Dear Colleagues,

We have recently submitted our third annual report to the University, and I would like to thank you all for the timely provision of information that enabled us to get this in on time (one day early!), and especially to Heidi Forbes, our new Administration Officer, who pulled it all together, which is no easy job. In putting it together, we were again struck by the difficulty in getting accurate information about outputs as well as media and community activities. Now that we have Heidi on board, we are going to really tackle this problem, so that we can all easily access information that is both current and accurate. We are planning on establishing systems whereby you will each need to report each outcome only once, and from there it will be entered onto a data base that will allow the retrieval of key information in various forms. These measures are timely for a number of reasons. They will be invaluable when we are preparing reports etc, seeking to establish track record in various research areas and for providing information to funding bodies.

There have been some changes to the ARC application form and requirements that have made it more time consuming to complete the required paperwork. This resulted in a couple of project teams running out of time for the current round. So, please be aware that you will need to allow a little more time for your applications in the next round. Some of the changes required to the detail in section ‘F’ are quite time-consuming. I know how incredibly difficult it is for people without admin support to submit applications for ARC grants, and want to look into ways we can support FaCH members in dealing with the complex requirements of external funding bodies. I would welcome any suggestions of things we could do that would be helpful.

We regularly get requests and enquiries from people seeking opportunities for volunteer work – these are generally either from young people who have never worked, or people who are seeking to re-enter the workforce and require experience within the work place. At the moment we are seeking information from HR on how we can integrate these people into our FaCH working environment. If you have small(ish) office type jobs that could be undertaken by a volunteer worker, can you please let Heidi know.

The first part of 2010 saw us host a number of visitors – including Prof Philip Darbyshire, Prof Roger Watson, who are both regular visitors holding visiting appointments with UWS, as well as first time visitors Dr Mark Hayter (Reader, University of Sheffield) and Prof Carol Haigh (Manchester Metropolitan University). We were fortunate to have Carol with us for a full week extra than planned, as a result of UK flight disruptions associated with the Icelandic volcano. Just goes to prove the old saying that every cloud has a silver lining!

We have had a number of staff changes to FaCH (details to follow in later pages) but one result is that we have a new editor of the newsletter. Welcome to Heidi Forbes, who has taken over as newsletter Editor! We also welcome several new students to FACH. These include Toby Raeburn who is presently overseas on a
Churchill Fellowship, and Renee Blackman, who is the recipient of a PHCRED Fellowship. Welcome to Toby and Renee.

As you will know, UWS will be participating in an audit of research activities - Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) in 2012. One of the very important ERA indicators of research quality is the ranking of the journals we publish our work in. At FaCH we have had a strategy for a number of years now of targeting the high ranking journals and this will be of benefit to us in the forthcoming audit. However, it is important we are aware that there have been some changes made to the ERA journal list that have seen some shifts in where journals are situated. Pleasingly, a number of very good and reputable journals that had previously been ranked ‘C’, have now been reassessed to ‘A’ and ‘A*’, while a couple of quite influential British journals have been downgraded to ‘C’. It is not clear how or why some of these judgements are made, and some are not without controversy, but we do need to keep an eye on these, and be mindful of where we choose to publish. If you want to have a browse through the listings, they can be found at this link http://www.arc.gov.au/era/journal_list.htm.

Finally, I would like to commend members for the very hard work that has gone into publications and disseminations in the first quarter of 2010. During the period January to March 2010, FaCH members submitted in excess of 30 papers for peer review. This is a really wonderful effort, and reflects the commitment and level of scholarly activity among FaCH members.

Debra Jackson

Recent Grant Successes

The Impact of Psychosocial Assessments on Mothers.

Project Title: The perinatal journey: the process and impact of psychosocial assessment.

Associate Professor Virginia Schmied is currently investigating the process and impact of psychosocial assessments on women by midwives and child and family health nurses during pre and postnatal visits.

