to heart disease prevention. Our own Steve Simpson’s talk on Paintbrushes, cannibal crickets and obesity was very well received, and generated more laughs and gasps than all the other talks combined. Unfortunately, many of the talks were poorly presented, not doing justice to the presumably high quality of the science. Overall, it was inspiring to see the impact the research done by the new Fellows has had on society.

That evening the youngsters assembled to eat, drink and hear about what the Academy has to offer. Indeed it has many programs, fellowships and awards that should be investigated by all ECRs. There is much valuable scientific information and history available at the AAS website. Philip Kuchel from MMB, who is currently the secretary of the Academy, presented a slide show about a trip to the annual Nobel Laureate bash in Bavaria. The Academy pays for a few lucky young Aussie researchers to go each year.

The evening was spent talking, and drinking, with the other ECRs about their situations, and to trade advice. The pubs in Canberra do stay open late - if you know where to look!

The next morning medals for various disciplines were given out. In the afternoon, whilst the Fellows had their AGM, there were two workshops for ECRs: one on how to interact successfully with the media, and another on cognitive illusions. Both were excellent. That evening we attended a formal dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament House, with an address by the Governor General, Major General Jeffery. He was very supportive of science, from the teaching of it at a young age, through to the importance of both pure and applied scientific research. On the final day there was a very stimulating symposium on the evolution of higher cognition in animals, featuring a plenary lecture by Sir Patrick Bateson. Aussies are making a good contribution to this area. Needless to say, I recommend Science at the Shine Dome to all ECRs.
AUTUMN 2007

Mike Thompson

The School is going forward at an ever increasing pace, particularly with research. By the end of May, we will have 40 post-doctoral research staff in the School, which adds to our already vibrant intellectual environment. I extend my warm welcome to all new post-doctoral staff and research students. Our success with Post doctoral Fellows reflects our increasing success with grant income. Income from grants has increased exponentially since about 2002 (Fig. 1). Our challenge this year is to ensure that our grant success continues to rise.

Success with recruiting staff has placed pressure on space. As a result, we have embarked on a range of developments, the largest of which is refurbishment of the Badham Labs, together with our colleagues in the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. It will result in movement of some laboratory teaching from the Macleay Building to enable Stephen Hales to be developed as a series of offices for staff and students. We will also be redeveloping the old photography suite as a dedicated preparation area for the teaching support staff.

Figure 1. Total research and scholarship income for the School over the last eight years, and how that money has been used.

NEW INITIATIVES

Planning for Campus 2025, an ambitious plan for developments on campus, is continuing. Part of the plan is the new Biomedical Precinct, which has been discussed in the media. The current plan is that the Schools of Biological Sciences and Molecular and Microbial Biosciences will be incorporated into the development, but the details have not been worked out yet.

The good news in Science is that the number of enrolled honours students has hit an all-time high again in 2007. An increase in students last year led to an increase in competition for postgraduate scholarships, but there are serious moves afoot to increase the number of scholarships available, many of which will be co-funded, and to change the way that scholarships are allocated. The School is positioning itself to take advantage of these initiatives, although much of the impetus will need to come from individual academics.

Preparations for the University’s response to the Research Quality Framework are continuing. The internal panel chairs have been appointed, with Professor Steve Simpson being appointed Chair of the Biology Panel. The School is as prepared for the RQF as it possibly can be at this stage of the process.

Mike Thompson

Biology News is produced 4 times a year and is the official newsletter of the School of Biological Sciences (incorporating Botany & Zoology) at the University of Sydney.

You can contact the editors, Adam Selinger & Elizabeth May, at: news@bio.usyd.edu.au
SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSOR CHRIS DICKMAN

After 45 million years of evolution in splendid isolation, Australia’s land animals are highly diverse and unique. Chris Dickman has spent much of the past 30 years researching the ecology of Australia’s native fauna, especially the continent’s mammals. Australia has the world’s worst extinction rate for mammals, and much of Chris’ effort has been directed at identifying the causes of loss and finding solutions to conserve what is left of the dwindling fauna. He has spearheaded one of the largest and longest-running research programs on the ecology of Australia’s arid regions: the habitats that cover 70% of the continent and where there has been the most acute loss of mammal species since European settlement.

