

FACULTY *n*ews

June/July 2006 Vol 3 No 2



The University of Sydney
Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery



Dean's Message

Since our last newsletter in March/April 2006, many things have happened and much has changed

in the Faculty and the University. Our progressive move to a postgraduate profile is going to plan and gaining momentum. It is also a great pleasure to see that Dr Maureen Boughton has been honoured by the University with this year's Vice-Chancellor's award for excellence in research higher degree supervision. Congratulations Maureen.

Graduate entry Master of Nursing

The new Master of Nursing class is nearing the end of their first semester experience. Like all new courses, we have been feeling our way and the students will, in time, be able to say with a sense of achievement that they were the first group in Australia to take this program – and that they taught us as much as we taught them. The students are necessarily providing us with excellent and extensive feedback on what we might do differently next year as well as what is working well. We are also publishing from our experiences and educational insights so that other universities, who will inevitably follow Sydney's lead, can learn from our experiences. The Faculty received a Teaching Improvement Grant to research the new Master of Nursing and students' experiences. The first research paper is to be presented at the Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) conference in Cairns in July. This paper is a comparative analysis of the Sydney cohort with the US experience, particularly in relation to their demographics and motivation to study nursing.

The students enrolled in the combined degree patterns Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing and Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise & Sports

Science)/Master of Nursing are finding that the travel to and from the campus requires advanced logistic skills but they seem now to have reached a relatively sophisticated set of plans to make it from Cumberland, along Parramatta Road to Mallett Street in time for classes and back again. Students studying Arts and Science on the main Camperdown campus also have a trek to make it to class. It is now clear that from 2007 we will be able to offer the combined degrees to international students.

Restructuring the faculties in the university

The Vice-Chancellor's announcement in March that there would be a major academic and administrative re-structure will involve the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, as it does all faculties. In the previous College of Health Sciences, which has been dissolved, the health faculties had been working collaboratively on a wide range of issues and common initiatives. We are well placed, therefore, to continue those collaborations and inter-disciplinary initiatives, for example, through the new Master and Doctor of Health Services Management course which will start in 2007, and of course through our research programs. As this newsletter goes to press, it has been decided that the health faculties will continue to work together as a health group and continue building partnerships in research and teaching. We have not yet settled on the final form this will take but we expect it to be operational for 2007. For students and staff we anticipate a growing range of options for studying and researching, particularly in inter-professional and interdisciplinary projects, for example, the biennial research conference at Leura.

The Faculty and the Mallett Street Campus

The Faculty has been housed at and is associated strongly in the public mind with the Mallett (*continued over*)

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Interview: Rebecca O'Keefe



I spot Rebecca O'Keefe as a high achiever the minute she walks through the door.

"I like to think I am," she laughs. "I went to a selective

high school, left school, went straight to uni, put myself under pressure at uni for two years, worked two jobs and studied full time," she says. "I felt under pressure to conform. And I just wasn't coping. So I took two years off and went to Europe. I spent a year working in London and travelled all last year."

Rebecca, now 22, is one of the Faculty's first students to undertake a combined undergraduate degree with the Master of Nursing. With two years of Exercise Science already in the bag, Rebecca persuaded the Faculty to enrol her, along with a couple of others, in the second year of a Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport) combined with a Master of Nursing.

"I've always loved exercise," says Rebecca. "I was an acrobat for ten years

and learned a lot about physiotherapy through falling off things and watching what people did when they strapped me up. That's why I chose exercise science. There are a lot of misconceptions about exercise science. People think there are no jobs, but it's not the case. There's always work for physios."

So why nursing?

"I wanted to add nursing as it's more to do with people and I want to help. By combining the two I can get into rehab, working with people recovering from strokes, heart attacks and so on. The clinical aspects of exercise science are a great complement to what I'm learning in nursing. The combined degree will give me more employability."

