OUT AND ABOUT IN L.A.
August 20-22, 2009

Under the absolutely indispensable chairmanship of Angela Wales Kirgo, the painstaking work of the organising committee was everywhere in evidence. The committee has been inundated with praise for the social events and presentations. As Charles Mackenzie wrote of the latter “It was … a wonderful, intellectually eclectic, feast of stimulating talks”.

An innovation this year, the SUGUNA Annual Conference was preceded on Thursday afternoon by a Medical Graduates lunch and academic program, organised by Trish Harrison, whose account of this successful event appears in this issue.

Following registration, on Thursday evening we gathered for a barbecue featuring Australian wines and sausages, at the residence of the Australian Consul-General Chris DeCure and his wife Cathie. The impressive frontage of the residence, overlooking an outsize tree-lined lawn and a swimming pool, provided a unique setting for our gathering. From the University of Sydney we again welcomed Professor John Hearn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) with his wife Margaret, and Tracey Beck, Director of Alumni Relations and Community Engagement. Also from Sydney came Paul Lancaster, President of Medical Alumni and Barry Catchlove, Immediate Past President of the Alumni Council. Following opening remarks by SUGUNA President Gerry Bassell, we were entertained to the traditional sing-along, led and accompanied on the guitar by our resident troubadour and fellow alum, Jim Manzie. He also
played some songs learned from characters he had met in the bush while travelling with his rock ‘n’ roll band, OL’55. Rhonda Soricelli generously donated a CD of the songs to everyone.

Yet once more, our conference brought forth the remarkable range of accomplishments of our University of Sydney graduates.

On Friday morning John Hearn opened the proceedings with a review of the present state of international higher education and research, and of the principles that should guide future world-wide expansion. Jane Dyson, from the Department of Molecular Biology at The Scripps Research Institute, in her talk “How does your Protein Fold?”, explained the exciting finds of her scientific research in terms that non-specialists could understand. Bernard Balleine, Director of the Brain & Mind Research Institute at the University of Sydney, presented “The Executive Brain” in which he cited recent evidence suggesting novel targets for treatment of brain disorders. Ian Masters, a BBC-trained broadcast journalist, spoke on national security affairs, a subject he has covered for over 25 years on public radio. David Lyle, President of Fox Reality Channel, gave us an insider’s look into the future face of television. Fiona Cowie, who is with the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at the California Institute of Technology, described her study of language evolution. Paula Paizes, President of L.A. based “Aussiewood – The Australian Invasion”.

On Friday evening we assembled for the group photo in the Amphitheatre of the Fowler Museum on the UCLA campus, followed by a buffet reception sponsored by the University of Sydney, in the Courtyard of the Fowler. The surrounding galleries featured an exhibition entitled “Steeped in History: The Art of Tea”, telling the fascinating story of tea throughout the ages.

Bill Evans had rented a van and ferried those who preferred to ride rather than walk, across the vast reaches of the UCLA campus. The ubiquitous Bill also picked up and deposited anyone from anywhere who wanted to participate in the many off-campus events.

Afternoon entertainment on Friday and Saturday included visits to the Getty Center, which is the largest non-profit arts institution in the world, and the Getty Villa, modelled after the style of the partially excavated Villa dei Papiri in the ancient city of Herculaneum which was buried in AD 79 by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Also on the list were the L.A. County Museum of Art and adjacent La Brea Tar Pits, one of the richest known sources of Ice Age fossils. On the trip to the L.A. Freeway Operations Center, an accident witnessed on the way was being shown on the Center’s screens when they arrived there!

On Saturday morning, Tracey Beck started the session with “Updates at the University of Sydney”, followed by Rhonda Soricelli, who discussed the University of Sydney USA Foundation. Anthony Yeo presented some sobering facts on the ravages of HIV-AIDS over the past 25 years. Susan MacDonald impressed us with the diversity of international projects undertaken by the Getty Conservation Institute. Aviva Layton recounted the history of the Sydney Push, a movement started in the late forties and ended in the early
seventies, which encouraged its members to question all forms of authority. Bill Lew, the founder of SUGUNA, regaled us with stories of its evolution.

On Saturday evening the annual Awards Banquet, sponsored by the University of Sydney USA Foundation, was held in the aptly named Grand Horizon Ballroom, opening as it did onto a high terrace with a commanding view of the scenic campus. Following a cocktail reception on the terrace, we took our places at tables in the ballroom and enjoyed an excellent banquet, again featuring Australian wines. Before the closing speeches, famed Australian singer and songwriter Fiona Kernaghan, accompanied by her producer husband Daniel, entertained us with her vocal artistry. Our keynote speaker, Derek Raghavan, surprised and delighted us with his short and light-hearted treatment of the current intense focus on prostate cancer screening. The crowning event of the evening was the presentation of the Jim Wolfsensohn Award to Philip Minter, made by John McLenaghan, himself a previous awardee.

A round of applause is due for all who contributed to the outstanding success of the Conference.
Medical Graduates’ Meeting, August 20th, 2009

Trish Harrison, MBBS, FFARCS, FANZCA, Organiser, Medical Graduate’s meeting.

