Sir John and Lady Cornforth

Sir John graduated from the University of Sydney with degrees in BSc 1938, MSc 1939 and was awarded an honorary DSc 1977. He is Emeritus Professor at the University of Sussex. Lady Cornforth is also a Sydney graduate with a BSc 1937 and an MSc 1938.

Following their studies at Sydney, the Cornforths both earned 1851 Exhibition scholarships to work at Oxford University. Sir John worked on the chemistry of penicillin and then later on the chemistry of cholesterol making fundamental discoveries on their chemical structure and shape. He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Vladimir Prelog in 1975 and was knighted in 1977. He was awarded the Corday-Morgan medal in 1953, the Royal Medal in 1976 and the Copley Medal in 1982.

Sir John had a profound influence on the work on penicillin during the war, and helped to write "The Chemistry of Penicillin" (Princeton University Press, 1949). The University's Cornforth Foundation for Chemistry was launched in 2002. Sir John has interests in Science, Engineering, Libraries and Museums.

Sir John's father was a teacher in rural NSW. John was a very bright student at school and wished to be a teacher, but his hearing became very poor at age 15 and he realised this was not to be. His own teacher suggested a career in Chemistry (hearing not a necessity). At the age he 16 he came to Sydney University where he was a star student and where he met his wife Rita (Harradence). She realised his brilliance and sacrificed her own independent career to support him, being a trusted co-worker and acting as his ears for over 70 years. They both won the University medal and both won the Exhibition scholarships mentioned earlier. In 1939 they set off for England by boat. The war broke out and their boat was diverted form the Suez Canal down to Cape Town. Lady Cornforth thought they should go back to Sydney to which Sir John replied in the negative as this was their chance to go to Oxford. They both continued on their journey to Oxford where they obtained DPhil degrees. They worked with Robert Robinson, one of Sydney's other Nobel Prize winners (Chemistry 1947) and who was the first Professor of Pure and Applied Organic Chemistry in the University of Sydney in 1912.
John Dauth LVO (BA ’69)
Pictured on front cover

Mr Dauth joined the Australian Foreign Service in 1969, having completed a Bachelors Degree in History (with Honours) at the University of Sydney. After postings in Lagos (Nigeria), Canberra and Islamabad (Pakistan) Mr Dauth was seconded in 1977 to the Queen’s Household at Buckingham Palace in London.

In London he was styled Assistant Press Secretary to the Queen, but known more widely in the British media as Press Secretary to the Prince of Wales. In these roles, he was part of a small Secretariat in Buckingham Palace responsible for the affairs of the Queen, and the Royal Family. The Prince of Wales had only just left the Royal Navy and was beginning his broader public role and the handling of media aspects of that role was a major preoccupation.

After the European summer of 1980, Mr Dauth chose to return to the Australian Foreign Service, where he assumed responsibility for Commonwealth Affairs at a time when Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser was preparing to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne in 1981. Mr Dauth played a major role in the preparations for that Conference and also for the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982 and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting in Suva in 1982. At the Melbourne and Suva meetings, he was the Secretary to the Australian Delegation, headed by Prime Minister Fraser.

From 1983 to 1985 Mr Dauth was Australian Chargé d’Affaires en pied in Tehran during a period when Australia’s relations with Iran expanded significantly, particularly in the commercial field.

Returning to Australia in 1985, Mr Dauth was seconded to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to head the unit responsible for external relations in preparation for Australia’s Bicentennial celebrations in 1988.

In 1986 he returned to the Foreign Service and was posted as Consul General in New Caledonia, during a period of significant sensitivity in Australia’s relationship with France over their Pacific territories. These sensitivities lead, in early 1987, to his expulsion. Subsequent happier developments in France/Australian relations have facilitated close working contacts between Mr Dauth and France in many forums.

In 1987 to 1989 Mr Dauth was Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry and built on his substantial professional experience in dealing with the media.

In 1989 he was appointed as Chief of Staff to the then Australian Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans. This was a particularly demanding role at a very busy time in Australian Foreign Policy.

In 1991 Mr Dauth returned to the Foreign Ministry and headed the International Security Division, responsible, inter alia, for Arms Control issues and Nuclear Policy.

In 1993 he was appointed as Australia’s High Commissioner to Malaysia and in 1996 returned to Canberra to assume charge of the South and South East Asia Division of the Foreign Ministry. In 1998 he was appointed as Deputy Secretary (or Deputy Head) of the Foreign Ministry, a position he held until his appointment in 2001 as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

He left New York in January 2006 and was until August 2008, Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand. He took up his appointment as High Commissioner in London in September 2008.

The University of Sydney
Alumni

See the inside back cover for a complete listing of 2009 events

Summer Reception at Australia House on 9th July 2008

The Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors were our guests at our July reception at Australia House. This was very well attended and a great success. This was our farewell to Professor Gavin Brown and his wife Diané. Baroness Gardner of Parkes on behalf of the Association presented the Vice-Chancellor with a Houses’ of Parliament wine decanter to express our gratitude. (Michael Hintze at a private dinner also presented him with two books of works of Leonard Euler, the famous mathematician of the 18th century)

We congratulated Professor Brown on his new position as director of The Royal Institution of Australia based in Adelaide. It is a great honour to have this august body established in Australia and for the university to have its ex vice-chancellor as its head. The Vice-Chancellor told us that The Royal Institution was established in London by Sir Joseph Banks over 200 years ago, so how fitting it is to have one in Australia.

Pauline Lyle-Smith (Chairman, USUKAA)
Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of Australia

Quentin Bryce, Principal of the Women’s College at the University of Sydney from 1997 to 2003, was born in Brisbane in 1942. She spent her earliest years in the tiny wool town of Ilfracombe, some 700 miles northwest of the Queensland state capital. Her father was in the wool trade and her mother was a school teacher. She and her three sisters lived in various country towns in Tasmania and NSW as well as Queensland as their father’s business dictated. Bryce (born Quentin Alice Louise Strachan) was home-schooled by her mother then completed her education as a boarder at Moreton Bay College. Its influence on the Governor-General may be discerned in the school motto: “Fortitudine Et Spe (courage and hope)” – both qualities that Ms Bryce brings to public life.

She attended the University of Queensland where she graduated Bachelor of Arts (1962) with Bachelor of Laws (1965). She was one of the first Queensland women to be admitted to the Queensland Bar. After spending time in London, she returned to Australia and joined the Faculty of Law at the University of Queensland in 1968. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Macquarie University in 1997.

Ms Bryce has a long and distinguished record of advocacy for human rights and in particular the rights of women and children and, over the years has been appointed to pivotal posts by governments from both sides of politics, state and federal. In 1978 she was appointed to the newly created National Women’s Advisory Council. On that Council she played an important role in highlighting the concerns of Aboriginal women and women in remote areas and had significant input into the work of the Council in redefining the relationship between government, bureaucracy, women’s groups and the community.

In 1993 she moved to become Founding Chair and Chief Executive of the National Childcare Accreditation Council with the brief of establishing national standards in the childcare industry. She became Principal of the Women’s College in 1997.

