Is Australia being washed away?

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New ERA for University of Wollongong research

The University of Wollongong’s standing as an international, research intensive institution has been boosted with the announcement of the results of the Australian Government’s first Excellence in Research for Australia Initiative (ERA), by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr.

The ERA initiative assesses research quality within Australia’s universities using a combination of indicators (such as publications, research income, esteem/applied measures) and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.

ERA identifies research areas within institutions and disciplines that are internationally competitive, as well as emerging areas where there are opportunities for development and further investment.

UOW was rated at or above world standard for research across a significant majority of its disciplines by the ERA initiative and received the highest possible ERA rating of “5” for research quality (well above world standard) in the areas of:

- **Tourism:** recognising the outstanding work done by the faculties of Commerce and Science, UOW was the only university in Australia to receive a 5 star rating in this research discipline.
- **Macromolecular and Materials Chemistry:** UOW was the only university outside the Group of 8 to receive a 5 star rating (faculties of Science and Engineering).
- **Interdisciplinary Engineering:** strong research activity in the faculties of Engineering, Science and Informatics saw UOW receive one of only two 5 star ratings awarded in this discipline.

UOW disciplines receiving a rating of 4 (above world standard) for research quality included Science, Engineering, Arts, and Creative Arts. Engineering research (rated a 4) placed equal 4th out of 31 universities in Australia, and Chemical Sciences (rated a 4), placed equal 3rd out of 26 universities nationally, demonstrating the strength and breadth of UOW research in these disciplines. UOW was one of only six institutions nationally to receive the highest rating of 4 for Visual Arts research, and was the only university outside of the G08 to receive a rating of 4 for Philosophy, placing equal 3rd out of 19 nationally.

Congratulations to all of our research staff who contributed to achieving these excellent results. A special thanks to the Research Services Office ERA Team, Panel Champions and Faculty/Unit Research Staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare the ERA submission. I look forward to discussing the ERA outcomes with you and planning for the next ERA submission in 2012.

Judy Raper - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Further information on UOW’s ERA ratings is available at: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/era/index.html

5. Well above World Standard

The University of Wollongong continues to be recognised externally for its outstanding performance in Research.

To formally recognise our researchers for their ongoing efforts, please consider nominating/encouraging others to nominate for one of the Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence in Research Awards which recognise contributions that academic staff and their research partners are making towards research excellence and include the following categories:

- **Excellence in Research Supervision.** Nominations close 4/3/11.
- **Research Excellence for Senior Researchers.** Nominations close 18/3/11.
- **Research Excellence for Emerging Researchers.** Nominations close 18/3/11.
- **Interdisciplinary Research Excellence.** Nominations close 18/3/11.
- **Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnerships.** Nominations close 18/3/11.

For selection criteria, nomination forms, guidelines and contact details, please refer to: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/uowawards/index.html
Amanda Lawson appointed to ARC Advisory Council

Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Minister Senator Kim Carr, recently announced the appointment of UOW’s Dean of Creative Arts, Professor Amanda Lawson, to the ARC Advisory Council.

The membership has been expanded from seven to 10 to help the Australian Government better understand and support the breadth of research undertaken in Australia.

By providing advice to the Australian Research Council (ARC) the research leaders will use their expert knowledge in fields including Indigenous studies and creative arts to help the ARC further its ambitious reform agenda. This agenda aims to improve ARC funding schemes so they can better support today’s research sector.

Professor Lawson took up her appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts after several years as the inaugural head of UOW’s School of Art and Design.

She has more than 25 years’ experience in the arts in Australia and during that time has been the director of several organisations, including the Crafts Council of NSW and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery. She has also worked at the Australia Council, with NSW State and Regional Development, and as an independent arts consultant. She has expertise in arts marketing, audience development and collections and cultural project management.

Professor Lawson gained a BA from the University of Edinburgh and an Honours degree from the University of Wollongong before completing a PhD in Australian Literature at the University of Sydney in 2002. At UOW she is Director of the University Art Collection and teaches in the areas of curatorial and professional practice.

Professor Lawson’s current research projects include leading an Australian Research Council Linkage Project which is trialling new approaches to collections, documentation and access.

An interdisciplinary collaboration across the Faculties of Creative Arts and Informatics, with the Australian Museum as partner, this project has led to the pilot Virtual Museum of the Pacific, which was launched in late 2009.

Among many industry and board appointments, Professor Lawson was chair of Arts NSW Visual Arts/Craft Committee from 2004 to 2008 and a founding board member of Museums and Galleries NSW. She is on the UOW Planning and Quality Committee, was a panel member for the humanities and creative arts component of the 2009 Excellence in Research Australia trial and was appointed as a trustee of the Australian Museum in 2010.

Illicit Networks Workshop

UOW’s Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention (CTCP) in conjunction with the Équipe de Recherche sur la Délinquance en Réseau (University of Montreal, Canada) hosted the second annual Illicit Networks Workshop over 6 and 7 December 2010. The workshop drew on participant expertise in diverse areas such as criminology, political science, social network analysis, social psychology and sociology.

Themes for the workshop included: Social network analysis – theoretical developments; methodological issues; case studies of criminal networks; case studies of terrorist networks; network evolution and new technologies; comparing terrorist and criminal networks; network analysis and intelligence-led policing; and limits of network analysis for criminal intelligence and law enforcement purposes.

A list of keynote papers presented by high profile overseas and Australian academics can be found at http://ctcp.uow.edu.au/newsevents/conferences/index.html

“UOW has been at the forefront of developing high level recognition for creative practices as research for two decades, and the Faculty of Creative Arts has a great track record in this area through its staff and HDR students. I’m looking forward to maintaining our contribution at a policy level through this appointment, as well as representing this dynamic sector. Supporting and understanding the role of knowledge creation through artistic practice can be challenging to traditional views, but it is certainly a crucial part of the future shape of research in Australia” Prof. Lawson.
Queensland floods: How quickly is Australia being washed away?

Opinion Piece: Prof. Gerald Nanson, from the UOW School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

The powerful, turbulent, red-brown sediment-laden water gushing across our TV screens this past few weeks, sweeping all in its path before it, have caused us to be shocked by the awesome force of nature and the terrible toll it has wrought on life, property and public infrastructure.

Yet again, after Australian communities have buried their dead and rebuilt their structures, long-term questions will remain. The floods will return with the rains in the years or decades to come but the red-brown soils are lost, increment-by-increment, forever.

The floods of Queensland have raised important issues relating to how well Australia collects data that is vital for the accurate analysis of potential hazards, and how adequately our country understands and therefore is prepared to deal with our extreme environmental hazards.

This has been a month of grand pronouncements from our senior politicians, with fully deserved declarations of sincere sympathy for the afflicted, pronouncements of how stoic are our citizens in the face of adversity, and promises of remedial action peppered with plans for reconstruction. Quite frankly, we have to be stoic because our politicians and senior bureaucrats over the years have not done the job they should have to prepare and protect our communities. We are declaration rich and action poor.