This ARC funded project will involve a random sample of pregnant women/mothers in metropolitan Sydney. Researchers will observe and record the conduct of psychosocial assessments carried out by midwives and nurses during the pre- and postnatal visits.

Additional data will be obtained through interviews with the women before and after giving birth, from clinical records and by surveying the participating women to gather specific information about their access to the services and facilities available and their relationships with the midwives and nurses. Researchers will also interview midwives and nurses to identify their perceptions and experiences.

The project seeks to enable early identification of women (and families) who are at risk from a range of psychological and social factors and will allow for the necessary services to be provided promptly, ensuring a better outcome for child, mother and their families. Grant amount $102,110.
Depression in the Twilight Years

**Project Title:** Depression Intervention Program in Residential Aged Care Facilities: Bankstown GP Division Aged Care Access Initiative.

Dr Tanya Covic, Dr Adelma Hills, Associate Professor Rocco Crino and Dr Helen Correia of the School of Psychology are researching the success of a depression intervention program in residential aged-care facilities (RACFs). This research is being conducted in collaboration with the Bankstown General Practice Division Inc (BGPD) and is a BGPD funding initiative.

An intervention will be designed for groups of four to six residents to be completed in several one hour sessions (including a review) across RACFs in Western Sydney, with these sessions including: linking thoughts, feelings and behaviour; planning positive activities; problem solving and overcoming barriers; and building positive social skills and relationships.

Encouraging elderly people in RACFs to maintain positive activities, no matter how small, as part of their day-to-day lives is important. This can help contribute to their better mental, emotional and physical health, as well as developing more enjoyable lives for themselves. Grant amount $44,824.

Avoiding ‘High Tech’ through ‘High Touch’

**Project Title:** Avoiding ‘high tech’ through ‘high touch’ in end stage dementia: Protocol for aged care at the end of life.

Professor Esther Chang, Dr Daniel Nicholls and Senior Lecturer Amanda Johnson have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Australian Department of Health and Ageing Palliation Round 5 Grants to run this two year project. In partnership with this project are Sydney West Area Health Service, Domain Principal Aged Care, Australian Aged Care Pty Ltd and Associate Professor Joyce Simard – Geriatric Consultant. Grant amount $424,061.

Interventions for Heart Disease Reduction & Maintenance

**Project Title:** Developing elements of Effective Interventions for Heart Disease Reduction and Maintenance in Asian Indians Living in Australia (DHARMA).

Dr Ritin Fernandez has been successful in leading a team to obtain funds from UWS Internal Research Grants Scheme.

Infrastructure Grant Success

Associate Professor Elizabeth Comino, Dr Katherine Moore, Professor Siaw-Teng Liaw, Professor Maree Johnson and Dr Lynn Kemp have been successful with their application to the Ingham research Institute of SSWAHS for an infrastructure grant. This grant will be used as a start up for a community and primary health research unit. Grant amount $200,000.

Consumer satisfaction with Practice Nurses

Dr Liz Halcomb and A/Prof Yenna Salamonson have been successful in obtaining funding from the New Zealand College of Practice Nurses to explore consumer satisfaction with care provided by practice nurses.
FaCH News

FaCH Workspace Officially Warmed!

FaCH recently hosted a morning tea to officially open the new research premises in Building 17. Guests were treated to sumptuous fare and were able to explore the new space which includes academic staff offices, three research project staff rooms, RHD student room, communal meeting room, reception area and kitchenette. Guests were able to view the FaCH artworks provided courtesy of UWS art collections. Professor Rhonda Griffith addressed the guests with a warm welcome and expressed her delight with the new space. The occasion also provided opportunity to meet new baby Piper as well as farewell PhD candidate Martha Mansah who has left UWS to peruse academic enterprises in sunny Queensland.

