The Northern Territory Clinical School Newsletter

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SCHOOL PROMOTIONS OF HEALTH CAREERS

NTCS students recently joined a multidisciplinary student team which travelled across the Top End, including Jabiru, Katherine and Nhulunbuy for the rural high school visits 'Health Careers in the Bush' program. The program aimed to encourage Northern Territory secondary students to consider studying a health career at university. It also provided a community service opportunity for the health students who participated and enhanced their understanding of the challenges and possibilities of rural and remote life. The student presenters were given cultural awareness training in Darwin prior to departure to remote towns and community in the NT. These trips are organised in the Top End by General Practice and Primary Health Care through the National Rural Health Network. As well as inspiring young high school students to study in the health area, these trips also increased university student presenters interest in considering work in rural or remote areas.

Tara Pain, a final year indigenous nursing student from Flinders University who was sponsored on the trip by the NTCS commented:

"The students showed a lot of respect for the presenters and seemed to be mesmerised when sitting around and listening to all the information we were providing about going to university and overcoming obstacles. It was obvious that they benefited from the information that they received from real people who had come from similar situations and could give advice on past experience…… I believe the program was beneficial in increasing interest in health sector jobs…… As presenters I believe that we will all be more likely to work in a rural or remote area from having this experience".

To complement this program, the NT Clinical School has recently undertaken a project to promote health careers to secondary school students in Darwin. A multi-disciplinary team of tertiary level health students visited local high schools on 28 and 29 May 2007 to talk about health careers. The schools visited had not received a visit from the Health Careers in the Bush team. The team was made up of volunteer students from a variety of disciplines including medicine, speech pathology, nutrition/dietetics, radiology, occupational therapy and prosthetics/orthotics. The health students presented to over 100 secondary school students and the presentations included come 'n try activity stations with ‘tools of the trade’. These activity stations were very popular and many interesting questions were asked. These trips were coordinated by Narelle Campbell, Allied Health Student Coordinator/Academic at the NTCS.
MARIKA BROOMFIELD
Marika joined the NTCS team in January 2006 after spending a year working and travelling throughout Canada. Despite being Darwin-born Marika is a keen skier and has been employed as a snow ski instructor following winter seasons in Australia and Austria for the last few years. This passion for skiing developed as a child growing up in Katherine of all places, when Marika and her father used to drive south, with skis on roof, through the Territory on annual ski trips. After having moved south for high school and University, Marika is back in Darwin and settled into life as the student support officer for the Flinders Year 3 students studying in Darwin.

DES GELLERT
- ICT Support and Liaison with Remote Support - (hands and feet on the ground know enough to be dangerous, and can be useful).
- Video Conference and Tele Conference technical support & coordination.
- Facilities support [Walker Room and Deans PBL] data projectors etc.
- Administrative support, Odd Jobs , JCU Student Support years 5 and 6

LILA LOVEARD
My name is Lila Loveard and my current position at the NT Clinical School is as Personal Assistant to the Clinical Dean, Professor Michael Lowe (0.5) and Information Manager (0.5). I previously held two other positions at the NTCS, Year 3 Flinders Student Support Officer and Year 5/6 JCU Student Support Officer. I love living in Darwin as it is close to things that are important to me - Indonesia, Arnhem Land, my friends, and many national parks.

CAROLINE GOUWS
My name is Caroline Gouws, I was born in South Africa, Bloemfontein. I worked for a Medical Practice as a Financial Officer in Pietersburg, South Africa for five years. Currently I am employed by Flinders NT Rural Clinical School as a Student Placement Officer at the Alice Springs Hospital.
STAFF PROFILES

TRACEY BRISCOE
I was born in Alice Springs, attended Primary School there and continued my education in Adelaide as a boarder at Immanual College. On returning to Alice Springs I worked with various departments in administrative positions. My previous position before joining the NTRCS was to co-ordinated the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) for town based participants for seven and a half years. I was appointed as the NT Rural Clinical School Campus Administrator in October 2006.