We have one of the world’s most variable climates and our climate and river gauging stations need to be operated for many decades and even centuries in order to characterise and analyse such variable regimes – yet for budgetary reasons they are often shut down with inadequate records after a few years of operation.

Sediment monitoring is limited to so few locations that it is of very little scientific value. While climate change could well be making these variable events even more hazardous, we won’t know this for sure for decades to come and reference to this possibility is often an unwarranted distraction. It is the presently known and unvarnished severity of these repetitive events that we must respect and address.

Europeans took most of their first century of occupation of the continent to appreciate the repetitive nature of such hazards, however we appear to have squandered much of the subsequent centuries by not investigating their very serious risk in detail. As a nation we have not put the hard yards into analysing how best to anticipate and deal with them.

The risk to the lives of this generation is serious enough and commonly tragic; the loss for future generations will not only be lives but the stripping of topsoil from our catchments and degradation of our agriculture.

While we have a large and very capable group of scientists in universities, consulting companies and government research institutions who are well able to analyse these problems and advise on remedial measures, they have been poorly served by our state and federal agencies that have provided precious little good data for analysis.

While the Brisbane River is well gauged and has been for more than a century, it is a rare exception on a continent where rivers are our lifeblood and soils are our foundation for agriculture. While Australia has relatively very few well-gauged rivers, just as astounding is that we have almost no data on how much sediment our rivers carry.

This is an inexcusable shortcoming for modern, industrialised, well-educated nation in the modern age. Quite frankly, the government agencies responsible for such basic data collection on flood frequencies, sediment yields and the relationships between drought, fire and flood have been out to lunch, for more than a century.

As well as killing scores of people and destroying homes and livelihoods, fires denude catchments of protective vegetation. Floods clearly represent a similar hazard to life and property, but less well appreciated is that they carry vast quantities of soil, much of it lost permanently from agricultural production, to locations where it severely damages estuaries and coral reefs.

Droughts, fires and floods are commonly related hazards and there are benefits in studying their serial impact in an integrated way. The headwaters of some of our larger and steeper catchments are forested, and the El Nino decades of drought and fire are commonly be followed by a La Nina year and devastating floods, such as this year.
With the data collection hopelessly divided between state, federal and even private bureaucracies, there are enormous gaps in what most developed nations would regard as a minimum data set upon which to scientifically assess and interpret the risks faced by their citizens. Without good data collected over many decades, the risks of drought, fire and flooding to life and property, and the longer-term impact of soil losses, cannot be accurately assessed.

The resulting ambiguities and inevitable arguments enable developers to often circumvent the efforts of regional and urban planners to set acceptable stands for the development of safe and sustainable communities.

New Zealand, Canada and the USA have much more methodically acquired and vastly superior sets of data on river discharge and sediment yields following many decades of systematic sampling by government agencies. Fire is a hazard with special relevance to Australia, a continent that has over millions of years evolved both highly flammable vegetation and vast areas of relatively infertile topsoil. So with little good soil and where drought, fire and deforestation strip what protective cover there is, we have almost no real data on just how much soil is being lost.

We simply cannot answer what is nationally a truly important question; ‘How quickly is Australia being washed away?’ In the absence of actual data, bureaucrats have resorted to the quick and cheap, and we certainly got in value what we paid for! They funded scientists to ‘model’ runoff and soil losses associated with the sort of flooding we have seen in recent months across Queensland. But these models, despite the best efforts of the scientists involved, are virtually useless because there is insufficient real data to accurately ‘tune’ them.

Incongruously, we have just enough data to show how inadequate the models are. While New South Wales may see itself as the most populous and therefore sophisticated state, actually Queenslanders have done a substantially better job at collecting river flow and sediment data. However, neither state can compare with those countries mentioned above.

The Howard government committed 10 million dollars to improving data collection as a part of the 10 billion dollars allocated to correcting the water problems of the Murray-Darling basin, but such a sum is woefully inadequate to fill such a nationwide information black hole, and it’s unclear at this stage just how effectively even that small sum has been spent.

It is time the appropriate ministers and their chief bureaucrats for each of the state water authorities met with their federal counterparts to institute a truly national network of basic data collection. If this were to be done tomorrow, it would still be decades before the data would be of sufficient volume and value to adequately assess the enormous problems we face in dealing with our natural hazards.

Regardless of what climate change may do to worsen our situation, we must not sit on our hands and maintain this state of scientific ignorance for another decade, or worse, another century.

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The UOW has built its successful research reputation by focusing on Research Strengths. Our research environment is multidisciplinary, focused on outcomes to real problems and underpinned by strong partnerships.

UOW recently launched 5 research themes to group current and emerging research strengths. These themes promote and encourage cross disciplinary research.

The UOW research themes are:
- Environmental Sustainability,
- Innovative Materials and Manufacturing,
- Health and Medical Research,
- Information and Mathematical Sciences and
- Society, Policy and Culture.

Like a personal trainer can keep us ship-shape as we age, so too do a class of proteins in the body, known as chaperones. There are a number of different types of chaperones in the body, their role to ensure that all of the other proteins in the body that keep us fighting fit are of perfect molecular form. As we age, the ability of proteins to fold and function perfectly reduces; as does the ability of chaperones to keep up their job of quality assurance.

Over time, the misshapen proteins form clumps, or aggregates, around the body. In the brain, these protein aggregates cause devastating diseases including Parkinson’s Disease and Motor Neurone Disease. Dementia is also a consequence of protein aggregation in the brain and is one of the fastest growing sources of major disease burden in Australia.

A research team led by Dr Heath Ecroyd and Dr Justin Yerbury (pictured above), from the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, is investigating how chaperones contribute to the onset of age-related neurological diseases and ageing in general, as well as how they might offer opportunities for prevention and treatment of these diseases.

They are focused on a particular type of chaperone, small heat-shock proteins, which play a ‘surveillance’ role in the body, identifying which proteins are falling out of shape, and dispatching fellow chaperone proteins to assist them in keeping their molecular form.

Using an animal model of motor neurone disease (MND), the researchers are examining the role these chaperones play in a healthy brain, how this role changes in an ageing brain, and what the chaperones are – or aren’t – doing at the onset of the disease.

Looking at the differences between disease onset and a significant deterioration in health, which may occur many years after diagnosis for many of the age related neurological diseases, it is hoped will provide significant insight into why these chaperones seem to fail us as we age.

“People with a genetic mutation that is associated with MND are not born with the disease - the average age of onset is around 50 years,” Dr Yerbury says. “Using this model, we can examine the function and form of the chaperones at each stage of the life cycle and investigate the changes that lead to the sudden onset and progression of MND during ageing.’’

