Dear Colleagues

As 2009 draws to a close it is timely to reflect back over the year. FaCH has (again) enjoyed many successes during this past year. I would like to offer warm congratulations to our members who have had successes and notable achievements during 2009, and there is more information about these successes in the pages of this newsletter. In addition to successes, 2009 brought difficulties for some FaCH members. One of the joys of being a member and active participant of a dynamic research community such as FaCH is that in challenging and difficult times, we are able to pull together to support one another. I know it is not easy to ask for help or support, but collegial generosity is an important aspect of the culture of FaCH, and it is amazing just how much generous collegial support is available when needed.

We are ending 2009 on a high note, though in some ways 2009 has been something of a transitional year for us. The year has seen us go through a rigorous process of external review, resulting in recognition of our performance and potential, through the awarding of funds to cover some new appointments. As a result of this, we have recently been through a recruitment process to appoint SL Researcher positions, and a post-doctoral fellow. We had an excellent field, and successful applicants are due to commence early in the New Year. At this stage we have five new RHD students commencing in the next semester. These include three full time PhD students on scholarships; two to be located on the Parramatta campus, and one at Campbelltown, and two international students. We are currently in negotiations for an administrative position, and I hope to have some good news on that front in the coming weeks.

As I write this, we have just moved into the new FaCH accommodations. This new space at Campbelltown provides an excellent research-intensive environment in which we can work, and I believe that our performance will increase sharply as a result of this move. The new space is on the top floor of building 17 and comprises 12 RHD student spaces, a suite of offices, reception area, meeting room and kitchen facilities. It will be great to all be under one roof, after such a long period of being in temporary accommodation. The timing of the move is excellent, as we will be able to begin to get settled before the end of the year, and will be able to come back into the new space and begin 2010 in our lovely new environment. Please do come and check out the new space when you are next on the Campbelltown campus.

I take this opportunity to offer sincere thanks to you all for your support and for the wonderful contributions you have all made to FaCH during 2009. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year period, and hope that everyone gets the chance to take some quality relaxation time over the break, to enjoy family and friends, and generally re-charge. I look forward to seeing you all again early in 2010, as we begin our best year yet!
**Welcome**

**Gillian Murphy**

Gillian has been working at UWS on the Hawkesbury campus since June 2009. Prior to this, she was working within an emergency assessment and acute mental health team. Gillian has worked within a range of mental health related settings for twelve years with a variety of differing roles including clinical roles, education and research. Since commencing here, she has enrolled to study a PhD examining “Adult children of those with severe mental illness: their experiences of parenting and being parented” using interviews to gather stories and narrative data.

“I’m already getting use to sitting under a pile of government reports and journal articles!!”

Welcome to FaCH Gillian, we look forward to working and interacting with you in the future.

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**Michelle Cleary**

Associate Professor Michelle Cleary was appointed to the School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Western Sydney in November 2009. Formerly, Michelle worked in the Research Unit in Sydney South West Area Mental Health Service as a Clinical Nurse Consultant. She has conducted research in a large number of areas in mental health generally; these areas include outcome measurement and use of rating scales, stigma of mental illness, patient and carer assessment of need and care-giving consequences, dual diagnosis, delivering difficult news, and research processes and ethics. Michelle has authored over 85 academic papers (many as lead author), is a reviewer for a number of journals and is also on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*. Michelle has also been a recipient of numerous research scholarships.

Welcome Michelle, we look forward to working with you in the future.

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**Congratulations**

The Australian Learning and Teaching Council promote excellence in higher education by recognising, rewarding and supporting outstanding teaching and learning practice. Citations are awarded to academic and professional staff that has made long-standing contributions to the quality of student learning and improving the overall student experience.

We are so please that Dr Sharon Andrew has been awarded a Teaching Excellence Award in the College of Health and Science Learning and Teaching Awards.

Congratulations Sharon on your well deserved Success.
Dr Yenna Salamonson has been awarded a citation for "Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning" from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. Dr Salamonson has received the citation for being responsive to an evolving learning environment, while maintaining focus on inspiring and engaging students, and leading in educational research and scholarly activities.

We would also like to congratulate Yenna, on her recent promotion to Associate Professor.
Well done Yenna!

Congratulations

Leah East

Dr Leah East graduated in the September 2009 graduation ceremony, all that hard work and dedication has paid off, well done Leah!

Supervisors: Prof Debra Jackson, Prof Louise O’Brien and Dr Kath Peters.

(pictured left: Dr Kath Peters and Dr Leah East)

Olayide Ogunsiji

Congratulations
Tamara Vallido
We are pleased to recognise Tamara Vallido’s great success in winning the Best Poster of the 35th International ACMHN Conference.

