

Nosehair

Issue 3, 2005

Welcome to the third edition of Nosehair for 2005. As semester 1 draws to a close, we look back at the exciting things that have happened with EU Science, and look forward to a restful holiday and of course, Annual Conference! And there's always next semester, with a load of mission events and more EU Science action. Keep reading, and keep up to date with EU Science.

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Annual Conference

When I was asked to write an article about the EU's Annual Conference, I thought immediately of writing about all of the things that I have loved about past conferences - the great teaching, studying God's word with other Christians, singing, camp food... but then I realised that you have probably heard about Annual Conference (or AnCon as it is commonly known) by now, and in all likelihood from someone who has been before, and spoken of those very things. So instead, I thought I would tell you about the first time I went to AnCon, and how it was a time that helped change my life.

I too had heard many people speak of AnCon in the way described above, and had been urged to come. But I was poor, and I didn't know that many people who were going, and I wasn't sure I wanted to give up a week of my holidays for such a thing. In the end I decided to go, but I wasn't sure whether I would enjoy it.

I did enjoy it, and as I said earlier, it helped change my life. Firstly, I thought really hard and seriously about being a Christian at Annual Conference, to a depth that I never had before. People had told me that this would happen, and they were right. Secondly, I met friends at Annual Conference (including my future wife!), friends who have remained friends for 3 years since. And thirdly, stemming out of the first two, I was able to grow in maturity in Christ, kick-started by an enlarged view of God and by friends who consistently challenged me to do so.

I would encourage everyone to go to Annual Conference, just as I did for the first time 3 years ago. Uni is a time to work your brain like never before, and to make friends that will last a lifetime. Use both those opportunities to grow in love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

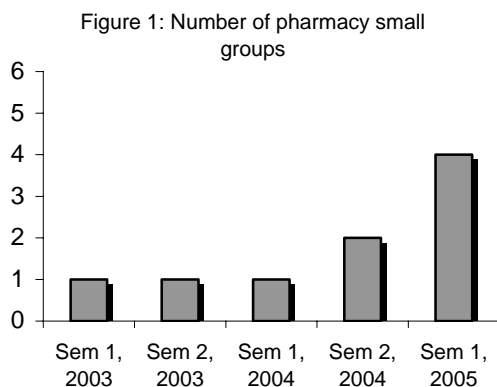
Sean Carritt, 4th year Science

AnCon 2005 - Andrew Katay speaking on The Church.
July 18th-22nd, Stanwell Tops.
To register, talk to your small group leader
or see the AnCon table after Public Meetings.

News of Pharmacy

As many of you would be aware, until now pharmacy students have been administered as part of the EU science faculty. We've seen some exciting growth over the last few years, which led to creation of a pharmacy-specific small group in 2003. The number of small groups has doubled each semester over the last few years (Figure 1), and there are now two 1st year and two senior groups, with assistant leaders currently being trained.

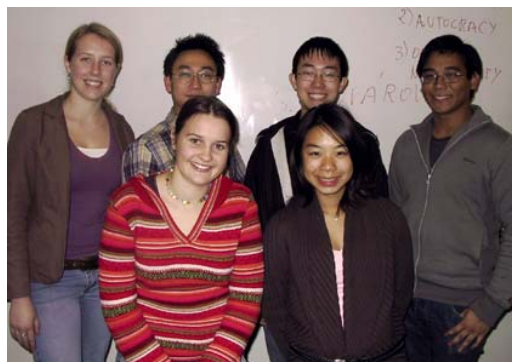
As much as we've loved having pharmacy students amongst us, and have been blessed by their enthusiasm and service, it



seems now that EU pharmacy is well on the way to becoming independent of us. On the way to achieving this purpose, general council (the governing body of the EU) has set up a Pharmacy planting team, with the goal to work towards pharmacy becoming a separate faculty of the EU.

This team will be led by Steph Vaughan (3rd year), and consists of Edmond Kwan (3rd year), Shu Ren, Michelle Halim and Jon Penm (2nd year) and Emma McCutcheon (1st year). Melissa Yager will also be on the new committee. It's great to see the EU growing in this way, and we look forward to hearing all the exciting things that will happen in the land of pharmacy.

Liz New, 4th year Science



Back row: Emma, Shu, Edmond and Jon
Front row: Steph and Michelle

This semester's eEquip has once again proved to be jam-packed full of Bible goodness. In the first hour (which is reserved to for talks and faculty time), Caz kicked us off with a review of a book about the history of evangelicalism. In following weeks we were given talks on reaching nominal Christians, rest, and politics. "Not to break them down all the way to their purely biological level but the talks on politics were Katay at his most Katay." (Mick, 4th year) In other words, our brains were turned to mush (in a good way). The O3T team did a presentation on their mission to Mongolia over the summer break, and last week there was a talk on being a Christian teacher which wasn't just for ed students as it also included aspects such as scripture teaching, chaplaincy, and youth work.

