

## From the Head of School

### Change of name

In line with more widespread changes occurring in many universities across Australia, the school is very pleased to announce that it has received University Council approval to change its name to the 'School of Nursing and Midwifery' from the start of this year. The school recommended this change of name in order to better acknowledge the rapid growth and development of midwifery within the school, since the introduction of the Bachelor of Midwifery in 2003.

### Quality review of courses

This year, as part of our commitment to quality improvement, we plan to undertake a major review of all our undergraduate awards. This includes those courses offered both in Australia and overseas (off-shore). These reviews will involve input from staff, students and of course, all our major stakeholders – primarily through the school's various external advisory committees. The reviews of those courses offered overseas in Singapore and Hong Kong will also involve our partner institutions in those countries and is part of a larger university-wide review of off-shore partners. The on-campus courses that will be reviewed over the next few months are the:

- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Midwifery
- Honours Degree of Bachelor of Nursing

- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Rural Health Practice
- Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration)

If you are interested in providing input or comments on any of the above courses, please do not hesitate to contact the school and talk or write to the relevant course coordinator.

### Research development

Late last year, the school finalised its strategic framework for the development of research over next few years. Following a staff workshop and in consultation with industry, we have identified a number research pillars and platforms that will become a key focus for development and research activity across the school. These key research areas are: acute care, midwifery, palliative care, nurse education, mental health, rural nursing, and health service operations (though our Centre for Health Services Operations Management). Each area has a 'convener' and all academic staff members within the school are members of at least one of these research groups. In this way, we believe that it is possible to assemble a critical mass of scholars, who will be able to support each other and successfully move forward a shared research agenda.

Tony Barnett  
Head of School

## Master of Nursing now offered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

This year the School of Nursing enrolled its first cohort from the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh. This was a result of negotiations between the hospital and the school. The students attend tutorials at a teaching site set up within the hospital conducted by staff who are approved Monash University honorary lecturers.

The students come from many countries including Egypt, Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This is the first time such a program has been offered in this way in the Kingdom. Several of the current students aim to come to Australia to complete the research component of their award. We look forward to their graduation at the end of next year.

## Australia Day Honour

### Professor Margaret O'Connor. A.M.

**DN (La Trobe), MN (RMIT), B.Theol (Melb), RN, FRCNA, AIMM**

Inaugural Vivian Bullwinkel Chair in Nursing, Palliative Care, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University.



Receiving the honour of a Member of the Order of Australia, has been an acknowledgement of Margaret's 20-year contribution to the establishment and management of palliative care services in Melbourne. The honour has provided Margaret with an opportunity to reflect back on the distinctiveness of a career spent in home-based care in a diversity of roles – clinical care, board membership, research, management, strategic planning and education.

Because of this strong clinical background, Margaret has an enduring interest in combining clinical issues with her research and education roles, in an effort to bring practice and theory closer together. Her clinical involvements have significantly directed her research interests in service delivery and policy as well as ethical issues in end of life care. Thus Margaret describes the strength of her University Chair being in the underpinning of the three clinical partners – Peninsula Health, Peninsula Hospice Service and the Royal District Nursing Service.

# New director for the Centre for Health Services Operations Management

The centre recently welcomed new Director, Dr Linda Dawson (right) who joined the team in March 2005. Dr Dawson's experience includes positions as a programmer, systems analyst, and as an academic at several universities including the University of Sydney, the University of Tasmania and Deakin University. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Sydney, a Graduate Diploma in Engineering Developments from the University of NSW and a Masters degree (Research) in Computer Science from the University of Tasmania. Dr Dawson was awarded a PhD in Information Systems from Monash University in 2002. Her thesis was awarded the Mollie Holman Award for best PhD thesis in the Faculty of Information Technology, 2002.

Dr Dawson is currently a senior lecturer in the School of Information Management and Systems in the Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University. Since 2001, she has been co-deputy director of the mCommerce Centre in the Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University. The centre provides consultancy, research and teaching activities in areas relating to emerging mobile and wireless technologies. Dr Dawson is specifically involved in research that investigates the social and organizational aspects of the adoption and diffusion of mobile technologies.

## Research focus

Dr Dawson's recent research has been in the area of the application of mobile and wireless technologies in healthcare. In 2004 she was part of a team including Dr Liza Heslop, Associate Professor Julie Fisher and Dr Andrew Howard which was awarded an ARC Linkage Grant for a research project at Monash Medical Centre. The project will investigate the implementation of wireless devices and applications for patient administration in two ward settings (neurology and neurosurgery). Outcomes from the project will include a set of guidelines and techniques for introducing and managing technology-enhanced patient administration and clinical systems.