Pictured here is Tamara with Peter Santangelo, President, ACMHN, being presented with the winner’s cheque for her poster, entitled "A patchwork of knowledge and commonsense strategies: a qualitative study of nurses' knowledge and strategies for managing adolescent sleep disturbance", which arose from her Honours work. Congratulations Tammy!

Grant Successes
A number of FaCH members have been successful in gaining UWS Research Seed Grants in the latest round. Congratulations Dr Annie Mills, Dr. Daniel Nichols and Dr Roslyn Weaver on your successful submissions to the UWS Research Seed Grants Scheme.

The title of Daniel’s project is: Balancing oral and written cultures: Exploring congruence and relevance of oral and written clinical reporting in nursing. Prof Maree Johnson and Dr Diana Jefferies are co researchers. The project will explore practical and theoretical aspects of oral and written cultures in clinical reporting in nursing.

Annie will lead the project: Pregnancy and domestic violence: women’s experiences and factors influencing women’s disclosure and use of services, exploring factors that facilitate or hinder service engagement for women experiencing domestic violence in the prenatal period.

Roslyn’s project is: Medical role models in popular culture, to explore how role models in popular culture shape medical students’ professional identity and perceptions of medical practice, and assesses the pedagogical value of televisual texts to contribute to established learning outcomes in medical education.

In the recent AMIHS Tender regarding Indigenous health a team led by Associate Professors Virginia Schmied and Hannah Dahlen was successful for the project titled: Professional development modules for the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service Training and Support Unit. Development of the tender was assisted by Rob Firth from Innovation and Consulting. Congratulations to all involved.

Further congratulations for the recent ARC Linkage round “A study of contemporary family, social and cultural influences on first-time mothers’ decisions about infant feeding and early parenting practices
Investigators: Virginia Schmied, Jennifer Fenwick, Karleen Gribble, Denise McGrath, Athena Sheehan, Fiona Dykes, Judith Reid.

Successfully funded by a UWS Partnership Grant, “Evaluating the application of a clinical framework to address weight loss in residential aged care facilities” Chief Investigator: Professor Esther Chang and Partner Investigators: Mr Robert Johnson, Domain Principal Group and Ms Sandy Harrison, Advantaged Care. This pilot project investigates treatment of residents experiencing weight loss in the residential aged care facility via a pilot implementation and evaluation of a new evidence-based Weight Loss Framework (WLF) treatment protocol.
FaCH News

Elaine is pictured here with professor Fiona Dykes (an adjunct Professor of SONMI) and Professor Gabrielle Palmer who is an internationally renowned author and advocate for improvements in infant and child health and nutrition.

Recently three FaCH members Virginia Schmied, Elaine Burns (doctoral student) and Dr Athena Sheehan (adjunct fellow) attend an international conference on the biological, social and cultural aspects of infant feeding and nutrition. In total six papers were presented at the conference from FaCH members. Judy Reid did not attend but Virginia presented Judy’s paper on grandmothers’ influence on infant feeding. Elaine presented on one aspect of the preliminary analysis of her data – how midwives and lactation consultants construct infant behaviour and temperament in interactions with mothers. Her paper went very well and stimulated a lot of discussion. Our papers were well received and contributed to the emerging debates on the most appropriate way to support women in their infant feeding decisions. There was important discussion around the global, national and local factors that influence system and individual change that can effectively promote and support breastfeeding.
Rakime Elmir

The national midwives conference was held in Adelaide from the 23rd-25th of September 2009. One of our PhD students, Rakime Elmir presented her doctoral work titled ‘Women’s lived experience: life after a hysterectomy following a severe postpartum haemorrhage’. This was Rakime’s first interstate conference; she did exceptional well receiving valuable feedback and comments on her study. Rakime will also be presenting at the infant and mental health conference in Melbourne.

FaCH Reports
2nd Adolescent and Young People’s Health Research Forum

On the 7th of September 2009 the Youth Health Forum Organising Committee, in conjunction with the FaCH UWS hosted this one-day forum looking at youth health research and the use of evidence to improve youth health care. The Forum took place at The Children’s Hospital Westmead. It was an excellent event with Professor David Bennett welcoming and introducing keynote speaker Professor Kate Steinbeck, Conjoint Professor Sydney Medical School; Senior Staff Specialist, Endocrinology and Adolescent Medicine, RPA, Head; Youth Consultancy SSWAHS presenting “Research in adolescent health – Reflections on a field coming of age.

