

# r u m e n a t i o n s

Gerard Marcus, Educational Developer for the Faculty's Thyne Reid Teaching Innovations Unit, has been working with the Faculty of Education to help develop their online support and course components. The team includes Faculty of Education Lecturer, Dr Louise Sutherland and Web Designer/Developer, Andrew Jessup, with support from research assistant, Anna Blazey and web applications developer Adam Ullman. The subsequent paper has won the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) - Edith Cowan University Authentic Learning Award.

The Veterinary Science and Education Faculties have a very interactive relationship with their professional communities through students undertaking training in the field before qualification. Through the incorporation of the new online component in Louise Sutherland's course unit of study, students have better access to case studies and have been able to interact with in-service teachers for online discussions to support their coursework. Gerard's experience in the Faculty of Veterinary Science proved very useful: he is part of the Year 5 Virtual Clinical Campus team that provides online administration and support to Year 5 veterinary students who now spend their entire year on clinical rotations and use online tools to view material, submit coursework and collaborate online.

Dr Sutherland presented the paper on behalf of the project team and they received the award at the HERDSA Conference's welcome reception, held on 3 July at the University of Sydney.



Sharing  
developments

in online learning

Back row, left to right:  
Andrew Jessop and Gerard Marcus  
Front: Louise Sutherland

## the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists science week 2005

The Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (ACVS) held its annual conference in June on the Gold Coast. The Faculty has always been very involved in this event, which is an opportunity for members and research students from Australia's veterinary profession to meet and share knowledge and new research findings. Sessions led by Faculty staff this year included:

- Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt  
(Small Animal Medicine/Surgical Chapter)
- Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio  
(Epidemiology)
- Dr Linda Vogelnest  
(Dermatology)
- Dr Tina Baxter  
(Dermatology)
- Associate Professor John House  
(Cattle Chapter)
- Dr Kieren Maddern  
(Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care)

The conference is also an opportunity for practitioners to take their ACVS Membership or Fellowship examinations - details of successful Faculty staff will appear in the next edition.



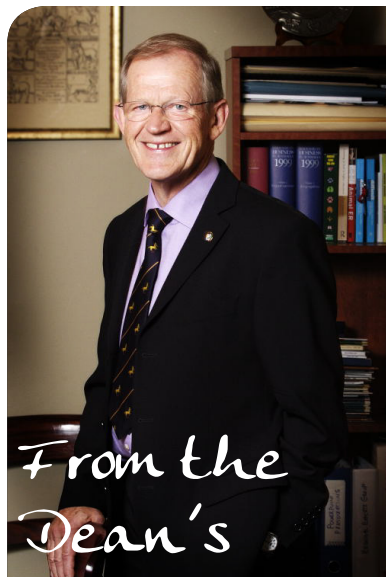
Bayer HealthCare  
Animal Health

## Bayer assists student fundraising

At the Sydney Home Show in May, students on the Bayer Animal Health stand raised almost \$5,500 dollars for the Faculty's student Veterinary Society (VetSoc). During the four day event students assisting on the stand were offered the proceeds from sales of Bayer products. Bayer Animal Health were appreciative of the assistance of the Year 3 students who volunteered their time, and the students were equally grateful for Bayer's tremendous generosity:

**Kate Chambers**  
**Elizabeth Thrift**  
**Chloe McGilveray**  
**Victoria Williams**  
**Derek Keeper**  
**John Morgan**  
**Toby Koenig**  
**Karishma Nandha**  
**Rosemary Brungs**  
**Louise Flinker**

The money raised will go towards the Australian Veterinary Students Conference - a five day event in January 2006 open to all Veterinary Schools around Australia and New Zealand. This will be the first time the Faculty has organised this event which will include lectures, tutorials, workshops, a day at a Camden farm and plenty of Sydney specialty events.



## From the Dean's Desk

Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott

Following the success of so many Faculty activities over the last four or five years it has been necessary to update our Strategic Plan. This has now been done for 2005 to 2010 and is appropriately aligned with the University's plan and its vision to achieve 1:5:40 (1 University in Australia: 5 in Asia Pacific: 40 in the World).

The Plan shows staff achievements in 2004:

- implementation and evaluation of new Year 5 clinical learning curriculum
- VSAAC Accreditation and completion of the new curriculum
- staff development and enhancement of teaching and assessment in clinical placements
- development of the new Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience degree
- completion of the Valentine Charlton Cat Clinic
- Staff teaching awards, both University and National
- continued improvement in research performance

The plan emphasises staff objectives for 2005:

- gain financial support for the costs of Clinical Teaching
- complete the planning for Lecture Theatre/teaching space/Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre at Camden
- achieve AVMA Accreditation
- complete planning for Stage 2 of the UVCS Redevelopment – the Dog Centre
- ensure the sustainability of the Partners in Veterinary Education Programme
- develop graduate attributes and align the BAnVetBioSc curriculum
- extend resources and migrate interactive online learning across the curriculum.

With the continued support of the University I believe we will continue to develop our three major areas of strength - teaching, research and service.

Postgraduate student, Richard Shephard (*back row - middle*), was one of sixteen finalists from across Australia for Fresh Innovators 2005, a competition created to bring the achievements of early career innovators to a wider audience. The Fresh Innovators forum offers the potential for wide media exposure for work from the fields of science, technology and engineering.

Richard was selected for his development of a new disease diagnosis tool for farmers to help them manage their cattle herd, and to collect evidence of Australia's freedom from diseases that could help its multi-billion dollar exports. The web-based program takes basic disease symptoms and uses an artificial intelligence system to identify the most likely causes from a database of around 1,000 diseases. The system is highly useful for those outback farmers whose herds see a vet very infrequently. Meat and Livestock Australia has supported Dr Shephard's work through his PhD scholarship program.



## fresh innovators 2005

As a finalist Richard undertook some media and presentation training before spending three days in Sydney talking to University and school students, the general public and the media.



## new faculty website

The Faculty is launching its new-look website in July. The new University-wide design is currently being rolled out to all Faculties. The redesign will make it easier for users to navigate and find information on the Faculty's website. It is also in response to changes in technology that have now made it easier for non-technical Faculty staff to update information.

Visitors to our site will find details for future and current undergraduate and postgraduate students, staff information, details on the Sydney and Camden Teaching Hospitals and more. The next time you log onto [www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au](http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au) you may see a change!

Following the success of the Veterinary Public Health Management (VPHMgt) postgraduate course the Faculty is now seeking to develop new postgraduate coursework programs. As a result the team is expanding: Meg Vost is joining as Learning Support Coordinator for the VPHMgt course and Hannah Forsyth has been appointed Sub-Dean for Postgraduate Coursework. Hannah will now manage the growth of existing programs, development of new programs and coordinate initiatives in postgraduate coursework on both Sydney and Camden campuses. Her role will also include quality assurance, continuous improvement of curricula and policies/practices to ensure sustainable programs. 'This is a great time to work in Postgraduate Coursework, an area of substantial growth in higher education and a priority for the Faculty and the University.' Hannah said.

## postgraduate coursework expansion

We want your feedback and contributions.

Contact the newsletter team on email [vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au), or phone Zara Gosson on (02) 9351 8026.