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# Faculty of Education

## Research News

JULY 2007– ISSUE 2

### CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATING RESEARCH STUDENTS

The following research students have had their degree conferred or will be graduating at the Graduation Ceremony on 18 July 2007. Congratulations and best wishes from the Faculty. We wish you well in your future research endeavours.

Chris Campbell, EdD

Peter Donnan, PhD

Shooshi Dreyfus, PhD

Lydal Groom, PhD

Nathan Jiang, PhD

Karen Lambert, PhD

Claire Manning, EdD

Ian Olney, EdD

Vinathe Sharma-Brymer, PhD

Supervised by Ian Brown and Sue Bennett

Supervised by Gwyn Brickell and Christine Brown

Supervised by Jan Wright and Elizabeth Thompson

Supervised by Jan Wright

Supervised by Peter Kell and Narottam Bhindi

Supervised by Jan Wright and Val Harwood

Supervised by Ian Brown and Irina Verenikina

Supervised by Barry Harper and Christine Brown

Supervised by Chris Fox and Barbara Pamphillon

### RESEARCH STUDENT COLLOQUIUM – 24/25 AUGUST 2007

The Faculty's 20<sup>th</sup> **Research Student Colloquium** will be held on the evening of **Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> August** and on **Saturday 25<sup>st</sup> August 2007** in the McKinnon Building 67.

The Colloquium will begin at 4:30pm with the opening by the Dean, followed by the first presentation at 4:40 pm. Drinks and nibbles will follow the presentations on Friday evening and it is anticipated that the all-day session will be held from 9:00am- 4:00 pm on the Saturday.

This is an event to which all of the Faculty's research students and staff are invited and encouraged to attend. Registrations close 24 July 2007. Contact Karen McRae if you wish to present or attend.

## SUCCESSFUL GRANT OUTCOMES

Congratulations to Peter Kell and Gillian Vogl who have been successful in gaining a \$20,000 IMB grant for their *Welcome to Wollongong Project*. The project was a result of two years of research (2005-2007) carried out by Associate Professor Kell and Dr Vogl, looking at the needs of international students. This research involved focus groups and interviews with university staff, members of the community, English language teacher from the University college and both international and domestic students. The participants in this research identified the need for better relations and connections between international students and the community. In order to help create a better connection, a 'community working group' funded by Wollongong University internationalisation committee and the office of community partnerships, was set up by the researchers. This group is comprised of representatives from students groups working with international students, community and welfare groups, business groups and Wollongong City Council. The group will use the IMB funding for:

- A mini festival with a civic reception for international students to be held in the mall
- A community website for international students to create interaction between the students and members of the community.

Peter Kell and Gillian Vogl will conduct research during and after the implementation of these activities in order to evaluate the extent to which these activities have created greater and more positive connections between international students and the community.

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Congratulations to Ian Brown on a successful grant of \$7,600 from the 2007 Community Engagement Grant Scheme (CEGS) for his project titled *Voices of Children: A sense of community*. This project will build on the principles of an international project, Voices of Children, established by Ian Brown, Pauline Lysaght and Ros Westbrook in 2005. It will provide indigenous students attending primary and secondary schools in the Shoalhaven area the opportunities for exploring their identities as individuals as well as their sense of connectedness to the community. The project supports the priority for 2007 of the NSW Department of Education and Training Illawarra and South East Region by encouraging the improvement of educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.

Fifty students will be provided with disposable cameras and writing booklets with requests to represent their everyday experiences through these mediums. A professional exhibition, housed at the local arts centre will enable the participants to share their perceptions and experiences with the wider community. A Photobook publication containing a tangible record of the exhibits will be developed and presented to each of the participating schools. In addition, the artworks provided by the students will become part of a larger international exhibition.