Chris’ work has shattered the long-cherished notion that the mammals of the world’s deserts converge on a small range of standard forms: small, seed-eating rodents that hoard food in tiny home ranges and ride out the tough periods of drought, or large herbivores that carry their food reserves with them. Instead, Chris has described the world’s richest faunas of insect-eating mammals and discovered many unique features: movements exceeding 14 km that allow animals to escape drought-stricken sites, no hint of food hoarding, and astonishing dietary and social flexibility. Surprisingly, too, positive interactions seem to structure the vertebrate communities: small marsupials depend on the burrows constructed by scorpions, spiders, dragons and other desert denizens, and are 2-3 times more diverse in the presence of a larger predatory marsupial, the mulgara. This is a ‘keystone’ effect, and one that is highly unusual in terrestrial systems. Chris’ work has also shown the importance of climal effects such as flood, drought and fire in structuring vertebrate communities.

His research findings and expertise have often been converted into real-world action. Some of these outcomes include the establishment of Ethabuka and Cravens Peak Reserves, which together form the largest non-government conservation re-

region in Queensland, and the framework that underpins Australia’s approach to managing the terrible impacts of feral cats.

The desert research program is one of the largest in the School, and involves active collaborations among faculty colleagues and fellow desert aficionados: Glenda Wardle and Mike Letnic, desert veterans Bobby Tamayo and Aaron Greenville, and more than 20 postgraduate and honours students over the years.

Chris’ research has influenced wildlife and conservation agencies both in Australia and abroad. He chaired the NSW Scientific Committee for the first seven years of its operation, and was until last year Chair of a UN-sponsored international committee ranking threatened marsupials.

Chris has also lent his expertise to advise on rodent control in SE Asia and pest management in Europe, as well as producing seminal reports on desert biology, foxes and other threats to biodiversity.

Chris Dickman is passionate about conservation and research leading to sustainable solutions to the management of native habitats. His work is recognised world-wide and has been influential in shaping ecological policies and practices.

UNISERVE SCIENCE

Hi, I’m Alexandra Hugman and I have just been appointed as the new Director of UniServe Science. UniServe Science was set up in 1994 with Federal Government funding as a clearing-house for information about new technologies in tertiary science teaching. Since that time it has changed its focus and currently it is funded by the University of Sydney through the Faculty of Science to expand its activities to better serve its clients. UniServe Science now has three main activities:

1. Supporting teaching in the Faculties of the Sciences at the University of Sydney with staff development activities for tutors, demonstrators and educational researchers.
2. Supporting tertiary science teaching nationally, through refereed publications (journal CAL-laborate), and an annual conference (with refereed proceedings).
3. Serving NSW Schools with a wide range of teaching resources and activities for K-12 science teachers.

Further information is available at http://science.uniserve.edu.au


The National UniServe Conference is a three day event held annually at The University of Sydney. Day 1 enables discipline groups to meet and share issues of current importance. Days 2 & 3 provide a platform for presenting and developing high-quality research in tertiary science teaching and learning.

Keynote speaker at the Symposium this year is Prof JHF Meyer (Erik) from Durham University in the United Kingdom. Prof Mayer has recently developed, with Ray Land, the conceptual framework of threshold concepts: a framework that provides a new lens through which to focus on critical aspects of variation in student learning and the acquisition of disciplinary-specific ways of thinking, reasoning and explanation.

EDITORIAL

A new name, an improved look and an expanded audience - it has been changes all round since we relaunched the School's newsletter back in March 07. We received great feedback from many of our readers and will be putting in place some of your suggestions.

Why the name change? This was simply because our readership has expanded to many of our friends and colleagues outside the School, as well as our Alumni, who may not be familiar with our name, and abbreviations. Thus Biology News was seen to be all inclusive and remind readers of our historical beginnings as distinct departments of Botany and Zoology.

Your editors have mastered the mysteries of desk-top publishing to bring you a higher-quality newsletter and will continue to develop and improve the look, feel and usefulness of your newsletter.