At Sydney, Rebecca has found the staff very involved and accessible: "... a realm away from anything I've experienced before. They're accessible and really involved with the students and it's great working together."

In the two years she was overseas, Rebecca learned a lot about herself.

"It was great for personal growth," she says, enthusiastically. "Here, I live at home, but I found how independent I was, living by myself, got myself a job, paid my own way, and in a foreign country! And now that I'm home, I don't question myself the way I used to. It was a big learning curve, but I did it!"

Rebecca transferred the learning from her travel to study.

"I feel a lot calmer. If an assignment is due, it's not the end of the world. I feel more ready to study now, I'm more interested in learning so I get in earlier, start reading, and things fall into place."

As a former acrobat, Rebecca knows the value of balance.

"Oh, the usual things," she says, laughing, "go shopping, go to the movies, hang out with my boyfriend, life, the gym, walking – that's "me" time. That's when I clear my head."

And Rebecca's advice to other students?

"Don't study for the sake of study. Do it when you're interested. Don't do it for the piece of paper – it's your career."

Ian Steep

(continued from page 1)

Street Campus. However, we may be moving from this site in the not-too-distant future. As we re-shape ourselves into a graduate profile, our needs for space and the arrangement of that space differ significantly from the early days of the 1990s when the annual undergraduate intake was around 500 and there were more than 2,000 students on the site. A new site has not yet been found, but the search is on for a suitable new address for us. Watch this space, literally.

International news

Last month Lynda Rose, the Faculty Executive Officer, and I attended the IDP open day in Singapore. This is a major event for Singaporeans who want to study in Australia to meet with representatives of all Australian universities. We had a busy time talking with prospective students and sharing insights with our colleagues from other universities. From Singapore we went

to Malaysia where we had discussions about the situation for nurses and nursing in Malaysia. We also met with representative at the Australian High Commission. Nursing workforce, education and retention are major issues for Malaysia as for most of our near neighbours, and for us.

Two of our staff who are also completing doctoral programs, Marilyn Orrock and Stuart Newman, have had papers accepted for The International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Rhodes, Greece in July. They are presenting their research on different aspects of nurse managers' experiences of health care reform. Stuart's paper is titled 'Nurses' perspectives of the political fallout from health care reform: The New South Wales experience'; and Marilyn's is 'Health care system reform and senior nurse managers: Marginalisation as a factor contributing to the nursing crisis'.

Professor Jocalyn Lawler

Announcement: Faculty postgraduate information evening

**The Faculty will be holding
a Postgraduate Information**

**Evening for prospective
students on Monday,**

**9 October 2006 between
6 pm and 9 pm.**

**The event will be held at
the Faculty of Nursing and
Midwifery, 88 Mallett Street,
Camperdown.**

**Further details will be
published closer to the event.**

Student Information

Correspondence via email

All students are issued with a University email address on enrolment. The University regularly communicates with you via this email address so it is essential that you check it frequently. Not doing so will not be an acceptable excuse for any possible consequences which may arise.

If you auto-forward your University correspondence to a personal email account, and for any reason the email fails to be sent successfully, you may miss vital pieces of communication. While a bounce back email may be received, it is often not possible to identify who the personal email account belongs to. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that any re-direction to a personal email account is functioning properly.

Semester 2 key dates

If you are a local student and wish to withdraw from a unit of study without academic or financial penalty, please refer to the following key dates for Semester 2, 2006. Local, full fee-paying students should contact the Faculty Office on 02 9351 0693 for further information about refunds.

