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# Faculty of Education

## Research News

FEBRUARY, 2005 – ISSUE 1

### SUCCESSFUL GRANT FUNDING

#### **NHMRC Grant on Childhood Obesity**

Congratulations to Chief Investigator(s): **Tony Okely**, Julie Steele, C Collins (Newcastle), P Morgan (Newcastle), L Baur (Sydney) on their successful NHMRC Grant entitled “**Effect of a weight management program for overweight and obese children: A randomised controlled trial**”. Amount funded: \$423,750

Research students: Dylan Cliff (PhD), Lauren Puglisi (Hons)

Summary: Children who are obese have a higher risk of numerous health problems, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol and joint problems. They also experience reduced self-esteem and discrimination as well as an increased risk of premature death or poor health due to heart disease and Type 2 diabetes in adulthood. Approximately 25% of Australian children are overweight or obese. This prevalence has doubled since the 1980's and is still increasing. Child obesity is a major public health problem and innovative approaches to solving this problem are urgently needed.

A range of factors has been postulated as contributing to the global childhood obesity epidemic, including environmental, psychosocial, physical, nutrition, metabolic and lifestyle factors. However, the major determinants involve a shift away from energy balance through reduced energy expenditure or physical activity and increased energy intake.

Conventional weight-management strategies have incorporated restricting energy intake or diet, increasing energy expenditure or physical activity, decreasing sedentary activities, parental involvement, and behaviour modification. However, these strategies have only shown moderate success among children in the medium to long term and very few can be translated into community

settings.

The purpose of this study, and its original contribution to research, is to determine the impact of a physical activity skill development and parent-centred family weight management program on the weight, cardiovascular health, physical activity, dietary intake, and sedentary behaviours of overweight and obese children.

### **Innovations in IT**

A **NextEd ASCILITE Research Award** for \$5,000 has been awarded to Investigators: Meg O'Reilly (Southern Cross University), **Sue Bennett (University of Wollongong)**, and Mike Keppell (Hong Kong Institute of Education) for their project entitled, "**Innovations in Online Assessment - Case Studies**".

Description: The goal of the research project will be to develop exemplars of online assessment and develop a number of key principles about online assessment useful for future research. This research is part of a larger proposed study in which academic staff from two or more of the participating institutions will collaborate on the design of online approaches to assessment.

## **RESEARCH COLLOQUIUMS FOR 2005**

Two Research Colloquiums have been set down for 2005. The tentative dates are:

**11-12 March 2005** - (Friday evening and all day Saturday)

**26-27 August 2005** - (Friday evening and all day Saturday)

The Research Colloquium has been developed as a mini conference with a mix of research proposal reviews, work in progress seminars and staff research presentations. The Colloquium provides the opportunity to meet with other research students, to share ideas, to elicit feedback on work in progress and to engage in professional conversations as well as to share the trials and tribulations of research study.

The Research Colloquium will be held in the Faculty of Education and begin on the Friday evening at 4:30pm with the first presentations, followed by dinner (optional) at Food Re-Thought at the University. An all-day session will be held on the Saturday from 9:00am - 4:30pm (approximately). Please note that students and staff will be asked to contribute to the cost of the dinner on the Friday evening.

If any student is ready to present their research proposals in the next few months, or is interested in presenting a 20 minute 'work in progress', please discuss this with supervisors with a view to presenting at the March Research Colloquium. Further details and Registration Form will follow shortly.

