

BEPP Newsletter

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Above: A candid shot of Alison in front of the Agriculture Building at Penn State University.

Head of School Report

The new academic year has begun, and we are now aligned across our teaching periods for both our undergraduate and postgraduate programs. This shift is something we have been planning for over the past twelve months and has prompted us to look more closely at our administrative processes within the School, including the management of our teaching materials through our learning management systems. As part of this process, it came to my attention that there were some variations in how units were being presented online. While academic staff make the final decision on what functions their units include, there are some basic functions which must be common to all units, and which should be presented in the same order. In ensuring consistency across units, the educational development team have identified the features available and used by staff, and we have agreed on the order in which they will be laid out in the online space. Your feedback on this will be welcome as we seek to improve the look and feel of our units for students.

From the 15-17 February, Rene Villano and I visited Penn State University to set in place cross-institutional arrangements for students in their Master of Professional Studies (Community and Economic Development) and our Master of Economic and Regional Development. This trip was funded through the Vice Chancellor's Strategic Funds, which we were allocated in 2010 for the purpose of revitalizing postgraduate economics and undergraduate agricultural economics programs. While we were at Penn State, we agreed on the cross-institutional arrangements at the postgraduate level, and also explored opportunities for exchange programs within our undergraduate agribusiness and agricultural and resource economics awards. We will need to do more work to progress the exchange opportunities for the undergraduate programs, and are excited about the prospects for internationalizing our curricula in this way.

Congratulations to Martin Hovey on the publication of his paper in Financial Planning – the magazine for the Financial Planners association (pictured right). This coverage is important in raising our profile for the new financial services awards.

(You can view the article from the BEPP share (N) drive, under Newsletter articles).



Professor
Alison Sheridan
Head of School

Research Outcomes

Book Chapter

Kaur, A. (2012) Rubber Plantation Workers, Work Hazards and Health in Colonial Malaya, 1900-1940, (Eds) Sellers, C. and Melling, J., *Dangerous Trade: Histories of Industrial Hazard Across A Globalizing World* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press), (in print).

Smith L, and Kling, M. (2011) The Impact of Self-Perception on Vocational Learning, Catts, R., Falk, I. and Wallace, R. (Eds), *Vocational Learning: Innovative Theory and Practice*, 14 (16), pp. 243-258 Springer/ UNESCO, London.

Journal Articles

Ahmad, S., Shamsuddin., A. and Treadgold, M. (2012) A Monetary Analysis of Foreign Exchange Market Disequilibrium in Fiji, *International Journal of Economic Policy in Emerging Economies*, 5(1), pp. 66-81.

Cruse, L., O'Keefe, S. and Dollery, B. (2012) Presumptions of Linearity and Faith in the Power of Centralised Decision-Making: Two Challenges to the Efficient Management of Environmental Water in Australia, *the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, (in print).

Dollery, B.E., Grant, G. and Cruse, L. (2010) Not what they seem: An analysis of strategic service delivery partnerships in local government, *Australasian Journal of Canadian Studies*, 28(2), pp. 59-74.

Dollery, B.E., Fiorillo, F. and Burton, T. 'Running the Big Smoke: A Critical Analysis of the KPMG (2008) Approach to Local Government Reform in the Sydney Metropolitan Area', *Australian Journal of Regional Studies*, 2012 (in print).

Dollery, B.E., Buultjens, J. and Adams, K. 'Enhancing Australian Regional Policy: A Conceptual Framework for Assessing the Role of Regional Development Australia', *Space and Polity*, 2012 (in print).

Kortt, M. and Dollery, B. E. (2012) Australian Government Failure and the Green Loans Program', *International Journal of Public Administration*, 35(2), pp. 150-158.

Valenzuela, F. (2012) The Effect of Switching Barriers Types on Customer Loyalty, *International Review of Business Research Papers*, 8(1), pp. 1-19.

Conference Papers

Gunawardena, A. (2012) Effects of Increasing Agricultural Productivity: A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis for Sri Lanka, *Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Annual Conference*, The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Perth, 8-10 February, 2012.

Morales, L.E. and Hoang, N.T. (2012) Beef Marketing Margins in Australasia, *Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Annual Conference*, The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Perth, 8-10 February, 2012.

Smith, G. and Ramsay, T. (2011) Public Investment for a balanced economy: A thermodynamic perspective, *Incorporating the 13th Path to Full Employment Conference and the 18th National Conference on Unemployment*, University of Newcastle, 12-13 December, 2011.

Up & Coming Dates

March

- 5 School Meeting
- 20 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 24 Graduation Day for Law, Business, Economics & Public Policy Awards
- 29 Research & Research Training Committee Meeting
- 31 Census day

April

- 6 Good Friday
- 8 Easter Sunday
- 9 Easter Monday
- 9 Intensive Schools start
- 16 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 22 Intensive Schools end
- 23 Lectures recommence for Trimester 1
- 25 Anzac Day
- 30 School Meeting

May

- 4 UNE Open Day
- 21 School Meeting
- 25 Lectures end for Trimester 1
- 28 Examinations star for Trimester 1
- 20 Lectures start for Trimester 1

Research Outcomes Continued

Seminar Presentations

Dollery, B. E., Shared Services in Local Government, paper presented to Mathematics Seminar No.2/2011, Mathematics With Economics Program, University of Malaysia (Sabah), Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 23 November, 2011.

