Welcome to the first edition of the School of Population Health Newsletter!

Our newsletter is being introduced to facilitate communication within the School. It will contain news from Head of School and School Manager, highlights from academic and planning committees, news from the Social Committee, introduce new staff, feature research groups, highlight successes and advertise upcoming seminars, special events, visitors and funding opportunities etc. Peta Tilbrook and Fiona Maley edit, co-ordinate the inclusion of articles and manage the production and dissemination process. Please keep items coming in! Please support your Newsletter through interesting, informative and constructive contributions that we will all want to read. Please keep items coming in!

Head of School’s message

Dear SPH colleagues

It is my pleasure to have the first words in the first edition of SPH News, a newsletter that will assist with communication of important and interesting news and developments about people and teaching and learning, research, IT and social activities in the school. There will be regular contributions from the Head of School, School Manager, the leaders of various teaching and research programs, the IT people and of course the Social Committee. The newsletter will also highlight recent successes (publications, grants, awards, etc), include introductions of new people, and there is a plan to feature a research group in each edition. The old adage that a picture tells a thousand words still rings true so please provide photos and other pictures with your contributed stories. A big thank you to Fiona Maley and Peta Tilbrook who are the coordinators and editors and have put this first edition together. Let us all assist them in making the newsletter something that we all want to contribute to and something that we all want to read.

As you all know I have only recently taken on the role of HOS but I am already aware of several important new challenges and developments. Some of these are featured elsewhere in this newsletter or you will find out more as they unfold. These include the recruitment of some new teaching academic staff hopefully to join the school early in 2009. These new staff will help with the teaching of the wide variety of courses we offer, including hopefully the proposed new master of Nursing Science, and also provide much needed additional supervisors for higher degree research students.

Within the research sphere, a Research Committee has been established to facilitate the development, planning and coordination of research activities within the school. Please actively engage with this Committee to improve and diversify our research programs and also assist with developing our good researchers and providing better career opportunities for them.

A regular and vibrant seminar series is an important forum for exchange of academic ideas in the school. I am thankful and grateful to the PHPS for taking on the responsibility of coordinating the seminar series. Please all support the seminar series by offering to give a seminar (yes we would all like to hear about your research activities and results) and also by attending as many as possible.

The School will soon be commencing the process of developing a new strategic plan that will provide a blueprint for the key directions of the School over the next 5-10 years. It is very important that all staff, but especially the junior and middle-level staff who will be the school leaders in 10 years time, engage very actively in this process.

This is a busy time of year for all with the end of the year not that far away. Best wishes to the teachers and students for a successful conclusion to semester two, best wishes to the researchers for a successful end to 2008 and with planning for the next round of grant and fellowship applications, and best wishes to the administrative team in managing the school’s activities even though currently inadequately staffed.

That’s all from me so now read on!

Matthew Knuiman
School Manager's message

It is with great pleasure (and relief) that I can now say ‘we have a complete Admin team’ with Annette Stewart (HR) and Denise Bracken (Accounts) joining us. Di (Teaching), Denise and myself will be full time whilst Fiona (PR/Grants) will be 3 days a week and Annette two days a week. All this extra time will now allow me to pursue my favourite activities of budgeting, costing, work load formula and report writing!

On a more serious note, the school is tracking along quite nicely on its break even budget for the year. At a recent budget meeting with the Dean, he commented how well the School had done in getting its finances back on track in the last 3 years, so well done everyone.

In the next few years, we may suffer a small dip in $ as we bring on new initiatives that require upfront investments ie Singapore School and the Master of Nursing Science (Entry to Practice) in an effort to grow the School in new and diverse directions. To me however, the future looks bright with an exciting growth phase ahead of us with new units, new courses and new staff in 2009.

Peta Tilbrook

Introducing new staff & students

Annette Stewart
is our new Senior Admin Officer, working with us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays taking care of our HR. Many of you met her when she took over while Peta was on leave: we have now successfully poached her..

Denise Bracken
has stepped in as our Admin Officer (Finance), full time, and will be with us at least until January 2009.

Bernie Jaw
has joined Lindsay as IT dude at 0.8.
Thanks for the cake Bernie!

Shauna Trafalski
is working with David Preen as a Data Analyst.

Leaving

Phil Weinstein
is leaving UWA take up a new post at University of Queensland. The last 6 months of 2008 will however be spent at UWA on sabbatical.

