

FACULTY *n*ews

October/November 2006 Vol 3 No 3



The University of Sydney
Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery



Dean's report

I have just returned from a busy couple of weeks in Singapore and Malaysia as part of the University delegation to conduct graduation ceremonies for graduates living in the region.

These events provide an excellent opportunity to catch up with graduates and their families and to continue to learn about our region, Australia's role in the shaping of the region and to hear first hand what is happening in the profession.

International alumni

This year's trip was particularly special because we participated in alumni events where Sydney nursing graduates gathered. The alumni of the program conducted in collaboration with Singapore Institute of Management held a 10th anniversary reception. This was attended by a number from the original group who started in 1994, and who graduated in 1996. Mary Ho, one of the class of 1994, gave a memorable address about the experiences of her cohort and she reflected on the many ways in which their studies had enriched their careers. This program also involves a number of other health professions and had its origins in the times when there was a school of nursing at the Faculty of Health Sciences. The program is the University's longest-running and most successful international education program.

The University also hosted an alumni reception for graduates who live and work in the region. A large number of nursing graduates, some of whom had studied in Australia, attended.

Retirements

At the end of this year, the Faculty will farewell Dr Jenni Blundell who most recently has been the Associate Dean (Academic). In this role she has had a tough but satisfying job along with others of introducing the new graduate entry Master of Nursing teaching program, while also maintaining good teaching support for our remaining undergraduate students. Jenni has seen a lot of change during her career, having been involved during the Dawkins reforms of the late 1980s when the CAEs merged with universities, and leaves at a time when she has been centrally involved in the introduction of the first graduate entry Master of Nursing. In semi-retirement next year, she plans to read, work in her garden and also stay in touch with a continuing role with the Faculty.

New staff

Joining the academic staff recently has been Dr Fung Kuen (Tebbin) Koo. She has previously worked at The University of Hong Kong and at Sydney. Tebbin's doctoral work focused on older people's health and particularly the role of physical activity. She is now publishing from that work and broadening her horizons. Early in the new year, we will have some other new staff joining us.



Louisa Teng and Mike Ismail at the University Alumni Reception in Singapore 28 September 2006

In this issue

Dean's report	1
International alumni	1
Retirements	1
New staff	1
National accreditation and registration	2
Who's Who at the Faculty	2
International and national education trends	2
Bachelor of Nursing for RNs going on-line	2
Interview: Vicki Bradford	3
Julia Costello	4
Attention final year students	4
Potential graduands	4
Registration day	4
RDSU news	5
ARouSe: Intensive care waking up to the importance of nurse-led collaborative research	5
Exciting research news – Faculty research excellence recognised in many areas	5
Research opportunities	5
Honours and awards	5
RDSU Research Fellow	6
Recent publications	6
Conference presentations 2006	6
Grant and funding success	7
Grant and funding submissions	8
Judith Fethney	8
The REACH Project	9
University of Sydney Press resurfaces	10
Behind the screens: nursing, somology and the problem of the body	10
Professional Doctorates	11
Singapore Alumni Reunion Reception	11
Congratulations Cannas Kwok	11
Faculty courses for 2007	12

The information contained in this publication is correct at the time of publication, but is subject to change. It does not constitute or form part of any contractual obligation expressed or implied by The University of Sydney or the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery.

The University of Sydney and the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery reserve the right to make any alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice.

Vol 3 No 3 October/November 2006
CRICOS Provider No 0026A

Who's Who at the Faculty

Maureen Boughton, Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching)

Maureen is responsible for the academic coordination of the Faculty's courses of study and works with other members of the Faculty to organise and oversee the Faculty's admission, enrolment and progression of students. Maureen also reports on students' satisfaction with courses and units of study.

Jenni Blundell, Associate Dean (Academic)

Jenni oversees the academic work involved in preparing, offering, teaching, assessing and reporting of results for all units of study offered by the Faculty. In conjunction with the Associate Dean (Research) and the Coordinator (Research Students), Jenni assigns supervisors for research degree students and ensures that the students are appropriately supervised.

Kate White, Director (Research Development and Support Unit)

Kate's role is to enhance the development of research within the Faculty and to support new and existing researchers. Along with Jenni, Kate is responsible for assigning and ensuring

the satisfactory progression of research students.

Stuart Newman, Director (International and Professional Studies)

Stuart is responsible for the international programs that involve the Faculty and for the development and running of the professional development and short courses offered to registered nurses.

Lynne Brown, Director (Pre-registration Courses)

Lynne provides academic advice to undergraduate nursing and combined degree students and to the Faculty's new graduate entry students. She works closely with Maureen Boughton to ensure the satisfactory progression of all pre-registration students.

Sarah Brown, Manager (Student Administration)

Sarah is responsible for the overall administration of student issues and the management of the student services team at the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery. Prior to this position Sarah was responsible for post-registration student administration.

Tim Hanna, Assistant Manager

(Student Administration)

Tim is the most recent addition to our student services team and is responsible for the administration of local and international pre-registration students and other student administration issues in the Manager's absence. Students will contact Tim throughout their course for matters relating to or enquiries about courses, admission, progression and graduation.

Susanne Norton Administrative Officer

Susanne is responsible for the administration of local and international post-registration and research degree students. Students contact Susanne throughout their course for matters relating to or enquiries about courses, admission, progression and graduation.

