Senator the Hon Kim Carr to Visit VU

IDENTIFYING CAPABILITY AND BUILDING EXCELLENCE

Senator The Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research will be visiting VU to launch the Victoria University Postdoctoral Fellowship Program to be held on 17 April 2009.

The VU Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is a significant new commitment for VU aimed at building its research performance and developing the research careers of early career scholars who are within 5 years of having been awarded their doctoral degree. It aims to:

- Develop the next generation of academics and researchers by linking the best recent PhD graduates with outstanding supervisors and mentors
- Build VU’s research capacity in key areas identified through the VU Research Development and Investment Strategy as being the areas in which VU aims to further build and enhance its national and international research reputation
- Preparing researchers who are able to connect with relevant industries and enterprises to develop research that contributes to solving real world challenges and builds the community and the economy locally, nationally and internationally.

VU RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Victoria University Research Highlights has been collaboratively published by the Office for Research and the Marketing and Communications Department, March 2009.

For a copy of the full publication please visit the following link: http://research.vu.edu.au/ordsite/management/ResearchHighlights2009.pdf

2009 HARRY C. BIGGLESTONE AWARD

The Fire Protection Research Foundation, the National Fire Protection Association, and Fire Technology announced (17 March) that Professors Dorothy Bruck and Ian Thomas of Victoria University have been selected as recipients of the 2009 Harry C. Bigglestone Award for Excellence in Communication of Fire Protection Concepts.
This award is for their paper “Comparison of the Effectiveness of Different Fire Notification Signals in Sleeping Older Adults” that appeared in the First Quarter 2008 issue of Fire Technology. The award includes a cash prize from the Fire Protection Research Foundation of $5,000 that will be presented at the Opening General Session of the 2009 NFPA World Safety Conference and Exposition in Chicago, Illinois, on Monday 8 June 2009 at 1:00 PM.

ABSTRACT OF PAPER:
No previous research has investigated the responsiveness of older adults (65–85 years) to different emergency fire signals during sleep. In this study the auditory arousal thresholds (AAT) of 45 older adults were compared across four signals; the high pitched T-3 (as in current US smoke alarms), a mixed frequency T-3 (500–2500 Hz), a 500 Hz T-3 and a male voice. Participants were carefully screened, including for hearing, and awoken from deep sleep in a repeated measures design. Sounds increased progressively in volume until awakening occurred. It was found that the median AAT for the most effective signal, the mixed frequency T-3, was 20 dBA lower than the median AAT of the least effective signal, the current US high frequency smoke alarm signal. This finding is consistent with previous research, where the high pitched signal required a significantly louder volume than alternatives to wake sleepers of different ages, including children. Those aged over 75 years are especially at risk for sleeping through high pitched signals, probably due to the normal age-related decline in the ability to hear high pitched sounds. The minimum pillow volume of 75 dBA is inadequate for those over 75 years if a 3000 Hz notification signal is used. It is recommended that the high frequency signal currently found in smoke alarms be replaced by an alternative signal that performs significantly better in awakening most of the adult population, once the nature of the best signal has been determined.

VU ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS COLLECTION HAS BEGUN
The Office for Research has commenced the annual collection of Research Publications.

The principal focus of this collection is research publications from 2008. Eligible for inclusion in the DIISR Higher Education Research Data (HERD) collection are research books (A1), chapters in research books (B), peer-reviewed journal articles (C1) and refereed conference publications (E1). Other types of research publication will also be accepted for inclusion in the research bibliography.

All VU staff and students who have published research in 2008 should participate in this collection, including research students and staff from non-academic units. Material included in the HERD collection contributes to the University’s research block grant funding and will also be included in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) submissions expected in 2010.

Where ever possible researchers are urged to include material in VUIR, Victoria University’s open access publication repository (http://eprints.vu.edu.au). Including published material in an open-access repository can help improve awareness of your research and improve citation rates. The process for depositing material in VUIR can now be initiated through the research publication collection process.

A list of the staff, coordinating data entry in Schools, Centres and Institutes, together with forms and other documentation is available from http://research.vu.edu.au/herdc_pub.php. Please don’t hesitate to contact either Neale Yates (4601) or Cora Ng (5354) for further information.

