

School of Education - Update

Term 4, 2019



From the Executive Dean

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2019.

My first year in Western Australia has been a fantastic journey, meeting many school staff and representatives of all areas of the education sector in the state. It has been a great experience and I look forward to new challenges in 2020.

In 2019 we have implemented the Teacher Performance Assessment for graduating Initial Teacher Education students, expanded on our engagement with the South-West sites, hosted a study tour from Vietnam, continued our Internship and Supervisor in Residence programs, as well as the Duke of Edinburgh training for Pre-Service Teachers. New initiatives we have introduced include the Education Alumni Chapter and Partners in Literacies and Numeracy (PLaN). Further details of these are included in this newsletter.

Term 4 is a busy term for our partnership sites, with over 2000 Pre-Service Teachers in schools and early learning centres across 14 units of study. I continue to be impressed with the commitment of the teacher mentors and I thank each of you for your ongoing and continued support.

My very best wishes for the remainder of Term 4 and a relaxing and well-earned break in December and January.

Professor Stephen Winn

Executive Dean, School of Education





Maths Volunteers

Nine secondary mathematics major students took part in a volunteer numeracy program at Mindarie Senior College this semester. This particular numeracy program was at the request of the school and designed to prepare Year 12 students for their upcoming OLNA (Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment) by pairing school students with ECU education students in one-on-one tuition. This industry engagement experience allowed our pre-service teachers to interact with weaker mathematics students and gain a better understanding of what it feels like to struggle with their subject. A secondary project, in collaboration with Dr Christa Norris, is currently underway with an Master of Teaching student doing her research project on how ECU can further support this numeracy program in 2020.

Conversations with Rain

Conversations with Rain is an ongoing multi-platform partnership between Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA) and ECU's School of Education, exploring children's creative relations with weather as a way of potentially transforming our climate futures. A suite of *Conversations with Rain* learning resources, developed by Lilly Blue (AGWA) and Dr Jo Pollitt (ECU), was launched at AGWA on Friday, 8 November. These resources feature an interactive response journal, pedagogical video, sound work, and dance film all publicly available on the [Art Gallery WA](#) website. .

As the West Australian contribution to the [Climate Action Childhood Network](#) and the [Common Worlds Research Collective](#) co-founded by ECU's Mindy Blaise, *Conversations with Rain* harnesses interdisciplinary knowledges to think beyond stewardship models of climate change. *Conversations with Rain* focuses on dissolving the binary between humans and the environment through creatively attending to the materiality of rain. This research investigates how interdisciplinary, embodied, and practice-led approaches can deepen engagement, enliven connection and lead to more responsive nature/culture relations.



Drama Education news

Graduating secondary drama education students performed their final production "Midsummer Dreaming" on Saturday, 26 October; an exciting collaboration with Moya Thomas and her specialist drama students from Mt Lawley SHS.

ECU hosted DramaWest's state conference "DANDJOO: Together" on Saturday, 30 November. Dandjoo is the Noongar word for together / unite. A range of fantastic sessions were offered focusing on how we learn, play and walk together with one another, our students, and others; how we foster a sense of 'togetherness' in our drama classrooms; how drama experiences have the power to unite; and how we as drama education professionals come together to strengthen and grow our practice.

Please email [Christina Gray](#) for further information about the secondary drama and dance program.

Tournament of the Minds

For the seventh year running, ECU hosted the finals of the 2019 Tournament of Minds WA competition. Over 1000 of WA's best and brightest school children gathered to compete. ECU's pre-service teachers volunteer their time to help run the event and ECU staff served as competition judges. Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Arshad Omari and School of Education Executive Dean Professor Stephen Winn were among the dignitaries presenting awards to the students.

Speaking after the state finals on Sunday, 15 September, Director of Tournament of Minds WA, ECU's Dr Christa Norris said the event had expanded significantly since 2018. She noted that the tournament aims to enhance the potential of young people by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management and the discipline to work collaboratively in a challenging and competitive environment.

The 2020 international final will be held in Perth, with ECU and the School of Education proudly supporting the regional, state and international events.

For more information, visit the [Tournament of Minds WA](#) website or contact [Dr Christa Norris](#).

To enquire about industry collaboration with ECU's School of Education, contact [Julie Boston](#).



Early Childhood Study Tour to Bhutan

Fifteen early childhood pre-service teachers recently participated in a two-week study tour to Bhutan. They were fortunate to receive financial assistance through the New Colombo Plan funding that is available to support university students to travel and study in an Asian country. School of Education lecturer, Christine Lovering organised the tour in association with Paro College of Education. The schedule allowed for involvement in classes with the Bhutanese pre-service teachers, visits to childcare centres and early years school settings and some time for cultural activities, such as the challenging, but inspiring hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Nest).

Importantly, the pre-service teachers were required to complete a design for an actual outdoor learning environment at the Early Childhood Care and Development centre situated next to Paro College. The designs were presented to the Director, Karma Chimi Wangchuk, and he was delighted to receive the valuable suggestions for improvements to the outdoor area.

These study tour participants were grateful for the unique opportunity to meet with Bhutanese educators, pre-service teachers and children, citing their remarkable experience as being highly beneficial on both a professional and personal level.



