

**Wednesday, 7 March 2007**  
**C032/07**

## **Top Curtin nursing graduate tackles research with prominent burns specialist Dr Fiona Wood as next big challenge**

One of Curtin University of Technology's top nursing graduates this year has not only graduated with distinction and been invited to do Honours, but will take on a research study with prominent burns specialist and former Australian of the Year, Dr Fiona Wood, as part of his Honours study.

From a class of 131, Sam Campanella is one of the 11 male students to graduate in February 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Sam has also set himself apart from his classmates by being one of only six graduating nursing students on the Vice Chancellor's List at Curtin. Membership to the Vice Chancellor's List is granted at the completion of each semester to the top one per cent of undergraduates.

Delighted with his achievements, Sam expressed his excitement at embarking on his Honours research project with Dr Wood.

"After three and a half years of hard work and commitment to complete my degree, I feel a great sense of satisfaction and pride at what I have achieved," Sam said.

"Nursing is not an easy course to complete as it involves many hours of theory and many more hours of unpaid clinical time. However, I feel that every effort I put in was worth it as I have grown so much, both professionally and personally, in the past few years.

"It really excites me that now I have the chance to do my Honours and also to work with such an accomplished professional like Dr Fiona Wood."

For his Honours research Sam will compare two different dressing types on paediatric burn patients who have been treated with cultured epithelial autograft or "spray-on skin."

The research is designed to discover what effects the different dressing types will have on pain, anxiety and healing outcomes for these patients.

Sam's research will be one of the first of its kind in the world.

Dr Wood will contribute to Sam's research by applying the different dressing types on patients, which has to be done under general anaesthetic by a surgeon.

"Being able to tap into Dr Wood's vast knowledge and experience will be extremely beneficial for my research and studies," Sam said.

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