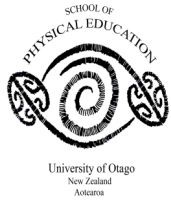


The Chronicle of (Almost) Higher Education

Newsletter of the Physed Post-Grad Community



Editorial

Seasons Greetings! With pleasure I bring you the final postgraduate newsletter for 2009. In this edition (which has been packed out to keep you going until 2010) Fi & Ev reflect on 2009, and we hear from Glenys, Sally, Pete, Tania. I hope you enjoy the read.

It has certainly been a busy year for the physed postgrad community, fittingly capped off with our recent symposium and upcoming Jitsu dinner. Immense thanks needs to go to both Fi and Eve who have worked tirelessly on events for us throughout the year.

We are a diverse bunch of individuals so it's been great to have had opportunities where we have been able to come together and chat about our lives and research. My hope is that we continue this with fervour in the new year.

Best festive wishes, Geoff.

“U.S. Students get diploma after 70 year wait”

Forty-two former University of California, Berkeley students have received their diplomas nearly seven decades after their studies were disrupted when they were sent to internment camps during World War II.

The Japanese-Americans, now in their 80s, were awarded honorary degrees at a special ceremony Sunday at UC Berkeley.

Also attending were family members of 78 other former students who had died or were too infirm to attend.

In 1942, the US government sent about 120,000 people of Japanese descent to internment camps throughout the West, including more than 2,500 students enrolled in California public colleges and universities.

UC and California State University campuses are honouring them with honorary degrees over the next several months.



OUR community

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their input to the postgrad ‘community’ this year. Whether you have contributed formally or informally, in person or virtually, have attended one or all of our events, our successes this year could not have been possible without your support. We have trialed a number of new initiatives, including—weekly coffee mornings, monthly thinking lunches, a writing weekend and of course this newsletter, which would not have happened without Geoff’s enthusiastic editorship.

We have also resurrected a couple of initiatives. Thanks to Josh Newman and Mel Bussey’s willingness to accommodate our postgraduate ‘needs’ we have taken greater ownership of the monthly grad forums. We also brought the PG symposium back and by all accounts it was a successful culmination to the year and showcased the quality and breadth of work being done by postgrads in the School. Again, the success of this event would not have been possible without the support of the Grad-Hons committee, Doug Booth and our hard working symposium team (Ev, Katie, Geoff, Allen and Beks) who demonstrated commitment to the cause from March through to November. Finally, thanks to Ev’s amazing ability to co-ordinate social events, our community has continued to flourish both socially and academically.

On reflection, some of these initiatives have been more successful than others, but regardless they have provided us with a platform from which to work in the future. If you have any feedback about being a PE postgrad or have ideas for next year or beyond then I would love to hear from you.

Looking forward to Thursday night!

Best wishes, Fi.



Social Events



Hi all, Firstly I would just like to say thanks to everyone for putting up with my copious annoying emails this year! I think we as PE postgrads have had a super year, capped off with the symposium last month. Which brings me to my second most important point, big ups to Fi who almost single handedly organised the entire symposium (cheers Fi!) and thanks so much to everyone who presented! I know it was a bit of a struggle for most people to pull it all together but it was really great to hear from all different aspects of physical education, it's what makes us unique as a department and was awesome to celebrate it. The dinner afterwards at Filidelfios was great to cap off the event so thanks to all that attended :)

To all those who attended any of the dinners (Little India, Jitsu, Filidelfios, The Rainforest, Etrusco, and Thai Over), drinks at Eureka, and other events during the year, thank you. Its nice to have a group that is able to socialise outside of the office, and personally being able to get out of the building and talking to everyone about what I'm doing but not about what I'm doing has been neat. I think all the events have been fantastic, especially the large gathering at Little India mid year, and hope everyone enjoys Thursday night! That's all from me for the year, I wish everyone an amazingly happy and merry Christmas with family and friends, and will see everyone again in the new year! Ev



Our voices (I)

Lessons, experiences, & stories
from our mentors & peers

“My one pearl of wisdom; never lose your sense of humour”

A DAY IN ‘POO CORNER’

My black Honda meanders through the nearly deserted Dunedin streets and my thoughts turn to the day ahead. With feet dragging, I make my way to my office in Union Court, which has been ‘home’ for the past 4 years. The lights go on in ‘Poo Corner’. I do not want to be here. The tower clock chimes 6 a.m. I sip my coffee, I stare at my computer screen, I look out the window into the morning darkness, I listen to the silence, I glance at my books, “An introductory guide to SPSS”, and “SPSS: Analysis without anguish” (yeah, right), I sip my coffee, I stare at my computer screen ... I could continue like this as I have for the past few weeks ... **BUT NOT TODAY.**

