Dean's Update - November/December 2016

Dean’s Update

As the final newsletter for 2016, this reminds us that the year is coming to a close. Christmas celebrations are around the corner; and it is a time to reflect on the year that has been. Possibly the biggest challenge for us has been converting units for blended delivery. While not yet complete, we are a long way from the uncertainty of what was involved in January and February, with what I have to say have been some amazing examples of what can be done. Of course, the moment of truth will be on December 26, when LMS goes live at Kaplan, but we should get a hint of things to come by December 12th, when all material becomes available to affiliates on LMS.

We endured a substantial cut to our budget about half way through the year, which has reminded us that ultimately it is student enrolments that pay our way. While austerity is likely to follow us into 2017, we have in place initiatives to increase recruitment, and to revise our course offerings. The redesigned MBA appears to have traction, and offered places for graduate coursework up by 66% on the same time last year. Across the board, both domestic and international applications are up, although undergraduate offers continue to be down slightly. However, this remains an early indication, with a long way to go before 2017 enrolments close.

Towards the end of this year, we have got a hint of the road ahead. The University is developing its strategic plan, and the business school is destined to become more industry engaged, with a strong emphasis on producing the best outcomes for students. Politics will follow a different path, focused instead on its position in the world research rankings.

No doubt I will see many of you over the remaining few weeks of 2016, including the Christmas celebrations. Nonetheless, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your work this year, and to wish you all a happy and cheerful festive season.

Regards,

Grant.
A robust and directive Project Plan has been built for the School’s AACSB Accreditation – iSER Stage. This is ensure that our iSER Application is fully completed by the deadline submission date of May 2017 and that a cohesive and collegiate approach is adopted by identified stakeholders to complete the task; this is a collective, inclusive process which requires commitment from everyone in the School.

Finalised details of the Project Plan will be communicated to staff members in the coming weeks to keep the School updated on the project’s progression and to encourage further active staff and student engagement as we move towards AACSB accreditation.

Claire Szamruchiewicz and Sharon Gardner attended ANZQAN’s (Australia & New Zealand Quality & Accreditation Network) Annual Meeting in Brisbane on 1st and 2nd December. The Annual Meeting focused on highly relevant topics such as: Innovation with Tools (managing staff qualifications and AoL tools); managing the Accreditation Visit; Internationalism – ADBC Chapter 0; Sedona Software Overview; and AoL benchmarking.

The information gathered from the recent Annual Meeting, in relation to AoL tools, processes and procedures, is highly relevant to the School’s Learning and Teaching core priorities as outlined in the DRAFT School Operational Plan for 2017. The document focuses heavily on the improvement of systematic AoL protocols and processes which enhance the School’s degree programs and also enable us to retain, and record, evidence necessary to meet accreditation bodies’ requirements.

Please see below, an interesting article titled – AACSB Accreditation: Addressing Faculty Concerns – which outlines the importance of the process of accreditation in ensuring quality assurance of teaching and programs to stakeholders:

http://amle.aom.org/content/7/2/245.full

If you have any questions, or wish to find out how you can be involved in the project, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Dr Janice Dudley.

Kind regards,

Claire Szamruchiewicz
Accreditation Project Officer

Dr Janice Dudley
Associate Dean, Quality Standards and Accreditation
Vaccine Rejecting Parents’ Engagement With Expert Systems That Inform Vaccination Program


Journal of Bioethical Inquiry

Abstract

In attempting to provide protection to individuals and communities, childhood immunization has benefits that far outweigh disease risks. However, some parents decide not to immunize their children with some or all vaccines for reasons including lack of trust in governments, health professionals, and vaccine manufacturers. This article employs a theoretical analysis of trust and distrust to explore how twenty-seven parents with a history of vaccine rejection in two Australian cities view the expert systems central to vaccination policy and practice. Our data show how perceptions of the profit motive generate distrust in the expert systems pertaining to vaccination. Our participants perceived that pharmaceutical companies had a pernicious influence over the systems driving vaccination: research, health professionals, and government. Accordingly, they saw vaccine recommendations in conflict with the interests of their child and “the system” underscored by malign intent, even if individual representatives of this system were not equally tainted. This perspective was common to parents who declined all vaccines and those who accepted some. We regard the differences between these parents—and indeed the differences between vaccine decliners and those whose Western medical epistemology informs reflexive trust—as arising from the internalization of countering views, which facilitates nuance.
Invited speaker at the international meeting on vaccination acceptance and uptake

Katie Attwell from the Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs was once again an invited speaker at the only international meeting on vaccination acceptance and uptake, held annually at Les Pensieres, Annecy, France. Katie presented a paper at the two-day event held in late September, and was also one of four participants in a lively debate about mandatory vaccination.