The researchers are studying the chaperones from two angles: the “numbers game” – whether ageing throws out the fine balance between chaperones and deforming proteins; and functional deficiency – whether or not the chaperones themselves become inoperative as we age.

Their ultimate goal is to identify opportunities for the development of therapeutic treatments, which can be honed to benefit patients suffering from these diseases of our age.

This work has been made possible through a grant from the Illawarra Retirement Trust Research Foundation. Dr Justin Yerbury holds a Bill Gole Postdoctoral Fellowship, funded by the Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia.

Education HDR students highlight their research in inaugural event

The event was sponsored by The Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute (IERI) the UniShop, Print and Distribution Services, Teachers’ Credit Union and Saudi Students in Wollongong. http://ieri.uow.edu.au/index.html
Member for Keira, David Campbell, recently announced $250,000 in research funding to SMART for ground-breaking work to inform public transport planning.

Transport NSW established a unique partnership with the SMART (Simulation, Modelling, Analysis, Research and Teaching) Infrastructure Facility at UOW to carry out the research.

SMART describes the research – which examines how social and environmental factors have an impact on transport modal choice in Sydney’s south eastern suburbs – as an Australian first.

The prototype model developed with this NSW Labor Government funding will help equip policy makers with the next generation of planning tools to manage infrastructure projects and transport networks.

Prior applications of the complex approach – called “agent-based modelling” (ABM) – have principally focused on the fields of health and defence in the United States of America.

SMART’s Professor Peter Campbell is a world expert in the field and used ABM to develop simulation technology and decision support tools for the United States Department of Defence. The technique has also been used in the United States to rack pandemic spreads and model disaster scenarios.

ABM is innovative because it enables investigation of complex interdependencies and integrated infrastructure solutions. It can help transport planners to better understand land use, infrastructure, population density and mix, cultural factors, accessibility and congestion and how these parameters may affect the choice of transport mode.

The technique represents individual ‘agents’, their behaviours, natural decision making and interactions. For instance, unlike conventional transport models, agents can learn what the most effective transportation options are and pass on this information to other members of their household or peer group.

The research pays special attention to transport and the impact of congestion and shifting population density on future transport choices.

Director and Chief Executive Officer of the SMART Infrastructure Facility, Garry Bowditch, said the project turns the traditional urban and infrastructure planning approach on its head.

“Instead of relying on land use and census data to predict future transport needs, planners will now also be able to use liveability factors to determine different scenarios for more dynamic land use policies,” Mr Bowditch said.

Future population density and its composition will play a big role in the types of facilities the community will need, and our research will help a more rigorous and evidence-based approach to these large-scale investments by government.

“This study lays the foundation to examine better the whole transport network servicing a community to ensure the different transport components work seamlessly from the end-users’ perspective and is tailored to local residents’ needs.”


PhD student Honoured for her Cancer Research

PhD student Lidia Matesic’s research into the development of anticancer agents has been recognised through the Royal Society of NSW.

Lidia, from the School of Chemistry, has been awarded the Royal Society of NSW scholarship which acknowledges outstanding achievements by individuals working in a science-related field within NSW or the Australian Capital Territory.

The Royal Society of New South Wales is the oldest scientific society in Australia, with origins back to 1821. It has a long tradition of encouraging and supporting scientific research in the State and awards up to three of these scholarships each year.

Lidia’s award consists of a certificate acknowledging her achievement, a $500 prize and an invitation to present her work at the Monthly Meeting of the Society in December. Lidia gave this presentation in December.

Lidia is working under the supervision of Dr Danielle Skropeta (School of Chemistry) on the development of novel anticancer agents that selectively target cancer cells.

The project was originally inspired from work on some natural compounds found in the egg masses of marine molluscs from the Illawarra coast.

Her project is co-supervised by Associate Professor Marie Ranson (School of Biological Sciences), and associate supervisors Professor John Bremner (School of Chemistry), Dr Kara Perrow (School of Biological Sciences), Dr Julie Locke (Intelligent Polymer Research Institute) and is facilitated through a strong collaboration between the School of Chemistry and the School of Biological Sciences.
The official opening of the Wollongong node of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Free Radical Chemistry and Biotechnology was held on Thursday 25th November last year.

Over the past seven years a research team led by Dr Phil Barker, a research scientist from BlueScope Steel Research and Associate Professor Stephen Blanksby from UOW’s School of Chemistry has been developing a new understanding of the chemical processes which underpin the durability of the paints employed in the COLORBOND® steel range of products.

Working with a team of two honours students and now two PhD students, the team has developed new technologies based on state-of-the-art mass spectrometry (a technique for identifying molecules by their individual masses) to monitor chemical processes within the paint at a molecular level.

The work undertaken by Dr Barker and Professor Blanksby has attracted national attention and the Wollongong research team was then invited to join the Centre of Excellence in Free Radical Chemistry and Biotechnology.

This centre was originally founded in 2005 by a collection of eminent Australian scientists interested in the chemistry of free radicals. Its funding has been recently renewed by the ARC which will provide almost $10 million over the next four years to fund the centre’s critical research into the role of free radicals in health and disease, surfaces and materials and even climate change mitigation.

The University of Wollongong recently signed a MOU with the newly formed Alliance for Supply Chain Innovation; an initiative aiming to shape the national research agenda for supply chain innovation. Represented by Professor Tim Colman at the Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research (IIBSoR) in the Faculty of Commerce, it brings together leading researchers from universities, industry and government from across Australia.

Other prominent partners are Victoria University, the University of Western Sydney, the University of Tasmania, Curtin University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Bond University, Monash University, University of South Australia as well as The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport Australia (CILTA), GS1 Australia and CSIRO.

The alliance aims to influence the national supply chain agenda, determining where research needs to take place. Addressing national issues to improve and build a sustainable logistics position for Australia, the alliance will assist in testing new business concepts and support training and education needs of the industry. Ultimately, this will result in the industry being able to manage their business critical supply chains more effectively and competitively.

The universities involved in this alliance are considered to be the leaders in supply chain research. Integrating UOW’s resources such as the SMART Infrastructure and Centres and Institutes within the Faculties of Informatics and Commerce will enable the alliance to identify the need or opportunity for change and formulate an informed response to such a need or opportunity. UOW is in a prime position to take on both theoretical and commercial research within this area.

New SInet Subtheme

A new Social Innovation Network (SInet) sub-theme received funding at the end of 2010. Social Aspects of Life Sciences (Life Sciences for short). It brings together multi- and inter-disciplinary researchers with an interest in biological and health sciences from a humanities/qualitative perspective.

This network deliberately looks beyond health research (although this is a key focus and the network hopes to forge many fruitful links with the Centre for Health Initiatives (CHI) and Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI)) to include the biological sciences more broadly. As a result, participants have interests in both controversial and traditional biological sciences, including Synthetic Biology, Healthcare, Stem Cell Research, Reproductive Sciences, Psychology and Animal Sciences. They have backgrounds in (amongst others) English, History, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Public Health, Commerce and Informatics.

