

new'n'old

[New College, UNSW]



ISSN 1447-8161

Newsletter of
New College, UNSW

NEW 'N' OLD

Session 1, 2003

INSIDE

Official launch of the
new website, p.2

New College appoints
Dana Nekich as External
Relations Officer, p.3

James Pietsch becomes
Dean of New College, p.7

New Collegians are announced Goldman Sachs Global Leaders



Rebecca Barnes is selected to attend the Goldman Sachs Global Leadership Institute in New York.

Two Collegians, senior academic adviser and Environmental Engineering undergraduate Rebecca Barnes and New College academic adviser and Economics undergraduate Hari Balkrishna, were recently declared two of eight winners across Australia in the Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program, an international competition that identifies and develops leadership potential among young professionals.

In addition to receiving a significant cash prize, the accolade qualified each Collegian for a second phase in the program that involved two days of interviews and presentations and the opportunity to travel to New York to participate in an international leadership program.

After successful completion of the second phase Rebecca was chosen as one of only four national finalists to represent Australia in the United States.

"We are delighted Rebecca Barnes has been selected," said Professor Trevor Cairney, Master, New College. "Rebecca is a talented and enthusiastic member of the New College community and we congratulate her on receiving this corporate recognition for her academic achievements and leadership qualities."

The elite Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program is conducted by the Institute of International Education in partnership with top-ranked universities from across 17 countries. The competition identifies and rewards the academic excellence and leadership potential of 100 of the most accomplished second-year tertiary students across all disciplines.

"Rebecca is a talented and enthusiastic member of the New College community and we congratulate her on receiving this corporate recognition..."

Fifty of the students are selected to attend the annual Goldman Sachs Global Leadership Institute in New York which aims to 'train and develop tomorrow's educators, policy makers, business leaders, research scientists, social entrepreneurs and other professionals'. ▀

N
E
W
1
'N'
O
L
D

New design online

We recently launched our new website with an innovative new design at the same College web address of www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au.

For the first time we've also published the College newsletter online at www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au/alumni-newsletter.html. You can choose to access *New 'n' Old* online, receive it at your email address, or continue to receive it in the post. Just let us know your preferred option by emailing alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au and we'll arrange it for you.

"In redesigning our old website we wanted to create more than just an electronic brochure," said Professor Trevor Cairney, Master, New College. "We wanted a site that would enhance our relationship with current residents, alumni, the University, the wider community and prospective New Collegians. We wanted the website to provide interactivity and signal the richness of this great place."

A creative collaboration between Professor Cairney and Sydney design consultancy The Holistic Agency, the new website aims to embody New College tradition and its time-honoured Christian ethos, alongside updated content and techno-savvy navigation features.

You can let us know your thoughts about the new site by contacting Dana Nekich, External Relations Officer, at d.nekich@newcollege.unsw.edu.au or on telephone (+6 12) 9381 1740. ▀

Homepage of the relaunched New College website.



From the Master



Professor Trevor Cairney, Master, New College.

Once again, in this issue we have tried to include a combination of news about current Collegians, former Collegians and other activities concerning the College. New College is an exciting place to be right now as we embark on a refurbishment program and develop significant initiatives such as CASE.

I'm thrilled that in this issue you have the chance to 'meet' our new External Relations Officer, Dana Nekich. This is the first time New College has had a staff member dedicated to building relationships with alumni and the many people and organisations with whom we have some connection. Dana will be the first contact for alumni and will be working on a range of activities designed to maintain closer relationships with former Collegians.

One significant tool to help us do this is the new website featured on page 2 of the newsletter. Please explore the new look, structure and content of the site at www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au.

One of the exciting things about being Master of New College is that I have the privilege of getting to know many gifted young people. I hope you enjoy our feature articles about current Collegians Rob Scott, Rebecca Barnes, Hari Balkrishna and Alex Blackwell. I also hope you enjoy finding out about a number of former Collegians who are doing interesting things across Australia and in fact around the world. ▀

NEW 'N' OLD

New 'n' Old is produced by New College at the University of New South Wales. Inquiries about the newsletter can be directed to the Editor, Dana Nekich, on telephone (+6 12) 9381 1740 or at email address d.nekich@newcollege.unsw.edu.au.