Mannkal Scholarship winner: Jake Fraser

Murdoch Honours (Economics) student, Jake Fraser, was one the recipients of the prestigious Mannkal scholarship. Mannkal offers a number of international and domestic economics scholarships to Australian students. These unique scholarships grant interested young adults with a once in a life time opportunity to intern at a think tank.

SWMS cooperation with Institute of Public Administration and Nous Group

As part of the ongoing cooperation between the Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs and the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA), delegates who complete IPAA's flagship Policy in Practice course in 2017 will be eligible to receive academic credit for this unit in the Sir Walter Murdoch School. The Policy in Practice course is being led by the Nous Group's Tom Leeming, formerly of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and a SWMS Policy Seminar speaker.
2017 National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding

Dr Katie Attwell from the Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs is part of a team that has won 2017 National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding for the project: “Developing evidence based strategies for addressing childhood vaccination rejection.” The team has won $743,927 over three years to determine the drivers of vaccine rejection and hold community juries and a public engagement process to determine what strategies for response are practical and ethically justified.

Dr Attwell is named an Associate Investigator on the project. The NHMRC defines an Associate Investigator (which does not exist for the comparable Australia Research Council scheme) as an investigator who provides intellectual input into the research and whose participation warrants inclusion of their name on publications.

Murdoch PhD Student wins best paper award

A B M Mahbub Alam, Manzurul Alam and Ariful Hoque

Abstract: Studies on governmental financial conditions are focused on developing tools for detecting and avoiding potential financial problems, and are confined mostly in the Western world. This research seeks to measure financial conditions of local government in Bangladesh. Municipalities, one of the two types of urban local government, play an important role in providing a range of services and carrying out socio-economic objectives in Bangladesh. Having a clear understanding of municipalities’ financial conditions in terms of their capability to provide services and fulfil financial obligations is a pre-requisite for undertaking any municipal development initiative. This study applies a composite index consisting of eleven indicators organized under four dimensions, viz., short term solvency, budgetary solvency, service level solvency and long term solvency and measures financial conditions of the three classes (Class I, II and III) of municipalities in Bangladesh during the period from 2007 to 2015. Results obtained indicate that there are differences in their overall financial condition as well as in their short term, long term and service level solvencies. The outcome of this research is likely to have implications for devising policies for making municipalities more effective organizations.
Visit from the delegation from Shanghai Maritime University

The School of B & G recently received a delegation from the Shanghai Maritime University. The Mr Yang Wanfeng (Vice President) and Mr Zhang Qiarong (Director of Academic Affairs Office) met with the School to discuss possible articulations and student exchange programs. The new Deputy Vice Chancellor International, Prof Lyn Karstadt, came to the School to sign an MOU with the delegation.

The school then hosted the delegation and the DVC I for lunch at Club Murdoch.

SWMS wins Indonesia Public Health Tour Scholarships

The Sir Walter Murdoch School has received government funding for the Australian Consortium of In-Country Indonesia Studies Public Health Study Tour to Indonesia for 2017. We have 5 spots for students worth $2,000 each. For more information, see here. For information on the 2016 pilot study tour, see here.

Presenter at the international symposium on “Implementation of Social Health Insurance: Lessons for Chile”

Dr Francesco Paolucci, Associate Professor & Head of Health Policy, has been invited by the Centre of Public Studies (“CEP Centro de Estudios Publicos”) to be one of the two main presenters at the international symposium on "Implementación de seguros sociales en salud: Lecciones para Chile" (Implementation of Social Health Insurance: Lessons for Chile) held in Chile on the 6th of December. Dr Paolucci will present after Dr Ana Balsa, Researcher at the Health Economics Research Group of the University of Miami, and talk about the evolution of Social Health Insurance and their potential prospects. The discussion will be then facilitated by local Academics and Experts, including Fabián Duarte, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, U. de Chile, Director de Espacio Público; Gabriel Fernández, ESE Business School, Uandes y Emilio Santelices, Escuela de Salud Pública, U. de Chile.
Summer School in Health Economics and Finance