Gathering of Champions: Research with Positive Veteran Teachers

ECU's Dr Peter Prout, Dr Christina Gray, Dr Geoffrey Lowe and Ms Sarah Jefferson have been investigating the potential of releasing the passion and enthusiasm of positive veteran teachers to become more intentional and strategic mentors and educational innovators in our schools. We were proud to attend a reception at Government House on November 18, hosted by Governor, Hon. Kim Beazley. This was organised for teachers we interviewed for our research, plus other teachers and school leaders associated with our work whom we wish to honour for their contribution.

Invited guests include Hon Samantha Rowe representing the Minister for Education; Ms Lisa Rogers Director General Department of Education; Dr Debra Sayce and Mr Ron Gorman, Exec. Directors

CEO and AISWA respectively; Drs Nicola Johnson and Susan Hill ECU and our research team.

After a welcome from the Governor and an introduction of participants we gathered in focus groups to share the results to date of our research and to seek feedback and strategies from all attendees for next steps for development.

We are deeply grateful to the Governor and his amazing staff at Government House for offering to host this event and to all our participants.

For more information, contact Research Team Leader [Peter Prout](#).



Keys for Life course at ECU Mount Lawley and Bunbury

Under the coordination of Dr Donna Barwood and Joan Strikwerda-Brown, Secondary Masters of Teaching Health Education Studies students at Mount Lawley and South West campuses recently completed a *Keys for Life* workshop, run by School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA) staff. *Keys for Life* is a comprehensive, national award winning, evidence-based pre-driver program, funded by the WA Road Safety Commission. The program helps educate young people about safer road use and provides licencing and graduation benefits. The ECU pre-service teachers who completed the program are now equipped to become registered facilitators for the *Keys for Life* course, that can be implemented in schools with Year 10-12 students, and in agencies with young adults.

Sensorium Theatre

ECU's Dr Christina Gray, Dr Susan Main, Dr John O'Rourke and Christine Lovering were commissioned to evaluate a program, Sensory Storytelling Project, devised by the Sensorium Theatre, and to provide feedback on its efficacy. The Sensorium Theatre devises, develops and produces live performances for school age students with disability using a multi-sensory arts-based pedagogy featuring aural (live music and singing), visual, scent, taste and tactile elements. This program was developed for a younger audience (children 0 – 6-year-old) with disability. The Rhymetime and Storytime programs included in the project were inspired by the State Library of Western Australia's Better Beginnings Rhyme and Story Time programs. They were intended to support the language development and interest in books for children with additional needs engagement with books. The team from ECU found that the programs were highly engaging for the children but that greater use of augmentative and alternative communication (ACC) would provide greater support for language development. Sensorium Theatre have now included the use of key word signing and customised AAC into their performances. It was our pleasure to contribute to this.

Seeking supervisors

We are always delighted to hear from experienced teachers who may be interested in contributing to the learning of pre-service teachers on professional experience. Typically this suits recently retired or part-time teachers, or those on maternity leave. If you would like to consider work as a University Supervisor, please contact [Sandra Fraser](#).



Scholar in Residence Program

The Scholar in Residence Program (SiR) has been extremely successful this year with the scholars gaining a deep understanding and respect for the complexity of schools. The scholars have typically been at the same school for almost 6 months throughout their ATP and SiR placements in Terms 2 and 3. This year 22 schools were involved from all sectors; in all areas including metropolitan, rural and remote locations; with over 75 staff involved.

This year SiRs have created new policies for the schools; painted murals with Year 12s; helped develop plans for becoming a STEM school; introduced emotional welfare projects such as use of support dogs for students; set up a school Aboriginal Awareness Group for staff; developing specialised sport programs and more . . .

"The Scholar in Residence Program is a fantastic opportunity for those that want hands on, real-world experience. The program helps to expand on your knowledge and find yourself as a graduate teacher."

We would like to thank the Principals who saw the potential of this program, and their staff for their commitment and support of our SiRs.

If you would like your school to be involved next year, please contact [Dr Christa Norris](#).



ACHPER professional learning at South West Campus

ACHPER WA's Vicki Delves recently presented a *Teaching Primary PE for the First Time* full-day workshop at Bunbury Campus. The workshop attendees comprised both local practising teachers and a mix of pre-service teachers in varied years of studying Early Childhood and Primary Education, both online and on-campus.

The workshop consolidated teaching practice, with a focus on school readiness and application. It reviewed essentials of teaching PE, provided opportunities to experience and practise fundamental movement skills, sports specific skills and game concepts linked to the WA curriculum and shared a range of assessment ideas, resources and APPS for PE.

Participants relished having such a worthy and engaging ACHPER course in Bunbury.

ECU Education Alumni Chapter

On Thursday, 7 November the ECU Education Alumni Chapter was launched in the Edith Spiegelent at our Mt Lawley campus. The event was attended by Professor Stephen Winn and early alumni Chapter advisors Professor Colleen Hayward, Dr Dawn Butterworth, Colin Pettit and Drew Mayhills, as well as 80 invited guests.