## CONSULTANCY NEWS

Dr Ted Booth, Honorary Senior Fellow, is the academic partner with two Australian Government Quality Teaching Projects in 2006/7. He provides research and evaluation advice to the collaborative action learning projects for a two-year period. At St Andrews Public School and Robert Townsend High School the project has supported innovations to assist student transition from Year 6 to high school. The Bomaderry High School project has its focus on the integration of knowledge and skills between four Key Learning Areas in a series of year 8 learning units.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

**Hoban, G. F.** (2007). Using slowmation to engage preservice elementary teachers in understanding science content knowledge. *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education*, Vol 7, 2, 1-15 available online <http://www.citejournal.org/vol7/iss2/general/article2.cfm>

**Hoban, G.F.** (2007). Display of Slowmation at online "Gallery of Exemplary Practice" for use of technology to teach content in a methods course <http://www.citejournal.org/vol7/iss2/general/article5.cfm>

**Okely AD, Booth ML, Hardy LL, Denney-Wilson E, Dobbins T.** Changes in physical activity participation from 1985-2004 in a statewide survey of Australian adolescents. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*. Accepted 12 July 2007. Impact Factor = 3.565.

**Okely, AD.** (2007). Evidence-guided approaches to addressing child obesity: What approaches can dietitians use in their everyday practice (invited editorial)? *Nutrition and Dietetics*, 64, 140-141.

Cleary J, Daniels S, **Okely AD**, Bennett J, Batterham M. Predictive validity of four bioelectrical impedance equations in determining percent fat mass in overweight and obese children. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. Accepted 6 June 2007. Impact Factor = 2.564.

Booth ML, **Okely AD**, Denney-Wilson E, Hardy LL, Dobbins T, Wen L-M, Rissel C. Characteristics of travel to and from school among adolescents in NSW, Australia. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*. Accepted 23 April 2007. Impact Factor = 0.931.

Hardy LL, Booth ML, **Okely AD**. The reliability of the Adolescent Sedentary Activity Questionnaire (ASAQ) (2007). *Preventive Medicine*, 45, 71-74. Impact Factor = 2.390.

## HDR STUDENT CONFERENCE

UOW's Higher Degree Research Student Conference will be held from Wednesday, 26 September 2007. The aim of the conference is to give HDR students the opportunity to present their work to their peers, industry partners, academic and general staff and members of the community and for UOW to showcase the ground breaking research being undertaken at the University. Registration is free and closes on Friday, 14 September 2007. For registration and further information go to: [www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/hdrconference/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/hdrconference/index.html)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Conference:** The Fifth International Literacy Conference (LITCON 2007)  
**Venue:** Berjaya Georgetown Hotel, Penang, Malaysia  
**Date:** July 25-27, 2007  
**Authors:** Ros Westbrook, Ian Brown, Pauline Lysaght  
**Presenter:** Pauline Lysaght  
**Abstract:** Voices Of Children: Examining Cultural Identities In the Asia-Pacific Region.

Images and text are powerful mediums for examining the multi-dimensional aspects of children's lives. Voices of Children, is an international research project that draws on photographic images and written responses contributed by children from many different countries. This paper will focus on an analysis of the personal perspectives of children in the Asia-Pacific region to gain an understanding of cultural dimensions and national identities. Content analysis has been used as a basis for analysing the visual and verbal constructions of children

from Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Samoa. This paper provides a discussion of the framework for the analysis as well as presenting important themes that examinations of the images and text have revealed. The results of this study as well as the exhibition that has been developed through the project enrich the meaning we gain from children's understandings of their cultures, whilst providing opportunities for sharing their experiences with others.

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**Tony Okely** was invited to deliver a presentation for their Child Youth and Women's Health Program Multidisciplinary Inservice titled 'Promoting Physical Activity and Reducing Sedentary Behaviour in Primary Health' on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007.

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**Nicola Johnson** presented the following refereed paper at the Australian Teacher Education Association annual conference, University of Wollongong, 3 - 6 July, 2007 "Exchanging Online Stories: A Space for Both Learning and Leisure".

