Message from the Dean

In UWA’s year of centenary celebrations, the Faculty of Education has its eyes firmly on the future. Positioned among the top 100 universities in the world we are focused with determination on quality in all our activity.

In this issue of The Educator, you will read about our high quality Master of Teaching courses designed to bring together top performing graduates in stimulating programs that give them the knowledge, skills and understanding to be great Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary or Music teachers. Our programs release the creativity within each participant through innovative and engaging uses of technology.

Graduates of the Faculty’s initial teacher education courses are making their mark in the schools to which they are appointed. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing their impact in the wider educational landscape in the years to come.

The UWA Faculty of Education has begun teaching its Master of Teaching program (Primary and Early Childhood) through the Albany Centre. This pre-service qualification, within the Albany context, enables people to engage in study without having to relocate to Perth.

Mark moved to Albany a few years ago and explains “the Master of Teaching Course at UWA has provided me with the opportunity to pursue a long held interest in education, especially as a father of three young children. Upon completion, it will hopefully allow me to give something back to the local community.”

Lynda’s background is drama, circus and performance. She chose this course to broaden her career prospects. She finds the course rewarding “I am gaining a deeper understanding of child development. I love working with children.”

This 2 year full-time or 4 year part-time course has intensive teaching sessions, along with practical, face-to-face contact in a range of classroom environments.

The program will be offered from 2013 to 2016 enabling people to enrol full-time or part-time. However, to complete the program in Albany students will need to finish the degree by the end of 2016.

Please contact Anna Johansson – (anna-carin.johansson@uwa.edu.au) or the Coordinator, Valerie Faulkner (valerie.faulkner@uwa.edu.au) with any enquiries related to the Albany courses and enrolment in them.

Master of Teaching degrees launched in Albany

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First Harvest

In March 2013 the first graduates of Master of Teaching (Early Childhood) received their degree; at a graduation ceremony in Winthrop Hall.

Laura Wilson (pictured above) was one of those graduates and as a high achieving student was asked to give a speech.

Laura is an advocate of the two year degree. ‘The two-year structure of the Master of Teaching course provided me with the opportunity to engage with current teaching philosophies and pedagogy surrounding Early Childhood education, the developing child and the environments we provide for them to learn within.’

She also liked the ‘regular opportunities to experience and make connections between theory and the realities of being in a classroom. I have entered my first year of teaching with confidence and wonderful relationships with other students and lecturers with whom I can share these new and exciting experiences’

Laura is now enjoying teaching Year One (5 and 6 year olds) at Harvey Primary School.

The Faculty of Education looks forward to producing many more cohorts of high quality graduates who will enter the school systems and make a positive impact on their students.

For more information on the Master of Teaching (Early Childhood) please contact Faculty Administration Officer Anna Johnasson (anna-carin.johansson@uwa.edu.au) or visit: www.education.uwa.edu.au

Master of Teaching Music

Beginning in 2014, students can enrol in this new course where they will be taught the skills to operate as a multi-skilled and versatile professional music educator across early childhood, primary and secondary settings. In addition, the course includes the study of instrumental / vocal teaching practices that will equip students for studio music teaching.
Books for Bhutan

Winthrop Professor Helen Wildy, Dean of the Faculty of Education, is encouraging staff and students to donate children’s books to Bjemina Primary School in Bhutan.

Helen decided to start collecting children’s books after returning from a UWA International visit to Bhutan. During her five days she met Dr Dorji Thinley, Director of Research and External Relations, Royal University of Bhutan, and Thakur S Powdyel, the Minister for Education of the Royal Government of Bhutan. She attended two large schools, giving a talk to 1200 students at assembly at one and teaching a year 8 Mathematics class at the other.

She travelled to Bjemina Primary School, a rural school near Bhutan’s capital city Thimpu. An earthquake had damaged one of the school buildings: the 42 Year 4 Students are accommodated in a UNICEF tent (see photo). Helen also noticed that the school library had a very small collection. In partnership with UWA’s International Centre, staff of the Faculty of Education are collecting books to send to this school.

On this visit Helen reconnected with some of the Faculty of Education’s international graduates who are now working in their home country.

For more information on donating books to Bhutan please contact Martin Swann 6448 2443 or martin.swann@uwa.edu.au

Professional Practice: Learning through doing

Students currently enrolled in professional practice units for a Master of Teaching (Early Childhood, Primary or Secondary), the Graduate Diploma in Education and Bachelor of Education complete their first periods of professional practice in schools during the months of May and June.

Before this first practicum, the Faculty of Education provides each student with a stress apple (pictured). The apples were handed out at the pre-prac briefing much to the delight and laughter of students, many of who were feeling a little apprehensive about commencing their first days in school in the role of teacher.

The professional practice component of the course provides pre-service teachers with opportunities to learn about teaching first hand. During their time in schools students develop their understanding of teaching and acquire the knowledge, skills and techniques to help inform and shape their own classroom practice.

Finding school placements for our pre-service teachers is not an easy task. This semester our Professional Practice Officers Elia Sinclair, Louise Thomas and Peta Gjedsted successfully placed 293 pre-service teachers with over 100 teacher mentors in 91 schools across the Perth metropolitan region. Around the same number of students will be placed in schools next semester, with a number of these students undertaking their professional practice in a rural or remote school.

Please contact the Professional Practice Office (prac-edu@uwa.edu.au) or the Coordinator, Lisa Bell (lisa.bell@uwa.edu.au) regarding any enquiries related to professional practice or school partnerships.
Graduate Success Story

Jessica Cobley (pictured) above discusses her career success since graduating from the Faculty of Education’s Graduate Diploma in Education.

After taking a minor in ICT (Information Communication Technology, taught by Jennifer Tibbits) and taking on board the valuable feedback from my peers and Tutor, I was able to devise and implement a tailor-made wiki for my English as an additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) students.

This wiki supplements the textbook that is used in class and enables my students to further develop their skills and knowledge in many different areas. With support from a co-worker, the wiki has recently been recognised on a national level. Our class wiki has been invited to be a part of the Action Research Program which is sponsored by Cambridge University Language Assessment and run by English Australia.

The seven month Action Research program involves classroom research, a presentation of our findings at a national conference and a small publication of our findings at the end of November.

My dream as a TESOL teacher has been to make a contribution to the TESOL community that provides me with so many job opportunities. The pedagogy I’ve learned from the Grad. Dip. Ed. course which I completed at UWA last year will not only assist me in this important stage of my career but also help further my Professional Development.

Centenary Celebrations

In February UWA celebrated its centenary with Alumni weekend. The opening event, Luminous night, drew thousands of people to enjoy the spectacular projections on Winthrop Hall as well as performances and artworks on the university grounds.

During the weekend graduates had an opportunity to reconnect with the university by attending a range of events, talks and performances organised by different Faculties.

The Faculty of Education hosted three short thought-provoking presentations. More than 70 graduates took part, and UWA’s Vice Chancellor Paul Johnson attended. The event was opened by Dean Helen Wildy, who introduced Hon. Peter Collier, Minister for Education. The Minister spoke on the past and future of education in WA, drawing on government policies as well as his own experiences as a teacher.

Associate Professors Grace Oakley and Christine Howitt then talked about the faculty’s strengths in information and communication technologies, presenting examples of innovative pedagogical work created by pre-service teachers using their faculty-issued iPads. Associate Professor Robert Faulkner closed the event with an interactive and highly engaging presentation on the value of musical expression in living well and learning for the future.

Thank you to everyone involved for making the weekend such a fantastic experience!