Maria Carlisle, Manager (Clinical Placements)

Maria is responsible for providing clinical placements for all pre-registration students in all the clinical units of study. Maria liaises with over 300 clinical placement sites and endeavours to ensure that all students have appropriate clinical experiences.

Continued from page 1

National accreditation and registration

There is a growing recognition that nursing and midwifery would benefit from a national approach to accreditation and registration. The Productivity Commission's report earlier this year showed clearly that our state-based systems do not necessarily serve us well in the 21st century; and this is the case for other countries as they address historical patterns of regulation. I have been involved as part of the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand) in consultations about how a national scheme might be implemented and over what timeframe. Expect to see more on this topic over the next couple of years.

International and national education trends

Increasingly, universities operate nationally and internationally, compared with a rather more local frame of reference just a decade ago. Now, a student's home base may make little difference to a choice about course or university, particularly as electronic means of communication make studying more accessible.

Bachelor of Nursing for RNs going on-line

In 2007 we will start offering the Bachelor of Nursing conversion course for registered nurses upgrading to a degree as an on-line pattern of study. Irrespective of the registered nurses' locations – assuming the internet connections work – it will be possible to study on-line. This will also mean that students outside Australia will be able to study for a Sydney degree. Our degree is being refreshed and internationalised along with this initiative. The BN will be open to Commonwealth Supported Students (formerly HECS) and fee paying students.

Jocalyn Lawler, Dean

Interview: Vicki Bradford

Senior Lecturer and Coordinator (Indigenous Students)

“Honestly?” says Vicki Bradford in response to my question. “I went nursing probably because of a lot of coercion by my mother. There were other things I wanted to do but there were other priorities. There was an opportunity at Cessnock Hospital to work as a nurse’s aide, as they were called then. I made an appointment and went for an interview.”

At age 39, Vicki’s father had a heart attack and was forced to retire. Vicki, one of four children, left school at Year 9 and went to work.

“The idea of nursing was daunting,” says Vicki. “Shame, embarrassment, ill health, people dying and in pain. It scared me. I spent many restless nights, but I think that’s what made me a caring person.”

As a nurse’s aide, Vicki did well and decided to train as an RN. She topped her year in her first year exams, did well in second year, but fell down a little in third year during which she was pregnant with the first of her two children.

Caring, in Vicki’s hands, is not simply related to her profession. Her office is decorated with photos of her children and five grandchildren (or five and a bit – another is on the way). She speaks warmly of her students and the Indigenous community. Her calming manner and welcoming smile belie the fact that she is a busy woman.

Professionally, she sees caring as trying to pass on information to other people, particularly assisting the nursing workforce by encouraging an understanding of personal and social issues of the patients they care for, and the development of an holistic view of health. “Treat the person,” she says, “not just an arm or a leg.”

Part of Vicki’s brief at the Faculty is to encourage awareness of Indigenous issues among staff and ensure that Indigenous health is embedded in the curriculum. In 2003 the Faculty instituted the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) which Vicki coordinates. Four students from the first cohort will complete at the end of this year. The course raises issues specific to Indigenous health care, such as the need to work with communities in managing their health, the need for

time to build relationships, and ensuring the communities are encouraged take ownership of health care programs.

“There’s no point in coming to the community with a fully prepared proposal,” says Vicki. “Our people aren’t interested in research for the sake of research itself.”

Vicki also encourages support for Aboriginal students in our schools, and wants to see career and academic support started earlier than it currently is. On a recent trip to Canada for the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference, Vicki was impressed by the model being implemented by the University of British Columbia’s First Nations House of Learning.

“They target students as early as Year 6,” says Vicki. “They provide camps and mentoring for students and use the mentor/mentee relationship to encourage kids to stay at school. Also, by supporting kids earlier, they can be guided to take the subjects they need for later education.”

Vicki noted, however, that residential schools have had a negative effect on First Nations peoples. The lessons of removal from families have been well documented in Australia. Canada also has its own stolen generation.

“People not much younger than me are still being reunited,” says Vicki. On the other hand, Vicki observed that Canadian First Nations peoples have been able to negotiate legislation that preserves traditional rights and practices in ways that she doubts will ever happen in Australia.

Traditional values were evident when Vicki visited the Stan Daniels Healing Centre in Alberta.

“It’s a correctional centre,” she says, “with a strong focus on healing for First Nations peoples. Some inmates are allowed day release, inmates can join in smudging and pipe ceremonies. Elders run programs. Families are really involved in the healing program and can visit. There is a family room that families use when they visit; even though it is within the correctional centre it has the ambience of a family room in the home .

“One young fellow I met was going out to get his learner’s permit. He was in for



Vicki and Daniel

drug and alcohol offences but he had no shame telling me. It was something that happened and he was dealing with the consequences. Strategies are in place for when inmates are released and there’s a lot of work with community services before that time.”

A pleasurable part of the conference for Vicki was meeting a distant relative, Daniel Bradford, a First Nations Mounted Policeman.

“When I heard his name called out at the opening ceremony,” says Vicki, “I figured he was one of our mob who went to Canada from England.”

“He’s a bit of a looker,” I say.

“Runs in the family,” says Vicki.

And what are Vicki’s hopes for the future?