ERA UPDATE
The Excellence in Research branch of the ARC has released final guidelines for the 2009 ERA submissions. The 2009 submissions have now been designated as a ‘Trial’, however complete participation by universities is required. Submission of the Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCE) and Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA) cluster has been delayed slightly (June and August). The final Journal ranking list for Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences has been released and, the Humanities and Creative Arts list is expected shortly. Lists for other disciplines should be available later in the year. ERA have indicated that it will be possible to address anomalies (eg missing journals) in the lists prior to the 2010 submissions. It is important that we identify missing journals since it appears that only publications in ranked journals may be included in submissions.

It is now expected that all 8 discipline clusters will have to make submissions in 2010. The current submission guidelines are likely to be revised/updated based on the success of the trial process.

In order to compile the 2009 and 2010 ERA submission the Office for Research will be using data collected in previous HERD collections. However a significant amount of supplementary data will also be required. An online collection system has been setup that will allow researchers to provide this data in a convenient and easy way. The data collection system will be made available through the research data portal (http://research.vu.edu.au/rdp/rdp.php) in April.

The final Journal ranking list for Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences has been released and, the Humanities and Creative Arts list is expected shortly. Lists for other disciplines should be available later in the year. ERA have indicated that it will be possible to address anomalies (eg missing journals) in the lists prior to the 2010 submissions. It is important that we identify missing journals since it appears that only publications in ranked journals may be included in submissions.

Further information on ERA is available from http://research.vu.edu.au/era.php

CICGR RESEARCH STUDENT CELEBRATION
Professor Anona Armstrong from Centre for International Corporate Governance Research hosted an afternoon tea attended by research students and staff associated with the centre to celebrate the start of a new year of great research on the 10th March 2009.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS AWARDS THEIR MAJOR RESEARCH GRANT TO CICGR
The National Institute of Accountants awarded their major research grant of $16,000 to the research team headed by Professor Anona Armstrong of Centre for International Corporate Governance Research to...
identify and evaluate the benefit of SMEs using the internet and new technology to reduce the burden of regulation. Research team includes associate Professor Arthur Tatnall, Professor Colin Clark, Professor Ronald Francis, Professor Andrew Clarke, Dr Wei Dai and Kumi Heenetigala.

NEWS FROM THE WORK-BASED EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE

ASSOC. PROFESSOR SHELLEY GILLIS INVITED TO JOIN EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP

WERC’s Deputy Director Shelley Gillis has recently been invited by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) to become a member of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Expert Advisory Group (EAG). The NAPLAN involves the assessment of all Australian students in years 3, 5, 7 & 9 being assessed using common assessment tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. In total, more than one million students participate in NAPLAN each year. The EAG was established to provide independent expert and technical advice to the Australian Education Systems Official Committee (AESOC) Steering Group and the Project Team on matters relating to NAPLAN item development, specifications and measurement. Assoc Professor Shelley Gillis joins the following four eminent assessment and educational measurement experts: Professor Ray Adams (The University of Melbourne), Professor Patrick Griffin (The University of Melbourne), Professor David Andrich (The University of Western Australia) and Professor George Cooney (Macquarie University). Further information regarding NAPLAN can be found at http://www.naplan.edu.au/

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

WERC Director Berwyn Clayton and WERC researchers Mark O’Rourke and Geri Pancini will each present papers at the 12th Annual Australia Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) Conference to be held in Sydney during April. The Centre’s Director, Berwyn Clayton, will also be presenting at one of the 5 pre-conference workshops for new researchers in VET. To find out more about the AVETRA Conference go to http://www.avtra.org.au/annual_conference/index.shtml

The conference will include keynote speakers representing a range of perspectives nationally and internationally and include: Dr Penny Jane Burke and Professor Yvonne Hiller from the UK, Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Craig Robertson, Acting Director, Tertiary Skills and Productivity, DEEWR, Dr Tom Karmel, Managing Director, NCVER, and Andrew Smith, National Executive Office, Australian Council for Private Education and Training.

WERC staff member Stefan Schutt presented a paper at the OZCHI: Designing for Habitat and Habitats Computer-Human Interaction conference in Cairns in December 2008 (http://www.ozchi.org/). Stefan’s paper was entitled Staging life stories on the web: the Small Histories project and performances of reconstruction, and focused on his PhD studies in interactive media and narrative.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH – NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Stefan Schutt from WERC has been invited to join an ARACY (www.aracy.org.au/) collaborative group focusing on the role of information and communication technologies in promoting positive mental health amongst marginalised young people.

