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RESEARCH SERVICES OFFICE (RSO)

RQF UPDATE

The University has begun to implement a program to prepare our submissions for the Research Quality Framework (RQF), due in April 2008.

The RQF is a retrospective assessment of the quality and impact of our research outputs during the period 2001-2006. Data from the RQF will be used by DEST to allocate the Institutional Grants Scheme and a significant part of the Research Training Scheme from 2009. The RQF outcomes will also have an important effect on the University’s reputation and its ability to attract high quality undergraduate and HDR students and academic staff.

Key features of the RQF process

- The relevant period for assessment of both quality and impact is from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2006.
- The unit of assessment is the research group, not the individual. The groups that will be included for RQF purposes will not necessarily be the same as UOW strengths or other collaborative groups. Inclusion in a group will not affect a researcher’s future research affiliations.
- The University must submit an Evidence Portfolio for each group which includes the following elements:
  - Description of research context, with summary of main research achievements
  - Research income
  - Four “best” outputs for each researcher in group
  - List of research outputs
  - Impact statement, including up to four case studies
- Each portfolio will be assessed by one of 13 Assessment Panels, with advice from expert Advisors.

The way forward …

A small central team has been set up to coordinate the RQF process and to support research groups in developing their Evidence Portfolios. The members of the team are as follows:

Lee Astheimer: RQF Project Leader
Heather Sainsbury: RQF Coordinator
Sharon Hughes: Research Performance Data Management
Helen Mandl: Research Output Management (supported by Michael Organ, RO Manager)
Tracy Garlick: RQF Data Officer
Dale Dumpleton: RQF Administrative Officer

Faculties have also nominated key people to support the research groups and coordinate the flow of information for the portfolios. External editorial support will also be provided. Faculties have been divided into two groups to enable the Evidence Portfolios to be developed in stages:

Stage 1: Creative Arts, Commerce, Education, Engineering, Health & Behavioural Sciences, Law
Stage 2: Arts, Informatics, Science, Grad School of Business

It is anticipated that Stage 1 groups will complete their Portfolios by the end of October, with Stage 2 groups completing theirs in December.

For further information about the RQF process and the steps that we are taking to develop our submission, see: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rqf/index.html

Grant Writing Workshop

In line with feedback from the previous workshop the 2007 course was divided into two half-day modules. Twelve participants attended the second module which focused on developing grant writing skills and participated in a ‘live edit’
Upcoming Funding Opportunities

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<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>21 September</td>
<td>NHMRC Development Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>Notices of Intent for ARC Linkage Projects due to RSO</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 October</td>
<td>Round 3 Research Partnership Grant applications due to RSO</td>
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URC Research Partnerships Grant Scheme

Round 1 of the Research Partnership Scheme in March attracted eleven applications, of which seven were successful in obtaining funding totalling $72,576. Details of successful applications can be viewed at: https://intranet.uow.edu.au/raid/so/urc-outcomes/UOW022079.html

Dr Dennis Mather, AINSE Scientific Secretary is visiting UOW on 3 September 2007. During his visit, Dr Mather will give a presentation on AINSE funding opportunities for researchers in the Science, Engineering and HBS faculties. When: Monday, 3 September, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Unicentre Function Centre Room 2. (Morning tea will be provided) RSVP to Susan McGaffin (susanm@uow.edu.au or x3386) by Wednesday 29 August.

