SUGUNA GATHERS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

In balmy autumn weather, SUGUNA members met for their 24th annual conference in the charming southern city of Charlotte, North Carolina, October 10-13, 2013. After the opening of the conference by SUGUNA President Wanda Haschek-Hock, Conference chair Derek Raghavan and session chairs Jennifer Hodgson, Rod Holme and Gerry Bassell introduced an excellent program of speakers. Barry Catchlove, Pro-Chancellor of the University, gave the conference an update on the University and alumni affairs, including a very well-received video produced by the University as a thank you to donors, which can be viewed at inspired.sydney.edu.au/our-donors.

Many of the presentations addressed medical topics. Dr. Raghavan, President of the Levine Cancer Institute, spoke about the challenges of creating the institute, addressing the needs of patients who would have to travel long distances for treatment by harnessing the resources of health care facilities across large areas of North and South Carolina, developing an ultra-modern central facility in Charlotte and recruiting high-quality physicians, academics, nurses and administrators. Dr. Virginia Hood, Past-President of the American College of Physicians, spoke on the very topical issue of health care reform, addressing the need for high value, cost-conscious health care in the United
2013 SUGUNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (CONT)

States, where despite high rates of increases in health care costs, results are significantly poorer than many other parts of the developed world. Dr. Hood noted particularly such factors as excess capacity and costs of medical technology; poor coordination of health care; and inadequate preventive health and comprehensive care programs.

Dr. Daniel Brauman, plastic surgeon, spoke on the “do’s and don’ts” of face lifts and eye lifts. He noted the importance of planning plastic surgery with reference to the appearance of patients when they were younger, and the redistribution of subcutaneous fat, rather than “lifting” and “pulling”, to achieve better and more permanent results.

Other speakers covered the wide range of eclectic subjects for which the annual SUGUNA conferences are noted. Julian Brown, Emeritus Professor, Kingston, Ontario, discussed Australian art in North America, noting the many Australians who have had an impact, from Robert Hughes, New York art critic, architect Tony Coombes and entertainer Barry Humphries, to Timothy Potts, current director of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. His conclusion was that Australian aboriginal art, both traditional and modern, is likely to have the most significant impact on the North American art scene. In another aspect of art, Louise Mary Simon, social worker, spoke of the importance of art therapy in the care and treatment of a wide range of disorders, from Alzheimer’s disease and strokes to trauma and abuse in children. The art may include drawing, drama, music and dance.

Michael Schwager, the Minister for Science at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC, spoke on the role of the diplomatic service in international science and technology between Australia and the U.S.A. and Canada, with an emphasis on co-operative research, science policy and diplomacy. Matt Hall, scientist at the National Institutes of Health, answered the question “Was Grandpa a Convict?” by describing his research into the convict history of N.S.W. and the genealogical resources available, among them the surgeons’ journals from convict ships and the 1828 census (all later censuses having been destroyed). He advised that there is a little bit of truth in every family story, noting that his great grandfather who was thought to have lost his legs at Gallipoli actually had fallen under a train at Granville station.

Daniel Bidencope spoke on the international sport of croquet, not for the faint-hearted (no longer just for elderly ladies and the vicar!), and demonstrated croquet equipment. He also arranged a game of croquet for conference participants at the BOD meeting on Thursday prior to conference.
Tega Cay Golf Club on the Sunday morning after the conference. Judith Terry Smith, from the Department of Paleobiology at the Smithsonian Institution, spoke about the analysis of fossils in California and what this can show about the geological history of the area. The fossil record indicates that there may actually have been two different ocean stages in the paleohistory of the state.

Finally, two presentations were made relating to future SUGUNA activities: Michael Marsh, convener of SUGUNA’s 2014 national conference, presented a slide show encouraging people to attend the conference to be held at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, August 7-10, 2014; and Bette Seamonds Nadler made a presentation on the Dictionary Project, a program to present dictionaries to students in low-income schools. SUGUNA has agreed to support this program over the coming year.

In addition to the presentations, conference participants enjoyed several tours, activities and social events. The conference started with an elegant reception at the home of Derek and Judy Raghavan, graced by a string duet and superb hors d’oeuvres. On Friday and Saturday groups of conference participants toured the City of Charlotte, and visited the Levine Cancer Center, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art and the Harvey B. Gantt for African American Arts and Culture; the Charlotte Botanical Gardens and Aviation Museum; and the Museum of the New South. On Friday evening there was a reception and buffet under the magnolias in the courtyard of the Renaissance South Park Hotel, at which first time conference attendees were introduced.

The conference concluded on Saturday evening with a lavish banquet at the Quail Hollow Country Club. The Jim Wolfensohn Award was presented to outgoing SUGUNA President Wanda Haschek-Hock in recognition of her career as an outstanding veterinary pathologist. Wanda was also thanked and congratulated for her highly successful two year term as SUGUNA President and Derek Raghavan was welcomed as the incoming President. The Michael Challis Award was presented to Sonia Ettinger for her many services to SUGUNA.

Professor David Hodgson, head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Science at Virginia Tech, entertainingly delivered the after-dinner speech on the subject: “Why Australian Horses Don’t Win the Kentucky Derby.” He explained that Australian and American horses have different official birthdays, so Australian three year olds are about six months younger than American three year olds. The main reason however is that horseracing prize money in Australian races is greater than that in American races, so that there is no incentive for owners to incur the costs and difficulties of transporting Australian thoroughbreds across the Pacific. Professor Hodgson did express the opinion that the racing legend Phar Lap died of an equine illness, but was more ambiguous as to whether the illness may have been induced by American organised crime. The question of why Australian horses don’t win the Melbourne Cup was, alas, unanswered.

The banquet would not have been complete without the traditional sing-along led by the dulcet tenor of past president Gerry Bassell.
PRESIDENT’S COMMENTARY

It is tough to fill giant shoes, especially when they are owned by a tiny person...that said, the shadow cast by Professor Emerita Wanda Haschek-Hock, is long, and justifies so elegantly her selection as the recipient of the Jim Wolfensohn Award for 2013. Wanda has served with great commitment as Vice-President and then President of SUGUNA, and is one of the most influential academic veterinary pathologists, two of the achievements that led to the award. Fortunately, she remains in the Officer ranks of SUGUNA as Immediate Past President for the next two years.

