The 110-ton elliptical sculpture Cloud Gate in Millenium Park, Chicago. © City of Chicago
**SUGUNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO**

**August 12 -14, 2010**

*(NOTE: the Conference dates, August 10–12, 2010, quoted in the Autumn newsletter, have been changed to August 12-14, 2010.)*

Wanda Haschek-Hock, BVSc, PhD

CHICAGO HERE WE COME! Do you want to meet with your fellow University of Sydney graduates and friends? Hear the latest from the University of Sydney, presented by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr. Michael Spence? Learn the status of Alumni Relations from the Director, Tracey Beck? Explore Chicago? Then plan on attending the SUGUNA Conference, 2010!

The vibrant city of Chicago, Illinois, is the site for this year's SUGUNA Annual Conference. This will take place Thursday, August 12 through Saturday, August 14, 2010. The conference and associated social events will follow our previous successful format, starting with an evening reception on Thursday, followed by fascinating and far-ranging presentations on Friday and Saturday mornings, with optional tours in the afternoon; a boat cruise on Lake Michigan on Friday evening (substituting for our usual BBQ), and a formal banquet on Saturday evening. This year, preceding the conference, a luncheon and afternoon symposium, open to all SUGUNA members, will be held on Thursday, to help celebrate the centenary of the Veterinary Science Faculty (see the article which follows).

The organizing committee is planning an excellent program, taking advantage of Chicago's unique attractions. Under consideration are events at the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Shedd Aquarium and one of the...
Faculty Clubs or the Trump International Hotel and Tower, which has an Australian chef, Frank Brunacci. Australian favourites, such as lamingtons and meringues, will tempt us at the conference breaks. Tours of the Art Institute of Chicago and the remarkable architecture of the city, are being explored. Take additional time to experience the beautiful parks and lakefront, museums, zoos, aquarium, Michigan Avenue shopping, and the legendary blues scene. Attend the theatre and other attractions. If your time is limited, the conference registration will allow you to select individual events that suit your timetable.

The conference will be held at the American Dental Association Headquarters on Chicago Ave, one block from Michigan Ave. Accommodations will be at the Affinia Chicago, a Cityscape Hotel, on East Superior Street. The Magnificent Mile, the Water Tower, Navy Pier, the Wrigley Building and Tribune Tower, are all within walking distance.

Other activities in Chicago were listed in the previous newsletter and www.explorechicago.org is one of several websites providing information on events, tours, recreational activities and other items of interest. For additional and updated information on the conference, check the SUGUNA website.

A Registration Form is included with this publication; also, it will be available soon on the SUGUNA website. Visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/networks/suguna.

It is not too late to be involved – we need volunteers – contact Dr. Ronald Ettinger, the conference chair, if you can contribute time or have suggestions on events, speakers or support, financial or in kind, for the conference. His email is ronald-ettinger@uiowa.edu.

We encourage you to attend – a wonderful time is guaranteed!!! You will be hooked on the SUGUNA Annual Conference for life.
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY USA FOUNDATION UPDATE

Matt Hall, Secretary/Treasurer

The University of Sydney USA Foundation is a 501(c)3 registered charitable organization that supports educational institutions in the United States of America and Australia, including the University of Sydney. Gifts to the Foundation can be claimed as tax deductions by US taxpayers. In 2008 the Foundation raised over half a million dollars for educational programs - our best year yet.

One program that the Foundation supports is the SUGUNA Scholarship Fund. The SUGUNA Scholarship Fund is an endowed scholarship that was established by a grant, thanks to donations to the University of Sydney USA Foundation, through generous contributions by SUGUNA Members. The Scholarship is available to full-time students or researchers at the University of Sydney for travel to the USA and Canada, to pursue research study opportunities as part of their candidature. The University of Sydney selects awardees. The recipient is expected to make his or her best effort to attend the SUGUNA Annual Conference, and, at a minimum, to provide a short written report to SUGUNA on their activities supported by this Scholarship. As reported in the Autumn 2009 SUGUNA Newsletter, beginning in 2006 through 2008 seven students received awards; and, as reported in the FUND article on page 8, two students received awards in 2009. Of course, the more gifts given towards the Scholarship, the larger the endowment, and the more students supported.

The Foundation Board has recently welcomed two new board members, Dr Michael Dorsen, MBBS ‘69 and Prof. Charles D. Mackenzie, BSc (Vet) ‘69, BV.Sc ’71, PhD ’75. Interestingly, both have a connection to SUGUNA. Dr Dorsen was present at the very first meeting held to establish SUGUNA and Prof Mackenzie is a board member of SUGUNA.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

Wanda Haschek-Hock, BVSc, PhD

The Faculty of Veterinary Science opened its doors on March 22, 1910, providing continuous veterinary teaching and research for 100 years. Help celebrate the Faculty’s progress toward meeting its vision of being “a world leader in veterinary education, animal science and research, focused on the health and welfare of animals, and of benefit to the community”! A luncheon for SU veterinary graduates and an associated program open to all SUGUNA members, will be held on Thursday afternoon, August 12 preceding the SUGUNA Annual Conference. Professor Paul Canfield will provide a lively synopsis of the history of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the luncheon and we hope that Dean Roseanne Taylor will join us as well. For further information about this event or to volunteer your assistance, please contact Wanda Haschek-Hock at whaschek@illinois.edu.