#### **Abstract**

The advent and popularity of The Sims and The Sims 2 has led to the telling, reading, reviewing and exchanging of stories in cyberspace on The Sims 2 website (<http://thesims2.ea.com/>), namely a section called the Story Exchange. Those involved in reading and evaluating these online stories include a 15-year-old female named Sarah, who was interviewed about her experiences in playing The Sims, The Sims 2, and using the Sims 2 website, including the Story Exchange section. The paper reviews some literature about the possible interrelationships between gaming and curriculum, and it introduces notions about plaisir and jouissance evident in the practice of those saturated with consumer-media culture (Kenway & Bullen, 2001). From Sarah's viewpoint, it seems to be apparent that the children, adolescents, and adults who engage with these online narratives on the Sims 2 website have determined quality indicators of the stories without guidance or instruction from external structures or authorities. I suggest that the Story Exchange section of the Sims 2 website is an example of a legitimate learning space that is an avenue of leisure, knowledge, and skill development, out of alignment with traditional structures and institutions of formal schooling. In the conclusion, attention focuses on what this might mean for primary and secondary education, and how formal schooling and informal learning activities (such as the exchanging of online stories) could be aligned.

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**Rachel Jones** presented results from the FILA Feasibility Trial (a school intervention for adolescent males) at the European Congress of Obesity, Budapest in May. Following the conference she spent a week visiting two research centres in the UK (Scotland and Leeds). This was an ideal opportunity to talk about CORE's current research and possible future collaborations.

#### **Abstract**

##### **The feasibility of a school-based lifestyle intervention for adolescent males: The FILA Program**

*Introduction:* The prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescent Australian boys is not only increasing but is accelerating. Secondary schools are perhaps the most appropriate setting to intervene for overweight and obese adolescents, however to date, no interventions have specifically targeted adolescent males. The FILA (Fitness Improvement, Lifestyle Awareness) study was developed for adolescent males (12 and 13yrs). The aim of the study was to determine the feasibility of the program in an Independent Boys School in Sydney, Australia. *Methods:* The FILA program was a multifaceted 16-week intervention concentrating specifically on: increasing physical activity within curricular and non-curricular time, healthy fast food alternatives, healthy recess snacks, reducing small screen recreation to less than 2 hours per day and behaviour modification techniques. The primary outcome measure was cardio-respiratory fitness. Secondary outcomes included BMI, waist

circumference and time spent in sedentary behaviours. All outcomes were assessed at pre (baseline)- and post (16-weeks)- intervention in the 16 participating boys (mean age 12.79 +/- 0.48, mean BMI 21.65 +/- 3.6). *Results and Discussion:* Over the 16-week intervention, cardio-respiratory fitness significantly improved from 32 to 53 laps ( $p < 0.001$ ). Average waist circumference reduced from 77.79 to 76.77 cm but this was not significant. No changes were evident in BMI. The small number of participants may not have provided adequate statistical power to detect changes in outcome variables. Small non-significant changes were evident in time spent in sedentary pursuits, in particular small screen recreation. Overall the FILA program proved to be feasible and strong participant, parent and staff satisfaction was reported. A pilot study is planned for 2007.

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**Conference:** Body Matters: Children and Young People's Physical Well-being and Rights  
**Organisers:** Children's Issues Centre, University of Otago.  
**Venue:** University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand  
**Date:** June 28-29, 2007  
**Authors:** **Ros Westbrook, Ian Brown, Pauline Lysaght**  
**Presenter:** Ros Westbrook  
**Abstract:** Voices of Children: Representing cultural identity through physical activity.

This paper has as its focus the ways in which children from a number of countries across the world represent their involvement in physical activity through image and text. Voices of Children is an international project in which young people aged between 6 and 17 years have contributed photographic images and written responses that document their everyday experiences. Countries involved include Australia (coastal, rural and remote), Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Samoa, Zambia and the U.S.A. The children's contributions have been exhibited as part of a professional exhibition that has travelled to various locations across the world. Their works provide the viewer with information about the personal and cultural dimensions of their lives, allowing opportunities to enter their worlds.