“To be able to share enough information in my work to ensure there is a better understanding of the issues that affect Indigenous health which will ensure that health services are culturally accessible for Aboriginal people. And, I suppose, get better at doing what I’m doing.”

Vicki’s warmth and talents will stand her in good stead in realising these goals. But not everything will come so easily.

“And see the Knights at the Grand Final,” she laughs.

And how does someone with such a big job relax?

“Playing golf (well trying), watching the Knights with one red eye and one blue eye, spending time with the grandkids, reading, painting. And it’s nice sometimes to just sit and do nothing.”

Ian Steep

Student News



Julia Costello

Julia Costello is currently in 3rd year of the Bachelor of Nursing (Indigenous Australian Health) undergraduate degree.

The faculty supported Julia's attendance and presentation a paper at the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses

(CATSIN) 8th Annual Conference which was held in Hobart, 27–29 September 2006.

The title of Julia's paper was 'My journey from confused and afraid to a little less confused and a lot more afraid'. Her presentation included her some of her life experiences and the circumstances that led her, as a non Indigenous person, to commence her journey into Indigenous nursing at the University of Sydney. Julia showed a short film that gave a student's perspective on the decision by the University to cease offering the undergraduate nursing degrees and how this impacted on the nursing students.

Julia spoke of her decision to work with a friend, Frances Usherwood, to make lots of noise about the University's decision, although at the time they did not think it would make an impact. Julia and Frances focused on the fact that the Indigenous Australian Health nursing course was a first in Australia and, possibly, the world. Julia spoke of her mixed feelings with many emotional ups and downs during that tumultuous time. She also spoke of her experience of being the only student in the Indigenous component of her course this year, but she also spoke of the experience of being an enlightening one and a whole new way of learning.

Julia's presentation received a lot of applause, with a number of speakers commenting on her presentation. Respected Elder, Lowitja O'Donohue, asked to meet Julia and commended her on her dedication and commitment.

CATSIN's Executive Director, Dr Sally Goold, said that Julia showed a lot of courage and was an inspiration to other students. Dr Goold went on to say that because of Julia's tenacity, courage and personality she was sure that Julia would make a wonderful contribution to the health and welfare of Indigenous people.

Vicki Bradford

Student Information

Attention final year students

If you are thinking of registering overseas, you should start this process as soon as possible; it can take up to four months to complete.

The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery's website – www.nursing.usyd.edu.au – has some information which could be useful. Further information is available from the relevant overseas nursing registration body. You are advised to finalise your paperwork before you leave Australia.

Potential graduands

If you expect to complete your course in 2006 and you satisfactorily complete the remaining units of study, a graduation letter will be sent to you from the Faculty after all the results for semester 2 are known. This letter will tell you that you have met the requirements to qualify for your award.

The next ceremony at which you could be conferred in person will be held on Friday 24 November. Further details about the ceremony will be forwarded to you by the Graduations Office approximately three weeks before that date. For further information, please refer to the Graduations Unit at: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/studentcentre/grads/index.shtml>.

Registration day

Representatives from the Nurses and Midwives Board of New South Wales will be at the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery on Wednesday 20 December 2006, to register those students who have completed their undergraduate pre-registration degrees at the end of semester 2, 2006.

The Faculty will provide a formal Letter of Completion which confirms that you have successfully completed your Bachelor of Nursing degree. Eligible students will be informed in writing that their letter of completion will be available on Registration Day once all the results for semester 2 are known.

NMB application forms: Application forms for registration as a nurse in NSW are available from the NMB website at: <http://www.nmb.nsw.gov.au/>. Eligible students are required to complete an application and have it signed by a Justice of the Peace in time for Registration Day.

You are able to search for your nearest JP at the following websites: The Attorney General's Department of NSW: <http://jp.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/public/welcomePublic.do>; or The University of Sydney: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/staff/directories/jps.shtml>.

Please refer to the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery website at: www.nursing.usyd.edu.au for further information about Registration Day.

Research Development and Support Unit



Message from the Director

We are nearing the end of an excellent and productive year for the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery. The Faculty's increased research activity is obvious in new publications, grant applications and conference presentations.

The RDSU has expanded with several new staff members joining us over the course of the year. Gynae-oncology specialists, Clinical

Associate Professor Mary Ryan (RWH) and Clinical Senior Lecturer Kath Nattress (RPAH), arrived in September.

Following the highly successful professional development program in August we are currently finalising the program series for the coming year and details will be announced shortly.

The RDSU annual report highlighting the Faculty's accomplishments during 2006 as well as a new postgraduate handbook will be released in early 2007. The handbook will contain information on university resources, advice on publication guidelines and a survival guide for postgraduate students. Look for these useful materials in the coming year.

The web page is undergoing development, and we have established a blog page for research students. Contact Jessica for details on how to log on to the blog. We welcome posts and new discussion areas from all research students.

Kate White

Research opportunities

Brown Bag Research Seminars Series

26 October 2006

Room A2.03/04

12 noon to 1.30 pm

Mrs Lynne Brown: 'Voluntary work, women's correctional services'.

30 November 2006

Room A2.03/04

12 noon to 1.30 pm

Associate Professor Sandra West: 'Shift work: Nursing's silent partner'.

Honours and awards

Michelle Maw received the Best First Time Presenter award at the recent Australian Nurse Teachers' Society Conference. Congratulations Michelle!