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 June 30, 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.
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**MIRIAM CABELLO WINS 2009 FAITH & FORM/IFRAA INTERNATIONAL AWARDS**

Sydney artist and University of Sydney alumna, Miriam Cabello, has received the prestigious 2009 Faith & Form/IFRAA International Awards for visual arts and design for her series “Stations of the Cross”. Miriam will be presented with the Award on June 9th in Miami, Florida, during the exhibition of her work at the 2010 National Convention of the American Institute of Architects. The exhibition will open on June 7th and run through June 13th, 2010, in Miami, and then will be in New York from June 14th through July 9th, 2010.

The series was first exhibited at MLC Gallery, Ultimo to coincide with World Youth Day celebrations held in Sydney 2008. The life-size complex figure compositions are striking in scale, the massive paintings ranging up to 6.6 x 9.8 feet (2 x 3 metres). The paintings parallel Christ’s last days, in an urban environment. A black boxer, imbued with Italian flavours, reinvents this history through contemporary culture, raising timely questions about ethnicity and social conventions and encouraging thought about marginalisation. The award winning work can be viewed at the website www.mlcgallery.com.

Miriam hopes to meet fellow alumni while in Miami or New York. For further information, she may be contacted at Miriam@mlcdesign.com.au or by telephone at +61 2 9692 9222 before June 7, 2010.

**ALEX TURNER** writes: I have recently relocated to the US and am currently based in Houston, TX. I graduated from Sydney University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) and worked in Western Australia as a structural design engineer for two years. I would like to get in touch with fellow alumni in Texas, especially in the Houston area and particularly with those with an engineering background or who are working in the energy/finance sector, as that is an area I am looking to move into. I should also add that I am a dual US/Australian citizen but grew up in, and studied in, Australia.

I am looking forward to being a member of SUGUNA and to getting in touch with fellow Australians – my phone number is (917) 455-8762 and my email is turnerab@hotmail.com

**WANDA HASCHEK-HOCK**

(University of Illinois) and colleagues, Colin Rousseaux (University of Ottawa, a University of Melbourne graduate) and Matthew Wallig (University of Illinois) are editors of the second edition of the Fundamentals of Toxicologic Pathology published by Elsevier in December, 2009. This basic textbook of toxicologic pathology is considered an excellent resource for health professionals and graduate students in toxicology, pathology, and environmental health studies. It provides a thorough organ system based overview of current knowledge and fundamental principles of toxicologic pathology. Wanda can be reached at whaschek@illinois.edu.

**WHAT I DID ON MY SPRING BREAK**

By Bill Evans, age 59 and one half
(Ed. note: and BA, LLB)

Portia McKenna has asked me to write a 600 word article on my 2½ month, 15,000 mile trip across the United States earlier this year. My next task will surely be to summarise the Encyclopedia Britannica on the back of an envelope.

Having retired in December after 30 years working with the State of California, and having ambitions to travel and a very limited budget, I determined that I would load up my old Volvo station wagon with an air mattress, a small fridge, and a converter to run 110 volt power from the cigarette lighter. I planned to stay in campgrounds en route, use my YMCA membership to shower and shave when necessary and stop in local libraries for computer access and reading materials.

I headed south to San Diego and then across the Mojave Desert to Yuma, blowing my first tire on a dirt road returning from a lovely and lonely state park on the banks of the Colorado. I followed this with a drive north to visit my son James, a student at UNLV, sleeping on a cot in his garage. Shared with four other undergraduates, his place makes Animal House resemble a graceful Georgian mansion. We went to a Scottish festival, enjoying the Highland dancing and watching men in skirts throw telegraph poles and other heavy items.

From there I zigzagged through Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. I stopped to revisit the Hoover Dam, still a spectacular piece of engineering but about to be over-shadowed by an immense freeway bridge soaring over the Colorado River just downstream of the dam. Other highlights included the scenic train ride from Williams to the Grand Canyon, the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff (where Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930 – Mickey’s dog was discovered by Walt Disney the same year), the red rock country around Sedona, a re-enactment of the shoot-out at the OK Corral in Tombstone, and a...
performance by the University of New Mexico choir in an Episcopal church in Taos.

I couldn’t face the drive from El Paso through west Texas, so I exited New Mexico’s north-east corner into Oklahoma, where I was much moved by the memorial to those killed in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. I also learned that parking lots were much cheaper than campgrounds, though sleeping behind the wheel was somewhat less comfortable than the air mattress. I might also mention, if it is not too indelicate, that a plastic bottle became very useful for those embarrassing moments when gas station restrooms were unavailable.

