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Food Security a Real Issue

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Recent natural disasters have led to the phrase – ‘food security’ – being used with increasing frequency. With floods devastating our banana plantations up north; drought conditions affecting wheat crops in West Australia; and earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, there is no doubt that food security is something to think about today.

But what exactly does food security mean? Essentially, it is about having enough food that is good for you. Yet it is more than a measure of the amount of food that is or isn’t available. Food security is also measure by the quality of nutrition and prevailing social and economic factors. Food security is in fact a population health concept which requires constant monitoring and attention. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) refers to food security in terms of all people at all times having physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods. These foods must meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

On a national and global scale, food security covers food production and trade. The effects of floods, bushfires, hurricanes, earthquakes and droughts are all considered when assessing the quantity of food being produced and available.

It is also assessed on a scale of nourishment. Even when there is plenty of food, the nutritional quality of this food is an important determinant of food security. It is possible for individuals to not meet all their nutrient requirements in conditions where poor food choices are made in the midst of plenty. For example, the problem of obesity is also a problem of food security because it reflects an imbalance in meeting nutritional requirements.

From a social perspective, food is an integral part of cultural conditions. Having access to foods that people recognise as staples and are able to prepare in safe and nutritious ways is another important dimension of food security. This is what ‘meeting food preferences’ refers to. The provision of food must be considered in context where traditions and usual eating patterns are reflected in the nutritious foods that are provided.

Australia has a great deal of expertise in food security. In particular, it has special expertise in agriculture that can be applied to food production where there is climate variability. Economically we have influence - Australia produces enough food for 60 million people, triple our population, and food trade is an important part of our economy. We also have extensive expertise in how food affects health, and professions such as the Dietitians Association of Australia to support the community in making healthy food choices. We have great opportunities for combining these areas of agricultural and diet expertise to produce food that promotes health for the population and with a coordinated effort from government and institutions can contribute substantially to food security in our region.

Food security can also begin at home, for example, with the community valuing food much more. This can be done by celebrating and being creative with healthy food, choosing better food for meals and snacks, learning more about good food at school, eating just enough to maintain a healthy weight, and considering the environment in our resources management of food.

An excellent, and timely, resource that our institutions, business and the community can draw on to better understand and plan for food security is the recently released Australia and Food Security in a Changing World report, released by the Prime Ministers Science Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC) expert working group through the Chief Scientist for Australia (http://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/about/publications/).

As we face a number of challenges to our food security through natural disasters, social change and economic influences, it is time to embrace a coordinated approach to ensure we have enough food that is good for all of us well into the future.

Professor Linda Tapsell is the Director of the Nutrition theme at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, a joint initiative of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health Network and the University of Wollongong (UOW). She is also Director of the UOW Smart Foods Centre. She was a member of the Expert Working Group that produced the PMSEIC report.
Professor Wins Japanese Literary Research Award

Professor Vera Mackie from UOW’s Faculty of Arts has won this year’s Inoue Yasushi Award for Outstanding Research on Japanese Literature in Australia.

Professor Mackie received the award for her chapter ‘Reading Lolita in Japan’, in the edited collection Girl Reading Girl in Japan (Routledge 2010). The collection came out of collaboration with an international group of scholars working on ‘girl culture’ in Japan.

In her chapter she analyses Takemoto Nobara’s popular novel Shimozuma Monogatari (also known as Kamikaze Girls), for its insights into subcultures, processes of inclusion and exclusion, and the pleasures and perils of growing up female in contemporary Japan. It depicts teenagers from different fashion subcultures, but is ultimately about growing up, friendship and the girls’ emergence into adulthood.

Professor Mackie commented that ‘popular literature can be revealing for what it tells us about the preoccupations of a culture’. She added that Shimozuma Monogatari ‘provides insights into anxieties about gender and sexuality in contemporary Japan’.

The award is named in honour of Inoue Yasushi (1907-1991), one of Japan’s most popular and prolific writers. The Inoue Yasushi Award is awarded annually for the best refereed journal article or book chapter on Japanese literature to have been published in English by a researcher based in Australia or New Zealand.

Professor Mackie is the fifth winner of the award established by the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation to encourage Australian interest in Japanese literature. She received her award at a ceremony at the University of Sydney on April 15.

Professor Mackie is an ARC Future Fellow in the Faculty of Arts and member of the Institute for Social Transformation Research (ISTR).
SCIENCE Feature and Website Reflect UOW’s Strength in Archaeology

UOW’s new Centre for Archaeological Science (CAS) has three reasons to celebrate – a new website, a new laboratory and a profile of two of its key researchers in the prestigious international publication Science. The new website explores a range of topics from turning points in human evolution to determining new chronologies for the human habitation in Australia. And CAS has recently installed a new state-of-the-art microscope laboratory, dedicated to the study of residues and use-wear marks on ancient stone, bones and shell tools to determine their function.

A boost to the centre’s profile also comes this week with the publication in Science of a profile on two key members of the CAS team. The profile covers the past and present research undertaken by the newly married couple of CAS Director Professor Bert Roberts, an ARC Professorial Fellow, and Dr Zenobia Jacobs, an ARC Queen Elizabeth II Fellow. The article examines their research into the evolution and dispersal of our species within Africa over the last 200,000 years, and the spread of humans across Arabia and India to Australia in the last few tens of millennia.

It highlights the leading role that Professor Roberts and Dr Jacobs have played in the development and application of archaeological dating techniques to construct a timeline for the prehistory of our species and, as part of Dr Jacobs’ current ARC Fellowship, Neanderthals in France.

