

HANDSON

SCHOOL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY

SUMMER 2004



Curtin
University of Technology

2004 Review from the Head of School

The past year has been a very exciting and positive one for the School of Physiotherapy. In our entry-level programs we have been successful in achieving full accreditation for both our undergraduate and graduate-entry programs, and I would like to thank Geoff Strauss, Bea Tucker, Sue Jones and Marilla Hogan for their hard work in preparing all of the documentation for accreditation, as well as all staff, students and clinical colleagues who participated in the various site visit meetings. I am also very pleased that Geoff Strauss has accepted a further three-year term as Director of Entry-level Programs.

This was an important year for our professional Masters programs, with A/Prof Stephen Edmondston taking on the role of Director of Postgraduate Coursework Programs; he has done an excellent job in implementing major changes to the structure of the Master of Manipulative Therapy and the Master of Sports Physiotherapy courses. There is now a greater overlap and alignment between the programs and much greater flexibility in how the programs are

offered, including allowing students who have completed one of the Masters degrees to complete the other Masters program in the equivalent of one semester of study.

Our research performance continued to grow in 2004, with a number of staff winning significant externally funded research grants including a very large NHMRC grant (there is much more about our research achievements in this issue). Many of our staff and students also presented their research at national and international research conferences, with several of our leading researchers making keynote presentations. The APA conference in Adelaide was a great example of the breadth and depth of research carried out in the School, and a tremendous showcase for research from Western Australia. Highlights were keynote addresses from Dr Peter O'Sullivan and the Australian Journal of Physiotherapy oration delivered by Emeritus Professor Joan Cole.

I am also extremely pleased to be able to announce the appointment of the School's first Curtin Research Fellow, Dr Angus Burnett. The appointment provides funding for a fulltime research position for five years, with successful Fellows then progressing to a continuing academic appointment. Angus brings a wealth of experience in biomechanics and motion analysis research, and I am pleased to welcome him to the School; he has been a Senior Lecturer in Sports Science at Edith Cowan University and is already involved in a number of collaborative projects with Peter O'Sullivan and Leon Straker. I would like to thank Sara Carroll for her work assisting

Angus to compile his application, and for the important contribution she has made to such a successful year in her position as Director of Research.

Our Clinical Program continues to develop very successfully. Peter Robinson took over the reins as Clinical Coordinator while Sue Jones has been on long service leave and then secondment. Peter and Kerry Saunders have done an excellent job of managing the program throughout the year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the program as a facility clinical educator or a Curtin clinical tutor. At this time last year we started our on-campus student clinic, which has been very successful and developed strongly during the year. It has provided

an excellent venue for student education and a wonderful physiotherapy service for staff and students at Curtin and people from the surrounding community. I would like to thank Amanda Bozиковic and everyone else who has supported the clinic for their hard work in getting the clinic established so successfully.

Like many other organisations, the School of Physiotherapy has a comprehensive strategic plan that helps to guide our development. This year

has seen us make a number of significant advances, including developing a marketing plan for the School and initiating the establishment of a School Alumni Chapter, for which we are planning a number of events next year. I would like to thank Sara Carroll and Nicole David for the important work they have done in helping us to progress the strategic plan over the past year.

Dr Gabrielle Morrissey, the coordinator of our Sexology programs, left the School in November. She did an excellent job in establishing the Master of Forensic Sexology program, which has just produced its first cohort of students. Following Gabrielle's departure, we reviewed the position of the Sexology programs within the University and decided to transfer them to the School of Public Health, which I believe will be a very positive step for the long-term development of the sexology courses. The School of Public Health has a number of staff with an interest in various aspects of sexology and I think this is a positive move that will provide a very solid academic base for the programs.

On behalf of the School I would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year. We can all look forward to a busy, challenging and enjoyable 2005.