## **NEW FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE HDR STUDENT REP**

**Raelene Anderson, PhD student**, has become the HDR Student Representative on the Faculty Research Committee for 2005 and will be attend the February meeting. HDR Students are encouraged to discuss any concerns or issues with Raelene so she can raise them with the FRC. Her contact phone number is (02) 42215250 and she is located in Bldg 67 Room 314.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLICATION in “RHIZOME”

There is an opportunity for research students to submit articles and book reviews to the new journal “Rhizome” – a cross-disciplinary bi-annual postgraduate journal by the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA). The following website gives information on the submission guidelines. Further enquiries can be made to Rhizome Editor Lycia Trouton: [rhizome@uow.edu.au](mailto:rhizome@uow.edu.au) or Ph 4221 5397. <http://www.uow.edu.au/wupa/rhizome/>

## UPCOMING FACULTY CONFERENCES

**18-19 February 2005 –Fourth International Leadership Conference “DEVELOPING TOMORROW’S LEADERS”** which is co-sponsored by NSW Department of Education and Training, The Catholic Education Office (Wollongong), and the Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong.

**3-5 April 2005 – TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (TEC)** – Hosted by the Faculty of Education

**30 Nov-2 Dec 2005 – INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY SCHOOLS CONFERENCE (ITSC)** – Hosted by the Faculty of Education (dates to be confirmed)

## SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

### Research Centre for Interactive Learning Environments (RILE)

During December, 2004 RILE members presented papers at a variety of conferences. In total 20 papers were presented by RILE members at 3 difference conferences. Thirteen of these were presented at theASCILLITE Conference in Perth. At this conference RILE members were successful in achieving an number of awards.

1. **Dr. Gregg Rowland, Rob Wright** and the Em-lab team won the award for the exemplary application of ICT to Teaching and Learning. Their project was the “Road Risks – Your Choice”, a road safety resource for Year 7 and 8 secondary students.
2. **Gregg** also won an outstanding professional service award from the Professional Teachers Council.
3. **Meg O’Reilly, Sue Bennet, and Mike Kepple** were successful in their application for a competitive grant to investigate on-line assignment strategies in three institutions.

### Centre for Interdisciplinary Youth Research (CIYR)

**Matthew Attencio**, PhD student, attended the 25<sup>th</sup> North American Society for the Sociology of Sport conference Nov. 3-7 2004 in Tucson, Arizona. The theme for the conference was ‘Interdisciplinary Dialogues.’ His presentation was called ‘**Crunk**’, ‘**crackin**’, and ‘**crossovers**’: An analysis of young people’s engagements with urban physical activity spaces.

His presentation described how (in the context of several adjacent urban neighbourhoods in Portland, Oregon, US), physical activity spaces exclude, separate, and constrain a group of young people in ways related to their multiple racial, ethnic, class, gender, and sexual identities. He was particularly interested in describing how these hierarchies simultaneously (re)produce notions of what are 'acceptable' and 'inappropriate' behaviours for physically active young people. His presentation drew upon collected qualitative descriptions of young people's experiences in urban spaces while participating in basketball, skateboarding, scootering, running, dance, and soccer. These descriptions were transformed into geographic maps which illustrated the physical movements and experiences of young people in their urban environments. In keeping with the 'interdisciplinary' theme, his presentation was underpinned by post-modern, post-structural, subaltern, and feminist theories. By drawing upon these theories, he concluded that these urban youth take up multiple and 'hybrid' identities as they negotiate, contest, and (re)produce the hierarchical and homogenizing discourses of sport around them.

During the conference he was able to attend numerous interesting presentations and workshops. The critique of Western health and fitness discourses by Genevieve Rail (University of Ottawa) and her graduate students was very informative. He also found the Friday Keynote Address by Latina historian, creative writer, and feminist critic Emma Perez to be very interesting and helpful. While Perez did not explicitly make connections between her concept of a 'decolonial' imaginary/identity and sport during her talk, he was able to explore this possibility with her and other scholars such as Katherine M. Jamieson (University of North Carolina- Greensboro) and Margaret McNeill (University of Toronto) later in the conference. The Saturday Keynote panel 'Interdisciplinary Dialogues: (Post)Identity and Sport' also further addressed the importance of revising fundamental assumptions about the nature of subjectivity, agency, and intersections of difference in sport contexts. During this discussion one of the panel members described his presentation as an example of emerging research challenging and reworking the traditional notions of binary identities in sport studies. He therefore found the \$100 that was paid for this compliment to be good value for the money...

