Head of School’s message

Dear Colleagues,

Christmas offers a time for deliberation on the year ahead and reflection on the year past.

On deliberation...In 2012 we will face further challenges and opportunities but we are well placed to succeed consummately across all areas of the School. Our School will be larger and more diverse. We will adopt a new name, embrace the potential provided by our multidisciplinary constitution and strengthen our intra-School collaborations. Each of our disciplines will also build further links nationally and internationally to continue and develop our excellence in teaching and research. In 2012 our Faculty will progress its restructure and continue development of the new medical degree, both of which hold some uncertainties but also further potential for our School. UWA will have a new VC, the new course structure will come into effect, ERA 2012 will challenge but not defeat us and we’ll produce another Nobel Prize winner! (Anything is possible.)

And on reflection....It’s been a great year. 2011 has been a time of rapid change, but we have come through it with flying colours.

Matthew bequeathed the HOS mantle in July. He led us through some tough obstacles during the preceding three years, sometimes at considerable cost to his own predilection, but he was unwavering in his commitment to the School. Matthew continues to contribute enormously across teaching research and service, and has been an invaluable support through the HOS transition. Next year he will take a well-earned sabbatical for part of the year. So on behalf of everyone - once again - thank you Matthew.

We did learn a fundamental truth in 2011. That feeling that each year is passing progressively more quickly than the last was ultimately substantiated - the universe is not only expanding, but the process is speeding up. I knew it – though I’m not sure if this is an encouraging insight - our time here on earth was already inconsequential enough in the overall context of the universe.... But I digress.

The real reason that 2011 was such a great year is that we can look back and take genuine pride not only in our achievements, which would be gratification enough, but perhaps even more importantly, also in the culture that resides among the hearts and minds of the staff of SPH. Along with the highly acclaimed expertise there is teamwork, conviviality and mutual consideration of each other that makes coming to work each day both a pleasure and an honourable commitment. Maybe it’s the type of work we do that draws such a congenial group together – or maybe it’s something in the water – but it is a great place to be.

So thank you to all of you for your support in 2011. I am very grateful for the cooperation that I have enjoyed these last months, and thanks especially to Colleen and Peta who are pivotal in maintaining a steady course and who have shown commitment well beyond the call of duty. I wish everyone a safe and joyous festive season and I look forward to us all working together again next year.

Liz

PS - I thought I would leave you with a few quotes that will likely resonate with experiences throughout 2011.

For example – you have sent out a recent submission and you are waiting for review....

“I can take any amount of criticism as long as its unqualified praise”  
Noel Coward

Or on those days when the writing just isn’t happening:

“I was working on a proof of one of my poems all the morning, and took out a comma. In the afternoon I put it back in.”  Oscar Wilde

We’ve all been there – we’ve all slowed down. Just don’t stop pedaling.

And a reminder not to lose the creativity in the pursuit of science:

“I admit that twice two makes four is an excellent thing, but if we are to give everything its due, twice two makes five is sometimes a very charming thing too.”  Fyodor Dostoyevsky

And for the real innovators amongst us:

“A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds.”  Mark Twain

(Being a crank is absolutely ok.)

And finally:

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every New Year find you a better man.”  Benjamin Franklin
Staff changes - New faces

**Desley Hegney**

Joining the School as Winthrop Professor in Nursing. Her position is jointly funded by SCGH and she has responsibilities as nursing discipline leader in the School/Faculty and for providing nursing research leadership at SCGH. Desley’s position has a strong focus on developing nursing research and research training in both the School/Faculty and at SCGH. Desley is coming from a position as Director of Research at the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She has broad interests including nurse-led models of chronic disease management, the transition from home to residential care, and rural nursing practice.

**Vicki Drury**

Joins the School as 0.6 FTE Associate Professor in Nursing. Vicki is also coming from a position at NUS. Prior to this, she has held teaching and research academic positions at Curtin University, Murdoch University, and Edith Cowan University and her PhD is from Monash University. Her research areas include self-management of long term conditions, ophthalmology and mental health.

**Eva Malacova**

Commenced here as a Research Assistant Professor with the Centre for Health Services Research. She has several years experiences of working with linked data and previously worked as a Research Fellow at Curtin University, and as a researcher and statistician in not-for-profit organisations (Cambridge Assessment, United Kingdom, and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Western Australia) and the Government (Department of Education and Training, Western Australia).

