



Health Careers Newsletter

University Department of Rural Health

April 2005

What's so good about a career in health? Just ask our uni students!

Kaylee Nash and Robyn Gunson went to high school in St Marys and are now studying at university in Hobart - Kaylee in her second year of Medicine, and Robyn in her third year of Pharmacy. They are the new Rural High School Visits Reps for RUSTICA, the Rural Club for Health Science Students at UTAS.

Along with a team of helpers, Kaylee and Robyn will be organising a series of visits to rural schools around Tasmania during the year. They hope to encourage school students to think about future careers in health and to share their own pathways to university.

So what was it like to make the big jump from the quiet life on Tassie's East Coast to the hectic world of a student at university? How did they decide which course to do? Did they get any assistance with the cost of moving away to study? How scary was it? Read their stories inside this edition.

If you would like to talk further with the RUSTICA students, come along to any Health Careers Workshops organised in your area or at your school. Contact Rosalie Maynard to register your school's interest in being involved (details on page 4).

Health Careers Workshops for Year 11 and 12 students

One-day workshops will be offered on a regional basis in 2005. See page 3 for details as to when these will happen, who would benefit from attending, and how to be involved.

Health Careers Camps for Year 10 students



Details for 2005:

North-West Camp

Wednesday 22 - Friday 24 June

Based at Camp Clayton, Ulverstone

Southern Camp

To be based at the Sandy Bay campus of UTAS

Dates to be confirmed - but AFTER the NW Camp

Information about the camps will be sent to all high schools, and will be available on the Health Careers website. **Students are selected to attend the camps, so talk with your Grade Coordinator, Science teacher or Careers Advisor to express your interest in attending and to discuss the selection criteria.**

This year's program will include core workshops on Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy - PLUS - students will be asked to choose from a range of workshops covering areas of interest e.g. Physiotherapy, Biomedical Science, Occupational Therapy, Radiography, Speech Pathology etc. Other areas covered include scholarships and life at university. Hands-on activities provide a taste of the sort of work involved in various health careers. Be prepared to be involved!

TALK TO US AT AGFEST in the Future Moves tent, site 419 in Fourth Avenue.

Photo courtesy "The Mercury"

What did last year's students get out of the camp?

- *A lot! It was very informative, widened my understanding, great time, new friends, a better idea of future plans.*
- *Heaps and heaps of info about all the scholarships. All the careers in health and the pre-requisites to get into each of them. And loads more info about going to uni.*
- *An insight into different occupations in the health field, hands-on experiences, information about uni and scholarships.*



Postcard from Sweden

Sarina Jessup came along to a Health Careers Workshop as a Year 12 student in 2002. At that stage, she was living in Devonport and attending Leighland Christian School in Ulverstone.

She went on to enrol in Nursing at UTAS, and is now in her third and final year. **In 2005, Sarina has been selected as one of two nursing students to study at the University of Malmo in Sweden, as part of a UTAS exchange program.** Her study in Sweden will be credited against her course requirements at UTAS.

At the moment, Sarina is travelling somewhere inside the Arctic Circle. When she returns to Malmo she's going to be sharing her experiences in Sweden via this newsletter. Stay tuned to hear about uni life in Sweden!

Nursing in Australia at www.rcna.org.au/content/nursing_in_australia.pdf

This is an excellent source of information about nursing as a future career. It provides information on the training process after graduation, and information about the many specialised areas of nursing e.g. midwifery, mental health, community, critical care, aged care, paediatrics, orthopaedics, neurology, rehabilitation, generalist medical, surgical and MANY MORE.

UMAT for Year 12 students

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) has been developed to assist in the selection of students into medicine and some health science degree programs at undergraduate level. It's vital that Year 12 students who are thinking about future careers in the health sciences (including medicine, oral health, physiotherapy and pharmacy) check the UMAT website at www.acer.edu.au/tests/university.html to see whether UMAT is needed for the particular university and course they are thinking of applying for.

UMAT2005 will be held on Wednesday 27 July 2005, and is essential for students considering Medicine at the University of Tasmania.

To register for UMAT2005, please contact the UMAT Office in mid-April to obtain a copy of the UMAT2005 Information Booklet and Registration Form. Online registrations will be open from mid-April 2005. **Talk to your Careers Advisor NOW!**



Kaylee Nash - Medical student

2005 RUSTICA Reps (continued from front page):

My name is Kaylee Nash-Rawnsley. I am a second year medical student at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. I have lived in the small rural town, Scamander, for most of the past 7 years. I decided to choose medicine as a career because I realised how hard it was for people in my area to access good health care and I wanted to help others who were in the same situation. I moved to Launceston to complete college, as this was the closest college to home. I then moved to Hobart last year to start my medicine degree. I was lucky enough to receive 2 rural scholarships, one of which is a RAMUS scholarship which provides opportunities to learn more about rural health, along with financial support. As part of this scholarship I joined my rural health club, RUSTICA, and this year I will be one of the rural high school visit officers, which will allow me to learn more about and participate in rural health.



Robyn Gunson - Pharmacy student

My name is Robyn Gunson. I am currently studying my third year of a Bachelor of Pharmacy in Hobart, and am enjoying it immensely. I always wanted to work in health care, but wasn't sure exactly what, so I explored my options, researching different occupations, looking at the careers choices available with each, and doing voluntary work experience wherever people would take me. I considered medicine, osteopathy and podiatry to name a few, but pharmacy seemed to be the best option.

There is so much you can do when you are qualified: it isn't too many years studying, you have the option of owning your own business, or you can work as a locum in community pharmacy or in a hospital, and you will always find work, especially in rural areas. You can also work in research, and your qualifications are recognised in many countries overseas. That keeps my options very open for when I register!