SUGUNA faces important challenges – specifically, a founding population that is slowly ageing, with other commitments, and a parent University that is facing significant fiscal challenges from both major political party agendas in Australia, leading to fewer resources for the support of alumni activities. That said, this promises to be a rewarding time for the members of SUGUNA. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Spence, has recently reaffirmed his commitment to alumni affairs, and has arranged for a careful assessment of the current model and approaches to the future. We continue to have great support from Dr Barry Catchlove (Pro Chancellor), and our Officer in Australia (a member of our Board of Directors), John McLennaghan, both of whom have been active in fostering our relationships with the University. We recently have had increasing interactions with our colleagues in our parallel organisation in the UK, and will be attempting to draw these groups more closely together. Finally we have had an unprecedented number of new attendees at the 2013 SUGUNA Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC, a group particularly characterised by a younger set of new members. As reported by Bill Evans, the discussions were eclectic, including paleobiology, how to build a cancer center, value in healthcare, Australian contributions to the world of art, and culminating in a jocular dissertation on the lack of Australian winners of the Kentucky Derby. At the Awards Banquet, the Michael Challis Distinguished Service Award was presented to Sonia Ettinger, a graduate of the University of Melbourne, who has been a faithful friend and worker at SUGUNA conferences for many years.

By the time this note is circulated in the SUGUNA Newsletter, the University elections will have been held, with three important candidates associated with SUGUNA, Peter Mason (a SUGUNA director), Barry Catchlove and David Turner, having presented themselves as candidates. This is important as involvement in University process allows SUGUNA to retain its relevance, providing additional links for the expats who live in the USA.

During my Presidency of SUGUNA, I hope to tighten relationships to the University, and increase the relevance of SUGUNA, particularly for University graduates who venture to North America. We will increase the ability of the University of Sydney diaspora to support the University philanthropically, to provide a home for young Aussie grad students or other workers who are spending time abroad, and to expand the availability of regional meetings (such as the successful events held in Boston, LA and the Pacific Northwest), allowing greater contact among our members. The next Annual Conference will occur in Detroit, August 7-10, 2014, in the capable organisational hands of Michael Marsh; downtown Detroit, despite some financial issues, has undergone an interesting architectural Renaissance, and will be a great place for a conference, in addition to being so centrally located for USA and Canadian members. We are exploring possible venues for the 25th Anniversary Conference of SUGUNA, which will occur in 2015.

Join me in thanking Wanda Haschek-Hock (as well as Michael Challis, who continues as our Secretary/Treasurer) for their yeomen’s labor on our behalf. Also please welcome Fred Kam, who was elected Vice-President and President Elect, and Virginia Hood and Matt Hall elected as new directors.

Derek Raghavan
SUGUNA President

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

SUGUNA is seeking member volunteers who would like to become involved in its activities including serving on the Board of Directors (BOD) for a two-year term, and conference organisation. No specific experience is required; however the ability to commit time and energy, and to attend the Annual Conference, is very important. To volunteer, or if you need more information, please contact a SUGUNA Officer; contact details are shown on the last page.
The twenty-fourth SUGUNA annual conference will take place in Detroit, Michigan from August 7-10, 2014 and will be held in the city’s Cultural Center. Detroit is centrally located in North America, lying above and immediately adjacent to Windsor, Ontario, Canada, just across the Detroit river, as it runs from Lake St Clair to Lake Erie in the Great Lakes chain. These cities have a surrounding semi-urban population of over 5 million in a 50 mile radius. Ann Arbor lies on this perimeter and was a site for a past conference of SUGUNA. The cities of Detroit-Windsor are easily accessible by air, road or rail and ‘the D’ is a major hub for Delta Airlines.

The conference sessions and dormitory style accommodations will be in the Taubman Center building of the College for Creative Studies. The College for Creative Studies is located in the cultural center of Detroit, a corridor along Woodward Avenue containing the major museums, the City Library, Wayne State University and its Medical School and Hospital complexes. The College, directed by Richard Rogers, is a free-standing entity founded in 1906, granting degrees in Fine Arts and Design. Its overarching mission has been “to keep the ideals of beauty and craftsmanship alive in – ‘an increasingly’—industrialized world”. The Taubman Center will be free of students at the time of our conference and provides a unique location for an overview of our city as it attempts to rise, Phoenix-like, from the ‘flames of destruction’.

Tours of the Detroit Institute of Art, the Charles Wright Museum, the Detroit Historical Museum and Library, the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village and the Ford River Rouge plant, together with options to visit Birmingham and Cranbrook School and Museum, or the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate, and the Pewabic Pottery site, will be on offer.

Evening social events will include an informal welcome reception in the Taubman Center, a relaxed Friday night dinner on the Detroit–Windsor riverfront and the formal Awards Banquet on the Saturday evening, as the conference draws to a close.

Detroit-Windsor lies one hour by road from Toledo, Ohio, and its art museum housing an outstanding collection of current and ancient glassware. Cleveland and its riches are then about two hours further on the same road east. Toronto and Chicago lie in opposing directions and are within five hours driving, or one hour by air.

We aim to have an outstanding lecture program together with much to entertain you during your time with us. Please put the dates of August 7-10, 2014 aside, allowing us to warmly welcome you to the heart of North America, in our sister cities on the border of the USA and Canada.

For further information or if interested in coordinating conference activities, please contact H. Michael Marsh at hmarsh@med.wayne.edu.

**SENIOR EDITOR SOUGHT FOR NEWSLETTER**

SUGUNA is looking for a senior editor to prepare the twice-yearly SUGUNA newsletter which is produced by the University of Sydney. This includes identifying, following-up and occasionally writing appropriate news items, in addition to proofing, editing news stories, and other activities with the support of assistant editors. The editor is appointed to the SUGUNA Board of Directors; an honorarium per issue is available. Please contact Derek Raghavan, SUGUNA President, at derek.raghavan@gmail.
ALUMNI COUNCIL - AN UPDATE

John McLenaghan, AM
Immediate Past President, Alumni Council

The Alumni Council, the University of Sydney’s peak alumni body, has maintained an active program of outreach and engagement over the last year in support of the University’s 2011-2016 Strategic Plan. Key elements of its activities are detailed below.

Drawing on the results of a census/survey of alumni taken late in 2012, the Alumni Council in mid 2013 instituted a major strategic review of its role and operations, aided by a comprehensive report prepared under the auspices of the Alumni and Events Office. Focused on the mission, function and role of the Alumni, the report identified a number of areas in which the Council’s work could be aligned more closely with the objectives established in the Strategic Plan. They cover the membership of the Council and its composition, the mode of community and international engagement, and its role in supporting the fund raising campaign. This review will be a major priority of the Council in the coming year.

The four yearly election of the Alumni Council is scheduled for late 2013. Nominations closed on October 1, with ballot papers issued on October 16 and the ballot to be concluded on November 11.

Several changes have been implemented in the design and content of the Sydney Alumni Magazine (SAM), intended to reflect the new opportunities provided by electronic distribution, while responding to the need to respond to cost pressures.

