2009 VU POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

Following the official launch of the Victoria University Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme by Senator Kim Carr on Friday 17 April, we are delighted to announce the new group of Fellows who are joining the University in the second round of appointments under this scheme. Our seven new Fellows join the cohort who commenced in 2008, bringing the total number of Postdoctoral Fellowship appointments to twenty.

The University community warmly welcomes these new researchers, who are all listed below and we have no doubt that they will find the experience of working in our areas of key research strength, and in partnership with our established researchers, a rewarding one.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of their endeavours through their contribution to the research community at VU, as well as the positive impact that their individual research programs will have for the region, industry, national and international research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Supervisor(s)</th>
<th>Host School / Centre / Institute</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander English</td>
<td>Climate change and implementing a sustainable low-carbon economy in Australia and China.</td>
<td>Dr Sally Weller</td>
<td>CSES, FBL</td>
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<td>Patrick-Jean Guay</td>
<td>Foraging ecology of waterfowl on wastewater treatment lagoons.</td>
<td>Dr Randall Robinson &amp; Dr Megan O’Shea</td>
<td>ISI and FHES</td>
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<td>Sun Jung</td>
<td>New media consumption of Asian popular cultures among female Asian-Australian youth: Performing trans-textuality, trans-orientality and trans-sexuality.</td>
<td>Dr Jane Landman</td>
<td>School of Communication and the Arts, FAEHD</td>
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<td>Fotios Sidiroglou</td>
<td>Development of novel photonic devices for telecommunication and sensing.</td>
<td>Dr Zourab Brodzeli</td>
<td>CTME, FHES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceridwen Spark</td>
<td>Changing lives: Identifying and confronting the barriers faced by tertiary educated women in Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>A/Professor Michael Hamel-Green</td>
<td>School of Social Sciences &amp; Psychology</td>
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**WERC RESEARCHERS SCOOP THE POOL AT 12TH ANNUAL AVETRA CONFERENCE AWARDS**

VU's Work-based Education Research Centre might be new, but it's already on the map in national VET research. WERC researchers were awarded the lion's share of awards at the 12th Annual Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) Conference in April.

The award for best paper was won by WERC researcher Geri Pancini and Rob McCormack from VU College. WERC researcher Mark O'Rourke was awarded runner up in the best paper stakes, and WERC Director Berwyn Clayton's paper was highly commended. As well as that, Regan Harding - a member of the NCVER Building Research Capacity of Practice run by WERC - received the New Researcher Award.

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<tr>
<td>Aaron Thornton</td>
<td>Descriptive modelling of transport properties for the guidance of advanced membrane material design.</td>
<td>AProf Mikel Duke</td>
<td>ISI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Williams</td>
<td>The MITCh Program (Motor Imagery Through Childhood).</td>
<td>Dr Alan Pearce</td>
<td>CARES, FAEHD</td>
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**FORTHCOMING KEYNOTE ADDRESSES BY WERC DIRECTOR BERWYN CLAYTON**

WERC Director Berwyn Clayton will be a keynote speaker at two forthcoming VET conferences. These are:

* Queensland DET VET Teaching Conference 2009: A celebration of teaching and learning, Brisbane Convention Centre, 27th May.

**ENDEAVOUR EXECUTIVE AWARD SUCCESS**

We are delighted to advise that Dr Iwona Miliszewska, School of Engineering and Science has been awarded the prestigious Endeavour Executive Award to undertake her proposed program in Hong Kong later on this year. The award is valued at $20,000.

Dr Miliszewska's success in securing the Award was helped greatly by the knowledge and skills she gained through participation in the inaugural Emerging Educational Leaders Program in 2008.

**NEW VICHEALTH RESEARCH GRANT**

**COLLABORATION BETWEEN TOURISM CENTRE AND SCHOOL OF SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE**

Academics from two distinct areas of the University have combined forces to apply for a major research grant from VicHealth, a state government agency. Researchers from the Centre for Tourism and Services Research (CTSR) and the School of Sport and Exercise Science may receive approximately $100,000 in grant funds from VicHealth. The research will investigate and document inhibitors and facilitators of participation by members of disadvantaged communities in sport. The project team consists of Professor Leo Jago (CTSR), Professor Margaret Deery (CTSR), Dr. Clare Hanlon (School of Sport and Exercise Science), Dr. John Tower (School of Sport and Exercise Science) and Associate Professor Bob Stewart (School of Sport and Exercise Science). The project has emerged from numerous discussions relating to the synergies in research interests and background in the areas of CTSR and the School of Sport and Exercise Science. CTSR is a University research centre that grew out of the Business and Law Faculty and is hosted within the Faculty. This particular project was successful at the EOI stage and the research team has been working with VicHealth staff to ensure the project meets the needs of the funding agency and the communities it serves. The joint venture shows what can be achieved by cross-disciplinary teams coming together to work on a community-based project addressing complex social issues. The aim of the research is to identify the features of community organisation relationships which influence the capacity of local communities including those in disadvantaged groups, to engage in physical activity through community sport, and develop appropriate strategies. The research addresses VicHealth's research priority of 'Increasing Physical Activity' by investigating the social, economic and environmental facilitators and barriers to increasing participation in community sport across the population. Disadvantaged groups in this project include people with a disability, indigenous communities, people from low socioeconomic backgrounds, refugees, migrants and CALD communities.

