



Health Careers Newsletter

University Department of Rural Health

August 2005

New 5-year medical degree planned for UTAS in 2006

A new curriculum and course structure will be features of a new 5-year medical degree planned for introduction at UTAS in 2006. While the final stages of accreditation for the new program will not be completed by the Australian Medical Council until November 2005, the new curriculum has received favourable endorsement in the preliminary stages of the accreditation process.

Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Professor Judi Walker said 'The new curriculum will put Tasmania's medical degree at the forefront of medical undergraduate training, and is a very exciting and innovative development for this University. The curriculum has been developed to prepare graduates who will be best suited to the changing health care environment in which they will be working in the future.'

Regular 'case-based learning' activities will be one of the features of the new curriculum and will be used to encourage student involvement in the learning process, and to highlight important concepts. Other features of the new curriculum will promote the health of communities, the importance of disease prevention and the importance of the individual in health care. The new degree will also have an increased focus on rural health issues.

Teaching and learning strategies have been designed to challenge students to explore current concepts and develop new thinking, and to enhance their communication skills.

For more information go to the School of Medicine website at: www.healthsci.utas.edu.au/medicine/ and follow the Future Students link.

Pssst - wanna be trusted in your future job?

Nurses, pharmacists, doctors and teachers - the most trusted professions

The annual results of the Morgan Poll on the honesty and ethics of 25 professions, taken during 2004, shows nurses topping the poll for the fifth consecutive year. With nine out of ten people happy to place their faith in nurses, overall public ratings for ethics and honesty were as follows:

Nurses 90%, Pharmacists 86%, Doctors 80%, Teachers 71%, Lawyers 33% and Federal members of parliament 7%.

Another reason to consider getting into a career in health!

Rural Health Scholarships in Nursing (check out more information at www.rcna.org.au)

The Australian Government offers valuable scholarships to students interested in undertaking a Bachelor of Nursing through the Australian Rural and Remote Nurse Scholarships Program (110 scholarships available) and the Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme (250 scholarships available in 2006). Both scholarships are valued at \$10,000 annually, up to a maximum of \$30,000. The University of Tasmania is an approved university under the schemes.

The Rural and Remote Scholarships provide valuable financial support to nursing students from rural and remote Australia. Applications for these scholarships close on Friday 7 October. Freecall 1800 11 72 62 for more information about this scheme.

The Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme aims to encourage more people to enter aged care nursing, particularly those working in rural and regional Australia. Applicants need to demonstrate a commitment to aged care. Preference is given to applicants living and working in regional and rural areas. Applications for this scheme close on Friday 2 September. Freecall 1800 11 66 96 for further information.

Application forms, guidelines, sample applications and additional information are all available on the RCNA website.

Postcard from Sweden

Remember Sarina Jessup from the last newsletter? Sarina came along to a Health Careers Workshop as a Year 12 student in 2002. She went on to enrol in Nursing at UTAS, and spent part of 2005 at the University of Malmo in Sweden, as part of a UTAS nursing exchange program. This is the latest from Sarina:

'Well I have had a very busy third and final year in my Bachelor of Nursing degree. Semester 1 was spent in Sweden studying Acute Care. I had a wonderful time away from Tasmanian shores and experiencing what nursing is like in another culture

'In total there were 5 Tasmanian students studying in Malmo, which is situated in southern Sweden. We all undertook 2 rotations (2 separate blocks of time spent in different areas) within the hospital. I was on Cardiology and then on Respiratory for 6 weeks each.

'As the nurse's role is very different in Sweden, I was able to undertake a much more technical role within the student's scope of practice, which was great. I totally recommend that all students apply to go to Malmo and experience life and nursing in another country.

'Semester 2 sees me studying in Sydney for Mental and Community Health. I am currently placed at Rozelle Psychiatric Hospital on an inpatient acute ward. So far this has been great and all the staff and most of the patients are friendly!

'The University of Tasmania offers a broad range of placement opportunities for its students, which I fully encourage any current or prospective students to explore further. Scholarships are available to help with the costs of some placements and you don't have to be a High Distinction student to receive one either!!'

