

ISSUE 2, OCTOBER 2011

INSPIRING RESEARCH

INSPIRING RESEARCH
CONNECT:
COMMERCE NEWSLETTER

NEWS

That winning feeling!
Commerce researchers doing UOW proud

ARC Discoveries, Linkages and Fellowships abound

Trailblazing Innovation!

Industry research partnerships flourishing

Commerce Professor awarded prestigious
Harvard Business School Fellowship

**UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG**
FACULTY OF COMMERCE



***Inspiring Research* is the research magazine of the University of Wollongong Commerce Faculty and is published twice per year.**

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2nd edition of Inspiring Research, a newsletter detailing and celebrating the research activities and achievements of academic staff and research students of the Faculty of Commerce. Two of the key research strategies of the faculty are widely addressed in the new stories in this edition – the integration of our research students into the research culture of the faculty and the importance of building external linkages and collaborations. With respect to the latter, collaboration with universities in Thailand, Sweden, China and Singapore are featured. At the same time, other stories report important connections built with local partners, emphasising the contribution of the Faculty to the continued economic and social development of the Illawarra. Finally, I am pleased to note that many of the success stories featured in this edition have received grant support from the university or the faculty and it is heartening to see how much has been achieved for relatively modest investments.

Simon Ville
Associate Dean Research

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Inspiring Research will be published twice annually and features articles and news related to the Faculty's research. We welcome contributions from any member of staff and from HDR students. Articles on your research, new publications, conference successes, grants, upcoming events – in fact, anything relevant – are needed. If you have research events that you think would make for a good story, and would like someone to take photos of it, please let us know.

Rob Hood, Editor

BREAKING NEWS

Large ARC Linkage awarded for Technology and Innovation Management Study

Congratulations to IIBSoR members Professor Tim Coltman and Dr Rajeev Sharma, who have just received a 2012 Linkage Project grant of \$652,367 for the project "Technology and innovation management in high risk situations".

This project is being conducted in partnership with Port Kembla Port Corporation and Newcastle Port Corporation, who will contribute a further \$675,000. It also brings together a cross-institutional team of experts, including Prof Tim Devinney (UTS); Prof Siegfried Gudergan (QUT);

Dr Benjamin Brooks (UTAS); Dr Nidhida Lin (UWS).

The Linkage project will run parallel to a technology innovation project being conducted by the Alliance for Supply Chain Innovation (which also includes the UOW Linkage investigators) that is investigating the development of technology that will improve safety in piloting vessels into ports. This grant is the largest awarded to UOW in this round, and the 5th largest amount awarded nationally.

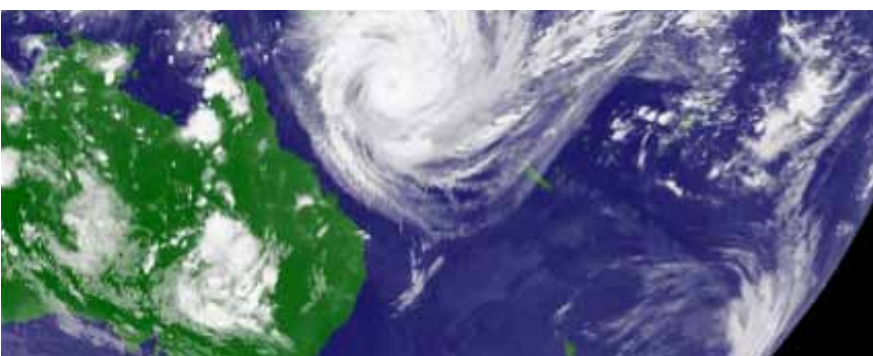


Port Kembla Port – one of the fieldwork locations for the ARC Linkage project. (Image: PKPC)

ARC Discovery to help identify and understand disaster resilient tourists

Congratulations also to IIBSoR members Professor Sara Dolnicar and Dr Ulrike Gretzel for receiving a 2012 Discovery Grant of \$200,000 for the project "Reducing the Australian tourism industry's vulnerability to external shocks: identifying and understanding disaster resilient tourists." On a planet where natural and man-

made disasters regularly impact heavily on the tourism industry, this project will no doubt provide new and valuable insights. Whilst Professor Dolnicar is of course no stranger to ARC success, this is Associate Professor Gretzel's first attempt and first success (meaning she currently holds the honour of a 100% ARC success rate!).