Faculty time sessions, though few and far between, focused mainly on issues that arise all the time, but particularly in a mission year. We all practiced giving our testimonies to one another (these were then criticised, I mean, *critiqued*, which was helpful), and we also learnt how to answer some tough questions that not-yet-Christians are likely to ask.

The final hour of Equip is set aside for courses. Leading People to Christ (LPC) is about evangelism, and teaches a gospel presentation while understanding worldviews and applying the gospel to these worldviews. Many people did this course again this semester specifically because it's a mission year, and it will be available to do next semester, so if you want to hone in on your gospel proclamation skills before the mission ends, you've got a chance next semester.

Teaching The Bible (TTB) is designed to train people in Bible study leading, and it went into great detail about

eEquip

the aspects of Bible teaching that are often forgotten or not explicitly thought through.

Advanced Pastoral Care (APC) was very interactive and students in the course were really encouraged to be involved in the learning as it is quite a practical course. Because of this practical aspect, there was a skills time, in which students had to really pull apart issues involved with caring for people.

All these courses are highly recommended, and although some of them won't be around next semester, there will be some equally useful training courses, so come along to Equip next semester and make the most of these opportunities while you're at uni.

Deanne Quayle, 2nd year Science

Courses available in semester 2, 2005:

Theology through History (TTH): Understand how God has revealed Himself over history, and the major theological moments of the Christian church.

Working in God's World (WGW): Helping final semester students work out what to think and do about work, and how to glory to God wherever you end up.

Leading People to Christ (LPC)

Teaching the Bible (TTB)



I grew up in a very loving and very supportive environment; my family was very family-orientated and there was never any question about whether we were loved. My parents were compassionate and empathetic, always wanting the best for their children, but there was no vision further than our current circumstances - comfortable lives were the aim of the game! Being a

science student, I used to ask lots of questions as a child, and I remember once in primary school asking my Dad why our family didn't attend church like some of the other families did on Sundays. His answer was that he thought we lived a good enough life as we were. Essentially he wasn't explicitly against acknowledging God, but was apathetic and content with the present circumstance - lukewarm towards God - we had all that we needed and so there didn't seem to be a need for God.

In year 10 I was invited along to youth group by some of my school friends and I was struck by their view of God and their response in light of this, which got me thinking about my own response. To me you just need to look at creation to know there is something bigger and more important than us out there. I was familiar with the stories of Jesus, having heard them at school over the years, and while I believed they were truly about God, and that Jesus was God's son and deserved our respect, I didn't think about anything beyond this or the implications of what I should do if that was how I viewed Jesus. I became involved in a bible study group at church and my leader challenged me to read the Bible for myself: something I'd never attempted before because I'd only heard the Bible read in Scripture class and Chapel services. What the Bible revealed to me was that God lovingly created us, but we had ignored him and pushed him out of our lives, in particular I had been content with the way my life was going, and hadn't looked beyond myself.

Revelation 3:5-6 reads: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

Lukewarm to God

So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am going to spit you out of my mouth." To me this was an allegory of my life and that of my family; God was powerful and we acknowledged that but didn't actually think of any of the consequences of this! Reading this text about how detestable a lukewarm response to God is to him, I saw that God demanded a clear response from us, and I wanted to respond appropriately, and thankfully God pointed me directly to his Word to find out.

During my first year of youth group I learned two important things that shaped my response to God: first was that God is holy - totally separate from us, morally blameless and all powerful; and the second was that God loves us, his personal creation, intimately and desires so desperately to know us, and for us to know him, that he sent Jesus to bring us to him. Recognising God's holiness confronted me with my own unholiness very dramatically, and it wasn't until I connected my unholiness with Jesus' mission of forgiveness through his death and God's grace in granting this to us, that everything finally clicked in my mind. I knew that I wanted to respond to God personally: to have Him work in my life like I'd heard and seen He had in my friends' lives, and to live for Him - knowing underneath that God simply wanted me to acknowledge Him as God!

God responded through his Spirit and his people, blessing me with a wonderful Christian community, as well as His transforming power in His Spirit - guiding me as I read the Bible and continually seek to live a holy life for God. I now more than ever realise that seeing myself as good enough is not what living for Christ demands, but that God demands our lives to be a continual expression of worship for Him.

Lauren Blockley, 2nd year Science

How Big is your God?

sufficient in his nature - being fully man and fully God - and in his work - in his completion of the work of reconciliation once for all. There is an amazing truth to be grasped here.

