

PLACEMENTS OFFICE NEWSLETTER TERM 2 2016

From the Dean

With our final year practica well under way, students are enjoying the opportunity to take a greater role in the classroom to improve their skills under the expert guidance of their mentors.

The accreditation documents for the undergraduate programs have been submitted to the Teacher Registration Board and are now waiting on the evaluation of our courses by the expert panel. Research is a major priority in the School and staff continue to collaborate with many schools and present their research findings at conferences, some of which are detailed in this edition. Please do contact the School if there is any issue or area of research that we can assist you with as we are keen to continue developing our relationship and commitment to schools. Next year will see the School of Education start to offer additional courses and opportunities in education on the South West campus which will include Master of Education (Leadership) and Early Childhood studies.

My continued gratitude for your support and I look forward to continuing discussions with school leaders through the remainder of the year.

Professor Lynne Cohen
 Dean, School of Education



ECU to host ECAWA conference

Are you looking for ideas and inspiration to deliver the technologies curriculum in your school?

Hosted at ECU's School of Education, the ECAWA conference on Friday, 24 and Saturday, 25 June offers great presentations and hands on workshops on robotics, coding, gaming and creating with simple technology tools.

For more information and to register, visit the [ECAWA website](http://ecawa.wa.edu.au) or contact Dr Jenny Lane.

A poster for the ECAWA 2016 State Conference. The title "ECAWA 2016 STATE CONFERENCE" is at the top in large blue letters. Below it, the venue and dates are listed: "Venue: ECU Mount Lawley Campus" and "Dates: Friday the 24th June & Saturday 25th June". The poster features several circular images showing students working on projects, including one with a robot. At the bottom, it says "Visit: https://ecawa.wa.edu.au".

Centre for Research in Early Childhood

Exciting news from the Centre for Research in Early Childhood group! We are pleased to announce that as soon as we have ethics approval we will be approaching schools through Terms 2 and 3, to talk with school staff, parents and children about their views of the Better Beginnings Kindergarten program. This evaluation is part of a longitudinal study of the Better Beginnings program funded by the State Library of WA.

In addition, although the Parents as Children's Teachers (PACT) project has come to an end, the video, descriptive, reflective and child assessment data from the two schools involved in the project has revealed a number of interesting findings. Watch

this space for more information!

Our work on sustained shared thinking with early childhood teachers has been a great success. Many teachers commented about the difference their action research project made to their classroom practice. Several of the teachers submitted their work as part of their Masters and were awarded credit for one unit.

Be sure to check out our new [Masters in Early Childhood Education](#). We have had lots of very positive feedback from our students about the content and delivery of the new Masters course.

Cultural Sky Stories



Staff in the Edith Cowan Institute for Education Research run this project. It uses astronomy as the context for engaging low socioeconomic (SES) primary and secondary school students (Years 5-9) in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects. WA school students and teachers learn to control online telescopes in the USA to acquire images for in-class study, how to process their celestial images and how objects move within our Solar System. In addition, local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and other cultural sky stories are shared in class.

Through investigation, students develop an understanding of connections amongst the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Developing these literacies supports ongoing participation in these subjects and improves students' achievement in Science and Mathematics. In 2015, six schools each received a large telescope, an iPad mini and curriculum materials to help address the Space Science components of the Australian Science Curriculum. A professional learning day was held at the Mount Lawley campus of ECU where Dr Noel Nannup shared Noongar stories about the sky. For example, we learned how Lake Joondalup was formed as the Earth mother, Joondal, struggled to raise the sky on her back and how here hair, blown in the wind, created the Milky Way. Schools organised and held observation nights with many community members attending. Students and their parents learned how to photograph the Moon, saw magnified views of Jupiter and Saturn and their moons. They also saw different coloured stars and pretty star clusters.



Lessons for Learning

The Early Years in Education Society (EYES) 2016 conference, Lessons for Learning, focused on practices that research indicates have the highest impact on student achievement. Three ECU staff presented keynote addresses at this event.

Dr Marianne Knaus' presentation on Mathematics is all Around You centred on the characteristics of quality mathematical experiences for supporting young learners.

Dr Deb Callcott spoke about the Importance of Movement in the Early Years and the link between movement and early literacy development.

Dr Matt Byrne presented on Classroom Management and Cultural Competency, discussing the benefits of having cultural competency in engaging Aboriginal students in meaningful learning and facilitating quality learning environments.

2016 Primary Art Workshops

Expressions of interest from Perth primary schools are now being considered for a new ECU initiative to run during Terms 3 and/or 4, 2016. In the Primary Art Workshops programme, your primary school will host a fourth year Bachelor of Education student who has specialist skills in the visual arts. The ECU student will visit your school for a 10 hour placement over Terms 3 and/or 4. As part of their placement the ECU student will conduct 1-2 workshops in their specialist area for your students/staff, depending on your school's needs or interests. For the remainder of the 10 hours, the ECU student will support visual arts lessons in the school.

The ECU students will be preparing artworks for a Graduate Exhibition at the end of the year, so the Primary Art Workshops initiative may include the student bringing in their own artworks and working alongside your students, or beginning new works collaborating with your students. We are hoping your school will embrace having a specialist and practising artist in your school, and wish for you and the ECU student to collaboratively determine the

tasks undertaken within the 10 hours.

If you would like more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact [Julia Morris](#) via email or on (08) 6304 6289.



University Supervisors

Competent supervisors make a vital contribution to the development of Pre-service Teachers and ECU are committed to providing quality programs. We are always seeking to increase the pool of supervisors from which we can draw, particularly in peak placement times.

Focussing on areas of program expertise and ICT skills, we are seeking Early Childhood and Primary

University Supervisors, particularly south of the river heading towards Mandurah and further east into the hills to assist with 7 Early Childhood and Primary Professional Practices in Term 4.

We would appreciate referral of any qualified educators who may be recently retired, part time or on leave, who you feel would make a valuable contribution to our Teacher Education programs.

If interested, please contact [Sandra Fraser](#).