**Diane Arnold-Reed**, BSc (Hons) Biology and PhD (Physiology), joined the Centre for Health Services Research in September 2011. Diane trained in the UK (University of Manchester) and since coming to Australia has worked at Macquarie University and previously at the Schools of Physiology, Psychiatry and Population Health at UWA. She has over the past 6 years worked at the School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame as Foundation Year 1 co-ordinator, PBL tutor and as Associate Professor in the General Practice and Primary Health Care Research (GP&PHCR) Unit. Diane has a number of NHMRC, Commonwealth and Pfizer grants to her credit. She is currently working with David Preen on “Improving the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ex-prisoners: a mixed methods study” (HiP Aus Study) and hopes to combine her previous research projects and interests developed through the GP&PHCR Unit with those at CHSR.

Congratulations - PhinisheD!

**Karen Villanueva submitted**

Congratulations to Karen Villanueva who submitted her PhD on October 6th 2011. She is relieved to have finally reached this milestone, and is thoroughly enjoying guilt-free sleep-ins and some time off. She is currently working part-time for CBEH while completing papers.

As much as she loves CBEH, her plans for post-PhD life include more travels, with the hope of working abroad as a research fellow. By Jan van der Heyden

It has been a great year for submissions and completions. Others who have submitted and whom we hope are enjoying their guilt-free sleep-ins and reading un-improving literature include **Marion Kicket, Clemencia Rodriguez, Mary-Anne Measey, Janet Payne**

Passed with minor corrections are **Matthew Legge and Qun Mai** and fully completed are **Dr Gavin Pereira, Dr Lucy Lewis. Dr Gemma Cadby, Dr Carl Schneider and Dr Annette Fedson**.

Brilliant work everyone!

Farewell

Dear Colleagues

A note of sincere thanks for such a memorable send off, for Matthew and Fiona for their very kind words, to Lisa Wood and for CBEH team for their creative gifts and the School for the wonderful painting which will take pride of place on my wall. The evening was very special, and my sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in organizing, particularly Maggie Woloszyn who I know played a key role behind the scenes.

It has been a big decision to leave the School and particularly the CBEH team. I’m certainly going to miss you all. However, this is not goodbye and I’m looking forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincere thanks and best wishes

Billie

Guess who got to meet the queen?

On a bit of a ‘shiny’/’gee whiz’ note, our very own Anne McKenzie was not only invited to attend a meeting at CHOGM but also met (and shook hands with) the queen! I am not a monarchist but even I think that is pretty amazing.

David
Inaugural Cohort of Master of Nursing Science students

Our first cohort of Master of Nursing Science students completed their course requirements in July 2011. Congratulations to these students and to the Academics in the nursing program for reaching this important milestone.

As the local media put it, “Sixteen mature-age students from The University of Western Australia are celebrating their success having made the decision to change their career choice and become the first to complete a two-year full-time degree course to become Registered Nurses. UWA’s Master of Nursing Science, developed in response to a desperate shortage of nurses both nationally and internationally, accepts graduates who have completed a first degree from any educational background.

Melanie Montgomery (31) was an Arts graduate (Politics, Philosophy and Sociology) with a Postgraduate Diploma in Research Methods before deciding to pursue nursing.

“I enjoyed working in research, but I wanted to do something more practical. I know there are opportunities to do research in nursing, so in the future I might combine clinical work and research.

“I now have a one year graduate position at Fremantle Hospital to gain clinical experience which will help me decide which specialty to go into.

“I enjoyed studying with other mature age students and I made some good friends during the course. I also found the wide variety of clinical placements really interesting and rewarding,” Melanie said.

Course Coordinator Associate Professor Rosemary Saunders said the Master of Nursing Science course had provided students with the preparation needed to meet the challenge of care delivery in a changing environment.

As part of this intensive and comprehensive degree these graduates have undertaken over 800 hours of clinical practice in the course including during the summer and winter university breaks in the acute, paediatric, mental health, community, aged care and rural sectors, as well as interprofessional clinical placements. Two students were also able to participate in a clinical practicum to Tanzania as part of the Western Australia Department of Health Global Health Alliance,” Associate Professor Saunders said.

The first cohort of 16 graduates range in age from 26 to 50 years and have come from a diverse range of backgrounds including Arts, Commerce, Education, Medicine and Science.

