Contributions

Contributions to Research & Innovation News (Research news, achievements and events) are always welcome.

For inclusions in the next issue, (due for publication in late March), please e-mail details to lhawes@uow.edu.au or vwallace@uow.edu.au
The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative (administered by the Australian Research Council) assesses research quality within Australia's higher education institutions using a combination of indicators and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.

One of the indicators to assess research is discipline-specific tiered outlet rankings such as a Journal List. The 2010 ERA Documentation was recently released by the ARC, and included the final 'Ranked Journal List'.

Four UOW Journals have been included in this List, with one of the journals ranked in the A tier, an indication of overall quality of the journal.

The journal, Law Text Culture is a trans-continental peer reviewed journal. It publishes critical thinking and creative writing across a range of genres - from artwork, fiction and poetry to the traditional scholarly essay. “It is distributed world wide in hard copy to leading libraries and institutions, as well as online through Australian and US web content databases” says Managing Editor Dr Rick Mohr.

Recent special editions of the journal have included ‘The Protection of Law’, on terrorism and human rights, and ‘Crime Scenes’, which included contributions from scholars and photographers from Australia, Canada and Italy.

The journal has had 4325 full text downloads from April last year to February 2010. Popular articles include R.L. Ginibi’s ‘Aboriginal traditional and customary law’ from volume 1 (1994) and C. Elder’s ‘Invaders, Illegals and Aliens: Imaging Exclusion in a White Australia’ from volume 7 (2003).

Law Text Culture is freely available on Research Online, the University’s open access research archive (http://ro.uow.edu.au/ltc/)

Other UOW journals included in the Ranked Journal List are:
- Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice;
- Australasia Accounting Business and Finance Journal; and
- Australasian Journal of Peer Learning

All journals can be found at: http://ro.uow.edu.au/peer_review_list.html

The entire ERA Journal List and further information is available at: http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_journal_list.htm

UPCOMING GRANT OUTCOMES & OPPORTUNITIES

**UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

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<td>2010 RIBG – Research Infrastructure Block Grants (Pool 2) applications due to Research Services Office</td>
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<td>24 May 2010</td>
<td>URC Research Partnerships Grants 2010 (Round 1) due to Research Services Office</td>
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**EXTERNAL GRANT SCHEMES**

**NHMRC Career Development Awards**
This scheme aims to further develop Australian health and medical researchers early in their career. It will enable investigators to establish themselves as independent, self-directed researchers; expand capacity for biomedical, clinical, public health and health service delivery research, and for evidence-based policy development in Australian health systems; and encourage the translation of research outcomes into practice. More information is available at: http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/cda/index.htm

**NHMRC Partnership Projects**
This scheme is designed to encourage researchers and partner organisations to form alliances to define research questions, identify research projects, conduct research, interpret its findings and promote the use of those findings to influence the design and evaluation of health and health care policy and practice. This scheme supports connections that will improve the translation of research evidence into health policy and practice, with the aim of improving health services and processes. More information is available at: http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/partnerships/index.htm#sec

**NHMRC Training Fellowships**
The purpose of NHMRC Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships is to provide opportunities for Australian researchers to undertake research that is both of major importance in its field and of benefit to Australian health. Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships
provide a vehicle for training in basic research either in Australia or overseas (where appropriate), to enable Fellows to work on research projects with nominated advisers. Awards are offered to a limited number of persons of outstanding ability who wish to make research a significant component of their career. More information is available at: http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/training/index.htm

ARC Linkage-Projects
ARC Linkage-Projects grants support collaborative research and development projects between higher education researchers and Partner Organisations which are undertaken to acquire new knowledge and involve risk or innovation. Proposals must contain a cash and in-kind contribution from a Partner Organisation. Eligible Partner Organisations include private sector industry organisations; private non-profit organisations and government agencies. More information is available at: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lief/default.htm.

ARC Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development (DIRD)
The aim of the ARC DIRD scheme is to develop the research expertise of indigenous researchers, including providing them with experience in the preparation of research funding proposals. Support is available for fundamental research by, and research training of, indigenous Australian individuals and teams to expand Australia’s knowledge base and research capability through Project Grants and Indigenous Research Fellowships. More information is available at: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_default.htm

ARC Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)
The ARC LIEF scheme fosters collaboration through its support of the cooperative use of national and international research facilities. Essentially, the scheme provides funding for large-scale cooperative initiatives so that expensive infrastructure, equipment and facilities can be shared by researchers in partnered organisations. More information is available at: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lief/lief_default.htm.