CAS was established at UOW in 2010 to develop, integrate and apply modern scientific techniques to answer fundamental questions about human evolution and past human activities. Its members have attracted more than $5 million of competitive grant funding over the last three years and generated landmark publications in top-ranked journals.

As a result, CAS received national recognition in the recent Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative, ranking (equal) second highest in the country in Archaeology.

Recent exciting discoveries and key projects led by CAS members include the emergence of modern human behaviour in Africa, the dispersal of our species across South Asia, the human colonisation of Australia and resulting impact on the native fauna, and the evolution and extinction of the one-metre tall ‘Hobbits’ discovered on the island of Flores in eastern Indonesia.

CAS is affiliated with the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences and brings scientists together with science-based archaeologists. It boasts world-class laboratory facilities for archaeological dating, archaeological chemistry, artefact and residue analysis, archaeobotany, zooarchaeology and palaeontology.

Many CAS members are full-time researchers, funded by the Australian Research Council, who also teach the third-year subject “Dung, Death and Decay: modern scientific methods in archaeology” to expose undergraduate students to the latest research.

Their current research students are working on a variety of projects in Africa, Europe, Asia and Australia, often in partnership with other leading interdisciplinary organisations.

The new CAS website can be found at http://cas.uow.edu.au/index.html

Institute promotes happiness as path to business prosperity

UOW’s Sydney Business School has officially launched the Australian Institute of Business WellBeing (AIBWB) at its campus at Circular Quay, aiming to demonstrate that business prosperity is not only about creating wealth. The Institute has been established as a research hub combining the disciplines of psychology and economics to provide organisations and governments with a better understanding of the modern concept of business prosperity.

Institute Director Dr Lindsay Oades said businesses in rich countries like Australia could no longer afford to base everything around economics, and had to start caring
Obesity seminar attracts interest

A seminar on recent research on intergenerational obesity attracted an audience of over 90 people at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute on April 20.

Understanding the obesity epidemic was presented by Professor Margaret Morris, Chair and Head of Pharmacology at the School of Medical Sciences, UNSW.

Professor Morris presented work of her laboratory team investigating intergenerational transmission of obesity. Recent work by PhD student Dr Ng demonstrated that when rat fathers were fed a high fat diet to induce obesity and glucose intolerance, the resulting female offspring exhibited impaired glucose tolerance and insulin secretion as young adults. This work was published in Nature in October 2010.

Professor Morris also detailed the profound effects of stress on appetite in both animals and humans. Her research has shown that palatable high fat diet can ameliorate the behavioral effects of early life stress; but notably, voluntary exercise had similar benefits.

Invited to speak at UOW by Professor Brett Garner, Principal Research Fellow at IHMRI, Professor Morris also met with the DVC Research Professor Judy Raper during her visit, toured the IHMRI facility and undertook local media interviews.

The Seminar was jointly hosted by the Research and Innovation Division and IHMRI.
UOW Research Collections on Research Data Australia

As part of DataWise, a Strategic Project to improve research data management at UOW, the Australian Government provided funding through the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) for the UOW Seeding the Commons Project to investigate whether any raw data still existed from previous research projects. As a starting point, Australian Competitive Grants since 2005 were investigated with many other projects later being identified and also included.

Descriptive metadata was compiled for thirty five datasets with all descriptions now being available for discovery on the ANDS Research Data Australia http://services.ands.org.au/home/orca/rda/list.php?group=University+of+Wollongong Through ANDS, the descriptions are also made discoverable in a Google search. Researchers from most faculties contributed dataset descriptions with Health & Behavioural Sciences providing 55% of the collections. Over 30% of the projects investigated had not reached the stage in the data curation continuum where data was ready for discovery, strengthening the case for ongoing data management support at UOW.

While the ANDS UOW Seeding the Commons Project is in its final stages, the DataWise project will continue to assist researchers to develop best practice in the management of research data. There are a number of resources currently available to assist researchers including the Research Project Registration Form, the Research Data Storage and eResearch Tools Request Form and a Research Data Management Plan. Please visit http://www.uow.edu.au/research/eresearch/datamanagement for these resources and more information. Advice is also available about any stage of the data curation continuum from initial planning through to storage, discovery and reuse. If you would like to make an appointment to discuss opportunities for better management of your research data, please email e-research@uow.edu.au or phone Carolyn Norris on 02 4221 3554 or Elaine Gully on 02 4221 3604.

Joseph Ciarrochi (an ARC Future Fellow) has been elected President of the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS), an organization that has approximately 4000 members and over 30 chapters located in the U.S., U.K., and Europe. ACBS is the home of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Relational Frame theory. More about the organization can be found here: http://contextualpsychology.org/

Professor Tim Coltman from the Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research (IBSor) has recently been awarded a TechVoucher grant by the NSW Department of Industry & Investment to develop a systematic approach to innovation that is suitable for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The work will be conducted in collaboration with CRAM Fluid Power a leading provider of hydraulic and pneumatic components and systems to industries within Australia. CRAM Fluid Power has always been a highly product-oriented company drawing on advances in new product innovation and support services. However, new competitive forces and changing customer requirements are placing pressure on the management team to think more broadly about product and service combinations. Working with the management team at Cram Fluid Power, Tim will design a more structured approach to product and service innovation.

Professor Geraldine Lefoe has been awarded an ascilite Life Membership. The presentation of this award was made before the ascilite community at the 2010 ascilite conference opening ceremony held in Sydney Australia on December 5, 2010. An ascilite Life Member Award is an honorary award that recognises sustained and admirable service of an ascilite member to the society and entitles the recipient to full ascilite membership for life.

