

Making news



Margaux Harris, Antonia Clarke (front), Jane Taylor, Fiona McPhail (back)

Three of our 2007 honours students were awarded first-class honours and the university medal in psychology, history and chemistry, and a fourth has received first-class honours and the top prize for French honours. Margaux Harris was awarded the Peter Edward Moran Memorial Prize in French for her thesis written in French entitled: "Deneuve Démasquée: Vers une politique des *acteurs*." The thesis was an in-depth study of the film career of French actress Catherine Deneuve, and focused on the actor as the centre of the creative process. Margaux was granted an exclusive hour-long interview in French with Deneuve as part of her research. The actress gave Margaux three days' notice to meet her in Paris at the bar of the Hôtel Lutétia. It was an incredible experience and Margaux also had the opportunity to persuade Deneuve to come to the French Film Festival in Sydney! This year Margaux will complete her Law degree as well as The Screen Actor course at NIDA. Margaux was one of only 28 people out of over 200 who auditioned to be accepted into the year-long course.

Antonia Clarke has received the university medal for chemistry, with her thesis "Using Fluorescence to monitor Hydroxamic Acid ligand release from Iron (III) Complexes." The project set out to create a model of a drug that could selectively target and kill cancer cells in oxygen deficient solid tumours. Antonia explains: "Although anticancer drugs have been really successful, their main drawback is that they destroy healthy cells as well as cancer cells. I used a fluorescent tag to trace the uptake of my drug in ovarian cancer cells and evaluate its potential as an anticancer agent." Over the summer Antonia travelled through South East Asia with two of her College friends, taking in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. She is currently finishing off her law degree and contemplating doing a PhD in Chemistry in two years' time.

Fiona Walter's psychology honours thesis "The relativity of pleasure: long-term range effects in tasting food" also earned her the university medal. The thesis explored the contextual dependence of pleasure and perception, mapping out how our perceptions of tasting food depend upon our recent gustatory experiences. Fiona's findings were based on experiments with 156 participants tasting cordial of varying intensity. Fiona is now enjoying a "gap year" after spending the summer travelling in Europe and undertaking an internship in Paris with an Anglophone magazine, *Paris Voice*, for three months.

Jane Taylor's medal-winning thesis in history examined communal ownership and private property and the ideas of civilisation and progress from the Scottish Enlightenment in relation to the Field of Mars Common, an area of land stretching from Hunters Hill to Pennant Hills, established in 1804 for grazing livestock and collecting firewood. The thesis concentrated on an 1862 parliamentary inquiry as to whether to keep the Field as a common or sell it as private property. Jane will continue her combined law degree this year after taking up an internship in London over summer at Herbert Smith Law Firm as part of the Australian clerkship vacation scheme. She says of her honours year: "It was an amazing experience doing honours with the other girls at Women's last year, going through the same process in our different areas of study. The support, solidarity and friendship kept me sane."

Active on campus

Women's College students are living proof that College is a fantastic springboard for engagement in University life. Several current students have taken on executive positions within the University and are dedicating themselves to enriching the student experience on campus. Fourth-year Arts/Law student Rose Khalilzadeh is President of the University of Sydney Union, a key role which encompasses strategic governance of the student union and its 200 clubs and societies,

as well as a host of other programs and facilities. Rose stresses that living at College is an important part of her success in juggling the demands of her degree and her role as Union President. "Women's College is a vital part of the University community. It's an environment in which leadership skills are fostered and extra-curricular activities are encouraged. I really do feel as if I'm gaining all-round education and a sense of community that will stay with me for life."



Making an impact. From left: Alison Cranney, Edwina Burn, Amelia Walkley, Alice Dixon, and Rose Khalilzadeh

Insight Dubai



Alice Greenwood and Desiree Wappler attended the Insight Dubai Conference in March 2008. Held at Dubai Women's College, the conference focused on women's leadership and cultural exchange. Alice and Desiree are pictured visiting the new mosque in Abu Dhabi.