The first electronic edition of the magazine commenced with the June 2013 issue, timed to coincide with the launch of the Campaign for Sydney, the University’s major fund raising initiative. In October 2013, the first Ipad issue of SAM was issued. Finally, while overseas alumni will continue to receive the March and October print editions of SAM automatically, in 2014 these alumni will receive the third edition (the July edition) in print only via an opt in process. Those overseas alumni who do not take this option will receive the digital edition.

With the endorsement of the Alumni Council, the newly created Business Alumni Network (BAN) was launched on September 19. The new BAN will meet a long felt need of the university’s business alumni community for professional networking opportunities and personal connections and re-connections, and represent the interests of the Business School through involvement in alumni/student events, including offshore alumni activities.

Those eligible for membership in the BAN include alumni holding degrees from the Business School (previously the Faculty of Economics and Business) or any other Sydney alumni who have an interest in membership.

SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS

The SUGUNA Alumni Newsletter is published in Spring and Autumn. Contributions, such as alumni news and letters to the editor, are welcome and should arrive before December 15th (for Spring) and August 15th (for Autumn). We are always on the lookout for news stories, ideas and features relating to alumni to include in future editions. If you have any suggestions for content, please do not hesitate to contact the editors.
2013 JIM WOLFENSOHN AWARD

“Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasant duty and an honour to announce the winner of the 2013 Jim Wolfensohn Award, on the twentieth anniversary of the first award in 1993”, said the presenter, Emeritus Professor Julian Brown, who was the recipient of the Award last year.

The Award recognises meritorious and significant contributions for the betterment of society, through a profession, business, or academic life, by a graduate of Sydney University who is an active member of SUGUNA. The 2013 award was decided by a Committee chaired by John Semmler.

The Committee has chosen a person who fits these criteria with a high level of achievement and service, has a distinguished record of research, teaching, publication, participation in public committees and professional organisations, and has been a leader in SUGUNA. The 2013 Award goes to Dr. Wanda M. Haschek-Hock, Immediate- Past President of SUGUNA.

Wanda grew up in Singleton, in the Hunter Valley. She took an honours Bachelor degree in Veterinary Science at University of Sydney, and a Ph.D. in veterinary pathology from Cornell University in Ithaca NY. Her long career began at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, in the biology Division, and she then joined the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, where she is now Professor Emerita. She published over a hundred peer-reviewed papers, served as Head of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, and led a program of research and teaching.

Her research has been on the health effects and pathophysiology of natural toxins and environmental toxicants with a focus on mycotoxins and food safety. She was senior editor of the Handbook of Toxicologic Pathology (1991, 2002, 2013), and Fundamentals of Toxicologic Pathology (1998, 2009). She has served on several editorial boards, was President of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology, and received the Achievement Award of that Society in 2007. She has been a member of a number of advisory scientific committees.

Wanda organized the 2005 SUGUNA meeting in Champaign IL, and since 2008 she has been Vice-President and President of SUGUNA. She has been an outstanding leader, and has generated a growing membership and a sound financial position for the organisation.

Wanda is admired by her scientific colleagues, her students, and her friends. We congratulate her on the Award, and thank her for her contributions to SUGUNA.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2014 JIM WOLFENSOHN AWARD

Nominations are invited for the 2014 SUGUNA Jim Wolfensohn Award. Any member of SUGUNA may submit a nomination for this award, based on the following criteria:

(a) The winner must be a graduate of the University of Sydney.
(b) He or she must be a member of SUGUNA.
(c) He or she must be a person who has made significant contributions for the betterment of society and his, or her, profession, business or academia.
(d) The nominee shall have participated in SUGUNA conferences.

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

The deadline for nominations from SUGUNA members is May 31, 2014.

Please email your nomination to the Chair, Philip Minter at: pminter@Reagan.com. Or send to: Philip Minter Chair, Wolfensohn Award Committee 1509 North Creek Road Chadds Ford, PA 19317, USA
The winner of the 2013 Michael Challis distinguished Service Award is Sonia P. Ettinger, nominated by Jenny Green.

Sonia has been a stalwart supporter of SUGUNA for many years providing unstinting, and time consuming, support of the conferences. Although she is not a USYD grad she is a member of SUGUNA (as a friend of USYD).

Over the last few years, she was the mainstay of the Chicago (2010) and Boston (2012) conferences with regard to organising the afternoon events. This included identifying potential events (museums, tours, e.g. boat architecture tour), organising transportation for those events, and providing logistical and informational support for conference attendees.

In Chicago she had full responsibility for these events. Responsibility was shared with local committee members in Boston. She was also involved with organising the evening events with regard to venue selection, transportation, and menus.

For these and many previous conferences she manned the registration desk and provided full support to attendees. This included preparing name tags and bags that contained the conference information (including information regarding the local area and city attractions), answering questions about all sorts of issues, and running errands as needed - and always with a smile on her face!

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2014 MICHAEL CHALLIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Nominations are invited for the 2014 Michael Challis Distinguished Service Award. Any member of SUGUNA may submit a nomination for this award based on the following criteria:

- The nominee should be a current member of SUGUNA
- The nominee must have made significant contributions to SUGUNA over several years, with contributions over the last five years being the major determinant.
- The nomination should describe the nature of the distinguished service of the nominee to SUGUNA in detail. Special emphasis should be documented where the nominee has taken leadership roles. Professional achievement will not be considered as support for this award and past Presidents are not eligible.

Nominations should be made in writing to the President of SUGUNA.

The Board of Directors will review the nominations and determine if an award is to be made in the current year. Nominations may be carried over for two years. Nominees can be re-nominated at any time if a previous nomination fails to result in an award.

The awardee will be recognised at the Awards Banquet with a plaque. The nomination letter will be used as a basis of the citation for the award presentation.

The deadline for SUGUNA members to submit nominations is May 31, 2014.

Email nominations to the President, Derek Raghavan, at derek.raghavan@gmail.com. Or send to: Dr Derek Raghavan,Chair, Michael Challis Distinguished service Award Committee

P.O. Box 470127, Charlotte, NC 28204-0127, USA.

The Board of Directors will review the nominations and determine if an award is to be made in the current year.
AWARDS

Jill Ker Conway (BA ’58, DLitt ’06), has been awarded Australia’s highest honour. She was appointed Companion in the general division of the Order of Australia for her “eminent service to the community, particularly women, as an author, academic and through leadership roles with corporations, foundations, universities and philanthropic groups”. The award was announced in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list in June of this year.