Professor Tony Wright
Head, School of Physiotherapy



2004 Research Wrap Up

The recent awarding to the School of Physiotherapy of a four-year National Health and Medical Research Council project grant worth \$671,350 has capped off another very successful year of research endeavours. The grant awarded to Physiotherapy's Associate Professor Leon Straker and Dr Peter O'Sullivan and colleagues, Dr Kevin Murray of Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) and Mr Garth Kendall of the School of Nursing at Curtin and the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research, will fund a study entitled Physical, lifestyle and psychosocial determinants of spinal pain development in adolescents. This study is being conducted in conjunction with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

This exciting new collaboration for the School emerged earlier in 2004 when Straker and O'Sullivan were invited to participate in the Raine Study; a longitudinal epidemiological study of children born in 1990. Data collection has continued for much of this year with grants from Arthritis Australia, the Arthritis Foundation of WA and Curtin University Division of Health Sciences. The awarding of this large NH&MRC grant will enable the group to undertake both the epidemiological studies and also intervention studies of children who present with or are at risk of back pain.

In addition, 2004 has seen three significant external grants awarded to our academic staff and their clinical collaborators. Associate Professor Sue Jenkins and her colleague Dr Peter Eastwood from the Department of Pulmonary Physiology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital secured a grant of \$46,500 from the Asthma Foundation of WA to investigate the quality of life and functional exercise capacity in adults with moderate to severe asthma; Associate Professor Kathy Briffa and Dr Tom Briffa from Physiotherapy were co-investigators on a \$30,000 grant awarded by WA Arthritis and Osteoporosis Research to Dr Deb Kerr of the School of Public Health to compare the effects of resistance exercise and walking intervention on the prevention of bone loss in older men; Associate Professor Kathy Briffa together with Professor Graeme Hankey and Professor Leon Flicker, both of Royal Perth Hospital, and Associate Professor Andy Lee of Curtin University received a grant of \$100,000 from the National Heart Foundation to determine the health benefits and costs of different approaches to rehabilitation following stroke.

After many months of negotiation the School, in conjunction with the Division of Health Sciences, has secured NH&MRC infrastructure funding to purchase a DXA bone densitometer (pictured on the right) that will enable the precise measurement of bone density and body composition on campus. The DXA is housed in our clinic in Building 404 and should facilitate collaboration between a number of schools and departments within the Division and contribute to additional growth in our research output.

2004 has also seen awards to several students for their research activities. Kylie Hill, a PhD student supervised by

Associate Professor Sue Jenkins, recently received the Young Investigator Award at the 2004 WA Branch Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand for her oral presentation of her PhD research. Kylie will now be applying for the National Young Investigator Award and this is judged at the National TSANZ meeting in March 2005.

Sian Turner, another of Associate Professor Sue Jenkins' PhD students, was recently successful in obtaining an NH&MRC Scholarship which will assist her to complete her studies.

Masters of Sports Physiotherapy student Amitabh Gupta was the winner of the Sports Medicine Student Research Award at the 2004 Sports Medicine Australia (WA branch) Conference. Amitabh received this award for his presentation outlining a study of hip rotation range in dancers and non dancers which he and co-student Brad Fernihough completed under the guidance of Dr Diana Hopper and Geoff Strauss from the School, and Dr Anne Clark from the Freemason's Centre for Aged Care Services.

2005 looks set to be another exciting year with several PhD students expecting to complete their studies, new grants to embark on and a range of new collaborations that are currently under development. The year will kick off with the annual School of Physiotherapy Research Symposium, which will be held from 3:30pm to 6:00pm on Thursday, 24 February 2005 in the Schools of Physiotherapy/Business Lecture Theatre (408.1019). All of our academic and clinical colleagues are most welcome to attend to hear a select group of our staff and students present their research findings. Please check our web site closer to the date to view the confirmed program.

