



School of Health Sciences



Photo courtesy of Darren Grattidge

GRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS

November 2015

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Issue 2

Good news from students

We would like to warmly congratulate our research students for their wonderful achievements.

With great pride and excitement, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Deb Carnes, Anna Spinaze, Pamela Kathleen Sykes, Melissa Terry, and Joanne Yeoh, who have successfully completed their Higher Research Degree studies.

- **Deb Carnes'** PhD research conducted on "Getting the truth: A qualitative comparative analysis of rural nurses' attitude to safety climate and their views of reporting a hypothetical medication error". Her research aims to describe the complexity of safety climate amongst nurses working in rural clinical settings. It focuses on the nature of this complexity in relation to nurses' views of reporting medication error. Deb was supervised by Prof Sue Kilpatrick (CUPP) and Prof Rick Iedema (Nursing and Midwifery, School of Health Sciences).
- **Anna Spinaze's** PhD study is about: "Swimming in the stream: Being a health professional and doing chronic conditions healthcare." Her thesis documents present-day chronic conditions healthcare in regional Australia. It provides thick description of the experience of chronic conditions healthcare in response to the question: What is the lived experience of doing healthcare work with people with chronic conditions? Anna was supervised by Prof Douglas Ezzy (Sociology), Prof Sue Kilpatrick (Access, Participation and Partnerships) and Dr Peter Orpin (Centre for Rural Health, School of Health Sciences).
- **Pamela Sykes's** Masters research is on "Translating evidence into practice: A case study on the prevention of venous thromboembolism" using the Joanna Briggs Institute model of evidence-based health care. Pam's research is an important critique of the JBI model for evidence-based healthcare

Welcome

Albert Einstein is often quoted as saying that "wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." In a sense, this statement reflects well the graduate research journey of our graduate research students. Their achievements not only include a mountain of academic insights but also the wisdom to orientate them towards the enhancement of the social and cultural environment.

In this issue of the School of Health Sciences Graduate Research Newsletter, we are proud to share with you our students' wonderful stories of achievement through their research journey.

and its applicability for continued use in the study hospital as a feasible, appropriate, meaningful and effective model for evidence implementation. Pam's thesis was highly commended by her examiners, her supervisors were Prof Kenneth Walsh (Nursing and Midwifery, School of Health Sciences) and Prof Mary Fitzgerald (Adjunct with School of Health Sciences).

- **Melissa Terry** conducted her Masters research on "Health services and music: Perspectives among women with postnatal depression and their health care providers." Her thesis aims to examine the perspectives of, and issues concerning rural Tasmanian women with post natal depression (PND) where access to services is limited or non-existent and particularly, and to explore what role music plays in alleviating PND. Melissa was supervised by Dr Quynh Lê (CRH, School of Health Sciences), and Mr Stuart Auckland (CRH, School of Health Sciences).
- **Joanne Yeoh's** PhD thesis entitled "Food security and cultural identity of migrants in Tasmania" was conducted in Tasmania in response to the lack of context-specific research evidence regarding the food security issues for migrants from different cultural backgrounds living in regional area of Australia. Joanne's supervisors were Dr Quynh Lê (CRH, School of Health Sciences), Dr Rosa McManamey (CRH, School of Health Sciences), and Dr Thao Lê (Education).

Pam, Joanne, Anna, Deb and Melissa will graduate in December 2015. Well done all!

On candidature progress, publication and research networking matters, congratulations to the following wonderful achievers:

- **Deb Carnes** (PhD Candidate) has her joint paper titled "Aged care nurses in rural Tasmanian clinical settings more likely to think hypothetical medication error would be reported and disclosed compared to hospital and community nurses." accepted for publication in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health*. The paper also makes acknowledgment to the contribution to the study research design by Dr Erica Bell, Deb's original primary supervisor.
- **Kelly Edwards** has been selected as one of 2015 Scholars by the Beryl Institute Patient Experience Scholar Program. The program supports Professional Doctoral Students as they conduct research associated with the patient experience that will lead to positive healthcare outcomes. Her joint paper entitled "Instruments to measure the inpatient hospital experience: A literature review" has been accepted for publication (pending minor revisions) in the

Patient Experience Journal.