2013 Faculty of Veterinary Science Alumni Award for International Achievement has been conferred on veterinary pathologist Charles Mackenzie (BSc ’69, BVSc ’71, PhD ’76) for his exceptional contributions to global health, especially in the field of lymphatic filariasis (Elephantiasis), and river blindness, which are caused by filarial worms that affect a large segment of the population in equatorial Africa. Charles is currently assisting the Ministry of Health in Tanzania in tackling these crippling diseases.

Ronald Ettinger (BDS ’66, MDS ’70) recently received two awards. He was given the Special Care Dentistry Association’s Presidential Citation for his high level of excellence while serving as editor-in-chief of Special Care in Dentistry for 17 years. Dr. Ettinger also received the Special Care Dentistry Association’s Saul Kamen Award, which honours individuals demonstrating exemplary leadership and contributions to the advancement of oral healthcare for persons with special needs.

VALE

SUGUNA members were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death on September 10, 2013, of Penelope ‘Penny’ Pether (BA, LLB, PhD), a law professor at Villanova University, PA. Penny was a SUGUNA member and Director for many years and was involved with the 2003 Conference in Washington, DC, the 2008 Conference in Philadelphia and, at the 2004 Tampa Conference, she and her husband formally entertained the attendees.

Penny grew up in rural New South Wales and earned her BA and LLB degrees from the University of Sydney. She became a solicitor in a Sydney law office and later was an assistant lecturer in English at the University of Sydney where she earned her doctorate in English studies. She also taught Law at Sydney and the University of Wollongong.

Penny came to the United States in 1996 and taught at the University of California, Irvine, Southern Illinois University, American University and Yeshiva University Law School, NY. In 1998 she married David Caudill, a Professor of Law, and in 2005 they both joined the law school at Villanova University.

She was a widely published legal scholar and a passionate educator. Even in failing health, in an unusual seminar, Penny brought law students and inmates together at Graterford Prison, to study issues of crime and justice behind prison walls – “she really cared about those guys”, her husband said.

Memorial contributions to support the newly established Penny Pether Memorial SUGUNA Dictionary Project can be funded through tax deductible donations via the University of Sydney USA Foundation (see article titled THE SUGUNA DICTIONARY PROJECT below.) At the Board of Directors meeting in Charlotte, a motion was passed to continue this project and to adopt it as a memorial to Penny Pether.

SUGUNA offers its heartfelt condolences to Penny’s husband and to her family.
BOOK PUBLISHED

We hear from Philip Minter, (BSc ’51), that he has a book, *Up from Downunder*, published on Kindle and that it can be downloaded.

He says, “This book is an outline of my learning experiences from grade school in Australia in 1935 to my undergraduate degree in 1951 and through the decision to pursue graduate study at two US universities from 1957 to 1960. It is a record of one individual’s experience and the contrast of educational programs in Australia and America during that period. It concludes with a brief review of the career that resulted from the training in the two countries.”

WITH WILD ORANGUTANS IN BORNEO

Ramune Cobb (BVSc ’69) sent us an article on her recent, amazing experience with the orangutans of Borneo. Rami is a veterinarian and her particular interests are in parasite control in ruminants, equines and companion animals, in immune responses in domestic animals, and, since retirement from the corporate world, in wildlife conservation.

In 1971, a young PhD student traveled to the island of Borneo to study orangutans. She established the longest ongoing study of mammals at a research base she named Camp Leakey in Tanjung Puting National Park. Some 40 years later this species remains a prime concern for Dr. Birute Galdikas. Large numbers of rescued and confiscated wild-born or captive orangutans are cared for in an orphanage and veterinary care center preparing them for release into the wild. Orangutans, *Pongo pygmaeus*, and the tropical forests they inhabit are in trouble. The opportunity to visit and learn firsthand about this species was irresistible, so with hiking boots and DEET in hand, I recently visited and absorbed orangutan lore from Dr. Galdikas.

Orangutans whose name means “man of the forest” once roamed the islands of Borneo and Sumatra in hundreds of thousands. Today they are on the IUCN list of Endangered Species and are scattered in fragmented ranges on these two islands. In the past 20 years, deforestation and degradation have destroyed 90% of the orangutans’ habitat due to demand for timber, wood pulp, minerals and palm oil. Orangutans are particularly vulnerable to extinction because of their prolonged infancy/childhood and low fecundity. A female orangutan may commence breeding at the age of 15 and will reproduce only once every 8 years, giving birth to a single offspring. This is the longest documented birth interval for any mammal.

Orangutans are an arboreal hominid species whose evolutionary history is largely unknown due to lack of fossil evidence. They likely diverged from human lineage 12 to 15 million years ago; we share 97% of our DNA with them. Perhaps it is this genetic closeness that makes the species so engaging. They are intelligent, determined and persistent, and many of their mannerisms are similar to ours. Orphaned babies require constant contact with surrogate mothers. Each morning, they would be taken to the forest where older juveniles honed their tree climbing and aerial acrobatic skills. If we became inattentive they would shower us with leaves and twigs to get our attention. The young babies just wanted to be held.

We visited several camps where orangutans had been released into the wild. All sites required supplemental feeding as even in national parks illegal logging has removed many of the fruiting trees that are their major food source along with leaves, flowers, bark and occasionally insects such as...
termites. Bananas, milk and especially mangoes were consumed avidly as supplements.

Most impressive to me was their willingness to engage with humans, even though each one had a painful prior history with our species. Although I never observed any grooming behavior, their orange-red coats always appeared meticulously coiffed, and each was individually recognizable as their facial features were unique. For females, finding food was a driving force, our backpacks were thoroughly searched for any edible tidbit. We had several sightings of adult males who were very intimidating with their large facial flanges, body weight of some 400 lbs and long powerful arms; we got out of their way promptly. The females are much smaller at 100 – 120 lbs and more gentle. Newborn babies are tiny at birth, about 3.5 lbs and very appealing with their big brown eyes and wispy orange hair.

Seeing these amazing relatives of ours living freely was such a privilege since their future is so precarious. Indonesia is listed as the country with the highest rate of deforestation with over 6 million acres of rainforest lost each year. Land clearing for palm oil is the leading cause of deforestation. Since palm oil use is now so ubiquitous in foods, household and industrial products, it is likely that deforestation will continue.

The sight of an orangutan swinging through the forest canopy may soon become only a memory, as without intervention wild orangutans could be extinct within two decades and the long call of the male will be gone from the forest. We can continue to destroy or we can cherish, the choice is ours.

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MEET OUR NEW DIRECTORS

In this section you will meet newly elected directors. We hope that this section will encourage interaction between SUGUNA members and their elected representatives.