Sara Carroll, Director of Research



Postgraduate Clinical Masters Courses Review

The academic year for the Master of Sports Physiotherapy and Manipulative Therapy students concluded with a celebratory dinner at Steve's Hotel on November 26th. The dinner, which was well attended by students and staff, was a celebration of the year's achievements, and an acknowledgement of the importance of postgraduate clinical education. In addition to the development of high level clinical skills, the year of close collegial interaction leads to friendships which continue long after the completion of the course.

The course changes introduced this year included the development of a clinical practice unit in semester one, which is common to both courses. This innovation will continue in 2005 with the highly regarded teaching team of Ms Helen Slater, Assoc. Prof. Stephen Edmondston and Dr Peter O'Sullivan who have the somewhat dubious distinction of a combined 60 years of clinical experience! The new units in clinical anatomy and pathology now span two semesters, with one of the highlights this year being the introduction of quantitative anatomical dissection projects, under the guidance of anatomist John Owens and postgraduate director, Stephen Edmondston. The research symposium was again a showcase of the quality of the research which is now being produced by students in these courses. Over the past 3 years, the majority of these studies have been published in peer-reviewed journals, and the findings disseminated widely by the international and local alumni.



The clinical placements attended by all Professional Masters students are a highlight for most students, and the feedback from the group this year has been very positive. It is important to acknowledge the support of the Heads of Department of the institutions that facilitate these placements, specifically Royal Perth (both campuses), Bentley, Swan Districts and Joondalup Hospitals, as well as the SAS army barracks in Swanbourne. Sports physiotherapy clinical placements were conducted this year in the School of Physiotherapy clinic on the Bentley campus under the direction of Danielle Woodhouse and Helen Slater.



Every year has its high achievers, and this year was no exception. The award for the student with the highest grades in Sports Physiotherapy went to local physiotherapist Fiona Chromiak who had an outstanding year, whilst the awards for the highest overall student, and the clinical practice prize in Manipulative Therapy were both won by international student Kieran O'Sullivan of Ireland. Congratulations to both of these students on their results.

The staff now look forward to the inter-semester break, before the next group of postgraduate students commence in February. The popularity of these courses continues to increase, with new places being created in the courses to meet the demand in 2005. This is in part a reflection of the greater flexibility within the course structure which allows students to study part-time, and complete their course of study over a two or three year duration. Physiotherapists interested in commencing postgraduate study should contact the Director of Postgraduate Coursework programs or Anne Crouch, the School Student Liaison Officer.

*A/Prof Stephen Edmondston
Director of Postgraduate Coursework Programs*

Call for Postgrad Clinical Supervisors

Expressions of interest are invited from physiotherapists interested in Postgraduate Clinical Supervision in the Manipulative or Sports Physiotherapy courses at Curtin University in 2005.

A postgraduate qualification in either of these areas of practice is required, but previous teaching experience is not essential.

For further information please contact Stephen Edmondston via telephone on 9266 3665 or e-mail S.Edmondston@curtin.edu.au

Student Sporting Achievements



Craig Soley

We have in our midst a World Karate Champion. Final year physiotherapy student Craig Soley won the title at the 3rd Karate do Goju kai World Championships, and is currently flat out training to defend his title at the 2005 World Championships in Rotterdam. He also completed at the WA State Allstyle Karate Championships in May, winning the men's open event by a landslide. The former police detective, who entered the course as a mature age student through extension studies, has trained with Brian Mackie since the age of 11, notching up two decades of karate experience. Now that he has completed his physiotherapy degree, Craig plans to undertake locum work to fit in with his training schedule.

Alicia Marriott

First year student Alicia Marriott represented her City of Perth Surf Lifesaving Club in the National Surf Life Saving Championships in Queensland in March 2004. After ten years as a surf life-saver, she distinguished herself by winning two gold medals in the U/19 Swim Team and Board Rescue, a silver medal in the Open Board Rescue, and two bronze medals in the U/19 Board Relay and Open Board Relay.