In receiving an ascilite Life Member award, Associate Professor Lefoe was recognised for the significant contributions she has made over the course of fifteen years to the core activities and key directions of ascilite.

Assoc Professor Anne Collett has been appointed Visiting Professor in Australian Studies at the Komaba Campus of the University of Tokyo in Japan for 2011-12, and will take up the ten-month position in October. Anne will be teaching and supervising undergraduate and graduate students in Australian and Pacific studies. Anne is recognised as a leading scholar in the field of postcolonial literatures, comparative women’s writing and poetry and is the editor of Kunapi, an international journal of postcolonial writing that has published the work of eminent scholars and writers since 1979.

Dr Debra Dudek was appointed as the Director of the University of Wollongong’s Centre for Canadian-Australian Studies (CCAS) in mid-March. Debra has served as a Deputy Director of the Centre for the past 3 years, and is also the President of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ). In making the announcement, Vice Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said that Debra is “very well placed to lead the Centre into its second decade - a Centre which plays a valuable role in promoting and sustaining UOW’s presence in the Canadian Studies field and strong links with leading Canadian universities, across a range of teaching, research and other activities.”

Professor Ian Buchanan, currently based at Cardiff University in Wales, has been announced as the new Director of ISTR (Institute for Social Transformation Research), and will take up the position in September. Ian teaches in the School of English, Communication and Philosophy, and is the Chair of the Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory research group at Cardiff University. He previously studied and taught in Australia, including stints at Murdoch, University of Western Australia, University of Tasmania, Monash and Charles Darwin University, before heading overseas.

Professor Brian Martin, Professor of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Arts gave the first Professorial Seminar Series for the Faculty of Arts, for 2011 on Thursday 5 May. Brian highlighted that “…good things, like happiness and friendship, have been neglected by researchers compared to social problems such as depression and discrimination. The assumption seems to be that problems need to be fixed whereas good things don’t need attention. Researchers seldom study practical ways to improve things that are already working well. By looking at a variety of things generally regarded as worthwhile, such as student honour codes and amateur music, it is possible to observe similarities in the ways they can be protected and promoted. Tactics for doing good things better can be applied to a surprising diversity of topics”.

The Centre for Research on Men and Masculinities (CROMM) recently held a highly successful two-day workshop on the state of play in the critical study of men and masculinities.

The workshop, held over March 17 and 18 in Wollongong, highlighted the state of scholarship on men and gender, fostered research links and potential collaborations among researchers at UOW and around the country, and launched the Centre as a hub for masculinities-related research around Australia. CROMM aims to advance the critical study of men and masculinities. While CROMM’s institutional home is the Institute for Social Transformation Research at UOW, it is intended to have a national reach. CROMM is co-directed by Dr Richard Howson and Dr Michael Flood, both from the School of Social Sciences, Media and Communication (SSMC) in the Faculty of Arts.
Grants and Opportunities
http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/

News from the Grants Team

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

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Please contact your Grants Officer if you require more information or assistance with any scheme that is not listed here.

External Grant Schemes

NHMRC Development Grants

This Scheme provides funding support to individual researchers, and research teams, to undertake research at the early proof-of-principle or pre-seed stage. It supports the commercial development of a product, process, procedure or service that if applied, would result in improved health care, disease prevention or provide health cost savings.

Applications must demonstrate a basic understanding of the process and steps required to move from research to outcomes that can be commercialised, including:

- the process and steps to a market, the nature of the market;
- the milestones and risks of the venture; and
- an understanding of possible means of handling intellectual property connected with the project.

Further information about this scheme is available at http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/development/index.htm, or contact Sharon Clarke on ext 5815 or email clarke@uow.edu.au.

Ian Potter Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation is one of Australia’s leading private philanthropic organisations. The Foundation has a track record of funding projects that improve the Australian community’s ability to respond creatively to social, environmental, science and health issues, and that develop our capacity as a nation through the arts and education.

The Foundation funds Small Grants (up to $20,000) and General Grants (over $20,000) in the fields of Arts, Education and Community Wellbeing (three rounds per year in January, May and September), Environment & Conservation, and Science (30 May) and Medical Research and Health (31 January). There are also separate schemes for Travel and Conference grants (12 September) and Community Wellbeing International Travel grants. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded from http://foundation.ianpotter.org.au/how_to_apply.html. Contact Tansie Jarrett, ext 4522 or email tansie@uow.edu.au for further information.

AINSE Research Projects (previously AINSE Awards)

AINSE provides funds to assist researchers from member universities to gain access to ANSTO and other AINSE facilities. Awards are awarded for one year commencing in January.

Further information about this scheme is available at http://www.aARSE.edu.au/academic_researchers2/ainse_research_projects, or contact Danielle Annese on ext 5874 or email annese@uow.edu.au.

Internal Grant Schemes

URC Small Grant Scheme

Funding is available from the URC Small Grants Scheme to support excellent researchers in the development of strategic research projects that will increase their potential for gaining external funding and to encourage early career researchers to develop their research profiles. Projects are expected to lead to practical outcomes and applications of social and economic value and publications and outputs that enhance the track record of the investigator. The Application form and guidelines will be available from 17 June at:


For further information, please contact Danielle Annese on ext 5874; email: annese@uow.edu.au.
URC Research Partnerships Scheme

Funding is available from the URC Research Partnerships Scheme to support projects for the establishment of cooperative projects in either new research directions with existing collaborating partner organisations, or involving a research-related link with a new partner organisation(s). Partner organisations can include both industry and public sector organisations engaged in research. It is expected that the project will result in significant research outcomes, such as publications, external research grant applications, improved research relationships and further research activity with the Partner Organisation.

