



Amy Monk, PhD (Midwifery) Candidate with her son Sam

MIDWIFERY AND WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSING RESEARCH UNIT

Better health care outcomes for expectant mothers and babies and other women was the focus at a celebration on 10 March to reaffirm Sydney Nursing School's collaboration with the Royal Hospital for Women at the launch of the Midwifery and Women's Health Nursing Research Unit.

The Midwifery and Women's Health Nursing Research Unit was originally established as the Centre for Women's Health Nursing with generous support from the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation. Now the Unit is led by Professor in Midwifery, Professor Sally Tracy, who has extensive experience as a midwifery leader in clinical and academic midwifery Zealand and the UK.

Professor William Walters AM, Executive Clinical Director of the Royal Hospital for Women, welcomed guests, including clinicians, academic staff and families and friends, by acknowledging the collaboration as

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BACHELOR OF NURSING FOR 2012

On 21 March the University of Sydney Senate unanimously approved the introduction of our new Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) degree, ready for a new and distinctive offering for students in 2012.

Sydney Nursing School is thrilled to announce the introduction of a new three-year Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) degree in 2012, providing an additional pathway to professional nursing practice for school leavers and mature age students.

According to Dr Heather McKenzie, Associate Dean Learning and Teaching, "this program will be very attractive to career-minded students due to its focus on leadership, evidence-based practice and international health and the emphasis on person-centred care

in the community or in acute care settings."

The Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) has been designed to prepare students to respond to global and national health priorities. "Students will learn to provide the best care for people, with a focus on the person as the patient and the support they need in managing their health and health care, irrespective of whether that care is in a hospital or in the community."

Importantly, the Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) will be a

collaborative initiative, with teaching input from four faculties. Also, Sydney Nursing School's engagement with all the health disciplines at the University of Sydney means students will have interdisciplinary learning opportunities to ultimately promote multidisciplinary integrated health care services. "Our strong connection with clinical and field experts from other faculties and professional groups will ensure the course is leading edge, incorporating the latest relevant research and innovation," Heather McKenzie said.

RESEARCH UNIT CONTINUED

“an exciting development in maternal and perinatal and women’s health research.”

Professor Jill White also emphasised the Midwifery and Women’s Health Nursing Research Unit as an important collaboration. “It’s about making a difference to the outcomes for mothers and babies and to the experiences of illness for women and improvements to their health.”

Professor White expressed delight in having a research leader such as Professor Sally Tracy as the Professor of Midwifery to promote and lead midwifery research. “She is one of the most eminent midwifery researchers in this country,” Professor White said.

Sydney Nursing School recognises the significance of its collaboration with

the Royal Hospital for Women as one of Australia’s leading women’s hospitals and its state and national leadership in both community and hospital-based health services and research.

According to Professor Tracy, “being on site of the Royal Hospital for Women allows us to almost immediately translate our research findings into new practices and helps build great relationships and inter-professional collegiality.”

The Midwifery and Women’s Health Nursing Research Unit is enhancing Sydney Nursing School’s midwifery research capacity. Professor Tracy is currently the Chief Investigator on two major NHMRC projects, Co-investigator on a third NHMRC project, and with other Research Unit staff involved in a large ARC collaboration and several smaller research projects.

“These projects highlight the way in which our research will impact on

midwifery practice and patient care,” Professor Tracy said.

Some research results will be released later this year. Until then, enjoy the Midwifery and Women’s Health Nursing Research Unit highlights:

http://sydney.edu.au/nursing/video/midwifery_research_unit_100311.mp4



L-R: Helen Gunn, Professor Sally Tracy and Professor Jill White AM

DEAN’S MESSAGE



This year there is so much to celebrate!

It has been an absolutely terrific start to the new year at Sydney Nursing School with the University Senate approval for our new Bachelor of Nursing

(Advanced Studies) degree, scheduled to welcome a new cohort of students in 2012.

While the Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) is yet to be fully accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council and approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, we are certainly buoyed by the positive response to this new program, both within the University of Sydney itself and our valued key professional stakeholders with whom we have consulted extensively!