Photos courtesy Sarina:

Top - the furs on the floor make all the difference to an igloo!

Centre - one of the lovely old buildings in Malmo

Bottom - fellow exchange students (Sarina is top right)



A nursing degree can currently be undertaken over 3 years at UTAS, accelerated over 2.5 years or fast-tracked in just 2 years. Find out more about these options at the School of Nursing and Midwifery's website at www.healthsci.utas.edu.au/tson/

Top ratings for the School of Pharmacy at UTAS

The School of Pharmacy's excellent reputation has been further boosted by recent CEQ (Course Experience Questionnaire) survey results for 2004, where it was ranked No. 1 in all three categories - Generic Skills (equal first with the University of South Australia), Good Teaching, and Overall Satisfaction.

The CEQ is an Australia-wide 'snapshot' survey which asks graduates to summarise their overall satisfaction with their university study experiences.

What makes our Pharmacy School so good? Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Professor Allan Carmichael said, 'The School of Pharmacy enjoys a national reputation for the quality of its teaching, and also for the active research program it undertakes in collaboration with colleagues from other Schools within the University and the Royal Hobart Hospital.'

The School of Pharmacy frequently receives excellent feedback about the outstanding qualities of their students. UTAS Pharmacy graduates are recognised for their "preparedness" for practice. This is no doubt due to the strong practical component of the UTAS course through placements in both community and hospital pharmacies during their studies. Pharmacy students also benefit from a strong rural focus throughout their studies, with an extensive rural placements program making up part of their course.

DID YOU KNOW? - A shortage of approximately 3,000 pharmacists is predicted throughout Australia by 2010. Rural pharmacists are already in BIG demand. Many young graduates see rural practice as a great way to see some amazing parts of Australia while providing valued services to communities in smaller towns. It's a way to fast-track their own careers and gain early experience in a wider range of areas. Another great reason to GO RURAL!

More NEWS!

- ✓ **Heard about the NEW 3-year Bachelor of Medical Research?** Get in on the action in this rapidly growing area via the **first named medical research degree in Australia**, now offered at UTAS in Hobart. Graduates can expect to find work in a range of areas, including the pharmaceutical, pathology and biomedical industries, biotechnology companies, research institutes, hospitals and universities. For more information, 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**.
- ✓ **Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Teaching** - NEW combined degree at **UTAS in 2006**. This course has been designed for those who wish to become teachers or to gain a teaching qualification as an addition to their health science degree. Graduates meet the requirements of the Department of Education, Tasmania, for employment as teachers and will be prepared to work in the areas of Health Science, Health Education and Technology (Food Studies). For more information visit the School of Human Life Sciences website at www.hls.utas.edu.au
- ✓ **NEW scholarships at UTAS** - find out the latest information at www.scholarships.utas.edu.au Remember you've got to be in it to win it, so find out what is available and what the criteria are.

Uni students lead the way at the Health Careers Camps

This year's Health Careers Camps for Year 10 students from around Tasmania have been and gone for another year. But the influence of 7 current university students who were involved as Group Leaders at the Camps will go on for much longer. Alison Turnock and Wendy Henderson (medical students), Rhiannon Golder and Katie Walker (nursing students) along with pharmacy student Alannah Smith, Ella Jeffrey and Gema van der Velde were terrific ambassadors for UTAS and featured big-time in feedback from students attending the Camps:

It was really good talking to the uni students - it gave me a really good insight into uni life.

The uni students were cool and fun and easy to talk to.

I liked talking to the students and finding out what their courses involved.



North-West Health Careers Campers



Talk to a uni student - or 8!

A great way to find out what uni is really all about.

In the overall evaluation of the Camps by the Year 10 participants, "interaction with undergraduate students" scored the highest rating, just ahead of "interactive workshops with health professionals" and "general camp organisation".

