The School has been most fortunate to warmly welcome new staff members, Dr Amie Matthews, Dr Reza Hasmath and Dr Tim Winter, and trust all the new staff who joined up this year are settled in despite the hectic start to semester with our new B. Social Science and majors and all the other revised programs.

The School has enjoyed very strong enrolments with record numbers in several programs. We also now have several of the new Core units in operation, with very few teething problems despite the numbers growing well beyond our projections. The staff teaching on these units (myself included) are feeling relieved that we have survived the process and the huge learning curve so thanks go to all involved – teaching teams including the many tutors who are doing a fantastic job, Dr Tim Griffin who as Coordinator of Core Units had to keep a watchful eye over it all, the endless Admin support re live streaming, vUWS, timetabling, platform web, special considerations etc, and the big bowl of fantails did help, thanks Melissa and your team. And to all staff, thank you for the very professional and positive way in which all the changes have been implemented.

This week the School has joined family and friends congratulating many of our students who attended the Graduation Ceremonies. This included the celebration of years of hard work by our doctoral students Allison Baensch, Linda MacKay and Mateusz Wolnicki. To all our new Graduates our very best wishes and hope they stay in touch.

As you are all aware Professor Deborah Stevenson is away until 20th May on research leave. Well trying ... she is one of many international travellers affected by the volcanic ash. So we hope Deborah’s plans were not too badly affected and that she has enjoyed her well earned spell away from the endless tasks of Head of School.

Robyn
Acting Head of School

New Sociology staff

Dr Amie Matthews
Lecturer in Sociology

I had the pleasure of working as a casual tutor, lecturer and research assistant in the School from March 2008 until July 2009. Mid-way through last year I decided to embark on a new challenge and took six months out from academia, working as a live-in nanny for twin eight year old girls in Spain and trying to improve my abysmal Spanish. In February this year I returned to Australia and to the School in a full-time
New Sociology staff (cont from page 1)

capacity and while Spain was certainly an experience I am very happy to be flying the academic flag once more.

Prior to starting at UWS I taught at the University of Newcastle (from 2004-2007), where I also completed my PhD in Sociology. Drawing on 10 months of overseas fieldwork, participant observation and in-depth interviews (as well as my pre-PhD experiences working in the backpacking industries and substantial amounts of time spent travelling through Europe, the UK, Australia and New Zealand) my thesis examined the role of extended international travel in the lives of young Australians. In particular, the research examined the impact that the experience of backpacking has on individual identities, relationships, and self and world perceptions, and was used as a means of reconceptualising traditional rite of passage models and reinvigorating rite of passage theory.

Building on this I have recently begun researching backpacker discourses on and involvements with illicit drug use and am interested in developing a new project which looks at the socio-cultural and socio-legal implications of these discourses and behaviours for individual travellers, as well as the communities they pass through. In addition I have broader research interests in: tourism impacts, ethical and sustainable tourism, everyday enactments of cosmopolitanism, transnational lifestyles and youth cultures and contemporary meaning making.

Dr Reza Hasmath has also recently joined the Sociology group. Look out for Reza’s profile in the next SoSS Goss.

‘The story of the Russian 'Mafia' as a tale of modern economy’

The 2010 Seminar Series began with a presentation by Dr Paddy Rawlinson from the London School of Economics.

Speaker
Dr Paddy (Patricia) Rawlinson received her PhD on the subject of Russian organised crime from the LSE in the 1990s. She has worked with the UN and European Commission as an expert on Russian and Eastern European crime and currently works in the Sociology Department at the London School of Economics. Her research interests include post-communist migration and the informal economy, people trafficking and the relationship between crime, morality and economy. Dr. Rawlinson’s latest publication is (2010) From Fear to Fraternity: a Russian Tale of Crime, Economy and Modernity London, Pluto Press.

Upcoming Seminars
June 7
Prof Raewyn Connell, University Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Sydney
Topic: Power and State in neo-liberal Society

Abstracts can be found on the School of Social Sciences Events web page http://www.uws.edu.au/social_sciences/soss/events

In the media

Kevin Dunn has received extensive media coverage recently commenting on racism in Australian society. Articles were published in the New York Times, Washington Post, Sydney Morning Herald, lifestyle magazine Madison, Adelaide Advertiser and the Brisbane Courier Mail.

Kevin also appeared on SBS World News discussing the recent attacks

Erin’s baby

Congratulations to Erin Kruger and Charles on the safe arrival of their daughter, Sofia on the 28th April weighing 3.795kg. Sofia is reported to be very calm and quiet - so far.

Erin’s baby
Welcome to Higher Degree Research Candidates

On Friday 16th April a mixture of staff and students attended a social gathering organised by Ashley Harris the Postgraduate Liaison Officer. The venue was the Port Bar Parramatta located next to the picturesque Parramatta River. The event was held as a welcoming for our three new HDR’s: Joanna Jaaniste, Alex Baumann and Adrian Lania. Although not all could attend, it was also a chance for students to meet some of our new staff members. From all reports everyone thoroughly enjoyed the night and agreed that more events such as these should be organised in the near future!