I really believe that this program is truly consistent with the strategic direction of the University of Sydney in seeking to attract the most able students to their area of choice and to foster cross-disciplinary teaching and research. And importantly for the

future of the health workforce, this program will seriously be meeting the needs of our health care system, in Australia and internationally, now and in the future.

I was absolutely delighted to participate in the recent celebration at the Royal Hospital for Women to seal the Memorandum of Understanding between Sydney Nursing School and the Royal Hospital for Women for the Midwifery and Women’s Health Nursing Research Unit. It was a terrific night and it was great to see so many of our colleagues and friends, from both academic and clinical worlds, coming to celebrate this important collaboration. As a passionate midwifery myself, who did my “time” at the Royal, I am excited by the many research opportunities through this research unit and to see their impact on midwifery practice, patient care and health outcomes for women. I wish Professor Sally Tracy and her team well.

This year we are welcoming another fantastic group of students to Sydney Nursing School, including our pre-registration combined degree and Master of Nursing graduate entry students. The revision of our postgraduate advanced learning specialty degrees is now producing real

dividends with a significant increase in the number of registered nurses choosing to undertake postgraduate study with us. We also welcome many new students to our Bachelor of Nursing (Post-Registration) and Honours programs, both here and in Singapore, our first cohort of Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) students, and our higher research degree students.

Our final year pre-registration Master of Nursing students now have clinical “homes” where they will undertake prolonged practicum experience within the clinical schools located at Concord, Nepean, Royal North Shore, RPA and Westmead hospitals. We are all very excited about this new and innovative model which has been designed to enhance our students’ readiness to practice. I particularly thank Dr Jenni Hardy, Senior Lecturer and Clinical Practice Coordinator, who has worked so hard to bring this vision of ours into reality. We acknowledge gratefully the support of Sydney Medical School and the enthusiasm of staff in the clinical schools who have embraced this new model and are helping to make this experience as rewarding as possible for our students.

– Warm regards, Jill White

NURSING AWARDS

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Congratulations to Professor Jill White AM, and Associate Professor Margaret McGill AM, Adjunct Professor Sydney Nursing School and Sydney Medical School, for their Member of the Order of Australia Awards on Australia Day. Professor White was honoured for service to nursing and midwifery through the design and implementation of academic programs, through contributions to government health committees and taskforces, and to professional organisations.

Associate Professor McGill was honoured for service to community health in the field of diabetes management and education, particularly in support of children and adolescents, and to the establishment of medical education programs in Australia and overseas.

WOMEN'S PLANS FOUNDATION AWARD

Congratulations to BA/MN student, Karina Sijabat, who was awarded the 2011 Women's Plans Foundation Scholarship Award of \$1000, presented at the National Council of Women's annual presentation of awards at its Australia Day luncheon at Parliament House NSW. The Women's Plan Foundation Award is presented to a student with a demonstrated interest in global health. Karina sees her nursing career as "directed towards specialising in women's health, believing that reproductive health promotion and family planning are fundamental links to effectively addressing the problems of poverty, and its subsequent inequalities".



L-R: Alice Oppen, Chair Women's Plans Foundation with award recipient Karina Sijabat



Our final year Master of Nursing students now have "clinical homes" at Concord, Nepean, Royal North Shore, RPA and Westmead hospitals. Above: Student Orientation Day at Royal North Shore Hospital.

RESEARCH SUMMER SCHOOL

Sydney Nursing School's Research Summer School is a great opportunity for students to sample the world of research while at the same time broadening their horizons, learning new skills, and establishing lasting contacts.



L-R: Janelle Garrett, Colleen Estigoy and Claire Chang

Sydney Nursing School prides itself on bringing together people from many different backgrounds. In 2011, all seven research assistants participating in the Research Summer School were from non-nursing backgrounds but who are actively engaged in research that takes them to new and interesting areas – like nursing!

Colleen Estigoy applies her law background to health science issues. She worked with her summer school mentor, Professor Mary Chiarella, to help rewrite one of Mary's chapters based on the new NSW legislation for midwives. Interpreting legislature is something Colleen enjoys. "It's nice to do the research", she says, "but law is the 'cherry on the top'. You try to find answers, look for alternatives, and every case is different."

