“The smiles and gratitude you receive in the outlying rural and remote communities are second to none.” CSU pharmacy graduate, Bradley Butt
CSU pharmacy students awarded $400,000

Ten students studying Charles Sturt University’s (CSU) Bachelor of Pharmacy have been announced as recipients of the 2007 Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme, the largest number of students selected from any Australian university.

The scholarships, which were announced by The Pharmacy Guild of Australia’s National President Kos Sclavos, are awarded to students from regional, rural or remote locations who are studying pharmacy at any university in Australia.

This year, an extra 18 scholarships were made available through funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, allowing 30 scholarships to be offered, each valued at $40,000 over four years.

Head of the CSU School of Biomedical Science Professor Lyn Angel believes the high proportion of CSU students receiving the scholarships reflects the successful selection process and the program’s focus on rural practice.

The CSU scholarship winners are: Theresa Heyen, Wagga Wagga; Tania Bailey, Mudgee; Amanda Henderson, Deniliquin; Kyle Fairley, Ardlethan; Tara Gaw, Jindera; Nathan Langfield, Eugowra; Samara Donohue, Henty; Veronica Cusack, Yalla; Lauren Ryan, Strathmerton; Mindy Sahota, Nangiloc.

The University of Queensland had the second highest number of recipients, with four pharmacy students receiving scholarships.

If you would like further information on how you can invest in the future generation of pharmacists please visit http://www.csu.edu.au/special/pharmacyfoundation/
Welcome from the Chair of the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation

The Charles Sturt University (CSU) pharmacy program was the first non-metropolitan pharmacy degree program in Australia when it commenced in 1997. Ten years on, the number of pharmacy programs offered by Australian Universities has increased three fold with some in the profession now beginning to speak of graduate over supply.

While that may begin to occur in some areas, the CSU program was developed with particular focus on the needs of inland Australia and, although much has been achieved, much remains to be done.

Some progress has been made simply by providing seven cohorts of graduates well trained and with a preference for practice in regional areas. Quite a number of CSU graduates have also moved into ownership roles and this will be increasingly welcomed as there are many long serving pharmacy proprietors in rural areas looking forward to retirement or at a least a reduction in their current responsibilities.

Of course the profession is also changing and CSU graduates are ideally placed to take on new and expanded pharmacist roles some of which are beginning to evolve as a result of initiatives undertaken by various universities and groups such as The Pharmacy Guild and Pharmaceutical Society. Once current shortages of pharmacists are met these expanding roles will necessitate a significantly continuing increase in the numbers of practicing pharmacists and CSU is well prepared to meet this need.

From the outset CSU has been strongly supported by pharmacists and the pharmaceutical industry. Many of our CSU Script readers are already active supporters of the CSU Pharmacy program and this support continues to build as the program grows and the quality of our graduates, research and continuing education becomes better known and understood.

Give me a call anytime on 0419 358063 or Associate Professor Lyn Angel on 02 69332836 and we can discuss how your support for the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation can bring very real benefits for you and assist our great profession to reach its full potential in the future.

CSU Students undertake Aboriginal, rural and remote healthcare tour

Students studying Pharmacy, Nutrition and Dietetics at CSU this year, had the opportunity to undertake an Aboriginal, rural and remote healthcare tour as part of their second year studies.

The 12 day tour took students to the Northern Territory where they observed life in an Aboriginal community, the inner workings of Aboriginal health clinics and undertook a group project on a health issue affecting rural and remote Australia.

Professor of Rural Pharmacy at CSU Patrick Ball believes the tour provided students with invaluable insight into remote Australia and the opportunities that exist in these areas for health professionals.

The tour was designed to complement the compulsory work placement component of health programs at CSU, where students travel to destinations including Broken Hill, Thursday Island, Whyalla and Tiwi Island to work with local health professionals.

CSU Pharmacy graduate Bradley Butt completed his work placement in Broome, Western Australia, which allowed him to experience first-hand the ways in which remote pharmacies work together to overcome their isolation.