This issue sees a new section, titled Outreach, which features some of the School’s community engagement activities such as Degree-in-a-Day, Gifted & Talented Discovery Days and Kickstart Biology.

We also changed our issue dates to coincide with the Sydney Alumni Magazine. From this issue forward Biology News will also come as a lift-out in the magazine, thus reaching over 4000 Sydney University biology alumni. A big welcome to you all and we look forward to getting to know many of you through this newsletter.

We now welcome you to your Autumn edition of Biology News and look forward to your further contributions and feedback. You can now contact us at news@bio.usyd.edu.au and review past issues at www.bio.usyd.edu.au/Newslett/frontpage.htm

WHO’S NEW

Dr Ashley Ward, BSc PhD Leeds Senior Research Fellow.

Ashley took up duties on 26 March 2007 as University of Sydney Senior Research Fellow. He is located in the Centre for Research on Ecological Impacts of Coastal Cities.

Mr Karl Hassan took up duties as Level A Research only Academic (NH&MRC-Brown) on 2 April (to 31 December 2007)

Ms Angela Ho took up duties as Level A Research only Academic (ARC-Day) on 17 April 2007 (for 12 months).

Dr Wei-Guo Du took up duties as University of Sydney Senior International. Research Fellow (with Professor Shine) on 19 April 2007

Drs Deborah Barton and Rama Heidari took up duties as Postdoctoral Fellows on 1 May 2007 and Dr Michael Watts will commence as Postdoctoral Fellow on 14 May.

Mr Matthew Austin took up duties as Laboratory Assistant (FYB) on 19 March 2007.

Ms Kathy Kuzmanovic took up duties as Multimedia Courseware Developer, fixed-term, funded by Dr McGee’s Carrick grant on 29 March 2007.

Mr Pedro Telleria Teixeira resigned on 30 March 2007 as Administrative Assistant (First Year Biology) to take up a fixed-term appointment on 2 April 2007 as Administrative Officer (Simpson/Pile) (to 31 December 2009).

Alexandra Hugman has been appointed as the new Director of UniServe Science. Alex has been a science coordinator and physics teacher in the Australian secondary sector for the past 10 years, most recently being science coordinator at Ravenswood School for Girls in NSW. She has a broader background in Further Education colleges in the UK and was instrumental in establishing science and engineering courses for women. Alex has also undertaken postgraduate studies in the areas of education management, flexible learning and gender issues.

HONORARY APPOINTMENTS APPROVED BY THE DEAN
Dr Matthew Pye (nominated by Dr Henwood via the DEERG research group)

HATCHES, MATCHES & DISPATCHES

Compiled by Jo Walker

Hatches

Bobby Tamayo from Chris Dickman’s lab in A08 had a little boy Cooper on 13/3/07. (Vital statistics: 3.78kg; 52cm)

Matches

Julia Jones married Chris Baker in Everglades Gardens in Leura on 14/10/06.

Feedback

Congrats on the new look newsletter, it looks great. Dieter (Hochuli)

Good newsletter, nice to see it back. Adele (Haythornthwaite)

Terrific newsletter - well done. Maryp (Peat)

Correction: last Issue’s obit on Ilma Brewer should have been attributed to the SMH.
DISPATCHES

Dan Warner

Dan has just finished up a PhD with Rick Shine on Temperature-dependent sex determination in Jackie lizards. Dan is heading back to USA to a postdoc in Iowa State University on Temperature dependent sex determination in turtles with a well-deserved holiday on the way home!

Julie Lim

Julie is leaving us after four years as a research assistant for Ben Oldroyd in the Bee Lab. Julie is heading up to Brisbane to start a new chapter in her life. Julie has been a pillar of support to postdocs, staff, and several cohorts of honours and postgrad students. To say the least, she will be surely missed. Good luck Julie!

Melissa Brown

After 14 years of working as a Postdoc with Professor Ron Skurray, Melissa is now heading to Flinders University to take up a Lectureship and will also be researching antibiotic resistance.

Tanya Golubchik

Former PhD student with Bruce Lyon, currently doing a Postdoc with Lars Jermin. Heading to Oxford University to work on Pneumoccus vaccine escape strains.