Cyclone Yasi 2011
(Image: Herald Sun)

BREAKING NEWS

ARC Discovery to investigate petrol prices

Associate Professor Abbas Valadkhani has been awarded \$99,204 for the project "Does retail petrol price respond asymmetrically to changes in its cost? A modelling framework." The study will investigate the

response of Australian petrol prices to increases and decreases in the price of oil, and whether there is evidence of asymmetric pricing behaviour in the market.



Are petrol consumers being treated fairly?
(Image: Wikipedia)

Future Commerce Research Leaders receive DECRA

The Federal Government has just announced the inaugural Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) recipients, and the Faculty of Commerce received two of only seven awarded to UOW.

Dr Peter Siminski, from the School of Economics, and Dr Melanie Randle, from the School of Management and Marketing, were amongst a select group of only a few hundred early career researcher academics nationally to be given the prestigious award.

Dr Randle was awarded \$375,000 over the next three years to investigate how to improve the ability of foster care organisations to attract the particular types of carers best suited to the children needing homes.

Dr Siminski was awarded \$375,000 over the next three years to investigate the human costs of conflict, the social determinants of life outcomes, and consequences of induced employment disincentives for older men.



Dr Melanie Randle



Dr Peter Siminski

BREAKING NEWS

Simon Ville wins visiting fellowship at Harvard University

Professor Simon Ville, Associate Dean Research for the Faculty, has been awarded a prestigious visiting fellowship at Harvard Business School in Boston. The fellowship, The Alfred D. Chandler Jr. International Visiting Scholars in Business History Program, will see Simon collaborate on business history research projects with some of the world's greatest minds.

"It is a great privilege to be awarded the fellowship," said Professor Ville. "I will be in Boston for a full semester and my primary activity will be to interact with faculty and researchers, present work at research seminars, and conduct business history research."

The Alfred D. Chandler Fellowships offered at Harvard encourage research concerned to relate historical reality to underlying economic theories of business development. There is only one fellowship per year offered to Americans and one other to an international scholar. "My family will be coming with me to Boston so it will also be a great experience for them to live in another part of the world."

Simon will head to the US in September, 2012.



Professor Ville



Innovative Online Team Learning Tool Wins UOW Trailblazer Competition

In a significant coup for the Faculty of Commerce, a project undertaken by Professor Trevor Spedding and Ms. Belinda Parrish was recently announced by Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Professor Judy Raper, as the Open Category winner of the 2011 UOW/UniQuest Trailblazer Competition.

IDLE, or the Interactive Dynamic Learning Environment, is a simulation game that provides multidisciplinary teams of Commerce students with a realistic virtual environment within which to run their own manufacturing business.

The online simulation allows students to log on from any location to play the game, with teams competing across a multidisciplinary performance matrix, reflecting the undergraduate majors in the Faculty. Key performance areas include profit, environmental impact, sustainability, social innovation, quality of service and ethical performance. Individual team members are responsible for different aspects of business performance such as operations, quality, marketing, HR, finance, accounts, etc. Students are required to make multidisciplinary interactive decisions based on sound ethical, socially responsible and sustainable practice.

The design of IDLE began 18 months ago with the aim of developing an online web based simulation for use in the new capstone subject "Simulation of a Socially Innovative Enterprise" which would enable a holistic view

to business education ensuring that students think about the economic, environmental and social consequences of their decision-making. The best way to do this in a risk-free environment is within a simulation that can be played during laboratory tutorials. Each week during the session represents a year in IDLE and so the multidisciplinary teams make decisions based on a scenario that is presented to them that is linked to the lecture for a year in operation.

IDLE ensures our graduates leave the Faculty of Commerce with an integrated knowledge of all the disciplines and not just their major. Organisations employing business graduates increasingly demand them to hit the ground running with the understanding of these inter-relationships and their contexts and engaging in IDLE assists to ensure our students have this understanding.