ARouSe: Intensive care waking up to the importance of nurse-led collaborative research

A nurse-led study of sedation in the intensive care unit has recently received accolades from the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society's (ANZICS) Clinical Trials Group (CTG), marking the first time a nursing research project has been endorsed by this group.

The study is a randomised controlled, double blind trial called the AROUSE study, or '**A ROU**tine daily interruption to **SE**dation vs standard therapy in the Intensive Care Unit'. Leonie Weisbrodt of Nepean Hospital, with the assistance of Andrea Marshall and Professor Sharon McKinley and medical colleagues Drs Ian Seppelt and Louise Cole, are piloting the study at Nepean Hospital and Royal North Shore Hospital in anticipation of beginning the multi-centre RCT in 2007/08. The study intends to address some of the issues surrounding the sedation of ICU patients, particularly the treatment's association with complications such as increased length of stay, ventilator associated complications and a negative impact on psychological recovery.

The feedback from the CTG regarding this study has been extremely positive with the chair of the ANZICS CTG congratulating the team on 'an outstanding project' – the first nursing project to receive such an endorsement. For further information contact Andrea Marshall (amarshall@nursing.usyd.edu.au).

Exciting research news – Faculty research excellence recognised in many areas

Qualitative nursing cracks medically dominated research conference

In an important breakthrough for nursing research, a qualitative nursing research project was accepted at a prestigious national conference that rarely takes non-medical papers.

Murray Fisher, together with Andrea Marshall and UTS colleagues Robyn Gallagher and Doug Elliott, presented at the prestigious National Heart Foundation Conference, 'Cardiovascular Disease in the 21st Century: Shaping the Future'. Murray and his colleagues presented their initial findings from the project 'The life experiences and risk behaviour modification of women recovering from an acute cardiac event: A life history approach', which is being undertaken at the Royal North Shore and Prince of Wales Hospitals.

The acceptance of qualitative nursing research at a high-level, typically medically-focused national conference is a testament to the quality of this study. For further information contact Murray Fisher (mfisher@nursing.usyd.edu.au) or Andrea Marshall (amarshall@nursing.usyd.edu.au).

Research Development and Support Unit



RDSU Research Fellow, Libba O'Riordan

Libba O'Riordan has been seconded from the Children's Hospital Westmead to the Research Support and Development Unit (RDSU) for the last six months. Libba is a registered general and paediatric nurse with extensive experience in the area of paediatric oncology/palliative care both here in Australia and overseas. She is currently employed as the Clinical Nurse Consultant for Oncology Services at the Children's Hospital Westmead, a position she has held for more than 13 years. During this time, she has worked in several research units and in doing so has gained experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and in conducting meta-analytical systematic reviews of the literature.

To date her research has focused on two broad areas: the various issues for children, parents and other family members living with cancer or a chronic/life-limiting illness; and the conduct of systematic reviews of the literature and the utilisation and application of research in the clinical setting. Her doctoral dissertation, 'Parenting a child with cancer', was a qualitative, longitudinal study which examined parents' experiences of caring for their sick child as they progressed through the cancer illness trajectory. Currently she is a co-investigator on two large projects which focus on families' experiences of caring for a child with a life-limiting condition and the palliative and supportive care need of families of children who die from cancer in Australia. She is also a reviewer for three Cochrane Review Groups – the Wound Group, the Anaesthetic Group, the Cardiac Group – and a co-author of several systematic reviews.

During Libba's secondment to the RDSU she has worked with the staff of the RDSU on several of their current research projects, gained experience providing support to research students and participated in the seminars and other activities of the RDSU. In particular, she has worked with Professor White and Dr Kilbreath on a review of the research literature related to secondary lymphoedema (2003–2006) commissioned by the National Breast Cancer Centre. She has enjoyed the opportunity this secondment has provided to develop her research skills, get to know, work collaboratively with, and learn from the staff in the RDSU and the Faculty.

Recent publications

Aitken, L., Currey, J., **Marshall, A.** & Elliott, D. (2006) The Diversity of Critical Care Nursing Education in Australian Universities. *Australian Critical Care*, 19(2) 46–52

Cleary, M., Freeman, A., Hunt, G.E. & Siegfried, N. (2006). The trials and tribulations of performing within the research arena. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 13(2) 247–49

Cleary, M., Freeman, A., Hunt, G.E. & Walter, G. (2006). Patient and carer perceptions of need and associations with care-giving burden in an integrated adult mental health service. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 40 1–7

Elliott, D., Lazarus, R. & Leeder, S.R. (2006). Proxy respondents reliably assessed the quality of life of elective cardiac surgery patients. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 59(2) 153–59

Freeman, L.M. (2006). Continuity of carer and partnership: A review of the literature. *Women and Birth*, 19(2) 39–44

Garrick, T., Howell, S., Terwee, P., **Redenbach, J.**, Blake, H. & Harper, C. (2006). Brain donation for research: Who donates and why? *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*, 13(5) 524–28

Hayes, L. & Berry, G. (2006). Comparing the part with the whole: should overlap be ignored in public health measures? *Journal of Public Health*, 28(3) 278–82

Kim, J.R., **Fisher, M.** & **Elliott, D.** (2006). Undergraduate

nursing students' knowledge and attitudes towards organ donation in Korea: Implications for education. *Nurse Education Today*, 26 465–74

