THE VICTORIAN HONOUR ROLL OF WOMEN INDUCTION

PROFESSOR JILL ASTBURY INDUCTED TO THE VICTORIAN HONOUR ROLE OF WOMEN, 2008

From the Office of Women’s Policy: The Victorian Honour Roll of Women, which began in 2001 as part of our Centenary of Federation celebrations, recognises and celebrates the achievements of women from all walks of life. These women have used their skills, knowledge, commitment and compassion to better their communities and have made a lasting contribution to women in Victoria. They have excelled in their chosen fields and are testament to the depth of talented women we have in this State. Each year, the community is invited to nominate women and the Minister for Women’s Affairs announces the new recipients to the Honour Roll as part of International Women’s Day celebrations.

The inductees for 2008 were announced on 7 March.


JILL ASTBURY, Research Professor in the School of Psychology at Victoria University, St Albans: “I’m on a sexual violence research initiative of the Global Forum for Health Research. It has a particular brief to get evidence to underpin policy and treatments in low-income or developing countries. And sexual violence, I think, is probably in the same position in terms of funding and visibility that intimate partner violence was about 10 years ago. It’s the least researched form of gender-based violence. The difficulty is that . . . a lot of women remain silent about it, feeling they should be able to move on in their lives without any assistance.

Last year I did a study of adult women who had experienced childhood sexual abuse. When they talked about how long it was between the abuse occurring and then getting assistance, a lot of them were in their 30s, and some older. They described, for example, finding things like pap smears very disturbing and painful, but never having been asked about any history like this. A lot of these questions are really simple to ask to try to provide greater control to the women in the situation. We do have better programs and better recognition, but gender-based violence is a huge problem.”

VU HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS HAS A NEW FACE

The Ethics and Biosafety Administration Group, in the Office for Research, is pleased to announce the launch of the Human Research Ethics website. The website expands upon the previous webpage, now providing researchers with comprehensive and concise information regarding human research ethics at Victoria University.

The website provides sections on the following:

- Ethics committees (University and Faculty HREC submission dates, contact information)
- Application and approval process
- Approved applications, reporting and feedback
- Useful links

Researchers are advised that the Ethics Application form and the supporting suite of documentation has been updated and is now in effect. It is essential that all new human research ethics applications are completed using the current documents available on the website.

The primary changes in the Ethics Application form pertain to the following:

- Use of data from Commonwealth Agencies and compliance with the Privacy Act
• Conflicts of interest
• Collaborative research projects, and
• A compulsory Application Review Checklist, to be signed off by the Principle Investigator(s).

The changes are aimed at assisting researchers better understand the requirements of the Application form and to improve the review process by Human Research Ethics Committees.

RESEARCH DATA PORTAL LAUNCHED

The Office for Research has launched a service to allow researchers to view and in certain instances amend components of data from our research information systems. Access is through https://research.vu.edu.au/rdp/rdp.php. Currently this system allows researchers to see data on research students that they are supervising and current and pending research grants. We hope to expand the features of this service to include data such as ethics application. Any feedback on making the site more useful would be appreciated. We also hope to setup a similar system for research managers for example Heads of School and Associate Deans (Research & Research Training), suggestions for this site would also be most welcome.

THE OFFICE FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS

WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH STUDENTS FOR THEIR RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

OUTSTANDING EXAMINERS’ REPORTS - RUSSELL WALSH

Russell Walsh of the School of Human Movement, Recreation & Performance, Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development, has recently received three outstanding examiners reports for his recently classified PhD thesis entitled Obscenities Offstage: Melbourne’s Gay Saunas and the Limits of Representation. All reports were glowing and passed the thesis with no changes required, earning Russell a formal commendation from the Postgraduate Research Committee for this achievement.

STUDENT AWARD - GUANDONG XU

The China Scholarships Council has awarded Mr Guandong Xu of the School of Computer Science and Mathematics in the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science a prestigious 2007 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad. Xu will receive a certificate and US$5,000 at a special ceremony at the Chinese Consulate General in Melbourne next month. Xu is currently completing his PhD in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics.

NEW STUDENT INDUCTION PROGRAM - 23 & 24 APRIL 2008

The Office for Postgraduate Research will be running a two-day induction program for new research students on 23 and 24 April 2008. Sessions offered will introduce students to their rights and responsibilities as a research student, processes and procedures, as well as providing a social event that enable new and existing students to network.

A special social gathering for new and continuing international research students will be held later in the month - stay tuned for details on the Office for Postgraduate Research website and global email system.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We would like to welcome our new scholarship recipients. Victoria University has over thirty-five new scholarships funded by DEEWR, Victoria University (including Faculty and Schools) and the ARC. Three students were awarded the prestigious Vice Chancellor’s Postgraduate Research Scholarships: Mr Matthew Lamb (HES), Ms Kate Lynch (AEHD), and Ms Rosemary Joy (AEHD). We would like to wish all our newly enrolled students every success with their research endeavours and look forward to hearing more about their work as their projects unfold.

NARRATIVE RESEARCH METHODS COURSE - DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR

For the past three months Victoria University has been host to Professor Catherine Kohler Riessman, widely acknowledged to be the ‘mother’ of narrative research. Professor Riessman has lead an eight week program on ‘Narrative Research Methods’ that has attracted twenty seven senior and student researchers from across Victoria and two from as far afield as Denmark. Work produced during the course will be highlighted when Professor Riessman visits University of Western Australia.