In Texas, the main highlights were the Palo Duro State Park, a miniature Grand Canyon southeast of Amarillo teeming with wild turkey and deer, and Austin, which is probably the only livable city in Texas. I was bitten by fire ants outside Corpus Christi and blew a second tire on the freeway there, neither an experience which I wish to repeat. My indirect route through the south took me through Jackson, MS and Montgomery, AL where I was enthralled by the history of the American civil rights movement. I was particularly surprised to learn that Martin Luther King Jr. was only 26 years old and in his first ministerial assignment when Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat, just down the road from his church.

I also spent two nights (in a charming bed-and-breakfast in the Garden District, not in a parking lot!) in New Orleans, one of my favourite U.S. cities. My visit coincided with a food and wine festival inside the Superdome. Well over 100 booths served food samples from N.O.’s leading restaurants and there was also wine-tasting, including some good old Aussie vino. That’s 600 words, Portia; if you want any more you’ll have to ask for a sequel ….

SPRING BREAK 2: THE SEQUEL

After leaving New Orleans, the faithful Volvo and I cruised around the Gulf Coast to Mobile and Tallahassee. At some point I decided that while in the South I should sample some Barbecue (or BBQ as it is referred to in those parts). Drooling with anticipation, I stopped at a homely looking place, and was served one of the worst meals ever; meat that tasted like cardboard, covered in sauce that tasted like a blend of motor oil and ketchup.

Luckily, my friends Jerry and Jane, with whom I stayed in Tampa, commiserated. As it happens, Jerry, who was raised in Glendale, California, has become acclimatized after 25 years of living in the South. He has taken up barbecuing seriously – and bass fishing – and when I arrived he was marinating a 14 pound ‘pork butt’ which he proceeded to slow-cook over the next 14 hours (one hour per pound?) in celebration of his daughter Elizabeth’s twenty second birthday. I love southern cooking …

I spent the next week in Florida, being a tourist which Jerry defines as “someone who will pay to see an alligator”. The Gulf Coast south of Tampa is lined with white sand beaches and beautiful azure water. No surf, except during hurricanes when swimming is not recommended. The sunsets on Key West rival those on the west coast and a crowd turns out every evening to celebrate them. I stopped at a wild animal park in Miami where I did indeed pay to see an alligator, and made the obligatory visit to Disney World in Orlando, if only to see the Circelevision movie in ‘China’ and eat at the French restaurant in ‘Canada’, which I remembered from previous trips.

The red rock country near Sedona, Arizona
Continuing up the east coast, I stopped in the historic city of Savannah, probably the only city in Georgia not burnt by Sherman in his march to the sea. Savannah was laid out in a series of village squares by its first Governor, James Oglethorpe; they all survived Sherman and most even survived the developers of the 1950s and 1960s. I visited the depot of the Georgia Central Railroad, home of the locomotive on which "The General" was based in the Buster Keaton movie. The original was stolen by Union raiders, several of whom were hung as spies by the Confederates and to whom the first Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded. I went also to the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah, where the bravery of American patriots, French and Polish soldiers, is celebrated (but which the British won by an innings and several hundred casualties, and thereafter retained control of Savannah until the end of the war).

One of my interests on the trip was to visit the capitals of the various states through which I passed, so I proceeded north through Columbia, Raleigh and Richmond, to stay with my friends Linda and Eb, who live in an historic house in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC. Most of the houses in their neighborhood date before 1800. I actually went to a church where George Washington worshipped. The plaque didn’t say he slept there, but probably during the sermon ...

By this stage I realised that if I was to keep my promise to Angela Kirgo, to help with the SUGUNA Conference in L.A., and to avoid the possibly fatal consequences of failing to do so, I had best turn the steering wheel towards the west. So, of course, the next event was my third flat tire of the trip, compounded by the vicious incompetence of the tire changers in Corpus Christi, who had put my second flat tire back in the trunk (I know, boot, but I’ve been here over 30 years), leaving me with no spare!

After two days waiting in Manassas, Virginia, for two of the Volvo’s low profile radials, (in what appears to be a particularly rare size), to be shipped from Baltimore, I was back on the road. 600 more words, Portia – do you want another sequel?

(Ed. note: yes please, for the next issue)

Bill with an elementary school class with whom he toured the Oklahoma State Capitol. When they found out he was Australian, he was asked many questions about koalas, aboriginals and so forth.

EARLY ALUMNI FROM SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL

Paul Lancaster, MBBS, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney, President of the Medical Alumni Association

Among graduates from the University of Sydney in the early 1900s, many achieved notable positions of leadership in clinical practice, in medical research and in medical education.

Based on biographies, personal memoirs and books, family sources, and archival records in the University, libraries and elsewhere, five alumni were selected to illustrate varied professional careers and personal attributes. Margaret Harper graduated in 1906, Herbert (Paddy) Moran in 1907, Hugh Ward in 1910, Norman Gregg in 1915, and Victor Coppleson also in 1915.

