



Overseas study exchange creates lifetime of memories

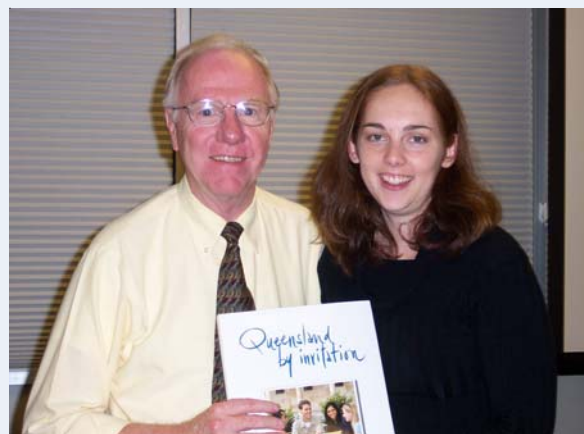
by Anna Bradford (Master of Social Administration)

This report comes with deep gratitude for the wonderful experience that the Faculty and advisors in my School have helped make possible. I arrived in Davis, California (USA) early September 2004 to start my fall quarter exchange program in the Community Development Graduate Group at the University of California, Davis.

I have majored in community development in my Master of Social Administration and I was very excited about studying my chosen field in another country. I was hoping to gain a broader perspective and interact with professionals experienced in different cultures and countries. I was not disappointed!

I was soon immersed in literature and theory developed from a mainly North American perspective interspersed with development literature from Central and South America. The Graduate Group is a multi-disciplinary ensemble with lecturers from a variety of backgrounds including economics, sociology, adult education, even geographical and environmental sciences. I had really interesting and experienced lecturers who had worked in settings from rural and urban USA to international development in Mexico, Ecuador, Africa and Asia. Both staff and faculty alike were very welcoming and made my time here very enjoyable.

My fellow students also came from all walks of life and many different countries such as Brazil, Korea and Japan. I have made some good friends whom I hope to see again some day. With only ten weeks in the quarter, the classes seemed to fly past, so we worked hard and played hard! I undertook three courses (which I didn't realise till I started were four units each) and a seminar series - so the workload was high but I really enjoyed the course formats and content.



UQ student Anna Bradford (right) with UC Davis Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef

One of my courses was an independent research study and I was fortunate that my supervisor was Dr Ted Bradshaw (PhD, UC Berkeley) the acting Chair of the Graduate Group and Managing Editor of the Journal of the Community Development Society.

There were a number of events at which I was able to promote UQ and Australia, the highlight being involved in UC Davis International Education Week. I was honoured to speak at the Chancellor's Forum: "International Education – A Gateway to Peace". It was a privilege to meet William Lacy, Vice Provost of University Outreach and International Programs as well as Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef. I was on a six member panel (UC Davis faculty, staff member, Alumnus, Undergraduate Student and a Fulbright Scholar from Norway) speaking on the value of international education in my career and/or life. I presented to Chancellor Vanderhoef the lovely hard-cover book "Queensland by Invitation – UQ".

Thank you once again for this great experience! I have learned so much and will remember it for the rest of my life!





UQ sociologists attend annual conference

The venue had a chequered past and (according to locals) a resident ghost, but that didn't stop Australia's leading and up-and-coming sociologists converging on a former mental institution in Victoria, for the Annual Australian Sociological Association (TASA) conference.

Eight staff and postgraduate students from the School of Social Science made the journey to the site of La Trobe University's Beechworth Campus in December 2004, to attend and present at one of the primary events in the calendar for the Australian Sociological Community.

Dr Zlatko Skrbis, a lecturer with the School, was particularly busy. As well as being the Vice-President of TASA, he also presented two papers. The first was a detailed analysis of "Australians in Guantanamo Bay: Australian Citizenship, Masculinities and Belonging"; while the second paper, prepared in conjunction with Dr Ian Woodward (who completed his PhD with the School) outlined initial results of focus group research investigating Australians' opinions of globalisation.

Dr Janet Grice, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at UQ, was another person multi-tasking over the four days. Janet is the incoming editor of Nexus, TASA's regular newsletter, and represented the editorial team at all official functions. She also presented a paper entitled "Perceptions of Genetically Engineered Foods within the Risk Society", which noted gendered differences to the degrees of risk associated with genetically modified foods. Other staff and PhD candidates from the School of Social Science who presented papers at the conference were Dr Lynda Cheshire, Tara McGee, Barton Loechel and Samantha Neal.

But it wasn't all work and no play. When not presenting papers, attending sessions or meeting and networking with their Australian peers, the UQ delegates had a chance to walk around the historic town of Beechworth, sample products from the well-known local bakery, and dodge hail stones from the short but intense afternoon storms.

And what of the resident ghost? She supposedly inhabits the third floor of what used to be the nurses' quarters – but is now the conference hotel. Luckily no-one knew that until they were checking out.....