“The smiles and gratitude you receive in the outlying rural and remote communities are second to none, and to be able to make a noticeable difference to so many people just tops off the experience,” said Mr Butt.

CSU Script 1
Industry demonstrates commitment to inland pharmacy

Regional pharmacists and industry bodies demonstrated their commitment to rural pharmacy education at the Annual Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation Dinner on 22 September 2007.

The dinner aims to increase awareness of CSU’s Pharmacy program and foster relationships with industry groups. It was supported by major sponsor, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch), and Bendigo Bank.

Toni Riley, Vice-President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Victoria Branch, and guest speaker on the night, highlighted issues relating to leadership within the industry, particularly for women, and encouraged attendees to get involved with the industry.

“Becoming the best pharmacist you can has to be the challenge for all of us,” said Ms Riley.

“There are endless opportunities to get involved in...put your hand up now and become an important part of the ‘brave new world of pharmacy’ - a future that is not entirely based on the supply function.”

Ms Riley also congratulated CSU on its role in educating the next generation of pharmacy practitioners.

“The new breed of pharmacy graduates are so well prepared for practice - or at least, when I compare them to myself I can see enormous difference in their skills,” she said.

“Currently I have two CSU graduates working with me in my Priceline Pharmacy and both are a credit to your innovative course here [at CSU].”

“Toni and the Pharmacy Guild have been strong supporters of the pharmacy program at CSU and it was wonderful for Toni to share her insights on the profession and its future, particularly for the large number of women in the industry,” said Chair of the Pharmacy Foundation, Mr Peter Gissing.

The support of local Orange pharmacist Malcolm Rosborough was also acknowledged on the night, with a special presentation by Charles Sturt University’s Chancellor, Mr Lawrie Willett, AO.

Mr Rosborough outlined that he believes there are three ways to support the pharmacy industry: political, financial or academic, and he encouraged attendees to follow his lead and give just $10 a day, or the cost of two coffees and a biscuit, to help pharmacy students through the Foundation.

The Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation was developed to support the CSU pharmacy program which was established in 1997 with the primary aim of addressing the shortage of pharmacists in rural areas. The Pharmacy Foundation has supported the development of the program by contributing to the establishment of suitable facilities at the Orange and Wagga Wagga Campuses, and providing scholarships to students.

AUSTRALIA WIDE

Your pharmacy recruitment specialists

• Pharmacist managed & owned
• Permanent & Locum placements
• Australia’s largest Locum database
• 24/7 service across Australia
• Free job postings on our website
• Free online registration for employment
• Managers of the Rural Emergency Locum Service

www.locumco.com.au jobs@locumco.com.au Tel 1800 357 001
Improved continuing education for pharmacists in rural NSW

Charles Sturt University (CSU) hosted its third Continuing Education Day for 2007 on the 9th of September for pharmacists living and working in rural NSW.

Attendees at the session, which was supported by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, were able to listen to health professionals discuss issues such as the assessment and treatment of sports injuries, common skin disorders - what to treat and what to refer, as well as a discussion on a variety of new drugs and PBS listings.

CSU’s Associate Professor Maree Simpson detailed the legal and medical implications of illnesses that affect cognition, such as Alzheimer’s disease.

“One once a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease is received, the affected individual and their family and friends have a number of concerns, primary among them being the likely course of the disease and the probable survival period post diagnosis,” said Associate Professor Simpson.

“As the condition progresses, loss of independence and the ability to undertake very basic activities of daily living such as feeding and dressing oneself results in blurred lines across the medical and legal professions,” she said.

Pharmacists were able to gain up to 24 points this year by attending the continuing education sessions offered by CSU in Dubbo, Orange and Wagga Wagga.

The University is currently planning its continuing education sessions for 2008 in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Pharmacy students recognised for excellence at CSU

Eleven Charles Sturt University (CSU) pharmacy students have been rewarded for their effort and dedication to study through Charles Sturt Foundation Scholarships.

The scholarships were awarded to students studying the Bachelor of Pharmacy on the University’s Orange and Wagga Wagga Campuses for outstanding academic performance, community involvement, leadership and dedication to the future of the pharmacy profession.