First Graduates for Forensic Sexology

After three semesters of hard work and dedication, the first intake of Master of Forensic Sexology students have completed their studies. The program, the first of its kind in the world, offers psychology, law, nursing, medical and social work graduates with the opportunity to participate in a specialist program focusing on legal issues and sexuality, and in the prevention and treatment of anti-social and criminal sexual behaviour.

Our diverse group of Forensic Sexology graduates includes a strong international cohort from countries such as Canada, Poland, and the USA, many of whom have now returned home to put their new knowledge into action. We wish all Forensic Sexology graduates the very best of luck for the future.

Applications for the program have increased significantly since the first intake, as word of the exciting new course has spread, and we are looking forward to the new group of students commencing in Semester 1, 2005.



Curtin Open Day

Now a permanent fixture in Curtin's annual calendar, the University Open Day in August was another excellent opportunity for the School to showcase its world class teaching and research facilities. An estimated 10,000 visitors were attracted to the buzz of activities held across campus, including innovative displays, seminars, live bands and performances.

Groups of dedicated staff and students spent the day giving physiotherapy demonstrations in our teaching labs, providing tours of our buildings, and distributing information about our courses and the physiotherapy profession to prospective students and their families.

The 2005 Open Day has already been scheduled for Sunday, 14 August. We welcome all members of the physiotherapy community and general public to visit us on Bentley campus.



Physiotherapy's International Programs Continue to Flourish

2004 has been a very eventful year for our International Programs. With over 45 international entry-level students and 20 postgraduate students currently studying at the School of Physiotherapy, we kicked off the year with an International Get-Together at which students from a diverse number of countries were represented, including China, Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, Canada, Sweden, USA, Japan, Norway, Singapore, India and the UK.

Throughout the year the School has hosted study tour groups from both Shinshu University and the Koriyama Institute of Health Science in Japan. For the second year in a row we were also privileged to host a group of cultural exchange students and staff from Bellarmine University, Kentucky, USA.

It was wonderful for me to attend the Singapore Physiotherapy Association Conference in May, at which our own 2003 PhD graduate Dr Goh Ah Cheng was a keynote speaker. Our strong links with Singapore were very evident as Curtin students Joy Teo, Ng Hwee Koon and Geetha Kambaya presented their research. Lecturer Kerry Saunders visited Singapore later in the year to see our Singapore students graduate, and also caught up with a group of Singapore graduates at a Curtin Alumni cocktail reception (pictured on the right).

A major development this year has been the creation of new full-fee paying undergraduate places specifically for Permanent residents of Australia who obtained their physiotherapy qualifications outside Australia. Under current arrangements, in order to register and practice as a physiotherapist in Australia, overseas trained physiotherapists must pass the AECOP examination, however the new places provide an alternative entry route for Australian resident, overseas trained physiotherapists who are seeking a qualification to practice in Australia.

Looking to the future, we are currently developing an online Graduate Certificate in Physiotherapy Course in collaboration with the Singapore General Hospital Post-Graduate Allied Health Institute. Next year will be another exciting year as we are planning to take our first reciprocal study tour group of Curtin students to Bellarmine University. Planning is currently underway with lecturer John Owens leading this initiative. We are also looking forward to hosting our first group of physiotherapy students from the Oslo University College on a study abroad programme scheduled for Semester 1, 2005.

BK Tan

A/Director of International Programs



Higher Degree by Research Programs

The School of Physiotherapy now has quite a team of research students working towards their PhD or MSc degrees.

At present there are 23 students enrolled in our PhD program. Two of their theses are currently proceeding through the examination process and five students, including two of our three overseas students, will submit in the

next couple of months. Last year four students successfully completed their PhD. Our congratulations go to Jennefer Downs, Ah Cheng Goh, Grace Szeto and Kylie Johnston.

We currently have two students enrolled in the MSc program with one very recent completion. Congratulations to Bev Jepson, whose thesis recently completed the examination process.