Attendees at TASA 2004 (seated LtoR) Dr John Germov, Dr Ian Woodward, Kate Riseley, Dr Zlatko Skrbis, Tara McGee (standing LtoR) Dr Lynda Cheshire, Margery Mayall & Barton Loechel

UQ academic talks peace at UN Headquarters

Dr Marianne Hanson, from the School of Political Science and International Studies, was recently invited to speak at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York. Dr Hanson is the Director of the Rotary Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and the only academic from seven international centres that was invited to speak at the Rotary Conference Day.

The UN periodically meets with non-governmental organisations with the aim of strengthening relationships. On this occasion, Dr Hanson was invited to speak and comment on how the Rotary program was enhancing the progress towards world peace.

During Dr Hanson's speech, she commended the Rotary Foundation for its involvement in the international studies in peace and conflict program, of which UQ has been involved for the last three years.

She said there was a clear view that day to day activities needed to be complemented by an investment in long term prospects for peace and understanding, and that the Rotary centres' idea fulfilled this role excellently.

Eight students from the Rotary program graduated in December 2004 with a Masters degree in International Studies (Peace and Conflict Resolution). Another 11 will shortly commence their studies and come from a range of countries including Finland, Uganda, Japan and Moldova.



Breakfast... a big success!

The Australasian Centre on Ageing (ACA) Colloquia Breakfast Series for 2004 was a great success. The series covered a wide range of topics, including key policy areas and contemporary ageing issues. The evaluation forms completed by those attending the series indicated an appreciative audience.

The 2005 series commences on **2 March** with an exciting new program (see below) and a new venue in Brisbane city – Customs House. Registrations can be made online at www.uq.edu.au/aca or by calling Nicola at the ACA on 3346 9084.

ACA Colloquia Program 2005

2 March Balance and ageing – Dr Jenny Nitz

6 April The ageing brain – Prof Perry Bartlett

4 May Housing older Australians: rethinking the policy agenda – A/Prof Andrew Jones, Dr Cheryl Tilse

1 June Researching frail older people – Prof Helen Edwards, Dr Mark Hughes & Nancye Peel

6 July Information management and technology to support active ageing and aged care – A/Prof Jeffrey Soar

3 August Ageing and health expenditure – A/Prof Luke Connelly

7 September Ageing in rural and remote communities – Prof Desley Hegney

5 October Age friendly standards: an experiment in transport – A/Prof Linda Worrall, Dr Kryss McKenna, Prof Duncan Boldy and A/Prof Peta Jervois

2 November Grey nomads: a revolution in travel and tourism for older people – A/Prof Ian Patterson

7 December Physical activity promotion: a new community-based model for older people – Prof Helen Bartlett, Dr Alison Marshall, A/Prof Ian Patterson, Dr Geoff Mitchell

What's on in February?

Tuesday 8 February

Australian Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies Seminar Series

“Explaining National Identity: from group attachments to collective action”, Prof Dan Druckman

2pm-3pm, GPN3 (39A), Rm 537

Wednesday 9 February

Australian Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies Seminar Series

“The Uppsala Conflict Database: its utility for peace research”, Prof Peter Wallensteen

10am-12pm, GPN3 (39A), Rm 201

Thursday 17 February

UniQuest morning tea for SBS staff and postgraduate students (see details below). Please RSVP to rsvp@uniquest.com.au by 14 February.

10.30am, Courtyard between Social Sciences & McElwain Bldgs

Friday 25 February or Monday 28 February

SBS Faculty Tutor Training for new tutors. Tutors to attend one session

25 Feb 9am-11am, Bldg24A, Rm 302

28 Feb 2pm-4pm, SS&H Library Conf Rm

To register contact Ian White on i.white@uq.edu.au

UniQuest to host morning tea for SBS staff and postgraduates

UniQuest, UQ's main technology transfer company, is hosting a morning tea for SBS staff and postgraduate students.

Meet your faculty's Manager for Innovation and Commercial Development and learn more about the services, training and networking programs available to you.

Time: 10.30am

Date: Thursday 17 February 2005

Venue: Courtyard between Social Sciences & McElwain Buildings

RSVP: Monday 14 February

rsvp@uniquest.com.au or x54037



Down Syndrome Research Program – a review of 2004

by Dr Anne Jobling and Dr Monica Cuskelly

2004 was one of our most demanding years in some time. The most momentous event for us was that Anne Jobling retired from the University in October, however her commitment to the research program mean that Anne will continue to contribute to our work on a very regular basis.

We began two new studies in 2004. The first study has been an examination of the mental health of young adults with Down syndrome. This is a very important topic and one that the families of young adults have been very keen for us to undertake. We are very grateful to the families and individuals with Down syndrome who make up the longitudinal group as they are participating in this project. Their long term commitment has meant that we will be able to look for early indicators of mental health problems and therefore possibly identify signs that will enable early intervention.

