

UWCSEA alumnus is infectious disease specialist at the National University of Singapore

Dale Fisher (1976 – 1978)

Dale Fisher is an infectious disease specialist at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the National University Hospital (NUH) in Singapore. He studied medicine at the university in Tasmania and completed most of his specialist training in Sydney. Infectious disease as a specialty appealed to him primarily because of the huge impact that it has globally.

Dale came to UWCSEA in 1976 as an Australian scholar, leaving his family and his home for the first time. He moved into the boarding house with other students from a multitude of backgrounds. He says, "I shared a dorm with a Parisian, a Malaysian Chinese, a Hong Kong Chinese, an Englishman and an Indian Rolls-Royce-driving, sitar-playing Malaysian. My two years at UWCSEA shaped my life without me even knowing!"

While completing the IB programme at the College, Dale involved himself in sport, becoming a member of the basketball team as well as goalkeeper for the soccer team.

After his return to Australia and the completion of his medical training, he lived for a few years in Sydney until 1992 when he chose to move to Darwin to



begin his work as a specialist. Remote Australia, regrettably, is the home of tragic health outcomes in the large Aboriginal population, and it was this challenge that lured him there. Over the next 13 years Dale rose to head the Department of Medicine at the Royal Darwin Hospital. While patient care remained to him the most important responsibility, he was active also in many national and regional committees addressing aboriginal health issues. He says however, that he remains to this day saddened and dissatisfied with the current state of Aboriginal health and health care in Australia.

In 2003 Dale came to Singapore to investigate a potential position at NUH. The timing of his arrival was fortuitous for Singapore, as he arrived in March, at the beginning of the SARS outbreak. He threw himself into the task of helping to combat the disease while managing not to contract it himself!

Dale has now been back full time since early 2005, after he and his family made the decision to move to Singapore where he would take up a permanent position at NUS and NUH. He wears many hats there, including clinical director and infection control chair. He is involved in patient care, medical student plus post graduate teaching, as well as infectious disease and health services research.

"There was no single reason for moving back to Singapore after some 20 plus years away! The fascinating work, Singapore itself and of course the school, all pulled us. There is no doubt in my mind that UWCSEA is the best in



Dale: middle row, left, number 7

the world for what Michelle and I want for our kids." Dale and Michelle have three girls, currently in Grades 3, 7 and 8 – a second generation of Fishers to attend UWCSEA!

In his 'spare' moments he finds time to coach girls' basketball at UWCSEA. He has also spoken to various student groups here from Grade 2 to 12 about Dengue, Malaria and HIV. Michelle Fisher is another great parent contributor both in the class room and the sporting field. They both feel that everyone benefits when parents get involved in school activities.

Dale can be reached through the UWCSEA alumni website, <http://alumni.uwcsea.edu.sg>.