This year, the SUGUNA Annual Conference was preceded by a Medical Graduates lunch and academic program.

The idea of creating an event for this subset of graduates had gathered momentum over the last year. There are over 400 University of Sydney medical graduates in North America, many of whom regularly attend the SUGUNA conference. The opportunity to create a program to coincide with the general conference seemed appropriate.

The afternoon kicked off with a delicious served lunch, complete with Australian white and red wines.

The opening lecture was given by Clifford Kwan-Gett, now retired after a career intimately involved with the development of the artificial heart. His talk, “Dr Barney Clarke’s Artificial Heart, Born in the Kitchen”, took us along the road from its inception to the final product. He also highlighted many of the problems and difficulties that he had encountered.

W. John Martin gave the second talk entitled, “The Alternative Cellular Energy (ACE) Pathway: An Answer to Treating and Possibly Preventing Autism”. He outlined his research that has led to the identification of cell damaging viruses and their subsequent association with neuropsychiatric diseases including autism, attention deficit disorder, chronic fatigue syndrome, and dementia.

Both speakers are now residents of California but their paths, as with many of the meeting participants, have taken them to the most prestigious institutions in the United States.

The final speaker, Paul Lancaster, is the President of the Medical Alumni Association at the University. He provided an update on the Medical Alumni activities before delivering his lecture, “Norman Gregg, Paddy Moran and other early Sydney alumni”. This lecture highlighted his research interest in early University of Sydney medical graduates, especially those who served in WWI.

An open discussion followed the formal program, allowing participants the opportunity to discuss possible future medical graduate events. The overall consensus was that these should be continued in some format at the same time as the SUGUNA Annual Conference but that they should not detract from the main conference.

All participants felt it was a great way to start the Annual Conference and are looking forward to future similar opportunities for Medical graduates to gather together.

Register for AlumniOnline

AlumniOnline allows you to:

- update your contact details
- search for alumni colleagues and friends
- post your personal and professional profile, résumé and photos
- search, join and establish social and professional networks, including our alumni associations worldwide
- import your Facebook and other web content
- use the online discussion forums, noticeboards, blogs and online chat
- mentor a student
- purchase merchandise from the alumni eStore

... and much more.

* If you have not received your Alumni Card, please contact the Alumni Relations Office.

AlumniOnline

Activating your account is easy. Go to:

www.sydney.edu.au/alumni

Click on: Login to AlumniOnline

Then: First time login

Search for your name, then enter the ID number from your Alumni Card*.
The 2010 SUGUNA Annual Conference will take place in Chicago, Illinois, from Thursday, August 10 to Saturday, August 12. This promises to be another successful conference with excellent presentations, exciting social events and many networking opportunities, all in the midst of a world class location. The vibrant city of Chicago is one of the most popular conference and tourist cities in the U.S. and August is the perfect time to experience Chicago’s beautiful parks and lakefront, its remarkable architecture, world-class museums, Michigan Avenue shopping, and its legendary blues scene. The conference itself will be held at the American Dental Association headquarters building which is situated at 211 Chicago Ave, one block from Michigan Ave. Accommodations will be at the Affinia Chicago, a Cityscape Hotel, at 166 East Superior Street, a few steps away from the Magnificent Mile. Walk to the Water Tower, head the other way and you’re at Navy Pier; the Affinia Chicago is the official hotel of Navy Pier. Walk over to the theatre district or down by the lake, to the Wrigley Building or the Tribune Tower. This really is a magnificent location!

Activities in Chicago include the Chicago Architecture Foundation’s amazing 90-minute boat tour along the Chicago River, which spotlights more than fifty architecturally significant sites where you will discover a new perspective on the city and learn about the development of the skyscraper. You can get a spectacular view of the city and the lake from the John Hancock Center. Navy Pier, on Illinois Street and Lake Michigan, is a great place for a morning jog, a wonderful place to catch a boat cruise or a concert, or to ride the giant Ferris Wheel. The Chicago Children’s Museum is located on the Navy Pier and Millennium Park, on Michigan Avenue, fascinates visitors with its art and its wading fountain surrounded by 50-ft glass towers featuring faces of famous Chicagoans.

The Art Institute of Chicago on Michigan Avenue, houses the country’s top collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art. Other popular museums, the Field Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Science and Industry, as well as the Shedd Aquarium, Brookfield Zoo and Lincoln Park Zoo, are also available nearby.

Be sure to experience some of Chicago’s culinary wonders while you are in town. Deep-dish pizza, hot dogs, and Italian beef sandwiches are Chicago specialties you won’t want to miss.

Stay tuned … more information to follow!
Summary from the SUGUNA Annual General Meeting in Los Angeles

The following presents a summary of items from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of SUGUNA Members and the SUGUNA Annual Conference held in Los Angeles, California:

- Congratulations to Philip Minter AM, for receiving the 2009 Jim Wolfensohn Award, in recognition of Philip’s distinguished career.