Born in Melbourne in 1879 and moving to Sydney in 1902 when her father was appointed Professor of Hebrew at the University of Sydney, Margaret Harper was a pioneer of women in medicine. She gained an international reputation for her care...
of newborn and, especially, premature babies.

Not long after graduating, Paddy Moran was captain of the first Wallabies rugby union tour of Britain. In the early 1920s, he introduced radium treatment for cancer in Australia. His three largely autobiographical books gave valuable insight into his personal beliefs and the clinical practice of many of his contemporaries.

Hugh Ward graduated with First Class Honours, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford, and rowed in the Australian Eight at the Stockholm Olympic Games in 1912. After being a prisoner of war in Germany, he went to Harvard for more than a decade before being appointed as Professor of Bacteriology at Sydney where he was a keen advocate of student sport.

Like Ward, Norman Gregg excelled academically, was also a student leader and brilliant sportsman, and then served in World War I. He gained University blues and represented New South Wales in cricket and tennis. He was also a member of the University baseball and swimming teams and later Captain and President of Royal Sydney Golf Club. Gregg already had an established practice as an ophthalmologist when he showed, in his seminal study in 1941, that maternal rubella in early pregnancy caused atypical cataracts, congenital heart defects and other birth defects.

Victor Coppleson was the son of an itinerant salesman in rural New South Wales who had fled from western Russia after the pogroms in the 1880s. After serving in World War I and training as a surgeon, he wrote acclaimed articles and a book on shark attacks. Coppleson is best remembered as the ‘founding father’ of postgraduate medical education in Australia.

It is a highly rewarding experience to delve into the personal characteristics and careers of alumni who achieved great distinction for the University of Sydney and its teaching hospitals. Many of them are almost unknown to us today but can be regarded as wonderful role models for our recent graduates and students. On the University of Sydney campus, the HK Ward Gymnasium, Norman Gregg Lecture Theatre, and Victor Coppleson Building, give recognition of the accomplishments of these medical alumni.

**SUGUNA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The SUGUNA Scholarship Fund was created and stipulated “to be awarded for travel expenses to University of Sydney students or researchers who wish to explore or pursue serious study opportunities in USA or Canada.” Additional stipulations include: the University selects awardees, who are requested to make their best efforts to attend a SUGUNA Annual Conference and at a minimum provide a short written report to SUGUNA on their activities supported by this scholarship.

The University of Sydney USA Foundation administers the SUGUNA Scholarship Fund in USA. Please forward your tax-deductible donation, stipulating SUGUNA Scholarship Fund, with check payable to:

The University of Sydney
USA Foundation
P O Box 3906
Ithaca, NY 14852-3906.

Canadian residents may forward tax-deductible donations directly to The University of Sydney.

Beginning in 2006, the SUGUNA Scholarship Fund began to support University of Sydney recipients. In 2009, the University of Sydney awarded two Scholarships, to

- **Evan McFarland** of the School of Anatomy and Histology, to travel to the University of Florida to collaborate at a laboratory with equipment not available in Australia, for a duration of two and a half months.
- **Reece Hinchcliff** of the School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine to visit the USA for fieldwork over a duration of ten days.
SUGUNA: THE ORIGIN AND EARLY YEARS

Bill Lew, MBBS ‘64, retired Anaesthesiologist, Founder of SUGUNA

I retired from medicine in 1988 and the next year I was jobless, restless and bored. I contacted my friends and classmates to check if there was a Sydney University alumni group in North America and there was none, so I decided to start one. There are no ‘how to’ manuals for starting up an alumni group; it is on-the-job training and improvisation. The goal was to have thirty to fifty people meet annually for a few days, to socialise, have discussions and have fun!

There was no capital, but adopting the motto ‘Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained”, I wrote to about 500 pharmaceutical companies asking for a $500 donation from each. High Hopes! I had spent about $50 on paper, envelopes and stamps but I ended up getting $2,200. That was the start-up capital!

Our inaugural SUGUNA meeting was held in 1991 in Sunriver, a 4,000 acres resort located in Central Oregon. Twenty nine people showed up. They came from Vancouver, Toronto, Michigan, Texas, Utah, California, Washington and Oregon. We had met our goal!

I had my share of mistakes and blunders, part of the learning curve. We needed a mailing list. Those of you who were students in the late 50’s and early 60’s may remember the Registrar, Margaret Telfer. For some reason I thought she was immortal and holding on to her job 30 years later. I wrote to her twice but never got a reply. On one of my trips to Sydney I dropped by the Registrar’s office and was greeted by Keith Jennings, who told me he had received the two letters but didn’t know Margaret Telfer, so hadn't replied. We had coffee and I happily left his office with the mailing list! He later wrote to me that Vice-Chancellor Don McNicol would like to have lunch with me on my next trip to Sydney. I invited Don to our next meeting, which was the ‘92 Whistler meeting. Whistler was a huge success.

