DESTINATION SYDNEY NURSING SCHOOL

BY LOUISE HEATHER (MN 2010)

Sydney Nursing School was a popular destination for international visits with students from Brazil, China, Sweden, the USA and other places visiting us in the first semester of 2012.

Under a new exchange agreement with the Karolinska Institute in Sweden we welcomed two nursing students, Sara Dorrian and Karoline Ekblad, to commence international exchange opportunities between Sweden and Sydney.

In the second year of their Bachelor of Nursing program, Sara and Karoline spent five weeks at Sydney Nursing School participating in classes and clinical placements.

It was the first time they had both visited Australia and they found lots to learn. Although they observed that a lot of the clinical elements of classes were similar, it was the relationship between teachers and students that really struck a chord with them. “It seemed the teachers and the students had a very friendly relationship towards each other. I could see that the teachers actually knew the names of their students, making it a more personal experience,” Sara commented.

The three-weeks clinical time was key for the students to get a well-rounded experience of the Australian health care system. Sara and Karoline spent one week at Royal North Shore Hospital, another with the APAC (Acute/Post Acute Care) team in the home, and the last week with community nurses in Turramurra.

Although they experienced some challenges, including the confusing Sydney public transport system and official health care checks, Sara said, “I most definitely recommend the...
For the 18th consecutive year the Roy Morgan research poll has found 90% of Australians aged 14 and over rate nurses as the most ethical and honest profession. Of course I don’t find this at all surprising and as you read this edition of Nursing and Midwifery News it should only confirm how valuable and rewarding the nursing and midwifery professions are!

We are having a terrific year at Sydney Nursing School. In March we took great pleasure in launching our new Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) program. We welcomed many of our new students to this and other programs and we enjoyed hosting some of our professional partners at this significant event.

I also had pleasure visiting our nursing colleagues in Singapore. I attended the Singapore Institute of Management Open House and was given a tour of SIM’s fantastic facilities. I also delivered a lecture to our Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) students and met some of our esteemed health professional partners.

Just a few months later we have welcomed our research students for Research Week 2012 which showcased the very considerable research talents of our own academic staff and affiliates. This year we were delighted to welcome Dr Frances Hughes (Chief Nursing Officer Queensland) and Professor Sanchia Aranda (Deputy CEO and Director of Cancer Services and Information, Cancer Institute NSW) as keynote speakers. Both are honorary professors of Sydney Nursing School and I’m sure they, along with our other speakers, will inspire our research students to continue their research in the fields of nursing and midwifery.

As we congratulate Dr Frances Hughes on her recent appointment as Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer for Queensland Health, I would also like to congratulate Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms who was recently appointed as CEO for the Australian College of Nursing.

In May I had the fortune to travel to East Timor as part of a University of Sydney health delegation. I was inspired by East Timor’s Minister for Health Dr Nelson Martins’ vision and commitment to his country’s 25-year health plan which is based on a philosophy that all East Timorese people, whether they live in the valleys, mountains or the city have equal access to quality health care. My visit builds on the previous work of the University of Sydney in the area of interdisciplinary critical care training which was funded by AusAid. We are now looking at opportunities for post-registration up-skilling in many areas, including primary health care. It was fascinating to see the opportunities for us to contribute to nursing and midwifery and which clearly provide a two-way educational and professional exchange. Here in Australia we can learn from East Timor’s establishment of their health care system and their women-centred approach to midwifery practice and community-based care.

In June I attended the Peking Union Medical College 2012 Nursing Conference and Inauguration Ceremony for the WHO Collaborating Center for Nursing Policy-making and Quality Management. I am excited about our continuing relationship with Professor Huaping Liu, Dean of the School of Nursing at PUMC and looking at the lessons we are learning from the International Nursing Research and Policy Roundtable.

This year we launched the Lunchtime Legends Leadership seminar series to bring our nursing students closer to leaders in nursing and midwifery. We were delighted to have Dr Rosemary Bryant, Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and President International Council of Nursing as our inaugural lunchtime legend in May.

And finally, as Chair of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council, I was pleased that the most recent board meeting saw the revised standards for the accreditation of registered nursing programs approved. This was the culmination of nine months consultation and workshops. These standards are innovative and flexible and will benefit both the graduates of quality nursing programs, including our own, and deliver better outcomes for patient care.

Warm regards, Jill White
experience. The knowledge I attained and the friendships that blossomed were some of the most valuable things I will take home.” Associate Professor Heather McKenzie (Associate Dean Learning and Teaching) will be visiting the Karolinska Institute later this year to discuss exchange opportunities for Sydney Nursing School students in Sweden.