- Congratulations to John McLenaghan AM, for accepting an appointment by the Directors as Assistant Officer in Australia to represent SUGUNA’s interests in Australia and on the University of Sydney Alumni Council.

- Congratulations to Charles MacKenzie and to Derek Raghavan for their election to SUGUNA Board of Directors.

- The assembled members welcomed and appreciated the attendance of Bill Lew. Bill was the moving force in establishing SUGUNA. At first, Bill did not know how alumni might respond to his invitation to establish a University of Sydney alumni organisation in North America – he succeeded, bearing in mind the theme “Nothing Ventured – Nothing Gained”. Bill gave us an interesting description of the initial SUGUNA days in the early 1990’s, showed photographs of other SUGUNA Founders, and with fond remembrance praised Ron Bracewell for his design of the SUGUNA Logo with its motto in Latin: “Even when far away the mind remains the same.”

- SUGUNA welcomed the inclusion of a Medical Graduates Program held in conjunction with the Annual Conference. We look forward to similar participation in the future.

- The Directors are working to hold the 2010 SUGUNA Annual Conference in Chicago, IL in August, and are planning to return to the Canadian Northwest and USA Southwest in following years. Other options are open should there be a volunteer(s) to promote another location.

- On behalf of SUGUNA, President Gerry Bassell expressed support for the candidacy of Barry Catchlove (immediate past-president of the Alumni Council) and David Turner (current president of the Alumni Council) who are running as a ticket for the University of Sydney Senate election. SUGUNA members were exhorted to vote in this upcoming election, recognising its importance to alumni and alumni groups such as SUGUNA.

- The Directors are developing a set of guidelines as an aid in planning future SUGUNA Annual Conferences.

- In coordination with University of Sydney, an electronic survey of graduates in North America was conducted in mid-2009, as reported in this edition by Gerry Bassell. The University offered a prize for participation in the survey, which was drawn by lot during the AGM and won by Dr Frank Leonard Johnson, MBBS (1969), La Jolla, CA. Congratulations Len!

- The Board of Directors is reviewing SUGUNA’s current by-laws. Major proposed revisions include: indefinite membership upon registering with the Secretary (that is, only a one-time membership form would be requested); Directors to be elected by Members at an AGM, who will then select Officers; President’s term to be reduced to two years; and other necessary editing updates. Final proposed revisions will be circulated to Members, who have registered, and will be brought to the Membership for approval at the 2010 AGM.

- An expression of appreciation was expressed to Angela Kirgo and to all of the Conference organising committee for a superb and wonderful 2009 Conference. As Ronald Ettinger summarised: “The company was terrific, the food was delicious, the venues were interesting, the talks were stimulating, a true success due to you and your committee’s hard work. This one will be hard to top!”
NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2010 JIM WOLFENSOHN AWARD

Nominations are invited for the 2010 SUGUNA Jim Wolfensohn Award. Any member of SUGUNA may make a nomination for this award, which is based on the following criteria:

(a) The winner must be a graduate of the University of Sydney.

(b) He or she must be a member of SUGUNA.

(c) He or she must be a person who has made significant contributions for the betterment of society and his, or her, profession, business or academia.

(d) The nominee shall have participated in SUGUNA conferences.

Nominations must include a complete curriculum vitae, with details of professional appointments, awards, honours, other accomplishments (research where appropriate), affiliations, compilations of publications, service to communities and organisations, and other achievements. The nomination must also include a supporting letter from the nominating member outlining the merits and qualifications of the person nominated. Nominees of the winning candidate are asked to ensure that both they and the award winner are present at the award presentation. The selection committee for each year is comprised of the five previous winners.

The deadline for nominations from SUGUNA members is May 31, 2010.

Please email your nomination to usydgrad@mac.com (preferably as a pdf file).

Or send to Gerry Bassell
Chairman Wolfensohn Award Committee
6505 E Central Ave
Wichita, KS 67206

The Chairman will circulate all nominations to the selection committee.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER MEETING

Barbara Grier

On Friday afternoon Betty and Ernie Baja, Rex Fortescue and Elizabeth Harris met Barbara and Boyd Grier at picturesque Herald Park on the shore of Shuswap Lake for a picnic supper; including a ramble along the banks of Reinecke Creek to nearby marvellous Margaret Falls.

More conversations followed on the Griers’ verandah in Salmon Arm, till we retired to bed. After our Saturday verandah breakfast, we headed east to the Rogers Pass and Interpretive Centre in the Selkirk Range of the Columbia Mountains west of, and just as spectacular as, the famous Rockies, calling in en route at Craigellachie, at the historic site called The Last Spike – which was hammered in on the Canadian Pacific Railway by Lord Strathcona in 1885.

Arriving in time for a rotissiered lamb dinner, Joan and Gillian McConnell joined us laden with fruit and wine collected on their trip through the Okanagan Valley just south of the Shuswap.

Our weekend wrapped up with Sunday brunch at the Quaaout Lodge Resort on Little Shuswap Lake – the unique architecture of the Lodge is based on the traditional winter home of the Shuswap First Nations people.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable weekend.