The Summer School in Health Economics and Finance has kicked off on Monday 28th November and has been a great success with a significant number of enrolments. The Summer School consists of three full-day workshops on topics related to health economics and finance, and gives participants the opportunity to attend stand-alone workshops, the full course, or to enrol in the whole unit (SWM518 Health Economics and Finance) and build credits toward postgraduate qualifications. The Summer School has been designed to suit health professionals’ needs, being offered in intensive mode, online or face-to-face with classes also on weekends. Indeed, The Summer School has attracted many participants coming from the Department of Health, WA Country Health Service, St John of God Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Dr Francesco Paolucci and his team (Gaia, Manganelli, Greer Parry and Sharon Gardner) are working very hard to strengthen relationships with the key employers in the health sector, at a local and national level. After the success of the Winter School in Strategic Health Leadership and Management last July and of this Summer School, they plan to have more courses running in this way next year.

SWMS Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Recruitment Event

The Sir Walter Murdoch School hosted the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) at a recruitment event to introduce students to careers with the Department, and share the experiences of senior career diplomat Mr Michael Growder, Assistant Secretary, Free Trade Agreement Division, ably assisted by Ms Amanda Rickman from the DFAT WA State Office.

Several SWMS students were interviewed for this year’s federal government graduate intake, including DFAT which has two graduate programs, with applications opening in Feb/Mar 2017:

· DFAT Policy Graduate Program: open to all disciplines
· DFAT Management Graduate Program: Open to accounting, business, ICT and Human resource management disciplines
Chamber members and guests enjoyed the nation’s biggest horse race at a lunch under the marquee in Bush Court. VIP’s at the event included the CEO of the City of Cockburn, Stephen Cain, and Member for Bateman, Matt Taylor MLA. The School was represented at this event by Tonia Girardi, Jean Wootton, Janice Dudley and Karen Thompson.

Associate Professor Antonia Girardi spoke about women in leadership and included a lot of horse racing links. After all, she is an academic in the field of management. The word ‘manage’ comes from the Latin word ‘manus’ meaning hand from the 16th century the Italian word ‘maneggiare’ was used to describe the hand controlling a horse.

Angelica from the Murdoch Events team took out the ladies Fashions on the Field competition. Well done Angelica!

Photos courtesy of Take Eight Productions.
2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards

On Wednesday 2 November, Murdoch University’s Distinguished Alumni Awards were held on in the Marquee on Bush Court. You can check out the short video showcasing the event at this link.

The entertainment was provided by Renee Pilkington, an alumnus who completed a Bachelor of Marketing and Media with us in 2005. Renee was President of the Murdoch Business Students Association (MBSA). Rather than taking a traditional employment path, Renee used her talents and degree as an entrepreneur. Since completing her studies at Circus School in China, she has performed at festivals and events around the globe as well as producing shows and managing events.

Information about the Distinguished Alumni winners can be found here.

Getting Connected at the City of Cockburn

On the 8th November Jean Wootton, Karen Thompson and Clara Millett (Office of Development) represented Murdoch University at the City of Cockburn’s ‘Get Connected’ event. The guest speaker for the evening was Jeremy Chetty, Murdoch University Alumnus and Co-Founder of Student Edge. He spoke about the importance of values and social impact in business. There were some interesting connections made on the night and discussions are underway with organisations about work integrated learning, Murdoch Student Emerging Leaders (MSEL) Projects and volunteering opportunities for students.

Jeremy Chetty, Co-Founder of Student Edge
City of Cockburn Mayor, Logan Howlett
Murdoch heads to Rockingham for the annual Business Expo

Murdoch University was a major sponsor and exhibitor at the recent Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce and Industry Regional Business Expo. Staff from our School and the External Engagement team spoke to people about undergraduate and postgraduate study, work integrated learning, collaborations and partnership opportunities and how to become a tutor. It was amazing how many Murdoch alumni we met on the day!

Tonia Girardi spoke about ‘The Changing World of Work’. She even moved one woman in the audience to tears as she realised she was at a crossroad in her career and needed to make a change. We’re hoping to see her enrolled in a Murdoch MBA next year.
Business After Hours on Murdoch’s Rockingham Campus

On the 9th November, the Annual Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business After Hours was held in the Library Foyer at our Rockingham campus.

Jean Wootton introduced three students who had completed work integrated learning internships this year who shared their stories about their placements. They described their experiences and how important opportunities like this were to their future career prospects.