## Dr Dawson's vision for CHSOM in 2005

"I believe that the strong foundations that have already been laid by Dr Liza Heslop and the researchers in the centre can be further built on to make CHSOM a focus for health and IT research within the faculties of Medicine,



Nursing and Health Sciences and Information Technology and at the Peninsula campus. Our first PhD completion by Virginia Plummer is an excellent outcome and indicates that the PhD program within the centre is well on track. Our four other PhD students are all making excellent progress. We now need to seek funding for scholarships to attract further high calibre students to the centre and the school.

"I also believe that we can build on the centre's seven collaborative research projects in the emerging and developing area of health and IT, including e-health and m-health, which are currently attracting funding and producing high-quality publications. Last year we had two successful competitive grant applications (ARC Linkage and Monash Small Grant) resulting in over \$250,000 of competitive research funding for 2004. The success of these grant applications means that the centre now has researchers with track records in competitive funding and publication which puts all

the members of the centre in an excellent position for attracting further funding.

"I am keen to focus a significant part of the 2005 initiative in CHSOM at the Peninsula campus in line with the university's strategic research direction in this area. Part of this focus will be in the collaborative research initiatives being set up by Pro-Vice Chancellor Phil Steele in the health research area

I am very much looking forward to a great and productive year of research at CHSOM in 2005."

## Malaysia conference announcement

### Nursing Meeting Healthcare Challenges Today, 4th July 2005, Penang

An invitation is extended to all professional nurses and interested healthcare personnel to participate in this conference which is being coordinated by Monash University, Lam Wah Ee Hospital, Penang and the Malaysian Nurses Association.

The aim of the conference is to provide an opportunity for nurses from various healthcare settings to reflect on and discuss issues related to the many challenges arising in contemporary healthcare.

Enquiries: Ms Rosani at Lam Wal Ee Hospital Penang on 04 – 657 18888 extn 1051, nurseadmin@hlwe.com or  
Ms Pathmavathy Namasivayam at Monash University, Australia on +61 3 9904 4502 or pathmavathy.namasivayam@med.monash.edu.au

## A guide for healthcare professionals supporting grieving children



This book is about children's grief; how we understand children's grief and how we support them. It was written for Japanese health-care professionals because grief care,

or bereavement support, especially for children, is not well established in Japan. The author is Linda Espie, grief

counselor, grief educator and supervisor in Melbourne. The translator is Kaori Shimoinaba who is a lecturer at School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University. There are 55 pictures in this book. The pictures are a wonderful contribution from Japanese children and reveal the power of children's artwork. Linda and Kaori hope this book will be a good textbook for Japanese healthcare professionals to meet their learning needs regarding the management of children's grief.

# Memorandum boosts Macao's healthcare sector

Monash has signed a memorandum of understanding that will see the university deliver a Master of Nursing program in Macao, on the south-east coast of China.

A delegation of academics from the Macao Polytechnic Institute recently visited Monash's Clayton campus to meet Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Alan Lindsay and the Head of Nursing and Midwifery, Associate Professor Tony Barnett.

Professor Lindsay and Macao Polytechnic Institute vice-president Eric Chao signed the Memorandum, which will have Monash providing the only postgraduate nursing opportunities in Macao.

Professor Lindsay said he looked forward to a close and productive collaboration between the two institutions.

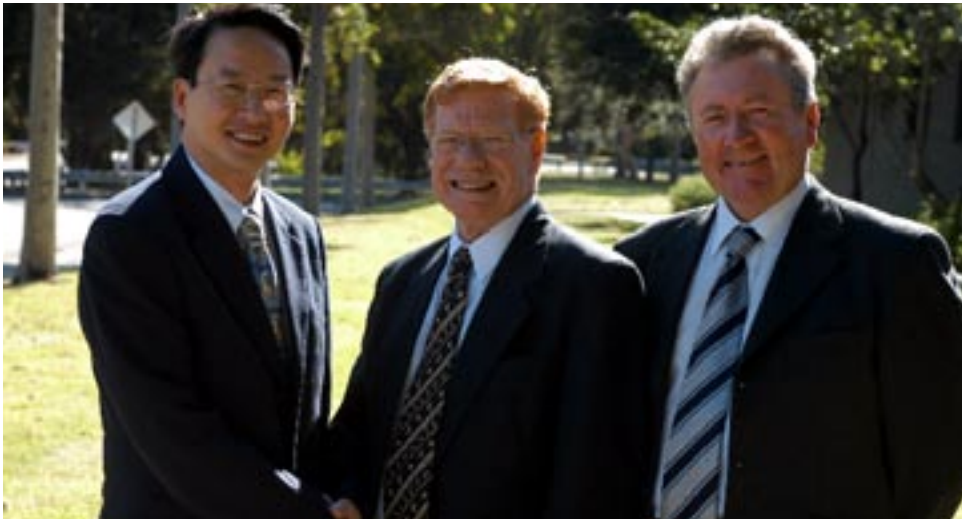
Associate Professor Barnett said the Memorandum would further strengthen the links between Monash and the Macao Polytechnic Institute.