**ERA AND VU RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT STRATEGY – FINAL ROAD SHOW**

There have been a series of 'Road Shows' held in April and May to inform the VU Research Community about:

- The Research Development & Investment Strategy 2008-2010: What is it and how does it affect research at VU
- Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA): 2009 and 2010 submissions and data requirements

For those who wish to stay on, Neale Yates will be providing an introduction to the ERA data collection system.

The last presentation is scheduled for:

Monday 11 May – Werribee Campus, Conference Room 2, Building 2 – 12 noon to 1.30pm

Presenters: Professor Linda Rosenman, Dr Gayle Morris, Neale Yates and Jenny Cameron.

All academic and other research related staff are encouraged to attend.
DAIRY INNOVATION AUSTRALIA GRANT SUCCESS

Dairy Innovation Australia recently invited applications for its Processes and Products Grants for research and innovation, with an application round closing in January 2009. All project proposals were assessed on the basis of their alignment with the strategic objectives of Dairy Innovation Australia and their potential to offer benefits in science, technology, potential commercial return or improved industry and research capability.

Three proposals from this round have so far been approved for funding, including one from Victoria University.

Associate Professor Mikel Duke will lead a team from Victoria University (including Dr Todor Vasiljevic and Dr Peter Sanciolo) in a 1-year investigation of improved use of membrane systems in the preparation of concentrated bacterial cultures. This team will work closely with Dr Malcolm Broome and Dr Ian Powell of Dairy Innovation Australia. The other projects include one from the University of Queensland and one from CSIRO’s Future Manufacturing Flagship.

OSTEOPATHS REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA (ORBV) TARGETED RESEARCH GRANT SUCCESS

We are delighted to advise that Professor Roger Gabb (Faculty of Health, Engineering & Science), Cameron Gosling (Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University), Brett Vaughan (School of Biomedical & Health Sciences), Patrick McLaughlin (School of Biomedical & Health Sciences), Assoc Prof Clive Standen (School of Health Sciences, Unitec, New Zealand), Dr. Gary Fryer (School of Biomedical & Health Sciences) and Margaret Wolff (British School of Osteopathy, London, UK) have been awarded the ORBV targeted research grant for just under $100,000 investigating ‘Alternative models of assessment of overseas-qualified osteopaths for their suitability to practice in Australia.’

ECONOMICS OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING MODELS

The release of the report Economic Implications of Alternative Scholarly Publishing Models by the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) in January marked the culmination of a year long project led by John Houghton (Centre for Strategic Economic Studies) and involving Bruce Rasmussen and Peter Sheehan of CSES together with a six person team based in the UK, led by Prof. Charles Oppenheim at Loughborough University. The project website is at http://www.cses.com/EIS-ASPM/.

The report has generated some, and sometimes heated commentary. It was first noted in the Times Higher Education (http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=405222&c=1) and on a number of blogs (http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/2009/01/major-new-report-on-economic.html). Publishing industry lobby groups have launched a detailed critique, but to date with little of substance behind it (http://www.publishers.org.uk/en/home/news/detail/index.cfm?nid=086C6D55-D571-409E-BDA8C749C404F50B). JISC will be making an equally detailed response this week.

The work has generated interest elsewhere in Europe, with work currently progressing on a SURF foundation funded project in the Netherlands in collaboration with EIF and Research voor Beleid of Zoetermeer, as well as a Ministry of Culture/DEFF funded project in Denmark in collaboration with Bibliotek og Medier. A proposal for a collaborative project in Germany with colleagues at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main is currently before the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), and work will commence shortly on an international comparative review for the European Knowledge Exchange Group which John Houghton will present to the European Commission in Brussels in June.

With strong interest in the project, John Houghton has been making a number of conference appearances, including: Berlin 6 in Dusseldorf, marking the 6th anniversary of the Berlin Declaration (http://www.berlin6.org/?page_id=71); the Annual JISC Conference in Edinburgh, at which the work was commended by the UK Digital Commissioner, Ewan McIntosh, in his keynote address as well as forming the basis of the opening session on Open Access and the Researcher (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/events/2009/03/jiscconference/e09/programme.aspx); and as the keynote speaker at Danmarks Forskningsbiblioteksforenings Vinterinternatmøde 2009, the conference of the Danish Research Library Association (http://www.dlf.dk/index.php?option=com_redeven t&view=details&id=3:vinterinternat-2009&Itemid=2).