The Statistical Consulting Service (SCS) in the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics provides UOW researchers with statistical advice. They can advise on planning surveys and experiments, statistical analysis, presentation of results and preparation of grant applications. For more information, or to arrange a meeting, see http://www.uow.edu.au/informatics/maths/scs/ or email statcon@uow.edu.au.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Successful UIC International Links Grant Scheme</th>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Member &amp; Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Mark Rix Commerce</td>
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<td>Dr Mohan Chinnappan Education</td>
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<td>Prof Shixue Dou Engineering</td>
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<td>Prof Rian Dippenaar Engineering</td>
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<td>Dr Alex Remennikov Engineering</td>
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<td>A/Prof Zhengyi Jiang; Prof Kiet Tieu Engineering</td>
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<td>A/Prof SongPing Zhu Informatics</td>
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<td>Prof Eryk Dutkiewicz; A/Prof Xiaojing Huang Informatics</td>
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<td>Dr Annette Worthy; A/Prof Tim Marchant Informatics</td>
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<td>Prof Mark Walker Science</td>
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<td>Dr Marc in het Panhuis Science</td>
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<td>Dr Mark Dowton Science</td>
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<td><strong>Total Funding</strong></td>
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Everyone is welcome to attend these lunchtime lectures, to learn of the research work and achievements of academic staff members who have either been promoted to Professorial level or are recent appointments to the University. Sandwiches are available

- Wednesday 22nd August, Diana Wood-Conroy (Creative Arts) "The Paphos Theatre, Cyprus: conjunctions of art and archaeology"
- Wednesday 19th September, Colin Woodroffe (Science) "Climate Change and the Coast of Australia"
- Wednesday 17th October, Will Price "Phytoestrogens: are they Soy Good for you? Adventures with Bioactive compounds"

All presentations are in 20.2 (12:30pm -1:30pm)


Are you going to submit your thesis for examination soon?
If you are about to submit your thesis for examination, please note the following deadline: In order to avoid incurring fees for Spring Session 2007 (including international tuition fees and student body charges), you must submit your thesis by 31 August 2007. If you submit your thesis after this date, you must enrol for Spring session and pay the appropriate fee. Please note that you must be enrolled at the time of Submission.

Further information: Julie King, Thesis Officer in the RSC, on (02) 4221 3208 or Julie_King@uow.edu.au

The 2007 HDR Student Conference will be held on Wednesday, 26 September 2007. Register now to attend so you don’t miss out on the opportunity to hear about the groundbreaking research being undertaken by our higher degree research students.

You can register online at http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/hdrconference/UOW009063.html

Further information is also available on the Conference website at http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/hdrconference/index.html or contact Mari Dwarte mdwarte@uow.edu.au or phone extension 5454.
Commercial Research Unit established...

Establishment of the new Commercial Research Unit (CRU) demonstrates UOW’s commitment to supporting growth in commercial research.

The CRU is located in Building 36, opposite the Personnel Front Desk and in the same office suite as the PVC(R). Staff include:

- Dr Troy Coyle, Director
- Ms Leisa Ridges, Commercial Research Manager
- Ms Gina Portscher, Commercial Research Assistant (also assists MICs and reports to the Executive Assistant to the DVC-R); and
- TBA (we will advertise shortly) a 0.8 FTE Commercial Research Officer.

CRU staff are committed to improving the commercial research process for internal and external clients. Several new initiatives are planned:

- removing the upper financial limit (currently $50K) on fast-tracked contracts (i.e. standard contracts prepared by the Legal Services Unit);
- in collaboration with Emlab, development of an on-line database that will enable external clients to identify UOW’s researchers who are interested in commercial research; and
- development of a Customer Service Charter to allow both internal and external clients to know what level of service to expect from CRU.

CRU plans to conduct Faculty-specific training on the updated commercial research process later in the year.

CRU has already surveyed its key internal and external clients and modifications to processes will be made as a result of the feedback provided. Thankyou to everyone who participated in those surveys.

Finally, CRU expects to be fully operational by the middle of October when the new Commercial Research Officer will be recruited and Dr Troy Coyle returns from leave in September (she is off to France and Romania). In the meantime, the MICs will still be involved in the commercial research process.

CRU website: www.uow.edu.au/research/cru/
FYI: The Legal and Commercial Unit has been renamed Legal Services with Angela Taylor as Legal Counsel for the unit.

Big Ideas

Big Ideas is a network run by the Research and Innovation Division (RAID) for UOW’s Research Students (i.e. PhD, Masters by research and coursework and Honours students).