- **Kelly Edwards, Kath Fitzgerald** (both PhD Candidates) along with Honours Student **Ciara Rafferty** co-presented at the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) forum in Brisbane (14 – 16 October 2015) in a session "Shining a light through the fog of patient and family centred care: Exploring what we think we know to discover what we don't yet understand."
- **Jessica Marathe** (PhD Candidate) has two co-author papers with her supervisors "How do regional and rural general practitioners use the Internet to gather patient information?" published in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health*, and "General Practitioners' knowledge and use of genetic counselling in managing patients with genetic cardiac disease in non-specialised settings" published in the *Journal of Community Genetics*.
- **Carey Mather** (PhD Candidate) was an author on the paper "Unveiling the Mobile Learning Paradox" that discusses the findings of a study exploring mobile learning opportunities used by clinical supervisors in tertiary and community-based facilities in two Australian States. This paper was published in *Studies in Health Technology and Informatics* series which promotes international health informatics.
- **Damhnat McCann** (PhD Candidate) authored the paper "Does continuous partial attention offer a new understanding of the required vigilance and associated stress for parents of children with complex needs?" published as an early online version in *Child: Care, Health and Development*. The paper takes a concept previously only applied to the way we use smart technology and suggests it as an alternative way of understanding the vigilance required by parents caring for a child with complex needs at home. *Child: Care, Health and Development* is a highly regarded multidisciplinary journal, particularly in the UK and has an impact factor of 1.692.
- **Luke Molloy** (PhD Candidate) along with his supervisors, Kim Walker, Richard Lakeman and Isabelle Skinner has had a paper titled "Ethnonursing and the ethnographic approach in nursing" published in *Nurse Researcher*.
- **Peter Mulholland** (PhD Candidate) presented a paper entitled: "Use of Critical Incident Technique (CIT) in interprofessional research: An example from rural paramedic care" at the Interprofessional Health, Education and Practice international (IHEP) conference in Melbourne, Victoria, 5 – 7 October 2015.
- **Melissa Terry** (Masters Candidate) presented a paper entitled: "Rhythm and 'baby' blues: The health care perspective and the lived experience of women with PND in rural and regional Tasmania" at the 41st National Australian Music Therapy Association Conference in Sydney, NSW, 18-19 September 2015.
- **Joanne Yeoh** (PhD Candidate) presented a poster

entitled: "Food security of migrants in a regional area of Australia A qualitative study" at the 12th Asian Congress of Nutrition, in Yokohama, Japan 14-18 May 2015.

- **Christine Materia** (PhD Candidate) submitted her thesis for examination. Her thesis has been examined and corrections are in progress.
- **Melissa Kirschbaum** and **Sancia West** (PhD Candidates) has her candidature of progression confirmed.



Kelly Edwards (PhD Candidate), Ciara Rafferty (Honours Student) and Kath Fitzgerald (PhD Candidate) presenting at the Australian College of Nursing forum in Brisbane.

Sharon Bingham – Australian College of Operating Room Nurses research grant’s 2015 winner

Sharon Bingham (Lecturer and PhD Candidate) has recently been awarded the Australian College of Operating Room Nurses (ACORN) research grant for 2015.



Sharon Bingham at the Tasmanian Operating Room Nurses (TORN) study day, 17 October 2015

I was presented with a cheque by Sarah Bird, ACORN Director, at the Tasmanian Operating Room Nurses (TORN) study day on 17th October 2015.

This research grant is awarded annually to promote research in perioperative nursing practice and I feel very honoured to have been the recipient of this year’s grant of \$20,000. I will use the funds to support the conduct of my research, which is exploring the topic ‘Getting the job done. Ways of working in perioperative nursing - implications for patient safety and practice’. This will include participating in a course on Human Factors, Teamwork and Resilience at Oxford University in the UK and attending national conferences to participate in proceedings and present my research findings.

Deb Carnes – When dream becomes reality

I am writing this with mixed emotions having just sent the final copy of my PhD to the Graduate Research Office, marking the end of an amazing but also challenging journey. I’m now heading towards my graduation ceremony with a touch of excitement but also the added sadness of knowing my original primary supervisor, Dr Erica Bell, was not able to see the final work.



Deb Carnes (PhD Candidate and Lecturer)

My research looked at safety climate and its influence on rural nurses’ views of reporting and disclosure of medication error. This stemmed from my interest in patient safety and quality, a passion that I shared with Erica. We also shared a love of research and health policy and it was through Erica’s encouragement that I was brave enough to use an emerging method (qualitative comparative analysis) for my thesis research.

Having now completed the thesis, my thanks goes to Prof Sue Kilpatrick (the co-supervisor

who became my primary supervisor) and Prof Rick Iedema. With their experienced guidance I was able to complete and submit my thesis within the required maximum completion date.