*My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
The mountains are his
The valleys are his
The stars are his handiwork too
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do*

It's so easy to sing the words to this simple kid's song, but are we people who truly believe it? As I've reflected over the first year studies on Philippians 2:5-11 and Colossians 1:15-23, I've had to think again about whether I believe our God to be as big as the Bible claims.

In both Philippians and Colossians we see Jesus' supremacy and His sufficiency. He is supreme in his power and dominion in and over creation, and in the new creation. And he is

In these passages, we are confronted with the amazing truth that in Christ's sufficiency, the co-author of creation became part of his created universe as man and God, and even more so that he should die to complete the redemptive work. Charles Wesley got it right when he penned the words,

*'Tis mystery all: the immortal dies!
Who can explore this strange design?*

What an amazing truth! Yet so often we take it for granted. We've been taught so well and so frequently that it has become familiar and I dare say, even boring. We cry out, "Yes, of course we believe that! It's true!" But do we really? Do we bow our knee and confess with our tongues that, "Jesus is Lord"?

I wonder - how big is your God?

Clive Lam, EU Science Staffworker

First Year Social

The place: Newtown.
The restaurant: Thai La-Ong
The night: Awesome.

On Wednesday 18th May, many of the funky first year Science EUers (and a handful of old fogies) got together and had dinner. More than just a meal was shared in that upper room (a very Biblical place for a meal! hehee) - we shared our lives and got to know each other better through some wacky card game Clive made up on the way there; we shared about our childhood aspirations (remarkably few people wanted to be scientists... hmmm...) and our thoughts of the new Star Wars

Look Who's SEEKing 5!

Well, if Jesus Week was meant to raise people's awareness of Jesus on campus, it certainly did its job! Posters, T-shirts, 3 big talks from Ian Powell, lots of little conversations amongst friends, and surveys, surveys, surveys! If you're into hearing about what God's been doing on campus, read on...

"I was feeling quite anxious about not yet having done any surveys and was praying for opportunities to do them, but upset that none had come up. I was reading over the information for them and remembered that we were supposed to do it in pencil like the colour-in exam dot style ones, and I didn't have a pencil in my bag. So put two in my bag that night. The next day I had the opportunity to do surveys with 3 friends, and the pencils in my bag definitely came in handy. I guess it's important to pray and rely on God - but He also wants us to be prepared for what might happen too!" Katie, 3rd Year Science

"I had a first year EUer ask me for a second survey pack!" EU Staffworker

"I've been praying for my friend ever since last year when I found out she was Buddhist and highly reluctant to find out anything about other religions. After being prompted to find out more from my LPC course, I found out that she sees religion as just a lifestyle and for morals, rather than as the truth or of any other importance. I prayed that I would have an opportunity to share it with her and present the gospel in a non-threatening way. After Easter, I asked her what she knew about Christianity. She admitted that she didn't know much at all, but said if there was a book she could read, she would gladly read it. The amazing thing is, I had been carrying books containing Mark's gospel with me for the past couple of weeks, so I gave her the book and was already praising God for His faithfulness. When the surveys came out, I was able to do them with her, and found out that she prefers to read about Christianity rather than attend talks, so

movie which none of us had actually seen yet; we shared laughs and swapped stories and met stacks of people we hadn't met before and had good times all round. The food was tasty but what I savoured most from the evening was seeing everyone getting along so well and seeing God build up friendships in His community of believers at Sydney Uni.

Dinner was followed up by some frosty delights at a nearby gelato shop and more great conversation (some cheeky comments about engineers followed by threats of frozen underwear... amongst many other things!). Anyway, it was an awesome night and I'll be looking forward to the next time I can hang out with the funky first years - AnCon, anyone?

Iain Fagg, 2nd year Science



this will definitely help me find more ways to evangelise to her!" Diana, 3rd year Pharmacy.

"I surveyed one of my friends, and we ended up having a really good chat about Christianity for about an hour, and I had a chance to share the gospel with her and the reason for my faith." 1st year Pharmacy student

"I did a survey with a friend and she indicated that she was interested in finding out more about Christianity. I invited her to one of the FBE dinners and she was really keen to come - when she couldn't make it at the last minute, she approached me about coming to another one! A couple of us took her out to dinner which was a great opportunity for her to hear us talk about our faith and to ask all of her questions." Liz, 4th year Science

"3 of my friends came to the 'Jesus: More than a Blankie' talk with me." 1st year Pharmacy student

So be encouraged! God is at work in people's hearts and lives, and He'll use you too as you keep SEEKing5 for Christ - continuing to Share your life, Express your faith, Invite your friends, and Kneel in prayer. Praise be to our awesome and gracious God who loves to save, and blesses us with all we need in Christ our Lord.

Mel Yager, EU Science Staffworker

Nosehair wants you! Send questions, comments and even contributions for future issues to danny.liu@student.usyd.edu.au.