

HUMCASS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER EDITION

Head of School Report

I trust you will enjoy reading the Humcass newsletter and learning about the excellent progress the school has made during the course of 2002.

This year the school has greatly strengthened its research profile. In terms of total research grants, the school is now among the faculty's leaders. The school's research grant income has doubled during the course of the last two years. Some excellent collaborative research is being undertaken in the school's research centres: the Research Unit in Work and Communications Futures (RUWCF), the Centre for Gippsland Studies and the Gippsland Research and Information Service (GRIS). One important research development was the establishment of the Bionics and Cognitive Science Centre. Barry Richardson and Dianne Wuillemmin are to be congratulated for securing a \$360,000 grant from the federal government to establish the centre. Individual staff have published articles in a number of academic journals. In addition, three monographs have been produced. The Research Committee has done an excellent job of nurturing research in the school and also in promoting fortnightly research forums which are open to all university staff and students.

Student numbers have increased by approximately 15 percent this year and the school has continued to build on its reputation for innovative teaching. Indonesian, communications and writing, and journalism have all undertaken new developments in webbased teaching. The school's unique transition program, the Diploma of Foundation Studies, has doubled in size and significantly increased its teaching staff. The school's postgraduate teaching profile has also developed significantly. Currently the school has 19 students enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program.

Clearly 2002 has been a period of growth and exciting change. Much has been accomplished by staff and students alike. The school's challenge in 2003 will be to build on these accomplishments and to renew its commitment to academic excellence in research, innovation in teaching and open and supportive administration. A commitment to these core values will further help the school to develop as a progressive learning community.

Harry Ballis

School Web Page... HAVE A LOOK!

The school's web page has recently been updated to provide students with easier access to information. The web page is very easy to navigate. Useful links include the staff directory which provides an up-to-date staff list, contact details and a photo, so off-campus students will be able to put a face to a name! The student resources link provides information on student support facilities available to students, including contact details for staff who are able to assist with problems that students may encounter when trying to juggle study and family commitments!

The student resources link provides useful information on the many questions you may have now or in the future. So when you've got a couple of minutes, log onto <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/humcass>

HUMCASS Third Level Assignment Prizes

In order to recognise the outstanding work being produced by students studying third year units, the school has decided to award a number of book prizes.

n What criteria must the prize winner meet? How does a student become a candidate for a prize?

All students studying a third level unit who have an assignment as part of the assessment are eligible to be candidates for a Third Level Assignment Prize. You do not have to register or nominate.

Prizes will be awarded for an individual assignment. Group or team projects will not be considered for prizes.

n Who are the judges and how many prizes are there?

The final selection of prize winners will be endorsed by the Head of School, based on recommendations of the staff in each academic section. Each academic section may award up to two prizes. A section may recommend that no prizes be awarded.

n What is the value of the prize?

The prize will be a book or book voucher valued at up to \$100.

n Where can further information be obtained?

You can get more information about the Third Level Assignment Prizes by contacting the Head of your academic section or Carmelina Krausz, Administrative Officer, School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences, Monash University, Gippsland Campus, Churchill, 3842. Phone: 03 9902 6339 or email Carmelina.Krausz@arts.monash.edu.au

You may also check the prizes section on the school website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/humcass>

Exciting new programs for 2003

Opportunities for students to study Psychology at this campus are being expanded. From 2003, the plans are for students to have a choice of three psychology programs.

One will be the Australian Psychological Society (APS) accredited program that has been run at Gippsland for many years by the Psychology Department. From next year this course will be available to new students by off-campus learning, but will not be taught by the existing Gippsland staff.

The second will be a new major called 'Behavioural Studies'. This will not be an APS-accredited program and will thus be free to focus on professional counselling and related issues, rather than the experimental work that takes up so much of an accredited program. Behavioural studies will be taught both on and off-campus from the School of Humanities, Communications & Social Sciences (HUMCASS). This program will be led by Dr Barry Richardson, Dr Di Wullemin and Dr Cathy Haigh who have been teaching psychology at Gippsland for a number of years and who we are delighted to welcome to HUMCASS.

A third program is a multidisciplinary program to be known as 'Bachelor of Cognitive Science', involving coordinated input from the disciplines of psychology, information technology, engineering and philosophy. It will also be led by the current psychology staff and will be a cutting-edge program with strong research links.

New developments/changes for 2003

Changes to psychology

From 2003, all students enrolling in the first year of the accredited psychology sequence will be taught by the off-campus learning mode.

Students who are currently enrolled in the accredited sequence will continue to operate under the mixed mode delivery system, which is to be phased out by the end of 2004. Currently enrolled students will need to complete their psychology sequence by the end of 2004 if they wish to continue to receive mixed mode delivery.

