Student Welcome - 29 January 2007

More than 600 people were present to make our Student Welcome an inspiring event that will long remain in our memories, and I would like to acknowledge and thank the many honorary staff who joined the students, their families, members of the community and members of the University in what was a very special day for us all.

We have now completed the Introductory Block and the student feedback has been very positive. Nonetheless, they and we have identified things we can do better, and which we have already incorporated into our course as we go forward. Our students have commented particularly favourably on their General Practice and Hospital placements, and I would like to compliment the preceptors who have worked so hard to create such worthwhile learning experiences for them.

Our students are proving to have the intelligence, maturity and self-directed motivation we were hoping for. They are a great group and are very enjoyable to work with.

Overall our innovative course has proved to be as stimulating and engaging as we had hoped. In any endeavour the best laid plans will fail if the delivery is not right, and our General and Academic (employed and honorary) staff have delivered superbly. I thank them all.

Prof John Hogg
Foundation Dean, GSM

Above – GSM staff prepare to process
Top Left – GSM staff process to the University Hall
Left – GSM students listen to speeches
Clinical Skills Centre

The Clinical Skills staff have now taught clinical medical skills for eight weeks and are being richly rewarded for their efforts by the enthusiasm and positive development of the students' learning. Components of what has been taught are hand washing techniques; infection control standards; vital signs measurements, including blood pressure, and basic life support.

The major emphasis has been on communication skills with students taking medical and social histories from ‘real’ patient volunteers. The recruited and trained volunteers are enjoying their ‘roles’ so much that we are often seeing the same faces each week for more than one session.

They report that their personal reward is to assist the students in their education and watch their progress to become very communicative doctors.

GSM Dean

The GSM faces a new phase in its development as it begins a search for a new Dean. Professor John Hogg, the GSM’s Foundation Dean, has guided the school through its development phase and officiated at its birth in January this year. When John Hogg was appointed Foundation Dean of the GSM it was for a fixed term; that term expired in August 2006 but the Vice Chancellor extended it for an additional year. The high esteem in which John is held by so many of his colleagues, in combination with his in-depth understanding of the local medical environment and culture, have proved key elements in moving the Medical School from a nebulous concept to concrete reality. The School now faces its new growth step as it seeks the recruitment of a Dean with traditional academic credentials. John has agreed to remain in the position of Dean until the next Dean arrives, which could be anywhere from July through December 2007, and he may continue to play an ongoing role in fostering and maintaining the positive community relationships which through his leadership have become such a defining characteristic of the UOW GSM.

Those who have worked with John fully endorse the views of Professor Don Iverson when he recently referred to the “enormous contributions John has made in establishing the GSM – quite simply, the GSM would not exist had it not been for John’s efforts during the early years.”

Those staff joining the School in the latter stages of its development are aware of the debt of gratitude that we owe to John. We stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us and know the enormous effort, the blood, sweat and tears that John Hogg has invested in making the vision of the medical school not just a reality, but a success. Prof John Bushnell, Director of Teaching

The position of Dean was advertised on March 28th 2007 and can be viewed at http://employment.uow.edu.au/jobapp/index.shtml

Applications are invited from suitably qualified people and should be submitted by April 29th.