There will be two rounds in 2011: Round 1 closes on 27 May and Round 2 closes on 24 October. Application forms and guidelines may be downloaded from: https://intranet.uow.edu.au/raid/rso/urc-research-partnership/UOW021755.html

For further information, please contact Tansie Jarrett on ext. 4522 or by email: tansie@uow.edu.au.

Need $10,000 to kick start your community project?

Do you have an idea that would really impact the wider community? Would $10,000 help get your project off the ground?

The UOW Community Engagement Grants Scheme 2011 Round has just opened.

Check out the details at www.uow.edu.au/about/community/cegs
email community@uow.edu.au or call 4221 3110

Training for Researchers

Early Career Researcher Development Program Launch

Twenty-two Early Career Researchers (ECRs) attended the Early Career Researcher Development Program launched on Wednesday, 6 April by Professor Judy Raper, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). The program, which attracted significant interest, is the first of its kind to be held at UOW and is a joint initiative of Professional and Organisational Development Services (PODS) and the Research and Innovation Division (RAID).

The integrated 12-month program combines core and optional workshops on research grant writing and career planning, etc, as well as a confidential coaching session and research mentoring and networking forums on a range of topics. The program aims to provide both guidance and support to early career researchers with their career planning, as well as assisting the development of the skills and knowledge required to be a successful researcher. Throughout the program lunch-time networking forums will be held to allow participants to meet in an informal setting and to benefit from presentations by experienced researchers on a variety of topics.

Over forty-six researchers expressed an interest in participating in the program, from which twenty-two ECRs were selected, representing a gender balance and a range of disciplines across all UOW faculties. Among this year’s participants was Dr Ashish Agalgaonkar, of the School of Electrical, Computer & Telecom Engineering (SECTE): “The active participation in the Early Career Development Program provides me with a golden opportunity to shape my academic career by adopting numerous structured pathways. Through this program, I am keen to develop a thorough understanding about establishing myself as a successful teaching and research academic at UOW”.

At the launch, Professor Raper stressed the importance of the ongoing development of ECRs as a key element in ensuring UOW’s position as a centre of research excellence. She encouraged the participants to fully commit to the program and to take advantage of the exceptional opportunity it offered, including the valuable experience of being mentored by a senior successful UOW researcher.
Research Students

http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/

Research Student Centre Restructure

RSC is undertaking a 12 month trial of a staff restructure. We will have 3 Student Management Officers (SMO) who will manage all HDR administration (from enrolment up to thesis submission and including scholarship management) on a Faculty basis rather than the previous task based distribution of duties. Each SMO will liaise regularly with Faculty staff with the aim of improving procedures to meet faculty specific needs. Faculty SMOs are as follows:

June Toussis (4221 5453, junet@uow.edu.au)
Science, Education, GSM and Law.

Erin Hood (4221 4323, erinh@uow.edu.au)

Maree Buchanan (4221 5454, buchanan@uow.edu.au)
Informatics, Health and Behavioural Sciences & Creative Arts.

Julie King’s role as the Thesis Management Officer will remain unchanged.
(4221 3208, jking@uow.edu.au)

HDR Student Orientation and Enrolment Day

The Spring Session HDR Student Orientation and Enrolment Day will be held on Wednesday, 20 July 2011 in Building 20:2. New HDR students and those who did not attend the Autumn Orientation should also attend the Spring session Orientation. To view the HDR Orientation Program and to register to attend please go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/news/orientation/index.html. If you have any questions about orientation please contact Michelle Kendall on 4221 5452 or micbrown@uow.edu.au.

Three Minute Thesis Competition

The Three Minute Thesis Competition will be held on 29 June 2011 in Building 67:107. It will be an exercise in developing academic and research communication skills in our HDR 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.

Each Faculty will be conducting their own 3 Minute Thesis heats and the winners from each Faculty will compete against each other to win the $1,500 prize money and also be the UOW representative at the Grand Final Competition at the University of Western Australia on 29 September 2011. The runner up and People’s Choice will receive a prize of $750.

Please come along as a spectator and support our HDR students presenting exciting talks on their innovative research topics. Remember, these students will become our future experts in their chosen field of research – who knows, they may even make international headlines one day, and you’ll be able to say you saw it here first!

For further information, and to register as a spectator please go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/news/UOW074626.html.

3MT 2011 UOW Prizes
First Prize: $1500
Runner Up: $750
People’s Choice: $750
Applications are now open for the 2012 Endeavour Awards Program. Endeavour Awards offer a range of opportunities for international fellowships, sponsored study and professional development, particularly where the application demonstrates strategic international links.

It is an internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program providing opportunities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. Awards are also available for Australians to undertake study, research and professional development abroad.

Applications close – 30th June 2011

Further information including eligibility, selection criteria and the application process please visit the website at www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au or contact Research Student Centre on Ext. 5672 or by emailing Christine Mason at cmason@uow.edu.au

Commercial Research and Technology Transfer


UOW Commercial Research Success

UOW is one of the strongest universities in Australia in contract research for our size. This is due to our research commitment to solving real world problems and our engagement with multidisciplinary research teams.