Matthew D. Hall obtained his BSc (Hons) ‘00 and PhD ‘04 at the University of Sydney, in the School of Chemistry under Prof. Trevor W. Hambley. His research there was on platinum anticancer compounds that form a significant component of current chemotherapy. While at the University of Sydney he was President of the Sydney University Postgraduates Representative Association (SUPRA), served on the Academic Board, and was elected a Fellow of Senate. Following completion of his doctoral work he was awarded an American Australian Association Fellowship to spend one year (2005) at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University. He is currently a Staff Scientist in the laboratory of Dr. Michael M. Gottesman at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, U.S.A. There, he researches drug transporters and their involvement in pathophysiologies such as multidrug resistant cancer, along with their evolutionary purpose at sites such as the blood-brain barrier. Matthew is also the current Secretary of the University of Sydney USA Foundation. In his spare time, Matthew is an avid genealogist.

Virginia L. Hood (MBBS ‘70), a physician from Burlington, Vermont, is President Emerita of the American College of Physicians (ACP). She is a Professor of Medicine at University of Vermont College of Medicine and a nephrologist at Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC). She cares for patients with chronic kidney disease, other kidney, blood pressure and fluid and electrolyte disorders. She teaches acid-base physiology, epidemiology, ethics, and internal medicine to medical students, residents and community physicians. Her scholarly activity has included acid-base metabolism research, health promotion research in diabetes prevention, blood pressure control, quality improvement activities and presentations on medical professionalism. She has had a longstanding interest in patient participation and building partnerships that foster patient-centered care. Most recently she has been a strong advocate for the ACP High Value Care Initiative. A medical graduate of the University of Sydney, she completed internal medicine residency training at Mater Misericordiae Hospital, North Sydney and a nephrology fellowship at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. Virginia also received a Master’s degree in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston MA.
MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS
SUGUNA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND RETURNED FRIENDS

Damon C. Bidencope, B Arch, B Sci Arch 1986, Charlotte, NC
Bidencope & Associates, Real Estate Valuation, Charlotte, NC
Jonathon Bransdon, Economics 2004, New York, NY
Project Manager, HSBC, New York, NY
Emily Carr, B Ec 1991, Santa Monica, CA
Writer and Producer, Santa Monica, CA
Noel Cleland, BE (Mining & Metallurgy) 1951, Canmore, AB
Barbara Dennis, Topeka, KS
Allan Drusys, MVPHMgt 2006, Yucaipa, CA
Keshala Erandhi De Silva, BPharm 2010, Cambridge, MA
Steffanie Ettinger de Cuba, Arlington, MA
Research and Policy Director (Children’s Health Watch), Boston University School of Public Health
Mathew Freeman, Economics 2002, Washington, DC
Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley, Washington, DC
Belinda Gimbert, B Ed (Honors.) 1980, Columbus, OH
Associate Professor, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Lucy Harel, B Ag Ec 1996, M Commerce (Marketing) 2000, Encino, CA
Freelancer, Marketing Communications and Events Management, Encino, CA
Todd Holbrook, Master of Strategic Public Relations 2011, Mesa, AZ
Marketing Communications, ALTEGRA HEALTH, Mesa, AZ
Paul Hockings, BA 1957. San Jose, CA
Editor-In-Chief, Routledge Publishing, San Jose, CA
Heidi Harrington-Johnson, BA Media Communications 2007, New York, NY
David Hodgson, BVSc, PhD 1978, Blacksburg, VA
Department Head, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
Michael Kleerekoper, MBBS, FACB, FACP, MACE 1970, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Professor Medicine, Chief – Division of Endocrinology, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Sheron Johnston, BA 1987, Pasadena, CA
Alexander K Lancaster, BSc 1991, BE (Electrical) 1994, Arlington, MA
Research Associate and Instructor in Pathology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
Jessica Lancaster, Arlington, MA
Assistant Product Director, US Army
Justin Lurie, Master International Business 2003, Humble, TX
President, Bond Street Custom Clothiers, Humble, TX
Tina Ly, Master International Studies 2005, Monterey Park, CA
Client Service Manager, Raymond Sham PC, A Law Corporation, El Monte, CA
Nicholas Malikides, BVSc, PhD, DipVSc, Master Vsc, MPH 1999, Greensboro, NC
Director, New Product Development, NOVARTIS Animal Health US, Inc., Greensboro, NC
Michael Schwager, B Ec 1990, Chevy Chase, MD
Minister Counselor (Education, Science, Technology), Embassy of Australia, Washington, DC
By lunchtime and the arrival of the Salt Spring Island crew via three ferries, the sun had retreated, so we did likewise to the Sirens By The Sea Restaurant. Much hilarity and enjoyable conversation ensued during lunch, then suddenly, all had to depart for ferries - so regrettably we missed taking a group photograph. A very enjoyable time - especially meeting our new Powell River friends! 

Gillian Beattie
On Saturday September 21, several members of the PNW Regional Group convened at Rob Bear’s beach cottage at Mariner’s Cove on Whidbey Island. Overlooking Puget Sound on a beautiful autumn day, we enjoyed sharing a potluck lunch, some Australian wine and music, and many fine memories. Attending were Ron and Gillian Beattie, Joan and Gilly McConnell, Chuck and Ann Ross, and Rob Bear.

We thank Rob for making his cottage available for us to enjoy our afternoon. For further information about the Pacific Northwest Regional Group, please contact Gillian Beattie at gillianbeattie3@gmail.com.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL GROUP

Mediterranean food, plenty of wine and good fellowship were featured at the SUGUNA Southern California Regional Group’s first meeting of 2013, at Café Santorini in Old Pasadena on March 6. Ten alumni, several of whom were attending their first SUGUNA meeting, enjoyed the restaurant’s Happy Hour (and stayed on afterwards), making new friendships, renewing older ones and discovering mutual acquaintances. The group included representatives from the Arts, Architecture, Science, Business, Medicine and Law Faculties, with graduation dates from the 1960s to the 2000s. As seems usual in Southern California, several made lengthy trips through the infamous Los Angeles traffic. While 30 miles may not seem far to our colleagues in other regions of the country, it can take quite a while when the average traffic speed is 15 mph!

A small but convivial group enjoyed drinks and tapas on September 18, 2013, at The Crush Bistro and Wine Bar in El Segundo. We were particularly pleased to welcome Lucy Harel (B.Agr. Ec. ’96, M.Com. ’01) to the United States. Lucy and her family moved to Encino in July. A Holiday Party for members of the Group is planned for the end of the year.

The Regional Group collected 18 signatures on its petition for formal recognition by the SUGUNA Board of Directors and submitted the petition for approval. The SUGUNA Board unanimously approved the petition on March 17, 2013.