The Mission of Big Ideas is to expose UOW research students to the processes involved in innovation and commercialisation of research and hopefully assist them to commercialise their own ideas or obtain employment in commercial positions.

Specifically Big Ideas aims to –

- Increase UOW research students’ understanding of the innovation and commercialisation process
- Increase UOW research students’ awareness of the systems in place at UOW to support the commercialisation process
- Provide a regular forum for UOW research students to share ideas and be exposed to other peoples experiences in commercialisation and innovation
- Provide UOW research students with practical training on how to develop, deliver and critique a commercial pitch
- Provide regular forums for UOW research students to hear from and engage with experts from various areas of research commercialisation

Big Ideas will achieve this mission through:

- Holding regular seminars and social activities; and
- Establishing and regularly updating a Big Ideas Website with information on innovation and commercialisation

Upcoming events will be announced on the Big Ideas website with the first seminar planned for early September 2007.

For further information please contact: Leisa Ridges, Ph: 42214817, E-mail: leisa@uow.edu.au or visit www.uow.edu.au/research/news/bigideas/index.html

MIXA Events

The MIXA events are a new initiative which will be led by the Managers of Innovation and Commercialisation to bring together researchers across the University to discuss their passion and interests in specific “research areas”. If you would like the opportunity to network with other academics and students in a social gathering then this event is for you.

The launch of the first MIXA event will be held on Tuesday 28 August. The research area topic will be Defence and we encourage anyone who has a current link with defence or would like to develop a link with defence to come along.

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 pm
Venue: Foyer – Bldg 36 Admin Meeting Rooms
RSVP: Gina Portscher on x4486 or gina@uow.edu.au

Research Online

Research Online (ro.uow.edu.au), the University’s open access repository of research outputs, has been gearing up over recent months to store material as part of the forthcoming Research Quality Framework (RQF). During 2008 RQF assessors will access material in a secure section of RO via a DEST interface.

Research Online will continue to make material available on open access and welcomes submissions from all staff engaged in research. Increase the visibility and accessibility of your publications. A brochure about the repository has been produced with copies to be distributed shortly. For more details see http://www.library.uow.edu.au/services/research/ro.html or contact Michael Organ, on 3108 morgan@uow.edu.au; or Natalie Keene on 4787 nkeene@uow.edu.au
RIS and the Publications Collection

Did you present a paper at a conference during the mid-semester break? Did you use the time to publish some research? Enter your outputs into the Research Information System (RIS) as soon as they are published. The sooner the outputs are verified, the sooner they will appear in your publications list.

The University’s publications collection of 2006 outputs was finalized for DEST at the end of June. The total number of research outputs increased overall including the number of publications meeting the DEST criteria. 2007 outputs are now being collected.

With the implementation of RIS, the collection of publications is no longer limited to a particular time of the year. Staff are strongly encouraged to enter publications into RIS as soon as they are published and to submit the required evidence and copy of the publication to their faculty publication officer. This will assist in a more consistent workload for faculty and Library staff and a faster turnaround of publications appearing on individual, faculty and research group web sites.

Keep up to date

Stay in touch with the current literature, research and knowledge in your discipline. Email alerts are just one way of keeping up to date. RSS feeds can be established to supply updates on new knowledge. To find out more, use the link below. Remain current with the latest database trials and stay in touch with new database purchases for your faculty by viewing the Keep up to date web page:

Library homepage > Researchers > Databases > Keep up to date

NEW RESEARCH STAFF

Dr. Ali Dehghan-Manshadi (Research Fellow, Faculty of Engineering). “My academic research is focused on the hot deformation of steel and other metallic alloys. This is principally concerned with the microstructure characterization and study on recrystallization during and following hot deformation of steel. My current research interests include dynamic, static and post dynamic recrystallization of steel, phase transformation and microstructural characterization of steels.”

