As another busy year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work during 2009 and extend my best wishes for the year ahead. The School ends this year in a very strong position. Demand for our courses is robust, our achievements in research and research training have been positive, and student satisfaction with our units remains overwhelmingly high. I am confident we are well placed to build on this momentum to make the year ahead even more successful.

Early next year we will welcome several new staff to the School and their names appear elsewhere in this issue of SoSS Goss. Offers of employment have also been made to applicants for positions in Social Work and Social Science (Bankstown and Penrith) and hopefully it will be possible to announce these appointments soon, while applications for the Margaret Whitlam Chair in Social Work have recently closed.

With arrivals come departures, and January will see Heather MacDonald leave UWS to take up a position at UTS. On behalf of the School, I wish Heather well and thank her for the valuable contribution she has made to the University during her time here, particularly in the role of Head of Program.

Finally, I wish you and yours all the very best for a safe and restful Christmas and I look forward to working with you again in 2010.

Deborah

SoSS Publications & Presentations


Alphia also edited a special issue for the Australian Religion Studies Review on Religion, Spirituality and Birthing (Volume 22 (2)). She published an article within it on ‘The silence of spirituality within sociology of childbirth: Epistemological and methodological considerations’.

SoSS Travel and Conferences

Natalie Bolzan is travelling to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia from 26 November to 5 December to attend the Childwatch International network assembly and roundtable forum. Natalie will convene the Asia Pacific network to develop the plan for the next three years work in the region, and additionally will be launching a book, which is the result of the past three years work.

Robyn Bushell is off to Luang Prabang, Lao Peoples Dem and Singapore as part of the ASEAN Healthy Tourism research. This will involve meetings with NGOs and other funding bodies for a continuation of the project, together with continuation of research into best practices. This is in the lead up to the January ASEAN meeting in Brunei, as well as the April conference on Healthy People, Healthy Parks where Robyn will be presenting.

Diana Curuenavuli and Kylie Jackson will attend the Australia and New Zealand Student Support Association Conference being held from 6-9 December in Brisbane.

Jan Falloon also travels to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia to attend the Childwatch International Congress with Natalie. Jan will present a paper on “Children as Researchers and Policy Makers.” Both Jan and Natalie are co-chairing/facilitating discussion and writing a report on a 3 hour roundtable workshop on “Research into Policy” to which international guest speakers have been invited.

Mary Hawkins will be co-convening (with Dr Jennifer Alexander from ANU) a session at the Australian Anthropological Society’s Annual Conference, December 9-11 at Macquarie University. The session is entitled ‘Migration, Resettlement and Diaspora: Borneo and Beyond’. Mary will also give a paper within the session.

Debbie Horsfall presented a workshop at the Annual Home Hospice Conference, Intimacy and Connection at End of Life on November 27-28.

Sharyn McGee is attending Our Future: Who is Responsible? by the Dalai Lama in Sydney from 1-3 December. The focus of the public talk is about helping people to become aware of their individual responsibility as global citizens for their own actions, the world in which they live and for all other living beings they share it with. It should stimulate much thinking of relevance for the new major in Peace & Development.

Sanja Milivojevic goes to Belgrade from 24 December to 30 January. Sanja will be conducting field research that continues her studies of sex trafficking in Serbia. She will also take leave during this time.

Alphia Possamai-Inesedy will participate in The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) Conference in early December. She will take part in an Early Careers Research Panel on what the future of sociology is - this session is opening and closing the conference. Alphia is also presenting a paper in a session run by the risk societies thematic group. This is a group that Alphia recently co-created with Associate Professor Jens Zinn from the University of Melbourne.

Meg Smith heads to Melbourne on 4 December to attend a professional meeting at the National College of Community Psychology where the AGM will be held by the APS College of Community Psychologists. Meg will take leave while in Melbourne.

Poll Thee travels to Bangkok from 4 December to 25 January, where he will be carrying out research as part of a School grant in preparation for acquiring a larger project grant, as well as taking leave during January.