Master, New College
Trevor Cairney

Editor, *New 'n' Old*
Dana Nekich

Design and layout
Joy Lankshear

Mailing address

Dana Nekich
The Editor
New 'n' Old
New College
UNSW
Sydney NSW 2052

ISSN 1447-8161

© Copyright for *New 'n' Old* is held by New College

New connections at New College

In a new initiative, New College has appointed an External Relations Officer, Dana Nekich, to forge stronger connections with College alumni, undertake the editorship of *New 'n' Old* and create an exciting events schedule for New College alumni over the year ahead.

Formerly an inhouse Publicist for The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in Double Bay, Dana researched and wrote industry award submissions that accrued a series of state-wide hospitality awards for The Ritz-Carlton at the *Australian Hotels Association Awards for Excellence 2000*. Other roles formerly held by Dana include Publications Officer at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and Copywriter with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Delighted to bring her publishing and publicity expertise to New College, Dana hopes to raise the bar on existing communications between New College and its alumni.

"New College is facing exciting developments this year," Dana said of her new role. "Our immediate goals are to develop stronger networks with College alumni and create an even better College experience for student residents coming through the ranks.

"In particular, we plan to keep our alumni informed about current events at the College so they have the opportunity to revisit the place where they enjoyed their College days, reconnect with former Collegians and view for themselves the great talent of our current students."



Dana Nekich,
External
Relations Officer,
New College.

Dana has a strong love of the academic environment and recalls her own university days at Macquarie University fondly, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Media majoring in Journalism. Her recent work at UTS included the provision of strategic advice and production expertise to UTS international student prospectuses marketed to students across the Asia-Pacific and United States.

Dana can be contacted about alumni queries or news for your College newsletter, *New 'n' Old*, at d.nekich@newcollege.unsw.edu.au or on telephone (+6 12) 9381 1740. ▀

Redevelopment of New College



View of the upper courtyard in the redevelopment plan.

It's finally about to happen. After 12 years of discussion and three master plans the Board of New College has approved a final master plan that will be the basis

for the redevelopment of the College over the next 18 months. The key features of the plan are:

- A proposed fifth level with 36 larger rooms and two well-sized meeting rooms,
- Adaptive re-use of the space on the ground floor to include upgraded entrances and a central corridor,
- Extensive rebuilding of the courtyard to remove skylights, create a central recreation room and link the parallel sides of the third floor with an upper terrace, and

- Innovative changes to the courtyard floors to improve room space and offer selected ensuite accommodation.

Construction is expected to commence in the end-of-year break with major work to be completed during holiday breaks, tailored to complement the academic schedules of New College residents.

If you would like to know more about the building program or offer your financial support for the redevelopment of the College, contact the Master, Professor Trevor Cairney, on (+6 12) 9381 1999. ▀



Artist's impression of the front entrance of the College from the redevelopment plan.

Former Collegian James Pietsch becomes Dean of New College

“Within the College community there remains a *joie de vivre*, an intellectual curiosity and a passion for the truth in all its forms that makes New College such a unique place,” said former Collegian James Pietsch who took up the role of Dean of New College on 28 January 2003.

“From my own experience, I know what a unique place New College is and the many opportunities it provides to nurture sporting, artistic and academic talents and to be challenged to consider the big questions in life. I look forward to working with the residents to ensure these qualities remain evident at New College,” James said.

In his live-in post of Dean, James brings to the College his wife Margie Pietsch (nee Adeney) and their two-year-old son Samuel, soon to be joined by the couple’s second child, expected in September.

“My desire for the future of New College is that it will continue to be a place bursting with life and enthusiasm for learning...”

James recalls the rich culture and strong social fabric of New College during his student residence from 1988 to 1993. “I appreciated the opportunity to be involved in a plethora of activities such as the Revue, music nights, debates, social activities and sporting competitions,” he said.

“There are many aspects of New College that have changed since Margie and I were residents – tutors are now called resident advisers, the stocks have disappeared and the food is much, much better.

“During my time of residence, with the strong Christian foundation of the College, I also remember being challenged to look again at the person of Jesus and at what it means to follow Him,” James said.

With a Master of Philosophy in Education already behind him, James is currently undertaking a further PhD in collaborative learning in mathematics while Margie, a former



James Pietsch, Dean, New College.

ESL teacher, successfully completed her Graduate Diploma in TESOL in 1996.