Congratulations!

Hayley Cutt attended her PhD graduation ceremony this week. Max just received his PhD acceptance. Ryan Falconer just received his PhD acceptance.

Committee news & developments

The SEC (School Executive Committee) has been disbanded, a Research Committee (RC) established, and the Teaching Executive Group (TEG) morphed into a Teaching and Learning Committee (T&LC). The RC, will be the main forum for discussion, development and planning of research matters.

Teaching

The Teaching Executive Group (TEG) will continue to operate alongside the new Teaching and Learning Committee (T&LC) on an alternating monthly meeting basis. The T&LC will have expanded membership, embrace a wider range of teaching and learning issues and be the principal forum for discussion, development and planning of teaching matters. It will promote teaching and learning opportunities within UWA, the Faculty and the School; examine innovative teaching initiatives and mentor junior academics and research staff.

Current news from TEG:

- Academic Council has approved the Masters in Nursing Science (Entry to Practice) course. The next step is passing the Nurses and Midwives Board for accreditation.

Research

The general role of the RC will be to facilitate, plan and develop research activities and strengths within the School. The RC aims to:

- improve dissemination and communication of information and news (from both within UWA and outside) relating to activities, developments, policies and opportunities relating to research projects and programs, research funding, research collaborations, careers and career development for researchers, and so on.
facilitate greater collaboration, cooperation, sharing and cross-fertilization of knowledge, methods, resources and expertise between research groups within the School. The RC will develop policies and help coordinate research activities such as journal clubs within specific discipline areas, brainstorming and development of large multidisciplinary research project funding applications in priority areas, internal review of project grant and research fellowship applications and the like.

RC membership is suggested to include the Research Coordinator (chair), the Graduate Research Coordinator, representatives of each major research group, a representative of unaffiliated researchers, the SPH Consumer Advocate, and a graduate research student representative. The Chair will co-opt a committee secretary to help with agendas, minutes and circulation of information. It will have monthly meetings, agendas will be developed and minutes taken and circulated to all staff and graduate research students.

One strategy to be implemented by the RC, perhaps through a sub-committee and/or delegated officers, will be to institute monthly research seminars of one hour that have a 20 minute segment devoted to communication and news of upcoming events, activities and opportunities plus a 40 minute segment in which a research group describes their activities and/or plans or a 40 minute tutorial segment on a research method or key research data resource. This internal research seminar could take one slot per month in the SPH Tuesday 11am seminar series coordinated by PHPS.

The first Research Committee meeting took place on Monday 8th September at 11am.

IT

The IT committee will remain essentially the same as it has been for a while but will be needing a few more staff/student representatives. This year has seen the setup of the new SPH Computer Laboratory for teaching and Health Science students, the addition of Lectopia to Seminar Room 3 and the completion of the server back up project. On next year’s agenda is upgrading the Postgraduate computer room.

Sadly, Dino has left us to become the Faculty Network Officer but fortunately we have Bernie as his replacement. We thank James for his assistance during the changeover.

The University ITS has had a complete change over during this year with the appointment of John Arfield as its Director (as well as still being the University Librarian). Service is back on the agenda and UWA ITS may even cross the barrier of Stirling Highway now! UWA’s website project continues on but we do not expect the SPH website to be changed over in the near future. We can however make the change over easier by following ITS’s guidelines which can be found at http://www.its.uwa.edu.au/policies/commspolicies/managesuptrain/webguidelines/draftwebpolicy.

Also, following our lengthy school audit, we need to please change passwords on our computer/emails on a regular basis (~3 months). This can be accessed by holding down the Ctrl/Alt/Del keys.

Finally, in order to help IT keep track of how much work they have to do or have done, we are all requested to use the following email address: IT HELP SPH or support@sph.uwa.edu.au

Finance

Bad news: There will be no increase in funds coming through to the School from UWA due to financial constraints, so SPH will have to absorb all salary and other increases itself.

Good news: SPH had already put forward a conservative budget which incorporated minimal increases in income but added in money for our new academic appointments.

SPH will be starting a new strategic planning process and the Finance Committee will now be known as the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee. This new committee will be responsible for the development of a new strategic plan for the School.

The University has embarked on its next Operational Priorities Plan for 2009-2013. Following on from that, the Faculty will complete theirs and then it will be the School’s turn. Input will be sought from the various committees, staff and students.
Achievements:

Awards

Fatima Haggar was awarded a Young Investigators Award at the 11th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery in Yokohama, Japan (September 2-5, 2008), at which she was an invited speaker.

