Welcome to the first issue of the biannual newsletter, the SoNM PULSE.

This publication is a product of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, designed to be an informative source about things happening within the School, news about staff and students and the many exciting developments.

We commenced 2014 with a fantastic new cohort of nursing students in splendid tradition on commencement day and orientation where we welcomed close to 240 students to our Fremantle campus. In addition, over 130 postgraduate students commenced in the postgraduate course, the majority in the Graduate Certificate in clinical nursing in collaboration with our partner organisations. We also welcomed some new staff to the School this year, from a variety of backgrounds and clinical expertise. I am confident that they will help contribute to the quality in teaching, research and pastoral care.

The School continues to go from strength to strength and this newsletter highlights some of the achievements that we are proud to share with you. The School has just been through a 5 yearly School review where all of the courses in the Fremantle and Broome campuses were audited. I am delighted with the outcome as one of the 14 commendations and affirmations includes “academic and administrative staff demonstrates a commitment to the pastoral care of all students”. This is testament to the dedication and commitment of all our staff.

There have been a number of exciting events this year. The International Nurses and Midwives Day cake stall and sausage sizzle fundraiser was a success for the Vietnam immersion students, the School recently hosted the “Art of supervising postgraduate students” and an event “PhD/Professional Doctorate research presentations and new member induction” in conjunction with the WA Honor Society in Nursing at-large, Sigma Theta Tau International. The first mid year awards was a success and we will be hosting the 2014 Alumni event in July 3rd 2014. On 25th July 2014, we will be graduating our inaugural midyear intake cohort and midwifery graduates.

On the research front, it is very exciting that Professor Leanne Monterosso –Professorial Chair of Nursing, was successful in a number of significant grants and represented the School in a number of national and international conferences. Early this year, we welcomed to our team, Associate Professor Caroline Bulsara, Research Coordinator, an exciting role for the School which will contribute to the Schools’ strategic direction in research and for the support of our growing numbers of Masters, PhD and Doctorate students. Caroline comes with an impressive track record in publications, grants and research and has already developed some wonderful initiatives in research and within the higher degree programs.

We hope that you will find this newsletter beneficial and of great value and interest. We look forward to future editions with more news from staff and students. Until then... keep your finger on the PULSE.

Dr Karen Clark-Burg
Acting Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Did you know that we have a Coordinator of International Students?

Because we understand that living and studying in a new country can be quite a challenge, Moira Nigam has designed a support program for all international nursing students.

This incorporates workshops, individual meetings, access to a special lending library and a ‘Great Book Reading List’.

For more information please contact
Moira Nigam at moira.nigam1@nd.edu.au
or 08 9433 0277

Lorianne a student from Mauritius believed that ‘Perth is the best city in Australia to live, study and work. Studying at the University of Notre Dame at the Fremantle campus and experiencing a five star uni is one of the best experiences ever!’
It has been an exciting and busy year for the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery Course.

We are proud of our UNDA Midwifery graduates, indeed two cohorts of midwifery students will graduate in July, 2014. Currently we have our third intake of 14 student midwives who have recently completed their first semester.

All students are enthusiastic about our Course and we have received great feedback relating to their knowledge and skills from our industry partners.

We are now are enrolling our part- time Student Midwives who will be able to commence two units of the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery, starting July 2014. The next full time entry to the program will be January, 2015. Students completing the midwifery course are able to apply for scholarships from the Nursing and Midwifery office. Moreover if they are Australian citizens they may also qualify for fee help.

If you feel midwifery is the right career for you please contact us for further information

Jennifer.wrightson@nd.edu.au

Jennifer Wrightson
Midwifery Coordinator

In terms of the A/Associate Dean role, thank you to all of you for your time and support in the development of the School Review, both the document and interviews, it was certainly a steep learning curve for me! The CRC committee has been busy this semester considering a number of changes to units of study across the school, as well as the new course learning outcomes, and processes to manage the new curriculum elective units. Please remember all changes take 12 months so if you are considering changing a unit in any way please have a chat with me first to walk you through the long process.

Thank you to everyone for supporting me in my transition into the Postgraduate and A/Associate Dean roles, I am enjoying them immensely and am looking forward to Semester Two.

Dr Kylie Russell
Acting Associate Dean
Postgraduate Coordinator
The Labs are designed to prepare undergraduate and midwifery students for clinical practice. Various levels of simulations are used in the laboratories depending on the skill being taught. Staff members teaching in the labs are often sessionals who are currently working as clinicians. The laboratory skills coordinator is a senior lecturer who also works clinically.

Fundamental to advanced psychomotor skills are authenticated and scenario based practices provides students with realism when learning the skills. Skills assessments are recorded so that students are able to view their video with the lecturer one on one whereby the student is able to recognize any mistakes and reflect on the correct performance of the skill.