Kim, J.R., **Fisher, M.** & **Elliott, D.** (2006). Knowledge levels of Korean intensive care nurses towards brain death and organ transplantation. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 15 574–80

Marshall, A. & **West, S.H.** (2006). Enteral feeding in the critically ill: are nursing practices contributing to hypocaloric feeding? *Intensive and Critical Care Nursing* 22(2) 95–105

Thewes, B. & **White, K.** (2006). Psychosocial aspects of sexuality and fertility after a diagnosis of breast cancer. *Cancer Forum*, 30(1) 6–10

Conference presentations 2006

Blundell, J. (2006). 'Neuroscience nurses use of self as an assessment indicator'. Paper presented at the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association Annual Scientific Meeting, Cairns, 14–16 September

Bredemeyer, S. (2006). 'Informed consent and perinatal research'. Paper presented at the Association of Neonatal Nurses NSW 17th Annual Conference: 'Great expectations: present and future', Sydney, 27–28 October

Bredemeyer, S. (2006). 'IVH in the preterm infant: aetiology and prevention.' Invited Speech at the Neurological Science Day, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Kerry Packer Education Centre, Sydney, 18 October

Research Development and Support Unit

Bredemeyer, S., Ryan, M. & Desreux, C. (2006). 'Safe Sleeping and prevention of SIDS: are midwives using the evidence?' Poster presented at the Association of Neonatal Nurses NSW 17th Annual Conference: 'Great expectations: present and future,' Sydney 27–28 October

Fisher, M., Marshall, A., Gallagher, R., Elliott, D. & Waite, M. (2006). 'Acknowledging Individual Women's Experiences During Recovery from an Acute Coronary Syndrome: A New Socio-demographical Challenge for the 21st Century'. Poster presented at the Heart Foundation Conference and Scientific Meeting, 'Cardiovascular Disease in the 21st Century: Shaping the Future,' Sydney, 23–25 March

Glaw, X. (2006). 'Deinstitutionalisation of the mentally ill and its affect on psychiatric nursing practice.' Paper presented at the Inaugural Emerging Health Policy Research Conference, Sydney, 13 October

Hayes, L. (2006). 'Severe marginalisation, health disadvantage and health care'. Paper presented at the 37th Public Health Association Annual Conference: 'Tackling the determinants of health from the bush to Bondi', Sydney, 25–27 September

Kwok, C. (2006). 'Development of a culturally sensitive instrument for examining breast cancer screening behaviours among Chinese-Australian women'. Paper presented at the 8th Behavioural Research in Cancer Control Conference, Queensland, 27–29 September

Kwok, C. (2006). 'Misconceptions of breast cancer among Chinese-Australian women: Impact on breast cancer screening behaviours'. Paper presented at the 8th Behavioural Research in Cancer Control Conference, Queensland, 27–29 September

Maw, M., West, S. & Green, J. (2006). 'Integrated clinical experience: Perspectives of final year pre-registration nursing students'. Paper presented at the 12th National Australian Nurse Teachers' Society Conference: 'Capital Issues in Education,' Canberra, 13–16 September

McKenzie, H., Hearne, C., Duddle, M. & Bouvet, E. (2006). 'Subjectivity and Health Care in Pre-registration Nursing Education'. Paper presented at the 12th National Australian Nurse Teachers' Society Conference: 'Capital Issues in Education,' Canberra, 13–16 September

McNeill, T., West, S. & Thornley, T. (2006). 'The use of high fidelity patient simulation in nursing'. Paper presented at the SimTeC Healthcare Simulation Conference: 'Simulation is for Patient Safety,' Brisbane, 11–14 September

McNeill, T., West, S. & Thornley, T. (2006). 'The use of high fidelity patient simulation in Nursing: A means to effective learning?' Paper presented at the 12th National Australian Nurse Teachers' Society Conference: 'Capital Issues in Education,' Canberra, 13–16 September

Ronaldson, S., Hayes L., Carey, M. & **Aggar C.** (2006). 'Residential aged care nurses' knowledge of palliative care'. Paper presented at the Inaugural Palliative Care Nurses Australia Conference 2006: 'Strength in Working Together,' Melbourne, 8–9 September

Steep, I. (2006). "'Professional type mature age guy looking for an Asian boyfriend": An exploration of desire among gay Caucasian men'. Paper presented at the Inaugural Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association Conference: 'CONNECT,' Sydney, 28–29 September

West, S., Lawler, J., Brown, L., Boughton, M., Neyle, D. & Glaw X. (2006). 'Graduate entry nursing at the University of Sydney: Student learning styles & expectations'. Paper presented at the 12th National Australian Nurse Teachers' Society Conference: 'Capital Issues in Education,' Canberra, 13–16 September

White, K. (2006). 'Emotional, Social and Personal Issues'. Invited Speech at the 2006 Surviving Cancer in Rural and Regional Australia Satellite Symposium, Sydney, 23 September

Woodhart, L., **Gatward, H.,** Simpson, M., Mathew, J. & **Stainton, M.C.** (2006). 'Time's Up! Women's Experiences of Induced Labour for Post Maturity'. Paper presented at the NSW Midwives Association Annual State Conference: 'Sowing the Seeds: Nurturing Growth', Wagga Wagga, 22–23 September.

