



The University of Sydney

Alumni

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter # 6 – May 2009

1. History of Medicine Symposium – 10-12 September 2009

This Symposium on the History of Medicine will be held in the University on 10-12 September during History week. The Symposium is being organised by the Medical Alumni Association, Yvonne Cossart, who for many years arranged and taught courses in medical history to our students, and Lise Mellor who supervises the Faculty's Online Museum and Archive. We are also grateful for support and suggestions from Claire Hooker in Medical Humanities, the RACP Library, and others in the University.

The exciting program includes:

- Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir speaking about Governor Lachlan Macquarie
- Jack Carmody speaking on Sydney's 'Early colonial medicine'
- Jack Harris on 'Nicholson, Sydney and surgery - under the knife: then and now', comparing surgical treatment in the mid-19th century (when Sir Charles Nicholson was University's Provost) and the present
- Stephen Garton, currently Challis Professor of History, on the University's place (and its Faculty of Medicine) in Sydney's history (to be confirmed)
- Julia Horne, University Historian, on sources within the University and elsewhere for researching the University's history
- Lise Mellor on the Faculty's Online Museum and Archive
- Plague – the Symposium will begin on Thursday afternoon (10 September) with speakers from several disciplines in the University talking about plague epidemics in history and in art, culminating in talks on Sydney's plague epidemic in 1900
- Stephen Corbett, who will take us on 'The Plague Walk – Dawes Point to Darling Harbour', which complements 'Plague: rats in the realm', the current exhibition in the Anderson Stuart Common Room
- We hope that a Rare Books exhibition, and a performance of 'Pepys diary', will be confirmed as added attractions for the Symposium
- Other speakers will talk on the history of anaesthetics at RPAH (Barry Baker), plague in Sydney and plague doctors (Yvonne Cossart and Robert Clancy), paediatrics in Sydney (Bruce Storey), medical bookplates of Sydney alumni (Mark Ferson), and early Sydney medical graduates (Paul Lancaster)

- Other sessions will include opportunities for medical alumni, postgraduate students and others to speak on work in progress on themes linked specifically to Sydney Medical School's history, its alumni from all eras, its teaching hospitals, and regional medical services and hospitals beyond Sydney that have been influenced by our medical graduates.

Please inform your colleagues and ask them to contact me (pallancaster@gmail.com) about their proposed topics. We plan to give speakers 15-20 minutes each on Friday afternoon (11 September) and Saturday (12 September).

More details of the program, the venue at the University, and registration will be available once other potential speakers have been contacted.

We anticipate that this will be the first of many regular meetings for those interested in the history of Sydney Medical School, its graduates, their biographies and their achievements.

2. Victor Coppleson Continuing Medical Education Seminars

More than 50 alumni came to the University's New Law School on 12 May to hear Ian Hickie's excellent talk on 'The mental health of nations', preceded by refreshments in the Anderson Stuart Building. This talk was recorded and will be available on the Faculty's website when editing has been completed.

Similar numbers of alumni, their partners, student representatives and several guests enjoyed both the Victor Coppleson Symposium and the MAA Dinner at the Australian National Maritime Museum on 23 May.

We warmly thank all the speakers at the Symposium and at the Dinner. Many participants were highly complimentary about the balanced program and the quality of the presentations.

The program for the next few months is:

- 'Can we make smoking history?' – **Simon Chapman** in the Norman Gregg Lecture Theatre, Edward Ford Building, **Tuesday 16 June**, at 6pm preceded by refreshments in the entrance lobby of the Edward Ford Building from 5.15pm.
- 'Why is there a need for health reform? Is it necessary or are we just moving deck chairs?' – **John Horvath** in the New Law School Lecture Theatre 24, Eastern Avenue (opposite Anderson Stuart and School of Chemistry Buildings), **Tuesday 14 July**, at 6pm preceded by refreshments in the Staff Common Room of the Anderson Stuart Building.

Parking: Since the opening of parking for the New Law School Building, congestion in the evening has eased somewhat. Parking is available under the New Law School Building (turn left at the first lane after entering the University from Parramatta Road).

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Jacqueline Wells, Office of Postgraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, tel. (02) 9351 4551; fax (02) 9351 6646; email j.wells@usyd.edu.au

3. Careers Forum (August or September 2009)

We are seeking the assistance of our alumni to meet with Graduate Medical Program and other students keen to discuss their future career possibilities. This Forum is usually held on an evening in August or early September. While we need the help of alumni from all disciplines, we would especially like to hear from general practitioners and those working in public health.

Please contact Diana Lovegrove (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au) for further information and let her know if you can assist our students at this important event.

4. Alumni news

Rhonda Soricelli (1972), now living in the United States and a regular participant at the annual meetings of Sydney University Graduates Union of North America (SUGUNA) recommends 'a great poem about medical class reunions in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 7 August 2007, Vol. 147 (3): 207 entitled "Nelson, 14 – 16 March, Med. School Class Reunion" by Rae Varcoe, MA, MB, ChB. Check it out!'