IDLE has ran in 2012 successfully and will kick off with the first official graduates of the new BCOMM in 2013 which numbers estimated to be 600 per session. In the future IDLE will also run in the overseas campuses.

The Trailblazer Competition is an annual event that was developed to reward innovative ideas and early-stage research that has the potential to benefit the community, industry or business, as well as generate a financial return. The prize money from Trailblazer will be used to further develop IDLE for possible commercial outcomes.



From left, Prof. Trevor Spedding, Prof. Judy Raper and Ms Belinda Gibbons-Parrish at the Trailblazer Awards

BREAKING NEWS

Local Businesses Jump on the Digital Path

A selection of company winners from the Illawarra Business Awards showcased their digital stories produced with the assistance of the People and Organization Research Centre (PandO) at University of Wollongong on September 12.

Almost one year ago, PandO and the Illawarra Business Chamber came together to develop a plan to capture the stories of local businesses and their success. The businesses were supplied an intern from the University to help them create a digital recollection of the local businesses life cycle and their story. The purpose of the project is to gain insight into local businesses through their digital storytelling.

The Commerce Intern, Lucy Rae, has been working for the project for the past year and found it very beneficial.

"I've found the overall experience great in applying to my studies, the development of the digital stories as well as working directly with the businesses has offered me skills which I can apply to future work," said Lucy.

"It's been great to meet the employees/owners and learn about their businesses. Starting at their ideas for the digital stories and seeing the final product has definitely given me more insight into their roles within the business as well as the role that the company has within the community."

Peter Jack, General Manager of HealthyEarth, said it was terrific that the University is working with the business community to help get their stories out there. "Most businesses have great stories behind their road to success," said Peter. "This can often become part of the community's history. The details of sacrifice, success, generosity and personal achievement can be very inspiring to those looking on and having the story shared with them."

The companies involved in the workshop include: Flagstaff; Peoplecare; RMB Lawyers; Healthy Earth; Illawarra Business Chamber and Cleverlink.



From left: Rachelle Dirou from Cleverlink (one of the businesses that developed a digital story as part of the project), Dr Peter McLean from PandO, Brad Braithwaite (Commerce) and Lee Tanks (Illawarra Business Chamber)

CSBRR Wins UIC Grant for Collaboration with Thai University

The Centre for Small Business and Regional Research (CSBRR) has been awarded a UIC Internationalisation Grant for a project that aims to expand on the strong collaborative ties the centre has already developed over the past three years with Khon Kaen University (KKU) in Thailand. The funding will help to grow existing research ties and support the broadening of collaborative efforts to include new cross-institutional teaching and exchange initiatives. Specifically, the funding will help to generate a number of significant cross-institutional benefits, including:

- The expansion of an existing collaborative pilot study to include a greater geographical coverage in Thailand, leading to a comparative study of the technical efficiency of Australian and Thailand SMEs.
- The establishment of a joint **Centre for Asian SME**

Research located at the Nong Khai Campus of KKU.

- The development of a new cross-institutional teaching program. This joint initiative will develop three subjects that are both pedagogically and practically tailored to cross-cultural teaching in economic theory.
- Supporting the **SMEs in a Global Economy** Conference in November 2011, jointly organised by CSBRR (UOW) and KKU.

UOW Economics PhD student, Teerawat Charoenrat, hails from KKU and will return there upon finishing his doctorate. He will be working on the Centre's joint research study, helping to develop the joint teaching program, and playing a role in helping to establish the Centre for Asian SME Research.



Right: CSBRR Director, Associate Professor Charles Harvie, pictured with HDR student Teerawat Charoenrat

BREAKING NEWS

Chinese Student Migration Study awarded URC Small Grant

Dr Zhiming Cheng, from the School of Economics, has won a URC Small Grant for a study investigating Chinese domestic labour market conditions and international student migration to Australia.

His project will explore urgent and complex issues about the changing dynamics of Chinese student

migration and the current downturn in student numbers in Australia. Student migration and destination choices will be examined in light of China's labour market conditions, employment opportunities, demand for foreign qualification and social changes.