The paper will provide an overarching view of the data and findings from the Voices of Children project and will contribute to the conference themes of *Cultural perspectives, Identity and Sport/Recreation/Physical Activity*. It will examine a number of themes (Sport/Recreation/Physical Activity) in an attempt to draw meaning from both the images and text provided by the children. The relationship between these themes and cultural identity is also examined. The presentation will be supported by examples of visual images (photographs and drawings/artwork) and text provided by the children.

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### 'Bridging Discourses'

Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Congress

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007

**Convenor:** Professor Bev Derewianka

**Number of delegates:** 70

**Opened by:** Professor Jan Wright, Associate Dean Research

**Keynote Speakers:**

Professor Christian Matthiessen, Macquarie University

'Building Semiotic Bridges: Metalinguistic Material'

Professor Cecilia Colombi, University of California (Davis)

'Bridging Pedagogical Discourses: Halliday, Vygotsky and Freire in heritage language teaching'

Professor Jill Bourne, University of Southampton

'Teaching across Difference'

**Successful Outcomes:**

- A high quality collection of papers which nudge the boundaries in terms of both theory and pedagogy.
- Good involvement of research students.
- Innovations such as Master Classes (where doctoral students presented work-in-progress to an expert in their field who provided feedback to their questions) and Chat Space (which allowed for interaction with Plenary and Featured speakers at the end of the day to follow up on issues, questions, analyses, etc). Room 67:101 was particularly well-suited to this activity.
- Overlap day with the Australian Applied Linguistics Association Conference – productive interaction between the two associations.

**“Making a Difference: Challenges for Applied Linguistics”**  
32nd Annual Congress of the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia

**Date:** 1-3 July 2007**Convenors:** Dr Honglin Chen; Dr Ken Cruickshank**Number of delegates:** 180**Opened by:** Prof Paul Chandler; Official welcome by Prof Gerard Sutton**Keynote Speakers:**

Professor Jill Bourne, University of Southampton	<i>Teaching Across Difference</i>
Professor Jan Blommaert, University of London	<i>A New Lexicon for Multilingualism</i>
Professor Rod Ellis, University of Auckland	<i>Epistemological Issues in SLA: Data, Theory and Applications</i>
Professor Ingrid Piller, Macquarie University	<i>Gender, Globalization, and Language Learning</i>

**Key International Speakers:**

Paul Angelis, University of Southern Illinois,	Anitha Devi Pillai, National Institute of Education, Singapore
John Bitchener, AUT University	John Read, University of Auckland
Averil Coxhead, Massey University	Elizabeth Walker, Hong Kong Institute of Education
Julian Edge, Manchester University	

**Successful Outcomes:** The conference was highly successful. We have received very positive feedback about the quality and organization of the conference. The conference provided a forum for rich discussion of currently debated issues such as language testing for citizenship, multilingualism, refugee and immigration, and the teaching and learning of second languages. The conference attracted a wide media interest in the Language Testing for Citizenship issues on local TV, radio and newspapers. We have been invited to submit a book proposal by Cambridge Scholar Press.

**Australian Teacher Education Association (ATEA) 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
Quality in Teacher Education: Considering Different Perspectives and Agendas

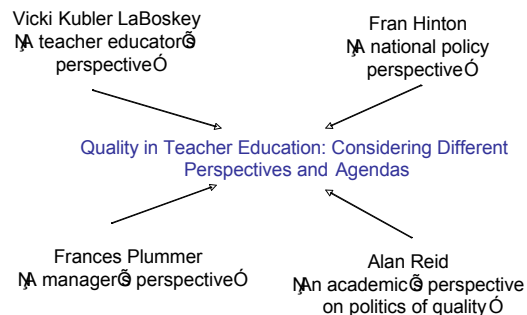
**Date:** 3-6<sup>th</sup> July 2007**Conveners:** Dr Julie Giggins & D Lisa Kervin**Number of delegates:** 120**Opened by:** Professor Maxine Cooper, President of ATEA**Keynote Speakers:**

Vicki Kubler La Boskey	Working in “Wonderland”: Quality in Teacher Education from the Perspective of a teacher educator
Fran Hinton (Teaching Australia)	Quality in teacher education from a national professional perspective
Frances Plummer	Quality teacher learning: From silver bullets to collective struggle

**Successful Outcomes:**

More than 100 teacher educators from around Australia, NZ, the UK & the USA participated in the 35th Australian Teacher Education Association (ATEA) annual conference. The ATEA Conferences have gained a reputation for being friendly and supportive and this tradition was upheld at the UOW! This tradition was carried on from the beginning when our Dean welcomed delegates to the UOW and the faculty at our cocktail party on Tuesday night.