The new UWA Masters of Nursing Science graduates have gained employment in Graduate Nurse programs at Princess Margaret, Hollywood, Fremantle, Sir Charles Gairdner, Royal Perth and Graylands Hospitals.
WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards

The School, with UWA, sponsored the Aboriginal Health Category in the 2011 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards this year. The winner was Susan Walker from Hedland Health campus, pictured below with some of the SPH Nursing team on the night.
Congratulations Professor David Preen

David Preen promoted to Professor

My promotion application was successful if that is something that is worth adding to the newsletter (?)

Kind regards,

David

HDR Publication Prize to Terry Boyle

Dear Colleagues

Please join me in congratulating Terry Boyle on winning a UWA Higher Degree by Research publication prize.

Terry’s journal article, ‘Long—Term Sedentary Work and the risk of Subsite-specific Colorectal Cancer’, in American Journal of Epidemiology, was judged to be the best publication in the Clinical Medicine & Dentistry discipline group panel.

Matthew

Grant successes

Pilot grant

Dear SPHers

I’d like to congratulate Min Zhang, and also Frank Sanfilippo, adjunct Max Bulsara and Anne McKenzie as AI consumer advocate, for their fine work in securing the following grant to pilot an encapsulated green tea extract and leukaemia trial in collaboration with the SCGH Haematology Care Centre. The 1-year pilot should position the group well in the 2013 grant rounds in a bid for a major RCT.


D’Arcy

Grants


CBEH Research Fellowships

New Fellowships were awarded in November to Hayley Christian and Sarah Foster

Hayley Christian

Year: 2012-2015

Title: Exploring the potential for built environment intervention to improve
A few more highlights of 2011:

Congratulations Mike Hobbs

Dear colleagues.

Thankyou for the party on Tuesday morning and for your kind wishes. Thankyou, Matthew for your generous words. Thanks also for the birthday card, the birthday cake and the music tokens, which I will use very carefully.

More than that, my sincere thanks to so many colleagues, past and present, with whom I have had the pleasure of working and from whom I have learnt so much since (according to our leader’s impeccable calculations) April 6th 1970.

Michael Hobbs

Congratulations Di Valli

Di had her last chemo on 19 May - and has been screened as all clear. Judging by the extremely loud cheer down the phone she is quite ecstatic.

Congratulations Professor Jane Heyworth

Dr Jane Heyworth joined UWA and the School of Population Health in 2000 as a Level B teaching and research academic and was promoted to Level C in 2005. I have just been formally advised that Jane has now been promoted to Level D (Professor). Please join me in congratulating Jane on this well deserved promotion.

Throughout her tenure at UWA, and especially over the last 5 years, Dr Heyworth has made an outstanding and exceptional contribution to teaching and learning. She has been a leader in curriculum development (eg health science degree and the new population health major in the new BSc), is innovative in her design and delivery of units (eg international field trip to India as health science elective unit), undertakes research into teaching and learning (three T&L grants 2008-2010; a peer-reviewed article 2009 and 5 conference papers since 2005), is a regular contributor to the Foundations of University Teaching and Learning program, coordinated and was primary author of the submission to the Review of Health Science degree in 2007, consistently obtains excellent SPOTs, is a sought-after mentor by PhD teaching interns and junior teaching staff, and her efforts and achievements have been recognised by four teaching and learning awards in 2009 and 2010. She has been nominated by UWA for the 2011 Australian Teaching and Learning Council Awards for teaching Excellence in the category of Biological Science, Health and Related Studies.

In addition, over the last 5 years, despite her heavy administrative load, she has also made significant contributions to research and research training. Jane leads a research program in environmental epidemiology. She has developed and been successful in winning 2 substantial NHMRC project grants as lead chief investigator (ie CIA) totalling $1M and is a co-chief investigator of two other NHMRC grants and an ARC Linkage grant, in addition to several smaller grants. From 2005 she has 29 refereed journal articles. Jane is recognized at state, national and international level as an expert in environmental health and epidemiology. She has supervised to completion 3 PhD, one Masters by research and 6 Honours/Masters dissertation candidates since 2005 and currently supervises 8 research students.

And finally, Jane’s service contributions within the university have been substantial over the last 5 years. Student and peer comments indicate that her performance as Sub-Dean of Health Science has been outstanding; I constantly receive favourable reports about Jane’s support for individual students, student bodies, and the development and administration of the health science degree. Within the school she has been an active contributor to the major committees, the development of the school strategic plan, and often volunteers to represent School and Faculty at open days and other community outreach events. She was the UWA ERA steward for the Public and Allied Health category in 2010 and is Deputy Head of School Feb-July 2011. Her significant service record was recognised by the School when she won the 2010 School Citizenship award. Jane is thus a terrific all-round performer and her promotion is well deserved.