For more information about the Southern California Regional Group, please contact Bill Evans at billevans1630@hotmail.com or by telephone at 310-994-1382.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

On a sunny Sunday in early June, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, daughter of long time SUGUNA Director Ronald Ettinger, and her husband Isa, hosted a BBQ at their lovely home in Arlington, Massachusetts.

This may very well be the first SUGUNA family event. It is certainly the first for the New England Region. Seven families came to the BBQ making a total of 24 including adults and children.

The dates for the 2013 SUGUNA Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina (Oct 10th to 13th) were announced to the group. We also shared recent news about the University of Sydney, including the reappointment, for a second term, of Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence. Meat pies were served as well as two homemade pavlovas, one by Stephanie and the other by Jessica, wife of alumnus Alex Lancaster. It was a great BBQ!

As the North American summer sped by, an impromptu get together was organized on the Thursday before the long Labor Day Holiday weekend. It turned out to be an intimate event with two couples sharing dinner and drinks. There was discussion on the New England Regional Group’s petition for formal recognition and about academic careers.

Later the same weekend, we met up with more alumni at Alex and Jessica Lancaster’s BBQ, and we signed up more SUGUNA members! The Regional Group’s petition for formal recognition by the SUGUNA Board of Directors was unanimously approved on October 10, 2013.

For more information about the New England Regional Group, please contact Fred Kam at fred.s.kam@gmail.com.
These are interesting times for Universities in Australia and particularly our alma mater. From a time when we were relatively sheltered from the outside world, government funded 90% of our activities, students were mainly local, tertiary education was free and academics enjoyed tenure; we now live in a different paradigm.

Direct Government support has fallen to below 20% and we live in an internationally competitive market. Our international rankings are critical to attracting overseas fee paying students who now make up 20% of enrollments but importantly contribute 30% of our revenue. Academics no longer enjoy tenure and must be productive in terms of teaching and research.

These are all common problems but Sydney has some specific challenges. We have an extraordinary range of courses, far more than ANU for instance or many of the major US campuses. Our wonderful sandstone infrastructure is extraordinarily expensive to maintain and has been somewhat neglected in terms of preventative maintenance. We have also had a period of underfunding of major capital works, and hence the current large investment in new projects such as the Charles Perkins Centre, The Australian Institute of NanoScience and the new Business School. These three projects alone account for three quarters of a billion dollars. And lastly, we are aggressively trying to increase our stock of affordable student housing. Colleges have major expansion programs and the University has recently acquired the old Queen Mary Nurses home on the Royal Prince Alfred site which will add over 700 beds.

The previous Federal Government imposed major cuts to tertiary education funding, supposedly to support their secondary education program and there seems little likelihood of the new Government reinstating these funds.

All of this change has created some tensions amongst staff who are uncomfortable with this more ‘market’ type management approach and who hanker for the ‘good old days’. Change is hard.

We are delighted with the appointment of our new Chancellor, Belinda Hutchinson, who is devoting a great deal of time to the University despite her many other commitments and understands the balance in the challenges of running a billion and a half dollar business and the vital and special needs of a research and teaching intense institution.

Having made reference to all these issues confronting the University, I should point out the overall metrics are good. We remain in the top 100 Universities in the World, our donor base and philanthropic support is growing, and we continue to attract top students and academics.

It was wonderful to again attend the SUGUNA meeting in Charlotte NC and meet up with old friends. It was an exceptional meeting.

For additional information see: GaudeamusIgitur: inspired.sydney.edu.au/our-donors Campaign launch video with alumnus John Hooke: inspired.sydney.edu.au

Barry Catchlove MBBS (’66), HonFellow (’08)
HOW TO BUILD A NEW CANCER INSTITUTE
Derek Raghavan (MBBS ’74, MD ’12)

It’s quite a daunting task to be faced with planning and building a brand new cancer institute from ground zero! I have certainly set up new units in the past, in Sydney, Buffalo and Los Angeles, and was tasked with upgrading an established cancer institute in Cleveland, so many of the tasks were familiar. However, I’ve never had to think about room size and allocation, patient flow, and what goes where...and how, and why. So the new job in Charlotte seemed pretty exciting when I took on a new role.

Charlotte, NC, with nearly 1 million inhabitants (and a surrounding populace of around 2 million people), has not had local access to a comprehensive cancer centre. Specifically there has been paucity of locally available bone marrow transplant facilities and of complex, state-of-the-art clinical trials, and the place has been relatively light on patient support and survivorship algorithms. The local cancer specialists, while outstanding, have been predominantly focused on busy clinical practice, rather than on the fusion of clinical work, cancer research and supporting activities. For those items, patients previously have had to drive several hours to seek care at large cancer centres in Atlanta, Charleston, Raleigh Durham or further afield.

Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS), an amalgam of more than 40 hospitals and medical centres spanning North Carolina and South Carolina, employs more than 2000 physicians, more than 50,000 staff, and sees more than 11,000 new cancer cases per year. It was logical, as the system expanded to be one of the largest not-for-profit health systems in North America, to decide to establish a tertiary referral cancer centre that would serve the Carolinas, and which would attempt to provide a system of cancer care closer to home contrary to the more conventional ivory tower models.

To evolve the concept of the Levine Cancer Institute, we created a series of regional cancer strategy committees that linked into a central oversight team which was charged with developing the strategy and tactics to create a centre with the following key features:

* Multi-disciplinary clinics that incorporated the work of surgeons, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists and support staff, while creating standard pathways for the treatment of all complex cases;
* System-wide inter-disciplinary case discussion conferences,
* Easy availability of innovative, centrally monitored clinical trials, with access close to home throughout North Carolina and South Carolina;
* A single, central ethics review board for cancer trials covering the whole system, facilitating swift and synchronous, system-wide activation of studies;
* Extensive patient support services, including patient navigation linked throughout the system, standard operating procedures for emergency departments throughout the system when handling cancer patients, palliative care and pain management services, specific cancer-focused pastoral care, a cancer integrative medicine team, and live or video-linked genetic counseling;
* Availability of super-specialized services, such as bone marrow transplantation, first-in-man clinical trial units, and sophisticated radiation techniques and equipment in as accessible a fashion as possible;
* A focus on laboratory research that is focused specifically on the clinical emphases of LCI – early programs have focused on cancer pharmacology, stem cell biology of hematological disorders and molecular prognostication with availability of a cost-effective, molecular testing platform where appropriate.

We moved quite swiftly to launch these initiatives, beginning in April 2011. In addition to the planning activities working centrifugally throughout the system, we developed a plan for a six-story academic, electronic and organisational focal point – the new Levine Cancer Institute central building, 180,000 square feet of clinical, electronic conferencing and patient support facilities, was erected and opened in just 18 months. It is relatively unusual with its emphasis on system-
wide communications, patient support resources, a hub for genetic counselling system-wide services, and as a base for the laboratory experiments that underpin our clinical trials.