Ms Bryce’s other roles have included President of Women's Cricket Australia, Chair of the National Breast Cancer Centre Network and Board member of Plan International and of Sydney IVF Ethics Committee. She has served on a number of government and NGO boards including as Chair of the National Women's Advisory Council, the Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, the Jessie Street National Women's Library and the NSW Police Constables Education Program. Her publications focus on employment discrimination, international human rights law and practice and the rights of children.

Quentin Bryce is widely regarded in the Australian community as a courageous and articulate person who has been at the forefront of social change and responsibility throughout her career, often against strong opposition. In 1988 she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in recognition of her contribution to the community, in particular to women and children. In 2000 she was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her services to women’s cricket. She was elevated to Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2003 and Dame of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in the same year.

Her appointment as Govern-General (the first woman in the role) has been popular and she is a much-loved and respected figure in Australian public life.

Ms Bryce married architect Michael Bryce in 1964 (now Adjunct Professor Bryce AM AE) and they have two daughters, three sons and five grandchildren.

Many alumni will remember her as our guest speaker at Apothecary Hall in 2002 for USUKAA.

The appointment of Quentin Bryce last year as Australia’s first female Governor-General was a matter of great rejoicing in Women’s College and the University.

The University and Women’s College are doubly proud because at the same time our Chancellor, Marie Bashir, is also the first woman to hold Australia’s oldest governorship – NSW. To hold both offices simultaneously is a truly remarkable achievement. Professor Bashir was Chairman of the Women’s College Council for many years.

In this issue we reproduce her Australia Day address in honour of her distinguished predecessor Lachlan Macquarie.
2009 AUSTRALIA DAY ADDRESS
by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO
Governor of New South Wales

Verbrughghen Hall
Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Tuesday 20 January 2009

I am honoured to have been invited to deliver the Australia Day Address for 2009, and to join those of my fellow Australians who have shared with us, in previous years, their insights and reflections on this great national day of celebration and thanksgiving.

At the outset I record my respect for the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered this evening, the Gadigal people of the Eora clan, their ancestors and descendants, and indeed for all Australia’s indigenous people, whose enduring culture has nurtured this continent for tens of thousands of years.

For many Australians, not least our indigenous people, January the 26th brings forth an abundance of intense, and sometimes conflicting, emotions. But for all of us it is an occasion to give thanks for our extraordinary good fortune – for the unique beauty of our land, the diversity of its wildlife and natural riches, above all for the strength and resilience of its people, and the privilege accorded us as protectors and custodians of the country we love.

We give thanks that in a world beset by turbulence and anxiety, religious and racial conflict, economic upheaval, the threat of terrorism and the uncertainties of climate change, Australians live together as one people in a nation blessed by political stability and social harmony.

This is a time when we acknowledge the builders of our nation, and I want to speak this evening of one such individual, one of my predecessors in this office – Lachlan Macquarie, the bicentenary of whose appointment will occur this year.

Macquarie was appointed Governor on 8 May 1809; he arrived at Sydney Cove on 28 December that year, and four days later, on 1 January 1810, began his 12 momentous years in office. I should add that among his many innovations, he was the first Governor to give official recognition to Australia Day – in 1818, and decreed a public holiday for government workers.

Like so much of his legacy, that observance has endured. And today, as we look back on Macquarie’s life and career, it is striking how much of it seems relevant to the concerns of modern Australia.

It may be unwise for those in high public office to indulge in hero-worship. But I readily acknowledge that Lachlan Macquarie is among my heroes. And perhaps I admire him too much to be wholly objective in my assessment. I came late to a deeper understanding of the man and his works. My education was largely in science, and only in recent years have I learned of the immense scale of his achievements.

As evidence of my admiration, I number among my treasured possessions a land-grant document signed by Macquarie in 1812 – though whether this makes me the unacknowledged legal owner of a large part of George Street I leave for others to decide.

It has been remarked before that an aura of failure, frustration and rejection has too often been the reward of many of our national leaders. It was certainly true of many of the best known colonial governors. Phillip left office dispirited and exhausted. Bligh was overthrown in a military coup – the lessons of which were superbly recounted in last year’s Australia Day Address by Chief Justice James Spigelman, the Lieutenant-Governor. And sadly, it must be said, Lachlan Macquarie was another victim of misfortune – denigrated by many during his term of office and discredited in official circles in Britain.

Yet he stands today as one of the greatest of Australian governors, a true pioneer of the nation, unmatched for vision, magnanimity, compassion, and zest for accomplishment. He was, I believe, the founder of modern Australia. Indeed he was the first Governor to refer officially to Australia by that name, in 1817 – endorsing the name used by Matthew Flinders.

Certainly no governor came to office with a richer fund of experience or a deeper apprehension of life’s trials and hardships. He was born of humble beginnings in Scotland on the tiny isle of Ulva in the Hebrides and worked on the family farm.

His father died when Lachlan was young; he was 15 when he joined the army as a volunteer. He served during the American War of Independence in New York, Charleston, Canada and Jamaica – and in Egypt against Napoleon’s armies – before accompanying his regiment to India in 1788, the year the Australian colony was born. He had married his first wife, Jane Jarvis, and taken her with him to Bombay, later losing her to tuberculosis in Macau.

By the age of 40 he was already a seasoned traveller – hardened by war, very much a man of the world, well known in influential circles in London. Returning to Britain in April 1807 after service in India, he narrowly escaped drowning when a freak wave struck his ship while crossing the Persian Gulf. This was at a place called Bushire, which has no known connection with anyone of my acquaintance. Unable to travel through the Mediterranean because of the war with France, Macquarie journeyed overland via Baghdad, through Persia and north to St Petersburg, then via Denmark and Sweden to London. After such adventures, a mere six-month voyage to New South Wales would have seemed routine.
Yet for all his outstanding qualifications, he was not the British Government’s first choice for the job. The man chosen as Bligh’s successor was Brigadier-General Miles Nightingall, who resigned through ill health before his departure for New South Wales. Macquarie, already designated Lieutenant-Governor, offered himself as Governor and was subsequently appointed.

He was then 48 years old. In November 1807, he had married his second wife Elizabeth Campbell, who proved to be an ideal partner. Macquarie’s 12 years of service proved to be the second longest term of any Governor in our history. Only Sir Roden Cutler – in very different times – had a longer tenure in office.

In assessing Macquarie’s achievements, we must take account of the colony as he found it – primitive, divided, demoralised. In his own vividly dismissive phrase, the colony “was barely emerging from an infantile imbecility.”

M.H. Ellis, one of his biographers, wrote:

The country was divided by faction as a result of the Bligh rebellion, and was almost starving; its morals were in ‘the lowest state of debasement’. Public buildings were in ruins; roads and bridges were impassable. There was no ‘public credit or private confidence’. Macquarie’s first step towards mending these depressing conditions – Ellis went on – was to bring together the warring sections of the colony though the institution of official gatherings and community functions, among which the colony’s first horse races and agricultural fairs were notable.¹

That was Macquarie’s way – reflected still in the Australian preference for conciliation and consensus, for negotiation and discussion rather than the brute exercise of authority.