Mark Spigelman (1965). 'His brother is one of our most celebrated judges, but Mark Spigelman has an even more extraordinary tale. He survived the Nazis by dressing as a girl. Mark Spigelman thought he had a normal childhood, even though he did not play with other children and was told not to talk, cry or pee in public. He was also dressed as a girl and hidden in a rat-infested hole or a wardrobe'. See Sydney Morning Herald, May 23-24 2009.

Stephen Leeder (1966) noted an article in The New Yorker about **Michel Taussig (1965)**, now Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University. The article discusses a graduate seminar on the apocalypse given by Taussig:
http://www.newyorker.com/talk/2009/05/18/090518ta_talk_ioffe

Did you know **Daphne Line (1950)**? After graduation, she worked at Rachel Forster Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney before working in the UK for most of her professional life. When she died several years ago, she left more than \$1 million to her former school, Methodist Ladies College in Burwood. The school was completely unaware of this philanthropy until after Daphne's death. The Governor-General, Quentin Bryce, recently opened the new Junior School at MLC. The main hall is named after Daphne Line! We would appreciate any further information about her (we have her student photo and story in the digitised 1949 Senior Year Book).

Medical Alumni Association Council. We have several vacancies on the Council at present. Please contact Paul Lancaster if you are interested in representing other alumni on the Council.

5. Seminars, lectures and activities linked to Sydney Medical School

5.1 Medical Humanities Nights

- **June 15** – Book Club Meet the Author and Discussion: Warwick Anderson, author of *The collector of lost souls: turning Kuru scientists into white men*.
- **July 20** – Reflections of a medical philosopher

Please meet at 6 pm at the Medical Foundation Building K25, cnr Missenden and Parramatta Roads, Camperdown, where there will be coffee, tea, biscuits and wine. You will need to get buzzed in to CVELiM. Call Claire on 0430 116 117 if you need directions. For further information about future seminars, or to be placed on the email list for their newsletter, please contact: Claire Hooker at claireh@med.usyd.edu.au.

5.2 Menzies Centre for Health Policy

S T Lee Lecture: The Menzies Centre for Health Policy will hold its inaugural S T Lee Lecture on **Thursday, 16 July** from 5.30 pm at the University of Sydney. The 2009 lecture will be delivered by **Dr. Tikki Pang** (Pangestu), Director, Research Policy & Cooperation (RPC/IER), World Health Organization. Dr Pang's lecture title is *Global Health Governance - A Search for Meaning*. More information is available at <http://www.ahpi.health.usyd.edu.au/events/upcoming.php>

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference: The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is holding its 4th annual Emerging Health Policy Research Conference on **Wednesday, 19 August** at the University of Sydney. The conference will showcase the work in progress of current doctoral and early career research workers. Abstracts are currently being called from research workers from all areas of health policy - including international health, health systems, history of public health, indigenous health, health economics and health promotion. More information is available at <http://www.ahpi.health.usyd.edu.au/events/upcoming.php>

Contact Diana Freeman on 9351 2818 for further information

5.3 Medical Education Forums

- Friday, 29 May: Medical Education research update - looking at a recent paper from the medical education literature.

A Medical Education Forum is held monthly in Kerry Goulston Seminar Room, Level 5 Kolling Building, Royal North Shore Hospital. This Forum is from 12.30 to 2pm. Light refreshments are provided.

6. Support the Medical Society Bookshop

Tim Parsons from the MedSoc Bookshop reports that alumni have responded well to the discounts offered on medical books. The *Feel Like A Student Again* campaign will end on 31 May 'so put your orders in today!' Due to the great response from alumni the Bookshop has a new web-only offer: 20% off all diagnostic sets and stethoscopes for all orders received in the month of June.

7. Other University of Sydney alumni events in 2009

- **Medical alumni meeting in Los Angeles, 20 August.** This meeting will be held on the day before the start of the annual 3-day conference of the Sydney University Graduates Union of North America (SUGUNA) in Los Angeles. We have already sent emails or mailed information to alumni in the United States and Canada. As our records of contact details for alumni are often incomplete, please inform your friends and colleagues in the US and Canada about this meeting. Other alumni who may be travelling in the US at the time are also welcome to participate. See:
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/networks/suguna/conferences.shtml>
For further details, contact Trish Harrison (trish1010@aol.com) or Diana Lovegrove (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au).
- **Great Hall 150th Anniversary, 25-27 September 2009:** this is a preliminary notice that a spectacular *Son et Lumière* will be held in the Great Hall to celebrate the 150th anniversary.
- **Spring Back to Sydney annual alumni reunion at the University of Sydney: Saturday, 19 September 2009.** Spring Back to Sydney is now open to ALL alumni, irrespective of graduating year.
- **Sydney Ideas.** Talks, forums and lectures - the University of Sydney hosts a diverse range of forums, talks and lectures throughout the year. Many of these are free and open to the public:
http://www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/public/index.php