Anura Amarasinghe won a University supplementary travel grant for new academic staff - $750, to attend a conference in Rome.

Richard Riley has been awarded a PhD support grant from the Australian Society of Anaesthetists to assist with data costs and preparation. The title of his project: Predictors of mortality in adult patients following surgery in teaching hospitals in Western Australia; with special reference to the classification scale of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

WA Anaesthetists will be surveyed to assess the inter-rater agreement in assessing ASA (American Society of Anesthesiologists) physical status scores. Linked data from teaching hospitals in Western Australia will be analysed to relate actual ASA scores, and other variables, to 30-day postoperative mortality. The ASA scale is a simple 6-point ordinal scale in widespread use that allows anaesthetists to assign a number to each patient scheduled for anaesthesia.

Achievements:

Publications

Fatima Haggar
Two papers reported results from colorectal surgery patients: 1) One assessed the impact of extraction incisions lengths on the short term postoperative outcomes of laparoscopic colorectal surgery patients and; 2) the other paper identified risks factors associated with intraoperative complications and conversion in laparoscopic colorectal surgery patients and the effect of surgical experience on these outcomes. A third paper discussed results from a survey of Canadian opinion leaders in paraesophageal hernia surgery.

Richard Riley
has edited a book entitled “Manual of Simulation in Healthcare” which was published last week by Oxford University Press.

Medical simulation is a relatively new science that is achieving respectability among healthcare educators worldwide. Simulation and skills centers have become established to integrate simulation into mainstream education in all medical, nursing, and paramedical fields. Borrowing from the experience and methodologies of industries that are using simulation, medical educators are grappling with the problem of rapidly acquiring the skills and techniques required to implement simulation programmes into established curricula.

A Manual of Medical Simulation assists both novice and experienced workers in the field in learning from established practitioners in medical simulation, which has been used to enhance the educational experience in a diverse range of fields; therefore a wide variety of disciplines are represented.

The book begins with a section on the logistics of establishing a simulation and skills center and the inherent problems with funding, equipment, staffing and course development, and promotion. Section one deals with simulations and related training devices that are required to equip a stand-alone center. The features, strengths, and weaknesses of each mannequin or model are presented to help the reader find the appropriate simulator to fulfill their training requirements. There is a guide on producing body fluids, smoke, and various medical props that can enhance the training experience. The third section covers adult education and it reviews the steps required to develop courses that comply with best practice in medical education. Teaching skills, facilitation problembased learning groups, and debriefing techniques are especially important to multidisciplinary skills centres that find themselves becoming intrinsic to medical education. The manual concludes with guides for the major specialties that use simulation, including the military, paediatrics, CPR and medical response teams, obstetrics, and anaesthesia.

• Contains practical material that will help the novice get started while avoiding common pitfalls sometimes seen with medical simulation
• Includes principles of adult education and techniques to develop workshops, scenarios, PBLs and teaching clinical skills
Achievements: Publications ctd

Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as quite an improvement.


Singapore School report

Dear SPH colleagues,

I would like to briefly share my experience from the UWA Singapore School, which was held for the first time, in July of this year. I attended the five-day Advanced Course in Linked Data Analysis conducted by Professor D’Arcy Holman. After having arrived at the hotel on Sunday evening, I met David Preen, D’Arcy Holman and John Woods in the hotel lobby on Monday morning. From there it was a 10 minute walk to the PSB Academy in the ‘lovely’ Singapore humidity which resulted in us jockeying for position under the classroom air conditioner after we arrived. David (the pillar of strength and masculinity that he is) vowed to take a cab to the Academy from then on, whilst I decided to endure the heat by walking slower the next morning, hoping it would cause less perspiration.

The classroom soon began to fill; with Fatima Haggar, Nita Sodhi, Jahar Choudhury from the University of Queensland, three Singaporeans, and two academics from South Australia arriving. When D’Arcy began his lectures he started and ended every lecture by showing us various photos from his travels around the world. All were very interesting and gave us a fun break from the concentration required for the study topic. I was especially impressed (being an Icelander) to see a photo of a waterfall in Iceland, a waterfall that I had in fact not seen myself.