Leadership seminar 2008

On May 24, The Women's College will once again welcome senior high school students from around New South Wales to a day-long seminar on leadership and the role of women in community development.



The theme of this year's seminar is "Securing Your Community". Speakers will include Sam Mostyn from the Insurance Australia Group, speaking on Corporate Social Responsibility and Simone Wilkie, from the Australian Defence Force on the theme of National Security. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of NSW and Chancellor of the University of Sydney, will chair a panel discussion with current Women's students, sharing their personal experiences of leadership.

Young Women's Leadership Coordinator and Seminar MC Julia Fetherston (4th year Econ / Soc Sc / Law, pictured) said "The seminar is always an inspiring day, bringing together leaders from a variety of fields and some of our own Women's girls. It is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce students from around New South Wales to life at Women's."

Other students are making waves in student clubs and publications: Edwina Burn (fourth-year Arts/Law) and Alice Dixon (second-year Arts Advanced) are editors of Honi Soit, the weekly student newspaper produced on campus since 1929. Alice is also a board director of the University Union and Edwina is a member of the Students' Representative Council General Executive. Second-year Arts/Law student Alison Cranney is engaged in arranging a lecture series as part of her role as executive member and Public Forums director of the Sydney University Law Society. And Amelia Walkley, a third-year Arts/Languages student, is the creator and inaugural convener of (art), a new club on campus which aims to bring art to students by creating public "art moments." With 80 financial members and a program of quirky and innovative events already planned, the club is off to a flying start.

UBS initiative

In April 2008 College will host the fourth UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy, five day residential course in which 50 students from non fee paying high schools are giving the chance to explore the possibility of further education and a career in business. The program encompasses sessions on goal setting and motivation, impact and influence, debating skills and ethical leadership along with exposure to the financial services industry and career options.

Each year Women's College students "billet" the UBS participants in their College rooms, giving them a unique chance to experience living at College. For many of them the course is a life-changing experience. Three students who have attended the UBS Academy are now resident at College. First-year Commerce Laws student Nhi-y Pham came to the Academy in 2006. She was Captain of Sefton High School in 2007, graduating with a UAI of 99.95. Nhi-y says of her experience of the UBS Academy: "Not only did you get to meet 49 different but like-minded girls, it was a great opportunity to realise your leadership potential as a young woman in the future. It was also the first time I was truly exposed to College and that was one of the key factors in my decision to come here."

Recently the UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy has been awarded the Outstanding Initiative / Result for the Advancement of Women Award as part of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) business achievement awards. Liz Cacciottolo, head of UBS Wealth Management in Australia said "The UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy is a fantastic way for us to engage, develop and nurture leadership potential in students from a variety of backgrounds. Receiving this award shows us that we are making a difference."



Former UBS participants, now living at College: Nhi-y Pham, Clare Tiedeman and Lauren Dawson

From the President

One of the committee's priorities for this year is to keep in touch with more alumnae. As a first step, Eliza Newton, College's Community Relations Officer mined the College database to find out who we are and where we are. Here are some highlights from our statistical snapshot. There are 6847 alumnae, and we have contact details for 3377 of them. Of these, 316 live overseas, and to meet all of them would involve visits to 36 countries from Austria to the West Indies. That leaves 1601 alumnae who are listed as 'address unknown', and we have set ourselves the task of finding as many 'lost' alumnae as possible. The 1960s, 1970s and 1980s are the decades with the biggest gaps.

We have been delving into snapshots of another kind in the College archives, which include substantial photographic collections of its architectural history and college life over time. Photos of college life are a very popular part of any exhibition, but the photographic archive has not yet been indexed and its use has been limited. The committee has taken this on as a project. We have already made some finds among the invaluable

donations from alumnae including Nancy Perry (KENT 1939), Pauline Deakins (KENT 1939), and Jill Moore (CROKER 1946). They reveal some less well known aspects of College life which we hope to share with you at our coming events.