For example, did you know that:

- In 2010 Commercial Research income represented 43% of the total research income for UOW - over $27M
- In 2010 the Commercial Research Unit (CRU) won 31 contracts valued over $100k
- From 2008 to 2010 CRU has seen its income won soar by 63%
- Since its inception CRU has negotiated approx 1,500 contracts
- Currently CRU Tenders have an average success rate of 50%
- In 2010 CRU assisted staff in securing tenders with a total value of over $13M
- From 2009 to 2010 Tender income has increase 18 fold YOY

In the first quarter of 2011 we had the following significant wins:

- Dr Penny Watson: NSW Rural Fire Service, Bush Fire Fuels in NSW: Modeling and Mapping Stage 2 Agreement, $300,000.00
- Prof Brian Cullis: Grains Research & Development Corp, SAGI Contract Novation, $270,003.93
- Kellie Ridges: GlaxoSmithKline, Clinical Trial Research Agreement, $178,000.00
- Prof Shi Dou: ANSTO, Appointment of Post Doctoral Fellow Joining Funding with ANSTO and UOW, $157,322.04
- A/P Nigel Taylor: NSW Fire Brigades, Establishing Bona Fide Physical Employment Standards for the NSW Fire Brigades, $135,618.16
- Prof David Griffith: Landcare Research NZ Ltd, FTIR Equipment Supply, $160,000.00
- Prof Kiet Tieu: Port Kembla Port Corporation, Collaboration Agreement – Data Access Rail Simulation Modeling, $127,272.72
- A/P Jim Pearse: Health Policy Analysis Pty Ltd, Subacute Care Classification Costing and Funding Review, $117,915.44
- Prof Ray Chambers: Australian Rain Corp Pty Ltd, Statistical Modeling of Weather Radar Data, $107,690.0

This income is supplemented with over a hundred other smaller contracts. Not only does this research income count towards leveraged income for the university, but it continues to position UOW as a university that has real impact on Australia. It also allows faculties to have a degree of self-determination as the proceeds go to developing expanding research centres. The university has set aggressive targets for growth in this area this year and the CRU/ITT team is here to help you achieve that. We offer numerous services to enhance your approach to your clients including fast turnaround times, PODS training in contract research and tender response, individual coaching and advice, and we are developing a proactive approach to sharing some of the significant successes in key groups with the rest of the university interested in growing in this area.

Please contact the CRU/ITT team either through our website http://www.uow.edu.au/research/commercial/rescontact/index.html or via Gina Portscher on 4221 4486 if your group would like our assistance or you can provide any insight into this very important area of research.

The Faculty of Education at UOW wins $15,000 TechVoucher

In March 2011, Associate Professor Sue Bennett, Dr Shirley Agostinho and Professor Lori Lockyer within the Faculty of Education at UOW were successful applicants for a $15,000
NSW government TechVoucher, with an additional $15,000 of in kind commitment by Dynamic Learning Online (DLO). DLO supplies online computer training to Australian schools, as well as exporting its technology to other countries.

This funding will support an exciting online education training project, which has been established to drive the culture of research collaboration between NSW small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) and public sector research organisations (PSROs). Specifically, this project will result in the design, development and testing of an online training program specifically for Australian Kindergarten-Year 12 teachers. This project will bring together UOW with DLO development expertise, to produce Australian-developed world-class products.

CEO of DLO, Tony Webster, has a long and successful track record of partnering with Universities on IT related projects. The program will use an innovative approach developed by UOW researchers to allow higher education teachers access to effective learning designs through real-life case studies and design templates. This approach is effective because it builds on relevant examples from real-world classrooms in a way that allows teachers to adapt a design to suit his or her particular context.

Innovation Ecosystem

As Wollongong moves from its reliance on steel and coal as its primary employment base, there is an increasing need for industry diversification in the region.

To this end UOW has been a dedicated contributor to local innovation and economic vigour in the Illawarra region through the development of the Innovation Campus facility, through its multi-discipline applied research approach to solving "real world" problems, its commitment to technology transfer, SME Research initiatives, provision of diverse employment opportunities and significantly, lifting of the region’s academic profile nationally as home to an award winning University.

To add to these contributions the UOW, with the support of WCC and local businesses, is currently developing a groundbreaking initiative, the 'Innovation Ecosystem', aimed at supporting entrepreneurship in the Illawarra region.

A Seminar to facilitate the creation of this ecosystem took place in March at UOW’s Innovation Campus. As an introduction to the seminar Vice Chancellor Gerard Sutton gave an address providing insight into the core rationale for the Ecosystem project.

Another key attendee to the seminar was Tim Ellis from one of Canada’s leading innovative universities, the University of Waterloo, who addressed and led the ‘Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Seminar’.

By combining research, technology and entrepreneurship, Waterloo has been able to achieve exceptional growth, with currently more than 300 new technology companies, and is home to world leaders like RIM (better known as the makers of Blackberry).

March’s workshop was the first in a series that UOW will be hosting on creating this ‘Innovation Ecosystem’. This first workshop focused on the opportunities in the IT sector and entrepreneurship. Government, business and academic leaders were in attendance including Wollongong City Council General Manager, David Farmer.

The Director of Commercial Research and Technology Transfer, Elizabeth Eastland, conceived the idea for the seminar and has been the driving force behind the development of a local Innovation Ecosystem.

To help support in the development of the Innovation Ecosystem UOW has launched an Entrepreneur Club. This club will promote and encourage entrepreneurship amongst students and the boarder community. A key goal of this entrepreneurs club is to have a 50% female involvement in all aspects of the club. The next event is being held on 24th May.

For more information on the Innovation Ecosystem or Entrepreneurs Club please contact Melissa Ryan in the Commercial Research and Technology Transfer team on mryan@uow.edu.au or ext 3410.

Library News

www.library.uow.edu.au

A Searchable Address

When your articles are uploaded into databases, the affiliation or institution address (not to mention your name) is searchable field, particularly in databases such as Web of Science and Scopus. Ensure that UOW is named against all relevant articles. When you submit articles to journals please include University of Wollongong in the address field, in addition to the name of your department, faculty or research centre. Many bibliometric statistics are calculated from these databases, for example the number of articles per institution.