Errin Johnson

Errin recently finished her PhD with Robyn Overall and has since worked as a research assistant with Frank Seebacher. She left us in late February….after a fabulous Karaoke night out….to take up a postdoc in “tropical” northern Sweden.

TEA WITH MIKE

Mike Thompson held one of his regular Head’s Morning Teas on Wednesday 2nd May in Macleay. This was a well-attended event with some 40 staff mixing and mingling.

In brief, some of the information announced:

- A new high-level finance person has been recruited to work across faculties.
- Welcome to the School, Alexandra Hugman, the new Director of Uniserve.
- A new process has been established regarding eligibility for scholarships.
- Our swift recovery from our server crash the previous week.
- New painting being completed in A08.
- No news regarding renovations to School buildings; however a likely Christmas start for Badham labs.
- Mike attended the G8 biology meeting (representatives of 8 university biology schools) and found issues and opportunities consistent across the sector.
- At a recent board meeting suggestion was again raised about proposed MMB and SoBS merger (also Ag). Staff were asked to discuss this idea amongst themselves to determine what might best suit the School.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Dr Michael Angilletta (Indiana State University) visited the School 22 - 23 March and presented a seminar on behalf of Integrative Physiology. Mike works on the thermal biology and ecology of lizards.

PRIZES, AWARDS AND GRANTS

*CONGRATULATIONS*

Professor Ian Hume DSc FAA and Professor Stephen Simpson FAA were honoured on 22 March by election to the Australian Academy of Science. Election to the Academy recognises a career that has significantly advanced, and continues to advance, the world’s scientific knowledge. Hume’s speciality is Comparative digestive physiology and nutrition and Simpson was recognised for his work involving Nutritional physiology, ecology and behaviour of insects: state-space models for nutrition.

Applications now open for Fresh Science. This national competition identifies new and interesting research being done by early-career scientists around the country. Described by some as a boot camp in science communication, winners complete media training before taking their science to the public. www.scienceinpublic.com/sciencenow/index.htm
Dr Madeleine Beekman received a research grant (US$450,000 per year) from the Human Frontier Science Program for the project: Optimization in natural systems: ants, bees and slime moulds. This is a collaborative 3 year project between Sydney University and the universities of Uppsala, Leipzig and Hokkaido.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS
L'Oreal Australia is calling for applications for the inaugural For Women in Science Fellowships.

Three Fellowships are open to doctoral or post-doctoral researchers (within 5 years of completing a PhD) in the areas of life sciences, material sciences, mathematics and engineering. Prizes of A$20,000 each are to be used to further scientific research or alternatively, can be used to cover child care costs.

Applications will open on 21 May 2007 and close 29 June 2007 and applicants must be Australian nationals or Australian permanent residents to apply.

A jury of inter-disciplinary scientists will review all applications and select the three Fellowships to be announced in September.

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO and the Australian Academy of Science are partners of the For Women in Science Fellowships. For further information please contact Megan Ryan at mryan@au.loreal.com

OUTREACH
Through his role as science communicator, Adam Selinger manages the Schools involvement in a range of outreach activities. Championed by Faculty Marketing we have participated in the Siemens Science Experience and the Gifted & Talented Discovery Days. University managed activities include Degree-in-a-Day and Sydney Uni Live. We also provide a service to high schools who pay to do practicals in our labs. This program, Kickstart, has been run for a number of years in Chemistry, Physics & Biology and we aim to continue to build this program.

One of the challenges to is try to convey to participants (many being prospective students) the kind of science being undertaken in the School. Our researchers are invited to develop an activity related to their work that is readily translated into a 2-3 hour workshop for school students.

Here are some stories of our work.

GIFTED & TALENTED BIOLOGY DAY
On Friday 13th April, 70 Year 10-12 students from schools around Sydney and NSW visited Sydney University for three days to participate in lectures and workshops put on by Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Students were shown video of Adele’s undersea investigations and how on one occasion she had to scrounge for materials only found on the oil rig in order to quickly make a device for catching eels: found to everyone’s amazement deep inside an underwater volcanic vent.