INTERNAL GRANT SCHEMES

2010 Research Infrastructure Block Grants (Pool 2)
The objectives of this scheme are to meet project-related infrastructure costs associated with Australian Competitive Grants; remedy deficiencies in current research infrastructure; enhance support for areas of research strength; and ensure that areas of recognised research potential, in which institutions have taken steps to initiate high quality research activity, have access to the support necessary for development. For further information regarding this scheme, please contact Danielle Annese on ext: 5874 or annese@uow.edu.au.

2010 URC Research Partnerships Scheme
The URC Research Partnership Scheme aims to support, on a competitive basis, high quality industry related research projects of modest cost conducted by researchers of proven excellence in collaboration with partners who provide matching support. It is expected that researchers with projects supported under this scheme will submit an application in the following year for external funding. Funding up to a maximum of $20,000 for a period of one year is available to assist researchers to establish a partnership. In 2009 there will be two rounds of assessment for this scheme: Round 1 – 24 May; Round 2 – (TBA) October. Guidelines and application forms are currently under review and will be available on the RSO website from early April at: https://intranet.uow.edu.au/raid/rso/urc-research-partnership/UOW021755.html. For further information, please contact Elizabeth Phillips on ext: 4522 or eliza@uow.edu.au.

RESEARCH ETHICS

Agenda Deadlines and Meeting Dates 2010
For Your Diary

Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) - health and medical
Upcoming meeting may 11th (agenda deadline April 21st)
Upcoming meeting June 8th (agenda deadline May 19th)

Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) - Humanities, Social Science & Behavioural
Upcoming meeting May 20th (agenda deadline May 5th)

Animal Ethics Committee
Next meeting May 13th (agenda deadline April 22nd)
Upcoming meeting 17th June (agenda deadline 27th May)
Gene Technology Review Committee
Next meeting June 3rd (agenda deadline May 20th)

RESEARCH SHOWCASE SERIES 2010
This URC lecture series will provide an opportunity to showcase some of the leading research conducted by the UOW's, and introduce the researchers involved to the general campus and community.

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th May</td>
<td>Prof. Mark Wilson and Professor Jan Potter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th August</td>
<td>A/Prof. Peter Gibson Application of Agency and other Theories to Collaborative Supply Chain Relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8th September</td>
<td>Prof. Xu-Feng Huang and Prof. Bob Moses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th October</td>
<td>Professor Lesley Head – ARC Australian Laureate Fellow</td>
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ALL PRESENTATIONS WILL BE HELD AT LUNCHTIME (12.30-1.30PM)
BUILDING 20, LECTURE THEATRE 2
Sandwiches will also be available for those attending. Audio recordings available on cedir site. Schedule may be updated - for more information visit: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/news/showcase/

RESEARCH STUDENT CENTRE
www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc

THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION
The Three Minute Thesis Competition will be held on 2 September 2010. It will be an exercise in developing academic and research communication skills in our Higher Degree Research Students (PhD and Masters Research). The HDR students will have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. It will not be an exercise in trivialising research, but should engage the audience without reducing research to entertainment value alone.

The UOW winner will compete in the National/Trans-Tasman competition to be held in Queensland on 22 September 2010. Great prizes to be won. More details at: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/news/UOW074626.html

Contact person Mari Dwarte - mdwarte@uow.edu.au

RESEARCH TRAINING SEMINARS FOR HDR STUDENTS
Are you a new or re-enrolling research student who would like to get some extra training in different aspects of research? The Higher Degree Research (HDR) Student Seminar Series is a free of charge program specifically designed for HDR Students. Seminars are separated into modules so that you can easily identify the seminars that will suit you based on what stage you are at in your candidature.

Some of the Seminars to be presented this session include: Endnote, Thesis Writing, Your Gateway to Research at UOW, Your Rights and Responsibilities to Your Research, Thesis Submission and Examination. Seminars will commence in the week of 9th March 2010. An email advising of the program will be sent to all HDR students in February.

HDR STUDENT ENROLMENT CHECKING FOR 2010
If you have a new offer for a Higher Degree Research (HDR) degree and have not received notification regarding your enrolment please contact the Research Student Centre 4221 5453 or contact June Toussis junet@uow.edu.au

Once enrolled please ensure that your enrolment is correct for Autumn and Spring Sessions 2010 for example - part time, full time (THE5912 is part time/ THE5924 is full time) or coursework subjects.