Industry Partnership Formed With IRT to Develop a True Measure of Service Quality in Aged Care

Dr Lois Burgess and Professor Mary Barrett, both of the School of Management & Marketing, have received funding from the People and Organisation research centre to begin research to build a measure of service quality of residential community care for older people.

The researchers are concerned that in an era of rapidly increasing demand for aged care and likely changes in how it will be provided and funded, the aged care sector lacks detailed knowledge of people's ideas about how they wish to spend their later years. Residential care for older people has evolved from low-level (hostel accommodation) and high-level care (nursing homes) to multiple levels which include service-integrated housing. However, the existing literature on service quality in residential care for older people is limited both by its focus on nursing homes, and the lack of rigour of many previous studies. Dr Burgess and Professor Barrett are also responding to the call by the Productivity Commission's 2011 report: **Caring for Older Australians**, to enhance the quality of aged care, and gather better data and evidence about what this means.

The research, which will be carried out with help from the Illawarra Retirement Trust (IRT), will initiate the qualitative phase of a longer term project. The study will incorporate the often overlooked expectations and perceptions of residents as well as pre-residents, families, and providers (comprising administrators and direct care delivery staff). The service quality measurement tool that will be developed from the research will allow all these groups to better understand care and outcomes for people in aging communities and those who support them.



The Global Research Network on Women and Sustainability has been awarded US\$749,000 in funding. IIBSoR's Associate Professor Ulrike Gretzel (pictured above) is on the Steering Committee of the international collaborative research project, which mentors underrepresented women and women from developing countries in research on environmental sustainability and climate change.

Welfare Prosecutions Weighted Against Women

Women are more likely to be convicted of social security fraud, a study by researchers from Social Accounting and Accountability Research Centre (SAARC) has found.

The study looked at 56 case files from Legal Aid Wollongong from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010.

The study, **Centrelink Prosecutions at the Employment/Benefit Nexus**, was carried out by the researchers Freda Hui, Lee Moerman and Kathy Rudkin from the School of Accounting and Finance.

One of the major findings of the study was that females dominate cases of social security fraud of criminal cases that are brought to Wollongong court. Of the defendants in criminal social security fraud cases 57% are female. This is an over-representation given that the percentage of female offenders in criminal courts of all cases is approximately 21%.

While social security fraud occurs when employment income is under reported, this study did not concern itself with the reasons the defendants had for incorrectly reporting their income. It did however note that 99% of prosecutions for social security fraud were successful.

The study also provides a breakdown of social security fraud convictions based on the type of benefit. Parenting payments, single and partnered, top the list with 40%. The remainder is made up of Newstart allowance (38%), Disability allowance (12%), other (6%) and Youth Allowance (4%).

"It can be surprisingly easy for a social security recipient to find themselves under reporting income given that Australia has one of the highest rates of casual employment in the developed world with research claiming more than two million being casually employed," says Dr Lee Moerman.

"While business claims this flexibility of employment is beneficial the inconsistent nature of employment can lead to problems when it comes to reporting income to Centrelink."

The study also targeted ways to reduce social security fraud.

The findings and recommendations from the Report have already generated considerable interest in the community.



From right: SAARC researchers Kathy Rudkin, Freda Hui and Lee Moerman

BREAKING NEWS

UOW and Five Councils Join in New Consortium

A new consortium which represents an innovative model for research collaboration and engagement between local government authorities and UOW was officially launched on Friday 28 October.

Five keystone councils are committed and actively involved in the consortium for at least a three-year initial period – Wollongong City, Shoalhaven City, Hurstville City, Rockdale City and Camden councils.

The Director of the Local Government Research and Practice Development Consortium, Associate Professor Andrew Sense (School of Management and Marketing), said essentially the consortium created the supported opportunity for nominated council staff to engage in doing a Masters by Research or a PhD through UOW on projects that are of strategic importance to a council or to the local government sector more broadly.

The other focal point of the consortium will involve UOW acting as the hub for networking, research guidance and knowledge exchanges between the five councils, their researchers and the University.

"This will be achieved, for example, through quarterly showcase forums where candidates will make presentations on their projects and UOW staff in various

research centres will have opportunities to showcase their research to an invited audience of senior council staff," Professor Sense said.

