

School of Education - Update

Term 2, 2019



From the Executive Dean

Welcome all to our Term 2 newsletter.

This is a big term for our final year undergraduate Pre-Service Teachers who have all commenced their final professional experience prior to graduation. Our Pre-Service Teachers have prepared extensively for this placement and we wish them well.

I personally want to thank all the experienced teacher mentors for working with our students, providing guidance, mentoring and constructive feedback.

I have met a number of staff from schools in the South West and managed to visit a few schools and will visit more throughout the year. The School of Education is looking to expand our Initial Teacher Education programs and provide our metropolitan students with the opportunity to teach in this region. I will visit the South West in the coming weeks and look forward to visiting schools and meeting school leaders and teachers as I continue to engage with schools in Western Australia.

Best wishes

Professor Stephen Winn
 Executive Dean, School of Education





International successes

Congratulations to Dr Margaret Merga whose article about reading aloud to children was recently published in Newsweek Japan.

Partnership with China

School of Education's Jill Thompson-White and School of Engineering Dr Xiaoli Zhao have partnered with Professor Jimin Sun from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, to take part in a collaborative research project led by independent researcher Lynda Nutter.

The project involves optical stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating of sand and rock samples from the Helena Valley Stone Arrangement, which is currently registered as an Aboriginal Heritage site and hypothesised to be the remains of an ancient Chinese astronomical observatory site - possibly dating from the thirteenth century. This dating will enable Professor Sun to provide firm evidence of its construction date.



Ho Chi Minh Open University international delegation visits School of Education, March 2019



Recently our School hosted an international delegation of undergraduate and post graduate TESOL students from Ho Chi Minh

Open University, one of our partnership universities in Vietnam. We hosted these delegates for a week-long study tour combining academic lectures, interactive workshops with our students and cultural excursions to iconic Perth locations. The delegates loved our quokkas and were most amazed that water could be drunk freely and safely from fountains at various outdoor venues! The delegates also shared in a wonderful inclusive EAL/D classroom experience with Pippa Beeson, Coordinator of EAL/D at Mount Lawley High School.

Please do contact [Julie Boston](#), Academic Coordinator| Industry Engagement if you are willing to host an international delegation for a few hours at your school campus in the near future.

Singapore study tour

In April 2019, Dr John West was one of 20 teachers, principals and academics across Australia to participate in the inaugural Singapore study tour. He had the opportunity to visit the National Institute of Education, Singapore's sole teacher education institution. He spent a day discussing research in mathematics teacher education with Associate Professor Tin Lam Toh, Deputy Head of the School of Mathematics & Mathematics Education. Tin Lam will be visiting Perth in July for the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australia conference and is a keynote speaker at the AAMT conference in Brisbane in July. This provides an exciting opportunity for future collaboration between Perth and Singaporean schools.

The tour also included a visit to the Academy of Singapore Teachers, which is attended by 2000-3000 teachers daily for professional learning. The teachers had the opportunity to sit in on an in-school professional learning seminar on metacognition, before commencing three days' placement at a Singaporean school. This was an amazing opportunity and Dr West is currently exploring the possibility of a student study tour to Singapore in the future.

For more information, please contact [Dr West](#).





ECU's Short Course for Credit Program

Once again, the School of Arts & Humanities at ECU is running its "Short Course for Credit" Program on 1-5 July! This program provides an opportunity for year 11 or 12 students to experience university life, help alleviate any anxiety around the transition to higher education, gain some skills and potentially get a head start on a degree with ECU! This year, workshops are being offered in Comics Design, Fashion, Short Film Scriptwriting, Web Design, Events Management, Drawing, and Photomedia. We also have Writing available this year on our Bunbury Campus.

Dates: Monday, 1 - Friday, 5 July 2019

Venue: ECU Mount Lawley and South West Campuses

Cost: Free

Registrations close 9.00am Monday, 17 June, 2019.

For more information, visit the [SAH Short courses for Credit](#) web page.

School of Education in the news

We are pleased to provide the following articles to which our expert academic staff have contributed.

- [What is explicit instruction and how does it help children learn?](#) - Associate Professor Lorraine Hammond
- [Beyond the pale: children's books present monoculture.](#) - Helen Adam
- ['Major distraction': school dumps iPads, returns to paper textbooks.](#) - Dr Margaret Merga
- [Educators eye bygone methods.](#) - Associate Professor Lorraine Hammond
- [NAPLAN shows boys catching up to girls in reading.](#) - Dr Margaret Merga
- [Schools are asking students to bring digital devices to class, but are they actually being used?](#) - Associate Professor Nicola Johnson