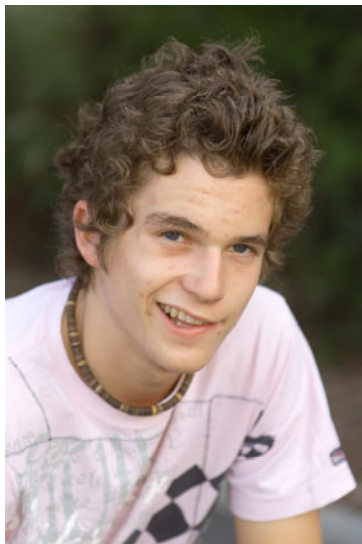
Well done and a big thank you to all the uni students who got involved with the Camps, either through helping with various presentations or workshops or by being a part of a student panel.

A really special thank you to those who were selected to be Group Leaders and contributed so much to the overall Camp experience. Being a Group Leader involved living-in at the Camp - a big commitment at any time, but especially valued given that these uni students were giving up part of their semester break holidays to be involved.

Meet Lewis Newman – first year uni student

(studying for a Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Radiation Science)

Lewis is from Wynyard and completed Years 11 and 12 at Hellyer College. He was awarded a West North-West Bursary in 2005 to assist with the cost of university study in Launceston. Years 1 & 2 of this degree are offered at UTAS in Launceston, with the final 2 years undertaken at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Graduates are qualified to work as radiographers.



Why did you choose this course? - *Originally I wanted to do physiotherapy and had my heart set on that throughout high school and early college. When the time came around to make my decision, I realized I didn't really want to leave my family and friends and move to Melbourne. I still wanted to work in the health industry however. My family suggested radiography, and after finding out a bit more information about it, I decided I would go on work experience and see what the occupation was really like. I really enjoyed my time spent at work experience and decided a radiographer was what I wanted to become.*

What was the hardest part in getting to where you are now? - *Dedication!!! I almost turned into a hermit before Year 11 and 12 exams, as I knew how important my results would be in getting to where I wanted to go. While all my friends were doing what ever friends do, I was studying. Perhaps the hardest thing was leaving most of my close friends, family and my girl friend on the Coast. It's something most people do at some point in their lives but I found it difficult.*

What do you find rewarding or enjoyable about your course? - *Most of all I enjoy our practical sessions at the Launceston General Hospital. Although we haven't yet started imaging real people, we have been taking images of phantoms and step wedges etc. (skulls and stuff). I enjoy putting what I have learnt in my tutorial and lecture sessions into*

practice and relating the theoretical concepts to the practical.

What is the most challenging aspect of your study? - *Perhaps the Physics - I have never been the best Physics student in the world, but I have to do it to get to where I want to go. The good thing about my course is that there are only small numbers of students, so there is plenty of one-on-one contact with the lecturers. Plus I am the only guy, which is cool.*

Which aspects of these careers are you looking forward to? - *I am looking foreword to the 'people' side of radiography. Every person that walks in the door has a different story to tell, and I enjoy the fact that every radiograph that you take is different. I also am looking forward to specializing. I don't know what area this will be in, but MRI looks likely.*

What advice can you offer to a young person considering this degree? - *Go for it!! I'm so glad I did!! Make sure you do work experience before you make your decision. You have no idea of what being a radiographer is actually like until you see first hand what they practice.*

What subjects should I choose for Years 11 & 12?

If you're thinking of going on to university study, check if there are any pre-requisite subjects for the courses you are interested in. These are the subjects that are essential in order for your application to be considered. Not all courses have pre-requisites, but may have subjects which are recommended and will make your transition to university a lot smoother.

Check these out via Course Guides or the web. If you are undecided, then keeping your options open is really important. Talk with your parents and teachers about your plans.

Key Dates in 2005:

Royal College of Nursing Australia Scholarship applications close:

Aged Care Scholarship Scheme (Undergraduate)

Rural and Remote Nurse Scholarships

UTAS Open Day, Launceston

UTAS applications close

Friday 2 September

Friday 7 October

Sunday 28 August

Friday 30 September



For more information, please contact:

Rosalie Maynard, Health Careers Program Coordinator

University Department of Rural Health

(03) 6430 4502 or Mobile 0427 61 22 66 Email Rosalie.Maynard@utas.edu.au

Copies of this newsletter can be downloaded at www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/healthcareers