Message from the Dean

In our second ‘The Educator’ for 2012, we feature some initiatives as well as some recent achievements. I am pleased to announce that we plan to offer our Primary and Early Childhood initial teacher education Master of Teaching course in Albany for the period 2013-2015, as well as from Nedlands. We offer this course to those with a Bachelor degree who wish to become teachers. For the first time in 2013 we offer a new course to update teachers’ content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge for the Australian Curriculum, a course run from our Nedlands campus. I am sure all our alumni will be booking their places for UWA’s Alumni Weekend 2013, and for our Faculty’s events, including talks by the Minister for Education and our staff. I look forward to meeting many Education alumni. Immediately following this weekend, we host the ISFIRE Conference.

I am also pleased to report recent achievements of some of our staff: Dr Mary Oliver’s ‘most valuable paper of the year’; our National Year of Reading collaboration with Hollywood Primary School and Moerlina School; a visit from a clown doctor; travels to the state’s mid-west by our initial teacher education students led by Dr Elaine Sharplin; talks by our Accomplished researchers; and prestigious grants and publications by our staff.

Master of Teaching going Regional- Albany Centre in 2013

Have you considered becoming an early childhood teacher or a primary teacher?

That is the question the Faculty of Education is putting to potential students in the State’s Southwest.

In 2013 The University of Western Australia’s Albany Centre will offer (subject to sufficient enrolments) a two-year Master of Teaching enabling graduates to qualify as early childhood or primary teachers.

The Master of Teaching is a preservice teacher preparation course designed for those who wish to use their current Bachelor degree to gain entry to the teaching profession. You can enrol as either a two-year full-time candidate or a part-time equivalent.

This course will give you a clear understanding of educational theory and classroom practice. It will provide you with a high level of competence to manage the challenges of early childhood or primary teaching through university-based learning and mentored teaching experience. As a graduate of this course, you will be able to work in state and independent schools/settings both nationally and internationally.

The admission requirement for this course is any three-year Bachelor’s degree.

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Year of Reading 2012

The new EDFAA library and the Graduate School of Education at UWA joined forces in August to host National Year of Reading 2012 events to celebrate the joy of reading.

Eighteen preservice teachers from the Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Programs volunteered to read a range of stories to children from Hollywood Primary School and Moerlina School.

The students visited our EDFAA Library for the hour long events on three days. The Principal of Hollywood Primary School, Beverly Innes, said, ‘Each student got something unique out of the sessions, and could not stop chatting about books all the way back to school! It was exciting to visit the beautiful library.’

The National Year of Reading 2012 is an initiative of Australian libraries and library associations and ‘helps people discover and rediscover the magic of books’ and encourages Australia to become a nation of readers. (See www.love2read.org.au/about-us.cfm)

Clown Doctor Therapy

Victoria Valdebenito Mac Farlane, a Master of Education (Coursework) student and Clown Doctor, presented a seminar to the Faculty of Education in August.

She talked to staff and students about what it is like to be a clown doctor. Originally from Chile, Victoria started working as a clown doctor in her home country. In Perth she has divided her time between studying and volunteering as a clown doctor at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Faculty staff were interested in finding out about the research behind clown therapy.

For more information on Clown Doctors or to donate money to them visit www.humourfoundation.com.au

Most Valuable Paper of the Year

My research paper that was judged as ‘Most Valuable Paper of the Year Award’ by Teaching Science reported on a study of Year Ten students’ understanding of evolution.

Rather than ‘teach and test’ we explored whether students were able to apply the principles and mechanisms of evolution to everyday situations. For example: do body builders necessarily have children with more muscles? How do head lice become resistant to insecticide? There is much in the education literature that suggests teaching in a constructivist way helps students to better understand the science concepts. This action research explored the different conceptual frameworks of students and the effects of an explicit teaching program on their learning.

Master of Curriculum Studies

Career advances for English, History and Geography teachers.

The Faculty of Education’s new Master’s of Curriculum Studies aligns with the requirements of the Australian Curriculum and the National Professional Standards for Teachers. To update your skills in curriculum development, pedagogy an the use of information and communication technologies in the classroom, join us.

For application details email: gse@uwa.edu.au, call (08) 64882388 or visit education.uwa.edu.au
Alumni Weekend 2013

On the weekend of February 8-10 2013 The University of Western Australia will be a hive of activity. As a part of the University’s centenary year, alumni from all around the world are invited to UWA to re-connect and participate in a range of events.

The Faculty of Education is hosting a series of short talks on Saturday 9 February at the Fox Lecture Theatre. From 10.30am The Education Minister Hon. Peter Collier will talk about the past and the future of education in Western Australia.