Great news! A third lab (pictured below) was opened in conjunction with the school of Physiotherapy in the beginning of 2014. This has assisted us in maintaining quality teaching as a part of our ethos and within small class sizes, which further enables valued student learning. We are intending to do research into enhancing student learning in the near future, so watch this space.

Annie Das
Laboratory Coordinator

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The Clinical Placements Team (CPT) has been very busy managing the ever evolving clinical environment as Fiona Stanley Hospital begins to start taking rehab patients in October 2014. South Metropolitan Health Services are experiencing significant changes, and we have seen the reduction of clinical placements, particularly with our close facility partners at Fremantle Hospital and Health Service, and Kaleeeya Hospital, which will be closing at the end of the year.

The impact has been significant, with 46% of our existing clinical placements no longer available. CPT members are trying to be resourceful and inventive in finding new placement opportunities. We are going to trial providing education sessions via the WACHS network by videoconferencing to our rural partners who are unable to attend the onsite education sessions we currently hold for facilitation staff.

Tertiary Hospitals are holding universities to much tighter placement cancelation policies. We will be seeking patience from our student group as we head into a very difficult 12 to 18 months from semester 2 2014. We are doing our best to ensure clinical placements are quality placements and provide adequate support to our nursing students as they learn the art and science of nursing care and consolidate theory into nursing practice.

Lastly, but importantly, we welcome a new team member to the CPT. Suzanne Partigliani is stepping in to coordinate the second year group. Suzanne has an Intensive Care background and is currently working clinically at PMH alongside her CPT role. Suzanne also has experience in Staff Development roles and is a wonderful addition to our team.

Corinne will continue to coordinate the first year group, with Lisa and Chris who will be looking after the third year group during semester 2, 2014. Ella and Wendy are continuing in the ever important administrative roles of the CPT, the coal face of our operation. Janet will remain on extended leave over semester 2. She sends her best wishes to everyone!

Chris Adams
Acting Assistant Dean and Clinical Placements Coordinator

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School of Nursing & Midwifery, Fremantle and Broome – Newsletter – July 2014
The rural health symposium I attended in May was an opportunity to network with colleagues who work and teach within rural health W.A.

There were a variety of key topics presented such as The W.A Centre for Rural Health (WACRH), Rural Health West, Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health studies into Aboriginal Health, Tele-health trial project in Laverton and a PhD thesis on post graduate midwifery students’ reflections and practice in remote clinical placements in the Ngaanyatjarra lands.

I found the conference to be a great opportunity to network, have in-depth discussion with colleagues and stay in touch with any new developments within the area of Rural Health. Barbara Smith

Meeting of the Minds

Distinguished worldwide presenters such as Professor Norman Sartorius who in 2012 was the World Health Organisation representative for Mental Health, Prof Fiona Stanley and former Premier of Western Australia Professor Geoff Gallop were joined by Staff and students from Notre Dame School of Nursing and Midwifery, Counseling and Behavioral Science to discuss some of the more difficulty current issues regarding mental health treatment and current research.

While there have been no significant breakthroughs or change in the treatment of people with mental illness, there is new research being completed in the areas of Neuroscience including deep brain stimulation and ongoing animal studies examining treatment with stem cells. Other key research in this area covers immune deficiencies and hormone therapies.

The conference was interesting and informative.
Philip Daplyn

I was very fortunate to be asked to speak at an international seminar being held at the STIKES Nursing school in Denpasar Bali on the 12th & 13th June, 2014.

The seminar opened with a wonderful traditional Balinese dance performed by the nursing students. Following on from this, Professors of Nursing from the USA, Thailand, Japan and Indonesia along with myself all presented on “How nurses incorporate health promotion in the community” of our respective countries. We discovered that there were many similarities between the countries in our non communicable disease problem and how to tackle them using a health promotion approach. This was followed by a panel Q & A session in which I had the opportunity to promote our government’s role in reducing smoking in the community. The seminar ended with a traditional Thai dance by the visiting Thai students who were on exchange with STIKES Bali.

On the Friday, I delivered a lecture to the 2nd year Nursing students for 1 ½ hours on the family nursing process in the community in Australia. The STIKES nursing school was very welcoming at all times, and nothing seemed too much trouble. The school has a Diploma of Nursing, that is three years at university followed by one year of experience and a Bachelor of Science in nursing that is four years at university followed by one year of experience. After this, the students then have to sit another exam to be able to practice as a Registered Nurse, so the training is extensive. They also have university six days per week, with only Sundays off!

I learned a lot about Balinese and Japanese culture while on this trip. I even was able to attend the opening of the Bali arts festival and visited people from all around Bali in their region’s traditional dress, waiting to perform for the Indonesian president.

Lea McWhae
The SONM e-learning committee is committed to encouraging quality teaching and learning in today’s evolving technological landscape in nursing, healthcare and social media. The SONM e-learning committee has a number of aims and has taken on some exciting projects on campus. Some of these project results have been published in nursing journals and presented at conferences.