"The Memorandum allows Monash to contribute to the strengthening of Macao's healthcare sector and will open research opportunities within this environment," he said.

"Macao is striving towards a better quality healthcare system and, with the huge number of tourists who visit every year, it is imperative that it is of an international standard.

"This partnership will also provide Monash students with the opportunity to gain clinical experience in another country and the opportunity for Macaonese students to study in Australia."

Natasha Whalley



From left: Macao Polytechnic Institute vice-president Eric Chao, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Alan Lindsay, and Head of Nursing and Midwifery, Associate Professor Tony Barnett.

## Alumni dinners held across Malaysia



The school held highly successful alumni dinners at three different centres in Malaysia at the end of 2004. The dinner functions were held at Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur and offered graduates the opportunity to reunite with colleagues, socialize and discuss a variety of professional issues. The response to the alumni functions was overwhelming and both graduates and guests enjoyed a presentation by the Vice-President of the Sabah Nurses Association. There was also a presentation of the Round 1 results of research currently taking place entitled 'Nursing in Malaysia – What are the issues?'

Attendees at the Kota Kinabalu alumni function were honored with the presence of the Head of School, Associate Professor Tony Barnett. This visit also saw the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University and Sabah Nurses' Association.

In March 2005, four graduates from Miri, Malaysia attended their graduation ceremony at Gippsland campus. The graduates were moved by the hospitality extended to them by the Gippsland staff.

## Honours students successfully combine Graduate Nurse Year Program and nursing research

Introducing Kim Woolley and Sarah Bastone who are currently participating in Graduate Nurse programs at two local private hospitals at the same time as undertaking the Honours degree of Bachelor of Nursing at Monash University. They were registered with the Nurses Board of Victoria after completing an undergraduate degree in 2004.

Kim is working part-time as a graduate nurse at Peninsula Private Hospital and her research is under the supervision of Dr Jenny Newton of Monash School of Nursing and Midwifery and Mr David Calladine, Unit Manager of Peninsula Private Hospitals' Coronary Care Unit. Kim's research project is entitled 'Discharge evaluation: Modification

and implementation of cardiac-related lifestyle changes'. The findings of the research are expected to be useful in evaluating the education provided by nurses to patients in terms of changes to lifestyle such as dietary and activity changes. The research is expected to contribute to lowering the incidence of recurrence of lifestyle-related health problems.

Sarah is also a part-time graduate nurse and is employed at Beleura Private Hospital in Mornington. Under the supervision of Robyn Fairhall of Monash School of Nursing and Midwifery and Ms Liz Spaul, Clinical Nurse Educator at Beleura, Sarah's project involves 'Evaluating preoperative education with

patients undergoing major joint replacement surgery'. The aim of her research project is to explore the views of patients about the content and quality of education that they receive in a pre-admission clinic, before hospitalization. In particular, Sarah is targeting those patients who have recently undergone total hip or knee replacement surgery. She hopes that the findings of this research project will be useful in assessing the effectiveness of preoperative education given to patients undergoing major joint replacement surgery and will contribute to better educational services for future patients.

For further information on the Honours program contact Associate Professor Glenice Ives at the school.

## Double degree commences in Mildura

The Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Rural Health Practice (double degree) will be offered to communities in North Western Victoria and in partnership with Mildura Base and Mildura Private hospitals.

In addition, plans for the development of graduate certificate level courses in the areas of emergency and critical care will see an extension of the Monash/Mildura Base Hospital collaboration. Education and clinical staff would be directly involved in teaching for the Mildura cohort.

Monash nursing remains closely linked to the Mildura School of Rural Health.