The idea behind this sub-theme is to break the isolation sometimes felt by researchers perhaps because they are taking a theoretical or qualitative approach in a quantitative and practice-orientated environment, or because they are studying cutting-edge science in a humanities-only environment. It aims to act as a focal point for the diverse people interested in these inter-disciplinary areas and create a space to talk about these, seek research synergies, share information (including on potential sources of funding, on papers and presentations of interests or on potential seminar series in which to participate) and provide feedback on works in progress from different disciplinary perspectives.

The network is currently in its early phases and working on the best way to use the SInet seed-funding. If you would like to join or have any questions and ideas, please do not hesitate to contact Nicola Marks from the Faculty of Arts (pictured) nicola_marks@uow.edu.au or Limin Tan from SInet; limin@uow.edu.au.

- Dr Jun Shen, a Senior Member for both IEEE and ACM, has been invited to be a member of editorial board of ERA-listed journal <Service-Oriented Computing and Applications>, which is published by Springer, and also a PC member for both the IEEE International Conferences on Services Computing and the IEEE International Conferences on Cloud Computing in 2011.

- 2010 Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy Conference

The Centre for Health Initiatives was well represented at the 2010 Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy Conference, held 29th November to 1st December in Christchurch, New Zealand with Prof Sandra Jones, Dr Nina Berry and Mr Lance Banie presenting five papers. They were delighted when Nina's paper entitled "Toddler milk advertising in Australia: the infant formula ads we have when we don't have infant formula ads" (co-authored with Sandra Jones and Don Iverson) won "Best in Track" in the Corporate Social Responsibility & Ethics stream.

- Germinating future research of ADHD and disadvantage

In December 2010, Dr Valerie Harwood from The faculty of Education and the Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute (IERI) along with colleague Professor Julie Allan (Stirling Institute of Education) and two of IERI's HDR students, Nicoli Humphery and Samantha McMahon presented at the Stirling Institute of Education, Stirling University, Scotland to present findings from the research project 'ADHD and disadvantage in Australia and Scotland'. The presentations provided an interdisciplinary discussion panel between psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and academics about the findings and future directions of 'ADHD and disadvantage' research. Dr Valerie Harwood has recently been awarded an ARC Discovery grant to conduct further research in the field. The project is titled "Imagining university education: the perspectives of young people impacted upon by low socio-economic status and disengagement from school".

- Australian Association for Educational Research Conference (Date 29-2 December)

Recently over 800 people attended the highly successful Australian Educational Research Association (AARE) conference; 'Making a Difference' in Melbourne. IERI members and HDR students were involved in convening, presenting and coordinating various aspects of the conference thus there was a significant representation of UOW's educational research. Dr Rose Dixon coordinated the 'Inclusive Education' Special Interest Group (SIG), Professor Jan Wright was conference convener along with numerous IERI members and Higher Degree Research students presenting their research. AARE is a national association committed to fostering educational research and facilitating contact and collaboration between educational researchers from around Australia and internationally.
News from the Grants Team

Funding Success

NHMRC Career Development Award
Dr Martina Sanderson-Smith from the Faculty of Science received $384,160 in funding over 4 years for the project: Defining the role of plasminogen activation in group A streptococcal invasive disease.

NHMRC Training Postdoctoral Fellowships
• Dr Amy Wyatt from the Faculty of Science received funding of $322,344 over 4 years for the project: The role of clusterin in preventing atherosclerosis. Amy was awarded an Overseas Biomedical Fellowship and will spend the first 2 years of the award at the University of Cambridge UK.
• Ms Karen Mickle from the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences received funding of $298,992 over 4 years for the project: Understanding toe muscle weakness to restore foot function in older individuals with toe deformities. Karen was awarded an Overseas Clinical Fellowship, with the first 2 years of the award spent at the University of Salford UK.

National Breast Cancer Foundation
Dr Bridget Munro from the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences received funding of $196,003 over 2 years for the project: controlling lymphoedema in an intelligent fashion. UOW Associate Investigators on this grant include Prof Geoff Spinks (Engineering), Prof Philip Clingan (IHMRI), Prof Gursel Alici (Engineering) and Prof Julie Steele (HBS).

Diabetes Australia
Prof Xu-Feng Huang from the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences received funding of $59,985 for the one year project: The use of tetrpene saponins from traditional medicinal herbs for improving leptin sensitivity and glucose intolerance in obesity and Type 11 diabetes.

The Lowitja Institute Grant Success
The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, the Lowitja Institute, recently awarded a group of researchers, including Dr Natascha Klocker from the UOW School of Earth and Environmental Sciences $352,000 to evaluate a large scale anti-racism project (the LEAD – Localities Embracing and Accepting Diversity Project), being conducted in Victoria. The grant is being administered by the University of Melbourne.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

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Success in 2011 ARC Linkage Infrastructure and Equipment (LIEF) Grants
The University received $890,000 for three research projects with UOW as the lead institution. This represents a success rate of 60%, well above the national average of 47%. UOW was also involved in 11 other successful collaborative LIEF projects.

Congratulations to the following research teams:
• Researchers: Prof SX Dou, Dr G Pelekis, Dr Y Zhang, Prof M Martyniuk, A/Prof M in het Panhuis, Prof O Sushkov, Prof C Zhang, Prof H Liu, Prof R Ramer, A/Prof H Yang, A/Prof G Parish
• Project Title: A complete near-field scanning optical microscope for advanced characterisation of novel and functional materials
• Awarded: $290,000
• Collaborating Organisations: The University of New South Wales, The University of Western Australia

• Researchers: Prof G Nanson, A/Prof B Jones, Prof A Chivas, Prof C Woodroffe, Dr K Fryirs, Prof C Murray-Wallace, Prof J Dodson, Dr T Cohen, Prof S Harrison, Dr R Nanson, Em/Prof M Williams, A/Prof Alan S Collins, Dr K Amos, Dr P Hesse, Dr D Cend?Dr T Pietsch, Dr A Brooks, A/Prof I Goodwin, Prof J Olley
• Project Title: Sonic drilling to provide contamination-free core sampling of rock and unconsolidated sediment
• Awarded: $150,000
• Collaborating Organisations: ANSTO, Griffith University, Macquarie University, The University of Adelaide

• Researchers: A/Prof A Oakley, Prof N Dixon, Prof M Wilson, A/Prof P Keller, Prof D Olis, Prof P Board, A/Prof M Ranson, Prof I Young, Dr J Oakeshott, Dr C Jackson
• Project Title: Regional facility for macromolecular x-ray crystallography
• Awarded: $450,000
• Partner/Collaborating Organisations: CSIRO, The Australian National University

UOW College of Expert Members
Congratulations to Prof Lori Lockyer from the Faculty of Education who has been appointed to the ARC’s College of Expert panel. UOW now has five College of Expert members:
• Prof Chao Zhang - Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (PCE)
• Prof Salim Bouzerdoum - Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences (MIC)
• Prof Jacquie Ramage - Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences (MIC)
• A/Prof Jenny Beck - Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (PCE)
• Prof Lori Lockyer – Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences (SBE)
Training for Researchers

COMING SOON – NEW PROGRAM FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Would you:
• like to fast track your research career?
• be mentored by a successful senior UOW researcher?
• network with other UOW Early Career Researchers (ECRs)?