This year, scholarships were awarded to Elise Taylor, Lisa Wallace and Zahra Al-Shadidi (Capital Chemist), Nakarri Ferguson (CountryPharm), Jack Simkin (Dowley’s Amcal), Kyle Fairley (Lawlers Family Pharmacies), Mena Abdel Messih (Goulburn College of Advanced Education Alumni), Roshni Shah (John Matthews & Co Chemworld Chemist), Nicola Forbes (Kevin Dickson Memorial), Timothy Denham (Martin Phillips Pharmacy) and Nicola Thong (Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW).

A better banking solution for pharmacists

At Bendigo Bank we can provide all the business banking products and services you need to manage your pharmacy. But it’s our unique brand of attention to detail and personal service that will really make the difference.

To find out how contact our pharmacy finance specialist Terry Fanning on 02 9884 8642.

Chair of the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation Mr Peter Gissing says the scholarship program not only provides students with financial assistance, but has also in some cases resulted in the student undertaking their pre-registration year and full-time employment with the scholarship donor.

In 2007, the Charles Sturt Foundation awarded $560,000 in scholarships to more than 235 students, with the total amount allocated to scholarships since the program began now standing in excess of $5 million.
Ten years of pharmacy at CSU

2007 marks the ten year anniversary since Charles Sturt University (CSU) became the first Australian university to offer pharmacy outside a metropolitan location.

During this time, more than 200 students have graduated and commenced practice, including eight that now own and operate their own pharmacies. The primary aim of the CSU Pharmacy program was to address the shortage of pharmacists in rural areas, and this has proven to be a highlight of CSU’s achievements, with some 35 pharmacy graduates each year embarking on careers in rural and remote Australia.

One such graduate is Meagan Doyle who was in the first student cohort and became the first CSU Pharmacy graduate to be registered with the NSW Pharmacy Board. Originally from the small rural town of Cohuna, Ms Doyle completed her graduate year in Taree before moving to Forbes and then in 2003 fulfilled a lifelong dream when she purchased the Parkes Pharmacy along with two other business partners. Today, she continues her association with CSU through involvement with the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation committee as the alumni representative.

“I have had the benefit of working closely with a number of new pharmacy graduates and students who are very enthusiastic and also keep me on my toes. I see my role with the Foundation as just one more opportunity to contribute back to the University and the profession,” said Ms Doyle.

“The most rewarding part of owning a pharmacy in rural NSW is that the community really respond to the fact that I am the ‘owner’ of the store and that I am very accessible to them for advice.”

Led in the early years by the Head of the School, Professor Mark Burton and Secretary to the Charles Sturt Foundation, Dr Peter Hodgson, industry proved to be highly supportive of the CSU venture, committing in excess of $380,000 in the first five years. In 2002, to further facilitate involvement and support from industry, the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation was established, chaired by Mr Dick Marris who continues his involvement with the committee today. In addition to Mr Marris, inaugural members of the committee included the current Chair, Mr Peter Gissing and The Hon J C Matthews who also continues to be an active member of the committee today.

“From an industry point of view, we [Faulding] originally got involved because we could see a real need for a pharmacy school in the country. We believed if students were trained in the country they might stay and this has proven to be the case, with 70% of CSU health graduates originally from the country taking employment in regional Australia after graduation,” said Mr Marris.

“Supporting the CSU course was a way of putting something back into the industry and by getting exposure to the students from day one, we hoped that when they got to the stage of buying their own pharmacies they would remember the companies that had supported their university, which would help our market share.

“CSU also had the advantage of being a brand new course, and not having historical constraints and traditions. Mark Burton [former Head of School] and his enthusiastic team listened to what industry said it needed in graduates; looked at what the other universities were doing well; and shaped a course that reflected these needs,” said Mr Marris.

