



Head of School Column

Dear colleagues


It's with a heavy heart that I write this, the last column for the BABS Quarterly in the Era of MP – Michele Potter.

After a decade as BABS School Manager, Michele will be leaving us at the end of March. It seems odd to think that Michele was our first School Manager – it's impossible to think of BABS being able to manage without a School Manager now. This is, of course, partially a function of the ever-proliferating administrative burden associated with university life, but it is also testament to how Michele has made this role her own.

BABS has been very fortunate indeed to have such a practical, level-headed School Manager as Michele. Anyone who has started in BABS in the last decade would attest to how helpful she has been in settling them in, and her proficient professionalism throughout the many trials and tribulations that the School has been through. Michele has also ensured that the BABS office runs like a well-oiled machine.

When I first took over as HOS, I relied heavily on Michele to show me the ropes. I have always been impressed with her professionalism and fantastic writing and publishing skills, which she has always used to great effect in her work, from finessing sensitive emails to producing beautiful Annual Reports and BABS Quarterlies (like this one!)



We'll miss her but wish her all the best as she exits stage left, to enter the sunlit world of leisure, with more time for the theatre, the grandkids and travel to picture postcard locales like  this...

Thanks Michele!

Best wishes,
Andrew

RAT

Research

- Total number of Cat 1 grants submitted by BABS researchers in the latest rounds are:
 - ARC Discovery Projects: 12
 - NHMRC Project Grants : 18
 - NHMRC Development Grant: 1
 - NHMRC Fellowships: 4
- Staff are reminded that in line with requirements of the ARC and NHMRC, UNSW's Open Access policy requires that all research outputs are openly available. To comply with this policy, appropriate versions of research outputs must be deposited into the UNSW institutional repository via ROS within 12 months of publication.
- Warwick Dawson recently visited the School and outlined the rebadged Knowledge Exchange unit. It aims to identify external partners to maximise the value of IP and support researchers to generate engagement and impact from their research.

Administration

- The new Division of External Relations (DEx) is now up and running, and provides services for corporate communications, audio visual content, creative design, websites, social media and event planning and support.
- The new BABS School Manager is **Suzanne Busby**, who commenced on 22 March.
- **Julna Zhao** is the new BABS rep in the Biosciences Student Office, replacing Alice Bishop-Ebiember.

Teaching

Two BAB teaching academics had successful bids for UNSW Education Foundation projects:

- **Rebecca LeBard**, *A support network for evaluation of teaching practices and innovation, ensuring educational excellence*, \$123,000
- **Louise Lutze-Mann**, *Digital assessment: empowering students and supporting teachers through innovative student-oriented educational practices*, \$197,000

Titans of Teaching awards for 2017s2:

- Best large course, **John Wilson**; best smaller course, **Nirmani Wijenayake & Andrew Brown**;
- Best large lecture, **John Wilson**; best smaller lecture, **Kate Quinlan & Andrew Brown**

Cancer Institute Fellowship

Research Associate **Frances Byrne** (Hoehn lab) has been awarded a prestigious Early Career Fellowship from the Cancer Institute NSW. These fellowships provide salary and project support to enable researchers to undertake independent research in cancer that is nationally and internationally competitive. Frances's project is entitled "Developing new drugs that selectively kill cancer cells by targeting the Warburg Effect, with total funding of \$590,041.



UNSW Academic Women in Leadership Program

Senior Research Associate (Crossley lab) and Scientia Research Fellow **Kate Quinlan** was selected to complete the UNSW AWIL program in 2018. The program is a gender equity initiative that aims to build a visible cohort of high potential, talented academic women to lead with confidence and competence; contribute to an increase in representation and distribution of academic women in senior appointments and on key policy and decision-making bodies; and support the 2025 UNSW strategies of building a culture that values and rewards staff excellence, and for its provision of pathways for development and progression.



BABS staff in the news



Kira as a pup with her mother

After winning the international competition to have the DNA of Sandy the dingo sequenced, **Bill Ballard** is leading a UNSW team that wants to sequence the genome of a German Shepherd called Kira. Kira's full DNA sequence will be used to help identify the genetic reasons why some dogs get the debilitating condition hip dysplasia. DNA variations that cause the disease in this breed will also help future studies in other breeds that have hip-associated problems, including Golden Retrievers, St Bernards, Labradors and Rottweilers. To fund the project, a campaign called Hip2Fit has been launched on the Grassrootsz crowdfunding platform.

2018 Semester 1 O-Week

Semester 1 has commenced, with our welcome to new students being held in the Clancy this year. Director of Teaching **Louise Lutze-Mann** gave a warm and informative presentation, ably supported by mega-organisers **Vivian Yeung, Seda Cokcetin** and **Jessica McConkey**. BABSOC members were actively out to impress as well!



BABS teaching labs foyer – new displays

Two glass display cabinets have been installed in the foyer of the BABS teaching labs, on Level 1 of E26. Their purpose is to display research and student items to showcase items of interest, and to attract new students as members of BABSOC. Initial displays in the research cabinet include the signatures of James Watson and Francis Crick, two of the discoverers of the DNA double helix. The student cabinet includes some soft and cuddly microorganisms, and an ongoing platform for students' creative work entitled *Future Facts from an Alternative Universe* (kicked off by an 'out there' contribution by the HOS ☺)



International Women's Day 2018



The School joined with our neighbour School BEES for this year's International Women's Day celebration, held on 8 March in the Bioscience South Staff Lounge.

Signing off ...



As many readers will know, after ten years in BABS, I am moving on and will leave UNSW at the end of the month. Creating the BABSQ has been one of the more pleasurable tasks within my role here in the School, and I've enjoyed wearing the hat of production editor. Looking back over the previous 34 issues, a plethora of staff and student achievements, milestones, and work and social events have been captured for posterity.

So, while it's time for me to pass the baton, I wish the whole School community all the very best, and will continue to monitor the wonderful work that is a hallmark of the School of BABS 'from the outside'.

Ciao, Michele



Our [facebook](#) 'likes' are now 1,042 – up from 1,006 in December 2017.

If you would like something included in the next BABS Quarterly please email Suzanne Busby at s.busby@unsw.edu.au