

Medicus Article  
'Change'

For some the notion of change is disconcerting. The herald of change is often a period of uncertainty; an ominous cloud that looms over challenging stages of growth and consolidation. Others thrive on change. The very same instances that are feared by some are cherished by others.

Medical students at the University Notre Dame in Fremantle are all too familiar with adaptation. In 2008 our fledgling Institution will achieve full capacity with four cohorts of post-graduate students. For the incoming first years, a whole new world awaits you. Congratulations on achieving entry to medical school. Your colleagues in preceding years will be more than eager to help ease the transition into this new world. For the second years, a shift of learning awaits you. If reports are correct an exciting glimpse into pathology and intervention is revealed. The group of third years will disperse to Rural Clinical Schools around Western Australia and hospitals in metropolitan Perth. The challenge here lies in the fact that for the first time, many are for the large part away from their friends and loved ones.

Meanwhile the fourth years will galvanise their skills and knowledge ready to take flight into the medical system as Notre Dame's first graduating class in 2009. This foundation cohort continues to endure the most difficult challenges, as they beat out the path for the rest to follow. I speak on behalf of the entire student body when I say: "WELL DONE, we are proud of you". All will continue to face change and encounter challenges – however, triumph will be plentiful.

The task of addressing the concerns and protecting and representing the interests of the student body lie with the Medical Student's Association of Notre Dame (MSAND). The efforts of the two previous committees have established a firm foundation on which the incumbent committee members will continue to build upon. It is indeed an interesting time to be studying Medicine. Not only because of the emerging fields of knowledge and refinement of existing techniques – but also because of the promises which beg fulfilment following a federal election. Regardless of the result, Notre Dame's medical student body will be heard.

On a personal note I look forward to meeting the many individuals who contribute to our unique medical community in Western Australia. I am excited by the opportunity to represent the Medical Students of Notre Dame. Bring it on.

Kia Alizadeh  
MSAND President 2008