All enquiries about units offered by the Department of Psychology should be directed to Sharyn Giardina in the first instance on 03 5122 6415.

Journalism

GSC2903 On-line Journalism is now also offered at third-year level. The unit code at third level will be GSC3913. If you have completed GSC2903 you are unable to undertake GSC3913.

GSC3903 Media, Law and Ethics has been split into two units: GSC2909/3909 Media Law and GSC2910/3910 Journalism Ethics. Students who have not completed GSC3903 will need to complete the following:

Off-campus students must complete GSC1902, GSC1903, GSC2903/3913, GSC2907, GSC 2909/3909, GSC2910/3910, GSC 3901, GSC3902. Students are no longer required to complete GSC3413 or GSC3421 as part of their journalism major.

On-campus students must complete GSC1902, GSC1903, GSC2903/3913, GSC2905, GSC 2906, GSC2909/3909, GSC3901, GSC3902.

Please contact a course adviser if you are unsure about how to structure your journalism major.

GSC2410 Public Relations Theory & Processes/Public Relations Major

The unit GSC2410 Public Relations Theory and Processes which is part of the Communications major, will run for the last time in Semester 1 2003. Starting from Semester 1 2004, it will be replaced by another unit yet to be determined.

In a related development, the school is introducing a new sequence in public relations which will hopefully result in a major in public relations in years to come. This will start from Semester 1 2003,

with two first-level units – GSC 1001 Foundations of Public Relations and GSC 1002 Principles of Public Relations Writing.

Students who have completed GSC2410 Public Relations Theory and Processes, will be prohibited from enrolling in GSC1001 Foundations of Public Relations.

Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Business Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Business & Commerce

The Faculty of Business and Economics has taken over the management of the BA/Bachelor of Business double degrees which means that all correspondence will need to be sent to them (eg. change of enrolment, intermission, special consideration). Students will also need to re-enrol during the business enrolment period which is 21 October to 29 November.

Bachelor of Behavioural Sciences

All students should note that the administration of your course has been transferred to the School of Humanities, Communications & Social Sciences as of 1 January 2002, which means you will need to re-enrol in the Arts re-enrolment period and that all inquiries and administrative matters should come to the HUMCASS office.

Honours

Honours is a fourth year of study following completion of the normal requirements for the Bachelor of Arts pass degree. The Honours program offers an opportunity for more specialized advanced work in either one or two chosen disciplines. The completion of the Honours degree can enhance employment opportunities and the acquisition of research skills can lead to postgraduate studies. Disciplines available within the School are history, communications, politics, social welfare, sociology and journalism. Students are required to undertake coursework units, and write a minor thesis (dissertation). Students are assigned a supervisor from their disciplinary area to work with them in the production of their thesis. The course is available part-time and by off-campus learning in the following disciplines: history, politics, sociology and social welfare. The course takes twelve months full-time, or two years part-time to complete. Entry to honours requires a distinction average in the discipline you want to study in.

For more information contact Carmelina Krausz on 03 9902 6319 or 03 5122 6319. Alternatively you may obtain information from the school web page <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/humcass>

PETER KERR Scholarship

This year was the tenth presentation of the Peter Kerr Scholarship. The presentation was awarded to Ian Weir, a student enrolled in the Honours program, at the Standard Hotel in Melbourne. Mr Mike Richards, friend and former colleague of the late Peter Kerr, presented Ian with the \$4000 cheque. Peter Kerr was a lecturer in History-Politics at Monash University Gippsland Campus, who had a wide range of interests and associations. After his death, friends and companies raised money to fund a scholarship in his memory. The scholarship is intended to help Gippsland students progress to higher studies, as Peter, who gained a PhD in USA-Cuban politics, did. After leaving Gippsland, Peter spent a decade writing speeches for Andrew Peacock and Jeff Kennett, eventually becoming Chief of Staff for the Victorian Liberal Leader. Later he was appointed to the position of Director of the Institute of Public Affairs in Melbourne.

The scholarship is open to graduates of the School of Humanities, Communications & Social Sciences who intend continuing studies in honours or PhD.

Students interested in applying for the scholarship in 2003 should contact Carmelina Krausz on 03 9902 6319 or 03 5122 6319. Applications are generally due late March. We wish Ian luck with his studies in 2002.