For more information, contact Lucia Tome, Research Training Librarian ltome@uow.edu.au

Research data in Research Online

The Library has been working with RaID to make UOW research data collections accessible via Research Online (http://ro.uow.edu.au/data/). As part of the University’s Datavisie initiative and ‘Seeding the Commons’ project, over 200 UOW research data collections have been identified and descriptions uploaded to the Research
Data Australia (RDA) database. To date, 35 of these collection descriptions have been published on Research Online, alongside data collections pertaining to specific research publications. The Library will continue to work with RaID and faculties to provide access to research data collections and resources.

See what might be valuable for your research project, visit: http://ro.uow.edu.au/data/

15% BioMed Central APC discount

The Library is commencing Supporter Membership for the BioMed Central suite of over 200 biology, medicine and chemistry open access journals. The Membership allows UOW researchers a 15% discount on the Article Processing Charge (APC) for publishing in BioMed Central journals, including 18 journal titles that appear in the current ERA ranked A journal list, and 80 with impact factors tracked by Thomson Reuters (ISI).

The 15% discount associated with UOW Supporter Membership will be effective from May to December 2011, during which time the value of this subscription to the University will be evaluated. More information on publishing in BioMed Central is available from the publisher website: http://www.biomedcentral.com/inst/97905

Cholachat is very well published with over 75 articles in international journals and conferences to his name and has secured over $2M in research funding. As Chief Investigator of an Australian Research Council Discovery Project, 3 Linkage Projects and 3 Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Rail projects he can consider himself one very busy researcher, not to mention the supervisor/co-supervisor of 5 HDR students and 4 Research Associates.

You don’t receive a Highly Commended in the Vice-Chancellors Awards for Research Excellence for nothing. What is the secret to his success? “Work hard and smart.” Cholachat says, “Grab every opportunity you have.”

Dr Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn (Senior Lecturer, Centre for Geomechanics and Railway engineering and the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering) recently received a Commendation for the Vice-Chancellors Award for Research Excellence for Emerging Researchers. Cholachat talks to Ainsley Lynch about his career … so far.

Receiving his Bachelor of Engineering (1st Class Honours) from the Khonkaen University in 2000 with a Masters from the Asian Institute of Technology in 2002, both in Thailand, Cholachat made the move to Wollongong in 2003, and was awarded his PhD in Geotechnical Engineering. A number of awards have come his way since then, the Australian Geomechanic Society Thesis Award and the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) for outstanding papers by an early career researcher in both 2008 and 2011. He also won our own University of Wollongong Trailblazer Award for innovations in soft soil stabilisation for transport infrastructure in 2006.

Cholachat’s key areas of expertise include ground improvement for transport infrastructure and soft soil engineering. As we tried to arrange a time to speak, Cholachat called in from Melbourne and then Indonesia. He is currently working on vacuum consolidation and non-destructive testing for rail track assessment and compacted ground.

“Vacuum consolidation is a ground improvement technique using artificial suction to increase shear strength of soil.” Cholachat explains, “This method can be used in the coastal areas or reclamation lands where soil is very soft and high compressible.”

Non-destructive testing for Rail track assessment and compacted ground is an innovative approach to assess the ground condition without taking any samples from the ground. This technique is fast and cost effective when applied to large-scale projects such as rail tracks and road embankments.

What’s your best tip for keeping up to date with research?

Set email alert for new articles from various journals, this he learnt from a consultation with his Liaison Librarian for Engineering. Contact your Liaison Librarian for other time-saving tools.

What new Library resources should researchers know about?

It’s not particularly new but researchers should use Scopus and Web of Science for finding out your research impact, using H-Index and citations.

What Library resource do you use the most?

Probably the Compendex database, it includes millions of bibliographic citations and abstracts from thousands of engineering journals and conference proceedings.

When asked what his best piece of advice for new researchers was, Cholachat recommended consulting with a mentor regularly and collaborating with other senior researchers in the same field. Publishing is also important, “Try to publish in quality journal papers as much as you can.” Cholachat knows how important this is. Researchers can get assistance from their Liaison Librarian in identifying journals for publishing.
Dr Débora De Freitas

Débora De Freitas is a Research Fellow at the National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security. She is primarily involved with a recent and exciting project entitled ‘The CSIRO Coastal Collaboration Cluster’ (http://www.csiro.au/partnerships/Coastal-Cluster.html). The core aim of the Cluster is to identify barriers to uptake of science in coastal zone; generate a clearer model of how researchers can engage more effectively with stakeholders and decision makers; thus enable better science uptake; and ultimately improve management outcomes in coastal zone. The Cluster is composed of five Themes studied across eight universities. The Themes are: governance, socio-cultural context, knowledge systems, and adaptive learning. The various themes will be integrated by a keystone Theme: integration, analysis and synthesis lead by ANCORs under the coordination of Richard Kenchington (Professoral Fellow and Theme leader) and Débora. The Integration, Analysis and Synthesis Theme plays active roles in bringing the other themes together, and should provide strong leadership, close cooperation and communication, while fostering a genuinely collaborative approach between the Cluster participants and with the relevant CSIRO Flagships teams. The primary and essential aim of The Integration, Analysis and Synthesis Theme and Debora’s major role is to develop practical, workable strategies for progressing improved integrated management and communication between the many players with diverse needs, expectations and perspectives involved in the coastal zone.

