This Issue Includes:

- Q&A with Melissa Maucort
- Profiles of SoSS Community Welfare and Social Work Group
- Details of upcoming SoSS seminar and SoSS supported conference

This Month’s Highlights

- The Planning Institute of Australia has awarded interim accreditation of our four year articulated program: Bachelor of Social Science/Master of Urban Management and Planning
- Three SoSS students, Weihua Guan (Master of Urban Management), Kristen Horner (Master of Art Therapy) and Juliane Roebel-Hermann (Master of Art Therapy) were recognised at an inaugural Recognition Ceremony for High Achieving International students, held on Friday, 28 August. At this ceremony ten international students from each UWS College received official recognition from the University for academic achievements in semester 1 2009.
- Congratulations to Stephen Tomsen who has been appointed Associate Head of School (Research) from 1 September. Thanks also to Adam Possamai, outgoing Associate Head of School (Research), for his significant contribution to the School.

SoSS Publications & Presentations


Joy Higgs, Debbie Horsfall and Sandra Grace (Editors) (2009). Writing Qualitative Research on Practice, Sense Publishers. Part of the Practice, Education, Word and Society Series. In addition to her role as editor, Debbie has authored or co-authored three chapters in the book. This book is a celebration of the scholarship and the practice of writing qualitative research. It presents research and practice knowledge about the writing acts and challenges of writing qualitative research. At the same time as writing a book that is accessible to people new to qualitative research we offer insights and questions to experienced qualitative researchers.


Key September Dates

7 September, 10am-12pm
TAR Meetings - Geography & Urban Studies, and Sociology

14 September, 10am-12pm
TAR Meetings - Criminology & Policing, and Tourism & Heritage

21 September, 10am-12pm
TAR Meeting - Community Welfare & Social Work

21 September, 1-3pm
TAR Meeting - Peace & Development Studies

28 September, 10am-12pm
TAR Meeting - Therapies & Applied Studies

28 September, 1-3pm
Executive Meeting (HoS/AHoS)

Robyn Bushell and Dr Bent Powis, Director of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre at UWS jointly facilitated an ASEAN Plus Three Regional Workshop on Healthy Tourism in Thailand, 10-13 August.
SoSS Seminar and Upcoming Events

Private Community: The Lived Experiences of Privatism and Community in a Gated Residential Neighbourhood
Upcoming school seminar by Therese Kenna
7 September 2009, 1-3pm
Bankstown Campus Building 1.1.114 (video-link to Kingswood 0.2.02)

Private residential estates (PREs), often termed ‘gated communities’, are an important part of contemporary residential development in metropolitan Australia. PREs are the most recent extension of the more generic master planned residential estate that has attracted significant attention in recent times in Australia, particularly for their possible contribution to processes of segregation in metropolitan regions. This paper begins by charting the emergence of private residential estates and community schemes legislation in the residential development industry. Therese will then demonstrate how the private governance structure of this new suburban neighbourhood has been important in the formation and sustenance of community. In relation to the development of private residential estates in metropolitan regions across Australia, community is seen to be a commodity (purely a marketing device). However, the nature of community within PREs is under-researched in Australian urban studies. Therese (re)connects with community in the form of neighbourhood based interactions and associations through an engagement with the residents of a private gated residential estate (Macquarie Links) in Sydney, Australia, during detailed qualitative fieldwork in 2007. She provides a conceptualisation of the concept of community that takes into account commonalities and differences, consent and disagreement, private and community. This paper will present findings on the meanings and lived experiences of both privatism and community in the context of Macquarie Links. Finally, in this paper Therese will discuss the communal tactics for protection in a private gated residential neighbourhood.

Counting Children In! Conference and Children as Researchers workshop
The School of Social Sciences, as well as the College and UWS more generally, is supporting two events planned for this year and hosted by the Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre (SJSC). These are the Second International Social Indicators Conference (4-5 Nov) titled Counting Children In! Child Indicators: Research, Theory, Policy and Practice and the SJSC Symposium Children as Experts in their Own Lives: Child Inclusive Research, on the preceding day (3 Nov). Both events promise to be truly global with the two forums having attracted abstracts from around the world - including Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Cuba, India, Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Norway and Uganda. You are invited to register for these events, details of which can be accessed at www.isci09.com. At the dinner, held at Old Government House, Parramatta, a new interactive online source for child well-being research and data, WIKICHILD, will be launched. The Symposium and Conference are shaping up to be dynamic and informative events.