The e-learning committee seeks to engage SONM staff and students with mobile learning, to encourage and share resources, and to ultimately enhance your learning and development within the nursing course. Please access the below links to access WiFi and your student email account on your mobile devices. Please see the SONM Twitter # below for: Unit Content, networking, links, evidence, encouragement, humour, resources, and e-learning links. It has been set up for all 1st-3rd year SONM students, post-grad students, clinicians and experts in nursing and healthcare so you can leave your quality ‘digital footprint’ for those who might find you online (for example-future employers).

Please feel free to contact Benjamin Hay for further information and to share any valuable resources you use for your learning with technology such apps, links, journals, E-learning sites, quality student nursing sites, etc. We would love to know about them to share with staff and for all students.

**Mobile device access to WiFi and Email at UNDA**

**Wireless access to UNDA on mobile devices**

**Student email set up on mobile devices**

**Twitter #NPD100** 1st-3rd year UNDA nursing students and beyond!

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Did you know that Notre Dame provides all students with free counseling services?

If you would like to make an appointment or find out more information please search the link below.


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**The UNDA Website**

Unsure where to find information online about your course, calendars, textbook lists or graduation or general Notre Dame Fremantle Queries?

You can find them all on the Notre Dame website at:


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**TECH TALK**

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Did you know that the SONM has an E-learning committee?
Mid Year Awards Ceremony
27th July

Congratulations to all the winners!
Leisa Woodfield
Charis Dixon
Brenton Drill
Jacinta Salter
Ashleigh Cerie
Anisa Mohamad Famy
Miriam Barrett
Saishan Chan
Phoebe Seir
Todd Farrell
Joelene Van Dyke
Ilona Arnold
Molly Fitzgerald
Ben Hay (Staff member)

Congratulations also to all those who were nominated for awards.

The 12th of May brought together the staff of The School of Nursing and Midwifery along with representatives from the Notre Dame Nursing Society to celebrate International Nurses and Midwives Day.

Proceeds raised by the sausage sizzle and cake stall were donated to the Vietnam Immersion Program which is undertaken each year by a select group of nursing students.

Dr Karen Clark Burg, Acting Dean of Nursing and Midwifery said that celebrating the day was a great way to help celebrate the profession.

‘It promotes the profession of nursing and midwifery, gives us a chance to celebrate, a chance for staff and students to interact in an informal environment and promote our courses’ she said.
Getting to know ..... Julie Dally
Acting Laboratory Coordinator
EN Articulation Pathway - Student Liaison

What are your professional ambitions? Stay registered and employed! Possibly, maybe, perhaps, soonish, work up the courage and commence PhD or Prof Doc studies.

What is the best thing about working at UNDA? Close to home..... no... Seriously – the people and the ethos. I get to laugh every day at work and work with some brilliant minds.

Who is or has been your best hero/mentor in your life? My mother – had an interesting work life in an era where that was not common – travelled with the air force and managed to survive being shot at. She encouraged us with the mantra "get a career and travel!".

When you’re not busy at work, what’s your favourite thing to do? Daily – walk the dog through the bush and to the beach. When the leave builds up – get off road and see the outback.

What are 3 things you cannot live without? Family, dog, the ocean

What’s your most annoying habit? I always know where to find things even if it wasn’t me that put it there.

QUIRKY QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Favourite TV commercial? ...forgot the HAND BRAKE... (yes – I drive a Hilux to do the whole off road thing and I do love that car for what it can do and where it can go)

Do you untie your shoes when you take them off? Yes – and it is ALWAYS the right one first. No reason – just is!

Favourite ice cream flavour? Mango

If a Hollywood made a movie about your life, whom would you like to play the lead role as you? If Pink got into acting – her.

If you were an animal what kind would you be? Panther

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title should be? Suburban Surprise

In the song ‘Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini’, which is the yellow – the bikini or the polka dots? I think the bikini is yellow and the dots are white.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2014

- Enrolment Day – Wednesday 9th July
- A Day in the Life of a University Student – Friday 18th July
- Staff Orientation Day – Tuesday 22nd July
- O-DAY – Thursday 24th July
- Semester 2 Start - Monday 28th July
- SOMN Mass – Wednesday 30th July
- Open Day – Sunday 17th August
- Course Information Evening – 3rd September
- Course Information Events Mature Age/Alternative Entry Wednesday 16th September
- Course Information Evening Postgraduate and Research Tuesday 21st October
- Queen’s Birthday – Monday 29th September
- Study Week – Monday 3rd November
- Exams Start – Monday 10th November

Would you like to contribute to the SoNM PULSE?
Please email Chelsea Smart
Chief Editor
chelsea.smart@nd.edu.au

Useful Links
http://www.nd.edu.au/nav-current-students/regulations
http://www.nd.edu.au/scholarships/fremantle_index.shtml
http://www.nd.edu.au/fremantle/current-students/studentservices.shtml

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