Message from the Dean

2013 is a year of celebration for UWA. To celebrate our centenary, we began the year with Luminous Night, a spectacular evening of art and entertainment showcasing the beauties of our campus. This year each Faculty engaged in a UWA Gives Back activity. Our Faculty travelled north to Morawa District High School, giving our Master of Teaching students a taste of wonderful rural hospitality, while sharing our expertise with the teachers and students at the school, and the wider community.

In this edition of The Educator, you will read of outstanding achievements of our Faculty staff and students. Four staff members received awards for their excellent contribution to the profession, teaching and research supervision. Three graduates were recognised for their excellence in research and teaching. I am grateful for the achievements of all our staff and students. We have a great deal to celebrate at UWA.

Winthrop Professor Helen Wildy

UWA Gives Back to Morawa District High School

Seven of our MTeach students visited Morawa District High School as a part of the UWA Gives Back centenary celebrations and their unit ‘Interventions for learning.’

‘Our students provided one-on-one targeted tuition to 25 Morawa students. The MTeach students were amazed at the positive impact they could have on the High School students in such a short time,’ unit coordinator Associate Professor Grace Oakley said.

Cara Webling found the experience very worthwhile: ‘It was a fantastic opportunity to give something back to a community. I was also able to use some of the strategies I learnt during my Masters of Teaching (Primary) degree and be part of UWA’s century of achievement.’

Professor Peter Merrotsy supported the MTeach students during the two weeks in Morawa. ‘The timing was excellent as the students got to attend the school’s Open Night and also the school’s Sports Day,’ he said.

The experience gave the students a taste of what it is like teaching in rural Western Australia. ‘I came back with the hunger to go country and I have learnt so much from the children and staff in Morawa,’ Cara said.

The Faculty would like to thank the Principal Tonia Carslake and all the staff at Morawa District High School for making the experience so rich and rewarding for our students.

For information about UWA’s Master of Teaching degrees please visit: education.uwa.edu.au/courses

Events

Fogarty Forum

On Nov 21, the Faculty of Education will host the 2013 Fogarty Foundation Postgraduate Research Forum.

This forum is funded by the Fogarty Foundation and run by postgraduate students for postgraduate students. It is for students at all stages of their research and provides an opportunity for students to share their expertise, learn from colleagues and be inspired.

For information on attending: education.uwa.edu.au/research/forum

FACULTY OF EDUCATION STUDENTS IN MORAWA
A highly-regarded academic within the field of educational leadership, Professor Simon Clarke received a 2013 ACEL (Australian Council for Educational Leadership) National Fellowship.

The national honour recognises ACEL members of at least five years standing who have made an outstanding contribution to education.

Simon is a highly experienced educator and researcher, whose most recent work includes developing a research agenda for school leadership in post-conflict countries.

For further information on this award see the ACEL website: acel.org.au/index.php?id=1708

2013 ELICOS Award
Becky Steven and Jessica Cobley recently won a national award for their research. Their action research project aimed at finding ways of using Web 2.0-based tools to develop students’ speaking fluency.

The Action Research in ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) programme focuses on teaching and assessing speaking skills. In 2013 the category was contested by six teams of teachers from four states (WA, NSW, Victoria and Queensland).

Jessica, a graduate of the Faculty of Education, was inspired by the Apps Fair hosted by the Faculty in 2012. ‘It encouraged me to share and show others the way to use mobile applications as an educational tool,’ Jessica said.

‘The prevalence of smart phones and devices in the language learning classroom means students can record their voices and use apps to measure and target their own speaking fluency. In the future we can use this technology to assist students with their presentations and group discussions,’ she continued.

Dr Hanan Khalifa (pictured above) flew from Cambridge to present them with their award. ‘The highlight of the awards ceremony was sitting at her table,’ Jessica said.

The award-winning pair have been invited to share their findings at the 2014 IATEFL Pre-Conference Research Special Interest Group Event in the UK. The international Cambridge ESOL Research Notes journal will also publish their research article in May 2014.
Faculty teaching awards

Every year the Faculty recognises outstanding educators for their inspirational work with the Faculty Teaching Awards. This year the Faculty is proud to recognize Associate Professor Christine Howitt and Professor Marnie O’Neill for their excellence in teaching.