The week passed with lectures in the morning and computer sessions in the afternoon. We all worked hard during the computer sessions (although some people worked harder than others); one of the Singaporeans completed all the exercises on two statistical packages. Having only completed the exercises in SAS and with almost no experience in STATA or SPSS, I was quite impressed. I am sure that I am not only speaking for myself when I say that we all found the course extremely valuable. The course certainly has provided me with instrumental knowledge for my work here at SPH.
Towards the end of the week, on Thursday evening, we decided to go out for dinner as a group (see picture). I booked a table in a restaurant in Chijmes, a former boarding school with an absolutely stunning courtyard. There we learned that Katherine Teng, our very own SPH PhD student, had been a student in that very same boarding school (it truly is a small world). Apart from the fact that at least three stray cats (two without a tail) circled our dinner table it was an enjoyable time and nice to have a chance to socialise with and see a different side to people from work. Looking back to this week in Singapore; packed with lectures, computer sessions, lunches and dinners; I have to say that I found the trip to be very enjoyable, from both a professional and personal perspective.

By Kristjana Einarsdottir

Visitors to SPH

2008 Healthway Visiting Follows Program

June was an exciting and busy month for C_BEH as we were privileged to host Professor Ichiro Kawachi and Associate Professor SV Subramanian as part of the 2008 Heathway Visiting Fellows Program. Professor Kawachi is one of the world’s most eminent social epidemiologists, with interests in social determinants of health and neighbourhood contextual influences on health. Dr Subramanian, who also has interests in neighbourhood-level factors explaining health, is a leading expert on multilevel modeling techniques.

As part of their visits, short courses on ‘Social Determinants of Health’ and ‘Introduction to Multilevel Modeling’ were held at UWA, and these were well attended by over 100 policy makers, workers in health promotion, academics and post-graduate students from across Perth. Several public lectures were also given, and the C_BEH team had the opportunity to meet informally with Ichiro and Subu to discuss individual research projects throughout their visit.

Hosting Professor Kawachi and Dr Subramanian has been a highlight of the year for C_BEH and we are enormously grateful to Healthway for providing us with the opportunity.
Conferences and travel

Fatima Haggar was an invited speaker at the 11th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery in Yokohama, Japan (September 2-5, 2008).

Two additional abstracts posters were accepted at the Canadian Surgery Forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Fatima is the first author for both posters but one of her co-authors will be presenting it on her behalf. The Forum abstracts were published in “The Canadian Journal of Surgery”, Volume 51, Supplement, August 2008.

Anura Amarasinge attended 7th European Conference on Health Economics (ECHE) Rome, Italy, July 23-26 (http://www.echeroma2008.eu/who/) and presented the following paper:


Anura also visited Population Health Intervention Research Centre, University of Calgary, Canada. had meetings with one of our collaborators, Professor Alan Shiell, and gave a presentation to their research group:

Amarasinghe A., 2008 Cost-effectivness of urban design as a means of reducing physical inactivity in Perth Australia. Population Health Intervention Research Centre, University of Calgary, Canada, 17th July.

July in Sunny Spain

I attended the Mundos de Mujeres 2008 (Women’s Worlds 2008) International Interdisciplinary conference for women in Madrid Spain in July. Madrid as a conference city was stunning with fine, warm weather daily and new foods to sample!! The venue for the conference was Universidad Complutense de Madrid (which roughly translated, I think, means Central University of Madrid), which has an enrolment of 130,000 students – enormous by Australian standards. This conference brought together academics and non-academics from countries across the globe culminating in 7 days of paper, video and auditory presentations and cultural and social events. The conference organization was a huge undertaking with more than 2,800 papers being presented in addition to plenary and semi-plenary sessions.

I presented 2 papers at the conference relating to international work I have been undertaking with colleagues in Canada, Afghanistan, Thailand and Bangladesh examining family and domestic violence health policy communities in the respective countries. These presentations also allowed networking with researchers working in similar areas in the USA, Malaysia as well as other parts of Australia with the view for future collaboration.

The conference also provided the opportunity for members of our research team from the five countries to meet in person and plan for our ongoing collaboration.

Such a productive way to spend 10 days in the middle of the Australian winter!!

