



# Rural Health

## GRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS

August 2007

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Issue 2

### Welcome

In this first week of August, I can feel the arrival of spring not far in the distance as signalled by warmer breezes and tender sunlight on the land.

In this inspiring context, I would like to say hello again and to share the latest information with you in the second issue of our rural health graduate research newsletter.

### Our new rural health students and new registered supervisors

2007 is a productive year for the rural health graduate research program. The number of new research students (8 students) marks an increase of 32% in total research students from 2006 (25 students) to 2007 (32 students).

In the first half of the academic year, we welcomed eight new students: Glenn Aslin, Debra Carnes, John Henshaw, Ha Hoang, Chona Hannah, Georgina Routley, Lorraine Smith, and Diep Thi-Le. We look forward to working closely with Glenn, Debra, John, Ha, Chona, Georgie, Lorraine, and Diep.

Kim Boyer, Dr Gerard Gill and Dr David Woods (conjoint appointment between Department of Health and Human Services and School of Medicine) are our newly registered supervisors. Warmest welcome and gratitude to Kim, Gerard and David for bringing their expertise, experience and enthusiasm to our Graduate Research family!



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## The first Graduate Research Conference in 2007

2007 also marks the close graduate research collaboration among the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), Rural Clinical School and School of Nursing and Midwifery. This is a model for future graduate research collaboration with other schools within the Faculty of Health Science of the University of Tasmania.

The UDRH organised the first Graduate Research Conference on 21 June 2007 with over 50 participants from the three schools participating in a number of conference activities. The second conference in November will be organised by the School of Nursing and Midwifery

Professor Judith Walker, Professor of Rural Health at the University of Tasmania, gave the opening address.

A/Prof Douglas Ezzy was the keynote speaker. He has published widely on qualitative research methodology. His recent book has a focus on health methodology research.

A special feature of this conference was the Panel Discussion on "Research has an impact: affirmative or negative?". It was skilfully and enthusiastically led by Dr Peter Orpin and members of the Discussion Panel; Kim Boyer, Dr Clarissa Hughes, Dr Emily Hansen, A/Prof Andrew Robinson and Dr Christine Stirling, shared many inspiring discussions.

The key focus of the conference was our research students and they definitely made the event sparkle.

Fifteen students individually presented their research in progress. Their presentations covered a wide range of topics and involved different research approaches.

## Upcoming conference in "Sharing Excellence in Research"

UTAS Postgraduate Research Conference, University Centre – Sandy Bay Campus, Friday 21 September 2007.

The Tasmanian University Postgraduate Association (TUPA) is organising a postgraduate research conference on the theme Sharing Excellence in Research. It is a good pathway from our first conference in June to this conference on Friday 21 September 2007. The conference will highlight outstanding research in the University's six theme areas. It also includes the Awards Ceremony for Outstanding UTAS Postgraduates. It is free for all UTAS postgraduate research students. You are encouraged to attend and/or present your research at this event. Remember to mark this in your diary.

Further information about this conference is available at: <http://www.tuu.com.au/TUPA>



Ha and Andrew: present for conference presenters

## Graduate Research Community Forum is online

Communication and interaction are essential in Graduate Research. We believe that communication and interaction enhance the study experience and provide valuable support and feedback. However, it is rather unrealistic to expect regular face-to-face interactions involving everyone. A web-based Graduate Research Community Forum has just been developed to facilitate sharing of ideas and information and solving problems together in an informal and interactive way. For example, users can post their questions on the Forum and others may help by responding with answers or suggestions. It will be particularly helpful to those who live and work in isolated areas.

You are invited to post your ideas or events related to your study journey, graduate research matters, research resources, and any tips for conducting research on the Rural Health Graduate Research Community Forum at: <http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/forum/index.php?c=12>.

The forum is open to all but to post a message, you will need to register first and log on (this is to avoid messages from spammers). Please send an email to either Cecilia Chiu (Cecilia.Chiu@utas.edu.au) or Jeremy Rayner (jcrayner@utas.edu.au) for new user registration.

We will also post graduate research announcements including upcoming workshops on this forum. Please visit the forum regularly and we look forward to your postings.

## Graduate Research Papers in Rural Health book

As announced earlier, we are compiling an on-line/CD-ROM/Printing series of Graduate Research Papers (ISBN number 978-1-86295-386). The first volume will be published approximately in October – November 2007 and we have received a good response to our call for papers to be included in this book.

The main aim of this initiative is to provide an opportunity for our research students to publish their work in progress, completed research, or issues arising from their research such as data collection, data analysis, fieldwork, methodology, ethical aspects, theoretical and practical implications, potential impacts on policy etc. Others are also welcome to contribute. Though the focus is on rural health, we also welcome papers dealing with broad issues in health.

Authors will own the copyright of their respective papers. Authors will, however, be asked to sign a copyright licence which gives the University Department of Rural Health, Tasmania (UDRH) the right to publish their articles on the UDRH graduate research's website, CD-ROM, and other publications produced by the Rural Health Graduate Research Program. This licence does not prevent authors from reprinting or using for educational purposes all or part

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of the articles they provide.