International students should refer to the International Student Refund Policy at:

www.usyd.edu.au/fstudent/postgrad/costs/inm/refund.shtml#ref

JULY 2006	
Monday 17 July	Postgraduate units of study commence
Monday 24 July	Lectures begin
AUGUST 2006	
Thursday 31 August	<p>Session 2 census date: Last day to withdraw from a unit of study offered in Session 2 without academic or financial penalty.</p> <p>Session 9 critical date: Last day to withdraw from a unit of study offered in Session 9 without academic or financial penalty.</p> <p>Please note: If you withdraw from Session 2 or Session 9 units of study after this date, academic and financial penalties will apply.</p>
SEPTEMBER 2006	
Friday 1 September	Session 9 critical date: Last day to discontinue without failure.
Saturday 2 September	Session 9 critical date: Last day to discontinue.
Friday 8 September	Session 2 critical date: Last date to discontinue a unit of study without failure.
Sunday 24 September	Session 10 critical date: Last day for withdrawal.
Monday 25 September	Session 10 critical date: Last day to discontinue without failure.
Monday 25 September to Friday 29 September	AVCC Common Week/non-teaching period.
OCTOBER 2006	
Monday 2 October	Labour Day public holiday
Friday 27 October	Session 2 critical date: Last date to discontinue.
Saturday 28 October	Session 10 critical date: Last day to discontinue.
Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	Study Vacation
NOVEMBER 2006	
Monday 6 November to Saturday 18 November	Examination Period
Saturday 18 November	Semester Ends

Research Development and Support Unit

Message from the Director



This year is shaping up to be a productive year for the Faculty. The last flurry of NHMRC grant preparation is over, allowing time to plan for the next round of funding opportunities.

The Brown Bag series continues to provide an excellent forum for discussing and sharing research outcomes. In May the guest speaker was Dr Michelle Cleary, Clinical Associate Professor in Mental Health and CNC, Research Unit, Rozelle. Michelle gave a thoughtful presentation outlining the program of research being undertaken by herself and her colleagues, which is exploring the care giving needs and consequences for carers of individuals admitted with a severe mental illness.

The Rozelle Hospital 15th Winter Mental Health Symposium, *Collaboration and Partnerships: Building Capacity and Capability in Mental Health Care*, will be held on the 23 June 2006. The symposium provides an opportunity to explore a number of exciting initiatives being led by mental health nurses in the clinical and academic sectors to improve understanding and the delivery of mental health care. For further information contact: alex.woods@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

We welcome Jessica Kronish to the RDSU as senior research support officer. Jessica has recently arrived in Australia, having worked in the higher education sector in the USA. Jane McGuire, CNS from St Vincent's Palliative Care Unit, has also been working in the RDSU on an interesting project she has led about providing culturally sensitive information in the palliative care setting.

For the past two weeks a team from Ireland have been working intensively with colleagues from Gosford and Wyong Hospitals, Children's Hospital Westmead and Prince of Wales Hospital undertaking practice development workshops. This program has received significant support from Annette Solman from NSCCAHS and Dr Valerie Wilson from Children's Hospital Westmead.

Kate White

Conferences and calls for abstracts

17 June 2006 in the NSW Hunter Region. CNSA Research Study Day. Further information: Anne.Mellon@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

23 June 2006 at The Rozelle Hospital 15th Winter Mental Health Symposium, *Collaboration and Partnerships: Building Capacity and Capability in Mental Health Care*. Further information: alex.woods@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

27–28 July 2006 in Sydney. ACS 2006 Residential Care Conference. Further information: events@agedservices.asn.au

28–30 August 2006 in Melbourne. 2006 National Conference of Catholic Health Australia: Leading at the Edge. Further information: secretariat@cha.org.au

27 September–1 October 2006. 14th International Conference on Cancer Nursing. Further information: t14iccn@malachite-mgmt.com

12–14 October 2006 in the Gold Coast. 2nd Annual Australian Nurse Practitioner (ANPA) Conference. Further information: www.dccconferences.com.au/anpa2006

2–26 November 2006 in Hong Kong. 5th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Prevention of Tobacco Induced Disease. Abstracts are due 30 June 2006. Further information: www.isptid.globalink.org

Brown bag research seminars series

Room A2.03/04
12 noon to 1.30 pm

29 June 2006

Dr Sandie Bredemeyer

Transcutaneous measurement of jaundice in the newborn: An evaluation of clinical accuracy in preterm infants.

