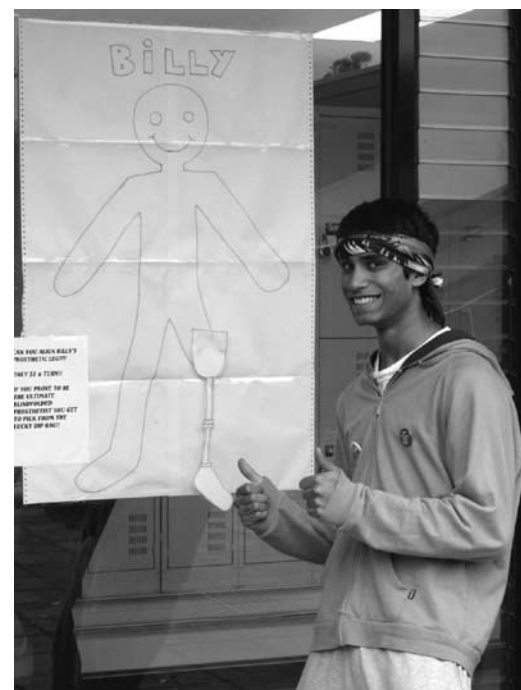


POSS Raises Funds for CSPO



NCPO students Gaby and Sarah draw the winning ticket

The Prosthetics and Orthotics Student Society (POSS) recently held a fundraising barbeque in support of the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO) with much success. Held on the 8th of May, the day included a raffle, fun games including align Billy's prosthetic leg (a prosthetic spin off of pin the tail on the donkey), a guess how many lollies in the jar competition, a silent auction and badge sales. Prizes including Ipod speakers and cinema tickets were won by students and staff and we managed to raise \$706.80 in total. This money will be directly donated to the Cambodian school when students visit in June/July this year. Thank you to Fiona Barnett at Ossur, Kevin Harrison from Harrison Prosthetics and Orthotics and David from Orthotic Innovations for their kind donations and to everyone who helped on the day to make it such a great success.



Jeff D'Souza is happy with his alignment of Billy's leg

Plagiarism and Turnitin.com

There has been a concern in Australian and International education and academic institutions that there has been increased incidence of plagiarism by students of the written and graphic intellectual property of others. This increase in plagiarism has been made more viable because of the increased and extensive student access to on-line material available through the use of the World Wide Web (WWW). While this expanded access has increased information exchange and allowed students to gain a broader understanding of complex issues and concepts, it is a double edged sword because the opportunity for the theft of the intellectual property of others is more easily achieved. To overcome this problem, academic institutions have enacted strict Plagiarism policies.

What is Plagiarism?

La Trobe University considers plagiarism as one form of cheating and describes plagiarism examples in section 1.2 of La Trobe University's Academic Misconduct Policy (2004, p.2), plagiarism has been identified by five descriptors. These statements are reproduced below:

- Direct copying of sentences, paragraphs or other extracts from someone else's published work (including on the Internet and in software) without acknowledging the source;
- Paraphrasing someone else's words without acknowledging the source;
- Using facts and information derived from a source without acknowledging it;
- Using ideas directly derived from an identifiable author without acknowledging the source;
- Producing assignments which should be the student's own, independent work in collaboration

with and/or using the work of other people (e.g. a student or tutor).

From: La Trobe University, 2004. Academic Policies, Academic Misconduct. <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/policies/assets/downloads/academic-misconduct.pdf>

While the La Trobe University anti-plagiarism policy is focussed primarily on the literary intellectual property, plagiarism also equally applies to the use of graphics from a publication or other sources, including the internet.

Why Is Plagiarism a Problem?

In the world of the exchange of intellectual ideas, plagiarism is similar to the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport. So, if an idea or written text is not attributed, then the author is saying that the written content is their own work. They get an assessment mark that reflects the work that is not their own and if it is published, may be cited for many years as their work. If the text is not detected as plagiarised, acknowledgement of the original author's intellectual efforts to produce it is lost. Plagiarism produces intellectual cheats just as performance enhancing drugs produce drug cheats.

So how common is this plagiarism problem?

In a study of students in the USA by McCabe (2004) who used surveys of undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as faculty staff to gather the data, it was found that faculty staff observed 59% of students copied text word for word without acknowledging the source. Table 1 (with some minor modifications) is from the McCabe article and shows the types of plagiarism and other forms of cheating engaged in by students. (McCabe, 2004)

Other educators of health professionals have also found a high incidence of plagiarism and felt there was

Type of Plagiarism	Undergraduates Self Reporting	Grad-Students (Observed)	Faculty (Observed)
Working with others on an assignment when asked for individual work	42%	26%	60%
Paraphrasing/copying few sentences from written source without footnoting it	38%	25%	80%
Paraphrasing/copying few sentences from Internet source without footnoting it	36%	24%	69%
Receiving unpermitted help from someone on an assignment	24%	13%	44%
Fabricating/falsifying a bibliography	14%	7%	34%
Turning in work copied from another	8%	4%	38%
Copying material almost word for word from a written source without citation	7%	4%	59%
Turning in work done by another	7%	3%	45%
Obtaining paper from term paper mill	3%	2%	29%

Table 1: Types of plagiarism engaged in by students. Note: Values represent % of students who have engaged in the behaviour at least once in the past year or faculty who have observed the behaviour in a course in the last three years. (McCabe, 2004)



a need to encourage honesty as an important part of the student's education (Kenny, 2007).

