

*****News from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine; Newsletter #9; May 20 2003*****

Edited by Kevin Forde

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1. Update from Head of School

- We have recently finalised a document listing the Values we stand for in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. This is now able to be viewed at the following site:
<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/aboutus2.abouttheschool>
We will review this statement one year's hence.
- Congratulations to all involved in the new medical curriculum and the recent presentations to the Australian Medical Council. The assessment of the new curriculum went off well and the components covered by our School were generally highly regarded. The School will be involved in discussions with Patrick McNeill and the Dean's office to examine the implications of the new curriculum for School staff and workload. More details to follow.
- Career development, gender equity and workload balance: A working group has been hard at work developing ideas to advise me on these issues. We are hoping to discuss the group's preliminary recommendations at the next School meeting and shortly thereafter to commence training and other activities in relation to the Career Development Scheme. We will also need to gather some data on how School resources (notably people and their time) are being used to best achieve their own and the School's strategic objectives.
- The School has participated actively to identifying priority areas for the Faculty with a view to submitting these to the Vice-Chancellor as part of his request for ideas on strategic direction for the UNSW. The School will continue to develop its own strategy and to ensure that this links with the Faculty and UNSW initiatives.
- Recent posts advertised: We have advertised a position for a Senior lecturer in Indigenous Health Research Development and look forward to building a dynamic action-research team in indigenous health. Enquiries to Dennis McDermott (dennis.mcdermott@unsw.edu.au) in the first instance. We will also soon be advertising a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer position in Primary care/General practice and a senior position in Health Services Management.
- Administrative structures: we have advertised a number of administrative positions to enable us to better address the work associated with our core business activities of teaching (undergraduate and postgraduate courses) and research degree supervision. New post-holders will be introduced as soon as they are appointed.
- Applications are invited from Associate Lecturers and equivalent Academic Research staff (Level A) for promotion to Lecturer/Academic Research staff (Level B). Applicants should read the Information Booklet before completing the Application Form. This information can be found on the internet at:
<http://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/acprom.htm>
- Applications are also invited for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor. Details are available at: <http://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/hr98.rtf>

- School publications for 2002: please look over the list and ensure that all your publications are listed. Please let me know of any publications not listed at present. For 2003 please remember that every publication should specifically identify your UNSW affiliation – in the absence of this the publication cannot be counted which has negative implications for measurement of School productivity and performance. I am also requesting all those associated with the School, whether in conjoint, visiting or Centre-related positions, to indicate on their publications their link with the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and our website. This serves as a valuable invitation to readers to visit our Website and consider our courses and research activities.
<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/aboutus2.reports&publications.researchpublications2002>

As always – any comments or feedback on any aspect of my report or anything else in the newsletter would be appreciated.

Anthony Zwi (a.zwi@unsw.edu.au)

2. University Planning Process

The Vice-Chancellor, Wyatt Hume will conduct two open meetings to describe and discuss the revamped University planning process on:

Wednesday 28 May 12noon - 2.00pm, Leighton Hall, The Scientia.

And Thursday 29 May 4.30pm - 6.30pm, Ritchie Theatre, The Scientia.

This is a great opportunity to discover the University's future strategic plans and all staff are encouraged to attend.

3. Information on Research Funds

The Office of International Research Programs has been set up in the Division of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) in order to diversify the research resources available to academic staff at UNSW. It provides advice and mentoring on how to attract research funding for international research activities in a wide range of countries. The Office also runs the UNSW International Fellowships program for UNSW staff to undertake research visits in Asia, Europe and at the universities of the Universitas 21 network.

Dr. Ditta Bartels will be pleased to discuss your international research projects with you and provide you with advice on the best funding options for your needs.

For more information visit the website:

<http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/res/intresprog.html>

Even more information on Research Funds

UNSW has the following sources for finding funding opportunities:

- SMARTS - <http://www.ro.unsw.edu.au/spin/smarts-f.shtml> will alert you to funding opportunities within your selected field.
- GENIUS - <http://www.ro.unsw.edu.au/spin/smarts-f.shtml> will ensure that you are noticed by industry, potential academic collaborators and the media.
- SPIN - <http://australia.infoed.org/Wconnect/wc.dll?spinwww~jumpspin> is a database that contains over 3,000 worldwide funding opportunities available to Australian researchers. This database can be searched at any time for funding opportunities.

You can also receive information on funding opportunities and updates from the Research Office electronically, by subscribing to Grant News. To subscribe, send an email to majordomo@explode.unsw.edu.au with 'subscribe grant-news' in the body of your message. Note that this is a university wide service and as such the funding opportunities are not limited to Public Health and Health Service Management.

4. After hours

If browsing these websites gets your heart racing and your blood pressure rising then perhaps it time for a little relaxation.

Big Morning Tea

We are holding the Cancer Council "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" on Thursday, May 22 from 10.30 in the Level 3 staff room. Entry is by way of a gold coin.