RE-ENROLLING
Autumn Session and Spring Session Enrolment Variations and re-enrolment for 2010 have begun and all HDR students are asked to check their enrolment details are correct. Please send any enrolment variations (leave of absence, change of status etc) to the Enrolment Officer, Research Student Centre, June Toussis, junet@uow.edu.au or 4221 5453, by the 31st March 2010.

UNI IN THE BREWERY 2010
We hope you can come along and enjoy a beer or wine at the Five Island Brewery, while listening to presentations about some interesting UOW research.

All staff, students and the general public are welcome and encouraged to contribute in discussion.

A big THANK YOU to Greg Rose (pictured right), who spoke on the 17th March, for providing an insight into Transnational Conflict. The next presentation is:

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>26th May</td>
<td>Jason Wilson (Arts) Social Media – Future of Journalism</td>
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*Please check for any program changes.
INTEGRAL ENERGY POWER QUALITY
AND RELIABILITY CENTRE

Established in 1996, the portfolio of the Integral Energy Power Quality and Reliability Centre (IEPQRC) includes power engineering education, research, development and consulting activities aimed at improving the quality and reliability of the electricity supply to the benefit of end-users. The Centre is affiliated with the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering (SECTE) in the Faculty of Informatics. Staff of IEPQRC regularly undertake contract research projects for industry and power utilities, and provide expert advice and consulting services. They are also very closely involved with providing inputs to international standardising bodies in power quality.

The Centre offers continuing education courses in the area of power quality as well as tailor-made specialised courses in power engineering, such as renewable energy and embedded generation.

INTeGRAL eNeRGY pOWER qUAlITy ANd ReLIABILITy CeNtRE

A new website focusing on the business of “Innovation and Technology Transfer” has been launched. In our role as Managers of Innovation and Commercialisation (MICs) we see a need to reach out to clients in the community and in business entities in a more externally focussed manner, but at the same time meeting the needs of our customers within the University, our innovative researchers and academics.

We have developed the website so researchers are able to explore for themselves, and in plain language, the steps involved in taking an idea to market. We intend to de-mystify what is often referred to as the “process of commercialisation”, a process often communicated with a higher level of complexity. In doing so we hope our researchers can better appreciate and engage with us in the excitement behind taking an idea to market. We look forward to working with you. – Deon, Gavin, Tony and Tamantha.

The new website can be found at http://itt.uow.edu.au
SCOPUS

Scopus, the largest citation and abstract database of international peer-reviewed literature, is now available to all UOW staff and students. Scopus covers nearly 18,000 titles from more than 5,000 international publishers, including coverage of 16,500 peer-reviewed journals in the scientific, technical, medical, social sciences and arts and humanities. It also provides extensive coverage of conferences, patents, and information from quality web sources.

Scopus offers author profiles which cover affiliations, number of publications and their bibliographic data, references and details on the number of citations each published document has received. It has alerting features that allow anyone who registers to track changes to a profile. By using Scopus Author Preview anyone is able to search for an author, with affiliation name as a limiter, verify the author’s identification and set-up an automatic RSS feed or e-mail alerts to the author’s homepage.

Using Scopus as a researcher you can:

- Find out who is citing you, and how many citations an article or an author has received
- Analyze citations for a particular journal issue, volume or year
- Use the refine results overview to quickly see the main journals, disciplines and authors that publish in your area of interest
- Check out the work and citations of other authors
- Click on the cited by and reference links to track research trends and make connections within and across disciplines.

NEW RESEARCH STAFF

Prof. Gerry Swiegers, Intelligent Polymer Research Chemistry.

Over the last decade and more, Gerry Swiegers has worked primarily as a professional research scientist, first at the CSIRO in Melbourne, where he was leader of the Security Devices research group in the Division of Molecular Science, and then, later, at a spin-off company that came out of his research, Datatrace DNA Pty Ltd, where he was Vice-President R&D.

In the last five years, Gerry has developed several new technologies, some of which have been or are being commercialized. In addition to the Datatrace technology, he has invented or co-invented:

(i) a graphical and dithering technique known as Modulated Digital Images, which is currently being used to protect various pharmaceuticals distributed internationally (http://www.csiro.au/solutions/Modulated-Digital-Image-Technology.html),

(ii) an authentication technology for textiles trademarked Verifi-TT, which is being spun off by AgResearch of New Zealand (www.verifitt.com),

(iii) a fully-printable, multi-bit radio-frequency identification system that is currently being trialed for use on banknotes by Australian banknote manufacturer, Securency International, and

(iv) a tracking and verification system for protecting plant breeder rights in agricultural seeds, which is being commercialized by a newly formed joint-venture company AgTechnix Pty Ltd (www.agtechnix.com).