Note: The annual PNM Chapter event is open to all SUGUNA members and friends. For further information contact Gillian Beattie, per details listed on the back page.
THE JIM WOLFENSOHN AWARD FOR 2009
Presented by 2006 recipient, John McLenaghan

I am very pleased and honoured to announce the winner of the Jim Wolfensohn Award for 2009 – the unanimous choice of the selection committee, a long standing, tireless member and stalwart of SUGUNA – Philip Minter.

Our winner, who brings together a remarkable combination of academic achievement and an extraordinarily varied professional career, has demonstrated the benefits of a multi-discipline approach. Graduating from the University of Sydney in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science, with First Class Honours in Zoology, he spent the next seven years as a teacher of Agricultural Science at a number of Sydney schools, including Kings, Knox, Scots, Riverview and Barker. He then shifted focus and proceeded to the United States for his graduate work, earning a Master of Science at the University of Wyoming in 1958, majoring in Animal Science. He earned his doctorate in 1960 at the University of Wisconsin, majoring in Adult Education and Communications.

In 1961, we find Philip back in Sydney where for the next four years he directed an advertising and public relations firm conducting market research. This was followed by a return to the United States where for the next two years he developed a national education program for the use of agricultural chemicals for the US Department of Agriculture, in Colorado. From 1967–68, he was Chief of Information for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, directing a team of professionals responsible for disseminating public information and responding to professional inquiries.

In 1969 he founded Educational Communications Inc. in Yardley, Pennsylvania, to research, plan and develop communications programs for corporate clients. As president of this company, he has overseen the production of training programs for more than 100 companies involving more than 600 major projects.

As is clearly evident, Philip is a person of great energy and diversity. Which brings me to yet another of his portfolios, as President of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Australian New Zealand American Chamber of Commerce (ANZACC), a position he has held since 1994. In this capacity, he worked for the promotion of commercial and cultural ties between Australia, New Zealand and the United States. The members of this organisation are leaders in international commerce and trade, tourism, communications and government services and he has been an extremely active and tireless president of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

This brings me to SUGUNA, where these same characteristics have been in evidence. He has been a member almost since inception, a director, President for the period 2006-2008, and is the current Past President. It was during his period as SUGUNA President and with his encouragement that we saw the development of the strong ties which now exist between SUGUNA and the University of Sydney and its Alumni Relations, culminating in the successful negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding agreed upon two years ago between SUGUNA and the University.

On a personal note, I can attest to Philip’s persuasive powers when, after a meeting of ANZACC in Washington, DC, he encouraged me to attend the 2002 SUGUNA conference in San Diego with a view to organising the conference at Georgetown University the following year. That began my involvement with SUGUNA, for which I have been very grateful.

Finally, among many awards he has received, Philip was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division in 2005 for service to international relations, particularly through the promotion of commerce and trade between Australia and the United States.

Congratulations, Philip!
International Higher Education in the Financial Crisis

John Hearn, BSc, MSc, PhD, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Sydney and Chief Executive, the Worldwide University Network

1. The Global Financial Crisis – steady ahead for higher education and research.
   - Higher education, research and innovation are essential drivers and carry solutions for a stronger, cleaner, fairer economy. They are an international language and an enduring diplomacy, but require constant reform to engage with new challenges.
   - A reform framework can recalibrate to regain basic values that assist us in emergence from the global financial crisis, while addressing climate change, economic and social equity, and the millennium development goals. A parallel and healthy devil’s advocacy should challenge established dogmas in these areas, discounting the persuasive pressures of the long past, the too fast and the hungry press.
   - The research balance could have a 40 per cent strategic investment focus around known or predicted challenges, but should retain 60 per cent investment in the pursuit of fundamental knowledge, which will find its own applications.
   - The demand for mobility and flexibility of talent will increase. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projections show that international student numbers are set to double to over 5 million by 2020, coming especially from Asia. Human populations will rise from 6 bn to 9 bn by 2050, 60 per cent living in the Asia Pacific region. Aging is already a major factor in the economic, social and environmental futures for many countries. Life-long learning will be increasingly important for inclusion in employment and society.
   - Future factors that drive reform will need new types of leadership and international citizenship that is thinking international, interdisciplinary, and towards implementation. This requires innovative, forward looking curriculum reform, training, cooperation and relevant international experience in different languages and cultures.

2. The Evolutionary dynamics of strengths and competition – approaches and examples.
   - China has committed in its five year plan to increased year on year investment in higher education, and research (especially health, science and technology) and innovation. But there are gaps in human resources, learning and teaching systems.
   - Europe is increasing rapidly the courses taught in English and access through the Bologna programs, along with investment in selected international research universities (for example, nine in Germany). But there are relatively few universities from mainland Europe ranked in the world’s top hundred.
   - Britain is developing further focus investing in higher education, with Universities UK and the British Council more evident in international markets. Twenty years of the research assessment exercise have strengthened the per cent of world research, quality and leadership from Britain. But there is some risk to the priority and quality of teaching and to the collegial culture of universities.
   - The USA is investing significantly in research and education infrastructure in an already strong sector, with a new emphasis on international recruitment. But there are serious challenges to many universities meeting their costs, when some state higher education budgets are being reduced by 25 per cent and previous high returns on endowment investments were used to cover operational costs.
   - Australia is investing in research and education infrastructure, along with international engagement, in a turbulent time. But the world’s most successful education export sector will come under heightened competition, and success in research leadership depends on expanding international partnerships at the cutting edge.

