



The University of Sydney

Alumni

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Report for February 2008 to February 2009

The Medical Alumni Association has had an active year in organizing reunions; in informing medical alumni about news, stories and events through its magazine, Radius, and a new e-Newsletter; in assisting the Faculty to recruit medical alumni for teaching and for interviewing prospective students; in developing plans for continuing medical education; and, with the Alumni Council and Alumni Relations Office, in encouraging alumni to visit the University and take part in a wide variety of events.

Medical alumni held numerous reunions during 2008 – for the graduating years of 1946, 1948, 1955, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1988, 1997 and 1998. We warmly thank Diana Lovegrove and Ancella Cheung for their untiring efforts to ensure the success of these reunions.

The MAA has assisted the Faculty in maintaining contact with alumni through the quarterly publication of Radius, which is mailed to all alumni. The first e-Newsletter from the MAA was sent to alumni and to the Faculty list in September, aiming to inform alumni about current events and to engage them about other issues of interest. The wider distribution of the e-Newsletter is hampered by lack of current email addresses for more than 60% of our alumni. We propose to send the e-Newsletter to GMP and other Faculty students in the future.

The MAA has worked with members of the Faculty to find more tutors for problem-based learning (PBL) sessions for GMP students and is actively seeking interviewers to assist in MMI interviews of prospective GMP students.

Planning for continuing medical education (CME) of retired and part-time doctors is in progress and opportunities for alumni to participate more in Faculty seminars are being advertised through e-Newsletters.

The Medical Alumni Association has worked in close partnership with the Alumni Council and Alumni Relations Office, and with the Faculty of Medicine, to encourage medical alumni to participate in University functions, such as Spring Back to Sydney.

Disappointingly, the planned opening of the Alumni Centre in early 2009 has been deferred because of the University's stretched financial situation.

With the Faculty of Medicine, the MAA co-hosted the first reception for medical alumni in Malaysia and Singapore in Singapore in September 2008.

In conjunction with the Sydney University Graduates Union of North America (SUGUNA), the first medical alumni meeting will be held in Los Angeles on 20 August 2009, followed by the annual 3-day meeting of SUGUNA.

Through various donor programs of the MAA, Faculty and University, significant funds were raised for student scholarships and for medical research through the Medical Foundation. To inform the wider community and medical colleagues about the deaths of prominent alumni, the MAA has facilitated publication of obituaries of University of Sydney medical alumni in

the Sydney Morning Herald. The alumni website now has a section called 'Tributes' to include these and other obituaries.

The Medical Alumni Association Council met on 27 February, 14 May, 13 August and 19 November in 2008; 25 February in 2009.

Representing the MAA, Paul Lancaster participated in the following meetings during the year:

- Faculty of Medicine on 28 February, 27 March (re admissions policy), 26 June, 17 November, 15 December
- Faculty Working Party re admissions policy (26 May, 16 June)
- Faculty Admissions Committee (8 July, 28 October, 18 February)
- Medical Foundation Council (21 April, 28 July, 24 November); Medical Foundation Executive Committee (19 May, 23 June, 22 September, 6 February)
- Alumni Council meetings on 25 March, 27 May, 29 July, 23 September, 20 November, 10 February; Alumni Council Executive Committee (6 May, 1 July, 4 November, 16 December).

Publications/Talks

- President's Report in Radius (March, June, September, and December 2008; March 2009)
- e-Newsletters (September and December 2008; February 2009)
- 'Who was HK Ward?' – Sydney Alumni Magazine (Winter 2008)
- 'Victor Coppleson. Doing it all – surgeon, researcher, educator, author' – Radius (Summer 08/09)
- Careers Forum, Eastern Avenue Auditorium (21 August)
- 'The Asian medical diaspora from the University of Sydney' - Singapore (2 September)
- 'Career choices, role models, mentors and alumni activities' - GMP4 students (9 October)
- Faculty/MAA function for scholarship awards and donors, Anderson Stuart Building (31 October)
- 'Anniversaries are what we make of them' - Ockham's Razor, ABC Radio National, 7 December (transcript on ABC and Faculty website)
- Welcome to GMP and dental students (9 February)
- 'Great Hall, much drama: What happened at the opening 150 years ago' - Sydney Alumni Magazine (Autumn 2009, in press).

Other activities during the year:

- Met regularly with the editors of Radius and with Diana Lovegrove re MAA
- Introduced the Dean to Sue Sayers (1968), who has conducted extensive research of Indigenous children in the Northern Territory, re Poche Centre for Indigenous Health (7 March)
- Met with Public Health Chapter of MAA (26 March, 20 May)
- Demonstration of Encompass (new University software for alumni engagement) (31 March, 20 August)
- Assisted the Alumni Relations Office in planning for the 150th anniversary of the Great Hall to be held later in 2009
- Alumni Council lunch for Dr Barry Catchlove (President, Alumni Council)
- Meetings with Lise Mellor, Faculty of Medicine, re online Faculty history (6 May, 9 May) and Medical Heritage Trail (20 August)
- Farewell lunch (6 June) and function (20 June) for Professor Gavin Brown, Vice-Chancellor
- University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions launch (MacLaurin Hall) and public lecture by Jeffrey Sachs (Great Hall)
- Graduate Connections Breakfast Series, Queen Victoria Building (22 July)
- Welcome for Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor, Great Hall (22 July)

- Medical Foundation 50th Anniversary Dinner, Great Hall (30 July)
- Dinner to welcome Dr Michael Spence, MacLaurin Hall (9 August)
- With the Faculty, co-hosted the first medical alumni reception in Singapore (2 September)
- Alumni Awards presentation, MacLaurin Hall (5 September)
- 50th Lambie-Dew Oration by Professor Ian Frazer, Great Hall (10 September)
- Vice-Chancellor's Piano Recital, Sydney International Piano Competition winner, Great Hall (12 September)
- Launch of Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, Women's College (23 September)
- Re-opening of Wilson Museum (1 October)
- Hosted the 21st Anniversary of Medical Alumni Association Lunch with the Chancellor, Professor Marie Bashir, as guest-of-honour, Great Hall (1 October)
- MAA Stall, GMP4 students, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (8 October)
- Peking University Day, Great Hall (8 October)
- MAA farewell lunch for GMP4 students (9 October)
- GMP4 Dinner, Darling Harbour (10 October)
- Alumni Council Christmas Party (25 November)
- USISS/ Australian Health Policy Institute Symposium, Medical Foundation Building (5 December)
- Directors of Sydney University Medical Society Bookshop and others
- Medical Heritage Trail launch (18 December)
- Discussion with Stephen Garton, Challis Professor of History, re Medical History Symposium and proposed history of the Women's Hospital, Crown Street
- Medical history seminars and other topics for CME of alumni discussed with Claire Hooker, Senior Lecturer, Medical Humanities (13 and 21 January)
- Visit to Kolling Building, Royal North Shore Hospital, to discuss Medical Education Forums and student mentoring with Kirsty Foster, Senior Lecturer, Medical Education (15 January)
- Meeting to discuss composition for 150th anniversary of the Great Hall (11 February)
- 150th Anniversary of Great Hall Committee (16 February)
- Vice-Chancellor's reception for Barry Catchlove, President, Alumni Council, 2006-2009 (23 February)
- Meeting with NSW Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Archives Committee re history of the Women's Hospital, Crown Street.

Paul Lancaster
President, Medical Alumni Association

25 February 2009