Twelve new research projects across Management (9), Marketing (2) and Engineering (1) disciplines are now under way with an additional five to eight new consortium research projects expected to begin each year thereafter, all of which have been endorsed by the respective councils as being of significance and the higher degree research council candidates are generally senior-level council staff.

Professor Sense said that the consortium addresses many of the University goals concerning community and professional engagement, the recruitment of high-quality research students, and will also underpin many new scholarly publications as the higher degree research students progress through their projects. He said it would also create opportunities for UOW to jointly develop external grant applications with the five councils involved as well as initiate other research opportunities.

The consortium has attracted the support of external professional organisations such as the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA).



Pictured at the launch are (from left): Assoc Prof Andrew Sense (LG Consortium Director); Matthew Apolo (Project Design Engineer, Shoalhaven City Council); David Farmer (General Manager, Wollongong City Council); Noleen Jessup (Manager Employee and Community Relations, Camden Council); Professor Trevor Spedding (Dean, Faculty of Commerce); Victor Lampe (General Manager, Hurstville City Council); Tom Tyrpenou (Manager, Human Resources, Rockdale City Council)

BREAKING NEWS

Prominent social researcher and commentator joins UOW and IIBSoR

Hugh Mackay, one of Australia's most prominent researchers and commentators on social trends, recently joined UOW as Professor of Social Science with the Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research (IIBSoR).

Having developed his own unique methodology for qualitative research and with extensive research experience, Hugh is an ideal fit with the team at IIBSoR, whose key aim is to develop and validate innovative and reliable qualitative and quantitative measures for business and the social sciences.

Hugh will be involved in a range of initiatives including IIBSoR research projects, public lectures on social issues, mentoring early career researchers, and the new Masters of Market and Social Research Course developed by IIBSoR.

One of the first research projects Hugh and the IIBSoR team are undertaking centres on focus group methodology. Each year, hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on qualitative research in Australia and the majority of this takes the form of focus groups. Information resulting from these groups is used to inform important commercial, social and political decisions, however little consideration is given to the validity of the data produced or the appropriateness of the method used.



This project compares the commonly accepted "typical focus group" method with Hugh's unique alternative approach: the "unfocussed group discussion technique". The study will identify whether the focus group method influences the data that emerges, and in turn, whether different methods should be considered when designing focus group research rather than just blindly accepting the current industry norm.

As a psychologist, author and social research practitioner, Hugh has been a pioneer of social research in Australia. His influence extends to the government, education and corporate sectors and he has become a household name through his thirteen popular works of both fiction and non-fiction. His latest book **What Makes Us Tick? The Ten Desires That Drive Us** is a highly personal account of the things Hugh has learnt from decades of experience listening to people talk about their dreams, fears, hopes and disappointments.



Above: Pictured with Professor Hugh Mackay is Dr Melanie Randle, who will be working with him on the focus group methodology project and IIBSoR Director Professor Sara Dolnicar.

BREAKING NEWS

Vice-Chancellor's 2011 Research Excellence for Senior Researcher Award

Congratulations to IIBSoR Director Professor Sara Dolnicar on receiving the Vice-Chancellor's 2011 Research Excellence for Senior Researcher Award.

Sara's contributions within research methodology and measurement for the social sciences, her successful research leadership and high level of research

performance over many years were only a few of many factors that granted her this award.

This group of awards recognises the outstanding contributions that academic staff and their partners are making towards research excellence.

Tim Coltman joins Editorial Board of top management journal

Professor Tim Coltman from IIBSoR has been invited to join the Editorial Review Board of Journal of Supply Chain Management (JSCM). Prof. Coltman also had his paper titled "What drives the choice of a third-party logistics provider?" appear in the April edition of the journal. According to the 2010 ISI Impact Factor scores, JSCM is ranked second out of 144 management journals with an impact factor of 5.853.

In addition, Tim had a paper titled "Best-worst approach to predict customer choice for 3PL services" appear in the June edition of **Journal of Business Logistics** (JBL). The journal is ranked 10th out of 144 management journals with an impact factor score of 3.905.