It may be going too far to suggest that the success of the Sydney Festival in January is a legacy of Macquarie’s liking for community celebrations, but I have no doubt that if he could have staged a fireworks display on New Year’s Eve he would happily have done so.

Deeply depressing conditions, however, existed in the colony he inherited, which he immediately set about transforming.

In the years that followed, he instituted a period of unprecedented progress. And in many ways he set the pattern, and defined the priorities of enlightened public administration in the modern era. He built schools, hospitals, roads – what we like to call infrastructure – on a scale not seen before. He instituted our system of public and private education. We see his influence today in the emphasis given to education by all Australian governments.

Two hundred years ago he saw the role of education in building a nation and made it one of his first priorities. So today, when we hear talk of an education revolution, remember Macquarie thought of it first. At the end of his governorship, one-fifth of the colony’s revenue was being spent on educational services.

To a large extent, Macquarie established the nation’s economy – an environment in which commerce and manufacturing could flourish. In 1813 he introduced coinage; in 1817 the colony’s first bank – the Bank of New South Wales – opened its doors. Under Macquarie, the colony acquired its first courthouses, its first magistrates, its first places of public worship, its first independent newspaper.

When he left office in 1821, he could point to 265 public works carried out during his term, many designed by Francis Greenway, the former convict appointed civil architect – roads to Parramatta and the Blue Mountains, the five planned towns, including Richmond, Liverpool and Windsor, built beyond reach of floodwaters from the Hawkesbury River. The city of Bathurst was largely his creation. Campbelltown was named after his wife. We have only to look around us to see the evidence of his creativity and zeal. Many of Sydney’s streets bear the names he chose, including the fine thoroughfare which he named after himself – a privilege no politician would dare exercise today. But his vision extended far beyond Sydney. He encouraged exploration to expand the supply of pastoral land – famine being an ever-present threat in a colony relying on shipments of food. After the successful crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813, the road was commissioned the following year and built in an extraordinary six months as a gateway to the pasture lands beyond.

I quote Ellis again –

Macquarie promoted many cultural and civil amenities… He encouraged the establishment of a benevolent society, a savings bank and a library. He can be accounted the first vice-regal supporter of local literature and the only Governor in history to appoint a “poet laureate” – Michael Massey Robinson, whose stipend was the welcome annual gift of two cows.

Today, of course, we reward our artists and writers in more suitable currency, but not, perhaps, more generously.

Another of Macquarie’s priorities – another link with the Australia of today – was his emphasis on public health. He showed a concern for the sick, the poor, the neglected and the marginalised beyond anything required by the duties of office. With Elizabeth’s support, he took a particular interest in the welfare of children, especially those of the destitute and abandoned. I have no doubt that Macquarie and his wife were aware of the links between poverty, disadvantage, sickness and crime. Elizabeth’s intellectual independence and acumen proved major strengths in the implementation of Macquarie’s reforms. His undisguised admiration for his wife’s abilities was evidence, I believe, of the value he placed on women as equal partners in both marriage and society at large.

Early in his administration, encouraged by the Reverend William Cowper, of St. Philip’s Church, he presided over a meeting to set up the Benevolent Society, which was later detached from the church to function as an independent agency. The Society’s aims were “to relieve the poor, the distressed, the aged and the infirm, and to encourage industrious habits among the indigent poor …”

For a contemporary Governor, especially one with a professional interest in mental illness and the plight of the abused and the traumatised, Macquarie’s example has been an inspiration. In 1810 he established the colony’s first psychiatric hospital, the Castle Hill Asylum, which received its first 30 patients from Parramatta Gaol. It is remarkable that, almost 200 years ago, we had a governor with a sympathetic understanding of the needs of the mentally ill.
His attitude to Aboriginal people was similarly enlightened, though it is important that this not be exaggerated. Macquarie was a military governor, a man of his time, and in Ellis’s words, “did not hesitate to instigate military measures against the Aborigines in 1816 when they mistook his friendliness for weakness.” But he opened the first school for Aboriginal children, and made the first official attempts to settle native people in agriculture.

John Ritchie, another of Macquarie’s biographers, has given a touching account of Macquarie’s final parting from the Aboriginal chiefs he had grown to know and respect. In the last days of his governorship he went with Elizabeth to say goodbye to the clans at Parramatta. Ritchie wrote: “As the Aborigines feasted on roast beef washed down with copious draughts of beer, he examined the children of the Native Institution [which he had established at Parramatta in 1815]. He knew that the rapid increase in British population and the progress of British agriculture had driven these people from their ancient habitations; he also knew how contact with Europeans in the townships had degraded the Blacks …”

I firmly believe that Macquarie felt a sense of shame for the treatment of Australia’s Aborigines, and that his feelings towards them set in train the long process of reconciliation culminating in last year’s historic apology, made on the nation’s behalf with the support of all political parties.

Perhaps there was condescension and calculation in Macquarie’s treatment of the first Australians. But there was also, I believe, genuine benevolence, an innate goodness of heart.

Manning Clark, with his usual note of ironic detachment, recorded in the second volume of his History of Australia that many Aboriginal parents had enticed their children away from the Parramatta institution because, as Macquarie noted with regret, “the natives ... had not sufficient confidence in Europeans to believe that the institution was solely intended for their advantage and improvement.” Given what we know today, one can hardly blame them.

It was, however, Macquarie’s treatment of the convicts in his charge that earns our respect and admiration today. This was more than humanitarianism; it was nation-building. The colony needed a workforce, the larger the better, and Macquarie believed that when a prisoner had discharged his debt to society he should be “eligible for any situation which he has, by a long term of upright conduct, proved himself worthy of filling.” Bligh had granted only two pardons during his term as Governor. Macquarie, between 1810 and 1820, granted 366 pardons, 1,365 conditional pardons and 2,319 tickets of leave. According to Ritchie, the policy of emancipation was “the child of Macquarie’s heart, more instinctual than theoretical”.

In his softer moments – Ritchie wrote in 1886 – he viewed the convicts as children of misfortune. Believing in the intrinsic worth of individuals, he offered them hope; he aimed to encourage redemption, to promote self-respect and, ultimately, a social regeneration. He nurtured a dream of what the new country might become ... In raising people to positions of trust and authority, he drew no distinction between the free and the freed; his object was to eliminate faction and to introduce harmony.

Can we not see in Macquarie’s example of tolerance and humanity the beginnings of the great Australian tradition of the ‘fair go’ – the spirit of egalitarianism, the sense of fair play that many regard as our defining characteristic as a people? He believed that everyone deserved a second chance, whatever his past deeds or reputation. And to a large extent that belief was his undoing. It led to the appointment of J. T. Bigge as a commissioner to inquire into the colonial administration. Bigge’s damning report was deeply wounding to Macquarie’s pride and reputation. But he never abandoned his faith in human decency and the principles of fairness for which he stood throughout his term.

Generosity to others was the mark of his character and in many ways the central theme of his administration – reflected today in our reaching out to the people of our region, the readiness of individual Australians to open their hearts to the victims of natural disaster, the spirit of volunteerism that did so much to make the 2000 Olympics such a memorable achievement.