8. History of health and medicine

8.1 Faculty of Medicine Online Museum and Archive

Everyone will enjoy this fascinating new overview of the Faculty's history. It will bring back many memories of people, places, and experiences from student days to the present! Some features of the site: historical overview of the Faculty; biographies of Faculty staff, alumni and benefactors; lists of graduates since 1856; digitised publications, including Senior Year Books from 1922 to 1975; examination papers from 1880s to 1950s; virtual tours of buildings; virtual exhibitions; artefacts online; Medical Heritage Trail; and a photo gallery.

http://www.medfac.usyd.edu.au/museum/mwmuseum/index.php/Faculty_of_Medicine_Online_Museum_and_Archive

If you are interested in submitting an article, biography or photographs and documents of historical interest you can contact Dr Lise Mellor on 9114 1164 or lisem@med.usyd.edu.au.

8.2 RACP Library Lecture Series

On Monday 15 June, Dr Charles George will speak on 'The idea of disease'. On Monday 7 September Dr Bruce Storey will examine 'The history of paediatrics in Sydney'. Finally, on Monday 23 November, there will be a lecture on 'Wine and health' by Dr Phil Norrie.

All Monday lectures are held at the Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney, at 6.30pm. Entry is \$10 and wine and cheese accompany discussion afterwards. Bookings are essential on (02) 9256 5413 or racplib@racp.edu.au

9. Health and medical news

Diana Freeman, Events & Communications Co-ordinator at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy (previously Australian Health Policy Institute), provides an excellent service by scanning national newspapers and other sources for news items on health and medical issues.

You can obtain these useful daily bulletins by contacting Diana at: Healthnews@mailman.med.usyd.edu.au or calling her on 02 9351 2818. Alternatively, subscribe (it's free!) on the website: <http://mailman.med.usyd.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/healthnews>

10. University of Sydney Library Services for Alumni

'The University of Sydney Library is pleased to support University of Sydney Alumni with your continuing information needs.

We can offer:

- 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

To take advantage of these services library membership is required. Students completing their studies in semester two 2008 and all future graduates are entitled to 12 months of alumni Library membership at no cost. To take advantage of this free membership you need to have applied for your membership within the first year after you have completed your studies. Second year and older alumni enjoy Library membership at the reduced rate of \$80(incl. GST) per year.'

For information on how to obtain membership, go to:
http://www.usyd.edu.au/card_centre/applications/alumni.shtml

11. Tributes, obituaries and death notices (year of graduation or higher degree in brackets)

Since last year, we have included on the alumni website obituaries of our alumni, academics and other doctors who may be known to many colleagues. These were initially published in the Sydney Morning Herald or other newspapers, or written by colleagues or family members. Please inform us of any other alumni who died recently.

The **tributes** in recent months include: Graham Douglas (Doug) Tracy AO (1948); Max Emory Lake OAM (1946); Padraic Grattan-Smith (1944); Reginald Bowman (1951); William Joseph Quilty (1959); Emeritus Professor Ralph Beattie Blacket, AO (1941); Kevin Francis Hamilton Hume (1942); David Skeffington Johnson (1968); and Ella Spencer Donovan (1936) (see <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/news/tributes.php>).

Obituaries: David Norrie Fleming Leake (OAM, 1932). Med J Aust 2008; 189: 228.

Vale to other medical friends and colleagues. Death notices of medical alumni in the Sydney Morning Herald or elsewhere in recent months include (most recent first): Judith Anne Empson (1962); Ian Jeffrey Isaacs (1968); Elizabeth Lloyd (1956); Anthony Carroll (1956); Eileen Collins (1977); Minna Golomb (1954); Bruce RM Emmerson (1952); Kurt Singer (1958); Philip Blake Humphris (1952); Robert Hart (1955); Stephanie Jean Sweeny (nee Liddell) (1962); Robin (Rob) Frederick George Arnheim (1941); Judith Elderton (nee Murray-Jones) (1947); John Brock Westphalen (1950); John Neophyton (1964); Susanne Korten (1955); Kevin Maxwell Fuller (1956); Andre Haski (1962); William Horace Wolfenden (1951); and Geoffrey Watkins Burgess (1954).

Please send me details of other published obituaries in medical journals or other newspapers and the names of other colleagues who have died recently and have not been mentioned above.

12. Reunions

Planned reunions and their organisers are noted in Radius. If your graduating year has not had any reunions, please let me know and we will try to contact representatives from your year.

13. Keeping in touch

Definition of alumni: the University's Alumni Council is considering a more inclusive definition of alumni, for example, by including academic and general staff who have worked full time at the University for at least three years. More details will be given when the Senate has considered the recommendations.

We would like to have more content from our alumni on the Medical Alumni Association website: <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/>. Please let me have your ideas!

Update your contact details on the University's website: http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/in_touch/index.shtml or send an email to:

alumniadmin@vcc.usyd.edu.au and Diana Lovegrove, Alumni Relations and Events Manager, Faculty of Medicine (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au); tel. (02) 9114 1163.

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