ANZJAT – THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ART THERAPY JOURNAL

Tarquam McKenna is actively engaged in advancing Art Therapy in Schools and has the role of editor of ANZJAT – the Australian and New Zealand Art Therapy Journal. He led the formation of the new journal ANZJATA (Peer Reviewed) launched in 2006 and released annually - and now edits this journal. The cover of the second edition is illustrated below. A call for papers is also noted. Tarquam co-ordinates the development of the National Training Standards for Art Psychotherapies Training at UQ, UWS and La Trobe. Recently he chaired the accreditation panel settling up New Zealand’s first MA in Arts Therapies in Auckland where he presented twice in 2007 as a guest to the New Zealand Arts Psychotherapies community. Tarquam is a registered Art Psychotherapist and has been active in the use of art psychotherapies in Australia where he taught and led supervision and training since 1993.

2008 ENDEAVOUR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SUCCESS

Mr Bhojaraju Gunjal was awarded a 2008 Endeavour Research Fellowship from DIISR. He commenced his fellowship on 4 March 2008 under the supervision of Associate Professor Hao Shi, with ITArl (Internet Technologies & Applications Research Lab) at School of Computer Science and Mathematics for 6 months until August 2008.

Bhojaraju plans to study different aspects of Knowledge Organisation System (KOS) in Digital

We are pleased to inform you that the 2008 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence (WI 2008) and the 2008 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Intelligent Agent Technology (IAT 2008) will be jointly held in Sydney, Australia, December 9-12, 2008.

Professor Yanchun Zhang, School of Computer Science and Mathematics has been invited as a speaker to give a talk at the IEEE/WIC/ACM WI-IAT'08.

The IEEE/WIC/ACM WI-IAT’08 provides a leading international forum for sharing original research results and practical development experiences among researchers and application developers from different Web Intelligence and Intelligent Agent Technology related areas. The conference seeks solutions to challenging problems facing the development of Web Intelligence and Intelligent Agent systems, and shapes future directions of research by promoting high quality, novel and daring research findings. For more details, please visit the conference webpage at:

(http://datamining.it.uts.edu.au/wi08/html/)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

ARC LINKAGE INTERNATIONAL - FOR FUNDING COMMENCING IN 2009

The Linkage International Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2009 are now available on the ARC's web site (www.arc.gov.au).

Linkage International proposals submitted in 2008 (for funding commencing in 2009) are due for submission at the following closing times:

- ARC International Fellowships (ARCIFs) closing date with the Office for Research on Friday, 8 May, 2008 and with the agency on Friday 23 May 2008; and

- Linkage International Social Sciences Collaboration proposals with the Office for Research on Wednesday, 14 May, 2008 and with the agency on Wednesday 4 June 2008.

The main changes to the Linkage International Funding Rules from the previous year (proposals submitted in 2007) are summarised at Section 5 of the rules.

The ARC will provide further notification advising when Application Forms and other relevant documentation become available.

CRIMINOLOGY RESEARCH COUNCIL

The 2008 round of Criminology Research Grants is now open for submissions:


Grants are to support research on the causes, correction and prevention of criminal behaviour, and related matters. Criteria used to assess the policy relevance of submissions for funding include their:

- contribution to knowledge of crime trends which could be used for planning and resource allocation by government agencies
- examination of an under-researched topic
- relevance to a current or emerging serious criminal justice issue
- benefit in developing new policies or procedures for dealing with the crime problem in question
- benefit in devising crime reduction strategies
- assistance in developing police policies or practices
- benefit in devising legislative reform proposals
- support and assistance in the development of existing work by government agencies
- ability to inform training activities for criminal justice personnel
- assistance to victim support activities or services
- assistance in offender support activities or services
- contribution to statistical data holdings

The closing date for submissions with the Office for Research is 15 August 2008 and with the agency on 22 August 2008.

AINSE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Applications are now open for the 2008 series of the Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) Research Fellowships. Applications close with the Office for Research on 23 May 2008 and 31 May 2008 with the agency.

AINSE Research Fellowships are tenable at any AINSE member university. Applicants are required to discuss, in the first instance, their research program with a chosen institution and provide an outline of the program agreed with the sponsoring university/institution.

Further information including the application form and guidelines are available at:

http://www.ainse.edu.au/ainse/for_academic_researchers/ainse_awards2.html

THANK YOU: To all who contributed to the content of the Research Matters bulletin.

TAFE NEWS FROM STEFAN SCHUTT

OFFICE FOR YOUTH RESEARCH REPORT:

TAFE Multimedia teacher and project manager Stefan Schutt has been commissioned to write a research report on young people and e-citizenship for the State Government’s Office for Youth, part of the Department of Planning and Community Development. The report will look at current research into the use of technology by young people for political and civic engagement, and will suggest ‘next steps’ for governments planning to use communication technologies to engage young people in civic life.

UPDATE ON THE AVATAR PROJECT:

The Avatar Project is a three-year action research project funded by VicHealth. Its focus is on working with disadvantaged young people within the virtual 3D environment Second Life in order to research the use of new technologies for mental health and social inclusion/exclusion. The Avatar Project is now working with a largely Horn of Africa cohort of young people at Deeney Park Secondary College in Flemington. It is now also working in partnership with Skoolaborate, an international collaborative group of secondary schools working within the Teen Grid of Second Life. As well as current VU staff members John Martino, Stafan Schutt, Dale Linegar and Justin Schmidt, the Avatar Project has has on board Monash University researcher and Second Life luminary Debbie McCormick, as well as VU graduate, Second Life resident and professional counsellor Grace Gonzales.

2008 IEEE/WIC/ACM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEB

Mr. Bhojaraju Gunjal

Libraries (DLs), particularly focusing on Information Visualisation and Graphic User Interface perspective. On his return to India, he will map and design the DL architecture using the KOS concepts to Vidyanyadhi Digital Library of University of Mysore, India.

He hopes the fellowship will not only help him speed up the completion of his PhD but also strengthen his research capability and build a close relationship between VU and the University of Mysore, India.