Research Update - Nurturing Parents and Parenting (NIPPER)

NIPPER comprises three research streams:

- Supporting parents and parenting: psychosocial health in the perinatal period (6 projects – including 4 Higher Degree students)
- Supporting Effective Service Systems which includes a focus on facilitating normal birth, ensuring effective models of integrated care (6 projects – including 3 Higher Degree students)
Infant Feeding Studies (4 projects - including 2 higher degree students)

At a recent meeting of the NIPPER research group we reviewed the projects within each of these streams and their progress. A copy of the presentations presented at the recent NIPPER meeting can be found on the FaCH website.

In 2010 the conference circuit will be buzzing with results from NIPPER research. In March Hannah presented two papers and facilitated workshop at the PSANZ conference in New Zealand and Suza also presented a paper. An impressive five papers have been accepted for the State Midwives conference to be held in September; this is remarkable given only about 15 to 20 papers are accepted for this conference. A further four papers and a workshop will be presented at the ‘Breathing New Life into Maternity Care’ conference to be held in Alice Springs in July and four for the QEC conference in Melbourne in November. Half a dozen papers have been accepted at various other national conferences.

Papers have recently been accepted number of high ranking journals including: Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care’ a prestigious journal with an A* ERA Ranking and Impact Factor of 2.836; Journal of Advanced Nursing, Journal of Clinical Nursing and Midwifery all A^ journals.

Submissions have been made for two competitive grants, both based in positive feedback form previous applications; one was for an ARC Discovery grant and the second to the NHMRC.

Student members, while all at different stages of their candidature have been working hard; two students will be undertaking their COC in the next 2 weeks. We are planning to hold a couple of seminars later in the year to disseminate these results to colleagues in the Area Health Services. Prepared by Virginia Schmied

Research Update - Exploring Pregnancy Outcomes (ExPO)

Our collaboration across Schools in the College of Health and Science continues through ExPO. Two projects are completed and publications are in press. Five projects are ongoing including a study of use of moxibustion for breech presentation; a study of obese women’s experience of maternity care; midwifery initiated dental care; and a new study to commence this year using linked data to examine outcomes of induction of labour. Two grants were submitted to NHMRC in March – one on physical activity in pregnancy and focusing on midwifery initiated oral health. Four conference papers have been already presented or accepted for presentation this year. We plan to present the work of ExPO at a number of seminars in the Area Health Services in 2010. Prepared by Virginia Schmied

Research Update - Aged Care and Palliation (ACAP)

The ACAP research stream is thrilled to announce the appointments of Dr Michel Edenborough as Project Manager and Ms Sara Karacsony as Project Officer. Michel and Sara will be driving ACAP’s latest project, "Avoiding 'high tech' through 'high touch' in end-stage dementia: Protocol for care at the end of life". This project implements for the first time in Australian aged care settings the renowned "Namaste Care" protocol for improving the quality of experience for aged care residents with dementia during their final days. Michel will be well-known to many thanks to her valuable contributions over the years to the Family and Community Health (FaCH) group. Sara is a clinical nurse consultant who, like Michel has record of exemplary service to the School. We shall welcome Michel and Sara when they commence with ACAP on May 26. Prepared by Esther Chang
Research Update - Workforce Education Research in Nursing (WERIN)

The WERIN stream has had a very productive and active start to the year. We held a number of writing intensives in the first quarter, and because of these, we were able to complete the disseminations for the whistle blowing project, the SATIN project, and complete data analysis and commence write-up of the CENSUS project. During 2010 we are planning to extend the earlier CENSUS work, and have now submitted ethics emendations to allow data collection from other sites including SCU, UTS, and UC. Members had a strong showing at the recent international NETNEP conference. We had a large number of abstracts accepted, which was very pleasing, especially considering that over 900 abstracts were submitted. Special congratulations to members of the SAPIENT project team, led by A/Professor Yenna Salamonson, who won the ‘best poster’ prize at NETNEP for their poster “Embedded academic support: A randomised trial to improve the academic performance of English as second language nursing students”. Given there were in the region of 100 posters, this is a wonderful achievement. Congratulations to Yenna, Bronwyn and the whole team. Prepared by Debra Jackson

Student Interns Learn Research Basics

FaCH research interns were invited to attend a two day skill building workshop focusing on project specific training. Interns were treated to informative and interactive presentations on a series of key requirements in research such as literature reviews, data collection, management and analysis, and writing for publications. Specific hands on activities allowed interns to navigate Endnote and SPSS programs to assist in referencing and data collection and management. All presentations provided interns with the basic knowledge needed to navigate the world of research in order to begin work on collaborative publication projects.