Luciana Gouveia, a PhD student from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil was the first student to visit Sydney Nursing School as part of the International Nursing PhD Collaboration (INPhD). A component of this program is for students to undertake an international exchange for co-supervision of PhD research between University members of the INPhD.

Lucia’s PhD project is entitled ‘Effects of the use of a health education booklet during prenatal care in Sao Paulo, Brazil’. During her time with us she was mentored by Professors Trudy Rudge and Sally Tracy.

As part of our ongoing partnership with the Peking Union Medical College we welcomed nurse academic Ke Xu (Kelly) who was interested in observing clinical teaching. The School of Nursing at Peking Union Medical College is one of the oldest in China, conferring bachelor degrees in nursing from as early as 1920. We arranged some clinical visits for Kelly, including a visit to the Diabetes Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and she also observed clinical teaching in our pre-registration programs. She was mentored by Associate Professor Donna Waters.

In June, for the third consecutive year, we hosted more than 120 nursing students from North America through the International Scholar Laureate Program.

Participants in the program are considered to be exceptional students from universities, mainly from across the United States, who demonstrate exemplary leadership with a dedicated interest in pursuing a career in nursing. In previous years delegates have told us that their visit to Sydney Nursing School was a favourite part of their study tour to Australia. Here they have the opportunity to meet and talk with our students and staff, exchanging information about nursing education and exploring different perspectives about their health care systems. Our students enjoy hosting the International Scholar Laureates and we look forward to hosting them again in 2013.

iNTERNATIONAL STUDENT VISITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OUT AND ABOUT

2ND INTERNATIONAL TONGAN NURSES CONFERENCE
Professor Mary Chiarella delivered the keynote address ‘Nurse-led Primary Health Care: a Global Perspective’ at the 2nd International Tongan Nurses Conference, entitled Caring: The Essence of Practice for Better Health Outcomes, 30 May–1 June 2012 in Nuku’alofa, the Kingdom of Tonga.

TRAUma SYSTEMS: INTERNaTIONAL COLLABORATION TO BuiLD AND Evidence BASED APPROACH
Associate Professor Kate Curtis led a team of trauma researchers from the University of Sydney through the International Program Development Fund to conduct an international trauma symposium with the Wessex Trauma Network, University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton on 10 May 2012.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PRINCIPLES FOR PRACTice INDUCTION DAY
Following the December 2011 launch of the Primary Health Care Principles for Practice learning resource for acute care nurses working in rural health facilities Associate Professor Yun-Hee Jeon oversaw a training day on 28 March 2012 for managers and facilitators from the Murrumbidgee Local Health District participating in the PHCPP project.

GREATEST CHALLENGES FACING HEALTH CARE ROUNDTABLE
Associate Professor Donna Waters, Associate Dean (Research), joined a panel of health experts at the University of Sydney on 18 March 2012 to discuss the challenges for health reforms and their outcomes for patients and health professionals.
Professor Kate White and Associate Professor Kim Foster were awarded the 2011 Churchill Fellowship for innovation and excellence in their fields.

In May this year Associate Professor Kim Foster embarked on her Churchill Fellowship study tour to Canada, the USA and the Netherlands to undertake research in mental health and resiliency. Associate Professor Kim Foster leads the mental health education and research program at Sydney Nursing School and has worked tirelessly in this field for many years. “I am intrigued by the human mind and am as committed to finding ways to help individuals and their families achieve mental health and wellbeing as I was when I first started in this area,” Kim says.

Kim Foster also had a very successful last 12 months publishing multiple articles for international journals, including the *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing, Child and Family Social Work* and *International Journal of Nursing Practice*.

The fellowship comes in Kim’s 25th year of mental health nursing and on her trip she will study mental health and resilience under the title ‘To Investigate Programs For Building Resilience In Children And Families Where Parents Have Mental Illness; Canada, US, Netherlands’.

During the trip she has attended conferences and presented her research to peers and colleagues, including at the 3rd International World Congress on Children of Parents with Mental Illness (COPMI), an organisation she was invited to be a part of after her PhD.

In Australia, 23 percent of children have a parent with a mental illness. Her aim is to focus on the resilience of these families and children in particular, Kim explains that the Australian National COPMI initiative, of which she is a reference group member, works to “develop a range of resources for families and children; workforce resources for mental health workers, as well as interventions for supporting children and families.” As part of her fellowship, Kim will meet with leading researchers from Harvard Medical School/Children’s Hospital Boston to learn about their intervention programs and research into families where parents have depression. She says, “I am particularly interested in understanding how people become mentally unwell and how we can support them and their families to be resilient.”