The second study is on the development of the capacity to delay gratification. We have established that many individuals with Down syndrome have difficulty waiting for what they want and in this project we will develop and test an intervention for assisting the development of this skill. This is a three year project and we have employed Vicki Martin to work with us on this.

In 2004 Latch-On was offered by Endeavour rather than by our staff here at the university. Karen Moni, Jan Lloyd, Michelle Morgan and Anne are still very involved with providing training and support to the staff of Endeavour and ensuring that the Latch-On approach is implemented in the new settings. The team is intending to begin work on research around the development of a literacy program for older adults in 2005.

Finally the 8th World Congress on Down Syndrome was held in Singapore in April. We made a number of scientific presentations and also provided some workshops for the delegates at the conference. Two important decisions were made at this conference – one was to work towards establishing a national body in Australia, and the other was to organise a Pan Pacific group. The next congress will be held in Vancouver in 2006.

ACPACS seminar highlights to feature on ABC radio

The recent Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (ACPACS) seminar titled “Tsunami: Social Science Perspectives on Natural and Man-Made Tragedies” was recorded by the ABC Radio National Program *Encounter*.

The highlights of this thought provoking and important discussion will be broadcast on the *Encounter* program on Sunday 6 February at 7.10am and on Wednesday 9 February at 7.10pm. This is on ABC Radio National (AM792 in Brisbane). The program is broadcast across Australia with some outlets in Asia and the Pacific.

The program can be heard for one month on the Internet via audio on demand – www.abc.net.au/religion. A transcript of the program will also be available from this address after the program is aired.

Training program to assist new tutors

As part of the Faculty’s commitment to quality assurance in teaching and learning, a program of tutor training will be conducted in Semester 1 2005.

Sessions will be conducted by Dr Geoff MacDonald, a recipient of an SBS Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in 2004, with assistance from TEDI.

All tutors who will be tutoring for the first time must attend the first two Faculty sessions (a 2 hour session in Orientation Week or Week 1 and a 1 hour session in Week 4). The latter two sessions (1 hour sessions in Weeks 9 and 11) are also strongly recommended to new tutors.

Schools are also asked to recommend all or some of the Faculty-based sessions to tutors who have previously tutored but have not had the advantage of a tutor training program at UQ. All tutors are welcome but attendance at the first two sessions is compulsory for new tutors.

For details of session times, please visit, www.uq.edu.au/sbs/tutortraining or email Ian White at i.white@uq.edu.au.



Norwegian practices to help Australia's beef graziers

New approaches to rural conundrums can be found in the unlikeliest of places...and in the case of sustainable land management practices for Australia's beef graziers, School of Social Science PhD candidate Carol Richards travelled all the way to Norway to research concepts which may provide positive solutions to agricultural and environmental problems.

Carol was recently awarded three travel grants -a Graduate School Research Travel Award, a travel grant from the AW Howard Memorial Trust and a travel grant from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, which allowed her to spend two months in Norway. During this time, she was not only a visiting scholar at the Rural Research Centre, Norwegian Institute of Science and Technology in Trondheim, but she also attended and presented two papers at the XI World Congress of Rural Sociology.

Carol, supported in her studies by industry partner the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, is working on the problems and practices of sustainable land management by Australian beef producers, with the aim of helping provide solutions for more effective resource use. Her paper at the World Congress addressed graziers' perceptions of sustainability and Australia's prospects for multifunctional agriculture. Carol's work as a visiting scholar in Norway allowed her to study and assess Norwegian farm policies and practices that promote sustainability and the maintenance of cultural landscapes. During her stay, Carol presented a paper to the researchers, which allowed input from international peers; she also collaborated with Hilde Bjorkhaug (who spent seven months with UQ's School of Social Science last year) to produce a paper for publication which is currently undergoing peer review.

Carol is optimistic that some of the practices she observed in Norway could be suitably adapted and implemented in Australia. By doing so, they would provide more tools in the ongoing task of minimising environmental degradation in Australia's rural landscape.



Hilde Bjorkhaug and Carol Richards

Academic publishes book on Apartheid

Dr Eric Louw from the School of Journalism and Communication has recently released a book titled *The Rise, Fall, and Legacy of Apartheid*.

Description: In this narrative, Dr Louw tells the story of 20th-century South Africa by examining three political periods: British Hegemony (1900-1948), the Afrikaner Nationalist Period (1948-1993), and the post-1994 Black Nationalist Period.

Author information: Dr Louw is Director of Communication programs at UQ. During the 1980s, he was a United Democratic Front anti-apartheid activist. His previous books include *The Media and Cultural Production* (2001), *South Africa Media Policy* (1993), and *The Alternative Press in South Africa* (1991).

For more information, visit www.greenwood.com.

To contribute to SBS News,
please contact:

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