

TEACHING IN THE SCHOOL 2005

Education at Murdoch provides initial teacher education, graduate studies in education leading to professional and higher degrees, and research studies. Its professional development qualification and short courses are relevant to educators in a range of sectors including schools, technical colleges, universities, industry, health and social services and to those wishing to develop social research and evaluation skills for professional work as research development, evaluation or policy officers. Many academic staff offer short courses for professional development and educational support to organisations outside the University both within Australia and internationally.

COURSES

The Unifocus Program

UniFocus is a bridging program offered by the School of Education at the University's Peel and Rockingham campuses. It is designed for people who would like to study at Murdoch University but who do not have university entry qualifications.

UniFocus continues to attract highly motivated students from the Rockingham and Peel areas. Over 60 students completed the program successfully in 2005.

The significance of the program for students who could not otherwise hope to attend university is captured in this Valedictory Address to the UniFocus Class of 2005, their families and friends.

I was asked to leave school to help with the family finances, so my opportunity for tertiary studies ended when I was fifteen. I am in my 60s now and for the first time in my life I have been given a chance to do something for myself – that is to be better educated. It is often said that life in itself is an education and that is true. I would like to be starting out again with the experiences that I have gained throughout my life. But life experience for me is not enough. I wanted a tertiary education and that is something that I could only ever dream about.

One could say, well, you could have taken time out and studied – that is also true. However I was married young and had young children to raise. I wanted to give them the opportunities that I was never given. I also had a mortgage and the bills to pay so financially I was never able to take the time out to further my education. Now I am retired and I have a new lease in life. For the first time in my life UniFocus has given me the chance to do something purely for me. That is, to learn more.

I am not necessarily after a degree. I want an education - and I intend to learn. My rationale is that if I learn well, then the degree will follow. And the more I learn the better my degree will be. It is all left entirely up to me. And that is how I approached UniFocus. I knew that if I applied what I learnt through my life to UniFocus, that is to work hard, I would get what I was after.

Now UniFocus is over and I think back before it started. I was uncertain if I could really tackle university life. I simply did not have a tertiary entrance education, which I thought was essential for success at university. But what UniFocus has given me is the confidence to now go on, because I now know that I will succeed. UniFocus has also lifted my own self-esteem and given me a renewed belief in myself. I will be able to go on through university with my head high knowing full well I am on equal footing with everyone else. In fact UniFocus has been so good for me I genuinely believe I now have an edge on other students.

It must be very gratifying for Liz and Jane to be able to listen to the students give their oral presentation last week and to read their final essay submissions. Each of us are now very different people to what we were at the beginning of this program. I can recall how hesitant and nervous we all were on day one. I even recorded it in my journal. But last week many of the oral presentations were very professional indeed, which is a great credit to this program, and it demonstrates that the average person can have what it takes.

My personal goal is to excel and without doubt, having witnessed the enormous change that has occurred with us all in this years program, we will all excel.

Valedictorian Ray Bromley, whom we thank for giving permission to print this address.

COURSES

Primary and Secondary Initial Teacher Education

Murdoch provides a four-year Bachelor of Education degree, a one-year Graduate Diploma in Education, and a two-year graduate entry BEd for students wishing to become primary or secondary school teachers. These courses are available full-time and part-time, and through campus-based study or distance external studies.

The four-year Bachelor of Education degree is the most common choice for students who wish to become primary teachers and a common choice for those wishing to become secondary teachers. Primary Teacher Education students complete a four-year program of study during which approximately three-quarters of their units are directly related to their development as teachers. The remaining units are electives students can use to broaden their general education or to develop a specialty teaching area or area of interest. Graduates are qualified to teach at junior, middle and upper primary levels. Secondary Teacher Education students typically study for the BEd concurrently with a Bachelor's degree in their main teaching area. They are awarded a double degree at the end of their four-year course of study.

The one-year Graduate Diploma in Education is a qualification for students who already hold a Bachelor's degree in a non-education field (typically a BA or BSc). For Primary Teacher Education students a wide range of undergraduate degrees is appropriate, but for Secondary Teacher Education students the undergraduate degree has to be relevant to one of the learning areas in secondary schools. Teaching areas include English, English as a Second Language (ESL), Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Drama, Mathematics, Media, Science, Society and Environment.