The Chapter aims to make sure that the voice of our alumni community is heard. Through the Chapter, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts on the issues and trends affecting Teacher Education today. Our aim is that this group will become a powerful conduit for sharing these critical insights to government and other decision-makers in WA and beyond. Chapter members will also benefit from key connections to others in the Education space, and receive special benefits such as early access to ECU Education alumni events and programs, and discounted Postgraduate study opportunities at ECU. The first Chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26 November.

For more information contact [Julie Boston](#).

ECU students shine in WA Education Awards

ECU teaching graduates have been honoured in the 2019 WA Education Awards, which recognise the best teachers and schools in the State.

ECU graduates won the Secondary Teacher, Secondary Principal and Beginning Teacher of the Year awards.

This was the third consecutive year an ECU graduate has been named Beginning Teacher of the Year.

School of Education Executive Dean Professor Stephen Winn said, "This highlights the quality of teacher education graduates from ECU who have and will continue to make a positive difference to the lives of young people in Western Australia."

The successful 2019 ECU alumni were:

- WA Beginning Teacher of the Year: Tasmin Drummond, Vasse Primary School
- WA Premier's Secondary Teacher of the Year: Tamarra Sheldon, Baldivis Secondary College
- WA Secondary Principal of the Year: Keith Svendsen, Baldivis Secondary College

World Teachers Day

On Friday, 25 October Australia celebrates World Teachers' Day, an annual event since 1994 that commemorates the joint signing of the 1966 UNESCO/ ILO (International Labour Organisation) Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers. On Wednesday 23 October faculty members from the School of Education were invited to join the celebrations of the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia (PTCWA) Outstanding Service Awards. PTCWA is the peak body representing voluntary professional education associations within Western Australia. As an umbrella body representing individual associations, PTCWA represents over 9,000 teachers across all sectors and all learning areas.

The PTCWA Outstanding Service Awards recognise an individual member's outstanding professional contribution to education in Western Australia, made in a voluntary capacity to his or her professional teachers' association. We would sincerely like to congratulate and thank all the 2019 winners for their outstanding dedication to education in Western Australia.

Technologies Workforce

Workforce demand for teachers in the 'Technologies' (Design, Home Economics & Food and Digital) has for some time been significant. National data speaks to a major workforce shortage across the Technologies area for the foreseeable future both nationally and in WA.

Over the past few years, ECU's School of Education, as the only provider of teacher training courses in Design and Home Economic/ Foods Technology in WA, has recruited as many prospective pre-service students for our courses as applications allowed. With good job outcomes seemingly assured, in 2020 we aim to further prioritise enrolments in this space

To support this ECU's School of Education will be offering technology major and minor packages (as below) with the aim of positioning pre-service teachers well across multiple aspects of 'Technologies'.

	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3	Package 4
Major	Design Technologies	Home Economics & Food Technologies	Design Technologies	Home Economics & Food Technologies
Minor	Digital Technologies	Design Technologies	Home Economics & Food Technologies	Digital Technologies

What can schools do?

- Let your students know of these opportunities
- Promote this as a valuable career going forward
- Promote and acknowledge that job prospects are excellent
- Contact the School of Education for more details

School of Education publications and research

We are pleased to present the most recently published research from members of our academic staff. Links to each of these is below and we hope that these assist in your classroom teaching.

- [Portray cultures other than ours": How children's literature is being used to support the diversity goals of the Australian Early Years Learning Framework](#) - Adam, H.J., Barratt-Pugh, C.H., & Haig, Y.G.
- [Creating books in communities: A book making program with families in a remote community in Western Australia](#) - Barratt-Pugh, C., & Haig, Y.
- [Sport coaches as policy actors: An investigation of the interpretation and enactment of disability and inclusion policy in swimming in Victoria Australia](#) - Hammond, A., Penney, D.E., & Jeanes, R.
- [Skilling up: Providing educational opportunities for Aboriginal education workers through technology-based pedagogy](#) - Jackson-Barrett, E., Gower, G., Price, A., & Herrington, J.
- [Managing informal sport participation: Tensions and opportunities](#) - Jeanes, R., Spaaij, R., Penney, D.E., & O'Connor, J.
- [Performing 'teacher': Exploring early career teachers' becomings, work identities and the \[mis\]-use of the professional standards in competitive educational assemblages](#) - Lambert, K., & Gray, C.
- [Still keen and committed: Piloting an instrument for identifying positive veteran teachers](#) - Lowe, G., Gray, C., Prout, P., Jefferson, S., Shaw, T.
- [Listening with young children: enchanted animism of trees, rocks, clouds \(and other things\)](#) - Merewether, J.
- [Collaborating with teacher-librarians to support adolescents' literacy and literature learning](#) - Merga, M.K.
- [School libraries fostering children's literacy and literature learning: mitigating the barriers](#) - Merga, M.
- [The role of leadership in establishing a positive staff culture in a secondary school](#) - Morris, J.E., Lummis, G.W., Lock, G., Ferguson, C., Hill, S., & Nykiel, N.
- [They're always there for me! Friendship and meaning in young people's lives?](#) - O'Rourke, J., Harms, C., & Cohen, L.