3. International University Partnerships – teamwork to resolve challenges and build leadership
   - Networks to build capacity are developing, with the University
of Sydney for example now working at a formal institutional level with over 100 universities in 20 selected countries on research and teaching programs that also provide international experience and leadership. These programs are backed up with tailored leadership training in public sector, university, government and industry reforms.

- Strategic Partnerships and Alliances are being built with universities, governments, industry, international agencies and alumni to develop the critical mass that can make a difference in advancing research and education objectives.
- The OECD and other international agencies have proved to be vital knowledge sources and partners in these developments. These provide our academics with the solid knowledge platforms on which to base further research and innovation.
- Less developed country universities must be engaged more in equal partnerships, helping to establish sustained in-country research leadership and two-way learning. Joint programs

Update on the University of Sydney USA Foundation

Rhonda Soricelli

I bring greetings from David Anstic and Matt Hall, President and Secretary/Treasurer respectively of the University of Sydney USA Foundation (USA Foundation), and other Board members who regret they are unable to attend this outstanding meeting!

The USA Foundation was established by Phillip Hartley Smith (Wolfensohn Awardee, 2007) and John Semmler (Wolfensohn Awardee, 2008), being registered as a 501(c) 3 organisation in Washington, D.C. in 1993. We rely on legal and accounting advice from firms in Ithaca, NY, where John Semmler administered the Foundation from 1993 to 2007, hence the Ithaca address on all of our correspondence with you.

To date, through the generosity of SUGUNA members and other University of Sydney alumni and friends, the USA Foundation has made grants to the University of Sydney of close to 2 million U.S. dollars. In 2008 alone, we were able to make grants totaling $620,000 to University priorities, various faculties, several scholarship funds and other unique initiatives. Our overhead expenses are minimal as the work of the Foundation is accomplished by a volunteer Board of Trustees. While we spend modestly on stewardship events, we are proud to sponsor the SUGUNA Awards Banquet which promises to be a splendid affair this evening.

During the coming year, we will launch a new USA Foundation website, thanks to the hard work of Matt Hall who was in Sydney during the last few weeks. We plan to increase the frequency with which grants can be made, from our initial once-per-year to several times each year. We are considering the establishment of a new USA Foundation scholarship in sync with the University’s desire and need to expand scholarship opportunities for our student population for whom government funded scholarships are a memory of the past and the potential debt load of a University education increases each year. And we hope to expand membership on our Board to include representatives with greater geographical and faculty diversity.

How you can help:

Please make the University of Sydney USA Foundation a priority in your annual giving. Remember, all gifts are tax-deductible by U.S. law. Note that Foundation gift forms allow you to direct a preference for your gift to areas of your choice at the University including the SUGUNA Scholarship. Consider a bequest to the University. Consider service as a USA Foundation Board member. If you are interested, please contact David Anstic at danstice@comcast.net, Matt Hall at usadmin@usyd.edu.au or Penny Pether at pether@law.villanova.edu.

Most importantly through your own giving, please help us promote the spirit of philanthropy among graduates of the University of Sydney both here in North America and at home in Australia.
Kings, Queens and Angelenos: Conserving the World’s Cultural Heritage

Susan MacDonald, BSc (Arch), BArch, Sydney; M. Conservation Studies, University of York/ICCROM, Head of Field Projects, Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles

Cultural heritage is the physical evidence of our history. Conserving our heritage helps us to understand our past, and to contribute to the lives of future generations. The world’s great cultural heritage sites are not just crucial evidence of our past but play an important role in the economic and social development of many countries around the world.

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts — broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture and sites. It is one of a handful of non-government organisations engaged globally in the care and conservation of heritage places and has been actively involved in hands-on conservation for some 25 years. The GCI’s multidisciplinary staff comes from a range of disciplines, including archaeologists, architects, scientists, educators, conservators, engineers and historians.

The projects undertaken by the GCI aim to address internationally relevant conservation challenges, which may demand innovative approaches. The Field Projects undertaken by the GCI, address specific conservation problems or challenges through the lens of a specific site where new approaches or solutions can be developed that can then be adopted or applied more widely. The projects typically combine research, innovative development and cross disciplinary approaches. Capacity building through training and educational initiatives is also a trademark of the work. Ultimately, a sign of success is that the site is able to be successfully conserved and sustained locally.

The GCI works closely with its partner institutions, which usually include the host nation’s government heritage bodies, sometimes other international conservation organisations or funding bodies and other local organisation. The GCI is involved in a number of thematic areas of conservation practice which include:

**Preventative conservation:** e.g. the development of nitrogen anoxic mummy cases for the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

**Archeological site management:** current work in the Valley of the Queens, Egypt (with the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities) aims to protect and conserve the site and its tombs from the ongoing threat of flash flooding, deterioration and tourism damage.