The task was set: 70 students in groups of three or four building an eel-catcher from a selection of materials including steel colanders, metal spoons, plastic buckets, milk-crates, gaffa-tape, rope, PVC piping and netting. The objective was to manipulate their constructions with two robotic (toy) claws, with the added challenge that the driver could not see what they were doing but had to rely on someone issuing instructions, just like the real world.

The test was to attempt to catch as many plastic fish as possible from the testing tank.

There was a great deal of creativity shown by many of the groups, each having to explain their design to the class. In the end, the simplest solution was the found to be the most successful in catching items - a net, not unlike a butterfly catcher. Just goes to show that KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid!) really is appropriate.

The afternoon session was less frenetic but equally engaging as participants worked through a tray of leaf litter and attempted to identify the beasts they found.

Using provided identification resources each group was also challenged to devise their own dichotomous key to identify their pool of creatures. To make matters even more interesting groups
were also encouraged to check their finds against other groups; a tally was kept of the number of types of animals found, with unique finds described to the group. A ‘longest’ worm competition was also launched, which had even the more squeamish participants taking out the rulers and eagerly measuring their finds.

Rosanne Quinnell and Adam Selinger worked with Xiumei Liang and members of the technical staff to redevelop an existing idea into an attractive activity to add to the program provided by departments from across the university, including Medicine, English, Photomedia, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Vet science, and many others.

KICKSTART

Kickstart Biology is the name of our Higher School Certificate (HSC) prac classes. High School groups book in and pay to participate in lab exercises specially designed for the HSC syllabus. On offer are Forensic Biology (a mystery-solving enzyme-assay), Respiration & Photosynthesis (oxygen analysis with algae) and Genetics (you guessed it - Drosophilal). Further details are available at www.science.usyd.edu.au/school/kickstart/biology.shtml.

Our first class for 2007 was from Richmond (see photos right) who visited Sydney University for a day. After completing the Genetics prac, students had lunch in the grounds before taking in a university tour and visits to some of our museums.

SPECIAL REPORT

5TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SCIENCE JOURNALISTS

Between 17-20 April 2007 Melbourne played host to a conference of 630 science journalists from 52 countries. On offer were over 40 sessions, sponsored breakfasts, lunch seminars and tours. The conference covered themes from investigating scientific fraud and biasing scientific information to reporting nuclear power, podcasting and a peer review of peer review.

Jenni Metcalf, President of the Australian Science Communicators stated that “Science journalism is a vital part of science communication. At best it helps the public understand complex scientific concepts, encourages investigation and debate on scientific issues, and challenges the community to consider new ideas.”

Some of the highlights included Bernie Hobbs from ABC Science putting her Director, live on stage, through the on-line ‘Dr Schpinkee’s Greenhouse calculator’. By answering (honestly) to 10 questions we worked out that based on CO2 emissions he used up his share of the planet by the time he was 4 years old!

Reporter Abigail Thomas treated us to an engaging talk on ‘Second Life’ - the virtual reality game where you create your own avatar (on-line person) and roam through the 3-D on-line community seeking adventure, knowledge or whatever. NASA, amongst others, has built a virtual museum where you can attend public lectures. Universities are also now having an on-line presence and staging lectures and labs that anyone can attend. Try for yourself at www.secondlife.com.

Sponsored breakfasts included The Big Australian Breakfast by the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics and Weather with your wheatears from the Bureau of Meteorology. The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull spoke eloquently, via phone from Perth, at the Australian Government’s climate change breakfast. Lunchtime sessions covered topics such as Coming in from the cold: a call to action for a scientifically literate society and a special luncheon from L’Oreal for Women in Science. Melbourne put on a great show every evening with special events for delegates including a reception and tour of Melbourne’s Aquarium, a science show and songs at Melbourne University followed by night viewing at the Observatory Cafe in the Botanic gardens. The finale was a farewell reception at Government House on the last day of the official program. You can read reports on each session, download images and podcasts at http://wcsj2007.internetguruhosting.net/index.php.
ALUMNI

Welcome to the section of our newsletter with the news and stories for past members of the School.