The conference theme was "Quality in Teacher Education: Considering Different Perspectives and Agendas". Because the quality of teacher education programs is under the microscope in many different countries the conference was specifically addressing the notion of what is quality in teacher education programs. This was achieved by coordinating our keynote speakers to all address various perspectives concerning quality from their respective professional fields. The following diagram conceived by Garry Hoban was presented to our delegates



at the opening of the conference:

Not only was there informed discussion at our keynote addresses the 85 concurrent paper sessions were well attended. We were especially pleased that the authors of the refereed papers that were published on our CD all presented their work.

A special thanks to our research students (Lisa Carrington & Kay Precvich) for their excellent IT support, an aspect that did not go unnoticed by the delegates! Our 'Christmas in July' conference dinner was a highlight where delegates took on the festive flavour of the evening and danced to the music of Satin Swing. It would be remiss not to mention our after dinner speaker who entertained and regaled us with lessons learnt from his years of teacher education. Cheers Professor Patto!

As co-conveners Lisa & I received a great deal of support from the media unit during the conference but without our hard working team (and the faculty too), we would not have had the success that we did thank you to all for your time, energy and enthusiasm. We believe that our conference was successful and this aspect has been affirmed by the positive feedback we have received on our conference evaluations and in email correspondence:

*Congratulations on a great conference! All your hard work certainly paid off. The venue was great, the keynotes interesting (particularly Alan Reid's), the food good (and doesn't everyone rate conferences on the food?), the social life great, and the papers of good quality. And the organisation was terrific. Congratulations on the CD and the paper organization very handy to have such quick access to useful papers.* Prof Richard Bates

## UPCOMING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

### URC Small Grants Scheme 2008

**URC Deadline: 31st July 2007**

**Faculty Deadline: 30 July 2007**

**To obtain feedback, send your draft application via email to Karen McRae by 23 July.**

The URC Small Grants Scheme aims to support excellent researchers in the development of proposals for external funding and encourage new researchers to develop their research profiles by undertaking research projects of modest cost. It is expected that researchers with projects supported under this scheme will submit an application in the year following for external funding through, for example, the ARC Discovery Projects Scheme or the NHMRC Project Grants Scheme.

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### URC Research Partnerships Grant Scheme

*(Formerly known as New Partnerships)*

**Next URC Deadline: 26 October 2007**

The primary objective of this scheme is to develop and support, on a competitive basis, high quality industry related research projects and pilot research projects of modest cost conducted by researchers of proven excellence in collaboration with partners who provide matching support. The research project should relate to and enhance key areas of research activity, including Research Strengths, Faculty Strategic Research Areas, and URC Strategic Research Initiatives. It is expected that researchers with projects supported under this scheme will submit an application in the year following for external funding through, for example, the ARC Linkage Projects Scheme.

Note: There are three funding rounds per annum in March, June and October.

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### ARC Linkage Projects (Round 2)

**ARC Deadline: 23 November 2007**

Cheek UOW Research website for key dates

Supports collaborative research projects that encourage and develop long-term strategic alliances between higher education institutions and industry.

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## UPCOMING ETHICS APPLICATION DEADLINES

### Humanities, Social Science & Behavioural HREC\*

Agenda Deadline	Meeting Date
August 8	August 23
September 5	September 20
October 10	October 25
November 7	November 22
November 28	December 13

\* This information may change make sure you check latest at <http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/ethics/human/index.html>

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