Eight outstanding students have been awarded our Alumnae scholarships for 2008. There are two first-timers - Fiona McPhail (Veterinary Science) and Kate Taylor (Arts), with six other students continuing from last year.



Alumnae President Merilyn Bryce (64-65) with 2008 scholarship holders Kate Taylor (left) and Fiona McPhail

Georgina takes on restoration

More than twenty Edwardian desks and as many dressing tables, several chests of drawers and a handful of miscellaneous cabinets and bedside tables. That's the inventory of College furniture earmarked for restoration this year. The restorations are part of the refurbishment of the Main building, scheduled to begin in November and extend over the summer vacation period. College is extremely fortunate to have engaged one of our own alumnae to undertake this special project of restoring the desks and dressing tables which have graced the rooms in Main for generations.

Resident at College during her Arts degree 1981-83, Georgina Williams (TOM) graduated with majors in Archaeology and Fine Arts. She trained in painted finishes at Incbald School of Design in London, and attended life drawing classes at The Julian Ashton Art School, Sydney. Georgina started her business Major & Tom as a partnership in 1985 and went solo in 1989.

Georgina has recently taken delivery of the first four pieces of College furniture, and the remainder will be restored progressively over the course of the year. She will use traditional materials such as shellac and wax, and traditional cabinet making techniques in the restorations. Most of the pieces, says Georgina, have had nothing done to them except patchy routine repairs since they were purchased a century ago. "It really is a labour of love and I'm just so glad we are restoring the furniture. I wouldn't feel comfortable about entrusting all those memories and all that history to anyone else."

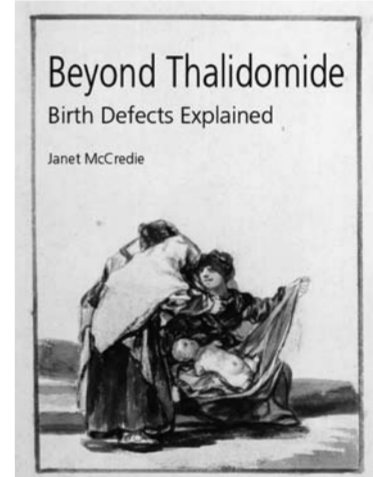
If you are interested in contributing to the restorations of the Main building and its furnishings, please contact College on 02-9517-5000.



Beyond Thalidomide Launch

On 4 December 2007 Dr Janet McCredie AM, distinguished College alumna and Honorary Fellow of the University of Sydney, launched her book *Beyond Thalidomide: Birth Defects Explained* at College to a large gathering of Women's College alumnae. In her book Dr McCredie deals with the question of how birth defects occur and what goes wrong in an embryo during pregnancy, issues brought into sharp focus in the wake of the Thalidomide catastrophe (1958-1962) when there was an extraordinary emergence of limb deformities in newborn babies.

Dr McCredie, a diagnostic radiologist, recognized that there were some clues to a possible answer in the radiographs of thalidomide children. "Because nobody was looking in the right place," Dr McCredie said, "lots of experimental work was done and lots of theories were launched. What I did, which amazingly no one else had done, was to look at the nerves of the embryo, and that's where we found the pathology." Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, a contemporary of Dr McCredie's at College, also spoke at the launch. "This is an exceptional publication which responds to a serious deficit in the literature and which derives from Janet's own exemplary and dedicated research conducted over a 35-year period," said Dr Bashir.



To order a copy of the book please contact Effie Pappas at Elsevier 1800-263-951

Diary Dates

1958 Reunion Lunch Saturday 3 May 2008 at College. Contact Beverley Peken (ROBIN) bpeken@bigpond.net.au or Tel (02) 9888 3101.

Recent Leavers Reunion for students who have left College in the last decade. 14 May 2008 at College. Contact: Tiffany Donnelly Tel (02) 9517 5005 or vp@thewomenscollege.com.au.

Mother Daughter Dinner and Phoenix Players Performance Saturday 17 May 2008. Contact Mary McGuirk Tel 9517 5002 or secretary@thewomenscollege.com.au.