WHY SOCIOLOGY? Autobiographical sketches and selections

This is a "Reader" in book format written by members of the Sociology and Social Research section to give students some clues about the richness and variety of the sociology discipline as well as to inspire students to do honours and postgraduate work in the area. The book consists of short autobiographical sketches (from Ballis to Snell) along with 13 articles which section members have selected as ones they found inspiring and would like to share with others. So if you want to find out more about sociology or are interested in doing further studies in the area, the book *Why Sociology?* is a bargain at \$10. The book can be collected from the HUMCASS office by showing your receipt obtainable at the campus's main reception. Off-campus learning students wishing to purchase *Why Sociology?* should write to Paula.Yuen@arts.monash.edu.au or phone 03 5122 6168 or 03 9902 6168, or send a cheque for \$10 plus \$2.25 for postage within Australia. ENJOY!

Communications & Writing

Internationalisation

The communications core which originated at Churchill has now migrated to all campuses of the university. Colleagues in the School of Political and Social Inquiry, located at the Clayton campus, now teach the same first-year units as those offered at Churchill, and have added their own campus units to the raft of possible communications studies available.

Hong Kong follows Malaysia and South Africa as the latest overseas region where students can study Monash media units. Staff, who already teach through the online forums *mtxt_2002* and *inside-forum2002* are experimenting with WebCT and other online platforms to develop off-campus learning for Hong Kong students. Three core communications units should go online by 2004.

New developments

Virtual Cultures is a new second-level unit, offered on-campus this year. From next year it will also be offered by off-campus learning. A new public relations sequence is planned which is described earlier in the newsletter. We have a new sessional member of staff teaching Writing 2: Portfolio - Mr. Ben O'Mara from Deakin University while Mike Griffiths is on long service leave. Women's Writing will run for the last time (and by off-campus learning only) next year. Discussions are on-going about its replacement.

"Online Matters 2002"

Honours students in communications and writing class will be presenting and running a one-day staff-student symposium on Wednesday, September 25. Both staff and students will be giving papers on such topics as Online Role Playing Games, Bollywood, the regulatory issues associated with live webcasts of Big Brother, why people write and read online diaries, mobile identities and photographic archives, discussion forums on the book, and data retrieval.

Research and publishing

This has been a great year for interdisciplinary research. Simon Cooper published *Technoculture and Critical Theory*. A report on graduate employment in the Latrobe Valley has been circulated to employers and career teachers by an interdisciplinary team (Sue Yell, Pam Reynolds and Mary Griffiths) who are about to start on the next stage of the project. Five articles have been published and an international conference attended. Members of the section co-edited two issues of the international journal *Southern Review*. Sue Yell won a faculty grant to work on email practices. Philip Dearman is working on workplace technologies and Mike Griffiths on the illustrated novel and intertextuality. Aspa (Kwamena Kwansa-Aidoo) is working on narrative and agenda setting in Ghana and mass communications research methodologies. Mary Griffiths was Visiting Professor in the School of Communication Arts at Napier University in Edinburgh for two months during her research leave. Mary is conducting research on film regulation with a colleague there, and will return in October to teach two postgraduate seminars, after giving a paper on e-democracy at Oxford.

Social welfare

On Thursday 12th September, Annemieke Van Vliet spoke to the social welfare students about the issue of drug and alcohol abuse. Since graduating less than two years ago with a Bachelor of Social Welfare, Annemieke has been working with Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) Alcohol and Drug Program as a counsellor and mobile drug safety worker. Annemieke was accompanied by another Monash Gippsland graduate, Ellyte Douglas.

Ellyte has a Bachelor of Nursing and is employed by LCHS as the Home-Based Withdrawal Case Manager. Monash social welfare graduates are in high demand across the Human Services sector, with more than 90 per cent employed in professional positions prior to completing their degrees.

The social welfare section are working closely with the Department of Human Services and non-government social welfare organisations to increase the number of qualified practitioners in Gippsland.

A range of initiatives and options are being explored including traineeships, professional training programs, enhancement of the field education program, research partnerships and the introduction of postgraduate offerings in human services management.

Re-enrolment for 2003

(my.monash.edu.au/wes/)

The Faculty of Arts re-enrolment period this year will be 21 October to 14 November. It is strongly recommended that you start planning in advance; seek course advice and check course progression requirements; refer to the Course and Unit Guide; write down the names and codes of units you plan to study, check for unit prerequisites etc.

Students will receive detailed information about what is required in early October. Students should note that failure to complete their re-enrolment by the specified timeframe will incur a late re-enrolment fee.

New staff

This year we welcomed the following new staff to the school: Paula Yuen (administrative assistant, resources); Russell Stewart (IT Services coordinator and web designer); Chris Laming (Lecturer, Social Welfare). The school would also like to welcome the psychology staff, Dianne Wullemin (lecturer); Barry Richardson (senior lecturer); and Cathy Haigh (lecturer), who are now part of HUMCASS.