Director John Russell, Coordinator Vicki Dane, teacher Jenny Timmis and administration whiz Frann Sette have continued to provide



## Release of nursing procedures on DVD

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has developed a series of DVDs of nursing procedures, specifically designed to assist the learning of second-year nursing students.

Procedures developed include

- Injection techniques
- Intravenous therapy
- ECG taking and cardiac monitoring
- Blood transfusion
- Drug administration
- Neurovascular observations
- Naso gastric insertion
- Aseptic technique
- Venipuncture

The concept behind the development of these short films is to allow students to revisit skills taught in the nursing practice laboratories, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their knowledge and practice in their own time. The flexibility to review the theory and skill at their leisure allows them to practice and consolidate without the pressure of lecturers or fellow learners watching. Clinical placements can be very stressful for students and in some cases the skills laboratory is the only opportunity they have to practice those skills. It is hoped

assistance to the nursing school. The collaboration is expected to extend to units of study taught jointly between nursing and medicine. The development of a joint-skills laboratory is also being pursued.

The first group of nursing students for the Mildura campus comprises a number of both Division 2 nurses and school-leavers. The students are all local and were strongly drawn to the rural focus of the program and the opportunities for life long learning in association with Monash generally.

After several weeks together a strong support network is establishing and coordinator Lyn Faulks is delighted with the maturity and determination of the group.

We have a number of students with fantastic life experiences including overseas volunteering in South Africa, Canada and the UK. Students who have had successful careers in Division 2 nursing who want to take the next step.

They have great potential and with a small cohesive group we are able to offer a very personalized educational experience.

Lyn Faulks

that the DVDs will allow repeated learning opportunities and thereby remove some of these stresses for the student.

Developed by Jill French, Lorraine Walker and Bernard Hornblower these films are seen as a worthwhile addition to textbook explanations, reinforcing multi-sense learning for commonly performed procedures. Role playing of patients in these videos was undertaken by colleagues, relatives and members of the film crew (watch the tears flow as the nasogastric goes in). Feedback from the students has been extremely positive.

The DVDs will also help with 'Just In Time' learning for students who may not be exposed to selected practice environments for an extended period of time (perhaps not at all during their training) and may need to refresh their knowledge before attempting the procedure.

Funding for the development of these films was provided by a Monash University grant that allowed for the development of online and flexible learning materials for Year 2 nursing students. The purchase price is just \$4 per DVD.

If you would like further information please contact Jill French at Gippsland 5122 6436 or Bernard Hornblower at Peninsula 9904 4376.

## Congratulations Lisa

Lisa McKenna is the school's latest doctor after she graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy on April 7 2005. Lisa's thesis entitled 'A critical examination of clinical teaching in undergraduate nurse education'



explored clinical teaching work using a two-phased approach informed by the work of Michel Foucault. The first phase involved a historical exploration of the evolution of clinical teaching models since the transfer of nursing into the higher education sector. It uncovered a range of discourses impacting on the development of clinical teaching approaches. It used interviews with three nurse academics from the time of the transfer as well as analysis of historical documentation.

The second, larger phase of the study involved conducting in-depth interviews with nine clinical teachers across Victoria: three sessional clinical teachers, three clinical teaching associates and three preceptors. The findings revealed a very complex interplay of discourses impacting on their work. It uncovered that clinical teachers operated from their own personal curricula and involved intricate power-knowledge relations with students, universities and clinical agencies. Clinical teaching was shaped by time and teachers used time to shape their work. Teachers used a range of strategies to discipline the learning and performance of students for whom they were responsible, and mothering roles were evident in their interactions with students.

## News and Views

Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome from past and present students, staff and colleagues. We would love to receive photos, conference snapshots, and information on career moves for our alumni, research progress, awards, innovations and travel. Just contact us with your idea, anytime and we will do the rest!

Contact Virginia Plummer on 03 9904 4064 or [virginia.plummer@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:virginia.plummer@med.monash.edu.au)

### Contributions

Associate Professor  
Tony Barnett  
Professor Margaret  
O'Connor  
Dr Linda Dawson  
Dr Joy Lyneham  
Dr Lisa McKenna  
Natasha Whalley  
Pathmavathy  
Namasivayam

Lynette Faulks  
Kerri Dakin  
Kim Woolley  
Sarah Bastone  
Kaori Shimoinaba  
Bernard Hornblower  
Jill French

### Editor

Virginia Plummer