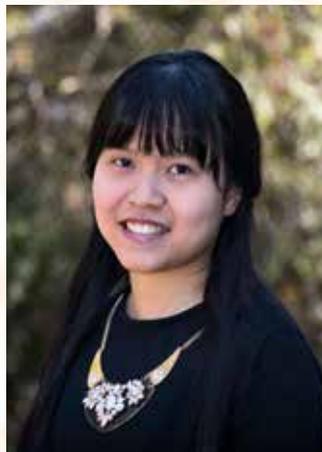
The Centre for Rural Health is a wonderful environment for anyone undertaking a research higher degree. The strong research focus and the culture of involving students as part of the team made me really feel what I was doing was worthwhile. The support of everyone, particularly the work by Dr Quynh Lê in her role as Grad Research Co-ordinator, has been vital along the way. Other students undertaking research degrees have also been a tremendous support during my time studying with the Centre.

I am also extremely grateful to my colleagues in the School of Health Sciences who have given all sorts of support and encouragement since I started work here almost four years ago. Luckily, because I'm a staff member with the School, now that the journey is over I will not lose touch with my PhD family in rural health.

Joanne Yeoh – The end of a journey and the start of a new horizon

Looking back, it feels like only yesterday that I left Malaysia to my study at the University of Tasmania. I cannot believe it! I still remember the excitement, anxiety, and a little concern about the unknown world when I landed at Launceston airport. I murmured to myself: "This is the place where I will start my new life: emotionally, spiritually and academically."

When I first walked along the streets of Launceston, I was surprised that there were not as many people, cars, and shops as I was used to seeing in Kuala Lumpur. It was a bit strange to live in a small city... but now it has become my second 'home sweet home' as Launceston has given me more than I had expected: friendliness, calmness, natural beauty, inspiration,



Joanne Yeoh (PhD Candidate)

and a very cosy social environment.

It did not take me long to make friends with students, local as well as international. After the first two months, UTas was no longer just the new university that I had read about on the Web before my departure to Tasmania. It was definitely a transformative place in my life.

My thesis is on "Food security and cultural identity of migrants in Tasmania." It was a wonderful area for research as to some extent, it is related to my cultural background and my new academic interest. I was so pleased to read the examiners' reports. Actually, I was just "over the moon!"

I was fortunate to start my PhD journey at the Centre of Rural Health, where friendship and scholarship were interwoven to make my study meaningful and inspirational. I have been deeply touched by the care and support of my dedicated supervisors; a big thanks to my supervisors, Quynh and Rosa. Tony has been so supportive, academically and psychologically. Others (particularly Chona, Ha, little Thao, Darren) have done their best to make me feel at home.

Melissa Terry – Where should I begin?

Sometimes, life could be so fascinatingly out of expectation. With a small family with four young children, I would not think of anything else except making sure that the family is my first priority in life. I was pleased with what I was doing at home and out there in the community, particularly active in a local bagpipe band.



Melissa Terry (Masters Candidate)

Then one day, I had a chance to "coffee" on campus with Quynh and other students in the Centre of Rural Health; I started to confidently feel that a new direction emerged from the conversation. I could undertake graduate research at UTas and this could be a new and exciting window in my life.

I have been greatly interested in music and the powerful effects it has in many aspects of life. I would not do any research which arouses little interest in me. Thus, music and health have always been my great interest and curiosity. Yes, I needed to know more about the role of music in health, particularly music and postnatal depression. That

was where my research journey started.

Now, my thesis has been passed. I feel relieved and would like to express my deep gratitude to my supervisors (Dr Quynh Le and Stuart Auckland), staff and students in the Centre of Rural Health, particularly Tony, Chona, Joanne, Little Thao and Ha. As our family has moved to Melbourne, I am encouraged to undertake PhD at the University of Melbourne. I look ahead with great excitement.

It is a boy! Congratulations to Thao Doan

We are pleased to share the exciting news that Thao Doan, our Graduate Research student at the Centre for Rural Health has given birth to a healthy baby son, Paris Anh Pham. Mother and son are in good health and Thao is looking forward to submitting her PhD thesis for examination in February 2016.



Thao Doan (PhD Candidate) and her baby

Our warmest congratulations to Thao and her family.

Research skill workshops for 2016

We are planning a 2016 graduate research workshop series. In order to facilitate your participation in the forthcoming workshops/seminars, especially for part-time research candidates, we would like to seek your opinions regarding the workshop topics, time, length and modes of delivery of these workshop sessions.

Please forward your thoughts on these matters to Karla Peek at: Research.HealthSciences@utas.edu.au

Your prompt response would help us in organising research workshops and resources that meet your study needs in the coming year.

Concluding remarks

We are pleased to share with you many aspects of graduate research in the School of Health Sciences. Habyarimana, a community worker who works with young adults in the fight against HIV/AIDS through education and counselling, has something to say about the power of positive dreaming when facing life challenges: "The day you stop dreaming you will lose

your wings." He also adds: "some people spend the best part of their lives living the dreams of others." This is reflected well in the research stories of our students.

Last but not least, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Quynh, Liz, Raj, and Karla

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