I later received a request from Don to “drop by the Quad” and invite Chancellor Dame Leonie Kramer to a meeting. She and her entourage came to the Stanford Meeting in 1994. This has to be the Crown Jewel - ninety five people attended, including the Vice-Chancellor, Don McNicol, and Dean of Medicine, Professor John Young. Co-hosts were Ron Bracewell and Steve Ludvik. We were able to arrange a meeting between the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, and the Provost of Stanford University, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, who later became Secretary of State during the second term of the George W. Bush Administration.

Ron Bracewell, who was Lewis Terman Professor of Electrical Engineering at Stanford, asked me “Do we have a logo for SUGUNA?” When I replied that we didn’t, he offered to design one. You may have noticed the tree in the middle of the logo he created. Ron believed that if people became acquainted with their trees it would enhance their lives. The motto accompanying the logo is “Mens eadem remota” (even when far away the mind remains the same).

Jim Wolfensohn was one of the first to join SUGUNA. He was on the board at Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln and Kennedy Centers, and was also reputed to be a wealthy man, which I duly noted! In 1997 my daughter’s medical school graduation was held in Carnegie Hall. As we walked into the lobby, there was Jim’s picture and a plaque on the wall. It read “Jim Wolfensohn, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Carnegie Hall”.

The third SUGUNA meeting, attended by more than eighty members, was...
held at Penn State University. Graeme Goodsir was the host. One day he mentioned that he occasionally went into New York City on business. I suggested right there that he should drop by Jim’s office and persuade him to donate something of value, like a Tiffany silver tray, which we would name “The Jim Wolfensohn Award” in his honour. I gave Graeme his address and phone number and I called Jim to let him know that Graeme would drop by for a chat. Graeme did the walk and all the talk. It was a joint effort but Graeme deserves all the credit. That is the story behind the Tiffany Tray Award.

Finally, I should like to thank the members for their unwavering support of SUGUNA during the past 19 years. I should like to pay tribute to my classmates Cliff Kwan-Gett and Warwick Harvey-Smith who played major roles in the formative years as advisors and consultants, and also to Mike March and Lyn Beherns; together we were known as The Gang of Five - my apologies to a dozen others not included here.

NATURE, NURTURE, NICHE: LANGUAGE EVOLUTION IN ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Fiona Cowie, BA Sydney, PhD Princeton

Associate Professor of Philosophy, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena

The common ancestor of homo sapiens and chimpanzees (our nearest living relatives) was alive only around 7 million years ago – an eye blink as far as Mother Nature is concerned. Yet, during the evolutionary nanosecond between then and now, something remarkable took place in our lineage and in no others - we acquired the ability to speak and understand a language. Of course, all animals communicate with one another, but language is different from all other natural systems of communication. What we say is largely under our control, and we are able (in a way that most other animals are not) to convey an infinitude of different messages; messages, moreover, that concern facts or ideas that are entirely novel to both individuals and species. (cf: Buckingham Palace is full from floor to ceiling with Lindt 70% dark chocolate, melted.)

Standard theories about the evolution of language postulate the existence of a special language-learning ‘organ’ or device, analogous to a heart or a lung, that was favoured and honed by natural selection, so that we developed the ability to use languages with the vast, expressive power possessed by all natural languages. I argue, by contrast, that language is an invention of homo sapiens, analogous to other of our inventions, such as writing, mathematics, the scientific method and, most recently, the internet. Language evolved to fit us, not the other way around. Cultural evolution is much faster than biological evolution - languages change much faster than our species’ genes do. The reason that learning a language is so easy for us, is that only languages that dovetailed with our abilities survived and ‘reproduced’ themselves in subsequent generations.

That is not to say that there were not language-relevant innovations in our lineage. I argue that there were two: first, the ability to introduce new terms, like emo, into the language as needed; and second, the ability to use parts of old messages to make new ones: from Dog bites man comes Man bites dog. Neither of these abilities is possessed by our closest relatives; each is new in the hominid lineage and each is vital for the development of language in that lineage.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER MEETING

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of SUGUNA usually meets in May or June in British Columbia or Washington, for a day of reunion, reminiscence and relaxation. All SUGUNA members are welcome to attend these events.

For information on the venue for 2010, please contact Gillian Beattie at gbeattie@ucsd.edu.
HOW DOES YOUR PROTEIN FOLD?

H. Jane Dyson, PhD, Department of Molecular Biology, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA

In this lecture I wanted to give an audience that I knew was non-specialist a flavour of the way we do science, by outlining some experiments and showing how we interpreted them. Science has many useful products that make our lives easier, but for those of us who practise science, it provides a constant source of curiosity and interest, and this is what I wanted to share with you.