**Recording and documentation:** includes projects such as the web-based national geographic information system for Jordan’s Department of Antiquities, to assist the department in inventorying, monitoring and managing Jordan’s vast number of archaeological sites.

**Decorative/architectural surfaces:** includes the training of Tunisian technicians in the conservation approaches and techniques needed to conserve the magnificent Roman mosaics found on a number of sites.

**Philosophical and methodology approaches to conservation:** such as the work with the Australian Department of Water, Heritage and the Arts with China’s State Administration for Cultural Heritage (SACH) to develop and implement national guidelines for conservation and management of cultural heritage sites in China.

More information on the work of the Getty Conservation Institute is available on www.getty.edu/conservation.
AIDS and HIV
Twenty-Five Years On

Anthony Yeo
MBBS, PhD, MPH, Sydney

The HIV AIDS epidemic began innocuously in 1981 and the virus that was involved in this was identified in 1983/1984. After the discovery of the virus, diagnostic testing for the virus became available and widespread. The first drug against this virus was used in 1987 but it was not until 1995, with the advent of a new class of drugs known as protease inhibitors and the implementation of a new therapeutic approach, did the death rate from HIV-AIDS start to fall significantly in the United States.

Australia’s primary contribution to the control of the HIV-AIDS epidemic was the demonstration that a needle and exchange program was very effective in preventing the spread of the HIV-AIDS virus. Today, Australia has one of the lowest prevalence of HIV-AIDS in the world – 0.1%. Within South East Asia, Australia has played a role in the clinical investigation, disease surveillance and prevention of HIV-AIDS in various countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea.

Options for dealing with the epidemic include finding a cure for HIV infection and preventing HIV infection. A key research effort is the vaccine development and this will require ‘cross-fertilisation’ between fields such as genetics, structural biology, systems biology and peptide chemistry. Such research work is difficult because of the nature of the virus, in that it is able to integrate the genome of host cells and its high mutation rate.

An effective HIV intervention will require political will, a long-term supply of significant financial resources, scientific expertise and public-health vision.

To date, over 33 million people are infected globally and approximately 25 million individuals have died from HIV-AIDS. More than 95 per cent of new HIV infections now occur in low and middle income nations. We hope that in the next 25 years, the statistics for this epidemic will be significantly different.

The Executive Brain

Bernard Balleine
BA Sydney, PhD Cantab

Professor Brain & Mind Research Institute, University of Sydney

To choose appropriately between distinct courses of action requires the ability to integrate an estimate of the causal relationship between an action and its consequences (or outcome) with the value, or utility, of that outcome. Any attempt to base decision-making solely on cognition fails fully to determine action-selection because any information, such as ‘action A leads to outcome O’, can be used both to perform A and to avoid performing A. At a neural level, models of normal neural function have been relatively successful in describing how more complex functions are determined, particularly those related to cognition and the integration of cognitive and emotional processes in normal decision-making. Nevertheless, as is well known, sometimes subtle, sometimes quite profound deficits in these latter ‘executive’ functions often accompany neuropathology induced by drug addiction, stroke, neurodegenerative disorders and even (fortunately to a lesser degree) normal aging.

Considerable clinical and basic research has focused broadly on the frontal lobe and there is extensive literature linking the cognitive control of executive functions specifically to the prefrontal cortex. However, more recent studies suggest that these functions depend on reward-related circuitry linking prefrontal, premotor and sensorimotor cortices with the striatum. Although the involvement of the striatum in the refinement and control of motor movement has long been recognised, recent description of discrete frontal cortical-basal ganglia networks in a range of species has focused attention on the role particularly of the dorsal striatum in executive functions. Current evidence suggests that the dorsal striatum contributes directly to decision-making, especially to action selection and initiation, through the integration of sensorimotor, cognitive, and motivational/emotional information within specific cortico-striatal circuits involving discrete regions of striatum.
Evidence from a range of species suggests that this cortico-striatal network controls functionally heterogeneous decision processes involving (1) actions that are more flexible or goal-directed, sensitive to rewarding feedback and mediated by discrete regions of association cortices particularly medial, orbitomedial, premotor and anterior cingulate cortices together with their targets in caudate/dorsomedial striatum; and (2) actions that are stimulus bound, relatively automatic or habitual and mediated by sensorimotor cortices and dorsolateral striatum/putamen on the other. These processes have been argued to depend on distinct learning rules and, correspondingly, distinct forms of neuronal plasticity. Furthermore, degeneration in these cortico-striatal circuits has been linked to distinct forms of psychopathology; e.g. in Huntington’s, obsessive compulsive disorder and Tourette’s syndrome on the one hand and in Parkinson’s and multiple system atrophy on the other. Changes in the neural systems that result in the cognitive and emotional dissociation reflected in these disorders and their specific behavioural effects is, therefore, of critical importance and will ultimately provide new targets for treatment and rehabilitation.