Speaking about the balance between family life and College responsibilities, James said the challenge to achieve this was made easier by the privileges of working in such a gifted College community.

He added that seeing residents achieve their full academic potential, being part of a close-knit community and providing opportunities for residents to find out about Christianity were among the most satisfying aspects of his work.

“My desire for the future of New College,” James said, “is that it will continue to be a place bursting with life and enthusiasm for learning, as well as a place where the claims of Jesus are presented clearly within the University’s marketplace of ideas.”

New CASE Director

We are delighted to announce Dr Greg Clarke, former Editor of *The Briefing* published by Matthias Media, commenced as new Director of the Centre for Apologetic Scholarship and Education (CASE) on 4 August 2003.

CASE replaced the Institute for Values Research and continues to evolve as a strong forum of apologetic debate and scholarship. Greg will be launching a variety of initiatives in coming months.

Keep an eye out for a full feature story on Greg and his goals for CASE in the next edition of *New 'n' Old* and visit the website for more details at www.newcollege.unsw.edu.au.

N
E
W

4

'N'

O
L
D

The youngest member of the New College community, two-year-old Samuel Pietsch. Photo taken by Trevor Cairney at the 2003 New College resident advisers' retreat.





Alex Blackwell shines in the cricket stakes

Alex Blackwell joined New College in 2002 as a Medicine student and recipient of the UNSW Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarship. However while she continues to do well in Medicine it is her sporting success in the cricket field that has captured the attention of the media.

Alex and her twin sister Kate (studying at UTS) showed great cricketing prowess at a very young age in the Riverina where their skill led them to become part of boys' teams from year 4. By year 7 Alex was playing the men's grade competition and by year 10 gained selection in the Griffith A-Grade team.

But it was when Alex moved to Barker College in years 11-12 that her cricket received significant boosts. By the 2001–2002 season Alex was in the NSW Women's team and was one year later joined by Kate. In the same season Alex was chosen as an all rounder to represent Australia in the one-day World Series against England, New Zealand and India.

Alex's successful debut was followed by selection to represent Australia in two tests against England, the second of which saw her share in a world record fifth-wicket partnership of 136 with Lisa Sthalekar.

Currently in the winter season training regime and devoting much of her time to her medical studies, Alex will start the 2003–2004 cricket season this year again striving to balance study and elite sports representation, ultimately aiming to represent Australia in the 2005 World Cup.

Like many New Collegians, while Alex possesses a wealth of talent and ability it has been her humility and depth of character that have made her a popular member of the College community. ▀

James Vickery writes from Boston

(New Collegian 1992–1993, 1995–1996)

I'm living in Boston MA these days, studying for a PhD in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (Which I promise, despite the name, is actually a fairly decent university, not a local TAFE college.)

Life in the US is treating me well. Thankfully, most of my stereotypes about Americans have proved to be just as accurate as the ones about Australians wrestling crocodiles and riding kangaroos to work, and I've forged a lot of strong friendships here over the last three-and-a-bit years.

MIT has proved, unsurprisingly, to be a somewhat bizarre place – geek is chic, math and physics are compulsory for undergraduates (even English majors) and crowds of thousands flock to watch not the football team, but the annual Robot competition.

Luckily the rest of Boston is a little more normal, and with over 100 universities in the metro area there are generally interesting people around to talk to. The biggest change from home is probably the weather; nothing makes you appreciate Sydney's climate so much as arctic temperatures, frozen rivers and a couple of feet of snow on the ground.

I'm always keen to catch up with friends from College either at home or here in the US, so drop me an email at vickery@mit.edu if you're in the area, want to say hi, or just want to confirm or dismiss idle rumours that my once emaciated frame has ballooned to 350 pounds on a steady diet of Dunkin' Donuts, Wendy's Hamburgers and other signature American cuisine. ▀

Alex Blackwell and her sister Kate on the cricket field (upper left) and in training (below).





Dr Tom Frame, Bishop to the Australian Defence Force.

'New' Lectures: Bishop to the Australian Defence Force examines 'living by the sword'

The New College Lectures are an annual event that provides an opportunity to present a series of public lectures focusing on a topic of concern by people of varied world views.

This year, Bishop Tom Frame, current Bishop to the Australian Defence Force and former New Collegian, will present a series of Lectures entitled 'Living by the sword: the ethics of armed intervention' from 2 to 5 September.