Both journals are experiencing a rapid ascendancy in importance to scholars in management.

IIBSoR Research Retreat 23–24 November 2011

IIBSoR will be holding its final retreat for 2011 at Kangaroo Valley, with guest visitor Andrew Pettigrew, Professor of Strategy and Organization at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.

Professor Pettigrew has held academic appointments at Yale University, Harvard University, London Business School, University of Bath and Warwick Business School.

He has published many academic papers and books that consider the human, political, and social aspects of organisations and their strategies in contrast to the purely economic view in which the main unit of analysis is the firm or industry.

He was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2009 New Year Honours. (Source: Wikipedia)



New Research Centre on the Move

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE MARKETING (CRSRM)

Members of the newly established Centre for Research in Socially Responsible Marketing (CRSRM) have been busy successfully developing the centre's research profile over the past few months.

Shaun Powell, for example, guest co-edited and produced two special issues of ERA-ranked A journals in September, the **Journal of Business Ethics** on 'Ethical Corporate Marketing' (Volume 102, No. 1) and the **European Journal of Marketing** on 'Identity Perspectives on Corporate and Organisational Marketing' (Volume 45, Issue 9/10).

Centre co-directors, Alan Pomering and Gary Noble, along with associate member Les Johnson of the University of Melbourne's Melbourne Business School, also recently enjoyed publishing success in the ERA-ranked A **Journal of Sustainable Tourism** with their paper, 'Conceptualising a contemporary marketing mix for sustainable tourism'. These authors also had their related work, 'A Sustainability Marketing Model for Management Education and Practice', presented at the 4th UNESCO Sustainable Development in Higher Education Conference during September, in Lueneburg, Germany.

Centre newcomer, Nadia Zainuddin, has become an investigator with Rebekah Russell-Bennett and Josephine Previte on a project entitled: From Hospitals to Hospitality: Understanding the influence of Interaction with Staff and Service Quality on Donor Intention to Redonate

(2011 Australian Red Cross Blood Service Competitive Grant Scheme — Award Amount: \$69,500). Nadia has also recently produced a co-authored publication in the **Journal of Marketing Management** (ERA A) on 'A social marketing approach to value creation in a well-women's health service' (Volume 27, Numbers 3-4).

During July Paul Chad, a previous doctoral candidate, received a PhD in Marketing for a thesis that focuses on how charities operate within the marketplace.

Additional ERA-ranked publications have recently been produced by members of the centre and a number of interesting research projects are continuing. Associate Professor Gary Noble and Dr Alan Pomering's investigation into the influence of third-party organisation endorsements of pro-environmental (social marketing) advertisements is drawing to a close, and Dr Elias Kyriazis and Alan Pomering's research into effective communication strategies for skin cancer detection and prevention for people with mild intellectual disability is also nearing completion.

Although relatively young, the newly established Centre is already making some significant and far-reaching contributions to the Faculty's international esteem and growing visibility, offering the opportunity for further and exciting synergistic collaborations within its research fields.

Queries for the Centre can be directed via co-directors Associate Professor Gary Noble (gnoble@uow.edu.au) and Dr Alan Pomering (alanp@uow.edu.au), or Dr Shaun Powell, Associate Head of School, Marketing (spowell@uow.edu.au).

UOW Connection to Doctoral Developments at Uppsala University, Sweden



Left: A/Prof. Rod Clarke and part of the doctoral cohort and members of the Professor's Council listening to questions raised during the Doctoral Student Day.

During September, A/Prof. Rod Clarke (School of Management and Marketing) took part in a number of significant research activities at the Institute of Information and Media Studies (Institutionen för informatik och media) at Uppsala University in Sweden. A/Prof. Clarke's visit coincided with the annual meeting of Doctoral Students and Professors associated with the Swedish Research School, Management and IT (also known as Swedish MIT). Prof. Pär Ågerfalk, who holds the chair of the Intersection of Social Issues and Informatics and who is also currently the Dean of the Swedish MIT, invited A/Prof. Clarke to present to the doctoral students and provide feedback on their presentations. The aim of the 'Seminars and Thesis Work' theme was to introduce the students to the thesis process and thesis writing in order to support their postgraduate work.