What follows are some lines sent to me by Marie Sullivan, a fellow Macquarie enthusiast and chair of the Macquarie Committee, which is planning a number of celebratory events for 2010. I have Marie’s permission to use her words –

Macquarie realised – wrote Marie – that for people to be good their environment needed to encourage independence, goodness and self-respect.

For this, it was necessary to have an abundance of the things we associate with a civil society – churches, schools, hospitals, roads, journalists and newspapers, agricultural and farming pursuits, racing carnivals, lawyers and courts, artists and architects, surveyors and explorers, annual festivals, banks, botanists and botanic gardens, places where the disabled, the mentally ill, the convicted prisoner and the young could be adequately and safely housed and cared for; urban planners and carefully laid out towns, buildings and lighthouses of architectural magnificence and adornment; leadership with probity, kindness and vision. Few or none of these things existed prior to the Macquaries’ arrival in New South Wales.

Perhaps the true grandeur and pathos of Macquarie’s story are best summed up in his own words. All that he passionately believed about his policies of emancipation, the motivating impulse of charity and love that underlay all his actions, was poured out in a submission he wrote to Commissioner Bigge in justification of his policies. Macquarie’s words, as we know, would have little effect on Bigge’s decisions. Bigge sided with the malcontents, the disgruntled free settlers. Increasingly dispirited, Macquarie had tended his resignation on three occasions. This eventually took effect in 1821.

But there is a pleasing irony in the thought that were it not for the conflict of these men, we might have waited much longer for the rudiments of a parliamentary system.

Bigge recommended that no future Governor should be allowed to rule as an autocrat, so a Legislative Council was appointed to advise the Governor – though it was not until 1856 that the Council was granted legislative powers.
Reading Macquarie’s submission today, one senses not only the depth of its passion and sincerity; we hear, in the cadences of his prose, with its measured repetitions and rhetorical emphases, the language of modern political discourse. As in so many things, he was ahead of his time. And what a politician he would have made today! Here is part of what he wrote to Bigge (and for the printed version of this address I have adopted modern conventions of punctuation) –

At my first entrance into this colony, I felt as you do … that some of the most meritorious men … most willing to exert themselves in the public service, were men who had been convicts! … You already know that above nine-tenths of the population of this colony are or have been convicts, or the children of convicts. You have yet perhaps to learn that these are the people who have quietly submitted to the laws and regulations of the colony, altho’ informed by some of the free settlers and officers of government that they were illegal! These are the men who have tilled the ground, who have built houses and ships, who have made wonderful efforts … in agriculture, in maritime speculations and in manufactures. These are the men who, placed in the balance … in the opposite scale to those free settlers … you will find to preponderate [in character, both moral and political].

I said earlier that Macquarie would happily have staged a fireworks display if it had been possible to do so. And indeed one such display was staged on the eve of his departure. Thousands gathered in the streets of Sydney to farewell him.

According to Manning Clark –

Macquarie Place and Barracks Square were brilliantly illuminated … the humble cottager vied with the proud and liberal merchant in displays of esteem and affection to their beloved Governor. … On the Friday night the towns of Parramatta and Liverpool were illuminated in demonstrations of joy and satisfaction … while [others] lit ample and cheering bonfires, the roarings of which were heard for the most part of the night amidst the display of fireworks …

Next day, on the parade ground, [Macquarie] bid farewell to the people who had gathered for the ceremony … His constant maxim, he told them had been to reward merit and punish vice without regard to rank, class or description of persons. He had found the colony in a state of rapid deterioration: threatened with famine, discord … and the public buildings in a state of decay. He had left it in a very different condition: the face of the country was greatly improved; agriculture flourished; manufactories had been established; commerce had been revived; roads and bridges had been built; the inhabitants generally were opulent and happy.

Today, as I travel the length and breadth of the State in my official duties, I see the legacy of Lachlan Macquarie in so much of our lifestyle and shared values. I see it in the courage of our farmers, the men and women on the land as they contend with drought and other trials and misfortunes. I see it in the spirit of our fighting men and women abroad, who, like Macquarie, serve their country with dedication and professionalism. I see it in the character of our people – their warmth and friendliness, their lack of pretension, their pragmatism, their rejection of vainglory and superficial status, their belief in the ‘fair go’, their determination and strength of will in the face of adversity. I see it in our people’s capacity for hard work, the readiness of so many to lend a helping hand, to give every deserving man and woman a second chance, the belief in the ever-present opportunity for renewal and the limitless possibilities for human betterment.

And seeing all this, I have no doubt that when the Australian people confront – as we assuredly will – the huge challenges that lie ahead of our nation, the economic problems resulting from the present global crisis, the inevitable threats to unemployment and job security, the disparities of wealth and opportunity that persist in even the most fortunate societies, we will have the strength to face them squarely, to acknowledge them honestly, to meet them bravely and, in time, to overcome them.

The Australia of today, whatever the difficulties we face, would have been a source of great satisfaction, indeed of great pride, to Lachlan Macquarie. Sadly, however, he returned to England a broken-hearted man and died in London on 1 July 1824.

In The Australian, the newspaper established during his term, William Wentworth quoted these lines of Alexander Pope –

Statesman, yet friend to truth! Of soul sincere,
In action faithful, and in honour clear,
Who broke no promise, serv’d no private end,
Who gained no title, and who lost no friend …

It was a fitting tribute to a man who turned a squalid penal colony into an infant nation – a fledgling democracy, robust, self-confident and proud – and whose life and example we recall with gratitude in this period of his bicentenary.

References:


In 1993, Peter Morris was awarded the University of Sydney’s Loewenthal Medal, in recognition of outstanding medical research.

His career spans an impressive and prestigious progression with honours and awards from Australia, the US and the UK and many more countries over the past 40 years: the list goes on for five pages and includes Professorships in the USA, Canada, Italy, Hong Kong, South Africa, New Zealand and India. After receiving a knighthood for services to medicine in 1996, he was elected President of The Royal College of Surgeons of England and served from 2001 to 2004. In 2004 he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for services to medical sciences, an award which he is immensely proud of.

We met at the prestigious Royal College building which looks out on to Lincoln Inn’s Fields; I was immediately struck by his easy-going and friendly manner, reinforced by his portrait in central position on the walls of the Royal College and in contrast to the traditional poses of other eminent Presidents in their red academic medical gowns. Sir Peter’s portrait shows him in a bright blue open shirt with a ready smile, which makes him stand out from his peers. His friendly disposition as he greets staff and members in the corridors of the Royal College, make him immediately approachable to all.

After graduating in 1957, Peter Morris spent the first 3 years at St Vincent’s hospital in Melbourne. In his last year there, he worked for 4 weeks under Claude Welch, the eminent Harvard Surgeon, who was a visiting Professor at St Vincent’s at the time; the latter became his idol. He remembers him as such a gentleman: even during operations he would take the trouble to say please and thank you when asking for instruments. When Claude Welch left Australia, Peter Morriss wrote and said he would like to work with him and received a two-page hand-written letter with: ‘he’d love to see me in the USA and would keep this in mind for the first opportunity’.