Everyone knows about the Human Genome Project, where the entire human genome was sequenced. Nowadays we have access to the genomes of many other organisms, including animals, plants and microorganisms. What is a genome? It is the sum total of the genetic information of the organism, encoded in the sequence of nucleobases (abbreviated A, T, G, C) of the long polymer deoxyribonucleic acid or DNA. The DNA is organized into chromosomes (humans have 23), which are present in the nucleus of the cell. The DNA in each cell in an individual is the same, but cells in different tissues of the body use different portions to code for different proteins, which are the machines that accomplish the work done in the cell. The DNA sequence of a gene is “read” by a protein machine called RNA polymerase and its information is transcribed into the sequence of ribonucleic acid (RNA). The RNA sequence is then translated by ribosomes into a protein sequence.

A protein, which has been synthesised in response to a signal (such as the presence of a hormone) will be required to perform a particular function in response to this signal. All proteins start out as linear sequences of amino acids, yet to function correctly, they must fold into a three-dimensional structure. Since many, if not all, protein molecules can fold up by themselves, without the necessity for accessory factors of any kind, the information required for this folding process must be already present in the protein: it is contained in the sequence of the amino acids. How does the linear amino acid sequence code for a folded protein? It is a rather staggering thought that a solution of a protein may contain many millions of individual molecules, every one of which started out as a linear chain, and every one of which subsequently folds up into the same, correct structure (there are examples where proteins misfold, causing diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, but these are a small minority of the folding reactions that go on in the body). How do the protein molecules fold? This is one of the questions that the research in our laboratory seeks to answer.

In our folding research we use a “workhorse” protein, apomyoglobin. Myoglobin is a single-chain version of the blood protein hemoglobin, which gives the blood its red color. Myoglobin functions as an oxygen storage protein in muscle (an historical aside: we use the myoglobin sequence from sperm whale – as a deep-diving whale, the sperm whale has a very large amount of myoglobin in its muscles, so when our work first began, this was a convenient source of protein. Nowadays we synthesise our proteins in the lab, using bacteria or yeast, so we don’t have to worry about slaughtering whales). For our folding work, we use the protein without the iron-containing heme group that gives it the red color, hence “apo”myoglobin. This protein contains 8 helical segments, folded into a globular structure that is known as the “globin fold”. The 8 helices are identified with the letters A to H.

Since we start with the assumption that all information needed to fold the protein is encoded in the amino acid sequence, our experimental strategy was to examine the sequence to look for patterns. First, we mapped the positions of the helices on the sequence, and performed an experiment where we allowed the protein to fold, looking for the areas of the protein that folded first. The result was perhaps a little surprising – the earliest folding events occurred in the A helix, part of the B helix, the G helix and the H helix. The middle of the protein (C, D and E helices) folded, but much more slowly. If we mapped the earliest-folded areas onto the structure of the final, completely folded state, they appeared to form a clump at one end of the molecule. This was an exciting finding, because it meant that the protein molecules were following a relatively defined pathway as they folded, and that the intermediate structures resembled the folded state in important ways.

These results were exciting, but did not give us the full picture – what was it about the amino acid sequence in these areas that caused them to fold up first? Our first thought was that these may be areas where the helical structure found in the final folded state would be promoted. Patterns of helix-promoting amino acids in the sequence did not indicate that the A, B, G and H helices were particularly strong in this regard, and indeed, making changes (mutations) in the sequence of the H helix region to either increase or decrease the proportion of helix-promoting amino acids of curiosity and interest, and this is what I wanted to share with you.
acids does not change the folding rate. Another possibility is the pattern of hydrophobic or “greasy” amino acids within the sequence. One of the reasons a protein folds to a stable structure in water solution is that some amino acids have greasy side chains, which like to clump together in the center of the structure, as far away from water as possible (hence hydrophobic = water hating). The pattern of hydrophobic amino acids in the myoglobin sequence still doesn’t seem to show a preference for the early-folding areas. However, if we modify the definition a bit – to “long and greasy” instead of just “greasy”, the pattern becomes quite clear – the early folding regions all contain groups of “long and greasy” amino acids.

In order to test this hypothesis, we designed an experiment where the sequence of myoglobin was changed in a very specific way. We can make a plot of the “long and greasy” index as it changes along the amino acid sequence, and the peaks correspond to the areas of the protein that fold first. What we did was to swap one of the largest and greasiest amino acids from one of the early-folding areas (tryptophan 14 in the A helix) for a small non-greasy amino acid in one of the later-folding areas (glycine 73 in the E helix). If our hypothesis is correct, the change in the “long and greasy” index should cause the E helix to fold early and the A helix to fold later in this mutant protein. This experiment actually worked as we had predicted (unlike many of our experiments, which give totally unexpected results!). For the mutant protein, the earliest folded parts included the E helix as well as the B, G and H helix regions, but not the A helix. We conclude that for apomyoglobin, and likely for many other proteins as well, it is the pattern of “long and greasy” amino acids within the sequence that primes the protein molecule to start folding along the correct pathway to the final folded structure.