Thanks to Yenna Salamonson, Liz Halcomb, Tammy Vallido, Bronwyn Everett, Steve Frost, Sharon Andrew, Kath Peters and Roslyn Weaver for facilitating activities over the two days.
We recently attended the 2010 Royal College of Nursing Annual International Research Conference, located in Newcastle, United Kingdom. The conference venue was the Sagehead, a state of the art conference centre built on a reclaimed industrial site (see photo). The conference had a diverse program including sessions focused on domestic violence, nursing philosophy, student learning, research methodology, sexual health, violence, obesity and aged care. It was interesting to learn about the UK health services and tertiary education systems and, no surprise, we share similar challenges. Many of the sessions we attended were thought provoking and it was enlightening to hear about the nursing research projects being conducted internationally. We were able to network with nurse researchers, nurse educators and managers and now have contacts for future joint projects.

We presented;

**Dr Leah East**  
Factors that limit women’s ability to practice safer sex: A feminist perspective

**Dr Lauretta Luck**  
Emergency nurses fostering resilience: resisting the negative sequelae of violence

Development of a violence assessment tool for nurses in the emergency department

Applying mixed methods in a single concurrent instrumental case study design

The last presentation was a Visual Presentation with Expert Review (ViPER). This was an interesting presentation mode that really facilitated discussion and participant interaction. I would be happy to discuss my experience of a ViPER and definitely encourage colleagues to take up any opportunity to present in this style. *Prepared by Dr Lauretta Luck*
News Updates

Mothering Research Group
The mothering research group consists of PhD candidates and supervisors that meet the second Monday of each month, in the FaCH meeting room, to share and discuss research we are conducting about mothering. While they are only up to their second meeting, those involved have found it a stimulating and highly valuable use of time.

At the first meeting each group member discussed the research they were undertaking and their progress so far. This week we heard more in detail about three of the studies and discussed the merits and pitfalls of aspects of the methods used. Next time, two of the group members will be using the time to test run their confirmation of candidature presentations, and have planned to use the meeting after that to discuss the literature surrounding guilt in mothering.

As well as an opportunity to bounce ideas off each other and swap references, the meetings are very motivational as the research being undertaken is truly inspiring. Group member Tamara Vallido has personally come away from each meeting with valuable insights that will contribute to the development of her thesis. “I am very grateful for the collegiality and sharing nature of my fellow students.”

Independent Network of Professors of Nursing (INPON)
In April, Debra Jackson and Carol Haigh initiated an informal alliance for Professors of Nursing. So far, more than 50 professors have joined, from Australia, the UK, Ireland, US, Canada, Germany and Africa! The catalyst for this was their conversations with a number of quite new Professors of Nursing from various parts of the world, who indicated a need to somehow be able to connect with others. Though still conceptualising, Debra and Carol are thinking that the "Independent Network of Professors of Nursing (INPON)" could be an informal alliance of Professors of Nursing, welcoming colleagues from all over the world, and professors at various points of the career trajectory.

This could include retired professors of nursing, who have experiences and wisdom that could be of great value to less experienced colleagues. Such a network could have many purposes to benefit all, and this could include helping and supporting new Professors through mentoring (or other supportive) relationships, helping with various forms of networking, facilitating international visiting and links and so on. If anyone is interested, please contact Debra or Carol.