Administrative team staff update

WOW – so many changes in the past couple of months which has created so many new opportunities for the administrative team.

The administrative team held an afternoon tea on Tuesday 20th April to wish Lisa Tudehope all the best in her new role in the Executive Projects Unit....... as I am sure everyone can appreciate the afternoon was bittersweet as we celebrated Lisa’s success but we were also saddened by the reality of not working with her on a day to day basis for the coming months ahead. We wish Lisa all the best in her new role in the Executive Projects Unit.

The administrative team also farewelled Kerry Wyburd last Friday, 7th May, who resigned from UWS to concentrate on her personal business. We wish Kerry all the best however we will miss her vibrant personality around the office at both Bankstown and Kingswood. We look forward to catching up with Kerry outside of work and hearing of her journey and success.

As a result some other staff changes have since been implemented within the team so I would like to take this opportunity to again congratulate Diana Curuenavuli in her seconded appointment to Senior School Administrative Officer (Academic Programs), Angela Tanovic to Senior School Administrative Officer (Course Advice and Student Support) on the Bankstown campus and Jan Taylor for moving into the role of Field Placement Administrative Officer. The administrative team continue to work together to improve practices and processes and it is anticipated a few tasks will be moved amongst team members to accommodate these new staff movements however I will keep you up to date of all changes once implemented.

The spirit in which the administrative team approach change, and the challenges that follow, is simply amazing so I just wish to acknowledge their professionalism and positive attitude which makes my job so easy and enjoyable. Their enthusiasm and diligence to the every task and process is exemplary so THANK YOU LADIES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kind regards,
Melissa

PS: Bon Voyage to Kylie Jackson who will be spending 6 weeks travelling across Europe (yes, we are all green with envy) and will commence her leave on the 20th May

Farewell Kerry

After 6+ years with the School and UWS Kerry Wyburd has decided to work fulltime on her business. The School thanks Kerry for her contributions to many projects and wishes her all the very best in her enterprise. Look her up on www.blackdogmemories.com.au
Staff travel

Deborah Stevenson is travelling to several places including, Crete, Stockholm, London, Dublin, Bristol to give a number of talks and to carry out fieldwork for a Routledge book. She returns on the 19th May.

Reza Hasmath travelled to Philadelphia from 26 March to 6 April 2010 to present at a conference organised by the Association for Asian Studies, and his paper was titled “Chinese NGOs and the Rise of the Local Corporatist State”.

Debbie Horsfall travelled to Kansas City from 3–11 April 2010 and presented at the international Association for Death, Education and Counselling’s 32nd Annual conference where Debbie discussed preliminary results from her currently funded research with a paper titled “Bringing our dying home: Creating community at end of life?”

Robyn Bushell travelled to Melbourne from 10-17 April 2010 to present a conference paper titled “Healthy Parks, Healthy People, Healthy Tourism”, and which linked to her Healthy Tourism research.

Robyn traveled to Manly from 21-23 April 2010 to carry out research and run a workshop for local government as part of her project on Environmental Dissemination for the NSW Environmental Trust research grant.

Kevin Dunn travelled to Washington from 14-21 April 2010 to present his paper titled “ Everywhere Different: Responding to the Experience” at a specialist session titled “Critical Geographies of Race and Critical Race Theory. Kevin was also a panellist on “Author meets critics: Peter Hopkin’s The Issue of Masculine Identities for British Muslims after 9/11”, as well as meeting with co-researchers. This was also an opportunity for Kevin to expand the international profile of his Challenging Racism Project.

Awais Piracha travelled to Christchurch, New Zealand from 17-19 April to attend on behalf of the School the ANZAPS meeting where discussions were to be held on Planning Course Accreditation.

Jane Mears travelled to Melbourne from 3-7 May to attend and present her paper titled “The World of Care Work in Australia: Care Workers” at the International Federation on Ageing 10th Global Conference.

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Natalie Bolzan travelled to Morocco from 3-5 May where she was a guest speaker at the International Social Work Symposium.

Ian Knowd will be travelling to Hong Kong from 29 May to 2 June 2010 where he will be presenting at the Sustainable Development Conference, and his paper will be submitted for publication in the International Journal, Sustainable Development.

Upcoming events

Field Education Workshop

The next Student Supervisors Workshop will be coming up in June 9th. Each year approximately 180 undergraduate students are gaining valuable experience in the community with the support of Community Workers, Welfare Workers and Social Workers, learning about their future career. In Social Work alone, in 2010 this will be 60,000 hours of supervised student experience gained in the welfare sector!!

Twice a year the Field Education Coordinators in the Community Welfare and Social Work TAR group conduct a workshop to support these supervisors with their task of educating the future generation of workers. As you can imagine we ply the supervisors with lovely food as well as ideas from adult education about how best to support students grow, translate and transfer their skills learnt on campus into their own professionally recognised skill set.

If you know a practitioner who may be interested in attending please email our Field Education Admin Coordinator soss-field@uws.edu.au