27 July 2006

Dr Michele Travers

Living in a contested world: The psychosocial consequences for people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Increased funding for psycho-oncology research: Psycho-oncology Research Group

Initially funded through the Cancer Institute of NSW, The Psycho-oncology Research Group was launched late last year. This group has now expanded into an Australian and New Zealand Co-operative research grant, receiving \$541,000 for 2006–2007 from the Federal Government as part of the "Strengthening Cancer Care Initiative".

Professor Phyllis Butow leads a team of leading researchers in the area of psycho-oncology, committed to improving psychosocial care for cancer patients and their families, and quality research in this area. Professor Kate White, a member of the initial team, is also a member of the executive committee. Membership is open to health professionals and researchers interested in research in this area.

For further information contact Dr Rebeccah Hagerty: rebeccah@psych.usyd.edu.au

Research Development and Support Unit



Yen-Yen Chia

'Apa Kabah',
'Ni Hao' and
'Vanagum'!
Greetings from
Singapore, in

Malay, Mandarin and Tamil; languages spoken by my country's three main racial/ethnic groups: Malay, Chinese and Indian respectively. Because Singapore is an ex-British colony, English is taught in schools and is commonly spoken, especially among the younger members of the population.

While I am a fifth generation Singaporean, I have been blessed to have studied overseas, obtaining my BSc (Hons) in Nursing Studies from the University of Surrey and my MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care from Oxford University, as well as my current work as a PhD student here at The University of Sydney. I also have worked in Singapore since qualifying as a registered nurse. Therefore, I have experienced belonging to the minority while I am a student and to the dominant Chinese majority in my country since my birth.

In both circumstances, I am very much aware of the ethnic and cultural diversity around me, even when I am at home. Our nursing workforce in Singapore is comprised of several ethnic groups: 60% Chinese, 12% Malay, 13% Indian and 15% categorised as 'Other'. A breakdown by nationality indicates that 77% were Singaporean/Permanent Residents, 11% Filipino, 4% Chinese from the People's Republic of China and 2% were from Malaysia. Hence, the health care setting in Singapore is characterised by its multi-ethnic nursing workforce serving an equally diverse patient population. This phenomenon is shared with many other Western developed countries that have seen a steep growth in immigration of diverse

populations, but there are differences. Unlike Australia or Canada where the Anglo culture is dominant, Singapore does not have a dominant Chinese culture despite a majority Chinese population.

Although there has been considerable interest about nursing in a multicultural population, little is known about how ethnic diversity affects the nurse-patient interaction in the Singapore context. The familiarity and pervasiveness of diversity seems to blur or push it into the background. Cross-cultural issues have been studied in Singaporean education and social service, and even in the media, but no nursing study related to ethnic diversity in Singapore's health care setting has been conducted. I hope to be the first to do it!

My study '*Nurse-Patient Interactions and Encounters in an Ethnically Diverse Health Care Setting: The Singapore Experience*' intends to address this gap in knowledge as it applies to the intersection between nursing care and ethnic diversity in Singapore today. The study aims to explore how ethnic diversity affects nurse-patient interactions in the Singaporean health care setting and seeks to determine the nature of nurse-patient encounters in this diverse multicultural society.

As little is known about the effects of ethnic diversity on nurse-patient interactions in Singapore, I have chosen Grounded Theory as my approach. The study will involve interviews with patients and nurses, as well as observations in the wards in my hospital, the KK Women's and Children's Hospital. It is an 888-bedded tertiary hospital that provides Obstetric, Gynaecological and Paediatric services with varied multi-subspecialties e.g. oncology, genetics etc.

As I am the Assistant Director of Nursing Quality and Research at my hospital, I hope to use insights gained from my study to influence future policies and practices in nursing education and health care service delivery that align with the Joint Commission International Accredited Hospital standards relating to the provision of culturally and linguistically competent health care.