Facilitating Effective Supervision (FES)
The purpose of the FES group is to share knowledge and facilitate the development of knowledge about the craft of higher research degree supervision. FES is now in its 4th year, and Dr Liz Halcomb has been ably leading FES this year, taking over from Debra Jackson. Liz has hosted a number of meetings for new and experienced supervisors. FES was fortunate to have international visitor, Dr Carol Haigh speak at the last meeting. Approaches have been made from colleagues in other universities to participate in FES activities, and so we will be extending invitations to others in the near future. Liz will soon be launching a FES website to facilitate communication and dialogue for all of us who are interested in quality supervision. More details in next newsletter!
Congratulations…

**Associate Professor Yenna Salamonson and team**

Congratulations to members of the SAPIENT project team, led by A/Professor Yenna Salamonson, who won the ‘best poster’ prize at NETNEP for their poster “*Embedded academic support: A randomised trial to improve the academic performance of English as second language nursing students*”.  
*Pictured: Dr Bronwyn Everett with the winning poster!*

**PhD Student Suza Trajkovski**

On International Nurses Day Suza was presented with an Achievement Award within the Significant & Exceptional contribution category at Sydney South West Area Health Service for presenting a paper from her doctoral study at an international conference.

Congratulations Suza!

**Dr Sansnee Jirojwong - Book Launch**

Congratulations to Sansnee on the launch of her newbook “Population Health, Communities & HealthPromotion”, co-edited with Pranee Liamputtong. Using real world case studies and examples, the text provides students with an introduction to community health within a population health and health promotion framework, and explains how these areas work together in practice. Great work Sansnee!

**PhD Student Jasmin Perrone**

We are pleased to recognise Jasmin’s great success in winning the Best Poster Award at the ANZAM conference in early December 2009.

The poster was entitled: *Contemplating organisational life from the margins: understanding the work-life experiences of employees who have panic attacks*. Congratulations Jasmine, we wish you the best with your future endeavours.

**Dr Leanne Cowin and A/Prof. Cecily Hengstberger-Sims**


Leanne and Cecily’s paper is one of the Top 10 most cited papers (2006-2008) published in the *International Journal of Nursing Studies*. Elsevier have honoured this achievement by presenting them with a Top Cited certificate.

This is a fantastic achievement. Well done Leanne and Cecily!
Visiting scholars
Professor Roger Watson, Professor Carol Haigh and Dr Mark Hayter

During April we were pleased to welcome a number of visitors to FaCH. Professors Carol Haigh (MMU), Philip Darbyshire (Visiting Prof, UWS) and Roger Watson (Uni of Sheffield/Visiting Prof, UWS), and Dr Mark Hayter (Reader, Uni of Sheffield) all spent time with us, and participated in a range of activities with staff and higher degree students.

Warm welcomes to...

Dr Roslyn Weaver

Welcome to Dr Roslyn Weaver who has joined FaCH as Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Roslyn joins FaCH from the School of Medicine where she worked as a Research Officer (2008-2010). Previously she worked for the School of Nursing (2004-2008) as a research assistant and has also worked as a sessional tutor for other universities from 2004 to 2009. Roslyn has a PhD in English Literature from the University of Wollongong, and she graduated in 2008. Her PhD explored popular culture, dystopian narratives and Australian fiction and film, and this project is under contract to be published as a book. Roslyn has published journal articles and book chapters, taught undergraduate literature courses at university, and presented her research internationally. Her other research experience includes workforce and educational research in nursing and medicine. Roslyn’s primary research interests are in the intersections between humanities and health across popular culture. Her current medical humanities projects include health issues in the media, medicine and literature, and medical television programs. These projects all explore perceptions of illness, health, and the workforce in popular culture, investigating the complex facets of the general public’s interest in and engagement with health.

In her new role with FaCH, Roslyn will be completing her funded project on medical television programs and she will be further developing her research in medicine in popular culture. She will also facilitate the FaCH PhD student writing group.