Irena Veljanova, HDR candidate, travelled to Austria from 6-14 November to present at an International Conference in Salzburg on Diversity and Recognition. Irena will also chair a session at the conference.

SoSS Seminar Series

Becoming Indigenous: Ethnic and Other Mobile Identities in Kalimantan
Dr Mary Hawkins, School of Social Sciences

Date and time: Monday 7th December, 1-3pm
Location: Room O.2.02 (Kingswood) with video link to Room 1.1.114 (Bankstown)

‘Movement’ and ‘relocation’ most commonly signify movement in space, but both may refer to movements of a different order, for example, from one ethnic identity to another. This paper examines these sorts of movements in the context of the peoples of the Banjarmasin region of south Kalimantan. It seeks to demonstrate that movement and mobility is core to the self identity of those who call themselves ‘Banjar’, and that ‘Banjar’ is itself a loosely bounded notion, incorporating peoples of diverse ethnic backgrounds. In recent years, and within the context of the growing pan-Dayak movement, which embraces all states of Borneo, ‘Banjar’ has even come to mean something close to ‘indigenous’, or at least, ‘almost indigenous, sometimes, and under specific circumstances’. This paper explores these circumstances, and concludes with an examination of the emerging politics of indigeneity, in the local Borneo as well as the global context.
The Counselling and Art Therapy Team

Hugh Crago
Hugh was appointed to a part time senior lectureship with UWS in 1994, after first being a casual lecturer and tutor. He runs the first year of the Graduate Diploma in Counselling. Hugh describes himself as ‘an old-fashioned Humanities scholar’ whose aspirations are to write books that probe mysteries, or ask questions that have not previously been asked. Is this what is now called ‘blue sky research’? Hugh has a track record of being able to reach non-academic audiences, with writing that is personal, plain-speaking and at times, poetic (like his colleague Sheridan Linnell, Hugh is a ‘poet in his own luncheon’). His books include Prelude to Literacy (with Maureen Crago) (1983), A Circle Unbroken (1999) and Couple, Family and Group Work (2006). He is currently preparing Nurturing Change: Foundational Skills for Counselling and Therapy (forthcoming, 2010) and The Teller and the Tale: How the Old Brain Shapes the Stories We Live to Tell (in preparation). Hugh has also published more than one hundred articles, refereed and non-refereed, in academic, professional and popular journals in Australia, the UK, and the USA. Several of his papers have been translated (into Spanish, Dutch and Japanese). He and his wife Maureen co-edited The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy from 1997 to 2008.

Hugh’s research master’s thesis was on the work of William Morris, pioneer socialist, designer and writer. (With Fran Gale, Hugh is a foundation member of the Bankstown Campus William Morris Fan Club). If you are wondering why Hugh isn’t talking more about counselling (after all, that’s what he teaches, right?) it is because it is a difficult topic to talk about without embarrassing people. As one UWS staff member remarked to Hugh last year, counselling is ‘the dirty stuff’. Hugh doesn’t regard it as ‘dirty’, but he has learned that his enthusiasm for his work is better kept to himself and his students!

Sheridan Linnell
‘Art therapist in the spotlight’

Pet hates: Colouring-in books. People who say ‘oh yes I do a bit of art therapy too’. Current love interest: Jung — he appreciates what I do. And I just adore the way he introduces me to his friends — “I’d like you to meet my better half”. Favourite weekend: Time in the studio and Sunday brunch with friends at my local gallery cafe — freud eggs and francis bacon on sourdough toast. What are you enjoying? Sculpture by the Sea. Who are you listening to? Winnie Cott and the Re-Kleins playing covers of old favourites — ‘Mammy’ and ‘It’s all over now, baby blue’. Who are you reading? Bowlby. And Harry Potter. Who would you most like to sit next to on a plane? Marion Milner and Frida Kahlo. (I’ll take the middle seat.) If there were one word left to you in the world, what would it be? Transitional object. That’s two words. Art, then. Or love.