The awards are determined against national criteria set by the Office for Learning and Teaching. The awards also directly reflect student perspectives, as students are the ones who initially nominate exceptional teachers for the awards.

‘Receiving this award has been a small, yet valuable, personal treasure. Having students acknowledge my teaching, and how it has assisted their learning, reaffirmed the place of creativity, constructivism and challenge in education’ said Christine.

Marnie spoke of her passion for research supervision and the relationship that forms between supervisor and student over time. ‘One of the things I really enjoy is that first contact with research students, because they come with their own ideas. Helping them to realise those ideas as a research project without taking away their ownership I find really exciting – it’s like being offered a gift every time,’ she said.

Congratulations to Christine and Marnie!

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Master of Teaching Graduate Success

The Faculty is proud to see its graduates take on new challenges and succeed in the world of education. One of our distinguished graduates is Michael Webb, who won the Graduate School of Education Master of Teaching (Primary) Prize at our Prize Giving Ceremony in June.

Michael is now working at Rosalie Primary School and is aware of the need to have male role models in schools. ‘I think it is important for children of both genders to understand that men can be passionate about literature, mathematics, art, history and science - and not just footy! I am fortunate to work in a school that maintains a balance of male, female, young and experienced staff members. This balance enriches the professional environment and leads to more considered decisions relating to planning, instruction and classroom management,’ he said.

Michael has developed a keen interest in effective maths education in the primary classroom. ‘I am spending a lot of time reflecting on my own teaching repertoire, and working with other practitioners to improve whole of school maths planning,’ he said.

Michael enjoyed the Master of Teaching course, and is already contemplating further postgraduate studies: ‘I can’t rule out some graduate research in the area of rich learning tasks and their influence on the development of mathematical thinking and working in primary students. UWA may not have seen the last of me!’
Strong start for Master of Curriculum Studies

The first students enrolled in the new Master of Curriculum Studies are in the second semester of the three-and-a-half-year program.

Large-scale changes in the Australian education system have led to teachers looking for further study opportunities to develop their expertise, and the Master of Curriculum Studies is specifically designed to help teachers address the Australian Curriculum as well as the new National Professional Standards for Teachers at this critical juncture. Lisa Meads, of Chisholm Catholic College, had wanted to do a master’s degree for a while, and the Master of Curriculum Studies came at the right time for her: “With the current changes to the curriculum and the importance of using technology in the classroom, it seemed like a wise choice.”

The course has also led to a renewed enthusiasm for teaching: in a recent issue of Education Review the Master of Curriculum Studies students talked about re-engaging with their home discipline through the course. Melanie Wilson of Ashdale Secondary College also encouraged other teachers to consider enrolling: “If you love your subject and you love teaching, then do it and don’t look back!”

The Master of Curriculum Studies is currently offered to specialist teachers in English, Geography and History, and further curriculum areas are anticipated in the future.

For more information on this course please visit: education.uwa.edu.au/courses

Notable achievements and lasting friendships

The International Committee would like to honour retiring academic Dr Alan Pritchard, who has been working in education for 54 years. He worked as a school principal, a university lecturer, a consultant and even led UNESCO review teams in curriculum innovation (1998) and parental involvement in schools (1999) in Indonesia.

Alan came to the Faculty of Education at the behest of then Head of Department Judith Chapman. He was a part of the Faculty’s first EdD cohort along with Professor Simon Clarke.

His contribution to the Faculty of Education’s transnational program was immense. He was a part of the team that began teaching the Master’s program in rural WA in 1997, which then lead to teaching the program in Singapore and Hong Kong in late 1998.

During his impressive supervision record of 20 international and 5 local completions he supervised a range of thesis topics from ‘how do business organisations respond to unplanned change’ to ‘informal learning among casino workers in Macau’

Alan would like to thank Professor Judith Chapman for her efforts in bringing him to UWA and Winthrop Professor Thomas O’Donoghue for his collegiality, supervision, and mentorship. The Faculty is grateful to Alan for all his amazing work over the years.

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ac.uwa.edu.au

We welcome contributions, photos, feedback and anecdotes.