Overall, attending the 2004 NASSS conference was a great experience and Matt found the interaction with other sport and physical activity researchers to be invaluable. He is now looking forward to completing his thesis dissertation in the upcoming months with the continued dedicated support of his supervisors, Prof Jan Wright and Dr Valerie Harwood.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Information about Faculty Grants and Guidelines will be available in March, 2005.

## CONFERENCES – CALL FOR PAPERS

**4-5 /07/05 - AARE 2005 Cairns** "Quality in Education Research: Directions in policy and practice" –

**Call for Papers:** Proposals are invited for highly focused papers addressing the conference topic and questions. Proposals should be made by completing the on-line proposal form on AARE web site. This

will ensure that all information necessary for the Conference Committee's consideration is provided including a 200 word abstract.

### **Important Dates**

- Proposals must be lodged by web form by close of business on 5 February 2005.
- Approvals or rejections of proposals will be sent by email within 21 business days.
- Papers for full refereeing are required by 1 March 2005 so proposals for these should be lodged early in February Results of refereeing and early-bird registration rate closing is 30 April 2005.

More information is available from the AARE website:

<http://www.aare.edu.au/focus/cairns/information.htm>

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**27/11/05-1/12/05 AARE Conference "Education Research – Creative Dissent: Constructive Solutions"**. Further information is available from the following website:

<http://www.aare.edu.au/conf2005/index.htm>

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**4-7 December 2005 ASCILITE Conference** - Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, QLD. Theme: Balance, Fidelity, Mobility: Maintaining the Momentum?

**Deadline for full papers & workshops is 24th June 2005.**

Further information available from Robyn Debbes, ASCILITE Secretariat,  
C/- CEDIR, University of Wollongong, Northfields Avenue, Wollongong N.S.W. 2522  
AUSTRALIA. Ph: 61 2 4221 4895 Fax: 61 2 4225 8312

Email: [info@ascilite.org.au](mailto:info@ascilite.org.au)

Web: <http://www.ascilite.org.au>

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**3-6 July 2005 –International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching (ISATT)** presents the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on “Challenges for the Profession: Perspectives and Directions for Teachings, Teaching and Teacher Education” at the Carlton Crest Hotel, Sydney. Further information is available from the following website: [www.acu.edu.au/isatt2005](http://www.acu.edu.au/isatt2005)

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**AIESEP 2005 World Congress, Lisbon, 17-20 November 2005.**

The Faculty of Human Kinetics is very proud to be given the opportunity to organize, for the third time, a scientific event for the AIESEP, and we count on your participation to be able to offer you an outstanding Scientific Program.

The AIESEP 2005 World Congress aims to provide an international forum for presentation and discussion of the latest research on ACTIVE LIFESTYLES: THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION AND

SPORT. The Panel of distinguished scholars invited to share their expertise with the scientific and professional communities participating in the Congress is, no doubt, an invaluable asset for the success of the Congress.

Lisboa was once again selected to host an AIESEP scientific meeting. It will prove to be either a unique opportunity to re-experience the magic of this city or a first-time experience we will make sure you will never forget.

For information on the AIESEP 2005 World Congress, kindly visit our website

<http://www.fmh.utl.pt/aiesep LISBOA 2005>

Abstract submission: June 15, 2005

Notification of acceptance; July 30, 2005

Early Registration: Before August 30, 2005

Late Registration: After August 30, 2005

Contact : [-aiesep2005@fmh.utl.pt](mailto:-aiesep2005@fmh.utl.pt)

José Alves Diniz - Chairman of the AIESEP 2005 World Congress

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**14-17 September 2005: British Educational Research Association (BERA) Annual Conference 2005: University of Glamorgan, Treforest, Pontypridd, Wales.** An invitation and details how to submit a proposal for presentation at the Conference are available from the following website:

<http://www.beraconference.com/>

Contact: Olwen McNamara (Chair)

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