Supervisors:

Dr Maureen Boughton and Dr Heather McKenzie

For further information:

yenyenchia@student.usyd.edu.au



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Research Development and Support Unit

Specialist Breast Nurse Course, Malaysia



H.E. Mr James Wise, Australian High Commissioner, Professor Kate White, Mrs Jane Gregson and participants from the Breast Nurse Education Program.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer in women and a major cause of premature death throughout developed and developing nations. In response to an increasing recognition of the role of specialist breast nurses Professor Kate White, with colleague Ms Jane Gregson from Perth, WA was recently invited to deliver an intensive education program to breast nurses in Malaysia. Mrs Deidre Sidhu from Amanita, The National Cancer Society of Malaysia, The College of Radiology Malaysia organised the program, and financial sponsorship from BP ASIA (Malaysia), and Digi enabled the program to be delivered in Kuala Lumpur.

Twenty five nurses, representing each state travelled to attend the course in Kuala Lumpur in April 2006. The Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr James Wise and Mrs Teresa Wise held a dinner for all the participants, organisers, sponsors, lecturers and speakers at his residence.

At the completion of the course Yang Berbahagia Datin Azrene Abdullah presented completion certificates to each of the nurses.

Recent graduates

At the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery's April Graduation ceremony five nurses were awarded Doctor of Philosophy. The Graduation was a celebration of both the individual and combined achievements of both students and supervisors.

Janice Gullick, *Conscious body management: The experience of choosing surgery for Breath-LESS-ness*. Supervisor: Professor Colleen Stainton.

Kumiyo Inoue, *Nurses' understanding of domestic violence issues*. Supervisor: Professor Sue Armitage.

Jung Ran (Theresa) Kim, *Korean ICU nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards brain death and organ donation*. Supervisors: Professor Doug Elliott, Murray Fisher.

Mary Ryan, *Living with recurrent ovarian cancer: A narrative analysis*. Supervisor: Professor Jocalyn Lawler.

Allison Shorten, *Making choices for childbirth after caesarean section: A randomised controlled trial of a decision-aid*. Supervisor: Associate Professor Sandra West.



Professor Colleen Stainton, Professor Jocalyn Lawler and Associate Professor Sandra West with the new graduates.

Research Development and Support Unit

Publications 2006

Bredemeyer, S.L. (2006). CNC Column: An opinion piece: The registered nurse and post graduate study. *News from ANN* 19(1), 2–4.

Kwok, C. (2006). Nurses and the prevention of breast cancer among Chinese-Australian women. *Nursing Review* April, 4.

Kwok, C. & Sullivan, G. (2006). The influence of traditional Chinese beliefs on cancer screening behaviours among Chinese-Australian women. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 54(6), 691–9.

Ronaldson, S. (2006). Exploring the role of spiritual care in post-death nursing. *International Journal of Palliative Nursing* 12(4), 1–7.

Ryan, M. & **Bredemeyer, S.L.** (2006). *Prevention of SIDS*. Health Promotion DVD. Sydney: RPA Women and Babies.

Strahle, A. & **Stainton, M.C.** (2006). Women's experience of revealing perinatal bladder function – Implications for midwifery care. *Women and Birth* 19, 17–21.

Graham, N., Auret, K., **White, K.** & **D'Abrew, N.** (2006). Supporting caregivers living with a life-threatening illness. *Nursing Review* May, 12.

Conference presentations 2006

Bredemeyer, S. (2006). 'The NSW Neonatal Network: a collaborative practice model.' Invited Speech at the 2006 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital One Day Nursing Conference, 'Challenges of the Future/Now,' Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, 24 May.

Bredemeyer, S. (2006). 'Prevention of SIDS.' Invited Speech at the Nepean Hospital Branch of the NSW Midwives' Association Conference, Sebel Resort Richmond.