The productivity of the students is excellent. Many of our students have

presented papers at international scientific meetings and a number of these have attracted prizes. Several also have papers "in press" or with the reviewers and two students, Wim Dankaerts and Kylie Hill, have published papers related to their PhD research in 2004.

New research students are always welcome, and admissions are made on a rolling basis. Enquiries may be directed to Associate Professor Leon Straker, Director of the Higher Degree by Research Programs.

Student Mentoring Program A Success



The Student Support Network was started earlier this year by fourth-year Physiotherapy student Rebecca Chan, with the aim of encouraging students to support each other during their physiotherapy studies. Having been through the first three years of the course, Rebecca could really appreciate and relate to the needs of physio students and the challenges each year poses. She also realised that the experiences she had could have been better if she had had guidance from students in higher year groups to help prepare for what would lie ahead.

Rebecca acknowledges, *This kind of help can really only come from one student to another; it is knowledge that cannot be gained from attending a lecture. I have witnessed so many of my friends and fellow classmates physically, emotionally and mentally breakdown from doing this course and I believe that no one should have to go through that kind of stress alone. Our plan is to have each year look out for and mentor the years below. That is the logical way as that student has just completed the work and will be most up to date with the unit requirements.*



The Student Support Network held two events in 2004, including a Welcome Night in conjunction with the International Student Get-Together, and a dinner at which newly graduated physiotherapists shared their experiences as both students and practicing clinicians in the workforce. Both ran successfully, and students' feedback was extremely positive.

This initiative strongly supports objectives in the School's Strategic Plan to promote mentoring relationships among students and foster support networks for our students. We hope that with the continued support and sharing of students and their experiences, the Network will become cemented into the program, and we commend Rebecca Chan on both her initiative and activism in establishing the Network.

ACOPRA Accreditation

During 2004 the School was successful in obtaining accreditation for both the undergraduate BSc (Physiotherapy) and the graduate-entry Master of Physiotherapy programs, making these the only accredited entry-level physiotherapy programs in Western Australia.

The Australian Council of Physiotherapy Regulating Authorities (ACOPRA) is a national body that provides accreditation for physiotherapy educational programs, which allows graduates from the program to be able to practice in all States and Territories. The accreditation process is extremely comprehensive and thorough, with Schools submitting extensive documentation on their programs. This is followed by an ACOPRA site visit team who evaluate School facilities, staffing and clinical community support. Considerable importance is placed on the ability to provide a comprehensive program of clinical education within the course.

In July we were pleased to receive full accreditation for the Master of Physiotherapy program for a period of 4 years. The program had already received accreditation for 1 year after the first cohort of students graduated so it has received an overall accreditation period of 5 years, which is an excellent outcome for a new program. The report was very positive and provided a few recommendations that the School is required to address during the period of accreditation.

We also received full accreditation for five years for the BSc (Physiotherapy) program from ACOPRA in October. The ACOPRA report was glowing in its praise of the School:

The Site Team was impressed by the evidence on all sides of the enthusiasm and commitment to the Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy) program. The Site Team's task had been made easier by the comprehensive documentation which had been prepared by the School in its application for Full Accreditation, and also by the quite detailed written responses to a range of matters provided immediately prior to the Site Visit...The Bachelor of Physiotherapy is a physiotherapy program of long standing in an established School of Physiotherapy in a highly regarded university, the Curtin University of Technology. The School has had many cohorts of graduates over the years. Support for the program was evident on all sides.

On-Campus Physio Clinic

The Curtin School of Physiotherapy Services Bentley has been a huge success since its beginnings in October 2003. The clinic provides an excellent opportunity for fourth year and Graduate Entry-level students to experience a musculoskeletal placement in a private practise environment. It also provides a service to the community for those who are unable to afford private health insurance. Please contact Amanda Bozickovic on 9266 1210 with any enquiries.

