



Rural Health



GRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS

February 2008

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Welcome

The last week of February is always a special time for university when students come back from a glorious summer with many stories to tell and also the arrival of autumn at our doorstep with numerous beautiful colours to decorate the land. In this inspiring context, we would like to share with you the following news to warmly welcome you back.

Our new rural health students

The UDRH has been further enriched with the arrival of new students for their studies with us: Sharon Hetherington, Ree Van Galen and Rosemary Cane, Maree Gleeson, Winifred Household, and Yvonna Zuyoa. Warmest welcome to Sharon, Ree, Rosemary Maree, Winifred and Yvonna.

Congratulations to Rosemary Cane for winning a NHMRC public health postgraduate scholarship to undertake a PhD in methods to integrate oral health into general health. Her research will have a strong preventive and health promotion focus, with a view to achieving practical outcomes that benefit the Tasmanian community. The target group will be people who find it difficult to maintain their oral health alongside other significant social and medical issues.

Congratulations to Sharon Hetherington and Ree Van Galen for winning the Graduate Research and Tasmanian Scholarships.

It is important for supervisors and students to start their supervision meetings. These meetings should occur on a regular basis.

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Collaborative Graduate Research Conference

The Collaborative Graduate Research Conference took place on 27th-28th November in Launceston. It was a combined event involving the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), Schools of Nursing & Midwifery, Human Life Sciences, and the Rural Clinical School. It created a wonderful social and intellectual atmosphere for the participants. There was definitely a spirit of spring and summer at the conference.

Professor Mary Fitzgerald from the School of Medicine at James Cook University was the keynote speaker at the Graduate Research Conference. Her topic was clinical research.

The conference included a panel session on the provocative question: "Should researchers in health strive for understanding or certainty?". The panel members were A/Prof Sue Kilpatrick, Dr Peter Orpin, Ms Damnhart McCann and A/Prof Eliza Snow.



Dr. Peter Arvier, Rural Health Graduaned, delighted the participants with his inspiring talk about the future of training emergency medicine doctors for rural and regional Australia.

As always, graduate research students were the stars of the Conference as this conference belonged to them. It was marked with their inspiring presentations. Congratulations to our rural health students for presenting at this conference. Their research-in-progress papers contributed to the enhancement of knowledge in rural health. Our thanks must go to the supervisors for their guidance and valuable feedbacks on students' progress.

We look forward to the new Graduate Research Conference to be held in Launceston in June 2008 which is led by the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Good news from GR Students and supervisors

Lisa Dalton has submitted her thesis. Her thesis topic is "Sharing professional identity: Health professional student experience of an interdisciplinary rural placement". Congratulations Lisa! You surely deserve a good glass of Champagne to celebrate! Lisa has been active and inspiring in many aspects and in many roles. We look forward to further collaborative work with her. Three cheers to Lisa.

Masters candidate Dale Edwards has just become a Fellow of the College of Ambulance Professionals (FACAP), this offers us an opportunity to congratulate him on the many achievements of his 19 years in the ambulance industry in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, and Vanuatu: he has worked in diverse roles from paramedic to operations manager, acted on national and state committees to do high level policy work, and contributed to reform in ambulance curriculum and education delivery, as well as produced research publications. Please join Dale's supervisor Dr Erica Bell in congratulating him!

Mike McCall: "Paramedic tracheal intubation using the intubating laryngeal mask airway" has been accepted for publication in *Prehospital Emergency Care*. It was scheduled for publication in the January issue.

Shandell Emler from the UDRH and Dr Karen Willis from the School of Sociology and Social Work have co-authored a book entitled "Society, culture and health: An introduction to sociology for nurses". The book is designed to demonstrate the relevance of sociology for students of nursing.

Graduate research student Ha Hoang's paper titled "Maternity care: An Intercultural Study" has been accepted for presentation at the World Congress of Health Professions 2008, which will take place in Perth in March 2008.

PhD student, Chona Hannah has presented a paper on health and wellbeing of intermarriage Filipino women at the International Research Conference in Iloilo, Philippines on 27 - 29 Feb 2008.

Lorraine Smith's Preliminary Plan for her MMedSci has been approved. Her topic is: "The role of the pharmacist in the health care team supporting patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease in regard to sexual dysfunction". It examines some implications for professional practice, training, pharmacy layout; and rural/regional and metropolitan differences.

Martin Harris will present a paper titled "Overcoming

cultural barriers in suicide prevention” at the Diversity in Health Conference in Sydney, on 10-12 March 2008.

Melinda Minstrell’s paper entitled “Supportive care of rural women with breast cancer in Tasmania, Australia: Changing needs over time” has been accepted to published in the Journal of Psycho-Oncology.

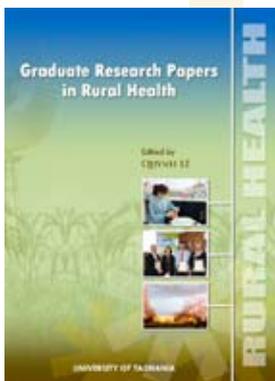
Congratulations to all students and staff who wrote chapters in ‘Graduate Research Papers in Rural Health’ edited by Dr Quynh Le which was launched at the December UDRH staff meeting.



The launch of the Graduate Research Book

Graduate research is an important aspect and a vital force of university based research. Experienced academic researchers and research students work collaboratively to enrich the research discourse, to maintain a continuing flow of research within a University and to enhance the impact of research nationally and internationally.

Our book entitled “Graduate Research Papers in Rural Health” is a manifestation of the contribution to research in rural health by graduate research students at the University of Tasmania. Most significantly it indicates their dedication to research inquiry and commitment to graduate research.