EVENTS

WARRAH WEEKEND

by Julie-Anne Popple

Professor Andy Austin filled the role of Keast Visiting Academic perfectly as a small band of post-grads bravely braved the Friday night peak hour traffic to head out to the Warrah research station.

The homely station and surrounding bush provided the perfect relaxed setting for discussions of issues relevant to the mix of new, continuing and almost finished post-grad students. Prof Austin lead interesting discussions on writing up and enthusiastically welcomed questions from his captivated audience.

We are also very grateful to Andy for generously donating a Wahoo beach cricket set to the post-grads and enthusiastically initiating an exciting game of beach cricket. Thanks also to Madeleine Beekman for leading an informative discussion on getting post-doc positions and Yvonne Davila for advice on submitting a thesis and reassuring us that it is possible!

Other highlights from the weekend included: air-mattress surfing (Matt Renner being the clear winner, lasting a whole 8 seconds), charades (Yvonne’s nudibranch impersonation was the best), Frisbee, an early morning walk to the lookout and Lindsey Gray playing the ukulele (aka the ooh-hoo-loo orubbly bubbly). Overall the weekend was a success and hopefully there will be more initiatives that encourage interaction between post-grad students and more senior researchers in the future.

SPRING BACK TO SYDNEY

Sat 27 October 2007

Spring Back to Sydney is a reunion for alumni who graduated in a year ending in 7. All ‘sevens’ graduates and their families are invited to celebrate this wonderful occasion. A full day of festivities, cultural and sporting events and family activities are planned. Details can be found at www.usyd.edu.au/spring_back or phone on +61 2 9306 9644.

The Alumni Relations Office provides a range of services to all reunion organisers that will make your event a great success. How they can help:

- Provide contact list of alumni in your class
- Assist with design of invitations
- Assist with invitation mail-outs
- Promote reunions on the alumni website, e-newsletter and Sydney Alumni Magazine
- Provide event guidelines with a list of available University venues and services such as catering, flower arrangements and audio visual support
- Assist with alumni gifts and brochures
- Assist with discounted access to University venues

LIBRARY SERVICES

Services for University of Sydney Alumni at the University of Sydney Library include:

- Borrowing rights from any University of Sydney Library
- Access from your home or workplace to a limited number of electronic journals and the Macquarie Dictionary Online
- Access, within our libraries, to all our electronic databases and ejournals
- Links to high quality and trusted websites and free online resources selected by our subject experts
- Ask-A-Librarian subject-specialist support

For information on how to obtain membership visit www.library.usyd.edu.au/clients/alumni/alumniborrow.html.

2007 ALUMNI AWARDS

Call for Nominations

All University of Sydney graduates can be part of the Alumni Awards Program by nominating fellow alumni who have made a difference to our community.

Nominations close on Friday 1 June 2007. For more information please visit www.usyd.edu.au/alumni_awards or call Anna Schubert on +61 2 9036 9644.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Gayle McNaught B.Sc.(Hons) 1994

After honours Gayle worked in Chris Dickman’s lab for 4 years before leaving to join the Science Circus in 2000. Gayle then moved into PR and has worked at the Garvan Institute, Westmead Millennium Institute, Porter Novelli and has just now started as National PR and Media Manager with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Please contact us with your news to publish in future newsletters.

DIARY DATES

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SEMINARS

1 June: Prof. Brian McNab, School of Biological Sciences, University of Florida

Less is more: the energetics of vertebrate life on oceanic islands

DTA Lecture Theatre, Heydon-Laurence Building

23 May: Robyn Williams (ABC) & Stephen Simpson (SoBS).

A toast to the Father of Taxonomy: celebrating Linnaeus’s 300th birthday

Old Geology Lecture Theatre (info: 9036 5253)
6 for 6:30pm. Cost: $20 / $12 (student)

Call for nominations to: Annalise Williams, Alumni Relations Office, Suite 518, Carslaw Building (F07), The University of Sydney, NSW 2006.

Submission deadline for the next edition of Biology News is Friday 10th August.

You can email us at news@bio.usyd.edu.au or post to Room 518, Carslaw Building (F07), The University of Sydney NSW 2006.

You can visit us again at www.bio.usyd.edu.au/Newslett/frontpage.htm