The above vignette is a fairly accurate, if somewhat whimsical, introduction to the professional disposition and habitus of the art therapist. Although far from autobiographical, it gives a flavour of Sheridan’s interest in writing as a mode of enquiry that can make dominant assumptions more visible.

Sheridan has been the Course Advisor for the Master of Art Therapy and a full time academic member of SoSS for the last two years. She held a fractional position as a Lecturer for several years prior to that, while completing her doctoral studies. Her first proper academic book, Art Therapy and Narrative Therapy: An Account of Practitioner Research, is due for publication early next year, as the initial volume in a new series called Rethinking Research and Professional Practices in Terms of Relationality, Subjectivity and Power. A small book of her poetry has been published with the assistance of the Australia Council. As clinical coordinator of a counselling service that adopted a narrative approach to therapy, Sheridan also co-authored the first book on group work from a narrative perspective. She has written and co-written papers and chapters in the areas of education, art therapy, narrative therapy, and poststructural research methodologies.

Hugh and Sheridan are a small and complementary team in the counselling and art therapy area in SoSS. They share a background in literary studies and a commitment to relationship as the core of both education and therapy. They also give their students a lived experience of the productive philosophical tensions between humanistic and poststructural orientations. Sheridan and Hugh genuinely enjoy each other’s poetry, which is a good basis for mutual understanding. They enhance their pedagogical practice through reflexive and challenging conversations, snatched from busy days of running these intensive, clinical postgraduate courses.

Sheridan Linnell
‘Crooked self-portrait, with dog’
Charcoal and graphite on paper 86cm x 59cm
Postgraduate Retreat

The School of Social Sciences held a two day research retreat over the 19th and 20th of November at the Jemby-Rijnah Eco Lodge, Blackheath. Thirteen doctoral candidates participated by presenting their research and received feedback from other delegates. Additional workshops ranging on topics from “negotiating the referee process”, “research exams and examiners” to “finishing the thesis” were facilitated by Mary Krone, Sanja Milivojevic, Selda Dagistanli and Kevin Dunn.

According to those who attended, the experience on the retreat was positive, citing a supportive and relaxed academic environment. Aside from the sweltering heat and a small number of delegates drawing intimidating and mixed vibes from the local wildlife, many expressed a keen desire to return to the venue next year.

Q & A with Lisa Tudehope

Lisa is the Senior School Administrative Officer (Academic Programs). She is based on the Bankstown Campus.

1. What was the last book you read? *False Paradise* by Buckley and Wheelwright, but I am looking forward to reading a good novel now that study is over for another year.

2. What was your dream job growing up? To own and run a cafe/florist with my best friend (those who know me well will understand as I love to bake cakes!).


4. If you won the lottery today, how would you spend the money? Depends on how much I won, but if it was a lot I think a big holiday - it has been a big year and I need one.

5. What do you do to relax? Bake.

6. If you could have a free ticket to anywhere, where would it be to? Vienna.

7. Internet sites you visit when procrastinating? I don’t really go to any particular website, but I am known to procrastinate.

8. The book that changed my life was… *The Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama. It opened my eyes as to how one person can really make a difference in the world.

9. What is the first thing you notice about someone when you first meet? Smile and eyes.

10. Are you a morning or night person? Definitely morning.

Other News

Michael Kennedy was appointed to the NSW Police Board of Studies. In addition, Michael, Sanja Milivojevic, Selda Dagistanli and Kevin Dunn attended a roundtable meeting with the NSW Police Counter Terrorism Squad.

As part of their research with Partners in Mental Health, Sharyn McGee and Meg Smith have been facilitating the development of research skills in NGOs, specifically Partners in Mental Health (a group that consists of the Mental Health Association, ARAFMI and COAG). Both Meg and Sharyn enjoyed leading the two sessions which were well attended. More importantly, the participants were actively engaged and ideas for research projects and ongoing partnerships were cultivated.

Stephen Tomsen was appointed to the editorial board of The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology.

Congratulations to UWS student Leela Landers, undertaking a Bachelor of Social Work. Leela is the 2009 Winner of the Special Olympics Student Journalism Award.

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