The success of A/Prof. Clarke's involvement in the MIT program and his experience as a multidisciplinary researcher in the various relevant areas gained him an invitation to chair the Institute's own inaugural Doctoral Student Day a week later – a significant event designed to help students identify synergies between the different disciplines in the Institute. The doctoral

students are involved in a wide spread of cutting edge and challenging topics, including online interactivity, computer game communities, touch-based interfaces, visual programming environments, open innovation frameworks for organisations, sustainability and information systems, 'universal' or inclusive design principles for input to information systems, online psychosocial care of patients, criticism in traditional mass media and social media, state controlled and independent media organisations coverage of HIV in several high prevalence African states, as well as surveillance in social media and social networking sites.

As well as his talk on dissertation writing, A/Prof. Clarke was asked to act as Discussion Leader at the end of the day, facilitating students to discuss any issues of relevance to their candidature and to encourage them to discuss ideas that would assist them, and encouraging the members of the Professors Council to see the opportunities inherent in closer disciplinary ties and research integration between different fields of research.

The Doctoral Day was considered a great success, helping to bridge areas of media studies, information systems and computing science.

Uppsala University is one of Sweden's best Universities and is listed in the prestigious Times Top 100. It is also one of the world's oldest universities inaugurated in 1477.

On the right is the vista seen when descending from the Sun Deck and into the Ekonomikum Library on the way back to the Doctoral Day.



HDR Student Excellence Award Winner

Amir Arjomandi (Associate Lecturer in Economics) won the **HDR Student Excellence Award** at the annual Student Awards Ceremony on Thursday 28th April 2011 at City Beach Function Centre, Wollongong. Amir (pictured below) is a PhD student in Economics, who commenced his PhD in 2008. Amir's thesis is about "analysing efficiency and productivity of financial institutions using non-parametric approaches".



PhD Conference Presenter

Michael Hililan (PhD student Economics) for acceptance of his application to present a paper at the forthcoming 24th PhD Conference in Economics and Business, University of Queensland, 18th–20th November 2011. This is the leading PhD conference of its kind in Australia and is organised by the School of Economics at the University of Queensland in conjunction with the ANU Centre for Economic Policy Research and the University of Western Australia Business School. Michael (pictured below) is supervised by Assoc. Prof. Ed Wilson and Dr Khorshed Chowdhury.



Changing Facts: Changing Minds; Changing Worlds

HDR student Shaheena Muniruzzaman (School of Economics) presented a paper in Curtin University's Graduate Research Conference, 20 and 21 October. The theme of the conference was "Changing Facts: Changing Minds; Changing Worlds".

Shaheena's topic was "The Impact of Microfinance on the Poor, Very Poor and Destitute in Rural Bangladesh: A Review of Some Existing Empirical Research". The purpose of the paper is to review existing empirical research on the impact of microfinance on the poor, very poor and destitute in rural Bangladesh, with a special focus on the destitute. Another purpose is to illustrate the fact that if the microfinance programs' primary goal is to help the poorest of the poor then it is irrational not to include the

destitute group, those most in need of assistance in rural societies, including Bangladesh. Therefore, this paper examines how the group most in need of assistance get assistance from the microfinance institutes, other non-government and government institutes and even from individuals, to eradicate poverty from their lives permanently by building up their own income generating assets gradually. Furthermore, the existing literature reveals that the microfinance programs reach the poor successfully, reach the very poor less successfully, but the destitute remain excluded.

Shaheena is supervised by Khorshed Chowdhury, Arusha Cooray and Peter Siminski.

International Recognition for PhD Thesis

Dr Tillmann Böhme from the School of Management and Marketing has won a prestigious award for his PhD. Dr Böhme's PhD thesis titled "Supply Chain Integration: A Case-based Investigation of Status, Barriers, and Paths to Enhancement" gained international recognition by receiving one of only two "Highly Commended" Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards in the Logistics and Supply Chain Management category. The price was presented by Emerald on the 29th of September 2011 at the Sydney Business School Higher Degree Research Student Conference.