The building comes alive around me; doors banging in the distance, voices greeting one another. The foot traffic increases past my door. I could be distracted ... **BUT NOT TODAY.**

My PhD journey has been a ‘rollercoaster ride’ during which I have negotiated the highs and lows. As I near the end of that journey nothing prepares me for this last ‘low’ which has left me perilously close to ‘throwing in the towel’ ... **BUT NOT TODAY.**

I shut the door on another day and with a spring in my step I walk away. The lights go off in ‘Poo Corner’. I do want to be here after all.

Oh ... my name is Glenys Forsyth ... I am a born and bred Southlander... I’ve had a variety of jobs including 3 years in the NZ Army ... I live with my husband Alan (who has MS) and our two cats, Lewis and Stanley-Girl (it’s a long story) ... I work full-time and study part-time ... I love to run; preferring the ½ marathon and marathon distances ... I’m quite partial to a ‘Riesling’, enjoy ‘Black Russian’ Saturdays, and of course the odd coffee or two or three or four ...



Glenys Forsyth

- an athlete in the making -

Our voices (II)

Lessons, experiences, & stories from our mentors & peers

“I’ve always gone with my gut feelings with regard to where I work and with whom”

When I left the University of York with my BA in 1993, I vowed never to set foot in a university again. How things change... My academic life has been one of serendipity, careful choices, and sheer bloody mindedness. I was offered a spot to do a PhD with Prof. Trevor Slack at De Montfort University. It was a purple patch at the university at that time, with Trevor pulling out the stops to get grad students, research activity, and grants. It



Dr. Sally Shaw

was very different to PE School, in that there was little infrastructure for grad students. Still, it was fun and perhaps that’s where I learned my skills in negotiating bureaucracy as we secured funding and pursued opportunities to conduct our research. Job-wise, I’ve always gone with my gut feelings with regard to where I work and with whom. I don’t really have a ‘top tip’ as everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses. If you want to do something different, go and knock the door of a member of staff who you don’t really know and ask them a question about your research and how they’d approach it. Listen to the answer, you might be amazed!

It’s o.k to laugh at ourselves



Our voices (III & IV)

Lessons, experiences, & stories from our mentors & peers

“At the time I didn't know what I was getting myself into...”

In high school, had there been such a poll, I would have likely been voted "least likely to pursue postgraduate study". Yet here I am. I like to think my undergraduate life in Thunder Bay, Canada gave my late-blooming academic interests a chance to emerge. An interest in the golf swing was the driving force behind my master's project but it was a side project with the engineer on staff, Carlos Zerpa, that I owe the inspiration for my Ph.D.

Postgraduate study has given me the opportunity to pursue my interests and see the world. Since arriving in Dunedin I often reflect on the seemingly strange string of events that led me here and how thankful I am that I had the nerve to follow my interests, despite the uncertainty it involved. At the time I didn't know what I was getting myself into and, although I was very eager to see what the future would bring, I was also very apprehensive about travelling to the opposite end of the world, by myself. And now it seems like the choice to stay put, near the things I was used to, would have been the foolish decision.



Peter Lamb

“The story of an unlikely academic...”

When I left the School of Physical Education in 1984 as one of the last of the ‘Dippies’ (the 3 year Diploma of Physical Education had been phased out), I (and none of the staff!) had any expectation that I would be back. But it is funny how choices we make can have unexpected consequences. Years later, after teaching in NZ and the UK, as well as travelling in Asia and the Middle East, I returned to Dunedin to visit family and make some money. But I couldn't really settle. So I returned to university, initially for a year, to try and work out what I wanted to do with my life.

Despite arguably dubious motivations for returning, my experience of postgraduate study in the School highlighted; the benefit of studying something that was personally meaningful, having a rigorous supervisor and, the usefulness of curiosity and stubbornness in postgraduate study. After completing a MPhEd the wanderlust took hold again and I travelled to Australia to enrol in a PhD. I didn't enrolled in a PhD to get a job, or become an academic, rather it was a personal challenge which became a lifestyle. I still can't quite believe that my lifestyle has morphed into a career, but I do believe that you can make your own luck.



Dr Tania Cassidy