Sir Peter had to continue his surgical training in the UK as there were no complete training programmes in Australia at the time. He worked for six months in general practice to earn the money to do so and in order to reach the UK, worked on board a ship as the ship’s doctor (which all young doctors did at the time apparently); at the end of the trip he was given one shilling as payment for his services (officially signed for!).

In the UK he had a Fellowship at Guys Hospital for three months and then moved to the Post Graduate Medical School at the Hammersmith as Resident Surgery Officer followed by two locum positions prior to becoming a surgical Registrar at Southampton, which is the position he was aiming for, working under Tom Rowntree, who was an exceptionally brilliant teacher.

At the end of the Southampton job, Sir Peter received a phone call from Claude Welch in Boston and was offered the position of Senior Resident at Massachusetts General Hospital, which he accepted with alacrity.

With wife and first child in tow, he arrived in the US on 30 December 1963 – the temperature was 13 degrees Fahrenheit. Mrs Welch kindly collected them on arrival and took them home. Following a quiet day and a short visit to a New Years Eve party, at 5am the following morning she woke up Sir Peter, had breakfast ready on the table for both he and her husband and she then proceeded to open the garage door, refusing any assistance, explaining that her husband had a tight schedule and that there was no time to lose... Without further ado, Sir Peter was driven into work on 1 January by the eminent surgeon, not to reappear for several days, while Mrs Welch and Mrs Morris looked for an apartment to live in.

Whilst spending a year working long hours, daily 5am starts with every other weekend and every other night on duty, he was offered a Research Fellowship; and was to work with Jack Burke (an eminent researcher in infection and surgical metabolism). Towards the end of his fellowship he finally entered the new medical area of transplantation and tissue matching.

A move to Richmond in Virginia was the next step, working with David Hume, a famous pioneer in transplantation, who asked him to come and establish a Tissue Matching unit; Hume had collected blood samples from every patient over several years which allowed him to discover that antibodies did occur in kidney transplants in humans and were associated with acute rejection.

As a Resident doctor, Peter Morris only earned $300 per month, so his
wife, Jocelyn, had to work: she was a chest physician in Respiratory Medicine and completed her career years later, directing the Lung Function Laboratory at Oxford University in the Chest Unit.

After Virginia, he returned to the department of surgery at the University of Melbourne establishing the first tissue typing programme in Australia as well as a large research laboratory in transplantation immunology, and of course conducting a surgical practice. Finally came an offer from Oxford University to take up the Nuffield Chair of Surgery and a Fellowship at Balliol. In Oxford he was to establish a major transplant programme and one of the largest international research programmes in the field, which took many trainees from the University of Sydney.

His work and life at Oxford suit his personality. Becoming a Fellow of Balliol College, where Fellows are expected to dine every Wednesday night, allows him to exchange ideas and share thoughts with a mix of brilliant academics and Fellows of every discipline.

Peter Morris modestly attributes his series of eminent positions to ‘a whole life of lucky breaks’! He considers that he is not all that bright (!) as he does not look upon himself as an intellectual (although he considers that his wife is one ...)

Reading between the lines, one can safely say that hard work, an acute mind and exceptional brain, have been at the basis of his success although having a supportive wife, who brought up their five children and instilled in them a tremendous respect for Sir Peter’s work, cannot be underestimated.

When asked what advice Sir Peter would give to young graduates, he pointed out that apart from the obvious hard work and long hours which need to be devoted to reach any measure of success, he stressed the need for flexibility in any discipline: ‘Change is happening very quickly and we need to adapt to advances, particularly in medicine and the sciences’.

The very recent developments in medicine and the world financial markets clearly demonstrate the veracity of his comments.

His unique mix of scientific brilliance combined with his wonderful warm personality must have assisted him along the way. This positive approach and his belief that ‘anything is accomplishable’ are an inspiration to us all.

Sydney Law School in Europe

The Sydney Law School conducts Australia’s largest postgraduate program in law. In 2009 the Sydney Law School will deliver another exciting Sydney Law School in Europe program.

Now in its tenth successful year, the program will offer units of study in corporate governance, climate law, international sports arbitration and international commercial litigation. The program will be conducted at prestigious university locations in Cambridge and Berlin.

The program is designed to allow Sydney Law School students and alumni the opportunity to complete postgraduate study in an international setting. The program also gives European students the opportunity to combine study in Europe with study in Australia. The units are also available to practising lawyers in Europe as continuing professional development.

Each unit is as demanding as it is rewarding, owing to the strong commitment of the Sydney Law School to deliver units of study in Europe. Units are taught exclusively by academics from our faculty together with specialists from the United Kingdom and Europe, ensuring that each subject has a strong comparative element and relevance for practice.

Students completing units of study in the Sydney Law School in Europe benefit from learning in diverse locations in Europe. Classes are capped at 20 students, which allows for interactive discussion and personal tuition but also maximises the opportunity for students to network with other students from various legal backgrounds and countries. There are also opportunities for social and cultural excursions during the program including some optional side trips to places of interest.

Courses for 2009 are:

Comparative Corporate Governance

Comparative Climate Law
6–9 July 2009, Cambridge

International Sports Arbitration
11–14 July 2009, Cambridge

International Commercial Litigation
9–12 September 2009, Berlin

Further information:

Ms Sue Ng
s.ng@usyd.edu.au

Mr Phillip Raponi
phillip.raponi@usyd.edu.au

Or visit the website:
www.law.usyd.edu.au/parsons/slse
Timothy Potts (BA ’81)

Timothy Potts won the Sydney University Medal in both Archaeology and Philosophy in 1981 (he is one of the very few people ever to have won two University Medals). From 1982 to 1989 he was a Co-director of the University of Sydney excavations at Pella, Jordan.

He became director of Cambridge’s Fitzwilliam Museum in 1997, following nine years as director at the Kimbell Art Museum in Texas (1998-2007) and four years as director of the National Gallery of Victoria (1994-98). A specialist in the art and archaeology of the ancient Near East and Mediterranean, he held academic positions in these areas as Research Lecturer at Christ Church (Oxford) and as a British Academy Fellow in Near Eastern Archaeology and Art, Christ Church (Oxford). While director in Melbourne, he was also Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University, and a Professorial Fellow at University of Melbourne.

Between his academic and museum positions he had a corporate career with Lehman Brothers where he was a director of the Media and Communications Group, Investment Banking Dept, (NY and London) in 1990-94.

His publications include:

Civilization: Ancient Treasures from the British Museum (1991)


Culture Through Objects: Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Honour of P.R.S. Moorey; (co-editor)

The Fitzwilliam Museum houses the University of Cambridge’s collections of art and antiquities and is a public museum and art gallery with an international reputation. More than half a million objects and works of art are held in five curatorial departments: Antiquities, Applied Arts, Coins and Medals, Manuscripts and Printed Books and Paintings, Drawings and Prints. The Fitzwilliam’s treasures range from Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to the arts of the 21st century and include masterpieces by Titian, Canaletto, Stubbs, Constable, Monet, Renoir and Picasso, one of the world’s foremost Rembrandt print collections, Handel music manuscripts and the famous Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, one of the most significant collections of Korean ceramics outside East Asia, medieval illuminated manuscripts and outstanding collections of pottery, porcelain and medieval coins. (University of Cambridge, 1 June 2007)

Alumni online community project gathering pace

The University is progressing well with the implementation of the Encompass Project, the online community where alumni will be able to chat, blog, network, update their contact details, find old friends and classmates and organise alumni group and association activities.