By Matthew
Our 4th Year Health Promotion Students ran the UWA Health Day on Oak Lawn back in May. Many thanks to the students and staff that came to support the successful Health Day 2011. Activity and interest was fast and furious as early as 11.30 and continued well into the lunch break at all four Health Stalls.

Pledges to quit smoking and help others quit, petitions for Centre link on UWA campus and an increase in late night public transport in Northbridge area, myth busting about smoking, make your own stress ball, a relax tent, taster samples of Mocktails, alcohol quiz and bicycle check-up service were just some of the interactive activities the students put on for the benefit of UWA students. Serious issues of reducing road crashes, increasing active travel (cycle) to UWA, promoting positive mental health and supporting the UWA smoke free campus were on the agenda.

The students did an excellent job and were supported by the Health Science Society that put on the Healthy BBQ – they sold out before I could try so it must have been a success!

Well done to all the students involved, you’ve done a great health day and represented the School of Population Health very well.

By Fiona Bull

HSA Quiz night - over $2,500 raised

Many thanks to the 150 people who came out to support the UWA Health Science Alumni last night in our Charity Quiz Night in support of SANE Australia.

And a very big thank you to the team behind the quiz night Adrian Koh, Vicky Gray, Tom Moreton, Kendall Hutchinson and Gemma Rosato who did a fantastic job and without them the night would not have been possible!!

With your generosity our total profits were $2505.10. As planned ½ of ticket sale profits will go to HSA and the other ½ to SANE Australia. We will also be donating ALL raffle money to SANE. Therefore, having raised $555.10 in the raffle & donations, we will be donating $1530.10 in total to SANE Australia. These proceeds will greatly assist:

• SANE information and advice services – the SANE Helpline, www.sane.org and educational programs.
• 1800 18 SANE(7263) is Australia’s only specialist national Freecall Helpline for people concerned about mental illness. This professional, confidential service provides information, advice and referrals to people with mental illness or their family members.

The remaining $975 will be donated to UWA HSA which will help them:
• Support future events and activities for their members and the wider community
• Provide scholarships for members where workplaces may not be able to afford to send them to PD events
• Establish a mentor program between new graduates and industry representatives

Finally, thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors, in particular to our hosts The Charles Hotel, North Perth! Please support them!

By Ania Stasinska

HSS Cocktail Night

The winners for three award categories were announced at the HSS Cocktail Function. Well done to HSS for putting on such a lovely evening!

The Health Science Community Achievement Award, presented on behalf of the Health Science Alumni.

This award is for outstanding leadership, consistent academic progress, contribution to student life and enthusiasm for public health and the Health Science degree.

• Congratulations to the winner Saifuddin Essajee and to Rachel Dennis for receiving a High Commendation.
• Well done to the other outstanding nominees: Andrea Jansen Van Rensburg, Fiona Chambers and Rosellini Alvino.

The Postgraduate Academic and Community Achievement Award, presented on behalf of the Population Health Postgraduate Society.

This award is in recognition of academic and community achievements whilst undertaking postgraduate studies at The UWA School of Population Health.

• Congratulations to the winner Sandra Louise.
• Well done to the other outstanding nominees: Andrea Nathan and Sarah Ward

The Excellence in Teaching/Student Support Award, presented on behalf of the Health Science Society.

This is for displaying outstanding leadership, knowledge, organisation
and enthusiasm for teaching; and for being a wonderful support to students and enhancing their experience in Public Health and the Health Science degree.

- Congratulations to the winner Niyi Awofeso

Niyi wasn’t there on the night but said “I have just been informed by Ania Stasinska that, while I was in Sydney attending the “Doctors Without Borders” AGM on Friday 27 May (it wasn’t all work in Sydney though) I was awarded the Health Science Society’s “Excellence in Teaching/Student Support Award” for 2011. It is a great honour, and a pleasant surprise, for me to be nominated by students for a teaching award, especially given my unorthodox teaching style. Please extend my warm regards to all HSS members. The HSS award plaque will have a pride of place in my study room and serve as a constant reminder for me to continue to contribute optimally towards teaching and student support in the School of Population Health.”