AUSSIEWOOD – THE AUSTRALIAN INVASION

Paula Paizes, BA, LLB, Sydney President of LA based Australians in Film.

Did you know, on average, Australian performers help attract US$1 in every US$10 at the US BOX Office? Annually! That is more than $1.2 billion a year! Hugh Jackman tops the list with hits like X-Men and Wolverine. Second is Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush with $1.3 billion – again largely due to his role in the mega franchise Pirates of The Caribbean, and the list goes on with our well known imports like Cate Blanchett, Eric Bana, the late Heath Ledger, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Mel Gibson and Naomi Watts.

Then there is television. In the 2009 season line up there are approximately 35 actors featuring in shows on US networks or cablers. Some are highly recognisable like Simon Baker, Tony Collette, Rachel Griffiths, all on major network shows. Then there are the stalwarts who have been on daytime soaps for many years like Thaoo Penglis and Ingo Rademacher. And then there are new ones appearing in hot new shows like True Blood and Fringe. This year, three Australian actors are nominated for acting awards in the upcoming Emmys: Toni Collette in United States of Tara, Simon Baker in The Mentalist and Rose Bryne in Damages. Extraordinary that actors from so far away can have such a widespread impact.

Australian actors get asked all the time – “Why do Aussies do so well here?” Isla Fisher, recently seen in Confessions of a Shopaholic which was also directed by fellow Australian PJ Hogan of Muriel’s Wedding fame, says: “My standard line is we can do the accent, we have a great state funded drama system and we all look hot in a bikini, including Russell Crowe!” Not quite sure I agree with that. Sam Worthington, (our next BIG STAR to WATCH) coming up in Titanic director James Cameron’s next blockbuster, Avatar, says: “We’re no longer seen as this unknown colony. We’re seen as a pool of talented artists that can bring something to this industry. It takes 13 to 15 hours to get to America; we’re not going to waste our time, we’re not going to waste their time. And the likes of great directors and actors like Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, Hugh Jackman, Eric Bana opened up the doors for box heads like me to come in and play”.

That seems to be quite true. Whilst there might have been an initial distrust of the Australian accent and actors were virtually told to HIDE their Australianess, now many Americans don’t even realise that dozens of the actors who play the characters on their favorite TV shows are not even American. We have basically infiltrated the whole Hollywood system. Australians are everywhere – we have many famous directors, directors of photography, editors, visual effects editors, costume designers and the list goes on. At the Oscars this year, we had five nominees, including for editing and visual effects.

Olivia Newton-John, who is one of the very first Aussies who landed here says, “We don’t give up. The Aussies that come over here come against incredible odds – you’ve gotta get a work permit, you’ve got to find a place to be and you’ve got to learn the accent, but the ones that make it have worked really hard to be here and we’ve just got so much raw talent”.

This year, at the Toronto Film Festival (one of the most coveted film festivals in the world), Australia has 10 features premiering in front of the worldwide industry – distributors/ producers/ agents, etc. This is where a number of young actors and filmmakers will get noticed and from there could catch a break. And so the invasion continues.
Steve Mandel's Conundrum

In a single elimination tennis tournament every player who wins a match remains in the tournament and advances to the next round, while every player who loses a match is eliminated from the tournament and takes no further part in it (just like Wimbledon or the Australian Open).

At my local tennis club recently 107 players showed up who wanted to play in such a tournament and all were accepted. How many matches had to be played in order to determine the winner?

Hint: If you start adding up numbers like 53 and 27 and 13 and... etc., you are already working much too hard! You will eventually arrive at the answer but it will have taken you much longer than the less-than thirty seconds that are needed to solve this conundrum using a bit of creative thinking and cutting through to the heart of the matter.

Last Issue’s Conundrum:

The mutilated chess-board: A chess-board is an array of 64 squares arranged in 8 rows and 8 columns. If you were given 32 domino-shaped tiles each of which covers exactly two adjacent squares of the chess-board, you would have no trouble covering or “paving” the chess-board with these tiles. Now, however, we are going to “mutilate” the chess-board by removing the north-east and the south-west corner squares, leaving an array of 62 squares with those two squares missing. We are also going to remove one of the tiles, leaving 31 of them.

The question is: can you still pave the mutilated chess-board with the 31 remaining tiles? If yes, describe how to do it. If no, explain why it cannot be done.

Solution: The answer is no, it cannot be done and the reason is obvious the moment you realise that the chess-board consists of black squares and white squares and that the two squares that you have removed, lying, as they do, at opposite ends of a diagonal are the same colour, that is they are either both black or both white. Every time you put down a tile you are covering one black square and one white square. Accordingly, no matter how you place the first 30 tiles, you are left at the end with one tile in your hand and two still uncovered squares on the chess-board and they are the same colour and are, hence, not adjacent and there is nowhere to go with the last tile! QED!
NEW MEMBERS ... SUGUNA welcomes new members and returned friends (November 2009)

