

BEPP Newsletter

MARCH 2011

Head of School Report

There are a number of activities to note in this month's newsletter. The Institute of Chartered Accountants Corporate Cocktail Evening on Wednesday 2 March 2011 was a great success. Accounting firms across the region were present to meet with our students. It was wonderful to see the large number of students and staff at this important regional event.

We also hosted the inaugural New England Business Educators Network (NEBEN) in the School on Monday 7 March 2011. Thanks to Nola Holmes and Lou Conway for suggesting this idea and helping to make the event work so well. With attendees from TAFE, public schools, independent schools and the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), it was clear that the idea had struck a chord for those involved in business education in the region.

An important outcome to note is the consensus reached for the 2011 workload policy for BEPP at our special School meeting on 7 March. Thank you to the workloads committee – John Kellett, Tony Ramsay, Martin Hovey, Michelle Goyen, Jenny Rindfleisch and Phil Simmons. The committee devoted considerable time to develop the draft and I appreciate their good will in doing so.

No doubt our policy will continue to evolve as the University grapples with the ongoing issues of defining face-to-face activities. In the meantime, I am pleased to note the collaborative manner in which we have developed our policy.

Pictured above: This month's banner is Alison Sheridan & Bligh Grant at the welcome reception of ANZAM in December 2010. Alison attended the Heads of School workshop and Bligh presented a paper co-written with Josie Fisher on public value for the School.

Alison Sheridan



this issue

HoS Report **P.1**

School Self-Review **P.1**

Research Outcomes **P.1 & 2**

New Honorary Appointments **P.2**

New England AARES **P.3**

BEPP/ PIIC Funding Success **P.3**

Chamber of Commerce **P.4**

School Self-Review

The School of BEPP will be reviewed in 2011 as part of the UNE five year cycle of review designed to achieve improvement in academic and administrative performance.

Our review process will be made up of external academic and professional disciplinary experts and will be meeting from 6 to 10 June 2011. As part of the process, the school has to undertake a self-review.

The School Self-Review process will begin soon, with SWOT analyses being done by each discipline before we do the School wide assessment. Ray Cooksey, Bernice Kotey and Euan Fleming have agreed to facilitate these and we will be in contact soon advising you of the scheduled dates.

Research Outcomes

Book

Cooksey, R.W. & McDonald, G. (2011). *Surviving and thriving in postgraduate research*. Prahran, Victoria: Tilde University Press. [v + 628 pp.; ISBN 978-0-7346-1070-6].

Conference Papers

Morales, E., Griffith, G., Wright, V., Fleming, E., Umberger, W. and Hoang, N. 2011, Factors influencing Australian beef buyers' willingness to pay for an 'ideal' branded beef product, contributed paper to the 55th Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 8-11 February.

Morales, E., Griffith, G., Wright, V., Fleming, E., Umberger, W. and Hoang, N. 2011, The propensity to buy branded beef among groups of Australian beef consumers, contributed paper to the 55th conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 8-11 February.

Conference Papers continued

Sefriadi, H., Fleming, E., Villano, R.A. and Patrick, I. 2011, The potential of cacao agribusiness for poverty alleviation in West Sumatra, contributed paper to the 55th Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 8-11 February.

Tozer P., and Villano R., Decomposing productivity and efficiency in Western Australian grain producers, contributed paper to the 55th Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 8-11 February.

Thiemann, F., Fleming, E. and Mueller, R.A.E. 2011, Empirical analysis of ICT in international trade of cut flowers: a gravity approach, contributed paper to the 55th Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 8-11 February.

Teerakul N., Villano R., Wood F. and Mounter S., Use of principal component analysis in determining the poverty status of households in rural upper northern Thailand, contributed paper to the 55th Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 8-11 February.

Villano R., Mariano M. and Fleming E., Determinants of adoption of modern rice technologies and good management practices in the Philippines, contributed paper to the 55th Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Melbourne, 8-11 February.

New Honorary Appointments

Associate Professor Rochelle Ball

Adjunct Associate Professor – Economics Discipline

10 January 2011 – 31 December 2014

To continue research activities and collaboration with Professor Amarjit Kaur on Labour Migration in the Asia-Pacific.

Professor Kay Harman

Adjunct Professor – Management Discipline

5 February 2011 – 5 February 2014

To continue research and publications in higher education and supervise postgraduate students

Dr Alfons van der Kraan

Adjunct Senior Lecturer – Economics Discipline

28 February 2011 – 28 February 2014

To continue research and supervise postgraduate students.