Due to be launched mid-2009, the community will also allow alumni to import their existing social networking profiles, such as FaceBook, LinkedIn, and so maintain all their online networking under the one – University of Sydney – umbrella.

“Current and future cohorts of alumni increasingly expect and require interactive online systems in order to stay connected to their various networks,” said the Director of Alumni Relations, Tracey Beck.

“The SydneyOnline (working title) community, which will be progressively rolled-out, will offer a full range of social and professional networking opportunities, to help alumni renew and strengthen their engagement with each other and the University, and of course, vice versa.”

Other features of the online community will include lifelong email, an alumni business directory and a mentoring program.

For further information, please contact:

Hazel Baker
h.baker@vcc.usyd.edu.au
Phone: +61 2 9351 8624
Professor Sir Michael Marmot

By Elizabeth Haworth

Director, International Institute for Society and Health Chair, Commission on Social Determinants of Health

Recently Michael Marmot (BSc (Med) ’67 MBBS ‘69 MD ’06) has been in the news again when the WHO published the final report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health.¹

The Commission has progressed the understanding of health inequity, the social gradient in health within countries and the substantial inequalities between countries due to unequal distribution of power, income, goods and services with consequent unfair life circumstances. These include access to healthcare and education, conditions of work and leisure, their homes, communities and towns or cities. The report ascribes such inequality to poor social policies and programmes, unfair economic arrangements and political failure. The high burden of disease associated with premature death, particularly high infant mortality results from the poor structural conditions into which the poor are born, live, work and age.

The report aspires to closing the health gap in societies within a generation, building on the improvements which have occurred within countries and worldwide in the last 30 years. However, it presents the startling health inequalities persisting within and between countries and three principles of action:

1. Improve the circumstances of daily life
2. Tackle inequitable distribution of power, money and resources globally, nationally and locally
3. Measure and understand the problem and assess the results of interventions to expand the knowledge base, create an appropriately trained workforce and raise public awareness.

These require an ambitious programme of radical reform for fundamental change in the way governments and UN do things to achieve fairness, social justice and reduction in health inequalities and the Commission’s final report argues that significant closing of the gap is achievable. Health equity should become a global development goal converting the recommendations of the Commission into actions.

Though the issues are universal, individual countries need to work on policies for their own population and Michael Marmot will lead a group recommending appropriate UK policy. Other countries must follow suit and WHO is an obvious means of coordinating such work in its regions working effectively with the UN. The Commission recommends publicly funded health care systems, based in primary health care and greater debt relief for poor countries. A programme of further and integrated research is also necessary, improving and interpreting available information.

In November 2008, the medical journal, The Lancet, published a summary of the report² and associated studies confirming wide variation in wealthy and low to medium income countries alike.

Civil societies are urged to take up the challenge of greater health equity and to hold governments to account. Regular international meetings and reviews will be needed, like those which are successfully tracking progress on child survival.

Michael Marmot has worked on social determinants of health since training in epidemiology in the US and establishing an academic Public Health career at University College London, via and in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He first came to UK notice through the Whitehall studies which showed marked inequalities in health associated with social factors and personal control in the workplace. He has now taken on new challenges for health equity for the rest of his working life.

References


Image sourced from www.ucl.ac.uk
L-J Patterson turns the spotlight on unique women who have forged significant pathways through our legal landscape. Pauline Lyle-Smith takes centre stage in the first of a three-part series

How many firms and offices breathe a sigh of relief for the DX system when Royal Mail postal strikes sporadically loom? How many know that this document exchange system—which in July 2006 was sold by Hays plc to Candover, the private equity firm, for £350m—began with one woman, a lawyer from Australia?

Pauline Lyle-Smith came to England in 1974. Having used the system in her law firm in Sydney and hearing that there was no such system in the UK, she enlisted the help of Huh Whitham (founder of the Australian DX) and Henry Seymour to establish the DX system in Chichester Rents, just off Chancery Lane, on 15 September 1975. She then took the system to the Law Societies of Holborn and Westminster, which backed and publicised the scheme together with the Law Society, which announced all new members in The Gazette. By the following year, the DX had 300 paying members. Today, the DX serves 27,000 public and private business members, including 97 of the top 100 legal firms.

PERSEVERANCE

It took persistence and hard work to make the system the success it is today. First, the law needed to be changed. Lyle-Smith was instrumental in getting the Post Office monopoly relaxed in 1981, the year the British Telecommunications Act was passed, after many meetings with lawyers. She ultimately presented the case before Mr Justice Roderick Parker of the High Court Rules Committee and the Court Rules were duly changed so that service of documents through the DX was construed as “good service”. Not one to rest on her laurels, she then took the DX system to North America.

SUCCESS ACROSS THE GLOBE

The DX is not the only Lyle-Smith project on which law firms are reliant today. On her return to London, on request from Michael Chambers, Lyle-Smith set up and edited the UK Chambers and Partners Legal Guide in 1989, which now ranks solicitors and barristers in over 60 specialist areas of law and has a worldwide reputation for its research. True to Lyle-Smith’s form, she then took this success across the globe to become editor at large of Legal Profiles in Australia.

Apart from the female editors of The Gazette and Margaret Thatcher, who spearheaded the relaxation of the Post Office monopoly, the majority of her aids were men. At Lyle-Smith’s law school in Sydney, the ratio was 250 men to 20 women. Sydney’s leading law firm at the time, Freehill Hollingdale & Page, where Lyle-Smith practised, was also mostly run by men. Did this add a gendered significance to her achievements? “We were not feminists,” Lyle-Smith says of her 20 fellow female law students “and the men were all wonderful”. Lyle-Smith simply took in as much knowledge and help as she could from the influences she had. The obstacles she encountered were not those of breaking gender moulds, but the technicalities of law and enterprise. Lyle-Smith stands out as a woman in a male dominated business—perhaps all the more because she didn’t choose to do so, but set out to put her ideas in motion.

STRONG ROOTS

What has been her inspiration throughout every project? A far cry from the gowns, suits and narrow streets of commerce, law and London City, Lyle-Smith puts it down to her roots, the outback of Australia and in particular Carathool Shire, New South Wales. While growing up, Lyle-Smith experienced the simplicity of rural outback and agricultural living, the flying doctors and methods of reaching people or transportation living so far apart from major resources. She watched local projects in action, which her father helped co-ordinate; the biggest being the Guthega Dam, a system enabling water from the Snowy Mountains to be brought to those in the Carathool area with restricted access to water.

Although white vans, grey boxes and paper are not quite as picturesque as this, one can draw a comparison here with her desire to bring a simple alternative communication system to a city dependent on its own fundamental, but ultimately unreliable, one.

WHAT NEXT?

What is next for Lyle-Smith who now, among other posts, is chairman of the University of Sydney UK Alumni Association and director of Guidestar Data Services? She continues to practise law in England, Wales and New York State but has a new project in mind and is producing a documentary about Locked-In syndrome, with friends who have inspired her.