We spent a substantial amount of time securing opinions from our patients, clinical staff and various experts, and a superb team of architects and design folks, trying to work out the best patient flow, ensuring that sufficient patient support resources would be easily accessible, even focusing on the art work (to ensure that it wasn’t too gaudy or too depressing). Careful thought went into the design of the chemotherapy suite, to make it seem airy and pleasant, and placing it adjacent to our “healing garden”.

Of particular importance, we have created a system of programs and protocols that are available on a password protected intranet, supported by clearly defined treatment pathways developed by our special teams focused on specific cancers (such as breast, lung, lymphoma, etc.) – this ensures congruence of clinical practice by the team members with the plans of the Levine Cancer Institute, and avoids internal competition or lack of support for defined treatment and research programs.

The development of a medical staffing system that would serve the needs of the patients and our initiatives was an early imperative. We recruited the best of the cancer specialists already in practice in this area who were available to try a new initiative and then augmented their talents by hiring more than 40 nationally and internationally known cancer specialists from around the USA.

The new Levine Cancer Institute has been functioning in its new academic hub and eleven satellite units for a year, and has already leveraged a broad range of innovative services, cancer trials and unprecedented volumes of new patients. Of most importance, we are making it easier for our patients, providing their care much closer to home, thus avoiding unnecessary travel, while having the availability of extra patient support algorithms and state of the art treatments and research trials.

Of most importance, our patient satisfaction scores are among the highest in the Carolinas HealthCare System, good evidence to suggest that we are on the right track.

Derek is President of the Levine Cancer Institute and Professor of Medicine, UNC School of Medicine, Charlotte Campus.

He has authored several books, many papers and chapters, and holds fellowships of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the American College of Physicians, the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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Join us for the 2014 SUGUNA conference in Detroit, Michigan. You will have the opportunity to explore the City’s cultural centre and visit its many attractions.

The Conference features morning symposia covering a diverse array of topics presented by alumni. Also offered are visits to local points of interest, guided tours, sporting activities and evening social events.

**Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 August 2014**

Detroit, Michigan

**Questions?**

Email Michael Marsh at hmarsh@med.wayne.edu

Or visit the SUGUNA website: sydney.edu.au/alumni/suguna
THE SUGUNA DICTIONARY PROJECT

Bette Seamonds Nadler (BSc ’63, PhD ’69 UPA)

During the 2012 SUGUNA meeting in Boston, Graeme Goodsir suggested that SUGUNA become involved in a community service project to raise awareness of University of Sydney graduates now living in the United States. Graeme had participated in a Rotary project, which donated dictionaries to third grade students in underprivileged schools. This project was very successful in sparking an interest in reading in students who had few resources.

The enthusiasm of students and teachers for this particular book stems largely from the back section being an animal gazetteer, which initially captures keen interest, and the middle section being all about geography, while the actual dictionary is in front. These very informative books were supplied by a group in Charleston, SC, called ‘The Dictionary Project’ - which last year distributed 2.5 million books to elementary schools across the USA, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Dr. Bette Seamonds Nadler volunteered to pilot a program in the Chester Upland School District in suburban Philadelphia. The district was selected based on the number of high risk students and the paucity of resources. Approximately 80% of the students in the district are from families below the poverty line and over 90% of the students are African American.

She met with the acting Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Tony Watson, who was extremely enthusiastic about the project. Dictionaries were donated by an anonymous donor and a special bookplate bearing the Sydney University logo and SUGUNA’s name was designed. The bookplates were placed in each dictionary by Dr. Watson’s staff and the five third grade classes at the three elementary schools were scheduled for presentation of dictionaries to each individual student.

The presentations were spectacular. The enthusiasm of the children was palpable. The children hugged their books as they returned to their seats and then their noses were in the books as soon as they were seated at their desks.

Before the end of each presentation there were children running up to the teacher to point out items they had already found in their new books. This was a highly successful pilot and the feedback has been very positive. Sara Ferguson, Principal of the Chester Upland School of the Arts, succinctly said “Thank you to you and your fellow University of Sydney Alumni. We appreciate your generosity. We will put the dictionaries to good use.”

Ms Ferguson has indicated that both teachers and students now have a common source of information and the children are using the dictionaries as their “go to” source for many activities.

At the Board of Directors meeting in Charlotte, a motion was passed to continue this project and to adopt it as a memorial to Penny Pether, a SUGUNA colleague and friend who passed away in September and who was a champion of working with the disadvantaged.

SUGUNA will initially support the printing of the bookplates and dictionaries can be funded through tax deductible donations via the Sydney University USA Foundation

SUGUNA members/friends who are interested in participating in this project are invited to contact Dr. Bette Seamosnds Nadler for additional information at bseamonds@yahoo.com

Bette is Director, Clinical Chemistry, Drexel University College of Medicine. She has spent most of her career teaching medical technology students, laboratory staff, pathology and internal medicine residents, and has authored many publications on varied subjects.
CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES
Louise M. Simon (BSW ’04)

Creative Arts Therapies goes beyond the words that are used in traditional therapies. Therapists act as guides for clients so they can connect with and express emotions beyond words. Often a product is produced or performed which highlights and illuminates past, future, hopes, and memories of clients.

It is through the visual and kinetic connection that clients come to naturally express, address and accept their issues.

Types of Creative Arts Therapies include:

Art
“Therapeutic use of art making, within a professional relationship, by people who experience illness, trauma or challenges in living, and by people who seek personal development. Through creating art and reflecting on the art products and processes, people can increase awareness of self and others, cope with symptoms, stress and traumatic experiences; enhance cognitive abilities; and enjoy the life-affirming pleasures of making art.” (American Art Therapy Association)

Drama
Drama Therapy is an active, experiential approach to facilitating change. Through storytelling, projective play, purposeful improvisation, and performance, participants are invited to rehearse desired behaviors, practice being in relationship, expand and find flexibility between life roles, and perform the change they wish to be and see in the world. (North American Drama Therapy Association)

Dance
The psychotherapeutic use of movement to promote emotional, social, cognitive and physical integration of the individual. (American Dance Therapy Association)

Music
Music Therapy is an established health profession in which music is used within a therapeutic relationship to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals. After assessing the strengths and needs of each client, the qualified music therapist provides the indicated treatment including creating, singing, moving to, and/or listening to music.

There are many known benefits from Creative Arts Therapies including but not limited to:

* Self awareness
* Self acceptance
* Conflict resolution
* Lowered blood pressure
* Decreased anxiety
* Decreased depression
* Reduction in drug and other dependencies
* Decreased in-patient hospital visits
* Financial savings

Currently Louise is working at NYU College of Nursing in the Office of the Dean and is pursing Creative Art Therapies at The New School, NYC.