John Houghton (CSES)
EMERGING FROM THE GLOBAL STORM: GROWTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES IN AUSTRALIA

CSES CONFERENCE 15 APRIL 2009

In 2008 the financial crisis shook the world, with devastating impacts in many countries. Policymakers struggled to understand the new forces unleashed and to respond with appropriate policies. Urgent action was needed to control forces that were only dimly understood. The crisis continues to shake the world economy in 2009 but now, as the dust begins to settle, we can get a clearer view of its evolution and impact. New data can help to chart the impact on different countries, including Australia, and to discern future trends. With better information, more informed assessments can be made of current policies and of the further measures necessary to support recovery and future growth.

The financial crisis has also played havoc with government strategies in key areas, especially climate change. Now is also the time to undertake a reasoned assessment of what Australia can and should do on climate policy, in the light of the global crisis and the forthcoming Copenhagen meeting in December 2009.

At this conference a distinguished panel of speakers and discussants addressed the following key questions:

How did the financial crisis emerge in the USA and Europe, and how did it flow on to Australia? What has been its impact in the USA? What policies is the Obama Administration adopting, and how effective are they likely to be?

How has the crisis been transmitted around the world by trade flows? What has its impact been on China, India and other countries of South and East Asia? How will these countries emerge from the crisis?

How is Australia being affected, and what is the likely future path? Is Australia entering a major recession, or a more modest slowdown? How effective have the Rudd policies been to date, and what further measures are necessary?

How has the global crisis changed the context for climate change policy? Can or should Australia still adopt an emissions trading scheme, and pursue strong emissions reductions policies? If so, how would that best be done?

Speakers were:

Dr Luci Ellis is Head of Financial Stability at the Reserve Bank of Australia, and has had extensive experience at the Bank of International Settlements in Basel. For a copy of her presentation go to: http://www.rba.gov.au/Speeches/2009/sp_so_1504_09.html

Professor Bob Gregory is the doyen of Australian economists. He was head of the Economics Program at the ANU for more than two decades and a member of the board of the Reserve Bank. He is a Professorial Fellow at Victoria University and Professor Emeritus at ANU.

Professor Frank Lichtenberg is Courtney C. Brown Professor at the Columbia University Business School, an Adjunct Professor at Victoria University, and one of the world’s most distinguished economists in business and technology studies.

Professor Roger Jones, a leading Australian climate scientist, was a Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and technical adviser to the Garnaut Review and to the Australian Treasury. Formerly with CSIRO, he is now a Professorial Fellow at Victoria University.

Mr Jim Lang is Managing Director of TradeData Pty Ltd, Australia’s foremost company specialising in the analysis of detailed global trade data.

Professor Peter Sheehan is Director of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, and was an advisor to the Australian and Victorian Governments.

Dr Alex English is a China expert, formerly with the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and now a Research Fellow at Victoria University.

Discussion leaders were:

Dr John Edwards has been Chief Economist with HSBC in Australia for the past decade. Between 1991 and 1994 he was Senior Adviser (Economic) to Treasurer and then Prime Minister Paul Keating.

Mr Tim Colebatch is Economics Editor of The Age. He has a special interest in Asian studies, was correspondent for The Age in Washington and in 2008 was the recipient of a National Press Club award to study the financial crisis in Europe.

Mr John Magowan was CEO for Merrill Lynch (Australasia) and is now Chairman of MM&E Capital. Previously he was Assistant Director General, Department of Management and Budget, Victoria and Economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Mr Paul Toni is Program Leader, Development and Climate Change, WWF – Australia.

2009 VU RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT GRANTS SCHEME (RDGS)

The VU RDGS for 2009 is now open.

AIM

The scheme aims to provide research funding to support VU Early Career Researchers, showing clear evidence of high research capacity, and newly appointed staff without research funding. Preference is given to teams involving ‘mentors’ and/or strong research collaborations with industry, government and/or the community.

FUNDING LIMITS

Financial support will be in the range: $5,000-$30,000 for one year.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be employed at 0.5 FTE or above by Victoria University.

CONDITIONS OF GRANT

Applicants must lodge an application to an external funding body within one year of the completion of the project.

CLOSING DATE

Applications close on Friday, 14 August 2009.

For the 2009 guidelines and application form please visit: http://research.vu.edu.au/vu_rdgs.php

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Zana Stefanovski in the first instance on ext 4710.
The savewater! Alliance is celebrating the official launch of their seventh national savewater! awards®, a program dedicated to recognising and rewarding outstanding achievement in water conservation across Australia.

Regarded as the nations leading water sustainability awards, the program showcases water saving innovation in businesses, government departments, schools, local communities and individuals across nine categories…

The nine award categories are:

- Built Environment & Gardens
- Business Award
- Community Action - $1000 in prize money
- Educational Institutions
- Government
- International Product Innovations Award
- Photographic Award (three sub categories; Primary, Secondary and General) - $1000 for the winning schools
- Regional and Rural
- Young Achiever - $1000 in prize money

Award entries close Monday 1 June 2009, with winners announced at a gala ceremony in Sydney on Friday 9 October 2009.

For further information on the national 2009 savewater! awards® and to enter, visit the savewater!® website at www.savewater.com.au

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