True to Pauline’s previous works, it is likely to be sweeping, far-reaching—whether the woman behind it is known, or not.

L-J Patterson

LYLE-SMITH: THE DX DYNAMO

1970: lyle-Smith qualifies as a solicitor
1974: arrives in England
1975: establishes DX system in Chichester Rents
1980: Post Office monopoly relaxed
2004: DX awarded Queen’s Award for Enterprise
2006: sold by Hays plc to Candover for £350m
2008: now serves 27,000 public and private business members, including 97 of the top 100 legal firms
Younger Members’ Group

The Younger Members Group continued to thrive in 2008 under the Chairmanship of Ali Kewley, who obtained her BSc (Hons) from the University of Sydney in 2002 and has been in the UK ever since.

Their activities last year included two very successful picnics at Hurlingham in July. A special dinner and speech by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the LSE was well attended. Group members also joined USUKAA members at the Summer reception in July.

Ali Kewley

Chairman’s note

Since the report above Ali Kewley resigned as Chairman of the YMG due to work commitments. On behalf of the Council and Association, I would like to thank Ali for being a magnificent and hardworking Chairman. We very much appreciate her enthusiasm and inspiration. Kuntha Chelvanathan has kindly agreed to take over from Ali and we have much pleasure in welcoming her.

Pauline Lyle-Smith

It’s often been asked how young one has to be to be part of the young member’s group. I believe that the YMG is ageless. All events are open to anyone interested in making friends, sharing a drink ... all are welcome to join us.

Following on from last year’s activities, in 2009 the YMG will continue to host varied events for all the alumni who feel young at heart. Our monthly gatherings will take place on the First Thursday of the month at a local venue in central London. Please do come and join us!

Don’t hesitate to email me if you’d like to be part of our group and join us at our YMG events.

Kuntha Chelvanathan
kchelvan@gmail.com

Be a part of the 2009 Alumni Awards

The Alumni Awards program recognise outstanding achievements made by alumni locally and outside of Australia in community service and their professional field. The program also incorporates the Convocation Medal.

Young Alumni Award for Achievement
For outstanding achievements made by young alumni (30 and under) to the University, Australian or international community.

Alumni Award for International Achievement
For contributions of overseas alumni to the enrichment of international society.

Alumni Award for Professional Achievement
For outstanding achievements by alumni in their professional field.

Alumni Award for Community Achievement
For contributions made by alumni to the enrichment of Australian society through their community service.

Convocation Medal
Awarded to a recent graduate who has achieved a high standard of academic proficiency and contributed to the diverse life of the University.

Visit the website for further information and nomination forms
www.usyd.edu.au/alumni_awards
Alumna profile:
Dr Suzann Wade (PhD ’03)

Mrs Suzann Wade (alias Dr Suzann Sime) enrolled in a PhD at the University in 1996 after being awarded a scholarship from Worksafe Australia with the Faculty of Medicine in Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology. The following year the research division at Worksafe Australia was closed due to a change of government policies. Suzann applied for an Associate Lecturer position in the (then) Department of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney, which was two-thirds time for a four-year tenure with the ability to pursue a PhD.

In early 2001 Suzann left the University to work for the Australian Stock Exchange full-time as an Analyst and submitted her thesis, ‘Biological and Chemical Testing of Antioxidant Dietary Supplements’ and was awarded her PhD the following year. In 2003 Suzann married James Wade and moved permanently to London – working as a researcher in the Factual & Specialist Division at the BBC. She obtained scholarships from the UK government and VET (Video Engineering Training) in camera, directing, lighting, sound and editing, worked for a Theatrical Agent and has run her own agency for the past three years. She has a small number of actors on her books, and although not A-list yet, they have appeared in productions such as Bourne Ultimatum, Spooks, The Bill, Skins and the musical Sound of Music. Suzann Wade works with directors and script writers utilising her University of Sydney background (though to a much lesser extent) for example ‘Blood Line’ directed by Rupert Bryan, which won best short film at the Marbella International Film Festival and starred Christopher Cazenove, on its science credibility (to be used loosely!). She continues to develop her agency with her latest client, Maria Lawson an ex-X factor UK contestant and representing Australian directors e.g., Kim Reddin and Australian artists such as Paul Dawber with an active role in the charity Young Enterprises UK whom she has been a board member for the past five years.

She was a Chemistry/Forensic Science practical demonstrator during her undergraduate years at the University of Sydney, UWS, UNSW and UTS. She obtained scholarships from the Australian Jockey Club for Honours at UNSW, a Vocational Scholarship from ADFA (UNSW College, Canberra) and a Cadetship with the Department of Education in Physics at UWS. With much disappointment, only one paper was published in academic literature, in the Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology, although several articles and papers were published by corporate companies, such as ‘Benefits of Pycnogenol’ for Horphag Switzerland, a clinical pharmacokinetic study of a novel delivery system for vitamin E for NDS Ltd, and ‘The chemistry of antioxidants and their role in our protection’ for the Association of Professional Aestheticians of Australia.

Professor Basil Rougalis in the Faculty of Pharmacy was and will always be an extraordinary inspiration to her. She is very grateful to her supervisors Associate Professor Vivienne Reeve and Professor Douglas Moore.

She would be delighted to hear from fellow alumni living in the UK who have a strong background in acting, directing or scriptwriting or those who may have children with an interest in acting.

Please contact her by email, info@suzannwade.com

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Fax: +44 (0)20 7486 5664
Mobile: +44 (0)7773 778 841

USUKAA Book Bursaries

The USUKAA Council wish to assist University of Sydney graduates, presently studying in the UK, or who have confirmed arrangements to do so, by offering them an opportunity to apply for £100 book bursaries to be used to purchase books or other educational resources.

Five bursaries are available annually and graduates of the University of Sydney in any discipline are invited to apply for a bursary for the present UK academic year.

Applications are invited up to 15 May 2009 and successful candidates will be contacted by 15 June 2009.

All eligible applications, regardless of whether they have been successful or not, will be offered free membership of the USUKAA for the duration of their studies and invited to attend events and meet other alumni throughout the year.

Download an application form from our website:
www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/networks/uk_alumni
A note from
Graeme de Graaf
Founder of International House


Thank you Pauline and Richard for hosting this get-together. It is an important milestone event for all of us. For 40 years the Alumni Association - through a small band of Sydney based alumni - has done its best to keep in touch with alumni around the world. Against all odds a database of up-to-date addresses for several thousand of us has been maintained, although many have been lost. And the twice yearly Newsletter has been treasured over the years by alumni in some of the remoter corners of the world. Members of the Committee have always been quick to rustle up a dinner for a past resident who visits Sydney. But Alumni events such as the Founder’s Day Dinner and Lecture, have inevitably been accessible only to alumni whose home is near Sydney.

Now, inspired by the euphoria of the 40th anniversary celebrations last July when alumni from all over the world and from all the years of our existence visited Sydney, the House and SUIHAA have decided that we must do better. There is so much to be gained by young alumni who are returning to their homes, or striking out in yet another foreign country, being able to be in touch with people who have with them the bond of having promised to ‘pass the light’. A structure is needed to move in this direction, and the House has provided a part-time staffer, Alexandra Cordukes, to help us create it.