Gerry has joined IPRI to work on and develop another technology in which he has been involved: a free-standing dye-sensitized solar cell that spontaneously generates hydrogen gas and oxygen gas from water when illuminated by sunlight. Hydrogen is a non-polluting transportation fuel that could, in future, displace petrol and diesel. If it can be inexpensively generated from water using sunlight then this could have significant implications. (see more about this research on page 10-I C news.)

A/Prof Aaron Oakley
School of Chemistry

Why did you come to the UOW?

Career decisions are functions over many variables. I would list some of them as:

- the commitment in this university to structural biology—my field of research.
- a pre-existing collaboration—with Prof. Nick dixon in the School of Chemistry—on DNA-replication. I had already done some work on this project, and had worked with Prof. Dixon when we were both at the Australian National University. It was natural to come here to work under the same roof. There are also opportunities for new collaborations here.

The University supported my (successful) application for an ARC Future Fellowship. This represents a great opportunity for me to start a new research group, and brings new skills to the university. Also, I think Wollongong offers a superior life-style to most other places in Australia!

I was previously at CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies— I was participating in the drug discovery program there. At UOW, I will be starting a new program in drug discovery, looking for new antibiotics. With increasing resistance of bacteria to existing drugs there is a desperate need for new antibiotics and I will be looking at new ways of disrupting a key process—DNA replication—within bacteria. In order for the cells of any living organism to divide and multiply, it must copy its DNA—each new cell gets one copy.
I will be looking for agents to disrupt this process in bacteria. Specifically, I look at the three-dimensional shape of proteins involved and use that information to build up a new chemical entity that will bind to it and block its function. A bit like putting a very tiny spanner in the works.

As well as the existing work with the Dixon group, I collaborate with researchers at the John Curtin School of Medical research in Canberra. Internationally I work with groups in Thailand and Czech Republic. Collaborations usually come about when a colleague has a protein they are interested in and having information about the three-dimensional shape would help to understand how the protein works.

My aims here at UOW? Apart from the immediate goal of building a structural biology laboratory, I hope we can make some genuine advances in the field of antibiotic discovery. There are some real global problems (e.g. tuberculosis) that I’d like to make a real difference to.

Also – my particular science lends itself to artist interpretation. A protein is an object (albeit on a very small scale), and can be represented in any number of creative ways. I started a YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/MolecularArts) which features some of my efforts in this regard.

URL for further information:  

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FACULTY NEWS, AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Master of Arts (Journalism) research student, Stephen Dupont, is the first Australian to be awarded one of photography’s grandest prizes – Harvard University’s Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography.

Currently overseas, Stephen is undertaking his Masters degree under the supervision of David Blackall, a Senior Lecturer from UOW’s Faculty of Creative Arts. Dupont was one of a handful of internationally recognised photographers invited to submit a proposal for the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology’s $US50,000 ($55,000) fellowship. He will spend a year with two communities in Papua New Guinea for his project, Guns and Arrows: The detribalisation of Papua New Guinea.

“To win this money in a dying industry not having magazines and the usual avenues to publish in is a real bonus,” according to Stephen in an interview published in The Australian newspaper.

Photographs courtesy of Stephen Dupont.

A UOW Science honours student, Austen Pepper, has recently won a prestigious award from the Royal Geographical Society in the United Kingdom. Austen, who has now taken up a position as a mapping control officer with the SES headquarters in Wollongong, was awarded the Prize for Best Dissertation or Industry Paper for 2009 from the GIScience Research Group within the Royal Geographical Society.

The award credits Austen’s honours year thesis entitled “Extension, generalisation, and verification of a GIS-based relative wave exposure model”.

Dr Marji Puotinen (pictured here with Austen) of UOW’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences was the thesis supervisor. The award itself comes as no surprise for the author given the volume of interest generated by the software developed as part of the thesis -- the Generic Relative Exposure Model (GREMO).

GREMO is a Geographical Information System based program for quickly assessing relative wave exposure based on simple characteristics of wave generation such as the distance over water which wind can blow and wind speed and direction.

The program has already been successfully run for a range of projects for the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, and the University of Tasmania.

There is also interest from the University of South Australia, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the city councils of Lake Macquarie and Gosford.