The day was filled with presentations from the latest research in mental health, adolescents in hospital, youth at risk, young people and sexual health, challenges in weight management and new technology in practice. The day came to its conclusion with a keynote address from Professor Philip Darbyshire presenting Researching with rather than on young people: Bringing adolescents’ voices into health and social care research.
SPSS Training

On Tuesday 29 September to Thursday, 1 October, as part of the Curtin & FaCH initiative, Professor Trish Davidson arranged for an SPSS Advisor Jenny Lalor to run SPSS workshops earlier this month. Jenny is an SPSS Adviser in the Office of Research & Development at Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia and she has had extensive experience in teaching SPSS to research students and undertaken consultancy in research support and data preparation. Workshops in introduction to SPSS statistics, beyond an introduction, introduction to SPSS syntax and introduction to factor analysis using PASW (SPSS). The training sessions were well attended by participants new to the software and others who had many years experience. All participants found the training very valuable learning many tips and strategies for getting the most out of quantitative data. Jenny’s friendly and humorous style of imparting knowledge facilitated clarity around understanding the complex processes involved. Many thanks to all those involved in making this valuable learning experience happen!

Visiting scholars

STTI contacts, Karen Ringl and Dr. Chris Latham are faculty members at California State University Fullerton California. They visited School researchers on the 13th and 14th of November regarding collaborative research on workforce and mentoring.

Professor Soo Downe, Professor of Midwifery from the University of Central Lancashire visited UWS in October 13th to 20th. Soo presented at the school research forum. The presentation topic was “Conducting a Meta-synthesis: Current approaches and challenges”. She also presented at our one day conference at Karitane in October.

Professor Philip Darbyshire visited us at UWS in September; he presented a keynote address at the Adolescent form and also presented Winning Research Grants and Journal Publishing at both Parramatta and Campbelltown campuses. These presentations were very well received and for those who are interested and may have missed Philip’s presentations copies are available on the vUWS site.

Professor Roger Watson PhD RN FIBiol FAAN

Professor Roger Watson was with us once again recently, at the end of November, as part of the visiting scholar program. He engaged in a very productive itinerary, meeting with numerous FaCH members to discuss collaborative projects and presenting ‘Writing for Publication’ workshops at the University and Concord Hospital, as well as addressing other community organisations. At the end of the week the Student Research Club met with Roger and invited him to participate in their end of year celebrations, welcoming new students’ lunch.
**December Writing Retreat**

The final FaCH writing retreat was held this week at the Hawkesbury Race Club from the 14 - 16th December. As always this was a highly productive initiative with well over 15 papers ready to submit and numerous more that will be ready to submit early in the New Year. Thank you to all those who participated as mentors and participants your support is tantamount to our continued success, year after year.

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**FaCH Facebook Group**

Our Facebook group is open to all FaCH members. If you haven’t already joined log on to the internet and take the plunge, you will be pleasantly surprised at all the information, dissemination and interaction that keeps our members connected.

In the on-line networking group participants are able to see what other members are getting up to, find out information about conferences and events, discuss research articles, upload and view pictures etc. Discussion boards include: Publication notices; Mothers Journal Group; Upcoming conferences and events; FaCH writing retreats for 2009, commentary on member’s articles. Our members have commented that they find the FaCH facebook group to be immensely supportive and it makes staying in touch with students and supervisors very easy, especially when travelling nationally and internationally.

If you are eligible to join the FaCH facebook group and would like to do so please contact Michel m.edenborough@uws.edu.au and you will be invited to join!
Contributions to the e-Newsletter

Latest FaCH Conference Information
For all the latest information on upcoming conferences please go to our FaCH vUWS site or FaceBook group. If you know of any conferences, forums, seminars or workshops you would like to see included there please forward to Michel m.edenborough@uws.edu.au

In addition, if you have any recent articles, photos or information that you would like to share in future editions of the FaCH eNewsletter, you can also send them to Michel m.edenborough@uws.edu.au

List of 2009 Conferences


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<td>Novice Birthing: Keeping the First Birth Normal. From Trauma to Triumph</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Poster: Birth positions, perineal trauma and PPH.</td>
<td>PSANZ, Published.</td>
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<td>Too busy looking after everyone else’s health to worry about my own!” Health issues facing mothers of children with learning</td>
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List of 2009 Member Publications


15. Cleary, M., G. Hunt, et al. (2009). "Psychosocial treatments for people with co-


Nursing Studies 46(6): 824-829.


44. Halcomb, E. and S. Andrew (2009). "Practical considerations for higher degree research students undertaking mixed methods projects." International Journal of...


Please let Michel know if you would like to add your publication to the FaCH list m.edenborough@uws.edu.au