By Colleen Fisher
PHPS: Upcoming seminar workshops

Hello All

As promised, PHPS has organised a series of in-house training workshops this semester. Their very first workshop went very well: Gavin Pereira presented “An Introduction to Bootstrapping”

Description: If you have ever experienced difficulty summarising or analysing non-Normal data, pulled your hair out while attempting to compute simple measures of dispersion (such as the standard deviation) for a simple statistic (such as the median), or have acted under temporary insanity after trying to compute an interval estimate (like a confidence interval) for the ‘middle’ of a skewed distribution then the Bootstrap technique is for you! This technique is simple to perform and can be applied in a wide variety of situations. This seminar/workshop is aimed at my fellow postgraduate students and junior staff and will provide a basic introduction to the Bootstrap by example.

The next workshop is also related to statistical analysis. The speaker, Dr Ruliang Pan, is a Biostatistician accredited by Statistical Society of Australian Inc. He has been extensively involved in applying alternative statistical tools in Zoology, Biology and Human Biology through his work in China, Australia and South Africa, and has published widely.

Topic: Discriminant Function Analysis

Date/ Time: 30th Sept 2008 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Room 5

Discriminant function analysis (DFA) is one of the multivariate analyses widely used in biology. Its function is to categorize the groups based on a series of variables; reveal the variables that are more useful in categorizing; and depict the relationship between the groups studied. Compared with the other multivariate analyses, such as Cox, Multiple and Logistic regressions, DFA is, however, less used in epidemiology. Thus, the purpose of the seminar is to help understand the function of DFA; show how it can be used to explore different databases; and discuss its application in population health and other areas.

So please join us for this interesting presentation. Light snacks will follow!

Other upcoming workshops will include:

1) Getting started with R (14th October)

2) Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and the RevMan Software (28th October)

3) Data Collection and Management Methods and ACCESS software (TBA)

We hope that these fora will provide a ‘learning exchange’, in which we can explore issues, enhance our research skills and learn from each other. This will also be a great opportunity for you to meet your fellow postgraduate students and junior staff. So please join us in seminar room three from 12:30 pm.

Please see the PHPS website for more information on upcoming seminars and workshops!

Kind regards

Nita Sodhi

11am Tuesday Seminar Series

The 11am Tuesday Seminars are growing in popularity and to build on this success our coordinator is keen to offer a diversity of topics. Thus far we have enjoyed research proposals, mid-project updates, post-submission results and advice from specialists for potential researchers. In the coming months we will offer more “How to...” seminars covering methodology, we’ll welcome our first visiting international speaker and, hopefully, our first poster session.

If you have a poster stored electronically please send it to Nita Sodhi and, on a mutually agreeable Tuesday, presenters will take fifteen-minute turns to introduce their posters. We have one so far and are looking for another two. Likewise, if you have a paper in preparation, a conference presentation to practice for, or results to submit, please e-mail Nita Sodhi to share your work with the school on a Tuesday.

SPH Seminar Series - 11am Seminar Room 3

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<td>Factors influencing immunisation in children of Aboriginal families in the South Metropolitan Area Health Service</td>
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<td>7-Oct</td>
<td>Katherine Teng</td>
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**Book Review**

How to Write A Lot by Paul Silvia  
published by the American Psychological Association

This book is an easy read and provides an easy formula for more productive writing. The author provides a number of tips:  

1. Allocate non-negotiable time for writing i.e. in the same way that you would teach from 8-10am, set aside a non-negotiable writing period from say 8-10am and stick to it - don’t start the ‘writing’ session by reading emails first - turn off the email and focus on writing.

2. Use this time to progress any aspect of writing manuscripts or writing grants e.g. reviewing papers, data analysis, reviewing reviewers’ comments. However, one key to success is setting writing goals for each writing session.

3. Keep a record of your writing sessions and whether or not you met your writing goals.

4. Form a writing support group and on a weekly basis (maybe over coffee) review past and future writing goals.

The book is an easy read, peppered with amusing stories about the author’s love of coffee, his dog and quirky analyses of the tips he provides from a psychologists perspective (he works in an University Psychology Department)... he doesn’t take himself too seriously. Nevertheless, it is a handy book and worth reading.

By Billie Giles-Corti
Short Training Course successful at Women’s Hospital of Zhejiang University

Professor Holman successfully gave a two-day short course on Clinical Research Methods on 26-27 April this year at the Women’s Hospital of Zhejiang University, a sister university of The University of Western Australia in southeast China, under an honour invitation from the hospital director Professor Xie. This short course attracted over 80 professors, specialists and clinical doctors, PhD and research students from the University’s teaching hospitals and the School of Public Health, which included attendance by professors from Dalian Medical University in northeast China. English-Chinese languages lecture notes were provided and Dr Zhang acted as an interpreter. The course was warmly welcomed by the participants.