Grant and funding success

Researchers: Kilbreath, S., Crosbie, J., **White, K.,** Refshauge, K., Nicholson, L., Spillane, A., Beith, J. & Page, L.

Topic: *Kinematic changes in the shoulder complex and spine as a consequence of a mastectomy.*

Awarded by: National Breast Cancer Foundation. Amount received: \$99,980.

Researchers: **Kwok, C., White, K.,** Fong, D. & Sullivan, G.
Topic: *Development and testing of an instrument to explore factors associated with breast cancer screening behaviour among women of Chinese ancestry.*

Awarded by: Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Sydney. Amount received: \$9,312.

Researchers: **McKenzie, H., Kwok, C., Hayes, L., Forsyth, S.** & Moreau, E.

Topic: *Exploring the relationship between community nurses and Chinese cancer patients in Sydney.*

Awarded by: Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Sydney. Amount received: \$49,905.

Researchers: Wade, V., **Bredemeyer, S.,** Dixon, L.

Topic: *Acoustic environment of the NICU: a noise reduction project.*

Awarded by: Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Sydney. Amount received: \$16,780.

Research Development and Support Unit



Judith Fethney
Biostatistician, RDSU

Judith Fethney has more than twenty years research experience, specialising in project management and multivariate data analysis. While her skills are mainly in quantitative research, Judith has also been involved in qualitative research as well as projects involving mixed models. Her initial multivariate work involved using factor analysis, discriminant function and regression to explore relationships between fossil hominid skulls.

More recently she has worked on major projects that explore the impact of disability, trauma and terminal illness on individuals, their family members and health professionals involved in their care. These projects were funded by the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW, NHMRC and ARC. Judith has also worked with the Royal Hospital for Women on a number of projects exploring urinary incontinence following childbirth and the outcomes of co-bedding low birth weight twins.

Commencing in 1998, Judith conducted a series of popular research methodology workshops, ranging from how to ask a researchable question to using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) for data analysis. In another life Judith worked as a charter pilot and flying instructor, in Sydney and in Zimbabwe.

For further information email: jfethney@nursing.usyd.edu.au

Selected recent publications

Stainton, M.C., Strahle, A. & **Fethney, J.** (2005). Leaking Urine Prior to Pregnancy: A Risk Factor for Postnatal Incontinence. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 45: 295–299.

Strahle, A., Stainton, M.C. & **Fethney, J.** (2005). The pattern of perinatal urine leakage – a template for care. *Australian Midwifery Journal*, 18(1): 7–10.

Stainton, M.C., Josza, E. & **Fethney, J.** (2005). Responses to Co-Bedding of Low Birth Weight Twins in Neonatal Intensive Care. *Neonatal, Paediatric and Child Health Nursing*, 8(2): 4–12.

Grant and funding submissions

Researcher: **Freeman, L.M.** Topic: *Exploring caseload midwifery practice in context*. Granting Body: University of Sydney. Grant Type: Early Career Research Grant. Amount requested: \$23,082.

Researcher: **Kwok, C.** Topic: *Development and testing of an instrument to explore factors associated with breast cancer screening behaviour among women of Chinese ancestry*. Granting Body: University of Sydney. Grant Type: Early Career Research Grant. Amount requested: \$43,833.

Researchers: **Kwok, C. & White, K.** Topic: *Improving breast cancer survival rates in the Chinese-Australian community: using culturally sensitive cancer education and support services*. Granting Body: University of Sydney Cancer Research Fund. Amount requested: \$99,480.

Researchers: **McKenzie, H., Boughton, M. & Hayes, L.** Topic: *Communicating in cancer care: Evaluating the effectiveness of an electronic pathway*. Granting Body: University of Sydney Cancer Research Fund. Amount requested: \$41,658.

Researchers: **Ronaldson, S., Hayes, L., Carey, M. & Aggar, C.** Topic: *Palliative care in residential aged care facilities – a study of nurses' knowledge and attitudes following an education intervention*. Granting Body: NHMRC and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Grant Type: Expression of Interest. Amount requested: \$183,158.

Researchers: Seppelt, I., Cole, L., McKinley, S., **Marshall, A.** & Weisbrodt, L. Topic: *A double blind, randomised controlled trial of A ROUTine daily interruption to SEdation vs standard therapy*. Granting Body: Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Grant Type: Project Grant. Amount requested: \$30,341.

Researchers: Seppelt, I., Cole, L., McKinley, S., **Marshall, A.** & Weisbrodt, L. Topic: *A randomised, controlled, double blind trial of A ROUTine daily interruption to SEdation vs standard therapy in the intensive care unit (AROUSE Study)*. Granting Body: Australian Society of Anaesthetists. Grant Type: Project Grant. Amount Requested: \$36,061.

Researchers: Weisbrodt, L. McKinley, S., **Marshall, A.**, Cole, L. & Seppelt, I. Topic: *A randomised, controlled, double-blind trial of A ROUTine daily interruption to SEdation vs standard therapy in the Intensive Care Unit (AROUSE Study)*. Granting Body: Australian College of Critical Care Nurses. Grant Type: Experienced Researcher Grant. Amount requested: \$36,061.

Researchers: **White, K.**, Herz, H. & Butow, P. Topic: *Letter on future care: development of a disease-specific individualised future care plan for Motor Neurone Disease (MND)*. Granting Body: NHMRC Palliative Care Research Program. Grant Type: Expression of Interest. Amount requested: \$119,971.19 (over three years).