Dr Solomon Buckman has joined the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences as a lecturer in Earth Resources and Economic Geology. Sol completed his PhD at the University of Hong Kong investigating the tectonic evolution of the Eurasian continent and the formation of gold deposits in Xinjiang Provence, northwest China. For the past five years Sol has been teaching at the University of South Australia based in Adelaide. Sol joins UOW with aim of focusing on research studies in China and Central Asia as well as at home in the Lachlan and New England fold belts. He will be investigating the timing and nature of various mineralizing events and initiate collaborative research projects with the mining industry.

Central Asia is intensely seismically active and currently being sliced up by neotectonic faults emanating many thousands of kilometres from the India-Asia collision. Some of these faults have been active for the past 20 million years and have over 100 km of offset. These neotectonic faults are of great academic interest as they relate to the Indian continent ramming into Asia 34 million years ago and continuing it’s northward push today. This is a topic of intense academic interest and debate and there exists a unique opportunity to be the first of only a handful of foreign researchers to study this region and to develop strong research links within China.

More recently Sol has taken a small research diversion to look at the development of alluvial fans adjacent to major active faults but specifically looking at the paleofire history.

“This has stemmed from my wife’s current PhD studies of erosion following bushfires and the numerous fieldtrips we do together sometimes with the "assistance" of our kids. While Rowena is studying surface processes and geomorphology I thought it would be interesting to take a geological perspective and look for evidence of major fire events in the sedimentary record and relate that to past climate change or fire-farming practices.

I took on this position at UOW because I saw a fantastic opportunity to work within a healthy, vibrant, well-equipped School and to collaborate with some excellent researchers in the Earth Sciences.”

Dr Dilip Ghosh (PhD, MRSNZ, FACN) joins the NCEFF team to build the Centre’s expertise in the area of regulatory affairs. Dilip received his PhD in biomedical science from the University of Calcutta, India. Previously, he held positions in Organon Research (India), a division of Organon International, B.V. and AKZO-NOBEL, Netherlands; HortResearch, New Zealand; and USDA-ARS, Human Nutrition Research Centre of Aging at Tufts University, Boston. He was involved with two big research-based consortia in New Zealand, Wellness Food and Nutrigenomics New Zealand. He is a fellow of American College of Nutrition and professional member of The Royal Society of New Zealand, and The Society of Chemical Industry, London. His research interest includes oxidative stress, bioactives, and functional foods.

Louise Abrams was recently appointed to the National Centre of Excellence in Functional Foods (NCEF) in the new position of Business Development Manager. Her role will focus on building the profile of the Centre within the food industry, and seeking increased investment from industry and government. Louise previously held a business development role in the Research & Innovation Office of the University of Technology, Sydney, where she received her education in microbiology, and later business management.
Researchers at the University of Wol-longong, University of California San Diego (UCSD), University of Tennessee and the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (Germany) have discovered an explanation for how a deadly strain of “flesh-eating” bacteria have evolved to produce serious human infections worldwide. The research, reported in an advance online publication (15 July 2007) of the prestigious journal, Nature Medicine, focuses on the major hu-man pathogen group A Streptococcus (“strept”). The lead author is Professor Mark Walker from the UOW’s School of Biological Sciences, and the full article can be found at: http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v13/n8/full/nm1612.html

Gordon Wallace (IPRI) and Geoffrey Spinks (Engineering Faculty) have had an article published in RSC Publishing’s Chemical Technology Magazine. The magazine highlights the latest applications and technological aspects of research across the chemical sciences. The paper entitled: “Instant insight: Polymers in nanobionics” can be found at: http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/ChemTech/Volume/2007/07/wallace_insight.asp

RSC Publishing is a not-for-profit publisher wholly owned by the Royal Society of Chemistry, and one of the largest and most dynamic publishers of chemical science information in the world. Men talking about their emotions, and the misappropriation of language since 9/11, have provided the basis for two very different books released in 2007 by academic staff members within the School of Social Sciences, Media & Communication in the Faculty of Arts. Associate Professor Chris Barker’s book The Hearts of Men uses the stories of over one hundred men as a window in to men’s emotional lives, discovering that men are prepared to talk about their emotions with a surprising amount of insight. The subjects in the book are of varying ages with diverse backgrounds and lifestyles, and they tell in their own words how their emotional lives have generated happiness or despair, and how they have made changes in their lives. Barker finds that this leads to some incredibly honest stories as they open up and undermine the idea that men won’t talk about what worries them (UNSW Press).