If the answer is yes then a new initiative to be launched by Professional & Organisational Development Services (PODS) & Research & Innovation Division (RaID) is for you. This twelve month program aims to assist the professional/career development of ECR’s by providing them with a suite of skills, knowledge and abilities to facilitate a successful research and academic career, as well as providing opportunities to develop strong networks and collaborative relationships.

The Program is sponsored by the DVC (R) – Prof Judy Raper and will consist of workshops, mentoring by a senior UOW researcher, a writing retreat and networking forums.

More information will be available on the PODS website in February. If you are interested in being kept informed about this exciting new initiative, please email Lorraine Denny – ldenny@uow.edu.au

Research Students

Graduations and Australian Higher Education Graduation (AHEG) Statement

Graduates from 2010 onwards will receive an Australian Higher Education Graduation (AHEG) Statement with their transcript and testamur, a new compulsory Commonwealth requirement. This document has been designed to assist with the portability and internationally legibility of the award and awarding institution.

The Abstract provided by HDR students to RSC when submitting the thesis will be used in the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement.

Submitting your thesis for examination soon?

To avoid re-enrolment for Autumn Session 2011 Higher Degree Research students must submit their thesis by 31 March 2011. If you submit your thesis after this date, you must enrol for Autumn session, and pay the appropriate tuition fee if you are an International student. Please note that you must be enrolled at the time of submission of thesis. For further information, please contact Julie King, Thesis Officer in the Research Student Centre, on (02) 4221 3208 or jking@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 and thesis preparation? 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.

Some of the Seminars to be presented this session include: Endnote, Thesis Writing, Your Gateway to Research at UOW, IP and Your PhD, Thesis Submission and Examination. Seminars will commence in the week of 8 March 2011. An email advising of the program will be sent to all HDR students in February. The program can also be found on RSC’s website: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/news/seminars/index.html.

Higher Degree Research (HDR) Enrolment Confirmation For 2011

1. New HDR students who have accepted their HDR offer but are not presently enrolled please contact HDR Enrolment officer June Toussis (junet@uow.edu.au or 4221 5453).
2. It is the responsibility of all HDR students to check that they are in the correct enrolment for Autumn and Springs Sessions 2011, full time or part time or coursework subjects.
3. All International HDR students must ensure that they are in full time loads for both sessions. (THE5924 is full time thesis and THE5912 is part time).
4. All enrolment variations for 2011 are to be sent to the HDR Enrolment officer, before 31st March 2011 for Autumn, and 31st August for Spring.

All re-enrolments for existing HDR students will occur following the completion of a successful Annual Progress Report (APR).

Annual Progress Reports are now overdue

The 2010 Annual Progress Reports (APR) were released to HDR students in October 2010. The APR process for Higher Degree Research (HDR) students is via SOLS. HDR candidates will be discontinued if they have not finalised their APR by 31 January 2011.
Three Minute Thesis Competition

The finals of Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition will be held on 29th June 2011. Faculties will run heats prior to this date. The 3MT is 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.

Anyone who is active in a PhD or Masters Research program* (including thesis under submission) is eligible to enter.

The UOW winner will receive $1,000, runner-up $500 and peoples choice prize $500.

The UOW Winner will automatically be entered into the National/Trans-Tasman competition at the University of Queensland (date to be announced). Travel and Accommodation costs will be covered by the Research Student Centre. Note: It is a condition of entering this competition that the winner will compete in the National-Tasman Competition at the University of Queensland.


Contact person is Lindy Darling - darling@uow.edu.au
Contact your relevant Faculty for details about Faculty 3MT heats.

HDR Orientation – Autumn 2011

HDR (Higher Degree Research) Autumn Session Compulsory Orientation details are:

Date: Wednesday, 23rd February 2011
Location: Building 20, Lecture Theatre 1
Online Registration: Please go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/index.html (no later than Wednesday 16 February), Click on ‘HDR Orientation’ box right of screen, inside you will find links to:
• HDR Orientation Online Registration
• HDR Orientation Program

Orientation will be held during the O-Week Festival, please go to http://unicentre.uow.edu.au/oweek/ closer to Orientation Day for details of events you may be interested in attending.

Any queries please contact: Lindy Darling: darling@uow.edu.au

Changes in the Submission Of HDR Theses

There have been a few changes implemented this year in relation to submission of Theses:

• Examiners are now given the option of receiving a digital copy of the thesis instead of a hard copy.
• Supervisors will ascertain from each of the two final examiners whether they prefer digital copy or hard copy and advise the student.
• Students will then prepare the thesis appropriate.
• If a digital copy is requested, an email must be sent to the HDR Thesis Officer in the Research Student Centre, attaching a copy of the thesis.
• Hard copies of the final thesis are no longer required.
• After completion of any revisions, and receipt of HPS approval, a disk containing the final thesis should be submitted to the Research Student Centre. Thesis Declaration form Part B must also be completed by student and principal supervisor and submitted at the same time.
• If the supervisor and/or School specifically requests a formally bound copy of the final thesis, the student is required to supply same.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie King at the Research Student Centre, phone 4221 3208 or jking@uow.edu.au
New Antibacterial Compound Licensed to Swiss Drug Development Company

Scientists from UOW are among a team which has developed a new antibacterial compound (AVX13616) which is active against microorganisms currently resistant to existing antibiotics. The antibacterial compound has been designed and developed by researchers from UOW’s Centre for Medicinal Chemistry and scientists at the Melbourne based drug-discovery and development company Avexa*. The compound has been licensed to the Swiss Drug Development Company Valevia for clinical development.

If successful, the Valevia deal could be worth up to $US65 million to Avexa with potential benefits to the University of Wollongong.

Tender News

CHI continue their winning ways

The Centre for Health Initiatives (CHI) had a number of tender successes last year – congratulations to all at CHI. Identified as a ‘Research Strength’, CHI brings together an array of strengths in health program evaluation and formative research from a range of relevant health disciplines including: the Schools of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health; Psychology; Health Sciences; and the Graduate School of Medicine.

Get “SMART”

UOW’s SMART infrastructure facility – Australia’s comprehensive infrastructure research and teaching centre – tendered successfully to be on a panel of suppliers for the Critical Infrastructure Protection Modelling and Analysis (CIPMA) Program for the Attorney-General’s Department. Congratulations to all at SMART.