Students who have already completed an undergraduate degree can complete the four-year BEd (Primary) or (Secondary) in a minimum of two years. These students receive advanced standing for the first two years of the BEd.

Graduate Professional Studies

The one-year Graduate Diploma of Education Studies has two purposes: firstly it provides teachers with the opportunity to broaden or deepen their teaching repertoire by combining education and non-education studies in an area of specialisation (e.g. Environmental Education, Special Needs Education, Aboriginal and Islander Studies, Early Childhood Education, Media, Mathematics, Languages Other Than English [LOTE] and/or English as a Second Language [ESL]). Secondly, it provides an avenue for students from other disciplines who wish to gain knowledge and skills in education applicable to a wide range of contexts. This program has also been of interest to other professionals and community members who are interested in educational processes and issues.

Murdoch University offers a one-year Graduate Diploma in Adult and Tertiary Education for professionals wanting a qualification in tertiary and adult teaching. Demand for the Tertiary and Adult Education Program continues to increase due to a

developing emphasis on professional educational practice in tertiary institutions and training in government, private and non-government organisations. Pathways for TAFE lecturers to enrol in the Graduate Diploma program have been strengthened by the award of credit for the completion of several professional development programs. For tertiary and adult teaching, enrolment in the course requires that students have or can arrange access to teaching groups; typically students are already in a teaching situation. The School also offers Graduate Certificates in Special Needs Education, Tertiary and Adult Education, Drama Teaching, Early Childhood Education, and Mathematics Teaching.

COURSES

Postgraduate courses

The Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Studies (Social Research and Evaluation stream) attract able graduates from education, health, social science, and a variety of other backgrounds.

There are five degrees available at the Masters level - the Master of Education (Coursework), the Master of Education (Research), The Master of Education Studies, the Master of Philosophy, and the Masters by Research Training, all of which may provide advanced professional development for educators,

There are two degrees at the Doctoral level - the Doctor of Education (professional doctorate) and Doctor of Philosophy. All these degrees allow for studies in a wide range of specialist areas, some of which are shown below:

Indigenous Education; Adult Teaching and Learning; Inclusivity; Special Needs; Ethics and Values; Mentoring; Collaborative Learning; Environmental Education; Program Evaluation; Early Childhood Education; Measurement in the Social Sciences; School-based Assessment, Measurement and Evaluation; Cultural Diversity; Vocational Education; Boys Education; Gifted Education; Personal and Social Development; Motivation; Learning and Instruction; IT and e-Learning; Issues in Nurse Education; Historical Perspectives in Education; Curriculum Studies in Science, Mathematics, Society and Environment, LOTE, TESL, English, Drama, Health and Physical Education, Media, Arts Education and Curriculum Development.

The Curriculum Resource Centre

Student teachers studying at Murdoch University are able to choose their resources from a range of libraries and resource centres. The School of Education supports a Curriculum Resource Centre on both South Street and Rockingham campuses while both campus libraries are well stocked in Education texts.

Through the Rockingham Regional Campus Library the public library network brings the collections of Rockingham, Safety Bay and Warnbro public libraries to Murdoch students via a daily courier delivery. A corporate membership permits student teachers to borrow resources from the Fremantle District Resource Centre.

This year has seen the introduction of the new curriculum framework materials and the release of the 2nd edition First Steps materials. Both resource centres have been stocked with class sets of these important documents.

The CRC on the South Street campus has continued the massive project of cataloguing

the older materials and expects to have the collection fully catalogued by the end of 2006. The poster collection has been organized for ease of borrowing and should become a fully catalogued collection by first semester next year.

Staff in the CRC at South Street are pleased to see the end of a long project to reduce the over crowding of the shelves and to be able to display a modern selection of resources. The future concentration will be on increasing the stock of quality resources to enhance the school experience of Murdoch teacher education students.



L-R Barbara Smith, Leanne Paterson, Irene Munyard

The School Experience Office

School Experience is a core component of students' pre-service teacher education and the School Experience Office was extremely busy in administering all school experience units for students. The major cohorts included students completing a Bachelor of Education in primary or secondary teacher education, and those enrolled in a Graduate Diploma of Education, in either the primary or secondary streams.