Researchers: **White, K.**, Herz, H., Butow, P. & Kiernan, M. Topic: *Letter on future care: development of an individualised disease specific future care plan for MND*. Granting Body: Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia. Grant Type: Grant-in-Aid. Amount requested: \$24,946.65

The REACH Project

In October, Professor Brendan McCormack of the Royal Hospital in Belfast will join the Faculty as a Visiting Fellow to work on the REACH project, a three year international collaborative project launched at the Faculty on 26 July 2006. The REACH project's goals include a culture of lifelong learning for improved quality of care, a nursing staff whose skills are transferable throughout the organisation and increased recruitment and retention of staff. The REACH project works to achieve these goals through an effective appraisal process, an attribute framework, a personal development contract, reflective practice strategy, formal learning opportunities and a portfolio of learning, training and development for accreditation.



Dean, Professor Jocalyn Lawler (front left) and Professor Kate White (front, third from left) with REACH launch participants.

At a practical level, each participating unit has a facilitator and appraisers who have undertaken initial REACH training. An appraiser works with five of the nursing staff in the unit to support them through the appraisal process. Using an attributes framework that includes 27 attributes within the three domains of expertise, practice development and learning and underpinned by a philosophy of clinical leadership, nursing staff reflect on their work practices and assess their current position within the framework. They then work alongside their appraiser and manager to choose areas they would like to develop that are subsequently formalised into a development plan. Throughout the year, evidence of learning is collected and included in a portfolio prior to the next appraisal. There are four participating units in NSW.



Dean of the Faculty, Professor Jocalyn Lawler (centre back) with REACH project participants from The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

All participating units in the REACH project will measure the level of job satisfaction, stress, morale and factors relating to organisational culture at the beginning and end of the project and at several points throughout the project period. In addition, other indicators, such as staff retention, will be routinely collected across the three sites. At a local and unit level, a realistic evaluation framework will be used to systematically study the different processes in differing contexts and evaluate the outcomes. Please contact Val Wilson (02 9845 1321) or Annette Solman (02 4320 2036) for further information about the REACH project.

University of Sydney Press resurfaces

The original Sydney University Press (SUP) was established by the University in 1962 to publish works of learning and to carry out the business of publication in all its branches. SUP was effectively dismantled in 1987 and became, for a time, an imprint of Oxford University Press. OUP relinquished the imprint and business name in the mid 1990s. SUP was restarted in 2003 as a digital and print-on-demand publisher; it can be found at <http://www.sup.usyd.edu.au/>.

Sydney University Press draws on the digital library collection from the University of Sydney Library's Scholarly Text and Image Service (SETIS) to provide a print copy of selected texts. SUP has partnered with the Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL) to bring out-of-print Australian novels back into circulation.

SUP is also publishing new works based on teaching and research from The University of Sydney and other Australian academic institutions. Books can be ordered from the SUP website and are printed and dispatched as required. SUP already has many titles for purchase, one of these is the re-release of Jocalyn Lawler's nursing classic, *Behind the screens: nursing, somology and the problem of the body*.

Behind the screens: nursing, somology and the problem of the body

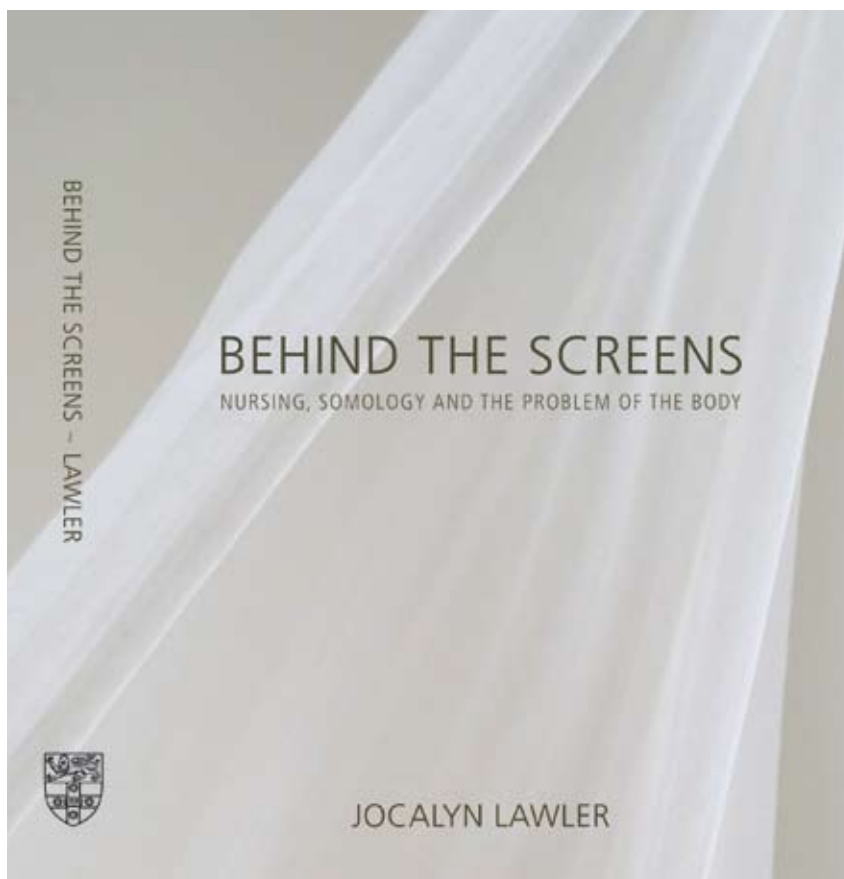
Jocalyn Lawler
Sydney University Press
ISBN: 1920898255

Behind the screens is a book about nursing. It sheds light on the fundamental aspects of basic nursing that have previously been hidden, or taken for granted. The essence of these practices has not been regarded as formal knowledge, partly because there has been no formal language to describe them. Experienced and beginning practitioners will identify with many aspects of this discussion.