Provost, Andrew Taggart, hosted the event and Chancellor, David Flanagan, spoke about leadership, inspiring yet another audience with his stories.

Professor Dom Gasbarro received a thank you gift for being a judge on the recent Rockingham Kwinana CCI Business Awards.

A special thank you goes to Gemma Cominelli, Andrew Taggart’s EA, for organising the event.
Young Professionals on Campus

In November the second MCCCI Young Professionals event was held at Club Murdoch. The Young Professionals is an initiative being run in conjunction between Melville Cockburn Chamber of Commerce and Murdoch University. The event brings together Under 35 year old business owners, managers, leaders, universities students and members of the local community. It provides them with the opportunity to network with their peers, exchange ideas and help each other in reaching personal and professional goals.

Guest speakers at this particular event were Jeremy Chetty and Fiona Lawrie.

Jeremy is Co-Founder of Student Edge, a free student services website which has over 800,000 members, over 100 educational institution partners and a growing list of sponsors and advertisers. The idea for the digital side of Student Edge was born in a Murdoch University computer lab when Jeremy was a student. He inspired the audience with the story of his Student Edge journey then answered questions about being an entrepreneur, giving ideas hints, tips and encouragement. Passionate about young people and entrepreneurship, Jeremy is keen to see more start-ups come out of the student space. He believes that innovation and entrepreneurship begins at a young age and with the right tools, mentoring and network, and that all young people can have the opportunity to be entrepreneurs.

Fiona is the Sustainability Manager with Wesfarmers and has experience managing environmental and social issues across supply chains. She previously worked on several water projects in China, held commercial roles with ANZ, and worked as Executive Director of the Australian-China Youth Dialogue. In 2013 Fiona was recognised by the World Economic Forum as a Global Shaper and has spoken at several World Economic Forum meetings on the topic of sustainability. In 2016 Fiona also participated in the US State Department’s International Visitors Leadership Program. Fiona’s advice includes “always saying yes, be prepared to take on extra tasks, be bold and suggest new ideas and initiatives, seek out opportunities, and develop great networks”.

The feedback by all who attended was excellent. One young professional said, “As an aspiring entrepreneur, I think Jeremy’s presentation is one of the most useful I have ever seen. His presentation was fresh, down to earth and with an honest desire to help and share his knowledge. I have attended some of those big entrepreneur/innovation workshops that go for days but I honestly think I learned more from Jeremy’s 20 minutes than from days of those “big” workshops.”

Murdoch University also has a partnership with the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce and Industry where 3 – 4 Young Professionals events have been held annually since the establishment of the program in 2013. Jean Wootton is the hardworking academic who works with the Young Professionals Committees to organise and run these events.
Get Connected with Murdoch Management Connect

Earlier this year we launched Murdoch Management Connect, a branded alumni, staff and student networking platform. Members can select how they interact with the school and each other. They can choose if and how they want to give back. A soft launch approach was taken so as not to overload the administration of the system. We now have over 530 members and the aim is to increase this in 2017. The willingness to share and connect is evident by the number of members who have indicated that they are willing to: introduce others to their network; open doors at their workplace; and, answer industry specific questions.

The geographic location make up of members is: 83% in Australia; 3% in Singapore and 14% other, including Bhutan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, , Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Taiwan, UK, USA and Vietnam.

As most members log into the system using their LinkedIn identity, there is extensive information available about the individual including where they work, their career path to date, their professional and board memberships and much more. Our School’s social media feeds (Facebook, twitter; YouTube) are visible through the News tab. Members can upload photographs and jobs and can comment or converse with others. We can upload events and invite members to attend. An email newsletter is sent out fortnightly.

We encourage all staff members to get involved and join the conversation. You can join the network at https://murdochmanagementconnect.com. If you have any questions please speak with Karen Thompson or Tim Stivey.

Here are some screenshots from the site:

More screenshots on the next page
What is happening?

Vice Chancellor Meeting with Business & Governance Staff

**Date:** 15th of December  
**Location:** Sports Rec Centre - Teaching Space, Bldg 412, Room 1.021  
**RSVP:** K.Culver@murdoch.edu.au

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B&G Christmas Celebration!

When: Friday 16th December at 1pm  
Where: Pagoda Resort & Spa, Como

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If there is anything that you like to share in the newsletter, please send an email to Marcela (mmoraes@murdoch.edu.au)