Prof. Sara Dolnicar, Director of the Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research, has been invited to serve on the National Professional Development Committee of the Australian Market and Social Research Society (MASRS). The Society is the peak body for those with a professional interest in Market and Social Research. The Market and Social Research industry employs some 12,300 people and generated a turnover of A$720 million (excl GST) in 2006. Most major commercial and social policy decisions in Australia are preceded and guided by its research, making the industry a critical part of Australia’s economic growth and social development. Sara has also been elected onto the Board of Directors of Wollongong Tourism.

PhD student Blake Cochran (Biology, supervised by A/Prof. Marie Ranson) won the best poster award at the recent Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function.

The conference attendees included Nobel Prizewinner Professor Ada Yonath (2009- Chemistry) whom...
Blake was lucky enough to speak to on numerous occasions during the conference. Blake is pictured with his winning poster. More information about the Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function is available at: http://www.lorneproteins.org/index.php

Sherine Antoun (PhD candidate at SITACS) has had a paper accepted for publication and oral presentation at PCAR2010 (Practical Cognitive Agents and Robots 2010) in May in Toronto. His paper entitled: ‘Mimicking a blind person navigating a corridor Using a K-Sonar With a Mobile Robot’ investigates the idea of applying the strategies of blind people to robotics using a range-finding ‘cane’.

**Global Text Project**

The Global Text Project (http://globaltext.org) seeks to solve the problem of the high cost of university level textbooks in developing economies by publishing free electronic texts on the Internet. Distribution is also possible via paper, CD, DVD, or eReader.

The project was initiated in early 2006 and engages the collective intelligence of academics and practitioners in making high-quality, editorially-reviewed texts. All books are released under a Creative Commons license and available in open document format so they can be freely distributed and also modified to meet local needs. The areas covered are Business, Computing, Education, Health, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. The goal is to publish in Arabic, Chinese, English, and Spanish.

The first translation into Arabic, a chapter on Green Information Sciences, who is the recipient of the Macdonald Holmes Medal of the geographical Society of NSW. The Macdonald Holmes Medal of the geographical Society of NSW. The Macdonald Holmes Medal of the geographical Society of NSW. The project was initiated in early 2006 and engages the collective intelligence of academics and practitioners in making high-quality, editorially-reviewed texts. All books are released under a Creative Commons license and available in open document format so they can be freely distributed and also modified to meet local needs. The areas covered are Business, Computing, Education, Health, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. The goal is to publish in Arabic, Chinese, English, and Spanish.

The first translation into Arabic, a chapter on Green Information Systems, taken from our Information Systems book, has just been completed by Dr. Kholoud Al-Kayid, from the UOW. Kholoud is now part of the GTP team working with co-leader Prof Richard Watson from the University of Georgia. Kholoud graduated with a PhD in Information Systems and is currently an honorary post doc in the Faculty of Commerce with A/Prof Helen Hasan. Kholoud is now beginning to translate a whole accounting textbook. The GTP has acquired ‘Accounting Principles: A Business Perspective’ (8th edition) by Hermanson, Edwards & Maher and are currently updating it and converting it to the project’s standard electronic format. A future goal is to establish an Arabic center for the Global Text Project, which would be responsible for all aspects of the Arabic language division of the project. Pictured are Helen Hasan and Kholoud.

Would you like to be involved and/or assist with sponsorship of this project? Please contact Dr Helen Hasan, 02 42213757 or Email: hasan@uow.edu.au

Congratulations to A/Prof. Gordon Waitt, Earth & Environmental Sciences, who is the recipient of the MacDonald Holmes Medal of the Geographical Society of NSW. The MacDonald Holmes Medal is presented biennially by The Geographical Society of NSW and The Geography Teachers Association of NSW to a person deemed to have made a distinguished contribution in the field of geographical education in Australia.

**Dr Peter McLean’s PhD Thesis** ‘At the coalface: identity implications of performance appraisal at an underground coal mine’ has been chosen by the Editor(s) of Personnel Review, and the rest of the judging panel, as a Highly Commended Award winner of the 2009 Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards in the Human Resource Management category. Rebecca Gibson, a Biological Sciences PhD student with the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires, was recently awarded $28,000 from the Native Vegetation Council.

The study is part of a larger ARC Linkage project that aims to develop optimal fire management regimes that protects and enhances biodiversity in semi-arid mallee communities. The major objective is to determine and quantify the extent to which moisture availability drives plant responses to fire in mallee. Life cycle processes such as survival, growth and reproduction, of several key species will be examined across a productivity gradient, estimated by the north-south rainfall gradient, and in relation to time since fire.