Additionally, on 2 November, SJSC is hosting a workshop by Professor Mary Kellett, from the Open University, UK and keynote speaker for the Symposium. The Workshop on Children as Researchers will focus on the whys and the hows of developing the skills of children to enable them to undertake their own research. There are still some spaces in this workshop. Cost for attendees is $50 for the day. Those interested should contact sjsc@uws.edu.au.

September Travellers
Lisa Tudehope is off to Darwin from 11-19 September to present at the ATEM Conference.

Kathie Hill and Tim Griffin head to Brisbane for the Blackboard Conference from 12-16 September.

Meg Smith travels to Perth to present a paper at THEMHS conference and meet with research partners, 2-7 September.

Robyn Bushell has been invited to attend an International meeting in China from 23 September to 1st October to provide technical advice following from her research on World Heritage with UNESCO.

Stephanie-Alice Baker will present at the 3rd Global Conference: Multiculturalism, Conflict and Belonging at Oxford University, 25-28 September.

Kevin Dunn, Alanna Kamp, Brigid Treanerry and Jacqueline Nelson will all travel to Cairns to present at the IAG (Institute of Australian Geographers) Urban Geography conference held 27-30 September.
Introducing the Community Welfare and Social Work Group

Natalie Bolzan
Natalie has taught at UWS for the past 13 years, starting as a contract lecturer in 1996. She has been lucky in that since her early days at UWS she has managed to carry out a few research projects along with her teaching commitments. From her first nationally competitive research grant exploring community attitudes to young people to the most recent ARC grant with Fran, Natalie has explored issues of concern to young people and marginalised groups such as the elderly and those experiencing mental illness. Her passion for research and teaching has been offset by her grounding in the details of administration as ‘Head of Program’ and more recently TAR group leader. In sum one might see Natalie’s time at UWS as ‘balanced’.

Brenda Barlett
Brenda started her welfare career working in youth refuges and has taught at the UWS since 1990. Brenda grew up in Connecticut, USA, where after spending five years backpacking in Europe, the Middle East and Asia she immigrated to Australia. At first she was teaching in the Associate Diploma of Social Welfare and the Bachelor of Applied Social Science (Youth Work), later in the Bachelor of Arts (Welfare Studies) and eventually the Bachelor of Community Welfare. A big component of her job has always involved field education for students both in Australia and more recently overseas in developing countries through the International Social Development Key Program. She has been fortunate to see how students progress; gaining confidence, skills and knowledge to work in Human Services Sector in case work, group work, community development work, research or policy positions. Her initial research interests and passion were in supervision and learning on practicum and work based placements, and later with kinship care and the needs of grandparents and children when parents are incarcerated. She has been active in the community through management committees and boards with Youth Action and Policy Association, Social Welfare Workers Union, Children of Prisoners (now Shine for Kids), Aunties and Uncles Family Cooperative, Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service and more recently Community Independence Support Services.

Jan Falloon
Jan came to UWS more years ago than she cares to remember, as a researcher, causal tutor and lecturer, and as a policy/practitioner. A few years ago Jan was made permanent and has devoted herself to making the Community Welfare course a degree of which both staff and students can be justifiably proud. In promotional talks she often describes the degree as one for those people who want to change the world. Jan believes it is incumbent upon us to provide the bedrock from which students can make a significant contribution to improving the world we share. Jan’s passion is and she suspects always will be child care and protection. She is always ready for any activity, discussion or project that is going to work with children towards goals they have identified.

Fran Gale
Prior to her teaching at UWS commencing in 1998, Fran taught and researched in the Department of Government at Sydney University. A social worker whose applied work has included groups such as young asylum-seekers and marginalised East Timorese young people, and a political scientist, whose theoretical and empirical work has been primarily in political culture and political theory, particularly marginality and citizenship, she is well placed to explore one of her key interests; the theory/practice nexus. Fran is currently enjoying theory/practice links in an ARC grant with Natalie; not least because this particular project involves some gorgeous border collie dogs! (All questions to Natalie). Fran is passionate about fostering students critical engagement with the wider world. Her teaching and research interests include critical socio-political theories and practices; social citizenship and civic connectedness of marginalised groups (particularly marginalised young people, often from diverse and traumatised populations); social advocacy; spirituality and social justice; and human rights. She is a politics tragic who follows almost any election - any time, any country. Since Hugh Crago’s departure for the UWS Parramatta campus, Fran is the sole surviving member, of the devoted William Morris fan club, based on the Bankstown campus. She wants to let Hugh know, that as well as his William Morris sofa, he has also left behind a big hole in the membership!