The Lectures will centre on an exploration of the ethical character of Australia's involvement in war and will consider:

- *Why is television obsessed with armed conflict?* Why do 'humans tire of everything else before they tire of war'?
- *Wars aren't what they used to be!* What is the changing nature of warfare?

- *Where have all the conscientious objectors gone?* Was the recent objection by some to the second Gulf war political rather than conscientious?
- *Indicting the Nation-State for war crimes.* What is the moral significance of the nation-state and the legitimacy of its demands for human sacrifice in the cause of its own protection and preservation?

All Lectures will be held at New College in the evenings except for a special lunchtime Lecture on Thursday 4 September which will be held in a public venue at the University of New South Wales.

For more information about Bishop Frame's Lecture series contact Professor Trevor Cairney, Master, New College on telephone (+6 12) 9381 1999. ▶

N
E
W

6

'N'
O
L
D



Bill Barwick, former New Collegian.

HSC marker musings

Bill Barwick, former New Collegian, tells *New 'n' Old* why he chooses to stay at New College when he visits Sydney to mark the NSW Board of Studies HSC paper in Modern History.

In the first few years of my work as a HSC marker, New College was located in an ideal area, relatively close to the old RAS Showground now known as Fox Studios and the Australian Technology Park in Redfern where we did our marking. I always took Long Service Leave to participate in HSC marking and my students ultimately benefited from having a teacher with inside knowledge of the marking process.

More recently, the Board of Studies HSC markers have been relocated to Olympic Park. That necessitates a trip down Parramatta Road to Homebush and the daily joys of peak-hour traffic.

In spite of the changed location, I've chosen to stay at New College for several reasons. The accommodation is of a fine standard in the Guest Flat and meals are provided. The company's not too bad either...New Collegians are a highly intelligent bunch and today's students are always keen to engage in discussion.

College décor is another plus. New College alumni who haven't been back for a while will

immediately notice the attractive interior refurbishment downstairs, all a considerable improvement on the preponderance of dark grey and gloomy brickwork earlier generations of Collegians will recall. ▶

Are you seeking a professional and polished conference venue?

New College offers conference facilities and casual accommodation at exceptionally affordable prices. Starting from \$99 per day, conference packages accommodate all functions from intimate business seminars to conventions for up to 200 people. Catering services include continental breakfast, buffet lunch, three-course sit-down dinner with black-tie waiting staff, and alfresco dining in the charming College courtyard with à la carte menus or gourmet finger food.

Room layouts can be pre-arranged from theatre seating to boardroom and the convenience of inhouse accommodation is available at selected times in the year. To discuss a conference solution that suits your needs, contact our conference professional, Jacqui Hughes, on telephone (+6 12) 9381 1770. ▶

Postcard from the Himalayan mountains



Rob Scott, current New College resident, writes about his trek through the Himalayan mountains of Nepal and his support of The Fred Hollows Foundation in the advancement of rural medicine.

In March this year I embarked on a journey that saw me venture into the depths of the Himalayan mountains of Nepal. How I came to be on such a journey started in 2002, when I took on a challenge set by The Fred Hollows Foundation to fundraise \$4500 and persuade nine schools from my local area to support the challenge with mufti days, fun runs, discos and sleepovers.

I spoke to local charities such as Lions, CWA, Apex and the Rotary Club about the Foundation, organised a major raffle and even convinced my local RSL club to chip in with proceeds from a '100 Club' and several band nights. By January this year, I had managed to raise around \$7000.

When I completed my fundraising challenge the Foundation granted me the opportunity to visit Nepal to witness their work in the area and trek some of the remotest areas of the Nepali Himalayas.

In a trip lasting only two weeks, I was swept through a place extremely rich in culture and natural beauty. Our initial days were spent visiting Tilganga in Kathmandu, the eye hospital established by The Fred Hollows Foundation, and various other tourist sites.

At Tilganga I had the opportunity to scrub up with chief surgeon Dr Sandruk Ruit, who demonstrated the intricacies of his work

before my eyes as patients lined up for surgery and watched operations take place before them. I was in awe of Dr Ruit's skill and the ease with which he executed it, patient after patient.