Physiotherapy Alumni: *Where Are They Now?*

Trish Leonhardt, Class of 1984

Since graduation, Trish has embarked on a broad and varied range of physiotherapy experiences, initially working in country community practices in rural locations including Narrogin, Derby and Wagin. She spent a considerable amount of time travelling overseas and working in the UK, from physiotherapy outpatient departments of public hospitals to occupational health work for Shell Oil. Trish has also worked extensively in intensive care at both Royal Perth Hospital in Perth and in a hospital in Vancouver, Canada. Before settling back in Perth, Trish also worked in both Tasmania and New South Wales for a number of years. During this time she began to move into more of a consultancy role, and then a state management role, before starting her own vocational rehabilitation business in 1999 - the Mount Injury Management Service.

Trish comments, "*Vocational rehabilitation is the process whereby suitably qualified consultants assist people who have been injured, in most cases in the work place, back to work. This may include a return to their pre-accident duties or alternately a return to modified duties or new duties either with the same employer or an alternative employer. The Physiotherapist would assess the work area and work duties and apply their knowledge of injury pathology, recovery and biomechanics, to develop an appropriate return to work programme that then gradually progresses the person towards full normal employment. This requires liaison with insurers, employers, medical practitioners and the injured worker as a minimum. This is a role in which Physiotherapists can apply their clinical knowledge without actually undertaking clinical practice.*"

"In my experience Physiotherapists translate well into the area of vocational rehabilitation. They manage their time well and demonstrate an excellent capacity for getting the job done. I would love to see more Physiotherapists enter into the area of vocational reha-

bilitation, particularly those Practitioners who are looking for an alternative career path that would take them out of the clinical environment and into a role in which they can apply their skills in a "hands off" position. In addition, it provides good remuneration and allows Physiotherapists to enter a more commercially focused market with the majority of customers being large employers and insurers. This can and does provide enhanced career opportunities for the right type of consultant given the broader range of contacts that are developed in the role."

Aubrey Monie Class of 1998

Aubrey completed his physiotherapy degree in 1998, and has been running his Physiotherapy practice out of the Fitness First Health Club in Cannington since 2001. Prior to this he spent 8 months living in St Tropez, practicing Physiotherapy and providing fitness and martial art training to the rich and famous.

He continues his interest in fitness and martial arts as a fourth dan Black belt Senior instructor at his brother's Cobra-Ksha Freestyle and Martial Arts studio. He has trained and competed in various styles of martial arts since 1997, however in recent years he has concentrated his interests on Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. In 2002 Aubrey won the silver medal in the WA state titles, fighting 2 weight divisions higher. Unfortunately a neck injury prevented an attempt at an Australian Title. Turning to one-on-one training with Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu world titles medallist Gene Lawson, Aubrey has spent recent months preparing for his latest challenge, which he realised in December 2004 by being graded to Blue belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, after just four years of training.

Priscilla McLellan (nee Burnett) Class of 1996

Priscilla has had an excitingly varied career since graduating from physiotherapy in 1996. After several years of working as a physio and spending time travelling the world, Priscilla found her-



self in Memphis, Tennessee, working as a personal assistant and events coordinator for billionaire philanthropist Joseph Reeves Hyde III. Hyde Family Foundations gave money to over 85 not-for-profit organisations in the Memphis area, and Priscilla was involved with the organisation of fundraising events such as the International Freedom Awards - Lech Walesa, former Polish President and Nobel Peace prize winner, and Harry Belafonte won the year Priscilla was there - and events for Ballet Memphis and the Blues Foundation.

Priscilla met Memphis music celebrities such as Jerry Lee Lewis, BB King, Isaac Hayes, and David Porter, and got engaged to Duncan McLellan after a night spent dancing away at the Blues Ball to the live sounds of these artists.

Returning to Perth in mid-2000, Priscilla took up a new position at the PMH foundation as a corporate & event co-ordinator. Her busy workload included organising events and co-ordinating other activities for PMH such as the Veuve Clicquot Bear by Night Ball and An Evening with President Clinton in 2002 to raise money for different areas of the hospital.

Priscilla is currently loving being a mum to baby Ruby, who is now 20 months old.

Physiotherapy Alumni Launch

With over fifty years' worth of physiotherapy graduates, the School has now taken the first steps towards establishing a Physiotherapy Chapter of the Alumni. With over 3,000 physiotherapy graduates, all of which are members of the University Alumni, our aim is to foster relationships between graduates, the community, and the University, whilst providing opportunities for professional development, networking and social events.

In September, the School formed an Alumni Steering Committee to initiate and develop a programme of events for the coming year. Our inaugural School of Physiotherapy Alumni event will be a breakfast in February, hosted in our spectacular new building on Bentley Campus. Renowned physiotherapist, lecturer and researcher Dr Peter O'Sullivan will speak about the latest developments in the classification of low back pain disorders. Peter was a key-note speaker at the recent WCCBPP conference in Melbourne, and will present work currently being carried out at Curtin, as well as drawing on current thinking and directions in the classification and management of lumbo-pelvic pain disorders from the conference

As many alumni may not have visited our new premises since the move from Shenton Park in 2002, we will conduct facility tours after the breakfast for any interested attendees. Our new Motion Analysis Laboratory in particular has drawn interest from many areas, our custom-built teaching labs are equipped to an impressive standard, and the fourth floor balcony from which the breakfast will be hosted boasts an expansive view of the Perth skyline.

The breakfast will be held on Tuesday, 1 February 2005 from 7:30-9:00am on Level 4 of the Physiotherapy Building on Bentley campus (Building 408). There is no cost for alumni.

To RSVP for the breakfast please contact the School via telephone on 08 9266 4644 or e-mail N.David@curtin.edu.au by 26 January 2005. Please note that places are limited.

Update Your Alumni Details

If you graduated as a physiotherapist from the WA School of Physiotherapy, WAIT or Curtin, you are a member of Curtin Alumni. If you would like to update your contact details to ensure that you are notified of upcoming Alumni events, we encourage you to visit www.alumni.curtin.edu.au

Best Wishes for the New Year

The School of Physiotherapy would like to wish the physiotherapy community and all Hands On readers all the best for the coming year. Thank you for your continued support.

Clinical Programs Report

The Entry Level Clinical Program saw another busy yet rewarding year in 2004. We just farewelled eighty-one fourth years from the School and into the Profession, and earlier this year saw our second cohort of twenty-three Graduate Entry Masters (GEM) students graduate in April. We have been fortunate to again have terrific support from the Clinical community for our Program, and we look forward to forging ongoing partnerships with Clinical placement providers to ensure we meet the needs of the Profession with quality new graduates into the future.

Clinical staffing in 2005 will see the addition of a Director of Clinical Programs to oversee the whole of Clinical Education for the school. At the time of going to press, this position is still in the Recruitment phase. Meanwhile, Peter will continue as fulltime Clinical Co-ordinator and Kerry will continue to have Clinical co-ordination duties in 2005, in addition to taking on the GEM Co-ordination role. Sue Jones returned to work in late September from her sojourn around the nation. She is co-ordinating an important Benchmarking project in the Division of Health Sciences and is on secondment to that area for 12 months until September 2005. We see her very regularly and she is enjoying her new position and the opportunities it affords.

We continue to look at new and innovative models of student supervision in the Clinical setting. A number of 4 or 6 students to 1 supervisor have been trialled in various Clinical facilities, and we are always interested in discussing any options you may have for further exploration of these models. Certainly as student numbers increase over the coming years we are conscious of the need to be supportive of, and actively facilitating new ways of "doing business".

If you have any feedback or suggestions for the Clinical Program, please call Peter on 9266 3626.

Peter Robinson & Kerry Saunders
Clinical Coordinators

