



Message from the Head of School

Colleagues,

One surprising recommendation from the 2012 RAT Review was a name change to the School of Molecular Bioscience. Whether this is an appropriate name or whether it should perhaps be School of Biomolecular Sciences is a matter of debate. Either way, School academics and staff need to be fully engaged in any change of name. Importantly, all stakeholders and alumni need to be consulted such that the national and international reputation of the School does not suffer. This may be a rather long and deliberate process, but branding is important, as is Biotechnology within the School.

Congratulations to all those academics who were recently promoted. Brett Neilan was awarded a Scientia Professorship - the award is for six years. Andrew Brown, Peter White and Rob Yang were successful in promotion to Professor, and Torsten Thomas and Scott Rice were promoted to Associate Professor.

Congratulations also to those who received teaching awards this year. In addition to Anne Galea (opposite), Andrew Brown was awarded a 2012 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence (Postgraduate Research Supervision), and Gee Chong Ling was awarded a 2012 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence (Sessional Teaching Tutors and Demonstrators).

Finally, on a personal note, I understand that Noel Whitaker announced at the Christmas boat cruise that I would not be standing for a second term as HoS. This is correct. I would have liked to be able to make this announcement myself, but was instead seated in an Oncology Clinic waiting room in Canberra while many were enjoying the delights of the harbour.

Best wishes for the holidays,

Bill

RAT News

Research

BABS researchers were awarded a number of grants in the latest rounds:

- *NHMRC Project*: Rob Yang & Andrew Brown; Ruiting Lan, Mark Tanaka & Sophie Octavia
- *ARC Discovery Project*: Brett Neilan, Torsten Thomas, Marc Wilkins, Rob Yang & Ian Dawes
- *ARC LIEF*: Marc Wilkins, Rick Cavicchioli & Rob Yang; Marc Wilkins, Brett Neilan & Rick Cavicchioli (Ramaciotti Centre)
- *UNSW Gold Stars- NHMRC*: Hazel Mitchell, Vladimir Sytnyk, Brett Neilan
- *UNSW Gold Stars- ARC*: Andrew Brown, Bill Ballard
- *FoS Silver Stars – NHMRC*: Peter White
- *FoS Silver Stars – ARC*: Merlin Crossley, Kevin Morris

Teaching

The 2012 BABS teaching awards were presented at the October Staff Meeting. The awards went to:

- ♦ Highest teaching load: Hazel Mitchell
- ♦ Best CATEI small course: Chris Marquis/Rebecca LeBard
- ♦ Best CATEI medium course: Marc Wilkins
- ♦ Best CATEI large course: Anne Galea



At the 2012 Faculty Christmas party, the Dean presented Anne Galea with the 2012 Staff Excellence award for Teaching.

Admin

Under the leadership of H&S Manager Helder Marcal, the BABS emergency wardens raised the profile of this important area during the recent 2012 Fluoro Friday.



BABS in the news

- 👉 Mike Manefield was interviewed by ABC Radio National's Off Track program in relation to his environmental research working on naturally occurring bacteria that remediate pollutants in contaminated groundwater. The interview relates to the Orica site at Botany, a highly topical issue, and can be accessed at: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/bacteria-breathe-away-industrial-toxins/4346300>
- 👉 Mike and his team received further ABC media coverage for their work on pollutant-degrading bacteria. This interview was given by team member Dr Matt Lee, and can be read on the ABC Science unit's "News in Science" website: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2012/10/30/3607002.htm>

Student achievements

- 👉 PhD student Sonia Ho, supervised by John Foster, was featured in the Oct/Nov issue of Cosmos. The article provided an overview of her PhD research project, which is to develop an ointment to assist healing of scarring that results from surgery or burns. Sonia also won a travel scholarship to attend the 2012 Human Proteome Organisation conference in Boston. <http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/6032/issue-47-health-special>
- 👉 PhD candidate Theo Orfanos, also supervised by John Foster, recorded a segment about his PhD topic for ABC Radio National's Science Show. Theo provides an overview of the significant effects to the human body caused by microgravity. The podcast is available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/how-the-body-reacts-to-prolonged-reduced-gravity-in-space/4363748>

BARDO

Another successful BABS Annual Research Day Out was held at the Coogee Beach Surf Club in October, with the interesting range of researchers presenting an overview of their research area not quite overshadowed by the dolphins frolicking in the ocean throughout the day.



Bandanna Day Fun



Many thanks to Penny Hamilton on behalf of the School for organising our participation in Canteen's National Bandanna Day. As well as raising \$258 for this worthy charity, some staff also had some fun with them as well!

Pitter patter of little scientists

Congratulations to H el ene Lebhar and family on the arrival of their baby boy T eo in October.



CAPTION COMPETITION – THE FUEL THAT SUSTAINS BABS ACADEMICS ? !

Recently snapped by the HOS, this combination of sugar and caffeine in the hands of Rebecca LeBard, one of our most svelte academics, is just begging for a caption!

Email your entry to Michele by 31 January 2013: m.potter@unsw.edu.au

Rebecca will be the judge, with the prize being a selection of 5 chocolates from the charity sale box in the School Office – that's right, more sugar!



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