Welcome everyone to a new year at Sydney Nursing School.

What a great start to the year with a new name for the School, a new look for the University, revised and new courses, a great group of new students and new staff appointments and a partly refurbished campus.

Why a new name?

This opportunity to change our name arose very quickly but the right choice given the strategic directions of the University generally and our own strengthened research framework and new and revised programs ready for 2010.

Our new name – Sydney Nursing School – reflects the new era of close association with other University of Sydney health faculties, including Sydney Medical School and School of Public Health.

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In 2010 the University of Sydney moves forward with a new look.

In early January the University of Sydney launched a new brand to encapsulate who we are and what we stand for, both now and for the future. The University now has an updated logo and major changes to the University’s website structure and design as well as to our print and digital publications.

The new brand draws upon the University’s reputation, the quality and character of its unique intellectual heritage, and the value of the intense academic exchange and the idea-driven individuals it produces.

Also in 2010, the University will continue the exciting new phase of strategic planning, led by Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence, building on our existing strengths, that began in 2009. The new strategic plan will respond to a widespread appetite for constructive change expressed by the University community and will seek to position our institution for the next 30 years.

YOUR TIPS

BUY A BICYCLE AMBULANCE

Thanks to Maryanne and staff at the Mallett Street Café. In 2009 nearly $300 was raised through tips from customers – enough for Maryanne to purchase from Oxfam a bicycle ambulance for the Blantyre District Health Office in Malawi. Let’s aim to buy another one in 2010!
SCHOLARSHIPS TAKE STUDENTS TO VIETNAM

Matthew Ah Chow and Stephanie Compton were the first two Sydney Nursing School students to undertake one-month clinical placements in Vietnam, thanks to the Hoc Mai Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation. They sent us a postcard:

“We’re having an amazing time in Hanoi! We only started at the hospital today so here are our first impressions:

So far we found everyone to be incredibly welcoming and very ready to answer our endless questions.

Bach Mai Hospital is enormous compared to the average Australian hospital, with over 1500 beds and, from first impressions, appears to cover every specialty under the sun.

Mat spent the day at the rehabilitation centre which mainly deals with spinal cord injuries from the many motor bike accidents that occur. As Mat says, “Once you see the traffic, it’s not at all surprising!”

Stephanie spent her first day in theatres. “I have realised that whilst the surgery that occurs might be fairly universal, the nurses providing post-operative care do so without the help of many things we take for granted at home,”

“We’re hoping to also spend time in the Emergency Department and Perinatal area during our time in Hanoi.”

“We’re sure that our nursing practice will be enriched by our stay at Bach Mai Hospital – thanks to the Hoc Mai Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation for this scholarship.”

Sydney Nursing School looks forward to continuing this important relationship with the Hoc Mai Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation.
Congratulations to Master of Nursing student, Erin Law, who was awarded the 2010 Women’s Plans Foundation Scholarship Award of $1000.

The National Council of Women’s (NCW) annual presentation of Awards, sponsored by member organisations and supporters, is a feature of the NCW Australia Day luncheon at Parliament House NSW.

The NCW Awards initiative encourages young women to complete tertiary degrees and to aspire to extraordinary achievement. The Women’s Plans Foundation Award is presented to a student with a demonstrated interest in global health. Preference is given to students of reproductive health who have an understanding of the role of family planning in women’s health in developing countries.

Erin has had three years’ experience in Bangladesh, implementing and evaluating a health program specifically for women and children. Ultimately, she aims to become a midwife and is interested in enabling women to develop strategies regarding their own reproductive health in developing countries.

Summer Scholars’ Program

Sydney Nursing School welcomed five recent graduates from a variety of disciplines, including nursing, to work as research assistants with some of our leading researchers.

Sydney Nursing School’s Summer Scholars’ Program is a great opportunity to learn valuable research techniques and get a taste for what a career in research can really offer. Over a one month period students assisted academic staff, including Professor Kate White, Drs Heather McKenzie, Kathleen Scott and Mary Ryan and Associate Professors Yun-Hee Jeon and Kim Foster, learning valuable research skills on a variety of projects within the framework of nursing research.

Eleanor Whitford is currently studying Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. She assisted Dr Heather McKenzie and research assistant Jo Dunn with their research into chemotherapy outpatients’ unplanned admissions to hospital.

“It was something completely different and very interesting,” Eleanor said. “I also discovered that being part of a really supportive team is very important which has helped me enjoy research in a way I’d not experienced before.”

Sarah Chung, who recently completed her Master of Nursing degree, assisted Professor Kate White and Dr Mary Ryan, updating literature on nutrition issues experienced by female cancer patients. The experience helped her to develop basic research skills, and then apply those skills to a project. “The summer school has given me a sense of what research would be, and what I’ve learnt will be really useful in my Master of Nursing Honours degree.”

Associate Dean Research, A/Professor Donna Waters, was pleased to see the diversity of interests which the students brought to the summer school.

“With their backgrounds in nursing, pharmacy, veterinary science, psychology and mental health, this illustrates perfectly the kind of research collaboration which reflects the real world.”

Most of the students were already keen to follow a career path in research, but, as Amrita Patel said, “I thought about doing research but I wasn’t sure. After doing the summer school I feel like I’ve made the right choice.”

Sydney Nursing School’s Summer Scholars’ Program will again be open to students in 2010–2011.
OFFICES GET A FACE LIFT

Staff and students are now enjoying the refurbishments to Building A of Mallett Street Campus, including new offices for staff, interview rooms, common study areas for research students, meeting rooms and a staff common room.

On each level there are workstations for research students with data and wireless points for computers, bookshelves, lockers, lockable tambour units (pencil drawers, filing section, shelves), pin boards and desk chairs. Full-time research students will be allocated a permanent workstation. Others will be set up as hot desks and suitable spaces for students when they are here during their study weeks.

The spaces are now light, bright (we love the colour schemes!) and accessible. For those of us who have never previously had air conditioning we thank everyone for being patient while we adjust to the cold!! There will be a few more changes in the building.

YOU SAY GOODBYE, WE SAY HELLO

On Friday 12 February Sydney Nursing School sadly farewelled lecturers Lynne Brown and Alex Wright who between them had given 50 years of service to the University of Sydney. They both contributed passionately and generously to nursing education and clinical practice in New South Wales and they will be missed by staff, students, alumni and friends. We wish them well.

As we bid them farewell, we also welcome new academic staff to Sydney Nursing School:
Dr Michelle Huws-Thomas, Senior Lecturer Mental Health Nursing
Cynthia Delgado, Conjoint Lecturer with RPA, SSWAHS
Andrea McCloughen, Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Mental Health Nursing
Christopher Gordon, Senior Lecturer Acute Care/Critical Care
Leonie Weisbrot, Lecturer Acute Care/Critical Care
A/Professor Jennifer Fraser, Director Research Students and Research Development

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