Neil Hall
Neil has been teaching at UWS since 1996 as a casual, contract and then permanent lecturer. Neil has had the pleasure of seeing many cohorts of students, through their field placement experiences, develop high levels of knowledge, skill and confidence that have taken them into the field as competent and versatile social work practitioners. With a range of teaching opportunities in youth work, group work, research and critical practice, he has been committed to fostering students’ creativity, curiosity and ‘big picture’ thinking, and for the past 18 months has been ‘shepherding’ students in his role as Social Work Course Advisor. His research interests have led to numerous funded projects, conference papers and journal articles primarily in the areas of young people and youth participation. Neil has recently submitted his PhD (‘Pick up the ball and run’. Young males, sport and civic engagement), and is looking forward to resuming his passions for rugby union and music.

Congratulations to Neil on the submission of his PhD!
Jan Mason
Jan commenced her employment at UWS over 25 years ago, after 14 years in practice and management positions in NSW Child Welfare. During her time at UWS, Jan has taught, researched and been in management positions. In 1995 she was appointed to the Foundation Chair in Social Work and in the years 2002 to 2004 was Foundation Director, Social Justice Social Change Research Centre. Her research foci include childhood, child and family welfare and policy, child well-being, child participation and researching with children. Jan’s work has emphasised linking theory, policy and practice on children’s issues, through collaborative research with Australian and overseas academics and major child welfare and children’s agencies in New South Wales. For the last 5 years Jan has been employed on a .5 contract, which has enabled her to consolidate her research activities. Currently her activities include completing with others 2 ARC projects, chairing the planning committee for an international conference and symposium to be hosted by SJSC in November and co-chairing (with Natalie) an international child research and policy event hosted by Childwatch International in December. Jan will work with others on a new ARC linkage project and on a book on child well-being into retirement, when her contract ends next January.

Jane Mears
Jane is an Associate Professor teaching social policy primarily to students in the Bachelor of Social Work and the Bachelor of Community Welfare. She has over 30 years teaching experience. One would hope after all this time she has developed some expertise as a teacher. She thoroughly enjoys teaching and talking through issues and problems with students. The students keep her on her toes and she has a particular soft spot for students who are curious and ask lots of questions. She also enjoys writing and devising subject units and lectures and keeping her teaching up to date and relevant. In addition, she is an active and engaged researcher, at present working on two projects, one on preventing violence towards older women and the second, with partners in Sweden and Canada, focusing on care and care work. Jane feels that it is a privilege to be able to focus on issues one is passionate about in research, teaching and work in the community. This Pollyanna character also really enjoys working with her colleagues, particularly those in her TARS group and loves Meg’s witty and incisive cartoons. She has had a long career at UWS and has been part of many, many restructures. With a few exceptions, Jane has enjoyed every minute of her long service as an academic at UWS.

Justine O’Sullivan
Justine is the recently appointed Social Work Field Education coordinator (the 13th position she has held in her 10 years of wonderment at UWS). This position is designed to actively build partnerships between the Social Work course and the wider social work and community sector. To do this Justine is ably supported by Angela Tanovic and the Community Welfare and Social Work TAR lecturers, amongst others in SOSS (you know who you are!). Justine is excited about her new role as it offers the scope to work across both different sectors in the community, with the academic BSW and SOSS staff as well as to build on the broad initiatives that enhance the opportunities for UWS Social Work graduates to find their feet in the real world. Justine’s goal is to support the successes of the past by engaging graduates with a sense of wanting to stay connected with the University, throughout their own professional careers and to grow and develop into fantastic student supervisors as well. As anyone who has done a substantial placement in their undergraduate studies knows, the experience stays with you and Justine sees her role being to make these experiences be of the best quality of learning possible as well as the most eye-opening and powerful learning available. Justine is heavily into pyramid marketing of students into quality ‘real world’ experiences (placements), so if you have an idea that may link students into the community sector in Greater Sydney and beyond and would like to share it to see if we can make it happen (Yes we can!), now that Justine has “all this free time” to build these connections maybe, just maybe, it could be a win-win outcome!

