



Message from the Head of School

Dear colleagues,

First, I would like to officially welcome Kevin Morris to the School. Kevin has joined us from the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, and has big plans for his teaching of BABS3281 Molecular Genomics in Semester 2. Early next year we will also have Paul Waters (ANU) and Irina Voineagu (Riken Institute in Japan) join the School.

Over the past two months, the School Executive and the office personnel have been working on the 2011 Annual Report and the 2012 responses to the 2008 RAT Review. With some good fortune we will have a draft ready for viewing towards the end of the month.

BABSonians should be aware that discussions have commenced concerning the renovation of the Biological Sciences building. It is difficult to know whether the current initiative will have legs in this round, but there is certainly an air of optimism surrounding the preliminary discussions. Of course, there is still no certainty as to how individuals will be affected during this process.

As many will know, it's ARC and NH&MRC rejoinder season. I hope you have had a more pleasing experience than I have had in 2012! Notably, one of my ARC assessors reports was for another proposal. The ARC was contacted, and after 4 days it was replaced with the correct review.

Finally, please show some understanding towards individuals in the School Office over the next weeks and months, as there will be some rotation of personnel as people travel. Penny is currently in England till 23 July; Kylie goes to Greece and points beyond from 5 July to 20 August; and Liz is off to Fiji on 20 August to get married, returning on 10 September. In the meantime, Alana will continue to help keep the office afloat.

Best
Bill

RAT News

Research

- The next round of the Faculty of Science Visiting Fellowships closes on 31 July; applications for UNSW's VC Postdoctoral Fellowships close on 23 August; and ARC Future Fellowships (last round) open in early September.
- The Research@UNSW Gateway has undergone a redesign, with a key change being a new search engine that searches all UNSW websites so search results include all websites where a researcher or their research activities are mentioned.
- Staff in the School Office have recently been adding to the BABS presence on the Research Gateway, creating profiles for postdocs and other researchers not yet listed on the site. If you are a researcher and do not yet have your profile on the Gateway, please contact the School Office and this can be arranged for you.

Teaching

- In line with the UNSW Majors guidelines, from 2013 the number of majors supported by the School of BABS will be reduced from six to four: BIOTB1 – Biotechnology (BIOTA1 & BIOTB1), Microbiology and Immunology (MICRM1 & MICRO1), Molecular and Cell Biology (BIOCM1 & BIOCL1), and Genetics (BIOCC1 & BIOCG1)

Admin

- An abridged annual report for 2011 has been put together, and will be available on the [School Reports](#) page of the BABS website shortly.
- A project has commenced to upgrade the BABS website to reflect the new UNSW branding. The change in the site's appearance will result in a cleaner look, and the disappearance of most of the 'BABS purple', to be replaced with the yellow and black colours of the new UNSW image. The work is being undertaken by external web developers who work across UNSW in conjunction with Michele Potter. It is anticipated the new-look website will be ready to go live in about two months.

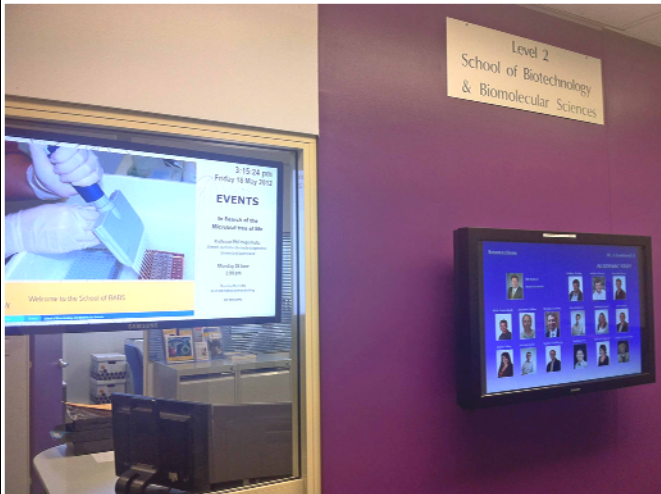
Student achievements

After gaining 1st place in the 2001 ASB Peter Farrell Challenge Cup and 2nd place (Life Sciences) in the I2P Global competition, the Pluvision team of students from BABS3091 Professional Issues in Biotech/STRE6030 Entrepreneurial Financial Management hybrid class was one of 6 finalists from 35 global entrants in the 2012 LES Foundation International Graduate Student Business Plan Competition. The team won expenses paid trips to travel to Boston to compete in the finals.

PhD student Nirmani Wijenayake, supervised by Louise Lutze-Mann, presented her research on new treatments for brain cancer on The Science Show with Robyn Williams on ABC Radio National on 19 May.



New technology for BABS



The School now has two digital media monitors, one in a glass cabinet in the foyer of the Biological Sciences building, and the other in the HOS office. The monitors feature presentations that include eye-catching graphics as well as information about upcoming seminars, events and other useful information for staff and students

The School also now has an electronic Touchscreen directory outside the Level 2 HOS admin office, replacing the staff directory posters. The electronic directory has the added feature of location information, with floor plans showing directions to office and labs.

Alan Wilton Memorial



The staff room located in the Samuels Building has been renamed in honour of Associate Professor Alan Wilton, who passed away in October 2011. A bronze memorial plaque was unveiled at a ceremony held in May, followed by a happy hour in Alan's memory.



If you would like something included in the next BABS Quarterly please email Michele at m.potter@unsw.edu.au