**Siobhan McHugh’s radio series, MARRYING OUT, about sectarianism and mixed marriage in Australia, will be broadcast in Ireland at Easter.**

Siobhan, a Lecturer in Journalism at FCA, produced the two-hour series as the Creative Work component of her Doctorate in Creative Arts, to be submitted in 2010. ‘MARRYING OUT’ will be broadcast on the Irish national broadcaster, RTE on Good Friday and Easter Saturday. The series was first broadcast on ABC Radio National in October 2009. If you miss it – you can always hear the program at: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/profile/index.html

**Silicon strip detector – researchers fighting cancer**

Researchers at the UOW have made a major contribution to improving the quality of radiation therapy delivered to patients by producing a detector capable of measuring radiation doses more precisely than previously possible. The ‘silicon strip detector’ -- dubbed the ‘dose magnifying glass’ -- can measure both in time (within one tenth of a second) and space (within 2 tenths of a millimetre). This allows radiation dosages to be measured with very high precision, improving the quality of treatment that can be administered. More at: http://media.uow.edu.au/news/UOW074856.html

Congratulations to Chris Miller, an honours student in the School of Chemistry (2009), who has been awarded a PhD scholarship to Harvard University to work with Professor Daniel Jacob. Professor Jacob has just been ranked #1 top-cited scientist in Geosciences by ISI and his group works in the area of global atmospheric chemical modeling.

“To get an idea of what I could be doing at Harvard I can tell you...
Iodine is a trace element that is essential for human growth and development, as the thyroid gland depends on iodine for the production of the thyroid hormones triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4). A diet deficient in iodine can lead to a number of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) which include a wide range of mental and physical disorders. The most deleterious effects of iodine deficiency can occur during pregnancy, leading to neurological defects in the foetus, ranging in severity from mild reduction of intellect to severe mental retardation (cretinism). Even mild iodine deficiency during pregnancy may result in reductions in IQ and auditory function.

Unlike most of the rest of the world, Australia has lacked a mandatory salt iodisation programme. A number of articles related to iodine deficiency have recently been published by researchers in Public Health in the School of Health Sciences. This coincides with the recent introduction of a mandatory iodine fortification programme in Australia and New Zealand (Oct 2009 - in which bread will be need to contain regulated amounts of iodised salt), and the recent release (March 2010) by the NHMRC of a public statement on iodine supplementation in pregnancy.

Co-authors Karen Charlton, Luke Gemming and Heather Yeatman have recently published an article in the journal ‘Nutrition’ investigating the iodine status of Australian pregnant women. It received significant attention by Australian doctors.


A/Prof Karen Charlton with her 7-month old son Oliver

Nathan Kettlewell, who has just completed his B. Comm (Economics) honours year, has been awarded the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) Undergraduate Prize for NSW on the basis of his honours thesis entitled: “The Financial and Non-Financial Outcomes of Rural to Urban Migration in Australia”. The award was announced and presented to Nathan at the AARES annual conference held in Adelaide on 10–12 February 2010. Nathan’s research (supervised by Dr Oleg Yerokhin and Dr Martin O’Brien of the School of Economics) was motivated by his deep interest in, and concern for, the well-being of rural communities who have been confronted with prolonged, stressful drought conditions over recent years which have affected farming communities in many regions across the Australian continent. Nathan (centre) is pictured above with Oleg and Martin.

“Slowmation” Extends to Storytelling using Indigenous Ways of Knowing

A team from the University of Wollongong have been awarded a $40,000 grant from Universities Australia to develop a new way of storytelling that could have impact across other Australian universities. The team members, Garry Hoban, Anthony McKnight and Wendy Nielsen (Faculty of Education) and Debbie Wray (Woolyungah Indigenous Centre) are going to link an innovative way of telling stories using Indigenous ways of being, developed by Anthony McKnight, with a new form of animation that has evolved out of an ARC Discovery Grant led by Associate Professor Garry Hoban.


IHMR News - Funding Success

An 18-month collaborative research project between UOW researchers, Area Health Service clinicians and aged care facilities has been awarded a $600K grant from the Department of Health and Ageing. The project, called ‘REACH out in Dementia – Recognise End of Life And Care Holistically’, is aimed at improving palliative care for late stage dementia patients by providing training and resources for those who work in residential aged care facilities. Lead investigator and Clinical Director for the Southern Hospitals’ Network Aged Care, Community Health and Chronic Care stream, Jan Potter, says there is a severe shortage of geriatricians in the region and aged care facilities struggle to care for the large number of patients with neurodegenerative conditions.