A snapshot of 2005 shows that we:

- Organised placements for eleven primary school experience units as well as six Early Childhood units and four Special Needs units
- Organised placements for ten school experience units in the secondary program
- Placed over 2000 students in schools throughout the year
- Administered 318 supervision contracts, including 34 supervision contracts in country regions and interstate
- Liaised with over 100 schools, in metropolitan Perth, Peel, country and remote regions of WA and interstate
- Implemented a trial of distributed placements for students in the secondary BEd program
- Conducted professional development for new supervisors

During 2005, we were also engaged in evaluating and reviewing all current programs and schedules in order to more effectively administer the program and provide opportunities for students to gain the necessary experience to assist them in the transition to become a teacher. After a trial of distributed school experience placements conducted by the PPL group during 2004 and in the early part of

2005, a School Experience Working Party (SEWP) comprising Beth Powell, Jane Pearce, Anne Board, Christine Glass, Wendy Cumming-Potvin and Geraldine Ditchburn was convened to review the entire School Experience program.

Areas of discussion and action included:

- affirming the fundamental principles of supervision of students to be used in school experience units
- reconceptualizing supervision models and the engagement of supervisors (on-going)
- aligning assessment within the school experience units to the Competency Framework for Teachers (DET 2005) and the draft recommendations of the Murdoch University committee, Professional Behaviours in the Workplace Working Party on issues associated with professional conduct (on-going)
- reconceptualizing the provision of the Assistant Teacher Program and associated on-campus units

After consultation with all members of the School of Education and approval from the Academic Planning Committee, we are now on track to fully implement changes to the provision of school experience, particularly the ATP, in 2007.

L-R Anusha Aravindhan, Anne Board, Geraldine Ditchburn, Christine Glass



Rockingham Campus

The School of Education attracted strong enrolments to the Primary BEd degree at Rockingham in 2005. The mid-year intake of 20 students increased enrolments in first year to around 80, and Education students now represent the largest group of students on the Rockingham campus. The first three years of the course were offered on campus in 2005. The popularity of the campus for students wishing to complete a BEd Primary degree, and the continuing success of the UniFocus Program, indicate that the School of Education plays a significant role in enhancing educational opportunities for members of the local community.

The appointment of Associate Professor Barry Down as the City of Rockingham Chair of Education was a significant event in 2005. This unique position provides an opportunity for the School of Education and the City of Rockingham to work together to improve post-compulsory school retention and participation in the local community. Professor Barry Down's ARC research (2005-2007) focuses on school retention in the region.

A further opportunity to investigate university and community related conditions that promote, support and sustain tertiary participation and retention (and completion) in the Rockingham region has been provided in the form of a REGS grant awarded to Professor Barry Down and Dr Jane Pearce.

New initiatives developed in 2005 were the CareersCombo in Primary Teaching and the Rockingham Teacher Research and Innovation Cohort. These initiatives will provide opportunities for tertiary study for students and teachers in the local community. The CareersCombo will enable students to qualify as Teacher Assistants while also gaining university entry qualifications. The Teacher Research and Innovation Cohort will offer teachers working in local schools the opportunity to complete a MEd by research with a research focus in classrooms and schools.

Students and staff at Rockingham continue to value the support provided by Ms Anne Allen, the Student Administration Officer.

Student Awards, Prizes and Undergraduate Scholarships

University Medals for 2004 and 2005

University Medals are awarded annually to a very small group of students with outstanding academic achievement. The School of Education is delighted that two of its graduates received this prestigious award in successive years – a very rare event.

2004 University Medallist

Penelope Coutas is well on the way to achieving her career dream of becoming an Indonesian teacher, after completing her double degrees in Secondary Education and Asian Studies at Murdoch University.

Penelope excelled at her studies, earning 22 High Distinctions and 4 Vice Chancellor's Commendations for Academic Excellence, but also found the time to enjoy some of the experiences of University life. Penelope was involved in the STAR peer tutoring programme throughout her degree, working with children at three different schools. She was a member of the Gamelan Orchestra and spent a year in Yogyakarta through the ACICIS program honing her language and teaching skills. Penelope is now investigating the phenomenon of the reality television show Indonesian idol through her Honours degree at ANU. She hopes to return to do a PhD at Murdoch in the future.