Kim will also use her time to develop relationships to help to create international research collaborations in the future, and will present her findings from the Fellowship to mental health organisations within Australia. As well as benefitting her field, the fellowship also gives recognition to the staff at the University of Sydney, particularly the Sydney Nursing School, where Kim will pass her knowledge on to nursing students and ultimately shape the next generation of nurses to implement better ways to care for people with mental illness and promote mental health and wellbeing.
The four teams from Nursing and Health Sciences were asked to prepare and present a multidisciplinary health care plan based on a case study about a 65-year-old woman who was an inpatient in a Sydney rehabilitation hospital and had been diagnosed with a left middle cerebral artery stroke.

According to Dr Christopher Gordon, who is the Sydney Nursing School Challenge organiser and mentor and Senior Lecturer and Director Postgraduate Advanced Studies, “The Health Care Team Challenge is a fantastic event for health professional students to learn in an interdisciplinary manner. They get to do active team work as health professionals before they get into the work place.”

It was a hard decision for the judges to decide who should win this year’s Health Care Team Challenge. Dr Christine Jorm of Sydney Medical School was one of the four judges. “The teams were absolutely fabulous. What really stood out about the presentations was the energy. This year the students put so much thought into the interactions to really create the energy of their teams,” Dr Jorm said.

The Dynamic Paracetamols won the Challenge with Team Unity taking out second place. Each year the feedback from participating students is consistently very positive. Master of Nursing student Morgan Snow was on the winning team. “The best thing about this Challenge has been getting to work with a whole bunch of other students from other health professions and getting to know what they do!”

The Dynamic Paracetamols will now go on to compete at the HealthFusion Team Challenge in Brisbane later this year. Enjoy the video highlights at sydney.edu.au/nursing/video/healthcare-challenge-2012.mp4

We encourage more students in 2013 to get involved in this fantastic event.
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC LECTURE, SINGAPORE
FRIDAY 20 JULY 2012, 4–5PM
Professor Mary Chiarella will give public lecture on ‘The Professional Regulation of Nursing and Midwifery: Ideals and Ideas’ at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM), Room 4.24, 461 Clementi Road, Singapore. Register online by 17 July at http://simrec.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/2/public_lecture_uos_20jul12_reg

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 25 AUGUST 2012, 9.30AM–4PM
Do you know someone who is thinking of a rewarding career in nursing? Why not suggest they visit Sydney Nursing School on Open Day? In addition to mini-lectures about our pre-registration nursing programs we’ll also host a special mini-lecture with Dr Tom Buckley on the topic of ‘Men in Nursing’.

For those interested in postgraduate study at the University of Sydney there will be a dedicated Postgraduate Expo featuring postgraduate courses for all faculties, including nursing. More info about Open Day at: sydney.edu.au/open_day

INAUGURAL DEAN’S ALUMNI AND FRIENDS GALA DINNER AND DEBATE
27 SEPTEMBER 2012, THE GREAT HALL
It’s the Sydney Nursing School Alumni Event of the Year. Join fellow alumni, staff and students in the Great Hall, for dinner and the chance to hear our health leaders battle for supremacy in a stimulating debate: The Government’s health legislation is designed to benefit the health professionals, not their patients. Why not book a table of 10? Make it a class reunion, bring your partners and your friends for a memorable night. More details will be available at: sydney.edu.au/nursing/about_us/our_alumni.shtml

POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION EVENING
18 OCTOBER 2012, 5.30–8PM
Sydney Nursing School

PRE-REGISTRATION NURSING INFORMATION AFTERNOON TEA
29 NOVEMBER 2012, 4–6PM
Sydney Nursing School

BOOK LAUNCH:
(Re)THINKING VIOLENCE IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS: A CRITICAL APPROACH

Sydney Nursing School’s Society+Work in Nursing Group hosted a book launch on 7 May 2012 while two of the book’s editors were on the same side of the globe.

The editors, Professors Dave Holmes (Ottawa), Trudy Rudge (Sydney) and Amélie Perron (Ottawa), have brought together work from international authors that explores the structural and institutional causes of violence in health care settings; horizontal violence and bullying; and patients’ violence.

(Re)Thinking Violence in Health Care Settings was launched by Professor Michael Hazelton, Dean and Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Newcastle Australia. Professor Hazelton is well known for his work in mental health nursing, nursing education and research in violence in the health care workplace. In his address, he emphasised the timeliness of the book and its capture of significant international issues on violence, bullying and violent populations in health care. Even with this book’s current relevance, he believed the book was a brave challenge put to the management of departments of health and to universities providing the preparation of clinicians. He noted that there is much that is disquieting about the continuing violence of the health care workplace reported from international locations in this book.

Also present at the launch were Dr Jackie Cook from the University of South Australia, a contributing author on ‘Bullying in the back channels’, and Dr Bridget Hamilton, from the University of Melbourne, a prominent researcher on nurses’ work in mental health settings.