Upcoming ERA Events

Following the recent release of the 2010 Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) results, there are two important events coming up for UOW staff.

1. ARC ERA OPEN FORUM

Australian Research Council representatives will be visiting UOW to present at an ERA Open Forum on the 2010 outcomes and an outline of the 2012 submission process as follows:

ARC representatives: Leanne Harvey, Executive General Manager & Sam Grunhard, Assistant Director, Outreach Team, Research Excellence Branch

Time: 11.30 to 1.00pm

Date: FRIDAY 4 MARCH, Venue: 32.G01 (IHMRI)

Tea and coffee be available. For catering purposes (and as seating is limited), please RSVP your attendance to Susan McGaffin (susanm@uow.edu.au) or Julie Evans (Julie.evans@uow.edu.au), ext: 3386 by Monday, 28 February.

2. ERA @ UOW: INFORMATION SESSIONS

In the lead up to the ARC visit on 4 March, we will be holding a series of Information Sessions for each discipline cluster to explain the 2010 ERA results and what they mean for UOW research.

Sessions are open to all UOW staff. Prof Judy Raper, DVC(R) and Prof Tim Marchant, Dean of Research will present at these sessions, and UOW Panel Champions and Research Evaluation Committee members will also be available.

Dates for each workshop are available at https://intranet.uow.edu.au/raid/era/index.html

Further information on ERA outcomes available at: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/era/. General questions should be directed to Matt Perry (mattew_perry@uow.edu.au or ext: 4795).
Summon: improving the discoverability of Library resources

What is it?
Summon is the Library’s new discovery platform that searches across the majority of resources in all subject areas, significantly reducing the need to replicate searches across individual databases.

Why Summon?
Summon was implemented in response to client feedback asking for a single access point to the range of Library resources including the catalogue, journals and databases. Many of our clients have chosen to use Google for their research because of its simplicity, familiarity and coverage. But this has limited the range and quality of material that clients could use. Summon is an easy to use search tool that offers fast and accurate searching across 80% of the Library’s resources using a single Google-like search box.

Summon is fast and comprehensive search tool. For more information, click “What is Summon?” on the Library homepage, www.library.uow.edu.au

Conference hosting on Research Online

The University’s open access repository Research Online (ro.uow.edu.au) can host your conference. The 4th Asia-Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity 2009 (http://ro.uow.edu.au/apcei/) and the Sydney Business School HDR Student Conference 2010 (http://ro.uow.edu.au/sbshdr/) are recent examples. Full conference papers, abstracts, programs and associated audiovisual material can be digitally archived on the RO site. For further information contact Michael Organ, Manager Repository Services, Library on ext 3108.

Publications collection and HERDC

The annual Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) publications collection is now underway. This data requirement is reported to, and used by, the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DII SR) for determining the amount of Research Block Grants allocated to UOW.

Have your publications count
To have your 2010 publications count as part of the UOW collection of research publications data, the details must be entered into RIS and the status of the RIS record changed from “New” to “Seeking Faculty Verification”. Publication and verification material should be uploaded directly into RIS. Go to the File Uploads tab within the Publication Details in RIS to upload your material for HERDC.

Have your 2010 publications already been included?
Where available, the Library is now incorporating data from the Scopus citation database to support faculties in the comprehensive capture of 2010 scholarly publications. Check RIS to see whether all your 2010 publications have been included.

2009 Success
The 2009 HERDC submission was completed with 2,832 papers entered into RIS for the collection period. Publications achieving a HERDC status increased by 12.5% when compared to the previous year.
Dr Aidan Sims, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics & Applied Statistics (SMAS) and Deputy Director, Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMIA), talks to Ainsley Lynch about his career trajectory, winning grants and his research interests in operator algebra.

Aidan started his academic career at University of Newcastle, winning the University Medal with his first class honours in Mathematics, and then was awarded his PhD in 2004. Aidan landed at UOW in 2007 as an already well-published researcher and accomplished lecturer. After teaching at UOW for only one year, Aidan’s students surprised him by nominating him for Lecturer of the Year, a UniJobs award that attracts over 65,000 votes each year.

Aidan’s attempts to explain his research interests in terms that the entire research community will understand, “operator algebra is the mathematical theory which describes quantum physics and predicts how quantum systems will behave.” For his current ARC Future Fellowship project, his recent discoveries in operator algebra give us new insight into the dynamics and geometry – that is, the behaviour and shape – of the quantum world. In 2004 in Iowa City and 2007 in Norway, Aidan was invited to present at conferences as an expert in his field, a significant honour. He attributes his “expert status” to the efforts of his PhD supervisor who introduced him to many experts who he was able to learn from.

When asked what advice he gives researchers just starting out, Aidan’s says, “know the literature and keep up with the flow of new ideas”. In operator algebra, the boundaries of knowledge are constantly pushed; ensuring that he is not repeating work already addressed is extremely important and might save him months of wasted work. To make your life easier, Aidan suggests all researchers set up ‘email alerts’ for your keywords and keep tabs on relevant journals, that way you can read work as it is being published.

Aidan has been hugely successful in applying for grants, continuously funded by ARC Discovery grants since 2006 and recently he received an ARC Future Fellowship. Aidan recommends continually applying for all relevant grants available, “you might not be successful every time, but eventually the decision makers will see that you are persistent and hardworking, so keep at it.” Aidan urges his students to think about who is going to read it and who is going to be making the decisions – often not an expert in your particular area. Finally, “polish, polish, polish so it reads well… to do this you need to start early.”

Writing a cohesive, complete literature review, in Aidan’s opinion, is essential. Aidan uses MathSciNet as it indexes almost all literature in his field but emphasises not missing any important authors, especially if they are likely to be refereeing the paper. When using indexing databases, use Document Delivery to obtain articles the Library does not have access to.

Lucia Tome, Research Training Librarian, recently gave a group information session to Aidan and his colleagues. Lucia demonstrated Cited Reference searches, a method of quickly following the research thread backwards and forwards in time. Aidan was extremely pleased to learn this timesaving technique, and claims that writing literature reviews are now “about 3 times easier”. Publishing is another area Lucia is strong in, demonstrating how Web of Science and Scopus are used to help choose which journal to submit a paper. Using Web of Science or Scopus to calculate your h-factor is also important when it comes to submitting grants. Aidan uses similar tools to find potential collaborators.

Aidan’s advice for new researchers:

- Keep up with the research
- Save time by setting up email alerts using specific keywords
- Collaborate with others
- Grab every opportunity to write a quality paper
- Apply for every relevant grant
- Ensure you cover the research
- Think about your audience
- Learn new search skills such as cited reference searches
- Use database tools to track your research

To learn new search skills to save you time and find more, contact a Liaison Librarian.