Convened by Michelle Blanchard from the Inspire Foundation, the purpose of the collaboration is to bring together a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, practitioners and young people to think innovatively and explore the question ‘What role can information and communication technologies play in promoting positive mental health among marginalised young people?’ The focus for the collaboration is ‘at-risk’ young people aged between 12 and 25.

VET INNOVATION MORNING WORKSHOP WITH PROF. YVONNE HILLIER AND DR JANE FIGGIS

Friday, March 13 saw over 100 VET practitioners from around Victoria converge at City Flinders campus to take part in a successful VET Innovation workshop facilitated by WERC and supported by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) and the TAFE Development Centre. Entitled From the Skies to the Swamps: International Innovations in VET and How They Apply to You, the workshop was opened by DVC Anne Jones and saw presentations by Yvonne Hillier, Professor of Education at the University of Brighton, as well as former scientist, educational journalist and consultant Dr Jane Figgis. Presentations were followed by practical group activities.

ISI HIGHLIGHT

A/Professor Mikel Duke’s student Tom O’Reilly presented his work on “Demonstration of Industry Water Recovery using Membranes and Waste Heat” at the Water Quality Research Australia (WQRA) Summer Research Scholarship Reporting Seminar on 17 February and received first prize for his presentation. Congratulations Tom!

RESEARCH PAPER

Dr Gerard Kennedy (Social Sciences and Psychology, Faculty of AEHD) has published a co-authored research paper in the Elsevier journal Physiology & Behavior along with colleagues from La Trobe, Cambridge and Melbourne Universities and the Howard Florey Institute. The paper, ‘Endocrine and ingestive behavioral responses to fluid deprivation in sheep’, appears in Physiology & Behavior 96 (2009) 637–645.
WELCOME INDUCTION FOR NEW RESEARCH STUDENTS

The Office for Postgraduate Research will hold a welcome induction for newly enrolled research students:

Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2009
Time: 1.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Venue: Cityscape Restaurant, Building K, Level 5, Footscray Park Campus.

From 1 - 4 pm, new students will be taken through essential information and introduced to key research and support staff. From 4pm onwards, the event will be open to all students and staff for a social event.

ARC LINKAGE PROJECTS (ROUND 1) FOR FUNDING COMMENCING IN 2010

The Linkage Projects scheme supports collaborative research and development projects between higher education organisations and other organisations, including within industry, to enable the application of advanced knowledge to problems. As an engaged university with many external collaborations, we are very well positioned to leverage these partnerships through this scheme.

We also strongly encourage you to take advantage of the OIR external review consultant which has greatly assisted us in increasing our ARC success rates.

The timeline for the preparation and submission of applications is detailed below:

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<th>TASK/EVENT</th>
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<td>New ARC Research Management System (RMS) open</td>
<td>ARC</td>
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<td>and application form available on-line</td>
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<td>Workshop - Using new ARC RMS</td>
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<td>Date to be advised</td>
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Review Process
Researchers MUST have their applications reviewed by:
- Academic peer(s) approved by the Associate Dean (R&RT) AND/OR
- Consultant (Em Prof Alan Johnson)

Full drafts* to OIR for review by Consultant (Em Prof Alan Johnson) Researchers 1 April

Individual consultations with Em Prof Alan Johnson Consultant Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 April

Closing date for Eligibility Ruling & Exemption Researchers and OIR OIR 8/4/09 ARC 15/4/09

Final Application submission to OIR Researchers OIR 22 April

Review by OIR staff
Applications must be entered on RMS systems and draft copies MUST be submitted to the OIR for a compliance review

Submission to ARC OIR 30 May 2009

NEW RMS SYSTEM

The current system for lodging applications with the ARC called GAMS will be replaced in 2009 for the Linkage Grants (Round 1) applications. The new system is called RMS. The new system is live now and information can be found at the following URL: http://www.arc.gov.au/general/rms.htm

The Office for Research will be providing updates on the new system and will be offering training on using the new system as well as providing ongoing support to researchers using the new system.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Linkage Grants information can be found on the ARC website at the following URL:

If you need any further information or assistance please contact Robina Bamforth (Ext 4705) or Palmina Fichera (Ext 4707) or visit the Office for Research (Room C303, Footscray Park).

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