Dr Mary Zournazi’s Keywords To War: Reviving Language in an Age of Terror explores how language and, in particular, key words such as freedom, justice and trust have lost their original and true meanings in the midst of the political climate stemming from the aftermath of the September 11 attacks in 2001. Zournazi believes these words have been misappropriated and twisted for political means, often to provoke a sense of fear during a time of war. Her book aims to revitalise language, tracing these words back to their origins, and in turn provide a hopeful and compassionate alternative in the current political environment (Scribe).

In July 2007, Dr Chao Deng (Faculty of Health & Behavioural Science) was appointed as an Editorial Board Member of The Open Behavioral Science Journal published by Bentham Science Publishers, USA. The Faculty of Commerce recently had a two week visit from Professor Prem Sikka, from the University of Essex, to participate in a mentoring scheme with five junior academics (from the School of Accounting and Finance). Professor Sikka worked with them on papers for publication, delivered a public lecture and a Higher Degree Research student workshop. His visit was funded with a Commerce Faculty Visitor Grant.

Professor Linda Tapsell (National Centre of Excellence in Functional Foods) was an invited speaker at the Future Foods for Future Health Conference (24-25 July : Melbourne). This conference, in it’s second year, brings together international and national leaders from public health, environment, research, urban planning, farming, agri-food production, food processing, retailers and marketing sectors to examine the critical drivers and opportunities between health, food and sustainability. There was broad support for the Conference from across government and non - government departments. On day 1, the Conference was opened by the Hon. John Brumby MP, Treasurer of Victoria, Minister for Regional and Rural development, Minister for Innovation. On day 2, the Conference was opened by the Hon. Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Health and Professor de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria.

Heidi Brown, Spatial Information Technical Officer in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, was presented with a “Specialist Certification as a GIS Professional - Asia Pacific” from the Spatial Science Institute at the SSI Conference in Hobart recently. Professor Graeme Clark of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) based at UOW has received the 2007 Klaus Joachim Zulch prize for his research into neuroscience and the Cochlear implant, giving hearing to deaf people. Professor Clark was awarded the prize for outstanding achievements in basic neurological research for developing the multi-channel Cochlear implant (Bionic Ear). Professor Clark will be awarded the prize at a ceremony in Cologne in August 2007. Representatives from the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) and Rotary Orange North have visited the UOW on 22nd August to acknowledge the research being funded at the university. The ARHRF has generously funded two UOW projects within the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Science’s Illawarra Institute for Mental Health, totalling $72,135. It is the first time the ARHRF have funded research grants at the UOW. Congratulations to Professor Frank Deane, Prof Lindsay Oades and Dr Trevor Crowe. The ARHRF is also jointly funding a PhD scholarship in cancer research in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Orange North and the Ian and Jean Simpson family, to the value of $75,000 over three years. The scholarship recipient, Kristie Munro is researching the importance of arsenic based anti-cancer drugs.

As part of the 2007 International Week at the UOW, the Research and Innovation Division in conjunction with University Internationalisation Committee (UIC) organised an official announcement of the 2007/08 recipients of the UIC Internationalisation Grant Scheme...
Wednesday 15th August (12:30-1:30pm)
in BLDG 20.2. Recipients will share in a pool of $104,000 worth of funding. At the event, hosted by Rob Castle, the recipients spoke briefly about their research with their international partner. For a complete list of the recipients please see page 3 of this document or: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/UOW030890.html

In early 2007 Professor Simon Ville (Commerce) was nominated by the ARC to be involved in its Learning Academy Special Projects team examining ‘Creativity and Innovation’ across the Social Sciences.