VELDA MAZOUDIER
Velda has been with the NTRCS since September 2006 as Campus Administration Officer with the Katherine NTRCS. Velda & her husband have 7 children (1 biological child and the 6 girls from a friends passing 20 years ago).
Velda grew up on a sheep Station in Western Queensland & travelled for 2 years through Europe, England & various other countries. Her prior position was Area Manager in NSW - Managing quarter of the State in the recruitment field. Now settled in Katherine & ready for retirement in this beautiful State.

ACADEMIC STATUS WITH THE NTCS

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Academic status is the award of an appropriate title by a University to recognise an ongoing contribution of a qualified person to an academic program of the University. The involvement of health professionals in the teaching program of NTCS is critical to our ability to train and qualify doctors and allied health professionals. Specialists, General Practitioners and both medical and allied health tutors and supervisors are encouraged to apply for Academic Status title. Academic status can be applied for through both Flinders University and James Cook University, depending on which students you supervise or lecture. Please email lila.loveard@flinders.edu.au for further information on JCU or Flinders Academic Status.

NEW FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC STATUS HOLDERS
The following teaching staff of the Northern Territory Clinical School have been granted Academic Status since Nov 2006: Dr Kandath Girijashanker, Dr Bradley Gray, Dr Janak Mehta, Dr Mahiban Thomas, Dr Sujatha Thomas, Dr Anthony Watson, Dr Suresh Mahendran, Dr Ferenc Szabo, Dr Bandulasena Palapitige, Dr Angraj Pal Khillian and Dr Naor Bar-Zeev. Congratulations and we look forward to working with you at the Northern Territory Clinical School.
The 2007 cohort of Year 3 Flinders and Year 5 James Cook University students began their penultimate year of study in the NT on 15 January this year. This year we have welcomed 16 Flinders University students and 7 JCU students to the Territory to complete their clinical year of study.

The year is well under way with semester one nearly at a close. The JCU students are spending the entire year based at RDH rotating through 8 week placements in each of the five hospital-disciplines of Medicine, Surgery, Women’s Health, Paediatrics and Psychiatry as well as attending an urban GP placement every Tuesday afternoon for the year.

This year we have 10 Flinders students who will spend their entire year based in Darwin at RDH rotating through two 4-week placements in each of the five hospital-disciplines, as well as one afternoon per week for 8 weeks at an urban GP setting. Of these 10 Flinders students, Tara Kurrajong and Sara Bennett have been fortunate enough to accompany the RDH District Medical Officers each Thursday on their weekly visits to the Tiwi Islands. This arrangement was organised to provide Tara and Sara with the rural medicine experience that attracted them to undertake their third year of study in the NT. We hope to open this opportunity up to other students in the future.

We also have 6 Flinders medical students undertaking our Rural Clinical School program this year. The program includes a 6 month placement at RDH completing 4-week attachments in the five hospital-based disciples, and six months spent in our rural campuses of Katherine and Alice Springs experiencing medicine learnt within a community-based setting. We are expecting the semester change of the NT Rural Clinical School students in the upcoming week which should offer the students new and wonderful opportunities of learning medicine in the Territory.

We look forward to another successful teaching year in the Territory!
GENERAL INFORMATION

BIRTH
A precious bundle was delivered on the 22nd March 2007 to Anna & Dan. The NTCS & NTRCS would like to congratulate Anna & Dan on their sons Nate safe arrival. We always know from our sites when “Anna & bub” are in the Office at Darwin as everyone is oohing and aahing in the background.

New Staff
We welcome Mary Pocock—Student Support Team Leader at the NTCS and Dr Deborah Rozzoli—Academic Coordinator at NTCS.

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LATEST MEMBERS OF THE NTCS

New Dean School of Medicine, Flinders University
NTCS held a function at the Darwin Sailing Club on Monday 28 May to farewell Professor Lindon Wing as Dean of Flinders University School of Medicine, and to welcome Professor Paul Worley into this role.

Newsletter Name – We need a great name for our new newsletter. Please email velda.mazoudier@flinders.edu.au any great ideas you have. Please forward this newsletter on to anyone you know who might be interested. If you want to unsubscribe to this newsletter or update your email address, please email your request to admin.ntcs@flinders.edu.au.