Robyn Alders, North Grafton, MA, BSC, BVSc, Dip Vet Clin Stud, PhD 1984
Katherine Alvarado, Alhambra, CA, Master in Strategic Public Relations, 2009
Bruce Bachenheimer, Chappaqua, NY, MBA 2000
Colin Barton, Golden, CO, BDS 1981
Alfred M Boll, Washington, DC, SJD, Doctor of Juridical Studies 2004
Grahame W Booker, Cambridge, ON, BA 1964
Chad Brodt, Miami, FL, MBBS 2007
Jessica Brodt, Miami, FL, MBBS 2007
Danusia Cameron, New York, NY, BA, LLB 2000
Barry Catchlove, Milsons Point, NSW, MBBS 1966
Heath Cook, Woods Hole, MA, BSc Marine Science 2005
Paul Cooper, Ridgecrest, CA, BAppSci (OT) 1995
Joseph Eustermann, Newport Beach, CA, Master International Business and Law (MIBL) 2004
Rebecca Garate, Ellensburg, WA, Master of International Studies, 2008
Alysa Hayes, Burlington, ON, BDent 2006
Bruce G Hutchinson, Markdale, ON, BE Civil 1956
Fiona J Leigh, Pa’ia, HI, MBBS 1966
Guoyi Ma, University, MS, PhD Pharmacy 2002
Amy Machtlyne, Washington, DC, Master of International Studies, 2004
Mary F Maher, Chicago, IL, BA 1991, LLB 1993
Lise McKeen, Oak Park, IL, PhD Social Anthropology 1992
Alysa Hayes, Burlington, ON, BDent 2006
Bruce G Hutchinson, Markdale, ON, BE Civil 1956
Fiona J Leigh, Pa’ia, HI, MBBS 1966
Guoyi Ma, University, MS, PhD Pharmacy 2002
Amy Machtlyne, Washington, DC, Master of International Studies, 2004
Mary F Maher, Chicago, IL, BA 1991, LLB 1993
Lise McKeen, Oak Park, IL, PhD Social Anthropology 1992

SUGUNA Officers and Directors:

President: Gerry Bassell MBBS ’73 (2011 – 1st)
6505 East Central
Wichita, KS 67206, USA
Tel: 316 648 7200
Fax: 707 667 0362
E: usydgrad@mac.com

Vice President & President Elect:
Wanda M. Haschek-Hock BVSc ’73
2638 County Road, 600 East
Mahomet IL 61853-9788, USA
W.T: 217 333 3947
H.T: 217 897 1618
W.F: 217 244 7421
E: whaschek@illinois.edu

Immediate Past President:
Philip Minter AM
1576 Stapler Drive, Yardley
PA 19067, USA
T: 215 321 1662
F: 360 323 1662
E: pminter@comcast.net

Secretary: Michael Challis BE Civil ’54 (2010 – 1st)
4104 Thornoaks Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4256, USA
T: 734 971 6186
E: mdchallis@aol.com

Treasurer: Gillian Beattie
BSc ’61, DSc ’07 (2010 – 1st)
2868 Doc Savage Drive
Langley, WA 98260, USA
T: 360 321 4943
E: gbeattie@uicsd.edu

Assistant Officer in Australia
John McLenaghan AM BSc ’59
3/18 Parriwi Road
Mosman NSW 2088 Australia
T: +61 2 9960 6138
F: +61 2 9960 6136
E: mclenaghanjd@yahoo.com

Directors
Julian R Brown
BSc ’57 MSc ’59 (2010 – 1st)
Kingston, ON Canada

Ronald Ettinger
BDS ’66 MDS ’70 DDSc ’92 (2011 – 1st)
Iowa City, IA USA

Rex Fortescue
BDS ’48 MDS ’54 (2010 – 2nd)
Vancouver, BC Canada

Jennifer Green
BSc ’83 PhD ’87 (2010 – 1st)
Mesa, AZ USA

Angela Wales Kirgo
BA ’69 (Newsletter Editor) (2010 – 1st)
Los Angeles, CA USA

Charles MacKenzie
BSc ’69, BVSc ’70, PhD ’75 (2012 – 1st)
Dimondale, MI, USA

Penelope Pether
BA ’80 LLB ’82 PhD ’97 (2011 – 1st)
Wynnewood, PA USA

Derek Raghavan
MBBS ’74 (2012 – 1st)
Cleveland, OH, USA

Perry Seamon
BSc ’61 MBBS ’63 (2010 – 2nd)
Milford, CT USA

Philip N. H. Smith
BE ’50 DEng ’97 (2010 – 1st)
Fox Chapel, PA USA

Jan Wise
BA ’59 (2010 – 2nd)
Roslyn Heights, NY USA

SUGUNA Membership Form

Please return the enclosed SUGUNA Membership Form to the Secretary. In order to be eligible to participate in business decisions of SUGUNA, in person or by proxy, a membership form is to be registered one time with the Secretary. If already registered, please update any changed address or contact information, such as email address. This allows an accurate and complete database to be maintained with current information.

In accordance with the agreement between SUGUNA and the University of Sydney, Membership Dues are not required.

Readers are encouraged to offer comments and suggestions and to ask any questions concerning SUGUNA. Please contact any SUGUNA Officer – contact details are noted above.