



Entering the exciting world of electives



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The end of the academic year signifies a great deal of things for students; most notably it is a relief from study and indicates that holidays are upon us. For some this entails travel, either for recreation or to re-connect with family, for others it means working or relaxing at home and for the lucky fourth year cohort it means electives and graduating as fully-fledged doctors.

Nepal, Cambodia, Canada and Finland are merely some of the exotic destinations our fourth years have taken to in search of new and exciting adventures. The facebook profiles and photos indicate many a cultural experience, whether it be overcoming language barriers, observing interesting medical cases, battling snowstorms or eating tarantulas!

Electives provide a broadened outlook into the world of medicine, particularly into

varying practices and working conditions, new cultures or rural and remote life. Each presents new challenges, the acquisition of new skills but also a memorable experience individual to each student.

While students are required to complete an elective as part of their final year of study, many take the opportunity to incorporate this experience into their summer holidays throughout their years of study.

Vision Vietnam is an initiative that has run for the past four years. Five students predominantly from first and second year, travel to Vietnam providing medical supplies and support to some of the most impoverished and under-serviced areas in Vietnam. It is an exciting few weeks that also provides the opportunity for students to relax and enjoy the sights of Vietnam.

The years pass by ever so quickly to a stage

where ND is set to take on its sixth cohort of first years in 2010. Preparations for the incoming 2010 cohort are in full swing as MSAND is busy organising welcome packs, flyers and the annual O-Camp. On the flip side, the fourth years are celebrating their fantastic achievements with a graduation ceremony and dinner, before departing to commence their positions as interns around the country.

On behalf of all MSAND members, I would like to say thank you to the graduating class of 2009. Without their large contributions and dedication to developing MSAND, it would not be the steadfast and sleek organisation that is today. Secondly, congratulations! We wish you all the best as you commence your careers as successful doctors!