Acknowledgments:
This work formed part of a long-standing collaboration with Peter Wright at Scripps, and most of the experimental work was performed by Dr. Chiaki Nishimura. The project was funded by the National Institutes of Health (grant DK34909).

ALUMNI RELATIONS PRESENTATION ON ‘ALUMNIONLINE’

Tracey Beck, Director, Alumni Relations, University of Sydney

Tracey Beck provided an update on the Strategic Planning process underway at the University, and advised that six new Deans were being recruited in 2009, advising alumni of the faculties this involved. She then provided a background and demonstration of the new alumni web community being offered by the University.

It was clear that young graduates joining the alumni community increasingly expect interactive online systems in order to stay connected to their various networks. The speed with which Facebook and LinkedIn is proliferating among younger alumni was an indication of the need for the University to provide an effective alternative.

A system called ‘Encompass’ was acquired and has been launched in order to encourage alumni to remain engaged with the University and its worldwide chapters.

Tracey then took the audience through a demonstration of the features offered:

• Professional & Social Networking — enables alumni to search and connect with others, to ‘network’ their common interests through Discussion Groups and Forums. Members can also create their own blogs and include live content from Facebook, YouTube, etc.

• Groups, Subgroups & Chapters — the power to segment and personalise content and related activities, in addition to assigning chapter administrators to manage content.

• Online mentoring program — a system unique to the University of Sydney, providing an important means of engagement (alumni to students; alumni to alumni).

Alumni present were encouraged to visit www.alumni.sydney.edu.au and register for this special service.

Alumni Awards 2010

Take this opportunity to nominate an outstanding alumnus for this prestigious awards program.

In 2008 fellow SUGUNA member Professor Charles Mackenzie (BSc(Vet) ’69 BVetSc ‘71 PhD ’76) won the Alumni Award for International Achievement.

For more information, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni_awards

Nominations close April 30
THE FUTURE FACE OF TELEVISION

David Lyle, BSc, President of Fox Reality Channel

As we end the first decade of the 21st Century, I would suggest that television is going through the most fundamental series of changes since the 50’s (the birth of TV was 1956 in Australia) or at least since the proliferation of cable in the US in the ’80s.

First, there’s the proliferation of channels. Ten years ago the average US home had 60 channels to watch. Today, that same average home has 118 channels. Likewise in Europe, most countries that had one state broadcaster and one commercial broadcaster saw an explosion of terrestrial broadcasters in the nineties. And in Australia, satellite and cable have finally come of age after years of languishing…under the heavy boot of Kerry Packer.

It is about digitization. Around the world the old established terrestrial broadcasters are no longer pumping out their analog signals. With digital signals, the broadcasters (as I still use that word) can split their output to give viewers a whole bunch of BBC’s or Ch9’s. In this country, of the 110m television homes, something like 95 to 100m of them get their big broadcasters CBS, ABC, NBC and Fox (and CW) through the same box and connection as they get their cable channels. And as a sidelight, the ratings service by the strangling grip of Nielsen which has an electric version of its diary service in a small number of homes which is extrapolated to provide national viewing figures, will be challenged by the digitally accurate set top box figures.

But the shift from the airwaves to digital doesn’t stop at cable and satellite. There is the shift to internet. Many viewers (under 30), when talking about their favorite programs, can’t remember if they saw them on a TV set or a computer screen. If they were watching TV they were probably on line at the same time.

The freedom of the internet will trigger another series of battles as the owners of the content (and the people who paid for it) try to figure out how to get paid on line. The buzz word will be authentication. In other words, you will only be able to get TV programming on line (or on phones) if you can prove that you are paying some carrier some form of subscription.

Authentication is necessary because of the great false promise of the internet. None of the material on line (save the skateboarding cat) was paid for by “online”. Most of it was made for other paying media and is online as a secondary window (either generating revenue or probably free). The net cannot afford to make long form video content. But the net will scatter old channel brands even further than the proliferation of channels.

But with proliferation, brand erosion, broadcast networks ceasing to matter much, cash for carriage, new measurement methods, authentication and internet delivery AND all the fights that go with these issues, more people will spend more time watching TV and one constant will remain…..there will never seem to be anything you want to watch.
THE SYDNEY PUSH &
ITS INFLUENCE

Aviva Layton, BA (Sydney), MA, (Montreal), PhD (York University, Toronto)

The Sydney Push started in the late 40’s and ended in the early 70’s. It owed its inception to Sydney University’s Scottish Professor of Philosophy, John Anderson. He founded the Free Thought Society which encouraged its members to examine and question all forms of authority, be they church, government or academic. This group evolved into the Libertarian Society which later became known as The Push. Although the Push had its roots in the university, it largely abandoned its home base there and expanded into the fledgling Bohemian coffee shops which were springing up in Sydney, such as the Lincoln, as well as pubs, such as the Royal George and the Tudor.