AUSTRALIAN ART AND ITS IMPACT IN NORTH AMERICA
Julian Brown (BSc ’57, MSc ’59)

It would take a lot of optimism to claim that Australian art has had a big impact in North America. Australia is simply too far away, with too small a population, to be a major influence in the very active cultural scene in the US and Canada.

The main external influences are from Britain and Europe, only a few hours flying time away, and from Asia, with a very long cultural history and growing economic importance.

It can be argued that the cultural cringe operates in reference to these external influences. There are many outstanding Australian artists, writers and performers, but these are welcomed as visitors or participants in the North American scene, rather than as influences from Australia itself. Despite this, some of the people who have been successful in North America have contributed to an awareness of Australia as a place of culture. In the visual arts, Aboriginal art has recently achieved a high status in North America, and the works of those artists are now probably more widely known than the works of any other artistic group or movement.

Julian formerly was a Professor in the Chemistry Dept. at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario. After retirement from academic life, he and his wife Kaaren founded The Kingston Prize, a Canadian national portrait prize competition, based on the Australian model, the Archibald Prize.
The United States and Australia have much to gain from increased collaboration in the fields of science, technology, and research. Increasing collaboration in these fields will help Australia promote its science priorities and allow both Australian and US researchers to more effectively tackle the most pressing global challenges facing the 21st century.

In order for Australia to maintain successful collaboration with the US, it must work to better understand US priorities in science, technology, and research, and ensure the US appreciates the scope and quality of Australian science and research. Australia must also continue to grow its network of contacts and promote more opportunities for research engagement at an institutional level between Australia and the US. These are key roles of the Science Branch in our Embassy in Washington DC, along with providing Australia with updates on science happenings in the US.

Several Australian organisations already play a substantial role in promoting science, technology, and research collaboration between Australia and the US. Among these organizations are the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), other publicly funded research organisations, Australia’s universities, the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The US is the ARC’s number one international collaborator. There are about 500 joint US-CSIRO published papers per year. Australia’s Cooperative Research Centre program, which links researchers with industry to focus R&D towards utilisation or commercial ends, has extensive collaborations with the US. Both CSIRO and the Australian Institute for Marine Science have MOUs with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation has strong links with neutron scattering centres in the National Institute for Standards and Technology, the US National Labs. There are many similar examples.

Australia and the US convened their first Joint Commission Steering Committee Meeting (JCM) on science and technology in 2011. The JCM produced a detailed action plan across six thematic areas: shared health challenges in e-health and translational medicine, marine science, climate and earth observation, rare and critical minerals, agriculture, water and food security, and enabling technologies and research exchange. A second JCM took place earlier this year in March and allowed representatives from both Australia and the US to build on the work of the previous JCM. The next JCM is scheduled for March 2015.

Australia can see the benefits of its efforts to build and maintain a stronger relationship with the US in the fields of science, technology, and research, but we must not be complacent. While the US is Australia’s number one research partner, we are the US’s eighth largest and that is constantly under challenge as other nations build their science strength. The Science Branch at the Embassy works to keep a strong profile for the Australian scientific community. That includes supporting high profile visits to the US from Australian scientists, the Ambassador’s speakers series at the Embassy, and positioning Australia prominently in topics of strategic importance to the US, such as big data, research for development, and science of science policy.

Michael is currently Minister Counselor (Education, Science and Technology) based at the Australian Embassy in Washington, DC. His role is to develop and implement strategies to strengthen Australia’s engagement with the education, science and innovation systems in the US and Canada.
The University of Sydney USA Foundation continues to fund educational and scientific research in the United States and Australia, including supporting the University of Sydney. The Chairman and President is David Anstice, I am Secretary, and as of late 2012 the new Treasurer is Alan Ruby. In 2012, the Foundation raised $432,000 to support the aforementioned areas, and 2013 will improve on that number.

The Foundation sends out a fund-raising letter once a year, after Thanksgiving. This letter includes a tear-off form that can be used to make a tax-deductible gift to the USA Foundation. One of the causes the Foundation supports is the SUGUNA Scholarship. The gift form allows donors to suggest a use for their donation, including the SUGUNA Scholarship. I have recently joined the SUGUNA Board, and am excited to work with both organizations – I enjoy fund-raising, but enjoy friend-raising more!

On a personal note, I was greatly saddened at the recent loss of board-member and friend Professor Penny Pether. I will miss her advice, guidance, wit and humour, and greatly admired her commitment to her alma mater, and her college (Wesley).

To download a copy of the SUGUNA Scholarship Form go to www.sydney.edu.au/alumni/suguna

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:**

ABC is a right-angled triangle with the right angle at C. So AB is the hypotenuse. A point P lies on the hypotenuse between A and B. The lines AP, PC and BC all have the same length. Find, in degrees, the magnitude of all the angles in the triangle.

**LAST ISSUE’S CONUNDRUM:**

A square is inscribed in a circle that is itself inscribed in a square (a larger square, obviously). Find the ratio of the areas of the two squares.

Hint: If you find yourself using Pythagoras’ Theorem and a whole bunch of algebra you are already working too hard. Way too hard! What is needed is a judicious rotation of the smaller square inside the circle and then all that is needed to solve this beautiful little conundrum will be revealed.

**Solution:** No matter how you have drawn the diagram, just rotate the inner square so that its vertices touch the outer square at the mid-points of the outer square’s sides, which is also where the sides of the outer square touch the circle.

An inspection of this configuration makes it instantly clear that the big square has exactly twice the area of the smaller square. Bingo! No Pythagoras and no algebra is needed.

The University of Sydney reports that three scholarships were awarded in 2013:

**David Chua – BA (Hons) ’08**

Visiting Research Collaborator, Princeton University, for attendance at a conference and workshops on the philosophical themes of ‘Analytical Thomism’.

**Katherine Harper – BA (Hons) ’10**

To develop her thesis which looks at the theory of stoicism in the American revolution, spending time at Harvard and in Louisiana.

**Laura Kotevska – BA (Hons) ’07**

Visiting Research Collaborator, Princeton University, attending a conference and workshops in studying early modern philosophy.

The University of Sydney USA Foundation Report
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For the benefit of future generations, Russell Robertson (BEC '44, DipEd '48, BA '50), is investing in the Macleay Museum, Nicholson Museum and the University Art Gallery, through a bequest in his will.

You too can help us to shape a better Australia.

Find out how easy it is to include the University of Sydney in your will.
T +61 2 8627 8492
E wendy.marceau@sydney.edu.au

sydney.edu.au/bequest