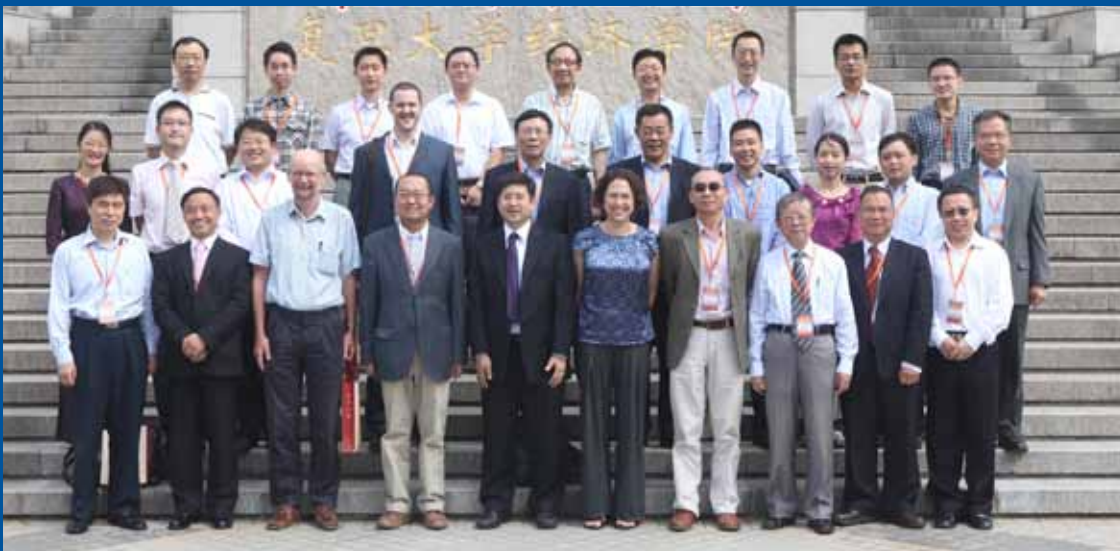
Right: Judy Reeves (Business Manager –Australasia Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Melbourne Office) presents Dr Böhme his Emerald Award certificate

CONFERENCES

Associate Professor Gary Tian, from the Chinese Commerce Research Centre in School of Accounting and Finance, with his PhD student, Vincent Tang, and Dr Jerry Cao from Singapore Management University have their co-authored paper accepted for the 24th Australasian Finance and Banking conference to be held in mid

December this year. This paper entitled "Disproportional Ownership and IPO Long-Run performance in China" has also been selected to be refereed for the special issue of the **Journal of Banking and Finance**. The **Journal of Banking and Finance** is ranked A* in both ERA and ABDC list in Australia.

Dr Shiguang Ma (School of Accounting and Finance), on behalf of Chinese Commerce Research Centre, attended The 4th Biennial Conference on Transition and Economic Development in China, jointly held by China Centre for Economic Studies (Fudan University, China) and Chinese Economic Society Australia from 19 to 20 September in Shanghai. The primary topic of the conference is Economic Recovery and Structural Change: Government, Market and Public Policies. About forty professors, scholars and economists (from University of Oxford, University of California, Australian National University, University of Western Australia, RMIT University, University of Wollongong, James Cook University, Nanjing Agricultural University, Fudan University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Tilburg University and Asian Development Bank) presented papers in this conference. Dr Shiguang Ma's paper is titled "Debt maturity structure in Chinese firms: Do ownership controller and bank monitor matter?" co-authored with Wenjuan Yuan and Gary Tian.



UOW's Dr Shiguang Ma (the fifth from the left in the second row) pictured at the 4th Biennial Conference on Transition and Economic Development in China with other speakers

PUBLICATIONS

The following includes all publications by Commerce academics entered into the Research Information System (RIS) for 2011 as of October 2011.

Book

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TOTAL PUBLICATIONS BY TYPE

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|---|----|
| Book | 6 |
| Book Chapter | 14 |
| Journal Article | 98 |
| Journal Publication (Edited) | 1 |
| Conference Publication | 26 |
| Conference Publication Published in Journal | 2 |
| Report | 2 |

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