Congratulations also to the winners of the “What is Population Health?” student photo competition:

Collages:
Second prize. Fiona Chambers “Improve your health, get active.” (01C)
First prize. Saifuddin Essajee for his “Parks: open spaces, healthy faces” collage. (05C)

Single photos:
Second prize Rachel Jones for her artistic depiction of Zac’s modelling of enthusiasm for exercise and subtle use of guilt to get it. (1).
First prize Melanie Still for her “don’t drink and drive” message (8).

Honourable mentions to Navreen Kular for her pic and excellent paragraph on population health in developing countries (37); Amy Johns for her beautiful photography (especially 39); Ayushi Jain for her gorgeous photo of compassion in action (35); and Amy Johns for her photo of Population Health students having fun while making a difference (44).

Thank you to all students who entered: Rachel Jones, Fiona Chambers, Melanie Still, Hooi Yee Yong, Rossellini Alivio, Ali Radomiljac, Andrea Jansen van Rensburg, Sarah Osborne, Saifuddin Essajee, Ayushi Jain, Sophie Greer, Navreen Kular, Cindy Phuong, Amy Johns and Justin Lam.

By Ania Stasinska

The Health Science Society did an incredible job in organising and running this event. I certainly enjoyed myself very much, and the high level of planning and execution was evident by how smoothly the event ran. Needless to say, this must have taken a lot of hard work from the organisers, who were spotted bustling around making the event a great one while trying to enjoy themselves at the same time.

Thank you very much to the student organisers, as well as the staff who helped make this event a great success as well!

By Ian Li

And then, the OSHA inspector showed up...
Western Desert Kidney Health Project

In August of this year we travelled out to the remote Aboriginal community of Coonana with the Western Desert Kidney Health Project. This three year project was launched in 2010 and is aimed at reducing diabetes and renal disease by 20%, in ten Indigenous Goldfields communities. It comprises of an interdisciplinary team including Aboriginal healthy lifestyle workers, artists, community development workers and medical practitioners, who engage with communities to measure and monitor kidney health, and promote healthy lifestyles through traditional art projects and events such as parades.

For both of us, this was our first insight into rural and remote Australia and the prominent health issues in these settings. We took the Prospector train to Kalgoorlie and were met by Dr Christine Jeffries-Stokes and artist, Steven Alton. Steven told us we would be making a health promotion animation with the children in Coonana and showed us the previous animations made in other Goldfields communities. Feeling excited and anxious, we finally set out for Coonana in a convoy of tailor-made trucks equipped as mobile clinics. Chief Investigator Annette Stokes and her brother Jeffrey (Christine’s husband) were driving and we quickly realised we were in for a special experience when Jeffrey spotted an echidna; he relinquished the potential dinner and we all jumped out for some holiday snaps. Arriving after the two hour trip we settled in quickly and began to meet the community, most of whom are family to Jeffrey and Annette. We spent the first couple of days screening members of the community which involved taking anthropomorphic measures, clinical histories and blood and urine tests in the health truck. In the afternoons we helped Steve at the school with creating sand animation films with the kids. This involved using light boxes, cameras and traditional sand drawing techniques to create an animated film. The kids used local animals (frogs and bats) and landmarks (frog dam) to develop the plot which carried a strong health message.

In our spare time we were taken around the community to visit these sites. Our expeditions varied from yam hunting and cooking and feasting on an emu, to driving out to Cundalee, paddling and floating in Salty Creek and trying out some fresh damper and ‘roo’ tails.

On our final day we paraded around the town with the kids, drumming and calling out healthy tips like “Wandi Sugar Ba!” (No Sugar!). Once everyone were gathered, we presented our findings on the health status of the community and the much anticipated animation made by the local children was premiered. There was a great sense of pride and ownership as the whole community, young and old, were involved in making the project a success.

The experience was inspiring and more valuable than either of us had imagined. We’d highly recommend it to other students and are happy to be contacted by anyone wanting some more information. The animations are accessible from the following site if anyone would like a look: http://www.artshealthfoundation.org.au/westerndesertkidney/about/.

The incredible generosity of the community over the ten days we spent with them has greatly enriched our understanding of life in remote settings. Health issues that we had previously learned about have now been personalised for us and holistic approaches we hadn’t considered brought to our attention.

By Stephanie and Estee
Update from the SPH New South Wales Office

Hello from rainy Sydney! I am very jealous of all the hot weather I hear you are having in Perth. My cat and I left Perth at the end of September and are based in NSW for the next 12-18 months working on linked NSW health data (well I will be, the cat probably won’t help much).