Meg Smith
Meg is a community psychologist who teaches in community welfare, social work and social sciences at UWS. She is a Board member of the Black Dog Institute and President of the Mental Health Association NSW Inc. Prior to joining UWS, Meg worked as a counsellor in a women’s health centre. She still does occasional pro-bono work for women who are victims of violence. Meg has been active in the movement to reform mental health services in Australia since the early 1980s. She has been involved in a number of national and state committees to develop new services and social policy in the mental health and disability areas. Her current research and practice interests are: psychoeducation and psychological management of bipolar disorder; mental illness and cannabis co-dependence; cognitive behavioural therapy for anxiety disorders and mood disorders. Meg enjoys mentoring students and community workers. Her current research grant with Sharyn McGee involves teaching community partners how to do research and to participate in running focus groups with young people who use cannabis and who have a co-occurring mental illness. Her current hobby is drawing cartoons for use by community organisations. She hopes to be able to learn enough about the internet to be able to put cartoons up on a website that can be downloaded by community groups wanting to illustrate newsletters. Ideas for cartoons are most welcome.
Wollondilly Shire and Blacktown City Council Urban Planning Scholarships

Two new scholarships will be available to UWS students studying the new Bachelor of Social Science/Master of Urban Management and Planning from 2010. Wollondilly Shire Council and Blacktown City Council have each committed to scholarships in Urban Planning to develop the skills of local students, with understanding of their local area. Both councils recognise the need for qualified, professional and local urban planners in Greater Western Sydney.

Wollondilly Shire comprises 16 towns and villages with a population of around 42,000 people. In partnership with UWS, Wollondilly Shire Council is committed to supporting the future development of the area by encouraging local residents to undertake tertiary education in the area of urban planning. The Wollondilly Shire Council Urban Planning Scholarship will be offered in 2010 for a duration of two years. and with a population of 265,000 the city is rapidly expanding. The accessibility to land for industrial and development opportunities indicates the need for strategic developments and practical planning methods. The Council values education, and with UWS, will address the need for home-grown urban planners familiar with the area. From 2010, Blacktown City Council will offer the Jim Anderson Memorial Academic Excellence Scholarship to an Urban Planning student who resides in Blacktown LGA.

Both scholarships will provide financial assistance and allow the recipient to undertake work experience with the Council.

The School of Social Science appreciates the support of Wollondilly Shire Council and Blacktown City Council and looks forward to awarding of the first of these new scholarships in 2010.

Q & A with Melissa Maucort

Melissa is the School Manager of SoSS.

1. Favourite thing to do in your spare time? Relax with family/friends, enjoying great conversation, good food and a lovely glass of wine with my kids in sight.

2. What was your first job? I shocked my mother when she picked me up at the Penrith Railway station at the age of 12 after a day of shopping with my friends when I announced I had found a cleaning job in a chemist for $2 an hour. It lasted 2 years... I then worked part time for 'Book World' until the end of year 12 and my first real adult full time job was as a Legal Secretary in the city. I don’t have a dream job but wish I could be more selfless and do charity work. I have the deepest admiration for people who give their own time to help others.

3. If you could have a free ticket to anywhere, where would it be to? Without question France, but it would need to be for Patrick, Kaitlyn and Ethan also. Or maybe I could convince the Head of School that the admin team needs a professional development getaway. We would have a blast eating and drinking our way through the South together and Patrick would be our tour guide!

4. What’s the first thing you do in the morning? Ha...bathroom, kiss the family and then COFFEE COFFEE COFFEE (No, I do not check my blackberry!).

5. If I wasn’t me, I'd like to be... I can’t answer that question because if I wasn’t me I wouldn’t have Patrick or the kids... They are my everything.

6. What is the first thing you notice about someone when you first meet? A genuine warm and friendly smile is just intoxicating... but I am pea green with envy of women who have beautiful hair (Yes, certain gals in the School know I am talking about them when they read this).

7. Are you a morning or night person? I can be both as long as I have had the right hours of sleep....

8. It’s not fashionable, but I love... 80’s pop music!!!!!!! Nothing like a good CD full of one hit wonders from the 80’s to get the party started, even if it’s only you in your lounge room dancing alone.

Thank you for your contributions. If you would like something to be included in the next issue of the SoSS Goss, or have any comments or questions please contact Jacqueline.Nelson@uws.edu.au