“When with a decent time frame, substantial funding and good geographical coverage, this project is set to bring about some really helpful clinical outcomes,” Clin Prof Potter said. UOW researcher A/Prof Brin Grenyer, is a co-investigator on the grant.

“This is a good example of how the IHMRI model of collaboration can be very powerful,” he said.

UOW graduate Dr Philomena Brennan was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours List in January for services to music education.

Dr Brennan studied at UOW in the 1980s, and received a PhD from the Faculty of Education in 1984. Dr Brennan had a long career at the University of Sydney as music academic, teacher and scholar. She held numerous roles at The University of Sydney’s Conservatorium of Music between 1974 and 1998, including Head of Academic Studies, Postgraduate Co-originator, Senior Lecturer and Head of Music Education.

Her studies also led her to international travel, particularly to the Philippines, and she became President of the Australian Philippine Association in the 1980s.

WARREN BURT is a composer, video artist, writer, instrument builder, performer and a few other things. He moved to Australia in 1975 and in addition to work in academia, was a freelance composer of experimental music and video art for twenty years. Currently he is an ARC Post Doctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Creative Arts, making art works, doing research into advanced tuning systems, and inventing new musical instruments, both acoustic and electronic. His exhibition during March at the Faculty of Creative Arts (FCA) Gallery was entitled: Illawarra - The Lake in Winter (2007-2010). An excerpt from the Artist’s statement:

“As much a sound installation as it is a video installation, this piece...
brings together several interests of mine. Visually and sonically, there is, of course, the formalist notion of video as landscape and soundscape, but beyond that, and more importantly for me, there is the notion of ‘the stare,’ the intense looking at, and listening to, a scene in which not much seems to be happening, but which, in fact, is full of detail and interest. …This kind of focus in artworks has usually occurred in either wilderness or in the extreme grit of the inner urban area. Here, however, our focus is suburban - or at least on the particular intersection of ‘suburban’ and ‘natural’ as exemplified by our Lake. And then there’s music. The assembling of a music of microtones and harmonics…. For the observer of this installation….this music is meant to interact with the sounds and views of the Lake to create a larger whole, an environment which, hopefully, will be just as fulfilling and rewarding as actually standing by the Lake, and simply observing.”

**Attention UOW Researchers:**
The University is updating our database of experts. We want our researchers and academics to be quoted in news outlets around the world! Our current database is used regularly by journalists and media to identify people to give comment on media issues, and can be found at: http://www.skills.itc.com.au/index.asp

The media seeks comments about a huge range of topics so if you have expertise or specific knowledge in a particular area, please visit: http://media.uow.edu.au/expertise/index.html and fill in the form.

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

**NEWS from iCampus**
Scientists from IPRI are involved in a process using sunlight that makes a giant leap forward in the cheap and efficient production of hydrogen. The research promises a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by reducing CO2 from fossil fuel use. The process would also have huge commercial benefits given that it would be a renewable and low cost fuel option.

UOW has obtained granted patent status in Australia and has received a Notice of Entitlement from the US Patent Office in relation to novel hydrogen production (titled “Novel catalysts and processes for their preparation”), which can be packaged with complementary Intellectual Property to develop efficient water splitting technology.

The UOW team from the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute behind the research is Professor Gordon Wallace, Dr Jun Chen, Dr Chee Too and Professor Gerry Swiegers who has recently joined the University. >Hear an interview with Gerry / Read the ABC Radio Blog (http://www.uow.edu.au/research/profile/index.html)

Three ISEM PhD students, Shu Lei Chou, Hao Liu and Peng Zhang have each won a Chinese Government Scholarship ($US5000) this year. This is a very competitive program, with only 14 winners in NSW. Congratulations to Shulei, Hao and Peng.

**Arts hosts Malaysian delegation**
CAPSTRANS and the Faculty of Arts have recently been involved in a program of collaborative activities under the LEADHER grant program with a small team from the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). LEADHER is the Leadership Development for Higher Education Reform Program, an initiative of the International Association of Universities (UNESCO).The main purpose is for each institution to develop a broad understanding of each other’s internationalisation strategies and to promote research linkages, particularly between UOW’s research strength CAPSTRANS (Centre for Asia-Pacific Social Transformation Studies) and USM’s Social Transformation Research Platform. The USM delegation was: Professor Ambigapathy Pandian, Dean of SOLLAT (School of Languages, Literacies and Translation); Professor Badaruddin Mohamed, Director, Social Transformation Research Platform; Dr Aniswal, School of Humanities; and Dr Sohaimi, Deputy Dean, School of Humanities.