A/Professor Helen Hasan received a Best Paper Award in June 2007 at SimTech 2007, the Simulation Industry Association of Australian Conference. This award also contained a $5,000 certificate to fund travel to the USA in order to present the paper at the I/ITSEC Conference.

Dr Rodney Clarke has been awarded the prestigious award. He is one of the few people outside of Scandinavia to have received two PhDs. He is one of the few people outside of Scandinavia to have received two PhDs.

Dr Tim Coltman (Informatics) has been awarded a case writing prize of US $3,000 by the Council of Supply Chain Professionals the preeminent association for individuals involved in supply chain management.

Angelique Riespamsen (PhD student, Biology) received the Syd James prize at the Genetics Society of Australasias (2007, Sydney) for the best student poster ($500).

Kelly Meiklejohn (Advanced BSc student, Biology) received a Student Travel Award to attend the Genetics Society of Australasia ($500). Only 20 students received awards from across Australia. The Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) and the Australian Music Centre (AMC) have included Creative Arts staff and alumni as 2007 finalists for the annual Classical Music Awards (honouring the achievements and creativity of many within the Australian contemporary classical music industry). In addition to highlighting the talent and dedication of organisations and individuals in the new music scene, this event also aims to raise public awareness of outstanding new classical composition over the past year. The Faculty of Creative Arts is proud to congratulate 2007 finalists in the prestigious “Work of the Year” category for Vocal or Choral: Bruce Crossman, Merlinda Bobis and Lotte Latukefu. Nominated for their collaborative opera Daragang Magayon Cantata, Bruce completed his Doctorate of Creative Arts in Music Composition with UOW in 2000 under the supervision of Professor Andrew Schultz, Dean (Creative Arts). Merlinda is a respected author and current Senior Lecturer in the School of Journalism & Creative Writing with the Faculty at UOW. This piece of Filipino-jazz inspired music theatre, was written for mezzo-soprano and piano - music by Bruce Crossman with text adapted from the epic-poem by Merlinda Bobis (dancer-panther). Cantata of the warrior woman Daragang Magayon.

The finalists will be judged by a panel of leading composers, performers, musicologists, educators and critics with winners announced at the Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay, on 12 September 2007.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS
http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/student/scholarships/

• PHD studies on mine gas drainage and hydraulic fracturing? A three years fully funded scholarship is available for a person with strong interest in numerical modelling. Initial degree in either Mining, Civil, Environmental or Chemical Engineering. A generous numerical package is available for a successful candidate to commence his/her studies immediately. The job will allow the student exposure to underground coal mining operations in the Illawarra Southern coalfield of NSW. Please send your resume to: Associate Professor Naj Aziz, Tel: 02 42 213 449, e-mail: naj@uow.edu.au

• Three PhD Scholarships are available with the Faculty of Informatics in the area Statistical Research: sample survey analysis, theory and methods of modeling data with group structure and methods for small area estimation. The students will work within one of the UOW’s research strengths, The Centre for Statistical and Survey Methodology, and will be able to work with and visit the industry partners involved in the project in Canberra, Sydney and Wellington

• Top Up Scholarships with the Institute for Conservation Biology and Law (ICBL) for students taking up APA scholarships

• Commercialisation Training Scholarships for HDR Students

• The UOW is offering an APA(I) scholarship to a full time candidate, wishing to enrol in a PhD program in Ocean Wave Modelling and Marine Renewable Energy Systems.

• The Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM) at UOW is offering a scholarship for a postgraduate student at the Masters/PhD level in the Development of high performance second generation superconductors.

To ensure inclusion of your research news, event or service in the next issue of Raid (due for publication by mid October), please e-mail details to vwallace@uow.edu.au by Friday October 5th. Editor: Vicky Wallace (Research Service Office) : Design and Layout: Gerard Toomey (Printery)