The “Graduate Research Papers in Rural Health” is available in hard copy, CD, online formats and on loan from the UTas Libraries. It includes research papers in progress: some are at the early stage of research inquiry and others are at the final stage in which researchers reflect on and evaluate their research journeys. Individual papers deal with a variety of topics and use different research

approaches in response to the increasing challenge of the complex nature of rural health research. The contributed

papers reflect a collaborative research discourse including graduate research candidates, academic staff and supervisors, and networked health researchers.

“...I am very pleased to provide some introductory comments to the Graduate Research Papers in Rural Health. I am aware that this UTAS publication has been under consideration for some time and I know that it will have a significant and lasting impact both within the rural health research training landscape and in assisting to shape and encourage research activity within the field...” (Professor Denholm).

The book was launched on Wednesday 19 Dec 2007 by Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick.

Annual review

Thanks to all students and supervisors the graduate research annual review process went well after a year of hard work. The annual review is an important process as it has legal implications for students’ candidature and supervisors.

Shandell Elmer to represent Graduate Research Students at Faculty

After a nomination process from the Schools within the Faculty of Health Science, UDRH Lecturer and PhD candidate Shandell Elmer has been chosen as the Graduate Student Representative on the Faculty of Health Science Research Committee. This Committee is chaired by Andrew Robinson, Professor of Aged Care and Associate Dean (Research).

Shandell’s role is to represent the interests of graduate students across the Faculty. The Committee’s key focus is the development of a strategic plan that will support and build research capacity within the Faculty.

Graduate research students are welcome to contact Shandell if they would like to discuss the Committee’s work or provide information that will contribute to the Faculty’s research agenda. Shandell’s phone number is (03) 6324 4046 and email is Shandell.Elmer@utas.edu.au

Student support program

Our Rural Health Graduate Research Student Support Program has been enriched by many contributions from students and staff members.

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We specially would like to thank A/Prof Dominic Geraghty for conducting the workshop on "Presenting Skills" on 2nd November 2007. The main purpose of this workshop was to prepare students with tips and tricks to present at the student Collaborative Graduate Research Conference. Dominic is always enthusiastic to share his research knowledge and skills with our research students.

The 2008 Graduate Research Student Support has been finalised and is available at the Rural Health Graduate Research web site (<http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/gr/>) and also on the Graduate Research Community forum (<http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/forum/>)

Nvivo workshop is planned in May 2008. This is a co-funded event and so far students from UDRH, RCS, Launceston Clinical School, and PHCRED, and Human Movement have shown interest to participate. Details will be announced in early 2008.

Administrative staff in 2008

Vicky Simm has left the UDRH and Yvette Massey has returned to the UDRH in the same role, Graduate Research Executive Assistant. I would like to thank Vicky for the great contribution to our Graduate Research in the past 6 months and wish her well. Also a warm welcome to Yvette Massey. Please contact Yvette if you need any help.

Yvette can be contacted at: Email: Yvette.Massey@utas.edu.au; Phone: (03) 6324 4048.

Library resources

These research books have been added to the UDRH Resource Library:

- The practice of Social Research (11th Edition), by E. Babbie (2 copies).
- Case Study Research: Design and methods (3rd Edition) by R. K. Yin.
- Qualitative Research methods (2nd Edition) by P. Liamputtong and D. Ezzy.
- Qualitative Researching (2nd Edition) by J. Mason.
- Reading and Understanding Multivariate Statistics, edited by L. G. Grimm and P. R. Yarnold.
- Reading and Understanding More Multivariate

Statistics, edited by L. G. Grimm and P. R. Yarnold.

- Keys to Successful Doctoral Study in Australia and New Zealand by C. Denholm and T. Evans.
- Keys to Effective Supervision in Australia and New Zealand by C. Denholm and T. Evans.

If you want to use any of these books please contact Yvette Massey.

Event calendar

- Constructing researchable questions from practice: Research design and choosing methods, 10am -12noon, 4 Mar, videoconferencing, conducted by A/Prof Ros Bull.
- Preparing the preliminary research plan, conducted by Prof John Williamson - date and time to be confirmed.
- Developing ethical research, 10am - 12 noon, 11 Mar, videoconferencing, presenter to be confirmed.
- Reviewing the evidence: literature reviewing, levels of evidence; identifying gaps; documenting a search strategy, 10 am - 12 noon, 18 Mar, videoconferencing, conducted by Dr Peter Orpin.
- Induction, 10:30 - 12:30 pm, 18 Mar, Launceston.
- Academic writing: designing and writing an 'auditable' research thesis, 10am - 12 noon, 1 Apr, videoconferencing, conducted by Dr Jen Brown.
- Research methods used when both quantitative and qualitative data are required, 3 - 5pm, 8 Apr, conducted by A/Prof Ros Bull.
- Research methods used when both quantitative and qualitative data are required, 10 am - 12 noon, 29 Apr, videoconferencing, conducted by Dr Peter Orpin.

2007 has been an exciting and inspiring time for the UDRH Graduate Research program. Its highlights include well-designed informative Graduate Research News, Graduate Research conferences, rural health seminars, and workshops to enhance research awareness and skills of students, and our new book 'Graduate Research Papers in Rural Health', the latest show case of our achievements in 2007.

A Vietnamese proverb says: "A tree can be high. However a combination of many trees can be as immensely high as a huge mountain". This is definitely and beautifully the case in the Rural Health Graduate Research discourse. Special thanks must go to these wonderful trees of ours.

We look forward to the fruitful and happy year in 2008.

Quynh and Yvette