I’m working with David Preen, D’Arcy Holman, Max Bulsara, Anne McKenzie and others, looking at hormone therapy use for early breast cancer. We are using linked state and Commonwealth records for participants in the NSW 45 and Up Study, and it is a Medicare requirement that their data is kept at the Sax Institute in the Sydney. Some of you may know that I spent a year at the Sax Institute in 2008 so it is becoming a home away from home for me.

I am missing home and family, of course, but being in Sydney has its compensations. The Sax Institute is very conveniently located in Chinatown so I am making the most of the amazing food (more dumplings that you could dream of, Bernie!). I love the $3 coffees, daylight saving, free Mx newspapers at Central station, and being able to pop over to the Opera House for a show. I am missing riding my bike to work, sleeping in until 7 am on weekdays, corridor chats to my SPH friends, and lending David Preen double-sided tape.

I usually work from the Sax Institute four days a week and on the other day I am based at the University of Wollongong. I’m a Visiting Research Fellow with the universities’ Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI). IHMRI has a very well-equipped building with every medical resource you can imagine including blood donation rooms, GP consulting rooms, a gym, industrial kitchen for food preparation studies, and two floors of wet labs. During my staff induction I was shown where the resuscitation cart was ‘just in case I have any emergencies with participants’. I assured them that was most unlikely!

Hope to catch you all when I’m back the week before Christmas.

Anna Kemp
Postcards

Below: Start of my trip home. Note the size of the plane and size of the hail. I was soaked and battered by the time I reached the plane. But it was a remarkably smooth flight and thankfully short flight. From Jane.

Above: Jane in her element at the Rainwater harvesting theme park, Bangalore October 2011
Dear Jane,

Thank you for the invitation. Please find attached a photograph of the WHO Executive Board Special Session last week. Below is my blurb.

“As part of my final semester of BHSci/LLB, I am completing my Health Industry Practicum with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. I am working with the Health and Human Rights Team to complete a range of challenging and rewarding tasks. Highlights for me include attending events at the Human Rights Council, writing briefing notes to be sent to WHO Country Offices and sitting in on meetings at missions of WHO Member States. My largest task so far has been contributing towards drafting a legal paper on advancing the realization of the human right to health.

The opportunities to network with passionate experts in the field of public health are truly invaluable. Lunchtime seminars are held daily, ensuring that staff are well-informed of emerging trends in the health sector. Listening to talks on topics such as stem cell research, emergency response and polio eradication is inspirational. There is also a fantastic intern community with people from all over the world. This experience has made me even more determined to pursue a career in health law on an international platform. I would like to thank Professors Jane Heyworth and Colleen Fisher for their advice and support. I am also grateful to UWA Vice-Chancellor, Prof Alan Robson, for the University’s contribution to my trip.”

Kind regards,

Amy
Postcard from the centre of the earth

2011 graduate Peter Buzzacott was in Poland in September presenting research conducted for a PhD here at SPH. After the conference he headed south to the Tatra Mountains for some cave diving. In this photo the flooded passage behind his ankles is about the size of a newspaper, so he is wearing a little tank under each arm. The chocolate-coloured water was freezing, (it was snow-melt), and to reach the next chamber Peter had to crawl along feeling his way, with rock pressed against his back and chest. In February Peter will attempt an Australian deep cave record in Tasmania.

Best of luck Peter. We love you but we think you’re a little bit insane.

IT security message

Given the current climate re: concerns for computer and data security, I suggest you take this message seriously. This is for your own safety and security. Not to mention warmth: the aircon is up way too high over summer and things get chilly.

If your workplace has been determined to be at a low level of risk, the following method is recommended to ensure no one can see your passwords or what you’re typing:

For a moderate level of risk, this method ensures no one can see your passwords, what you’re typing, or which website you’re visiting.....

For a high level of risk, this method ensures ultimate security:

Be safe out there people!

PS Anyone who can knit, here is a new business opportunity
Celebrations
Christina Mills and Tim Davies

Long-time staff member and newly-returned PhD student Christina Mills was beautifully married on 11/11/11. Ably supported by fellow SPHers Kim McAuley, Renee Ferguson and Cassandra Clayforth, most of whom will never speak to her again for supplying the photo below to the SPH News Editors, she was radiant and had a great time... even after she swapped her shoes for sneakers and lost patience with her dress and tried to cut the hem off with scissors. The happy couple honeymooned in South India for three weeks.
Dear All

In warm Italy and about to head out to see Padova for the first time.