We next set off on our trek through one of the less-travelled areas in the Langtang region, lasting several days and taking us through altitude ranges of 400 m to 3600 m. The environment



we were exposed to in this short time ranged from camping in freezing-cold snow to swimming in sweltering heat. The diversity was extraordinary. On one of the nights at higher altitude, we were subjected to a storm of nearly every element imaginable – just to test our little tents.

We trekked through forests of Rhododendrons, a native flower of Nepal, small remote villages, fields of wheat and rice, and along, through and over rivers. I trudged through knee-deep snow and balanced along cliff edges. We trekked above and beneath the clouds and everywhere in between. It was magic.

I remember walking through areas in the middle of nowhere, at almost ridiculous altitudes, and suddenly a child would appear. We would then realise a family dwelled in a little hut just up ahead, with a couple of cows, chickens and ten square metres of wheat. And these people were content. A simple greeting of *Namaste* (hello) and their looks of uncertainty were washed away by unburdened smiles. Just gold. My journey was simply an incredible experience and above all, I gained a new perspective on what remote area living really is. ▀

Rob Scott scales the mountains of Nepal (upper left), befriends Nepali children (above) and witnesses surgery by the medical staff of The Fred Hollows Foundation (below).



N
E
W

7

'N'

O

L

D

Where are they now?



Former New Collegians Amy and Matt Gibson on their big day.

Amy Elizabeth Gibson (nee Knowles) spent just two years at New College (1995–1996), which was long enough to meet Matthew Gibson who she married earlier this year. Amy studied Advanced Science/Arts and is

currently working as a Senior Research Officer at The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Randwick. Matt ('Gibbo') completed Electrical Engineering and is working at Energy Australia as a Substation Design Engineer. Both are studying for postgraduate qualifications this year. Former New Collegians Paul Canvin, Benjamin Cooper and Kate Radford were all members of the Gibson bridal party. You can contact Amy and Matthew by email at matt_amy@primus.com.au.

Yvette Edgell (1994–1995) completed a BCom (Finance and Marketing) at UNSW and travelled extensively before working in financial marketing. She now has her own healthy baked-goods company called Two Thin Ladies based in South Coogee and wholesales her products throughout Sydney. Yvette lives with her partner of seven years and still numbers ex-Collegians among her best friends.

Glyn Andrew Jones (1995–1996) has been living in London for the last two years designing software for investment banks. Glyn completed a BComm and BArts at UNSW and can be contacted at email address jones_glyn@hotmail.com.

Yvette Templar (1996–1998) is living in Bondi Junction and works as a Client Manager at LKS Design, North Sydney where she manages strategy and brand image for consumer brands. Yvette completed a BComm (Marketing and Hospitality Management) at UNSW and was active in College life during her time at the College. She was an academic adviser in 1997 and 1998, returning officer and ball committee representative in 1997, and O-Week committee member and NCSA secretary in 1998. Yvette's email is yvette_templar@lksdesign.com.au.

Josephine Truscott (1993–1994) studied Science at UNSW and graduated with dual Bachelors in Science (Applied Mathematics) and Economics. Following extensive travel Josephine undertook a Diploma of Remedial Massage at Nature Care College and works for BIS Shrapnel as a Research Analyst. Her email is jtruscott@bis.com.au.

Maz and Goffy got married! Amanda Kerr (1994–1995) writes, "I bet no one was expecting us to get married! Matthew Goff (1993–1994) and I figured that after being together since 1996 it was about time. Since College we lived in Newcastle while I was doing more study and we moved back to Sydney in February 2001. Matthew is the night manager of a pub in Mortlake and I'm a research assistant at Sydney University. The current plan is to head overseas in 2003. Contact us on email at manadalego@hotmail.com or goffmathew@hotmail.com." 🐾



Amanda and Mathew on their wedding day. Photo by Renaissance Photography.

N
E
W

8

'N'

O
L
D



Making contact

We're always delighted to hear from our New College alumni. Simply complete this slip or email us at alumni@newcollege.unsw.edu.au if you would like to:

- Contribute something to a future edition of *New 'n' Old*
- Help to organise an alumni reunion
- Receive information about New College events and alumni functions
- Amend your address details as outlined (right)
- Offer financial support to the work of the alumni

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Mail to:
Dana Nekich
The Editor
New 'n' Old
New College
UNSW
Sydney NSW 2052