YOGA

Stressed? Need to relax more? If you answered yes to these questions then Yoga can help! Where: 4th floor Mathews Building.

When: Monday evenings, 5.30 - 7pm. How much? \$15.

It's a small group, very relaxing, and you can work at your own level. You don't need to have done yoga before. Contact: Justine Brindle 9385 3250 or email: justine@unsw.edu.au

Reality TV

In an exclusive interview with the School Newsletter, Michelle Davies, who does a terrific job in Postgraduate Administration and along with this month's editor uses reality TV to relieve tension. Michelle nominated the following shows as the best viewing at the moment:

Survivor – Channel 9, 9.30pm Thursday – this is a must watch for all academics as it provides many tips on life skills. A group of people with few resources is placed in a hostile environment – in this series the Amazon. A favourite line from a recent show was one competitor telling another: "I know that you trust me and I don't want to lie to you anymore". Sound familiar? There are immunity challenges and every three days there is a Tribal Council where someone is voted off.

Big Brother – Channel 10 and on far too often – If you are not familiar with this concept you really are doing too much research. Warning: the current series has long and boring conversations and adolescent themes.

The Office – Channel 2, 10pm Tuesday – well worth the 8 cents a day we pay for the ABC. So frighteningly real about office politics and management practices that it is hard to get to sleep afterwards.

The Gilmour Girls – Channel 9, 7.30pm Tuesday – more fantasy than reality and also a favourite of my 14 year old daughter (i.e. the editor's daughter not Michelle's) The plot is far too simple to explain and the characters speak much too quickly for me to understand a lot of what they are saying.

If the above suggestions leave you cold, then perhaps you could get a totally different view of reality by attending one or more of the following conferences.

5. SHAPE Symposium

The Society for Health Administration Programs in Education (SHAPE) Annual Symposium will be held in Sydney, 2-4 July, 2003, at the Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach.

Preliminary details of the Symposium are available on the SHAPE website

(<http://www.shape.org.au>). The SHAPE program offers something for everyone involved in the management of health care services and its education. It provides an impressive array of speakers from Australia and New Zealand.

The SHAPE Executive is at present calling for abstracts to papers (250 words) for people wishing to present papers at the Symposium. Full details for preparing the abstracts are provided on the SHAPE website. Closing date for abstracts is 23 May 2003.

This year's registration fee of \$330 covers the 2.5 days conference, lunches, morning and afternoon teas, and the Symposium Dinner.

Women, Research and Publication in Higher Education Curtin University of Technology 25-27 June 2003

This conference provides an opportunity to assess current research on gender and academic work. It will place the work of research in the larger context of the changing patterns of women's academic work globally. In doing so, it is anticipated that the conference will deal with theoretical questions about globalisation, debates over public-v-private and questions about the articulations of technology, society and gendered work. There will also be opportunities to hear reflections on careers and practical sessions to develop individual capacity.

Keynote speakers including Professor Julianne Cheek, Director of the Socially Sustainable Health Research Centre, University of South Australia and Professor Lesley Johnson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Development, University of Technology, Sydney.

You can get more information about the conference program at:
<http://lsn.curtin.edu.au/leadership/atn-resconf/>

Registration enquiries can be addressed by email to M.Burmaz@curtin.edu.au

6. In the News

Dr Stephanie Short, senior lecturer in health care sociology in the School of Public Health & Community Medicine at UNSW, was asked for her diagnosis of what's wrong with the state's health system. See: *Sydney Morning Herald* online, March 12 2003 - <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/03/12/1047431079215.html>

If you have thought that Christine Rousselis was looking more relaxed these days it's probably because she recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Media) from the University of NSW. Congratulations Chris.

7. The Final Word

By this month's editor Kevin Forde

For those of you who do not know me, I teach health economics and financial management in the Master of Health Administration and Master of Health Services Management programs. I have lived all my life in Sydney and have been with the School for over 10 years – doesn't time fly when you're having fun. Before that I worked in a stockbroking firm and as a financial journalist. I was editor of *Australian Practice Management*, a monthly magazine that published articles on the business side of running a medical practice.

Over the past five years I have co-authored five books on investing and personal finance with Charles Beelaerts. Wrightbooks will publish our latest book, which is the fourth edition of *Understanding Investments and Personal Finance*, in June. What this experience shows is that writing books is certainly not the way to become wealthy.

I have two children – Patrick who is doing the HSC this year – and Kalia who is in Year 9. Apart from being an avid follower of the sharemarket I spend considerable time coaching my children's sporting teams – netball was a real challenge – swimming and taking our two dogs for walks. I'm afraid my touch football days are over but I still follow the World Champion rugby league team the Roosters – although I refuse to sit in the "chook pen" during the games.

What I particularly like about my job is teaching students how to overcome their numbers phobia. Indeed many students tell me that they actually liked doing my courses – much to their amazement. Most of these people are now out of therapy and are expected to fully recover.