From *On Campus*, May 2005

2005 University Medallist

Elise Mabbott will begin her teaching career in 2006 at Darlington Primary School, after completing a Bachelor of Education specialising in Primary Teaching. Elise excelled at her studies, earning 14 high distinctions, two Vice-Chancellor's Commendations for Academic Excellence and the CS and DL Sanders Prize in Education in 2005.

Elise was encouraged in her studies and teaching practice by her twin daughters and a family tradition of excellence in education – her father was a primary school teacher and principal for 41 years.

While studying, Elise also pursued her other passion – eight-ball pool for which she is the current Australian Women's Champion. Elise will head the Australian Women's Team in the World Eight-ball Pool Championships in Blackpool in 2006.



Undergraduate Student Scholarships

Mick Young Scholarship Trust (MYST)

Two recipients of the 2005 scholarships were students in Education

Stephanie Jones (Bachelor of Education Primary),
Michelle Sadler (Bachelor of Education Primary)

In a ceremony held at the Rockingham Campus on 2 August 2005, the Hon Kim Beazley Federal Member for Brand, awarded eight students with funds from the Mick Young Scholarship Trust (MYST). The Trust was set up in memory of the late Mick Young, a former Member of Parliament and Federal Minister, who sought to enhance educational opportunities for disadvantaged people. Primarily aimed at students in the VET sector, Murdoch is one of only two universities nationally to be invited to participate in the Scholarship scheme. This recognises that Murdoch, with over 500 students with special needs, has one of the best equity records in Australia.

From Vice Chancellor's Report to Senate

Postgraduate Student Prizes

Prize Name	Award	Student
School of Education Prize for Doctoral Studies	Awarded for the best doctoral dissertation (either PhD or EdD) over the past two years.	Lesley Irene Payne
(WAIER) Research Award	Awarded by West Australian Institute for Educational Research (WAIER)	Lesley Irene Payne
Thelma Harley Brown Prize in Education	Best academic performance by a graduate in the Master of Education (Dissertation with Coursework) Program	Donna Karen Griffiths-Heath and Marilyn Dawn Ralph
Elizabeth Mary Dodd Prize in Education	Best academic performance by a graduate in the Master of Education (Coursework) Program	Linda Clark and Susanne Margrethe Lystrup

Undergraduate Student Prizes

Prize Name	Award	Student
School of Education Prize for Excellence in Teaching BEd (Primary)	Awarded to the student with the highest ATP result within the BEd primary course (both 4 year and Graduate Entry BEd)	Andrea Janise Crockenberg
School of Education Prize for Excellence in Teaching BEd (Secondary)	Awarded to the student with the highest ATP result within the BEd Secondary course (both 4 year and Graduate Entry BEd)	Elizabeth Maree Loo
Western Australian Secondary School Executives' Association Prize (DipEd Secondary)	Awarded to the student with the highest grades in the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)	Paul Andrew Van Holsteyn
Western Australian Primary Principals' Association Prize (DipEd Primary)	Awarded to the student with the highest grades in the Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary)	Heather Meredith Rank
Early Childhood Teachers' Association Prize	Awarded for the highest standard of achievement by a graduate in the school experience and academic components of the Early Childhood Education Course	Darlene Sharelle Gostelow
The Early Years in Education Society Prize	Awarded for outstanding achievement in Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education	Lisa Kathleen Turton
Outstanding achievement in a first year primary education unit	Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit EDU101 Introduction to Teaching	Shelley Alice Campbell

Course Enrolments 2005

	Enrolment
Unifocus Bridging Course	34
Initial Teacher Education	
Primary (Bachelor of Education)	964
Primary (Graduate Diploma)	159
Secondary (Bachelor of Education)	265
Secondary (Graduate Diploma)	110
Primary (Bachelor of Education, Graduate)	65
Secondary (Bachelor of Education, Graduate)	36
Sub Total	1610
Further Professional Studies	
Graduate Diploma in Education Studies	20
Bachelor of Education Studies	1
Graduate Certificate in Education Studies	1
Graduate Certificate in Drama Teaching	1
Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education	16
Graduate Certificate in Mathematics Teaching	5
Graduate Certificate in Special Needs Education	2
Graduate Certificate in Tertiary & Adult Education	3
MA Social Research and Evaluation	2
Master of Education (Coursework)	28
Sub Total	79
Research	
Master of Education (Research)	60
Master/Doctor of Philosophy	32
Doctor of Education	27
Sub Total	119
TOTAL	1842