A loosely defined, rather amorphous group, the Sydney Push consisted of philosophy professors, students, journalists, actors, writers and general hangers-on. It defined itself, in so far as it had a definition, as anti-bourgeois and anti-authoritarian. (It also contained many contradictions: many of its members were brilliant academics but the Push had a strong bias against academia; it vigorously debated ideas and yet had a strong anti-intellectual bias; it fostered many careers and yet was anti-careerist.

For the Push to exist at all in the Australia of the 50’s, with its rigid morality and deep conformity, was an anomaly to say the least. Censorship in both books and movies was severe and sexual repression was rampant. The Push was vastly ahead of its time in terms of its sexual freedom and its pre-figuring of the Beatnik movement.

During its relatively brief period, the Push, and those who were associated with it, produced some of Australia’s best-known writers and artists. Among them are sculptor Robert Klippel; Germaine Greer, who freely acknowledges the influence of the Push on her thinking and writing; Robert Hughes, who says that his association with the Libertarians has been of fundamental value to him as a writer; Richard Neville who started Oz magazine in Sydney and then went on to found the London Oz; Clive James; Paddy McGuiness; Lillian Roxon; Margaret Fink; George Johnston and Charmian Clift; journalists Ted Morrisby and Murray Sayle, who made their mark on Fleet Street; poet Les Murray, Frank Moorhouse, George Molnar; painters John Olson and Francis Lymburger.

Someone once described the Push as “an island of excitement in a sea of dullness”, but it was more than an isolated island. The Sydney Push, which has now acquired mythic proportions and has inspired countless articles as well as a book, continues to exert its influence not only on those who participated in it so many decades ago, but on Australian society as a whole.
Steve Mandel's Conundrum

Steve Mandel, a University of Sydney graduate and former professor of mathematics, presents us with Autumn’s conundrum.

The answer will appear in the next issue or readers may send the solution directly to Steve at MaryJaneMandel@aol.com – he is happy to hear from readers.

This issue’s Conundrum:

You have two children, Heidi and Thomas, and you have nine lollies (nine is an odd number) to distribute between them. Who gets the ninth lolly?

All you have is a beaten up coin that came from an archeological dig. It has heads (H) on one side and tails (T) on the other side, but it is bent and worn and can in no way be expected to fall H or T with anything like equal probability.

Devise a plan for tossing the coin so that both children have exactly the same chance of getting the extra lolly. (It can not be broken in half.)

Hint: You will have to toss the coin more than once.

Last Issue’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.

Solution: 106 matches need to be played in order to determine the champion, one less than the number of players who entered the tournament. This is because the champion alone has the unique qualification that he/she has not lost a match. All the other players, all 106 of them, have exited the tournament by losing a match, and they do this one match at a time.

Corollary: If N players show up, N-1 matches are needed.

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.
NEW MEMBERS ... SUGUNA welcomes new Members and returned Friends (February 2010)

Amal Abdo, BDesComp 2007, Chicago, IL
Francesca Azambuja, BDes (Conservatorium) 2009, Appleton, WI
Paula Brusky, PhD (Conservatorium) 2009, Bolingbrook, IL
Miriam Cabello, Bachelor of Visual 1988, Ultimo, NSW
Julian A Callachor, BSc (Applied Physiotherapy) 1991, Bolingbrook, IL
Wendy Casson, Chicago, IL
Ignatius W K Cheung, MBBS 1972, Vancouver, BC
Emma Fauquier, MA (Sociology) 2009, Toronto, ON
James Gosper, New York, NY
Brady Hildt, MCRim 2009, San Diego, CA
Christopher J Hughes, BS (Psychology) 2009, Pittsburgh, PA
Jennifer Johnston, Chicago, IL
Patricia Kinnahan, Bachelor of Social Work 1965 & 67, Cypress, CA
Chi-Ning Liu, MD 1962, Los Altos, CA
Peng Liu, MPromgt 2004, Scarborough, ON
Merrily McGugan, 2008, Chestnut Hill, MA
Elizabeth McNally, Master of Public Policy, 2001, Perth, ON
Oguchukwu Molokwu, MM (Painmg) 2009, Fresno, CA
Christine Sedgley, BDS 1981, MDS 1992, Portland, OR
Helen Stockdale, BA DipEd 1957, Knoxville, TN
John A Stockdale, BSc (Hons II Physics) 1957, MSc 1960, PhD (Physics) 1969 (Tennessee)
Alexander Turner, BE (Civil) 2006, Houston, TX

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SUGUNA Membership Form

Please return a SUGUNA Membership Form to the Secretary. Registering a membership form with the Secretary once is all that is needed. If already registered, please update any changed address or contact information, such as an email address. This allows maintaining an accurate and complete database with current information. Membership includes participation in business decisions of SUGUNA, in person or by proxy.

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 refer to any SUGUNA Officer – contact details are noted above.