Two talks will showcase new developments in teaching. Speakers include Christine Howitt and Grace Oakley who will discuss the use of mobile technologies in education. Robert Faulkner will illustrate why singing really matters for young people’s development and learning.

To check other events on campus during Alumni Weekend please visit the website: development.uwa.edu.au/alumni/weekend

Maintaining and Strengthening Rural Partnerships

The Faculty of Education has a long tradition of working with rural schools and supporting developments in rural education. Three recent events are evidence of this continuing support: The Midwest Rural Education Field Trip, and new Narembeen and Goldfields trips. The Midwest Rural Education Field trip has provided secondary pre-service teachers with opportunities to experience teaching and living in rural communities for over 13 years. This year, two primary teachers joined the experience.

The staff at Mount Magnet District High School, Mullewa District High School, John Willcock College, Geraldton Grammar, Morrawa District High School and Morawa Agricultural College provided the pre-service teachers with a generous welcome to their schools and communities. The students participated in community barbeques, cultural experiences and classroom interaction.

These longstanding partnerships will be expanded in 2013 with the delivery of a Master of Teaching Unit delivered to pre-service teachers on site at Morowa DHS.

The success of this field trip model has informed developments in two projects around attraction and retention of teachers to rural areas funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council [ALTC]. Dr Elaine Sharplin has contributed to the production of curriculum materials to enhance the preparation of pre-service teachers, most recently in the resource package entitled Teaching in Remote Australian Schools: Enhancing Pre-service teacher education (http://www.spera.asn.au/school/2012-10-10-teaching-guides) and previously through the Renewing Rural and Regional Teacher Education Curriculum (http://www.rrrtc.net.au/). Both projects advocate the use of field trip models to provide pre-service teachers with rural experiences.

An outcome of these projects has been the inclusion of two additional field trips for GSE pre-service teachers: the Goldfields experience, offered within the Western Australian Combined Universities Training Schools Projects (WACUTS) for pre-service teachers in all phases of learning, and the other to Narembeen organised by Associate Professor Robert Faulkner and Associate Professor Christine Howitt took pre-service teachers enrolled in the Master’s of Teaching Early Childhood and Primary.

Rural Education on the Global Stage

Mark the 13-15 February 2013 in your diary for attendance at the Third International Symposium for Innovation in Rural Education to be held at the University of Western Australia and hosted by the Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia (SPERA) and UWA. You can register for the event here: education.uwa.edu.au/research/isfire-2013

The symposium aims to “connect the dots” of research from around the world in the area of rural education. International keynote speakers include Kai Schafft, Director of The Center on Rural Education and Communities at Penn State University and Editor of the Journal of Research in Rural Education and Michael Corbett from Arcadia University, Canada. A vast array of papers from the US, Canada, Indonesia, China, Papua, Iceland, Korea and Costa Rica will ensure that this symposium provides a truly international perspective.
The Faculty of Education is proud to announce the following selection of our grants and publications for 2012:

**Grants**

Of the 185 ARC linkage grants awarded nationally in 2012, only 10 addressed education. Amongst them was ‘Evaluating and developing music-based strategies for teaching and learning in remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia’

This is a collaboration between Associate Professor Robert Faulkner (UWA) with Dr Andrea Emberley (UWA), Dr Sally Treloyn (University of Melbourne); Prof. Jane Davidson (UWA); A/Prof. Kathryn Marsh (University of Sydney); Mrs Patsy Bedford (Kimberley Language Resource Centre); and Miss Siobhan Casson (Kimberley Language Resource Centre).

The project examines music-based teaching and learning as a means to support Aboriginal stakeholders in the Kimberley region of WA in their efforts to sustain critically endangered cultural practices. Partnering with the Kimberley Language Resource Centre, the research team will explore strategies to develop programming for cultural teaching and learning in remote communities.

Faulkner, R., Sharplin, E. (2012). Teaching Fellowship Scheme Project “Identifying inherent requirements to enhance practicum experiences and course outcomes in education.” $20,000

Faulkner, R., Sharplin, E. (2012). Teaching Development Funds: Phase II of “Identifying inherent requirements to enhance practicum experiences and course outcomes in education.” $13,000


**Books**


*the full list including book chapters and papers will be in the next Education Research Developments newsletter

**Apps Fair**

Join us on Thursday 8 November 2012 to learn about new ways of using mobile technologies in teaching and learning.

Bring your own mobile technology (e.g. iPad, iPhone, iPod) to share apps you have used. The event is hosted at the University Club of Western Australia. Lunch and morning tea are provided.

Online registrations are open until 26 October 2012: education.uwa.edu.au/news_and_events/app-fair