Janelle Garrett described her summer school experience as "eye opening". With a background in occupational therapy, she worked with Associate Professor Yun-Hee Jeon on a literature review concerning the impact of chronic disease. Janelle will even contribute to the paper – her first publication.

Claire Chang's approach was decisive. With a degree in psychology, and already working in mental health, she had attended a presentation by Sydney Nursing School's Dr Jo Patching late last year and approached her on the spot. Claire was well prepared to help tackle a new international project regarding post-hospitalisation. "Data research is the beginning of that process", Claire explained. "Fortunately there's already a strong base of literature. There's a change in focus toward more qualitative research which will integrate experiences into the data."

According to Associate Professor Donna Waters, Associate Dean (Research), "more and more, knowledge is being shared across faculties, and the boundaries around individual disciplines are disappearing. These research assistants reflect that change. While their contributions are valuable to each project, the important thing is that they all get something out of the experience and are able to explore career opportunities in research," Donna said.

OUR STUDENTS LEARN IN VIET NAM

Thanks to the Hoc Mai Australia-Vietnam Medical Foundation three Master of Nursing students travelled to Vietnam over the summer to undertake an additional clinical placement. This placement provides our students with the opportunity to experience nursing in the context of a health care system and culture very different to how they can expect to nurse in Australia.

Nadia Hjj, Erin Law and Elliott Ventress spent one month at Bach Mai and Viet Duc hospitals in Hanoi. According to Elliott, it was a confronting, challenging, exciting and rewarding experience.

"I feel a deep sense of humility and gratitude toward the Vietnamese nurses and hospital staff who guided me to perform the nursing procedures with more efficiency and precision as I practiced with them. I got along well with staff as we often enjoyed meals together after work and I enjoyed getting to know about their culture and their lives. I highly recommend this opportunity to any student with a passion for nursing," Elliott said.



Elliott Ventress inspired by his experience in Vietnam



Stacey Xiaoyu Yang, Master of Nursing 2010

ALUMNI CORNER

It's true that many of our nursing alumni have diverse and interesting talents in addition to nursing and midwifery. Stacey Xiaoyu Yang (MN, 2010) is just one great example!

When Stacey sat in the Great Hall for her graduation in December 2010 the ceremony held extra special meaning. In 2003 Stacey was granted a University carillon scholarship and was given the title University Honorary Carillonist. Since then she has played carillon for graduation ceremonies and weekly recitals.

"As an international student it is probably the most unique experience to have had and I feel extremely lucky to have experienced new things," Stacey said.

Stacey also learnt the organ and was the University organ scholar for 2009 and 2010 – the third person in the history of the University of Sydney to be granted both organ and carillon scholarships.

Are you an alumnus with an interesting story? Contact us at nursing.news@sydney.edu.au

NURSING DIARY DATES

SYDNEY NURSING SCHOOL GRADUATION

4pm 8 April, Great Hall, University of Sydney

GENERATION OF SCHOLARSHIP (GOSSiP)

Join us for a stimulating afternoon of scholarship in practice

19 May

29 September

17 November

Contact hiam.simonsen@sydney.edu.au for more details.

CANCER NURSING RESEARCH UNIT SEMINAR SERIES

26 May, RPA Hospital

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSING (ICN) CONGRESS

2–8 May, Malta

Professors Jill White AM, Mary Chiarella, John Kelly (Adjunct Associate Professor) and Amanda Adrian (CEO ANMAC) will host a forum on "Managing the politics of health workforce reform in a professional regulatory environment."

2ND NURSING AND MIDWIFERY RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICE CONFERENCE

10 May, Gosford Hospital

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR LAUREATE PROGRAM

9 June, Sydney Nursing School

SYDNEY NURSING SCHOOL RESEARCH WEEK

18–22 July

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

27 August, 9.30am–4.00pm

POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION EVENING

13 October, Sydney Nursing School

SYDNEY NURSING SCHOOL

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