Dollery, B. E., Options for Rationalizing Local Government Structure, paper presented as Special Topics Lecture, Master's Program in English, Yokohama National University, Yokohama, Japan, 12 January, 2012.

Dollery, B. E., Rationalizing Local Government Structure through Shared Services, paper presented to local government officers at Oshu City in Iwate Prefecture, Japan, 18 January, 2012.

BEPP Working Paper Series

Simmons, P. (2012) The 25th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Accident, *BEPP Working Paper Series 2012-1* <http://www.une.edu.au/bepp/working-papers/economics/econwp12-1.pdf>.

Large Grant Enhancement Scheme

During December 2011 the School's Research and Research Training Committee introduced the Large Grant Enhancement Scheme to support academics in applying for research grants of more than \$50,000 to source funding from external bodies such as the ARC, ARC Linkage, ARC Discovery, ALTC and other relevant Industry Grants etc.

The successful recipients for 2011 are as follows:



Professor Brian Dollery

- Local Government Infrastructure Finance. Dollery, B. and Kortt, M., ARC \$200,000
- Shared Services in Local Government. Dollery, B., ARC \$200,000



Professor Mahinda Siriwardana

- Adaptation to carbon tax-induced changes in energy demand in rural and regional Australia (LP120200192). Siriwardana, M., McNeill, J., Reeve, I., Meng, S., Simshauser, P. and Nelson, T., ARC \$660,000 over 4 years and cash grant from the partner (AGL Energy LTD) organisation of \$132,000.

The Committee will continue to offer this incentive in 2012.

All application forms for Research Incentive Funding and Conference Travel can be found at: http://www.une.edu.au/bepp/research/incentive_funding/

Welcome Boyd Blackwell

Boyd joins the School as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Enduring Community Value from Mining. His five year project is jointly funded by UNE and the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation, part of NintiOne in Alice Springs. Boyd is supervised by Professor Brian Dollery, BEPP and Professor Fiona Haslam McKenzie, CRC REP Team Leader, from Curtin University. Boyd's case study site is the Tanami mine in NT. He will be interviewing mine workers about their expenditure patterns and socio-economic characteristics to build an input output model of the local economy. The model will be used to assess the economic impact of the mine on local remote communities. Comparator sites will also be used and he will map the flow of income through the economy. The project will help inform policy decisions about creating enduring value to remote communities from mining.

Boyd comes to the School with a background in natural resource, environmental and ecological economics with a strong research interest in non-market valuation. He has previously worked in the following organisations:

- Manager, Economics Infrastructure and Policy, KPMG, Melbourne, 2010-2011
- Lecturer, National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability, Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania, in Victoria and Tasmania 2006-2010
- Various roles with Water Reform, Urban Water Policy Development, Office of Energy and Cooperative Research Centre for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management with the Queensland Government, Brisbane 2001-2005
- Heritage Icon Value Project, International Centre for Ecotourism Research, Griffith University, Gold Coast
- Research Economist, Minerals Economics Section, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Canberra

He holds bachelor degrees in commerce and economics, honours in economics and a PhD from the University of Queensland. He enjoys open water swimming, lifesaving, watching rugby and spending time with his family.

Educational Development & Communications Team Update

(click on the links below)

- The End of Blackboard
- Aligning Assessment tasks with CAUC
- Clearing Cookies
- Another Welcome
- Adobe Connect Training
- TurnItIn
- Adobe Connect & Camtasia
- Bachelor of Business Community Site
- Trimester 2 Unit Development

What we've been doing

- **Professor Brian Dollery** received a research grant from PM Japan Fund for \$3,400 for research at Iwate University with Professor Kinoshita Yukio.
- **Dr Nam Hoang** attended a course and a workshop on structural VAR models in Hobart-Tasmania, Feb 20-23, 2012. The course was taught by Professor Adrian Pagan (University of Sydney) and the workshop was organised by Professor Mardi Dungey (UTAS).



Dr Boyd Blackwell
Postdoctoral Research Fellow



Sue Whale
Educational Development & Communications Team Leader



Dr Philip Thomas
Director i2A Centre

Ideas to Action (i2A) Centre

Following a great deal of background preparation, the Faculty of The Professions i2A Centre launch occurred on August 18th 2011. Following the Faculty funding approval, Philip Thomas was successful in securing the position of Director, which began on the February 13th 2012. There is also an appointed Advisory Board in place for the i2A Centre. Members of the Board include Mr John Keniry (Chair), Mr Raj Verma, Mr Mike Logan, Professor Alison Sheridan, Professor Ted Alter and Professor Paul Martin.