Sociology and Social Research

Teaching news

We are continuing to keep our units 'live and relevant' to today's world, and to expand our offerings. Our completely rewritten first-level unit, Global Sociology, commenced in second semester this year. Last year Marion introduced the Sociology of Reproduction in second semester. Vaughan's new unit on Rural Change and Sustainability will be offered for the first time in first semester next year, while Lyle and Parimal are currently working on a unit entitled Social Movements and Change which we hope to introduce in 2004. Pam's unit Introduction to Methods of Social Research is being revised for next year and will in future be offered at second level.

Staff movements

From the beginning of next year, Marion is being seconded to work as the Director of GRIS (Gippsland Research and Information Service) on a full-time basis for three years. Over the past two years she has been working with GRIS in conjunction with her commitments as part of the Sociology and Social Research section. These commitments have included the role of 'Head of Section' which will now be taken on by Lyle Munro from January 2003.

Staff activities – research

If you ever wondered what we do on our 'research days', then these are just some of the projects that section members are currently involved in. You will see that we have many and varied interests. Marion (with GRIS) has been involved in the evaluation of five health promotion projects for the Central West Gippsland PCP (Primary Care Partnership). Vaughan is currently developing a qualitative research

project entitled “Governing the enterprise farmer: a sociological exploration of how dairy farmers construct ‘good’ management”. Lyle is continuing with a project on “Shaping Youth Futures” – a comparative study of the schooling and work experiences of senior secondary school students – for which he is carrying out surveys and interviews at schools in the Latrobe Valley, Melbourne and Canberra. Pam is working on her PhD project on the measurement of inter-personal connectedness.

Staff activities – publications

Due for publication soon is Parimal’s edited collection on Families and Religious Diversity in India to be published by Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi. Apart from his editing role, Parimal has also completed three chapters for the book. Darryn is also in print with the following monograph: Prasad, S. and Snell, D. (2002) *Globalisation and Workers Rights in the South Pacific*. International Labour Organisation, Office for the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

Several section members have recently had, or are soon to have, journal articles published:

Munro, L. (2002) “The animal activism of Henry Spira (1927-1998)” *Society and Animals* 10(2): 173-191.

Roy, P.K., Schmitt, D. and Taylor, M. (2002) “Undermining the Social Foundations: The impact of colonisation on the traditional family structure of the Goulburn tribes” *Aboriginal History*, Vol. 26.

Higgins, V. (2002) “Self-reliant citizens and targeted populations: the case of Australian agriculture in the 1990s” *ARENA Journal*.

Higgins, V. and Lockie, S. (2003) “Re-discovering the social: neo-liberalism and hybrid practices of governing in rural natural resource management” *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Kitto, S. and Higgins, V. (2003) “Online education: liberating the student?” *Science as Culture*.

Section members have also contributed to the ‘Working Paper Series’ for the Research Unit for Work & Communications Futures:

Collis, M. (2002) *Shiftwork and family Life: Is there a perfect roster?* WP1

Munro, L. & Glover, C. (2002) *Literature review of the collapse of the school to work transition.* WP2

Snell, D., A. Cunningham and GRIS (2002) *The State of Employment in the Latrobe Valley: Findings from the 2001 Latrobe Valley Survey.* WP3

History/Politics

Research publications

Meredith Fletcher’s book, *Digging People Up for Coal: A History of Yallourn*, Melbourne University Press, 2002, has recently been short-listed for a NSW Premier’s History Award. Beth Edmondson has published a book chapter. “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Beyond Monitoring?” in B. Gleeson, M. Low (eds.), *Governing for the Environment*, Palgrave, 2001. David Schmitt, Parimal Roy and Margaret Taylor have received very favourable reader responses to a paper they have written on the destruction of traditional family life among the Goulburn Aboriginal Tribes. The paper will be published in *Aboriginal History*.

Postgraduate students

Recently two postgraduate history students received a high distinction grade for their MA dissertations. The title of Lorraine Proctor’s dissertation is “Smart Lads and Capable Girls: School Leavers and Work in Moe 1945-1975” and the title of Neil Saul’s dissertation is “Union Prisoners of War in Confederate Prisons: An analysis of the prisoners’ perceptions of the South and southern people.”

Centre for Gippsland Studies

Instead of an annual history conference this year, the CGS is organising a panel of historians to discuss writing local history at the inaugural Gippsland Writers’ Festival. The session, ‘Historians Writing About Place’, will take place on Saturday 27 October at Stratford and is a featured ‘highlight’ of the festival. This involvement has made Monash a sponsor of the festival. Meredith is currently undertaking research for the exhibition she has been asked to prepare for the alumni reunion, interpreting the three phases of the university’s history. The Centre for Gippsland Studies has signed a contract with Hazelwood Power to research and write a history of Driffield that Hazelwood Power will publish.