**TRAVEL TALE**
During January and February, Dr Andrew Kelly (of the Faculty of Law and the Institute for Conservation Biology and Environmental Management) enjoyed a working holiday in sub-zero Europe. The journey included presenting invited papers at:

- the University of Salford, nearby Manchester, introduced by Vice Chancellor Martin Hall, focusing on the loss of local government’s planning powers in NSW; and
- the University of Dundee, Scotland, directed at planning issues at Australian urban peripheries, namely green amenity, biodiversity conservation and bushfire.

The third presentation was at the ‘Planning Law and Property Rights’ International Conference in Dortmund, Germany, situated in the wintry bleak Ruhr.

Academically, the journey was very successful due to new openings for joint international papers. Andrew’s standing in planning law has widened as has UOW’s reputation in global research.
The voyage led to other lessons. Andrew’s overcoat worn for the first time outside Tasmania, was essential. So was a dorky assemblage of gloves, scarf and beanie (alongside an alternative Daniel Boone style cap). Perhaps most important was the need for strong boots to avoid damp feet and slipping on icy urban pathways. During the relentless German snow, Andrew experienced this first hand. No matter how deep and meaningful a conversation about evolving planning law might be, an inelegant skin can ensure critical discussion comes to an abrupt end. Yet unless bones are broken, Australian academic travellers are usually ready to laugh at themselves. They should never be too big for their snow boots.

Picture: Dortmund, Germany, location of conference

Note: Financial assistance from the Faculty of Law is gratefully acknowledged. Photo by Julie Adshead, Faculty of Business, Law & Built Environment, University of Salford.

Organising a conference or workshop? Why not provide your delegates with copies of the University’s “Profiling our Research Partners”. This publication is a snapshot of many of our national and international research collaborations and showcases some of the very interesting projects. We have many copies available – just e-mail us (vwallace@uow.edu.au) with your request.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

FRONTIERS IN HUMAN CAPITAL RESEARCH: 20TH APRIL 2010

The School of Economics at the UOW is hosting a workshop ‘Frontiers in Human Capital Research’ on 20th of April, featuring one of the world’s leading economists, Prof Joshua Angrist from MIT (pictured), as the keynote speaker. The program showcases research papers broadly related to human capital including work on cognitive skills, obesity and ageing. A sub-theme of the workshop (4 papers) is the long term effects of the Vietnam War on the economic circumstances of veterans.

Participants are asked to register their interest as early as possible as places are limited, via email siminski@uow.edu.au


DATA VISUALIZATION TECHNIQUES FOR GRAPHS AND GEOGRAPHIC MAPS: 21ST APRIL 2010

The Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research (IIBSoR) is hosting a seminar entitled “Data Visualization Techniques for Graphs and Geographic Maps” on Wednesday 21 April, featuring Dr Theresa Scharl from Technische Universität Wien. The seminar will be held 12:30pm, Wednesday 21 April, in 40A.G81, along with a light lunch. Attendees are asked to RSVP to Angelique Kelly ange@uow.edu.au <mailto:ange@uow.edu.au> by Monday 19 April.

INTERNET REGULATION AND FILTERING IN AUSTRALIA AND THE ASIA PACIFIC

30 November-1 December 2009

This workshop was held at the University of Wollongong on the 30th November and 1st December 2009. The event was organized by Assoc Prof Mark McLelland, and funded by Innovations in Cultural Research, CAPSTRANS and the ARC Cultural Research Network.

The papers, from local and international scholars, focused on the implications of the impending Australian government internet filtering policy.

The papers were video recorded and the videos uploaded onto the ICR website: http://icrwollongong.net/

One important outcome from the workshop is Assoc Prof McLelland’s paper Australia’s Proposed Internet Filtering System and its Implications for Animation, Comics and Gaming (ACG) and Slash Fan Communities (forthcoming in issue 134 of Media International Australia, February 2010). In the paper A/Prof McLelland describes how the government has vastly underestimated the number of sites that may require filtering since Australia’s anti-‘child-abuse publications’ legislation applies equally to purely fictional as well as actual representations of under-age persons including manga, animations, artwork and text. The paper points out how Australia’s extensive animation, comics and gaming communities will be negatively impacted by the legislation.

Have you been travelling around Australia or internationally lately as part of your research? Send us your Travel Tale and snaps for the next ‘Travel Tale’ section – and inspire others to travel as part of their research!!!

Please send items to vwallace@uow.edu.au or lhawes@uow.edu.au