In line with the newly released UNE strategy, which refers to UNE's role in leading rural innovation, the focus of the i2A Centre is on the development of research within innovation and entrepreneurship. The emphasis is on shared learning and scholarly exchange to establish a base of engagement within domestic and international research collaborations that will involve industry and community.

Activities of the i2A Centre include the recently completed NSW Government Enterprising Regions Program project *Strategic Development Community Based Innovation in the Northern Inland Region of NSW*. It is now revealed that partner support for work resulted in a 6 month project of over 200K, with 90K of that provided by the NSW Government. With our Penn State partners, ongoing research development opportunities arising out of this project are currently being explored.

In addition, the policy and institutions component of the extension bid of the Invasive Animals CRC, led by Paul Martin, focuses on enabling community led action within the research. Professor Alter (PENN State) is leading the component on community engagement and it is anticipated this community engagement research program will feed into the i2A Centre and significantly contribute as a demonstration of the Centre's focus.

Within his new position Philip Thomas is also Course Coordinator of the Professional Doctorate Industry and Professions (ProfDIP). This HDR currently has a cohort of 25 candidates and has a constant flow of enquiries from interested prospective candidates. The portfolios currently being developed around the innovation projects of the candidates cover a diverse range of subjects and including product and process innovation. For example:

Environmental industrial/community policy adaptation:

- Climate change and community and industry strategies and response.

Institutional change management:

- Policing and community engagement review responses (involving a cohort from the WA Police Academy).

Health:

- Development of a bone densitometry reporting tool for paediatric use.
- Social inclusion in health service delivery (prospective).

The first graduation from the ProfDIP is expected in 2012. In light of the suite of projects now running and those currently being considered in applications for candidature, it is anticipated that the resultant research engagement and networking with industry, community and academia, will continue to develop and expand. These interactions will provide fertile ground for the development of ongoing research strands that will assist in building the profile of the i2A Centre and help support the Centre's existence and operations.

The immediate challenges now include developing resource support for operations, creating and promoting the identity of the Centre and further developing the links to relevant organisations and research groups, within active research partnerships.

BEPP Conference Travel Grant Reports

Successful conference travel grant recipients report on their recent conference attendances.

Professor Larry Smith

The 10th Hawaii International Education Conference was held in Honolulu from 5-8 January 2012. The conference was organised around four major themes (early childhood and primary schooling; secondary schooling; technical education; and higher education), with each day comprising a major presentation followed by a series of paper presentations. Over 400 people participated in the higher education theme area, with academics coming from over 20 countries. Topics ranged from governance/policy/strategy issues to teaching and learning processes and demonstrations of the latest technologies. My paper was titled: "International approaches to the recognition of non-formal and informal learning for access to university awards", and was based on an analysis of the OECD country background papers. 109 people attended my paper session. The major benefit of the conference was in the expansion of professional networks, and in particular, the interaction with academics from non-traditional university locations (such as Newfoundland, Ecuador, and Iceland). I am happy to provide a copy of my paper to anyone who is interested. A full set of conference proceedings is currently being published.

Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Conference

BEPP was very well represented at the 56th Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Conference in Fremantle, WA. with **Bligh Grant**, **Professor Oscar Cacho**, **Dr Stuart Mounter**, **Dr Nam Hoang**, **Aruni Gunawardena**, **Dr David Hadley** and **Jonathan Moss** all attending. Bligh presented the paper: '[The Governance of Grapes: The NSW Inquiry into Wine Grape Market and Prices: An Assessment](#)', co-authored with Brian Dollery and Michael Kortt. Oscar presented a paper co-authored by Jonathan Moss titled "The Role of Abatement and Transaction Costs for Carbon Projects in the Land-use Change and Forestry Sector". David Hadley and Jonathan Moss exhibited posters. Nam presented his paper co-authored with **Dr Emilio Morales** on "Beef Marketing Margins in Australasia" and Aruni presented a paper from her PhD "Effects of Increasing Agricultural Productivity: A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis for Sri Lanka".

While in WA, Bligh also travelled north to interview the Director of Creative Communities at the City of Greater Geraldton, following international recognition of the City's community engagement strategy. This interview will be included in the Centre for Local Government's [Australian Local Government Voices Series](#). As well as recognizing the financial support given by the School, Bligh would particularly like to thank Professor Jeff Gow of the University of Southern Queensland's School of Accounting Economics and Finance, for his responsible driving efforts over the course of the week.



Professor Larry Smith

Below: Bligh Grant giving his presentation at the AARES Conference.



Above: Lunch at Voyager Estate Winery, Margaret River (left to right): Bligh Grant, Emeritus Professor Colin Thirtle, Imperial College, London, Professor Nick Vink, Stellenbosch, Professor Jeff Gow, USQ and Dr Willem Hoffman, Stellenbosch -- AND the 2006 Voyager Estate Chardonnay (centre).



Penn State University



Left: Professor Alison Sheridan & Associate Professor Rene Villano with Professor Diane McLaughlin & Ms Julie Patosky.



Above: PSU's Old Main Building.



Above: A view of students' residential hall.



Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania