



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# School of Physics

Issue 6, July 2007

## Alumni & Friends Newsletter

### Professor David E Caro, AO OBE FInstP, FAIP, FACE

On 14 December 2006 the School of Physics was renamed the David Caro Building in honour of alumnus, Professor David Caro, whose valuable lifelong contributions to national university life and the international physics community were formally acknowledged. David Caro was made professor of Experimental Physics and Head of School in 1961- 1972 during the days when Physics was still located in Old Physics.

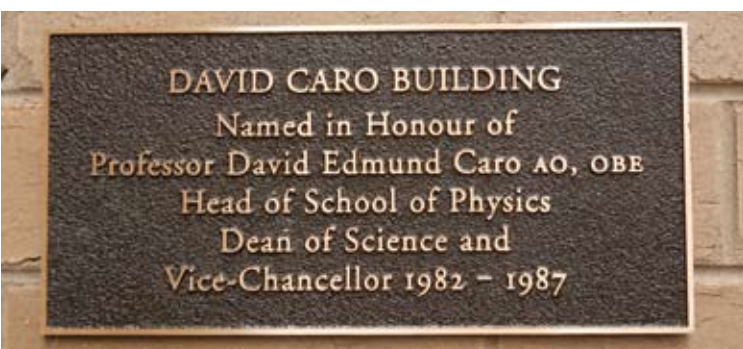


Professor Geoffrey Taylor, Professor David Caro and Mrs Fiona Caro

In addition to being a brilliant lecturer, Professor Caro was a talented researcher. Along with Dr John Rouse, they were the first to design a variable energy cyclotron in the late 1950s, the first of its kind not only in Australia but in the world. This spearheaded the research in experimental particle and nuclear physics in Australia and was instrumental in providing the country with a talented crop of highly trained experimental physicists over the next decade.

Professor Caro also oversaw the design and planning of the "new" physics building at its current site. David Caro never took up office in the new building, instead moving on to become Dean of Science in 1970, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne in 1982-1987. He has held appointments at other institutions such as Vice-Chancellor of University of Tasmania and Chancellor of University of Ballarat.

In the company of Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis and other distinguished guests, Chancellor Mr Ian Renard addressed the audience before unveiling the official plaque to the David Caro Building.



### Geoffrey Opat Scholarship

Year 11 student, Josh Teichman, is this year's recipient of the Geoffrey Opat Scholarship, which was set up between the School of Physics and The King David School in Armadale in memory of the late Professor Geoff Opat. The scholarship, in the form of a mentoring experience, provides the opportunity for a talented secondary school student to engage in a hands-on experimental workshop on-campus every fortnight for a year. Physics postgraduate Elaine Miles is Josh's tutor and mentor: "it is pretty cool seeing the reaction on Josh's face when we've discussed the ideas, the prac has worked and then suddenly it all clicks and he gets 'it' "

Josh is current taking science and maths subjects at school and is interested in psychiatry but maybe we can get him to change his mind.



Above: Elaine Miles, Josh Teichman, Lily Teichman (Josh's mother) and Milorad Cerovac (Science co-ordinator, The King David School)

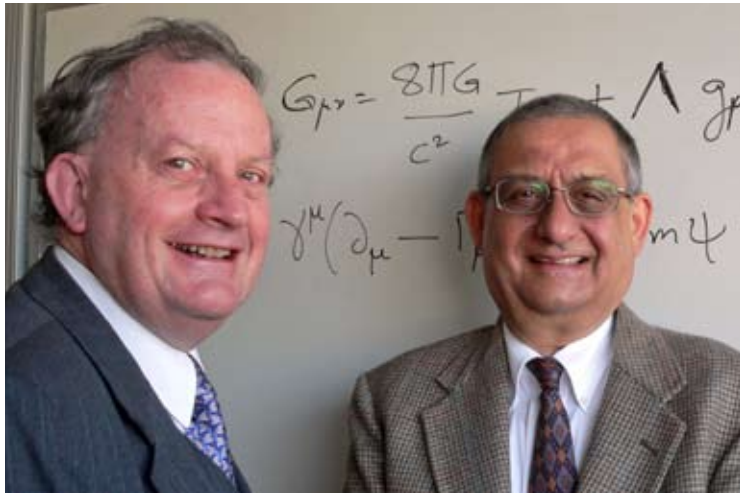
### Dr Switkowski's Public Lecture

The School was pleased to receive a visit from alumnus, Dr Ziggy Switkowski, who gave a public lecture at the University on 12 June 2007 in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Physics. Dr Switkowski, a former graduate of the School and current Chair of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), discussed the issue of nuclear power as a viable option to combat climate change. Dr Switkowski explained that the increased demands for electricity in growing economies such as China and India makes nuclear power inevitable as a viable energy source. He advocated that Australia should develop a nuclear energy industry.



## Festschrift

In late November 2006, the School honoured the career contributions of retirees Prof Bruce McKellar and Assoc Prof Girish Joshi by holding an international 2 day 'celebration seminar' known as a festschrift. The seminar acknowledged the advances in theoretical physics and cosmology made by the two physicists and was attended by over 80 colleagues, special guests, former students and alumni. The conference papers will be bound and published later in the year. We will miss Bruce and Girish and thank them for their lasting contributions to the School.



Above: Professor Bruce McKellar and A/Professor Girish Joshi

## Alumni & Friends Cocktail Party

The alumni and friends of the School of Physics party was held on the 15 March 2007 in the foyer of the Hercus and Laby theatres. For those that missed it, below are just a few of the photos that were taken. It was a great event and we thank those for their support in making it a fun night. We hope to make this a biennial event.



Above: A/Prof Robert Scholten, Dr Elisabetta Barberio, Prof Tony Klein, Anna Phan, David Sheludko (recipients of the Klein Prize 2006)



Above: Prof Geoffrey Taylor, Dr Roger Rassool, A/Prof Max Thompson, Mr Andrew Brookes (Colonial Foundation)

Left: Mrs Val Crohn, Dr Ross Collier

Right: Dr Ian Gibson (CiRSA), Andrew Coulthurst (recipient of CiRSA Prize)

Below: Dino Rebellato, Bruce Watson, Bryn Sobott