Up & Coming Dates

March

21 School Meeting

24 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting

29 BEPP Research & Research Training Committee Meeting

April

9 Lectures end

10 Intensive Schools Start

11 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting

22 – 26 Easter Break

27 – 30 Tri 1 examinations

30 Intensive schools end
Tri 1 ends

May

16 School Meeting

What we've been doing

- **Dr Omar Al Farooque** has received World Bank consultancy work relating to "Financing Issues of National University Affiliated Colleges' Tertiary Education in Bangladesh" from 15 February to 30 June 2011.
- **Professor Amarjit Kaur** and **Professor Alison Sheridan** (with colleagues from the School of BCSS) have applied for a DIAC grant for \$200,000 for a project achieving the contribution of family migration to Australia.



Garry Griffith

Adjunct Professor

New England Branch of Australian Agricultural and Research Economics Society

A number of staff members, HDR students and members of the New England Branch of AARES attended the national conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, and pre-conference workshops, in Melbourne on 8-11 February. Some highlights were:

- Prof. Garry Griffith was awarded a Distinguished Fellowship.
- The best Masters Research Award 2010 was given to Marc Jim Mariano for his thesis entitled 'Farm-level efficiencies and productivity and technology adoption in Philippine rice farming'. His thesis was jointly supervised by Dr Rene Villano and Prof. Euan Fleming.
- 12 contributed papers were presented.

Adjunct Professor Garry Griffith (pictured below) was recognised as a Distinguished Fellow of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) at the recent AARES Conference in Adelaide. Congratulations to Garry on this honour.



AARES past-president (Phil Pardey) and new AARES Distinguished Fellows (R to L) David Pannell, Gordon MacAulay, Jim McColl, Garry Griffith and Allan Rae.

BEPP/ PIIC funding success within The Faculty of The Professions

Industry and Investment NSW is providing funding support for a project valued \$166,000 entitled - Regional Innovation; Strategic Development Community Based Innovation in the Northern Inland Region of NSW.

This collaborative project led by Dr Philip Thomas from The School of BEPP involves academics from UNE and Penn State University within a project supported by funds from the Enterprising Regions Program of I & I.

The project will run over 4 months and will investigate how to best achieve innovation within the Northern Inland Region. This project will involve direct engagement with businesses and individuals within the region and will draw on the support of Local, State and Australian Government agencies.



Philip Thomas

Principal Research Fellow

Chamber of Commerce

Bernice Kotey was the guest speaker at a Women's Breakfast meeting of the Armidale Chamber of Commerce on February 10. She spoke on the theory and practice of small business management, drawing on her expertise as an academic in the area and her practical experience as part owner of a native flower growing business. Her presentation led to a meeting with Ms Elizabeth Egan, Executive Officer of the Armidale & District Chamber of Commerce, at which they discussed ways of enhancing interactions between the university, and in particular BEPP, and the business community. Bernice acknowledges the active involvement of BEPP staff, especially Drs Lou Conway and Phillip Thomas, with the Armidale Chamber of Commerce and the diverse ways in which BEPP has benefited from their associations.

As a first step to building on the existing relationship between the business community and the university, Ms Elizabeth Egan is planning an event to showcase UNE's current and potential collaborations with the Armidale business community. If you have undertaken or are currently involved in any projects with the Business community as a UNE staff, could you please email Bernice at bkotey@une.edu.au with a brief description of the project?

PhD student to graduate in 2011

Student Name: Tshilidzi Percy Madzivhandila
Supervisors: Garry Griffith & Euan Fleming
Title of Thesis: A Practical Program Evaluation Model for the Limpopo Department of Agriculture.
Graduation Ceremony: 1st April 2011

From the Ed Development Team



As many of you are aware, compulsory Introductory Moodle training for Academic staff began in February and will be continued in the School throughout March and April.

Times and dates can be found on the Revitalising Learning posters that have been distributed throughout the School and bookings should be made through WebKiosk.

Please note that all Academic staff will have support from the Ed development/ GSB production and Admin teams while we are *transitioning* to the new Learning Management System. We are also fortunate to have several Moodle Mentors in the School who will be able to provide information and support regarding teaching in Moodle.

So remember –YOU ARE NOT ALONE and while it may seem very daunting at the moment, the Ed Development Team is certain we'll all make it to the other side relatively unscathed!

We will be providing supplementary training and one to one support throughout the process and will keep you up to date individually and through the BEPP staff email.



Bernice Kotey
Associate Professor