Thought you might like to see some photos Marion Collin kindly sent from our day at Lord’s.

There’s a photo of the great Jan Brittain and I, Jan by herself (check her out on cricinfo.com), then Julie Savage (Aussie manager, me, Claudine (My London friend), Marlene from Melbourne and some bloke they let into the Members’ area.

See most of you soon

Love Diane

Walking Challenge. Oh, the humanity.
UWA Staff Fun Sports Day

The 4th Annual Staff Sports day took place on 11 November 2011 in some of the best weather of the year. The 800 strong sports fans were in the newly designed amphitheatre to watch the faculties parade into the arena. The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science were well represented by the School of Population Health with 22 of the 25 faculty team coming from the School. Participants took part in the Bocce, Netball and Soccer teams. Bocce was played in good spirits and enjoyed by everyone that participated. Netball was going well until an opposition player dislocated his knee and everyone was asking the Med and Dent team if they were doctors. The Soccer team went through undefeated after coming from behind to steal a draw in the dying seconds of the first game and obliterating the Financial Services team 4-1 in the second game. The Faculty team also tried their hand at the three legged race with limited success (last by quite a way) and Paul MacMahon came a commendable 7th in the VC’s 100m dash. All in all the day was enjoyed with some social competition and a couple of beers.

Rhett

Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
Introducing the new AEC Chair — Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Holman

UWA’s Chair in Public Health, Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Holman, has been appointed to chair the University’s Animal Ethics Committee. This will commence after Emeritus Professor Craig Atkins retires from the demanding role at the end of 2011.

Professor Holman is an epidemiologist, public health physician and law graduate, whose career has spanned leadership positions across the academic, government, community and private sectors. Prior to his academic career, he was an Assistant Health Commissioner in the WA Government’s Senior Executive Service and has served at the highest levels on both the policy and research arms of the NHMRC. He is a past president of the Cancer Council of WA and is presently independent chair of the state’s Road Safety Council. He is also a company director of Australia’s fourth largest private health insurer (the not-for-profit fund, HBF Health Ltd) and is company chairman of its subsidiary fund, GMFHealthguard.

Professor Holman is also a Permanent Guest Professor at the School of Medicine at Zhejiang University in the People’s Republic of China, and an Honorary Professor at the College of Medicine at Swansea University.

He recently graduated in law with first class honours from Murdoch University, where he received the Francis Burt Chambers Law Medal for the most outstanding academic performance in law. His research interests focus on public health and the evaluation of health care, with published works numbering well over 400 and competitive grant earnings exceeding Au$45 million, although his research has never involved the use of animals.

Professor Holman has received the Centenary Medal of Australia for his services to the Australian health system. His commitment to community and consumer participation in research has been acknowledged by the Excellent Service to Consumers Award of the WA Health Consumers Council. He is also the recipient of Australia’s highest professional honour for lifetime achievement in his field, the Sydney Sax Public Health Medal.

The Animal Ethics Office is looking forward to working with Professor Holman and members of the 2012 Animal Ethics Committee to further strengthen and facilitate the operation of the UWA’s ethical standards framework for the use of animals in research.

PHPS update

2011 has been a busy year for the PHPS, with lots of activities keeping us busy!

PHPS Postgrad Research Symposium

The PHPS symposium was held again this year, giving postgrads within the School an opportunity to practise their presentation skills in a non-threatening environment, gaining valuable feedback and share their research. The day was a great success and the PHPS would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the event. Attendees at the morning session heard presentations on the wide variety of research being done by HDR students in the School. The Career Choices workshop in the afternoon showcased a panel of PhD graduates, who discussed the different directions that they have gone in since graduation.

Congratulations to the prize winners on the day for their presentations: Karen Villanueva and Terry Boyle (best oral presentations), Sonia El-Zaemey (best runner-up oral presentation and best poster presentation) and an honourable mention to Richard Riley (poster presentation).

PHPS Social Events

From BBQs to movie nights to networking events, the PHPS has had plenty of social outings this year! We held our ever popular School BBQs throughout the year, embraced our inner geek at the UWA PhD: The Movie screening, picnicked at Kings Park during the Moonlight Cinema season, celebrated with an End of Semester lunch, put a table together for the HSS quiz night and held a networking evening with the Social Work students. Thanks to everyone who came along and joined in and we hope to see even more students getting involved next year!