Professor Jocalyn Lawler argues that the body is a problem in our society and she examines the intellectual background to the problem. She describes the pattern of relationships between the theoretical concepts of the body, body care, privacy, dirty work, women's work, and sexuality. The invisibility of nursing is linked with these concepts and with the lack of an academic discourse on the body as a whole.

Drawing on the words of nurses themselves, Lawler describes how they deal with the problem of the body. From the interviews, she articulates the complexity and sophistication at the heart of the way nurses manage the bodies of others. And she coins a term, somology, that provides nursing with a language to describe the crucial social components of skilled nursing care.

Readable and important, **Behind the screens** adds to knowledge about knowledge and to knowledge about nursing. The work was first published in 1991. It has since been translated into Norwegian as *Bak skjerm Brettene: sykepleie, og kroppslige problemer*, and French as *La Face Cachée des Soins: Soins au corps, intimité et pratique soignante*.



Professional Doctorates

From 2008 the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery will be offering two new and exciting research degrees; a Doctor of Nursing and a Doctor of Midwifery. These doctorates provide the opportunity for experienced nurses and midwives to develop advanced research skills and knowledge through the pursuit of original research in their area of work or their area of interest. They also provide nurses and midwives with the opportunity to contribute meaningful and practice-oriented research to the growing body of literature in nursing and midwifery.

The doctorates are intended for students who are currently engaged in professional practice and who have extensive experience in their field. They are designed to meet the needs of professionals who would like to undertake a higher degree but who may not have the desire to commence a PhD. The degrees are more structured than a PhD with students studying a number of coursework units, including research methods, prior to completing a thesis that takes into account professional experience in the area of their professional practice as well as previous academic experience.

These research degrees will be open to candidates who hold a recognised masters degree in nursing or midwifery with a minimum 10,000 word written component or an Australian (or equivalent) honours degree in nursing with second class honours or better. Interested applicants will also need to have at least five years professional practice experience.

Further information will be available on the Faculty's website shortly.

Singapore Alumni Reunion Reception

The recent Singapore Alumni Reunion Reception was held on 27 September 2006 at The Pines, 30 Stevens Road. It was the first reunion reception that I have attended since my graduation three years ago and I am glad that my friend pulled me along this year. The reunion was a more spontaneous event than I thought and it provided great opportunity for alumni to get together and be informed about latest news about USYD.

At the reception, I managed to catch up with friends I knew during those times I spent in Sydney and got acquainted with new friends like Professor Lawler, Mike, Jia Rui, Hebert and many, many more. Even though the reunion ended formally at 9pm, many of us stayed on to reminisce about shared experiences 'till late. To many of us, it was a joyous gathering and a truly great way to stay connected.

Ms Louisa Teng

Congratulations Cannas Kwok



The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery congratulates Cannas Kwok on the news that she has been successful in her application for an Early Career Development Fellowship from the Cancer Institute NSW.

The Cancer Institute NSW is Australia's first state-wide, government supported cancer agency which promotes cancer research, prevention, early detection, treatment and education initiatives. The Institute works in partnership with leaders in the field to deliver the best cancer results for the people of New South Wales. The Institute believes that cancer research will provide evidence to drive improvement in cancer prevention, treatment and the subsequent improvements in survival and quality of life of cancer patients.

The Cancer Institute NSW research program aims to build and support a high quality cancer research workforce and provide enabling infrastructure. The Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Development Fellowships are designed to encourage the very best researchers to choose cancer as their selected field of research endeavour. The Fellowships provide funding opportunities to develop and support post-doctoral researchers who have demonstrated substantial ability and potential as future cancer research leaders.

This fellowship is a fantastic achievement and provides substantial funding for Cannas to undertake her project to improve breast cancer survival rates in women with Chinese ancestry using culturally sensitive education and support services.

STORIES

Nursing & Midwifery Courses @ SydneyUni www.nursing.usyd.edu.au

Pre-Registration Courses

- Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry)
- Bachelor of Arts/Master of Nursing
- Bachelor of Applied Science
(Exercise & Sport Science)/Master of Nursing
- Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing
- Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing

Postgraduate Coursework

- Cancer Nursing
- Clinical Education
- Clinical Nursing
- Emergency Nursing
- Gerontic Nursing
- Intensive Care Nursing
- Mental Health Nursing
- Health Services Management
- Midwifery

Research Degrees

- Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)
- Master of Nursing (Honours)
- Master of Philosophy
- Doctor of Health Services Management
- Doctor of Nursing
- Doctor of Midwifery
- Doctor of Philosophy