Women's College UK Reunion Thursday 10 July 2008. Contact: Pauline Lyle-Smith paulinelysmith@hemscott.net.

Alumnae Study Day "The Rocky Road to Human Rights" Friday 11 July 2008 at College. Contact: Merilyn Bryce merbryce@bigpond.net.au.

Alumnae Annual General Meeting and Luncheon Saturday 26 July 2008.*

Sydney Uni LIVE!, or life and study at the University of Sydney: Saturday 30 August 2008. For information contact Sydney Uni Helpline: 1 300 362 006 or Email: futurestudents@usyd.edu.au

Father Daughter Dinner Saturday 13 September 2008. Contact: Mary McGuirk Tel (02) 9517 5002 or secretary@thewomenscollege.com.au.

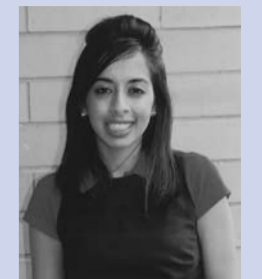
Wisteria Lunch Sunday 21 September 2008.*

Orange Reunion Lunch Saturday 18 October 2008. Venue to be announced.*

Spring Back to Sydney reunion for University of Sydney students who graduated in a year ending '8.' Saturday 8 November 2008. Contact: The Alumni Relations Office Tel (02) 9036 9278 or register online www.usyd.edu.au/spring_back.

*Contact the Community Development Office Tel: 9517 5008 or email community@thewomenscollege.com.au.

Rhodes scholar: Joanna Mascarenhas



The 2008 New South Wales Rhodes Scholar is former Women's College student Joanna Mascarenhas (03). Joanna has recently completed a Bachelor of Arts in economics, social sciences and law,

and will graduate in May with first-class honours in law. Jo was MLC School Captain and Dux in 2000. She was awarded a Distinguished Undergraduate Scholarship to Sydney University, and topped the Dean's List for Excellence in Academic Performance from 2001 until 2003, in addition to being awarded University Prizes including Firsts in Labour Law, Constitutional Law, Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management.

Joanna has completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award, has played hockey for the University of Sydney, represented the University in inter varsity debating, and served as an editor of the student newspaper *Honi Soit*. She's an active youth worker and has been a full-time volunteer with Youth Mission Team Australia, and a legal advisor and Summer Clerk to Matthew Talbot Men's Hostel and the Domestic Violence Roster.

Joanna will travel to Oxford in late September 2008 and aims to use her Rhodes Scholarship to undertake an MPhil in comparative social policy with particular focus on European labour law. She will be living in college, and has applied to Merton. She says "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Women's. Intellectually I was able to explore ideas far more fully and get fully engaged in University life. I got my best academic results during my year at Women's with all that structural support and the stimulation of the College environment. The taste of college life it gave me was one of the key reasons I've been so keen to study at Oxford because it's such a vibrant and intellectually challenging environment."

Olympic vet: Cassandra Robinson



Cassandra Robinson (02-05, RA 05) will travel to Hong Kong in August 2008 for the equestrian events of the forthcoming Olympic Games. Cassandra will be a member of the quarantine team, processing competitors' horses in and out of Hong

Kong's Sha Tin Racecourse. The University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science was asked to select senior students for a veterinary and quarantine team for the games, and Cassandra was chosen from a field of 30 applicants. She will complete her Veterinary Science degree in the faculty at the end of this year. Cassandra has had a long love affair with horses: she has showed horses since she was 10 and her family breeds Australian stock horses. She has competed to national level pony club as a state representative for NSW and has been involved in national level Australian stock horse events. As a part of her degree she has also spent a year researching wounds in horses at the Uni Vet Centre at Camden. She is understandably thrilled at the prospect of experiencing the Olympics events. "I haven't been to China before so I'm pretty excited about it. It will be great to have exposure to top vets from around the world."