Heidi Forbes

Heidi has commenced duties as the new FaCH Administration Officer in early March. Heidi has spent the last decade working within the Community Sector in the areas of drug & alcohol dependent women, women in recovery from addictions, Intensive Assistance for long-term unemployed, youth and mental illness. Heidi has completed training in various behavioural studies, as well as Cross Cultural Awareness, Professional Wellbeing among others. Heidi holds qualifications in Mental Health First Aid, Accidental
Counselling, Diploma of Business Management and is an Accredited OH&S Officer. Heidi spends her time between her family which includes two little girls aged 11yrs and 3yrs, operating a small ‘fashion accessories’ business from home and attempting to complete her Bachelor of Health Sciences (part time), which she thinks will take her the rest of her life! ‘I am thrilled to be a part of FaCH and the UWS as a whole, and look forward to a productive and fruitful career’.

Brooke Summers
Brooke commenced duties with FaCH in early April. Brooke has spent the past 17 years of her working career in administrative roles within the private sector, primarily in marketing. Brooke is also a qualified Beautician and runs a small beauty therapy business from home. Brooke is currently studying part-time for her Bachelor of Education (Primary).

“I am grateful for the opportunity to work at UWS and am enjoying the diversity of my role”.

Dr Bronwyn Everett
Bronwyn Everett began her teaching career in 1990 in what was then known as the University of Western Sydney Macarthur. Over the ensuing 20 years, she has taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, primarily in the areas of pathophysiology, pharmacology and nursing skills. Bronwyn's clinical research interests include the behavioural management of cardiovascular disease, and she is also active in the field of nursing education research through the WERIN program. In July 2009, Bronwyn took up a Senior Lecturer position at the University of Technology Sydney, where she continues to teach both undergraduate and postgraduate students, and coordinate the Nurse Practitioner program. Bronwyn continues her long association with UWS through her membership of FaCH.

Taking up new opportunities...

Dr Michel Edenborough
Dr Michel Edenborough has held the position of Senior Research Officer (FaCH) for the last three years. During this time she has made enormous contribution to the development of our research in FaCH and the SONM. Prior to this role, Michel was a PhD student in the school and also worked in the Summer Scholar program. Michel is soon to take up her new position within the ACAP program of FaCH, managing the Avoiding "high tech" through "high touch" in end stage dementia: Protocol for aged care at the end of life project, and will be based at the Parramatta Campus.

Thank you for all your hard work Michel. Best of luck in your new role!

Martha Mansah
PhD candidate Martha left UWS on February 12th to pursue academic endeavours in sunny Queensland. Martha has gained a position as a level B lecturer at Griffith University. Martha will also be undertaking unit coordinator duties for the sociology unit. Martha plans to continue working on her PhD to see it to completion.
Dr Sharon Bourgeois
Sharon Bourgeois recently left UWs to take up a new position as Assistant Professor at the University of Canberra. However, Sharon continues her association with us. She remains a member of FaCH and continues to work on a number of multi-site research projects with FaCH members.

FaCH Facebook Group

FaCH Facebook Group

Our Facebook group is open to all FaCH members. If you haven’t already joined log on to the internet and take the plunge, you will be pleasantly surprised at all the information, dissemination and interaction that keeps our members connected.

In the on-line networking group participants are able to see what other members are getting up to, find out information about conferences and events, discuss research articles, upload and view pictures etc.

Discussion boards include: Publication notices; Mothers Journal Group; Upcoming conferences and events; commentary on member’s articles.

Our members have commented that they find the FaCH Facebook group to be immensely supportive and it makes staying in touch with students and supervisors very easy, especially when travelling nationally and internationally.

If you are eligible to join the FaCH Facebook group and would like to do so please contact Heidi at h.forbes@uws.edu.au and you will be invited to join!

Contributions to the e-Newsletter

If you have any recent articles, photos or information that you would like to share in future editions of the FaCH eNewsletter, you can also send them to Heidi at h.forbes@uws.edu.au

- Publications
- Conferences, events & grants
- Staff activities & articles of interest
- Special interest groups

- Achievements
- Graduation ceremonies
- Media or press articles
- Research projects

2010 Conference presentations to date


2010 Member Publications presentations to date


Please let Heidi know if your publications have not been included in this list h.forbes@uws.edu.au