Débora is originally from Brazil where she completed a BSc-honours (2000) and Masters-honours (2003) in Oceanography at the Federal University of Rio Grande, Brazil – with complementary studies in Marine Policy at the Center for the Study of Marine Policy, Delaware/U.S.A. She recently (2010) concluded her PhD in Environmental Studies at James Cook University. Her research interests focus coastal management, ocean resources and marine policy, stakeholders’ engagement natural resources management, systematic conservation planning, and geographic information systems. Débora is currently involved with collaborative projects in oceans and coast governance, fisheries management and climate change adaptation in Australia, Brazil, Africa and the Coral Triangle region.

Ms Jacqui Baker

Jacqui Baker has recently joined the Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention as a research fellow after receiving a PhD in Government from the London School of Economics. Jacqui is a 2004 recipient of the General Sir John Monash Award which funds international doctorates for young Australians in areas of strategic interest to the nation’s future. At the LSE, Jacqui trained as a political anthropologist, learning to use long term fieldwork and an intimate understanding of social and cultural structures to understand complex political change. Her PhD was an ethnography of illicit police financing in Jakarta, which showed how illegal monetary flows were increasingly rerouted to the police as Indonesia’s democratisation process pushed the military back to barracks. At CTCP, Jacqui’s new area of research looks at the way the drug economy in Southeast Asia has transformed from opium to amphetamine production and the implications that this change has for the structure of criminal networks.

Ms Trina Hinkley

Trina joined the Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute (IERI) as a Post Doctoral Fellow in April after completing her PhD thesis at Deakin University. While completing her thesis, Trina was also employed in a full-time lecturing position, and coordinated and taught several units which focused on behavioural aspects of physical activity and health, including health outcomes and interventions and evaluation. Trina’s research investigates behavioural aspects of preschool children’s physical activity and sedentary behaviour. This includes measurement of those behaviours, investigating and identifying correlates of behaviours, and identifying strategies to support healthy behaviours in young children. Her expertise includes both qualitative and quantitative research, and she is experienced in managing large research projects. Trina is particularly interested in translational research, such that knowledge developed through the research processes can be translated into practice in the broader community to support healthy outcomes for a greater number of people. Trina was also an author on the background paper which informed the development of the National Physical Activity...
Recommendations for children from birth to five years. As part of her PhD, Trina initiated and managed the Healthy Active Preschool Years (HAPPY) Study which ultimately collected data from over 1000 preschool children, their families and over 130 preschools and childcare centres which the children attended. HAPPY has now received funding from the ARC to follow those children as they transition to school and capture important data on their physical activity, sedentary behaviours and dietary intake, factors which might influence these behaviours, and how these behaviours change over time, particularly during this important transition period. Trina’s current role includes her continued involvement in HAPPY, with other IERI members and Deakin University, as it returns to the field in 2011 & 2012 for additional data collection, dissemination of research findings from her PhD thesis and other studies, and developing and implementing a pilot intervention to decrease television viewing and sedentary behaviour in preschool children.

**Mr Duncan Rintoul**  
Institute for Innovation in Business & Social Research

Prior to joining IIBSoR, Duncan was an Associate Director at Urbis in Sydney, where he led the firm’s practice in applying market research methods to public policy challenges. He is an active member of the Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS); he co-chaired their 2009 national conference and in 2011 became the inaugural Chair of the NSW Social Research Network.

**Mrs Melissa Ryan**

Innovation Ecosystem Development Manager

Melissa has recently joined the Commercial Research and Innovation & Technology Transfer team Division to work on the new Entrepreneurs Innovation Ecosystem. The overall goal of this position is to assist in the building, promotion and development of this inspiring program. Melissa brings with her a wealth of marketing and business strategy experience gained from large corporate environments in a broad range of fast growing, fast changing industries, ranging from FMCG, Financial Services to Media companies such as News Limited and most recently Fairfax Media. Key areas of expertise Melissa brings to the team are in consumer insights, identification and assessment of business opportunities, strong practical experience in trade and consumer marketing principles and business strategy development.

Contact Melissa on: mryan@uow.edu.au or ext 3410

**Ms Natalie Foxon**

Natalie Foxon has joined the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute team as the Media and Communications Officer for IPRI and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES). A UTS Communications graduate, Natalie has eight years experience in broadcast journalism, radio production and freelance writing. She is working to raise the profile of ACES and IPRI, further promoting their world class research.
UOW rail researchers launch new book

A new book by UOW researchers Professor Buddhima Indraratna, Dr Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn and Dr Wadud Salim is predicted to become a critical resource for Australia's future heavy-haul railway engineering industry. Advanced Rail Geotechnology was launched on 5 May by Faculty of Engineering Dean Professor Chris Cook and Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Rail Innovation CEO David George. The book details the role of ballast support in modernising existing track designs for heavier and faster trains.

Mr George said the book will be vital in supporting practising railway engineers and is a culmination of many years of extensive research.

Professor Indraratna said UOW is the only university in Australia specialising in track research, although he hopes his book will encourage other universities to participate.

Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute Publications:

Dr Dylan Cliff and colleagues from IERI and the Universities of Newcastle and Sydney have authored a joint paper titled, 'A Movement Skills and Physical Activity in Obese Children: Randomised Controlled Trial’, which has recently published in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise (the leading international sport sciences journal, also an ERA A* Journal).

The paper makes a substantial contribution to the field of childhood obesity research centring on the efficacy of an intervention program implemented to promote movement skill proficiency, perceived athletic competence and physical activity; and for reducing screen behaviours in overweight children participating in a multisite RCT, which was funded from an NHMRC Project Grant.