Go to: www.library.uow.edu.au > Contact us > Liaison Librarians
Research Services Office

Tansie Jarrett

Tansie Jarrett recently joined the Research Services Office as a Grants Officer. Tansie has a background in project management with the international development and aid sector. Tansie has previously worked with the Burnet Institute in Melbourne as the Project Manager for a health focused program in PNG, including HIV and AIDS prevention, management and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, immunisation trails and women’s and children’s health. Tansie has experience working in the commercial sector and as a volunteer in Timor Leste, she has managed contracts and coordinated tenders funded by AusAID, WHO, UNICEF, and Global Fund. Tansie will be the primary Grants contact for the Faculties of Arts, Creative Arts, Commerce, Education and Informatics.

Contact Tansie on 4522 or tansie@uow.edu.au

Rochelle Warren

Rochelle has recently taken the position as Research Development Officer in the Research Services Office. Rochelle comes to RSO from being the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). In her new role she will be supporting research grants development activities, focusing particularly on Internationalisation and training, as well as supporting the general activities of the grants team.

Contact Rochelle on 4726 or rwaren@uow.edu.au

Faculty of Commerce

Dr. Ulrike Gretzel

The Institute for Innovation in Business & Social Research (IIBSoR) is pleased to welcome Dr. Ulrike Gretzel to their team, who joins them from Texas A&M University. She received her Ph.D. in Communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2004, after completing a Masters degree in International Business from the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration.

Dr Gretzel has extensive experience within tourism research, recently receiving the highly prestigious 2011 Emerging Scholars of Distinction Award from the International Academy for the Study of Tourism. With strong industry relations, she serves as a member of the board on the International Federation for Information Technologies in Travel and Tourism.

Her research focuses on representation and communication of tourism experiences through new media, including:

- persuasion in human-technology interaction
- experience design
- use of technology for interpretation
- adoption and use of social media
- inter-organisational information systems
- issues related to the development and use of intelligent systems in tourism.

Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, TripAdvisor, the Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and a number of national, regional and local tourism organizations in North America, Europe and Asia.

She joins IIBSoR as an Associate Professor for Marketing and is also a Director of the Laboratory for Intelligent Systems in Tourism (LIST). In addition she is an external lecturer at MODUL University, Austria and the editor of the e-Review of Tourism Research.

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.
A research book co-authored by Mary Barrett (School of Management and Marketing, Faculty of Commerce) and Ken Moores (Bond University) entitled Learning Family Business: Paradoxes and Pathways, first published by Ashgate in 2002, has been translated into Korean and republished there by Hanul Publishing Group. The same book has also been republished (in English) by Bond University Press and is being sold as a package with its sequel: Women in Leadership Roles in Family Businesses: Daughters on the Stage.

Faculty of Law Publications

A number of academics in the Faculty of Law have had books published in the last few months. These are:


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
Scholarships

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

PhD Scholarships - Centre for Computer and Information Security Research

Two ARC funded PhD scholarships in the area of RFID security are available. The aim of the project is to develop security schemes for RFID authentication, lightweight computation, and security models/proofs. The candidates should have a Research Master degree (or first-class honours) in cryptography or information security, a solid mathematical background, a good publication record, and good writing skills.

The duration of the scholarships is three years. The rate of these scholarships is approximately $22,000 per year. It is expected the candidates to start from 1 July 2011.

The application will close on 1 April 2011. For further information and application, please contact Associate Professor Yi Mu at ymu@uow.edu.au

Paula Olsen - Edith Cavell Trust Scholarship

Congratulations to Paula Olsen, a Nursing PhD student who has been awarded a scholarship from The Edith Cavell Trust. The Edith Cavell Trust is a memorial to Edith Cavell, a British army nurse who was executed in Belgium in 1915. Edith Cavell remains an inspiration to nurses everywhere.

HDR Scholarships

Applications for Round 2 of the Australian Postgraduate Awards and University Postgraduate Awards close on 17 March 2011. To be considered for a scholarship, you will need to apply online – https://smp.uow.edu.au/app/servlet/Student/.

For more information in relation to these and other scholarship opportunities, please see our website: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/prospective/index.html.

For enquiries in relation to the application process, contact Uniadvice or the Research Student Centre.

Events

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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<th>Session One</th>
<th>Wednesday 23rd March</th>
<th>Prof. Vera Mackie</th>
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<td>Institute for Social Transformation Research</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18th May</td>
<td>A/Prof. Clive Schofield</td>
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<td>Institute for Transnational and Maritime Security</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session Two</th>
<th>Wednesday 10th August</th>
<th>Institute for Mathematics and its Applications*</th>
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<td>Wednesday 7th September</td>
<td>Prof. David Ayre</td>
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<td>Institute for Conservation Biology and Environmental Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th October</td>
<td>Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research*</td>
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All Presentations will be held at lunchtime (12.30-1.30pm) Building 20, Lecture Theatre 2

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:

16th March | A/Prof. Stephen Blanksby and Dr Phil Barker (Bluescope Steel) “From Clothespegs to Cataracts to COLORBOND steel – Free-Radicals in everyday life”

25th May | Dr Simon Moulton Nanobionics Presentation

17th August | Dr Clare Murphy and Prof. David Griffith Environmental Research Presentation

28th September | Dr Tony Okley Presentation on the work of the Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute


*Speakers to be confirmed

Sandwiches will also be available for those attending.

2011 IHMRI Seminar Series

Time: 6pm - 7pm, Tuesday 15 February 2011
Location: IHMRI Lecture Theatre, Building 32, University of Wollongong

Experiences in Medical Research
Dame Bridget Ogilvie AC, DBE, FRS

In this talk, Dame Bridget will describe key research events she has been involved with during her career, including the emergence of new viruses and the population health impacts of early childhood vaccine programs. Dame Bridget will focus on infectious diseases, but also touch on her involvement with immunology, genomics, cancer and mental disorders. Her talk will provide a fascinating insight into the scientists and research teams whose work has advanced these subjects.

About Dame Bridget Ogilvie

Dame Bridget Ogilvie is Chair of the IHMRI Scientific Advisory Committee and brings outstanding international experience and connections to this role. Dame Bridget’s professional journey has taken her from research into the immune response to parasitic infections at the UK National Institute for Medical Research, to the Director of the Wellcome Trust, a global charitable organisation which supports biomedical research and the medical humanities. She has been a trustee of Cancer Research UK, non-executive Director of AstraZeneca plc, and Chairman of Medicines for Malaria Venture, Association of Medical Research Charities and the Lister Institute, together with many other non-executive interests.

In 1996, she was made a Dame Commander of the order of the Institute, together with many other non executive interests.

In 2007 she was honoured with the companion of the order of Merit for services to the medical and academic professions and her commitment to the support for research funding to improve global health.

Innovation Campus News

Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials’ High Achieving Graduate Team

A team of graduates connected with the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM) achieved some notable distinctions at their recent summer graduation ceremony.

