rumenations

showcase season

During the first week of November, Faculty staff - coordinated by Associate Professor Rosanne Taylor - will be participating in two showcases looking at issues of teaching and learning, both within The College of Science and Technology (CST) and throughout the University.

CST staged its teaching and learning showcase on 4 November. Studies were presented from different Faculties that explored the various methods used to enhance and develop student knowledge and skills in the fields of science and technology. Through chaired discussions, oral and poster presentations, the Faculty shared its findings and approaches to the issues of computer-based teaching in support of student learning, developing problem solving and professional practice skills through the curriculum, and to teaching sustainability. Visit: science.uniserve.edu.au/courses/showcase/register.html

equine specialist comes to camden

Canadian Dr Christine Smith has joined the team of equine surgeons at the University Veterinary Centre Camden. A specialist in this field since 2000, she initially graduated from Guelph in Ontario, Canada, and was subsequently selected as a resident in equine surgery at the prestigious University of California, Davis.

Working with Camden Clinic Director Associate Professor Andrew Dart and Dr Brad Dowling, she brings to the team a specialist knowledge of the diagnosis and management of lameness and the surgical management of colic.

Also at the UVCC, the clinic is now in the unique position of having a team of three full-time equine anaesthetists. Drs Joanne Rainger and Robert Pottie are undertaking specialist training in anaesthesia under the expert guidance of Dr Christina Dart, senior lecturer and registered specialist in veterinary anaesthesia. Given their size, excitability and the nature of some equine diseases, a general anaesthetic in a horse often requires specialist expertise.

Graduates for the world’, the two-day University wide Vice-Chancellor’s teaching and learning showcase will be underway from 5 November. Discussions and presentations will explore issues associated with the University in its role as an international and culturally diverse community, including how the University prepares graduates for the world. www.itl.usyd.edu.au/showcase2003/

These showcases encourage reflection, discussion and development of the teaching practices used within the University to provide the best possible courses and tuition to students in their given subjects.
The last month has been, not unusually, a frenetic time for the Faculty, and I’m pleased to write that everyone has embraced the catch phrase ‘business as usual’. We continue to develop the final phase of undergraduate curriculum, with David Hodgson, Bob Ratcliffe and Grahame Feletti performing magnificently with the Partner Practitioner Program. The importance of this program cannot be overstated. Not only does it have direct implications for our teaching, it also impacts on our burgeoning support from the veterinary profession. Many of those participating in the program are our alumni, who are supporting the Faculty in many ways. They deserve our gratitude.

The hard but exciting work with the new Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre has begun with the first meeting of a steering committee. This Centre is to be integrated with the Camden campus and will be a rallying point for all Faculty wildlife education and research.

Our new Faculty Executive has now been confirmed, with the introduction of Rosanne Taylor and Gareth Evans to join the stalwart Chis Maxwell and our two hard-working Clinic Directors, Geraldine Hunt and Andrew Dart. Cindy Wilkinson will continue to ensure that the Executive behaves in a fiscally responsible manner. The team is impressive, but is ably supported by Sub-Deans, committees and, of course, all other staff - in this Faculty, everyone has an important role to play, and I thank you for your hard work for the Faculty.

Acting Dean, Associate Professor Paul Canfield

On Thursday 6 November the Faculty will be hosting the Postgraduate Research Conference in the Veterinary Science Conference Centre, from 9am. Everyone is welcome to attend. This forum allows postgraduates to meet other students and staff, to share ideas and experiences, and to inform staff of the amazingly diverse research being undertaken by the Faculty. Presentations will be grouped according to research focus and prizes will be awarded at 5pm for best abstract, presentation and poster. For a copy of the program contact Marie Wildridge (mariew@camden.usyd.edu.au)

Congratulations to the following staff who received their Long Service Medals in the 23 October ceremony in the University’s Great Hall.

25 years Long Service
Irene van Ekris

20 years Long Service
Gareth Evans
Lyndell Tollefsen

15 years Long Service
Bruce Marsh
Angelika Trube
Matthew van Dijk

The 2003 Faculty Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 17 December at the Sydney Campus.

Karen Barnes is organising this year’s party - if you have any ideas or are able to offer some much needed assistance, you can reach her on 13188.

We want your feedback and contributions. Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, phone Jennie Churchill, Director of the VSF on 9351 8024, or Zara Gosson, VSF Project Coordinator, on 9351 8026.