PHPS Prize Winners

Congratulations to Louise Schreuders and Michael Doyle who both received PHPS Conference awards this year. These awards provided support for Louise to present at the Royal College of Nursing Australia conference in Sydney and Michael to present at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference in Tasmania.

Congratulations also go to Sandra Louise and Terry Boyle. Sandra was awarded the 2011 PHPS Academic and Community Achievement Award 2011 for her contribution to SPH, for actively and enthusiastically serving on the PHPS Committee and representing the School and University in various research and academic roles. Terry Boyle was this year’s recipient of the PHPS Prize for Greatest Contribution to the Formal and Informal Activities of the School. The award recognized Terry’s strong involvement in the PHPS Committee, both in his role as Vice President last year and Treasurer this year, and being instrumental in the success of the inaugural PHPS Postgraduate Research Symposium last year.

2012 PHPS Committee

The 2012 PHPS Committee has been elected and we’re very pleased to announce the following positions! Emily Atkins will be the new President; Parveen Fathima will be Vice-President and the Tuesday Seminar Coordinator; Jesse Young will be Treasurer; Kirsten Bramanis, Sonia El-Zaemey and Renae Russell will be staying on as Committee members and Mathew Carter, Daniella Gill, Carol Kaplanian and Maryam Mozooni will be joining the Committee.
2011 Committee - Signing off!

A big thank you to the other outgoing members of the PHPS Committee, for the contributions that they have made to many different aspects of postgrad life over the last few years. Best of luck to Louise Schreuders, Terry Boyle, Fatima Haggar, Michael Doyle, Hayati Kadir Shahar and Dante Giacomin as they finish their PhDs and dissertations or begin new nursing careers!

Finally, the 2011 Committee would like to thank everyone at SPH for their support this year and wish the 2012 Committee all the best. We hope everyone at SPH has a fabulous festive season and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Best wishes,

Sarah Ward

(On behalf of the 2011 Committee: Emily Atkins, Terry Boyle, Michael Doyle, Dante Giacomin, Fatima Haggar, Rennae Russell Louise Schreuders, Hayati Kadir Shahar)

A mad scientist Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas and all thru my house, not a specimen was stirring, not even a louse. The test tubes were capped and the rat cages closed, the mold cultures fuzzy, the mice in repose. The oven kept warm the ebola and pox, I still need to locate my husband's clean socks... but that has to wait till tomorrow, I know; my buggies still need that much more time to grow.

When from the kitchen came a massive explosion, I leapt from my bed in perpetual motion. Grabbing my lab coat, I pulled on my pant, struggling with them in a sad sort of dance. With fury and haste I put on a shirt, running out of the bedroom on feet black with dirt. Buttoning my lab coat and donning a mask, I ran into the kitchen with my Erlenmeyer flask.

I nearly passed out when the man who I saw, dressed in containment gear sealed without flaw, held high a huge sack with his arm stiff and straight. I could tell he must have a hard time with his weight. Through he mike from his suit he said without pause, "Ho ho ho, merry Christmas, I'm Hanta Claus!" Over his shoulder he hefted the sack, we walked into the loungeroom, I offered a snack. He took it and smiled, placed the sack on my bench, Instantly I noticed the Clostridium stench. Buttoning my lab coat and donning a mask, I ran into the kitchen with my Erlenmeyer flask.

The gleam in my eyes caused the house to be lit, the moment he gave me a year's stock of microscope slides, and pasteur pipettes, drug-resistant bacteria, such as staph, strep and cultures from the genus Neisseria.

Delirious with excitement I sat by his side while he gave me a year's stock of microscope slides, and pasteur pipettes, drug-resistant bacteria, such as staph, strep and cultures from the genus Neisseria.

But that was not all, he had parasites too, Plasmodia, trypanosomes and schistosomes true! With tapeworms and roundworms, plague-carrying fleas, how sincerely generous, Hanta did aim to please!

At long last he said he must now go away, his sled was experiencing radioactive decay. "Thanks for the presents," I said, shaking his hand, "They'll keep me off the streets, you understand."

Hanta Claus smiled and bid me goodnight, Shouting "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good blight!".
Social Committee

Signing off for the year!

The Social Committee would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday. Merry Christmas, Hanukah, Bodhi Day, Ashura, samhain... and just have a lovely break!

Now get yourselves to lunch! Merry Christmas everybody!

Love from your Social Committee.