The graduates achieved various accolades during their PhD or Masters programs. All six graduates have been awarded with ISEM excellent or merit awards over the past few years.

Wen Xian Li and Shulei Chou won the prestigious Chinese Government excellent student scholarships. Shulei was awarded the Electrochemical Society Summer fellowship to visit the well known Professor J. Dahn laboratory for six months. And he won the ARC Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship from 2011 to 2013.

Back Row: Serhy Pysarenko (PhD), Wen Xian Li (PhD), second row: Shu Lei Chou (PhD), Chao Zhong (Msters), Abbas Ranjbar (PhD) and front row: Rashmi Nigam (PhD).

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 dates:

10th February—Release of 2010 CHI Annual Report
10th March—Prof Patrick Crookes and Roy Brown
7th April—Dr Keryn Johnson and Melinda Williams
12th May—Lyn Phillipson
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.

Tips for Tendering Workshop

The next workshop is scheduled for sometime in April. If you are interested in attending apply via the Training link on the PODS site. If you need any information on tendering opportunities, potential Industry partners or the process of tendering please contact Brett Weeden on x3913 or bweedon@uow.edu.au

Ethics

Agenda Deadlines and Meeting Dates 2011 for your diary

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Human Research Ethics Committee</td>
<td>Health and Medical</td>
<td>Next meeting 8th March</td>
<td>16th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Research Ethics Committee</td>
<td>Humanities, Social Science &amp; Behavioural</td>
<td>Next Meeting 17th March</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Ethics Committee</td>
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<td>Next meeting 31st March</td>
<td>10th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene Technology Review Committee</td>
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<td>Next meeting 2nd March</td>
<td>16th February</td>
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Obituary

“Leon was an outstanding leader, academic and human being. He leaves UOW a great legacy” – Professor Gerard Sutton.

Emeritus Professor Leon Kane-Maguire (1942 – 2011)

Emeritus Professor Leon Kane-Maguire was one of Australia’s leading research scientists in the specialist field of conducting organic polymers and their properties. His pioneering work led to many international awards and the development of several new fields of science.

Leon, a reflection twin with brother Noel, was born in Brisbane on May 4, 1942. Both young boys showed scholarly aptitude with Leon going on to complete an undergraduate science degree in 1964 and a PhD in chemistry in 1967. Leon and Noel were both awarded University Medals at the graduation ceremonies associated with them receiving their Honours degrees in Chemistry. Leon then undertook postdoctoral studies at Northwestern University in the US, and later, further studies in chemistry at University College in London and at Cambridge University. In 1971 he was appointed Lecturer in Chemistry at University College in Cardiff, Wales. During this time, Leon grew to love all things Welsh – the history, language, the scenery, the rugby, the music, and the people.

In 1983 he returned to Australia to take up a professorship and began a long and fruitful relationship with the University of Wollongong. He served there as Head of the Department of Chemistry for over 10 years and subsequently as Director of the Institute for Molecular Recognition. His passion for science helped build the reputation of the University of Wollongong into a leading research university. His pioneering research work in nano-materials was balanced by his down-to-earth attitude and a wicked sense of humour enjoyed by all. A massive and infectious enthusiasm for life enabled him to build a close rapport with the students he mentored, inspiring them to greater challenges and achievements.

Over the last 15 years Leon was a key member of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute which he helped to establish. The Institute, that now has a world class reputation for innovation and discovery, focuses on research into electro-materials and bio-polymers and their application in industry and medicine. As a researcher he was inclusive and generous in the recognition of his colleagues. His vision and drive were also instrumental in helping secure the funding that led to the establishment of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) where he continued to play an important leadership role in all aspects of the Centre.

But chemistry was not Leon’s only passion. After his family and science, he also maintained a strong association with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and an interest in war-time aviation as a result of his father serving in No 464 Squadron (RAAF) during World War Two. Sadly, his father was shot down over the English Channel when Leon was only one-year-old. It led to his lifelong quest to find his father and together with Air Commodore (Retd) Mark Lax, he co-authored The Gestapo Hunters, the story of his father’s squadron.

He wrote or co-wrote two more highly regarded RAAF Squadron histories, To See the Dawn Again (462 Squadron) and The Desert Scorpions (459 Squadron). In 2010 he was awarded first prize in the RAAF Heritage Awards for his fourth book Lost Without Trace, describing the service and ultimate loss of Squadron Leader Wilbur Wackett, son of Australia’s leading aircraft designer, Sir Lawrence Wackett. This book will be published later this year. These literary achievements were in addition to the 183 academic publications he wrote during his scientific career.

Leon’s parting gift to his children and niece was a detailed history of his father’s life (their grandfather whom they never met), completed just days before he died.

Leon Kane-Maguire will be remembered particularly by both his students and his colleagues with deep felt appreciation for the opportunities afforded to those in academia, and was always the first to celebrate a colleague’s success or achievement.

He was made Emeritus Professor of the University of Wollongong in 2010, celebrating a lifelong achievement and commitment to science and education.

Leon is survived by his wife Barbara and their three children - Andrew, John and Nicole, and his twin brother Noel, also a professor of chemistry, who lives in the USA.
Conferences can bring many benefits to you, your department, the university and the community at large.

Conferences help build the profile of UOW research, generate awareness, stimulate new knowledge, prompt research collaborations, stimulate investment and put your work on the world stage.

But before you organise a conference you may have to win the right to host it. If you are considering bidding to host an event in NSW, Business Events Sydney (BESydney) will assist you to secure it. BESydney is the non profit organisation dedicated to securing, promoting and assisting with conferences to be held in Sydney and NSW.

Success stories to share with you

BESydney has recently been working with Professor Elena Pereloma of the Engineering Materials Institute to win the International Conference on Recrystallization and Grain Growth (ReX & GG) in 2013. This event is expected to attract 350 delegates over five days and represents a direct economic impact of approximately $1.15 million to the local economy. Despite a strong counter bid by the city of Belgorod in Russia, NSW’s destination appeal and strength in recrystallisation won the day at the shootout in Sheffield, July 2010. The international decision makers advised Elena that “the (clip on) Koalas were loved by the International Committee and it was a joke that the koala defeated the Russian bear.”

Professor Farzad Safaei, Managing Director, ICT Research Institute to win the International Conference on Communications (ICC), 2014. This event expects over 1200 delegates with an immediate economic impact exceeding $5 million. ICC is a highly prestigious activity of IEEE with a full program of hot topics in voice, data, image, quality of service, home networking, signal processing, wireless, optical and multimedia communications. At the 2010 ICC held in Cape Town, Sydney’s case was presented by Farzad and Ian Stuart of BESydney along with competitor bids from Florence and Kuala Lumpur.

Find out more

For a no-obligation discussion on the benefits of hosting a conference, please contact BESydney who will analyse the business case, propose strategies to help you win it and set you on the right path to ensure maximum participation and exposure for your research work.

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