The Women’s Hospital reported Professor Holman’s training course on the University’s and Hospital’s public websites and in newspapers. Their report described the course as being extremely practical with the latest theories in clinical research. They highly praised the course as it provided a new research foundation and a continuous base for the future. Participants benefited by receiving updated research knowledge and by broadening their research perspectives. These photos are adopted from their original report.

As the School of Population Health’s International Director, Professor Holman is leading the strategic priority on several fronts in international collaboration. He was awarded Permanent Guest Professor status at the School of Medicine of Zhejiang University in 2006. Several collaborative research projects have been conducted in cancer prevention between the School of Population Health, The University of Western Australia and Zhejiang University since 2004. This collaboration is expected to be extended in the future.

By Min Zhang
Group profile: The SPH Busselton Health Study research group

The target population for the Busselton Health Study is the residents of the Shire of Busselton in the South-west of Western Australia. Over the period since 1966 there have been 8 cross-sectional surveys of adults, 6 cross-sectional surveys of school children, and 2 major follow-up surveys involving a total of 16,008 Busselton residents.

The Busselton Health Study research group in the School of Population Health manages and maintains the Busselton Health Study database and website on behalf of the Busselton Population Medical Research Foundation.

The group includes Matthew Knuiman, Mark Divitini and Graham Maier. Matthew and Mark have been associated with the Busselton health Study for more than 15 years. Graham took over from Helen Bartholomew as database manager and programmer in 2006.

The website is http://bsn.uwa.edu.au/ and provides information on the governance, surveys, and research projects.

The research group collaborates with several other Busselton Health Study researchers from UWA and beyond in analysing the accumulated data for research projects in respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and more. Many analyses involve the use of hospital admissions, cancer registrations and deaths (now obtained from the WA Department of Health Data Linkage Unit) that participants have experienced since attending their first survey. The group also supports new surveys with selecting samples, tracking previous participants, developing recruitment monitoring databases, and receiving and integrating new data into the main database.

Members of this group have been a Chief Investigator on 11 successful NHMRC research project grants and co-authors of 45 peer-reviewed research articles since 1990.

Musings

Winning the title of PhD in Norway

Last week I was one of two external examiners for a PhD thesis for Bergen University, Norway. The process is a formal one. There is a formal procession of the Evaluation Committee led by the Dean dressed in his academic gown into a lecture theatre to commence a three hour Defense. This involved the ‘First Opponent’ i.e. me, grilling the candidate for two hours before a short break, after which the ‘Second Opponent’ (from Finland) took over and was expected to grill the candidate for another hour. It was quite an experience: these Vikings do it tough! The Defense took place in front of a crowd of around 50 and during the preliminaries, the Committee Chair encouraged the Opponents to make the Defense ‘interesting’ because the spectators always enjoyed a more challenging Defense rather than an easy one. After the formalities were over, the Dean announced that the Committee was satisfied with the Candidate’s performance and congratulated her on her performance and then there was a Department party at which the Head of School congratulated the both the Opponents and the Candidate on their performances. That evening there was another party hosted by the Candidate (which finished in the wee small hours of the morning), attended by the Dean, the Head of School and all of the lecturers and students, at which there was another round of speeches congratulating the Candidate and the Opponents. It was quite an event marked by rigour and celebration. Although I wouldn’t suggest we move to an oral defense, I thought the celebratory aspects of the completion of the PhD was something we could learn from - the PhD process is challenging and celebrating the successes of the candidate and this “coming of age” is definitely worth considering.

By Billie Giles-Corti
Health Science Ball

*****Health Science Ball tickets are on sale today*****

HSS Committee members will be selling Health Science Ball tickets from today.

Friday 3rd October
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle
7pm - 12am

HSS Members:$100
Non-members: $105

Tickets will be selling fast so be quick to form your tables of 10.

If you would like a ticket, please contact the Student Life VP, Gemma Rosato via email on: rosatg01@student.uwa.edu.au to secure your ticket today!

We hope to see you all there.

Gemma Rosato, Student Life VP
Social Committee news
(Pop Goss)

Gail’s Farewell

We saw the end of an era when we bid farewell to Gail Earl, who retired after 28 years with SPH in its various incarnations. Many turned out to see her off and many more would have liked to. Speeches, poetry, gifts, hilarity, lunch, champagne, cake and teaspoons ensued.