I have lived in a rural area all my life (Falmouth, on the east coast of Tasmania, near Scamander), and was fortunate enough to be eligible for a Rural and Remote (contd)

Undergraduate Scholarship, offered by the Pharmacy Guild. After writing a short application essay on issues in rural health and a short phone interview by the selection panel, I was successful in getting one!

The scholarship is worth \$6000 per year, for four years of study. It is fabulous! It has helped out so much with the expense of living away from home; the travel back home to see my family, and I am able to afford to rent a nice little flat close to University by myself. I have also used it to pay HECS fes.

Health Careers Workshops for Year 11 and 12 students

One-day workshops will be offered on a regional basis in 2005. They are designed to assist students to better plan their future careers in the health area. There will be opportunities to talk with health professionals and to get specific information about particular career paths. The workshops will be useful for students seeking more detailed information, and also to students who are still undecided about what to study at university, but are keen to find out more about health careers in general.

Information will be sent to schools as dates are confirmed. For updates, go to www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/healthcareers under **Activities and Events**.



Pre-requisite subjects – what are they and how can you find out about them?

It's important to choose high school and college subjects carefully, as your decisions may affect the types of occupations you choose in the future. Some university courses have pre-requisite subjects – these are ones that are essential in order for your application for a particular course to be considered. For example, the pre-requisites for Biomedical Science are Chemistry CHM5C and Mathematics Applied MAP5C or higher. Talk to your teachers about these, and refer to the new UTAS Course Guide or the UTAS Future Students website under **Courses on Offer** and **choose the right subjects at school**.

Some courses do not have strict pre-requisites, but often have recommended subjects which many students find useful as building blocks to university study e.g. Nursing recommends English, Biology or Health Studies, and a humanities subject such as Sociology or Psychology for Yr 11/12 students.

Bachelor of Health Science – where will it lead?

The Bachelor of Health Science is offered in Launceston. It is a degree which prepares students for a range of career paths in the health sector, including administration, management and research, as well as for entry to graduate programs in Medicine and other allied health courses.

A joint course between UTAS and Charles Sturt University now offers a Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Imaging), with the first two years being undertaken at UTAS, and the final two years at the Wagga Wagga campus of Charles Sturt.

Health Science graduates work in areas such as health promotion, administration, sales representation across a broad range of medical and health products (including diagnostic equipment and pharmaceuticals), project management, clinical research, community health groups, self-help groups, rehabilitation centres, welfare agencies, sports science and health and physical education.

Year 1 units provide a foundation in the life sciences and an introduction to health care and management. In Years 2 and 3, students undertake core units in applied life sciences and elective units from streams in Bioscience OR Health and Lifestyle/Education/Sports Science OR Business/Psychology.

While Year 12 Chemistry (CHM5C) and Mathematics Applied (MAP5C) or higher are not essential, they will be an advantage to those who elect to study units in the Bioscience stream. For further details, go to the Human Life Science website at www.healthsci.utas.edu.au/hls/

Lots of NEWs!

✓ NEW 5-year undergraduate course in Medicine

A new 5-year course in Medicine is being developed for 2006 at UTAS. Students considering medicine should check the School of Medicine's website under Future Students to ensure they are familiar with ALL details relating to this change.

✓ NEW scholarship – the London WNW Bursary in Pharmacy

The London family has operated pharmacies in the Wynyard area for some time, and will support a student from the locality commencing the Bachelor of Pharmacy course at UTAS. The student must be able to demonstrate a need for financial support. Mentoring through the local pharmacies may also be available.

The bursary is valued at \$3,000 for one year but may be renewed subject to academic performance. More details on the UTAS Scholarships website www.scholarships.utas.edu.au. While there, check out the growing number of scholarships and bursaries available for future students at UTAS.

✓ NEW Bachelor of Medical Research degree at UTAS

This new 3-year course is offered in Hobart, and is the first named medical research degree in Australia. It will prepare students for careers in medical research and will largely parallel the medical science content of the current medical course, at a level that is not currently available for non-medical students. For more details, and to read about the exciting career opportunities this degree can lead to, go to the UTAS Future Students page www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents, go to the Year 11/12 section, and click on **New Courses in 2005**.

✓ NEW units in the Bachelor of Health Science

Health Promotion and Food Studies are now offered as units in the Bachelor of Health Science.

✓ NEW website – 'Going to Uni' at www.goingtouni.gov.au

An easy one-stop-shop for finding out about the changes to the HECS scheme, HECS-HELP loans, links to Tertiary Admissions Centres, entry requirements in different states and much more. Includes a great section on the transition from Year 12 to university.

✓ NEW dental student placements planned for Tasmania

In what is seen a very positive move, UTAS and the Department of Health and Human Services have formed links with the University of Adelaide with a view to developing programs for supported clinical placements in Tasmania for Year 5 dental students later this year. Clinical placements form a compulsory part of the dental undergraduate course at the University of Adelaide.

Key Dates in 2005:

UTAS @ Agfest

Royal College of Nursing Australia Scholarship applications close
(including Rural and Remote and Aged Care Undergraduate Scholarships)

North-West Health Careers Camp

Southern Health Careers Camp

RCNA Nursing Expo at Wrest Point, Hobart

UMAT

UTAS Open Day, Hobart

UTAS Open Day, Launceston

5-7 May

Mid-year (dates to be confirmed)

22 - 24 June

DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Sunday 24 July

Wednesday 27 July 2005

Sunday 14 August

Sunday 28 August



For more information, please contact:

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HEALTH SCIENCE

Department of Rural Health