CORPORATE LEASING SERVICES PTY LTD
Pharmacy Finance Specialists

For over 20 years Corporate Leasing Services Pty Ltd has been providing pharmacists with expert advice and strategic funding for:

♦ Fixtures and Fittings
♦ Motor Vehicles
♦ Computer Equipment

CORPORATE LEASING SERVICES IS NOW PROVIDING NEW FINANCIAL SERVICES:

Pharmacy Funding
♦ Competitive refinance of current pharmacy loans
♦ Funding for new pharmacy purchases

Mortgage
♦ Residential
♦ Commercial

Please feel free to contact the following people for your financial requirements: 02 9955 3777

Managing Director: Richard Gorman

Nathan Marris
Gina Mobayed
Craig Moore

Established
Reliable
Efficient
International connections for pharmacy students at CSU

Charles Sturt University’s (CSU) pharmacy program is gaining an international reputation through student exchange programs and academic presentations at international conferences.

In 2006, Swedish student Jenny Granmyr marked the beginning of an association between inland Australia and Swedish Universities by coming to CSU to complete her studies working on a local research project on the use of heart medications. Her work produced a journal publication and has been accepted for presentation at the Rural Health Research Colloquium Conference in Tamworth.

Emma Olsson is a fifth year pharmacy student from Uppsala University is continuing the Swedish connection when she commenced at CSU in September this year to do her Master’s project. Obstructive sleep apnoea is an under-recognised problem in our society. Most of the sufferers are unaware they have it, but feel tired all the time, lack the ability to concentrate and can be a danger to themselves and others if they fall asleep while driving or operating machinery. The problem is increasing because one of the causes is associated with obesity. Emma’s project is working with the pharmacists in Wagga Wagga to analyse the outcomes of a service providing diagnosis and treatment of this condition in a way that is accessible to rural communities.

Tony Bergkvist is a fifth year Pharmacy student from Göteborg University, the largest university in Scandinavia. Tony also arrived in September to complete his thesis project in microbiology. In recent years there has been an increased interest in essential oils due to the spread of antibiotic resistance and the aim of Tony’s study is to look at the antimicrobial activity of plant volatile oils and to determine the minimum exposure time to see an antibacterial and antifungal effect.

“Sweden has some very similar problems regarding rural and remote populations as those faced in Australia, but very different models of pharmacy service,” said Professor of Rural Pharmacy Patrick Ball, who recently used an invitation to lecture in Europe as an opportunity to visit Sweden and tour some of the remote areas.

In February, Professor Ball addressed the 17th Symposium of Intensive Medicine and Intensive Care in Germany where he presented on the investigation into clinical incidents arising from intravenous infusion systems and the lessons learned for safer therapy in the future.

Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences Professor Lyn Angel believes these international connections will enhance the student experience and quality of teaching.

“Students are now able to learn about other cultures and their practices through interaction with international students and the experiences and knowledge of their teachers,” she said. “It is important students have the opportunity to learn about other models of pharmacy practice so they can make informed decisions and comparisons when they are in the workplace.”

Pharmacy Foundation Membership

I would like to support the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation by becoming a (please tick one):

□ Governor - $5,000 per annum
□ Donor - $1,000 per annum
□ Supporter - $250 per annum
□ Associate - with a monthly credit card contribution of
  □ $20  □ $50  □ $100

OR I would like to donate the amount of $_____

Name: ________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________ Postcode: _____________________________
Phone: _____________________________ Email: _______________________

Payment options:

Please invoice me in _________(month) each year for the above amount.

OR Make cheques payable to ‘Charles Sturt Foundation’ and forward to the address below

OR Please charge my credit card:
  □ Bankcard □ Visa □ MasterCard □ American Express

Cardholder’s name: ________________________________________________
Expiry date: _____________________________________________________
Amount of authorisation: __________________________________________
Signature of cardholder: _________________________________________

Please return to:
Charles Sturt Foundation  c/- Charles Sturt University
Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795 Fax (02) 6338 4833

Photo caption: (L-R) Swedish students Tony Bergkvist and Emma Olsson, Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences Associate Professor Lyn Angel and Jeff Angel at the Broula Merino Stud’s Annual On-Property Ram Sale held at Tarcutta in October.