A special issue of the journal: Learning, Media and Technology has been published with members of the Faculty of Education and IERI as editors. This Special Issue discusses the current dialogue around and future pathways of a body of work known as learning design. This term, refers to R&D work conducted over the last decade focused on the development of tools and strategies to assist teachers in their design practices.

The 5 papers in this special issue represent an international perspective of the current thinking about learning design with each paper presenting a particular viewpoint and suggesting pathways for future research.

Agostinho, S., Bennett, S., Lockyer, L., & Harper, B. (2011). The future of learning design (Special Issue), Learning, Media and Technology, 36(2).

Travel Tale

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!

For information on International Funding Opportunities visit https://intranet.uow.edu.au/raid/internationalfunding/index.html

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.
Research Strength Showcase Series 2011

This URC lecture series will provide an opportunity to showcase some of UOW’s Research Strengths, and introduce the researchers involved to the general campus and community.

Current Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th August</td>
<td>Professor Song-Ping Zhu, Dr Aidan Sims and Dr Natalie Thamwattana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7th September</td>
<td>Prof. David Ayre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th October</td>
<td>Prof. Sara Dolnicar and Dr Melanie Randle</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>All Presentations will be held at lunchtime (12.30-1.30pm)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Building 20, Lecture Theatre 2</strong></td>
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Sandwiches will also be available for those attending.

Schedule updates at:
http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@sci/@sciresearch/university-research/chirseminar.html

Uni in the Brewery 2011

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.

Presentations scheduled for this year:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
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<tr>
<td>17th August</td>
<td>Dr Clare Murphy and Prof. David Griffith Environmental Research Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd November</td>
<td>Siobhan McHugh Faculty of Creative Arts</td>
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More at:

CHI Research Seminar Series

A new initiative of CHI in 2010 saw a number of research seminars presented to the university community. Each seminar represented a key area of the centre’s research activities. The monthly CHI Research Seminar Series will continue in 2011 at lunch time (12.30-1.30pm) on the following date:
9th June—Dr Ross Gordon

A delicious lunch is also provided, so come along! For further information or to RSVP, contact Christine Cairns: christine_cairns@uow.edu.au.

International Workshop on Rheological and Mechanical Properties of Hydrogels

Hydrogels, a class of highly hydrated polymer materials, are all around us. Just think of shower gel, toothpaste and contact lenses. The ability to design and create and apply novel hydrogel structures for emerging applications such as tissue engineering depends on our understanding of their rheological and mechanical properties.

This workshop will provide specialist research reviews and in-depth tutorials on synthetic and biological hydrogels. The workshop will provide a venue to enhance interdisciplinary interactions and collaboration amongst research students, early career researchers, academics, industry and international visitors. In addition, the most recent advances in characterising the properties of hydrogels will be presented by each of our invited speakers.

Speakers include:
- Dr. Ross Clark (CP Kelco, San Diego, USA)
- Prof. Paul Calvert (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, USA)
- Dr Philip G. Whitten (University of Wollongong)
- Prof. Hugh Brown (University of Wollongong)
- Dr Robert J. Miller (Genzyme Drug & Biomaterials, USA – to be confirmed)

For more information visit
Three of five Chinese students studying at the University of Wollongong were honoured with the Chinese Government Award for “Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad” on Thursday 28th April.

In total, the award has been presented to 35 Chinese students in Australia nationwide and out of these 35, 12 are from NSW. “This is a tremendous success for UOW in the allocation of these highly competitive awards. We achieved the most awards compared to other Universities in NSW this year.” Professor Shi Xue Dou said.

These awards have been founded by the Chinese Government since 2003, with the purpose of honouring the academic excellence of self-financed Chinese students studying overseas. It is granted across all fields of study and all countries in the world. Only those with outstanding performance in their PhD studies will be considered by the award selection panel. Successful candidates are granted US$5,000 each and a certificate to encourage and support their future studies and research.

The successful ISEM candidates in 2010 were:

Mr. Yi Du (Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, supervisors are A/Prof. Zhen-Xiang. Cheng, Prof. Xiao-Lin. Wang, and Prof. Shi Xue Dou)

Mr. Guo-Dong Du (Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, supervisors are A/Prof. Zai-Ping Guo and Prof. Hua-Kun Liu)

Mr. Jian-Feng Mao (Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials, supervisors are A/Prof. Zai-Ping Guo and Prof. Hua-Kun Liu)

Last year, Dr. Shui-Lei Chou (ISEM), Dr. Hao Liu (ISEM), Mr. Peng Zhang (ISEM), Mr. Bin Cheng (School of Electrical), Ms. Wei Wu (School of Computer Science and Software Engineering) and Mr. Jun Zhang (School of Computer Science and Software Engineering) won the awards.
In his introduction of IPRI and ACES, Professor Wallace explained that to make complex bionic devices based on next generation materials, it is necessary to use next generation fabrication machinery.

The collaboration will initially take advantage of the combination of world class expertise in the fields of materials and machinery, to focus on building new bio-printing technologies. This will feed directly into the ACES bionics program, specifically in the areas of nerve and muscle repair as well as detection and control of epilepsy.

The new technology developed with KIMM will be housed in the University’s state-of-the-art AIIM Processing and Devices facility, due to open mid-year on the Innovation Campus.

“The new Processing and Devices facility provides a catalyst for us to bring together the best groups in the world to tackle these fabrication challenges, this collaboration is a perfect example,” said Professor Wallace.

In his opening address, KIMM President Dr. Sang-Chun Lee commented on the ‘huge synergy’ between the two organisations. With their common philosophy of engaging in complex research challenges of global significance, the relationship between ACES and KIMM will be a long term one, with intentions to build new machinery together for a number of important applications.