Further information about manuscript preparation is available at: <http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/gr/publications.php>

We look forward to your contributions to this publication. Please send your paper by email attachment by 15 September to [Quynh.Le@utas.edu.au](mailto:Quynh.Le@utas.edu.au).

## New book on graduate research supervision

A new book on graduate research supervision edited by Carey Denholm and Terry Evans has been published. The title is "*Supervising Doctorates Downunder: Keys to effective supervision in Australia and New Zealand*". The target readers are doctoral supervisors, however, researchers, graduate students, and others will find this book interesting, informative and helpful as well.

This book has been published after the success of the book "*Doctorates Downunder: Keys to successful doctoral study*" edited by the same authors. This book is very useful for PhD and Masters by Research students in their research journey.

Both books are available at the University Co-op Bookshop, University of Tasmania.

## Professor Carey Denholm's visit

Professor Carey Denholm, Dean of Graduate Research, visited the UDRH in early 2007 to foster collaborative team work.

Carey is always approachable, helpful and informative. He has agreed to allow our Graduate Research people to approach the SPSS<sup>1</sup> consultant of the Graduate Research Unit for help with SPSS.

The excellent news from our meeting with Professor Denholm is that there will be two half-day SPSS consultation sessions: one in Hobart and one in Launceston for our rural health students. The dates and locations will be announced later in our regular workshop announcement email.

We would also like to take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to Professor Denholm, who will retire at the end of the year. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

1. SPSS: statistical package for analysing quantitative data.

## Good news from rural health research students

Dr Christine Stirling has got her PhD and Dr Peter Arvier has passed his Master of Medical Science. Congratulations to Christine and Peter for their excellent achievements and also to their supervisors.

Furthermore, we are delighted to share the news that Dr Peter Arvier, Lisa Dalton, Melinda Minstrell, Mike McCall, Ha Hoang, and Suzzete Seaton have had their papers published/accepted in journals and conference proceedings.

We are also pleased to share with you the news that Lisa Dalton has lodged her intention to submit her PhD thesis. Congratulations and best wishes to her.

Andrew Harris, John Henshaw and Robert White and Zich Woinarski have had their Preliminary plans accepted and Ha Hoang's ethics application has been approved.

Congratulations to all for their wonderful achievements.

## Relocating Graduate Research students in Hobart

As you may have known, all Graduate Research students have to move from the MBF Building to the Stanley Burbury (SB) Theatre on the Hobart Sandy Bay Campus. There are always some difficulties in relocating to a new place. We would like to thank you for your help and patience. Special thanks must go to Jason Flello, Amanda Feely and Yvette Massey for their help in the relocation.

## Student Support Program for 2008

We are planning for a graduate research workshop series in collaboration with Rural Clinical School, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Human Life Sciences and Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) program. If you are interested in honing any research skills and/or if you know of any potential presenters, please contact Quynh Lê at: [Quynh.Le@utas.edu.au](mailto:Quynh.Le@utas.edu.au) or Vicki Simm at [Vicki.Simm@utas.edu.au](mailto:Vicki.Simm@utas.edu.au) by 31 August 2007.

We are also planning to increase our research library stock (Launceston and Hobart). If you know of any

publications, particularly books, that we should have, please send your recommendation to us.

Your response will help us in organising research workshops and resources that meet your study needs.

## Rural Health graduate research administrative support from Jun – Dec 2007

Yvette Massey, our Graduate Research Executive Officer is on secondment to the School of Computing from June to December 2007. During this time, Vicki Simm has filled Yvette's role as Graduate Research Assistant. Vicki works on Monday and Tuesday each week. Vicki can be contacted at Phone: (03) 6324 4048; Email: [Vicki.Simm@utas.edu.au](mailto:Vicki.Simm@utas.edu.au)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Yvette well with her secondment and welcome Vicki to the new role with Rural Health Graduate Research.

## Event Calendar

- Conducting Focus Group: 10:30 – 1:00pm, 9 August, Hobart, conducted by Dr Emily Hansen and Dr Clarissa Hughes.
- Working with Policy Makers: 10:30 – 1:00pm, 11 September, Hobart, conducted by Ms Kim Boyer.
- So What? Determining the contribution that your research will make to the field: 10:30 – 1:00pm, 20 September, Launceston, conducted by Dr Gerald Gill.
- SPSS consultations: 11:30 – 3:00pm, 27 September (Launceston) and 8 October (Hobart).
- Developing Questionnaire and Survey: 10:30 – 12:30pm, 23 October, conducted by Dr Quynh Lê and Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick.
- Developing Interview Skills: conducted by Dr Peter Orpin will be rescheduled (date, time and venue will be advised).
- Opening ceremony for the Rural Health Graduate Research Board photos in October (date, time and venue are to be confirmed).
- Second 2007 Graduate Research Conference: 27 – 28 November, 2007, Launceston.

We would like to thank all of you for your support and encouragement.

We look forward to sharing with you more wonderful news in our next Rural Health Graduate Research newsletter.

Till then, cheers and take care,

Quynh and Vicki