So – we are hoping that today’s gathering will not be just a one off. A ‘SUIHAA UK Chapter’ may sound a bit grand. Initially all it may require, having come together, is an expression of a wish to ‘stay together’. Minimally, that could be achieved by appointing a Committee with a ‘Representative’ – who accepts responsibility for communication with the House. What happens locally from that point will vary greatly from Chapter to Chapter.

One of the things we hope will happen, is that Chapters will throw their weight and ingenuity behind the commitment which SUIHAA has made to fund the Outpatient Clinic at the Bo Childrens’ Hospital in Sierra Leone. It is great that all of you here today have already made a contribution to Bo.

The hospital is the brainchild of Dr Nuli Lemoh. (Nuli’s photograph at the 1967 Candelight Dinner is on the back of ‘Passing the Light’.) The University of Sydney has (uniquely I believe) endorsed and facilitated this venture although no benefit accrues to it. The possibilities for the future are interesting – there have already been enquiries from medical students from outside the House as to whether they can be involved!

You probably remember, from your days in the House, that it was in working together on some project (whether an act for International Night, stocking the House cellar, or building the Belanglo cabin) that the I House experience of promoting friendship and understanding across cultural barriers actually happened. Alumni from across the generations may well find that when they work together for Bo the light will once more be passed from one to another.

International House is in great shape with a planned future which will maintain its highly respected place in the major developments under way in the University. We want SUIHAA to move into the 21st Century with it.

Graeme de Graaff

Post Script

2nd November 2008: Updates since June re Bo. We are one third of the way to the SUIHAA goal of $100,000. Most raised so far by/from Sydney-based alumni. (The present IH students have again this year raised $2000 which the House and SUIHAA will each match dollar for dollar.) Land has been purchased in Bo. Plans for the outpatients clinic have been approved. Rotarians from the Bo Club and the Rotary Club of Bournemouth in UK have joined with Turramurra in the project.

www.suihaa.org.au

Message read out by John Gascoigne at UK International House Alumni Reunion in July 2008
PROFILE:
Dr Jane Williamson
Principal, the Women's College

Dr Jane Williamson was appointed Principal of The Women's College last October 2008 on the retirement of the previous Principal, Mrs Yvonne Rate AM.

Dr Williamson comes to The Women's College after a long career as an academic and manager at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). During her career Dr Williamson has been committed to the promotion of academic excellence, enhancing the student experience, supporting diversity and inclusion, and building connections with the professions and the community.

She holds the academic qualifications of Bachelor of Economics (University of Queensland 1971), Bachelor of Arts (University of Queensland 1978), Master of Arts (Griffith University 1985) and Doctor of Philosophy (University of Queensland 2001). She began her professional career as an Economics teacher in Brisbane and subsequently held positions as a tutor and lecturer in the CAE sector. From 1990 to 2007, Dr Williamson was employed by QUT as a Lecturer (1990–2001), Senior Lecturer (2001–2006) and Associate Professor (2006–7) during which time she taught and undertook research in the fields of History, Asian Studies and Gender Studies.

Dr Williamson brings considerable administrative and managerial experience to her new role at The Women's College. Between 2001 and 2006, she was the Assistant Director (Academic Coordination/Teaching and Learning) for Humanities and Human Services within QUT. In this position, she fostered improvements to student learning experiences through a range of activities, including the development of a comprehensive transition program for commencing students in Humanities and Human Services courses. As Executive Director, Northern Campuses (2006–2007), Dr Williamson led and coordinated academic activities on QUT's Carseldine Campus and was responsible for the University's programs at the Caboolture Campus – a jointly operated campus with Brisbane North Institute of TAFE. In this role, Dr Williamson managed a significant budget and a number of academic and professional staff.

Dr Williamson leads an active life outside work. She regularly goes to concerts and loves opera and the ballet. She enjoys a range of sports, including walking, jogging and attending the gym. She is also committed to political awareness and to opportunities for engagement and debate. For example, she is currently undertaking a research project on the Women's Peace Army (1915–1919).

Dr Williamson and her husband, Dr Bob Cope, share five adult children, four daughters and a son. They also have three grandchildren.

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday 19 September 2009
Spring Back to Sydney
A reunion for all alumni
Heading to Oz?

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2009 EVENTS

Paris Reception | Wednesday 1 July 2009
Time: 7.00 to 9.00pm
Venue: Club Interallie, Paris

Summer Reception – London | Thursday 2 July 2009
Time: 6.30 to 8.30pm
Venue: The Great Hall at Barts
West Smithfield, London ECIA 7BE
Cost: Members £35 | Non-members £40 | Students £30

International House Reunion | Sunday 5 July 2009
Time: From 4pm
Venue: Courtesy of Pauline Lyle-Smith and Richard Wormell
6 Beltran Road, Fulham London SW6 3AJ
Cost: £20 (£10 donation to Bo Project)

Women's College Reunion | Sunday 12 July 2009
Time: 12.30 for 1pm
Venue: Susie Flook is very kindly hosting a lunch at her home at:
Fern Lodge
London Road, Bracknell RG12 9FR, United Kingdom
RSVP: susieflook@msn.com or 01344 421 926
Cost: £20 for alumnae and partners.

Autumn Lecture & AGM | Saturday 10 October 2009
Speaker: Speaker Jon Snow - Presenter Channel Four
Time: 11.30am – 12.15pm Coffee/tea in McKenna Room lobby
11.30am – 11.45am AGM all welcome (members only may vote)
12.15pm – 1.15pm Lecture in McKenna room
1.30pm – 2.30pm Lunch in Hall
2.30pm Tour of college
Venue: Christ Church
Saint Aldate’s, Oxford, OX1 1
Ph: 01865 276150
Web: www.chch.ox.ac.uk
Cost:
Members: £28
Non-members: £33
Students: £25
Lecture only: Free
Tour: Small charge

Please note: There is NO parking at Christ Church. There is a parking
station not far away, however it tends to get full on Saturdays. Park
and Ride is recommended.

Registration forms are available on www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/networks/uk_alumni or complete and return the form below

Registration form

I would like to book the following tickets for the (please insert event):

Member ticket/s @ (please insert amount) per person £__________
Non member ticket/s @ (please insert amount) per person £__________
Student tickets/s @ (please insert amount) per person £__________
Please find a cheque enclosed for a total amount of: £__________

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Town/County: __________________________ Postcode: __________________________ Country _______________________________
Telephone number: __________________________ E-mail address: __________________________________________________________________
For security purposes, please provide the names of your guest/s: __________________________________________________________________
Please state if you have any specific dietary requirements: ___________________________________________________________________

Please make cheques payable to 'The University of Sydney UK Alumni Association' and send with completed form to Admin USUKAA, 5th Floor, 33 Chester Street, London, SW1X 7BL
Tel: +44 (0) 207 201 6882 Email: universityofsydneyukalumniassociation@cqsms.com. Tickets and further information, including maps and directions, will be sent on receipt of this form.
USUKAA contact details

Administrator:
universityofsydneyukalumniassociation@cqsm.com

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