O'Riordan, L. (2006). 'Life after treatment: Parents' experiences.' The Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) Annual Scientific Meeting. Queenstown, New Zealand, 11–14 May.

White, K. (2006). 'How the nursing education system is addressing current and future challenges for nurses.' Keynote Speech at the 2006 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital One Day Nursing Conference, 'Challenges of the Future/Now,' Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, 24 May.

Grant and funding success

Wand, T., Dixon, J., Edwards, C. & **White, K.** Improving access and continuity of care for mental health related presentations in the Emergency Department: Exploration of a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Follow-up Service. NSW Health Minister Innovation Scholarship.

White, K., Kilbreath, S. & **O'Riordan, L.** Systematic review of Diagnosis and Treatment of Lymphoedema. Division GPs Victoria and Lymphoedema Association of Victoria.

White, K., Gregson, J., Hickey, M., Berry, D., Graham, N. & Torvaldson, R. Managing Menopause After Cancer (MMAC): A community based information and support program. National Breast Cancer Centre.

Media

Dr Cannas Kwok: Radio program over four weeks focusing on breast cancer: 31 May 2006 and 7, 14, 21 June 2006.



Course Calendar

August – November 2006

International and Professional Relations
Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, The University of Sydney

Mental Health & Emergency Nursing

Why do emergency and mental health nurses need a close working relationship?

Thursday 24 to Friday 25 August 2006

- Common presentation to emergency departments
- Mental health assessments and mental state examination
- Mental health outcome assessment tool (MH-OAT)
- Physical assessments for mental health patients
- NSW Mental Health Act
- Suicidal ideation and attempts: trends and management
- The future of mental health in EDs: PECC Units

Aged Care Management

Course Modules: 7 & 8 September 2006,

5 & 6 October 2005, 9 & 10 November 2006

- Management in contemporary aged care organisations
- Politics and policy in aged care
- The law and management responsibility in aged care services
- Managing human resources in the current aged care industrial framework, funding and quality

Cancer Nursing

Wednesday 13 to Friday 15 September 2006

- Carcinogenesis and haemopoiesis
- Chemotherapy and radiotherapy
- Tissue typing
- Management of breast, colorectal, oesophageal, gastric, gynaecological and haematological malignancies
- Transplantation
- Palliative care

Wound Management

Wednesday 25 to Friday 27 October 2006

- Wound healing process
- Chronic wounds and impaired healing
- Ageing: effects on wound healing
- Wound products: how do they work and when to use what
- Assessing wounds utilising objective criteria
- Nursing management of acute wounds
- Managing wounds in the community
- Compression therapy
- Doppler monitoring
- Vacuum assisted wound closure (VAC)
- Workshops
 - Assessing wounds and selecting appropriate products
 - Compression bandaging
 - Doppler monitoring

Indigenous Health: Nursing Indigenous People

Wednesday 29 & Thursday 30 November 2006

- Historical implications on the status of the health of Indigenous people
- Health policy
- Contemporary Indigenous health issues
- Indigenous protocols
- Communicating effectively with Indigenous people to improve access to health services
- Nursing Indigenous people

Applications close two weeks prior to the advertised course commencement.

These study days have been endorsed by APEC No. 060310258 as authorised by the RCNA according to approved criteria and are allocated CNE points.



Need more information? Contact us now...

Sarah Goodman-Jones, phone +61 2 9351 0677, fax +61 2 9351 0679

Email: sarahgj@nursing.usyd.edu.au

Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, 88 Mallett Street, Camperdown NSW 2050

Nursing and Midwifery Alumni Association

For graduates, past staff and honorary associates of: the University of Sydney, Faculty of Nursing; School of Nursing, Cumberland College of Health Sciences; Institute of Nursing Studies; Division of Nursing Studies; and the NSW College of Paramedical Studies. The Nursing and Midwifery Alumni Association is your link with the University – your alma mater – and with fellow students, the profession, old friends and new.

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