Her partner in crime was a lady named Beth, The office would ring with gossip and laughter. When chasing the high life vivacious Beth left We knew Gail wouldn’t be long following after.

All work and no play makes Gail a dull girl Therefore socials and sports are a must, Parties and functions are arranged by Mrs Whirl Keep up or you’re left in her dust.

When it comes footy the Dockers are it They’re the only team in town, If you love the Eagles, don’t go to visit, You’ll only be met with a frown.

If the team are not doing really well The grandchildren are the winners They are the focus of Gail’s life Till the Dockers are back being grinners.

We know at languages you do excel But we’ve come to the end of our rant, Au revoir, Auf Wiedersehen, Zai jian, Farewell We’ll miss you Unser Kommandant.

ODE TO THE KOMMANDANT

Back in the days before Pop Health Life at St Hilda’s was fun but hectic While the knowledge bank held a store of wealth Gail also was very athletic.

As time went by and this young girl grew There was a feeling that she should fly With her surname of Sparrow what else could she do? Gail became a hostess and took to the sky.

Miss Sparrow was then up for the test To find the right man for a girl, To build themselves a family nest, Gail married a dashing, young Earl.

Pop Health became her work on the ground While the family continued to grow We all sit up when emails come round Showing Gail’s name in the FROM: row

She started as PA to Matthew Knuiman To his life as Head she brought order She showed such a flair that she quickly out-grewed him, And extended her skill to be SPH warder

From storerooms to kitchens, socials and orders, Fridges, drawers, credit cards and accounts, Don’t step over the line or try to cross borders, When it comes to stock or spending amounts.

Fundraising for SPH Christmas Party

In between fundraising for other worthy causes, charity chocolates will be provided to continue to meet the urgent chocolate-related medicinal requirements of staff and students and to help subsidise the SPH Christmas party ... so buy up!

Upcoming events: Melbourne Cup!

The next event to be organised by your loving Social Club is the Melbourne Cup Luncheon, which will take place on Tuesday 4 November 2008. This is likely to take the form of a ‘bring a dish and wear a fabulous hat’ format but more details will be following soon.
Brand new people

Introducing Taha
There is a new boy in town – Taha ("someone who is seeking truth") – was born on September 4th into the Tabatabaei family and all are doing well. So far Taha is behaving himself – sleeping, feeding and settling well so mum is not totally sleep deprived, hope it continues this way.

He has lots of beautiful hair. Mehdi’s thoughts regarding hair: “my experience shows that they would not last that long. Once you get married you would start losing them all.”

Introducing Mia
Hayley Christian completed her PhD on dog ownership and physical activity in December 2007, one day before her daughter Mia Christian was due (fortunately she arrived late!) Hayley achieved a Distinction grade for her PhD and examiners were very impressed by her understanding of this still new field of research. Before commencing her PhD, Hayley was the foundation RESIDE coordinator. Her contribution to RESIDE in laying down the foundation for a cutting-edge project was immeasurable.

Introducing Noah
Bridget Beesley is the RESIDE project’s senior GIS analyst. Bridget joined the team in April 2007 and has been responsible for putting together all of RESIDE’s measures of the neighbourhood environment. Bridget gave birth to baby Noah in July after 30 hours of labour! The RESIDE team would like to congratulate Bridget and husband Bryan on their first child and thank Bridget on the enormous amount of work she did before going on maternity leave. Hopefully Bridget will be back next year on a part-time basis.
Housekeeping

The recycle bin for the kitchen has been delivered and a new rubbish bin has now been provided. Please separate your rubbish into recyclables and not: the instructions are on the recycling bin.

In the spirit of the greener SPH, Cleaning Services have said that free of charge they will provide small bins for all staff to put under their desks for recycling. Please let Annette know if you would like a recycling bin for your office.

Science joke du jour

Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One turns to the other and says, “I think I’ve lost my electron.”

The other asks, “Are you sure?”

“Yes,” says the first. “I’m positive.”

Youtube du jour

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hnG2op4kY
HEALTH SCIENCE BALL

Friday 3rd October 2008
7pm—12am
Southern Cross Gala Ballroom,
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle

Live entertainment
Two course meal & drinks
Formal Attire

Members:$100 NonMembers:$105

Tickets on sale now from HSS committee members