What Anti-Plagiarism Methods Available?

The largest cause of plagiarism by undergraduate students recently has come from what is called the "cut and paste" mentality where students find suitable text on-line and copy it into their assignment. A sophisticated online checking device called "Turnitin" has become available which allows education staff to check the on-line content of individual assignments. To try to manually check each assignment is impossible and not as effective as electronic checking using Turnitin (Jocoy & DiBiase, 2006).

La Trobe University has a contract with Turnitin and teaching staff regularly use Turnitin to detect student plagiarism. This allows any on-line sources to be checked quickly and provides a percentage of the on-line texts that have been used in the assignment. Students are repeatedly informed of the penalties for plagiarism and are advised of the need to avoid plagiarising the intellectual work of others. Turnitin is not designed to detect graphics and does not allow checking of text books (unless they have been on-line transcribed).

The Turnitin website can be found at:

<http://turnitin.com/static/index.html>



A screenshot from the Turnitin.com website

References

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- Kenny. (2007). *Student plagiarism and professional practice*. *Nurse Education Today*, 27(1).
- McCabe, D. (2004). *Cheating among college and university students: A North American perspective*. *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, 1(1)

New Research Targets Chronic Stroke Survivors

The NCPO is currently recruiting stroke survivors for a post-graduate research project to determine the biomechanic and neurophysiologic effect of tone-reducing ankle-foot orthoses. Stroke survivors who are less than 80 years old, able to walk independently (gait aids accepted), and have spasticity in the leg are invited to participate in the project.

Volunteers will be required to attend the university on three separate occasions for 2-3 hours at a time. Transportation to and from the university can be provided and subjects may be able to keep any orthoses that are made

for them during the study.

If you are an orthotist it would be greatly appreciated if you could pass on this information to anyone who might be a candidate for this research project. Stroke survivors who have been involved with previous projects have found the experience informative and helpful for their own recovery.

For more information or to receive an information and consent pack, please contact Aileen Ibuki on 9479 5812 or email aibuki@students.latrobe.edu.au.

Associate Professor Tim Bach is Made Fellow of ISPO

Dr Timothy Bach has recently become a Fellow of the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO). This is a significant accomplishment and shows that Tim has been recognized by his peers for significant contribution to the objectives of ISPO by professional achievement and personal integrity.

The aims of ISPO include the promotion and guidance of high quality care of those people who need prostheses, orthoses and rehabilitation equipment around the world through education, training, research and cooperation.

Tim's extraordinary effort in leading the Scientific Committee at the 12 World Congress of ISPO in 2007 to develop and deliver a scientific program of a very high standard is just one example of his input to the society. His high standard of work has been instrumental in the development of the Australian Annual Scientific Meetings over many years and has helped put ISPO Australia and the NCPO at the forefront in the field in the international environment.



Introducing Aaron Williams

Aaron Williams joins the NCPO in the Allied health Division at La Trobe University as a sessional lecturer. He comes from an interesting and varied background and brings a wealth of experience to the NCPO.

Aaron spent the first 5 years of his career working for a range of facilities around Australia within private, public, urban and remote areas. He worked in Bendigo, Darwin and Burnie, and at one point seriously considered settling in Darwin. However itchy feet and a desire to experience more pushed Aaron to travel overseas.

He hit the ground running in Japan, securing a job with Otto Bock shortly after arriving. Initially he was tasked with assisting customers with difficult clients, providing hands on assistance and advice. The role developed with Aaron representing the Japan office at international meetings and being trained in all aspects of the C-leg, including service.

He then sought a completely new challenge at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Aaron started as lecturer and worked his way up to Senior Lec-

turer. One of his key tasks in this role was to mentor a local counter-part to take over from him. This proved so successful that Aaron moved on to a clinical mentoring role across six clinics in Cambodia. Aaron found that he enjoyed teaching and coaching and was pleasantly surprised with the commitment of the students. Some of whom have recently completed the upgrade course at La Trobe University and have earned their Bachelor degrees.

Aaron's most recent appointment was as the Deputy Director of the Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, where he was involved in the initial planning, design of curriculum and construction of a custom designed facility. Three years of tireless work has blossomed into a great example of developing world education, with the first class set to graduate in June 2008.

After more than 7 years overseas Aaron and his family decided to return to Australia.

We warmly welcome Aaron to the NCPO.

NCPO Welcomes Emily Graham

We are pleased to welcome Emily Graham who has recently started her Doctoral studies in the NCPO.

Emily completed her Honours degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics in 2005 and has been working at Novita Tech in Adelaide since then. Emily was the top NCPO student in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year of her undergraduate degree and won the Hans Georg Nader Prize for the most outstanding thesis in her honours year.

Emily is working on orthotic management of children with cerebral palsy and is particularly interested in fine tuning the alignment of ankle foot orthoses to achieve the best gait outcomes. Emily's thesis work is being supervised by A/Prof Tim Bach from the NCPO and co-supervised by A/Prof Richard Baker and Professor Kerr Graham from the Hugh Williamson Gait Lab at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. Her work is being supported by a La Trobe University postgraduate scholarship.



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Subscription is free to people or organizations with an interest in prosthetics and orthotics.

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