It is with great pleasure that the DVC (Research & Region) and the Office for Research announce the successful VU Researcher Development Grants Scheme recipients for 2009.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort of all the investigators in submitting such quality applications. This year we had a record number of applications, totalling 34, with a success rate of 53%. Congratulations to all successful applicants and we wish the project teams success in their projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Chief Investigator</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Babinskas, C Communion &amp; the Arts</td>
<td>'Women dancing young and old all one': A study of inter-generational dance transmission in a remote aboriginal community.</td>
<td>$25,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball, M Social Sciences &amp; Psychology</td>
<td>Reducing fire deaths among the elderly: An investigation of contributing factors from the CESARE coronial database.</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donkor, O Biomedical &amp; Health Sciences</td>
<td>Can probiotics regulate expression of T regulatory and helper 17 cells?</td>
<td>$28,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dragomir, N Biomedical</td>
<td>Confocal immunofluorescence</td>
<td>$27,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guay, P-J Engineering &amp; Science/ISI</td>
<td>Satellite tracking of pink-eared ducks dispersing from the Western Treatment Plant, Werribee.</td>
<td>$29,196</td>
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<td>Lai, D CARES/ISEAL</td>
<td>Development of a portable sensor for measuring physical activity in the lower limbs.</td>
<td>$29,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mair, J HTM</td>
<td>Towards the development of a novel portable golf trainer system using new sensor technology.</td>
<td>$19,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paguio, R Accounting</td>
<td>Information and communication technologies as an</td>
<td>$23,473</td>
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</tbody>
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**VU Researcher Development Grants Scheme (RDGS) Recipients for 2009**

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Having worked in Italian museums and cultural institutions for over a decade, Jo-Anne recently returned from Venice where she gave a well-received paper on the importance of creative research in an academic context at a conference in conjunction with the Venice Biennale.

To my knowledge there are few, if any other Australian artists working in Italian museums. While negotiating with Italian bureaucracy can be quite complex it has allowed me the very privileged position of extensive private access to some of the world’s treasured possessions.”

Jo-Anne has been an artist in residence at the Australia Council studio in Milan, the Studio Art Center International, Florence, and at the Monash University Centre in Prato. She has exhibited widely in Australia and in Italy and her work is held in numerous collections, including two universities. ‘Wondrous Possessions’ has been funded by an Australia Council New Work Grant.

Jo-Anne’s immediate plans are to exhibit this work in Australia before taking the exhibition back to Italy, and to continue her research for publications on visual and material culture. She is also currently working on a project with Enza Gandolfo on Italian material culture, migration and identity that will result in an exhibition at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne next year.

The 2008 external research income, for the first time, has exceeded $10 million. The University, and specifically the non-Faculty area, is strongest in state and government funding (category 2) and industry and international funding (category 3).

Significant growth has occurred in non-Faculty income since 2006 likely to be due to several strategic research investments including ISI and ACCD.

HDR completions are gradually increasing in FAEHD and FBL whilst the reduction in FHES in 2007 has reversed in 2008. For a full copy of the report please visit: Research performance analysis 2008.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA) UPDATE

VU made submissions in the ERA Trials earlier this year in both the Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences cluster and the Humanities and Creative Arts cluster. These trial submissions were a great learning opportunity and a chance to thoroughly test our research information and repository systems ahead of next years crucial ERA submissions. Thankyou to everyone who participated in the trials and in particular to those who helped out with preparations of background statements, selection of items for peer review etc.

The ARC has recently announced that submission of ERA clusters in 2010 will commence in June. We don’t have more detail on the timing yet, but with 8 submissions covering all academic staff this is going to be a huge undertaking for both the Office for Research and the Library. The Office for Research will shortly be appointing an additional staff member to assist with the 2010 ERA submissions.

Indications are that the indicators to be used in 2010 will be similar to those included in the 2009 trial but with the inclusion of esteem measures such as editorial roles on A and A* journals and nationally competitive fellowships among others. Ranked conferences will be used alongside the ranked journals in some disciplines such as Computer Science and Engineering.

We currently have an opportunity to ensure that all journals used by VU staff are covered by the ERA rankings system. Researchers are strongly encouraged to look at the current ERA list (http://www.arc.gov.au/era/journal_title_list.htm) to ensure that all journals they have published in since 2003 are listed. Please let us know of any missing journals (email: research-data@vu.edu.au).
ENVIROHUB

Funded through the Australian Government’s Enterprise Connect program this project is to deliver information and assistance on business sustainability to small and medium businesses in Melbourne’s west. It will assist businesses to adapt to climate change and to move to become more environmentally sustainable. The activities of the project will include:

- Facilitating industry in sourcing of university skills
- Building allegiance with existing business networks throughout Melbourne’s west and forward on businesses in need of services offered by these networks such as Grow Me The Money.
- Identify funding mechanisms and assisting businesses with their application
- Identify products and technical resources that businesses can source to help them on their sustainability journey.

Envirohub was launched by Institute Director Professor Stephen Gray at the business breakfast at the start of the City of Wyndham’s Sustainability Week on 9 September attended by 140 people from across Melbourne’s west. Staff were also present throughout the following weekend manning a stall at the Sustainability Expo.

On behalf of Carbon Down, Envirohub is running a number of Carbon 101 briefings which have been designed to:

- Raise awareness of the impact of carbon on the environment
- Provide essential information on new regulations and legislation
- Translate and proactively anticipate impacts for business
- Outline simple actions to start limiting carbon emissions

Carbon Down is a partnership between the Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) and Sustainability Victoria to address the carbon emissions of small to medium sized enterprises (SME).

The first Carbon 101 briefing took place in Werribee again as part of the Sustainability Festival with eighteen businesses participating. Other briefings have been scheduled for later September and October.

In addition a number of forums are being held with local businesses leaders telling stories of their sustainability journey. Businesses featured include Fergusson Plame Bakehouses which recently won the prestigious Gold Bankia Award and Cookers Bulk Oil Systems which has been using to bio-diesel to run their truck fleet for a number of years.

A website is currently under construction and will include information on products, resources and funding, case studies and links to other organisations that may be able to assist businesses on their sustainability journey – www.envirohub.net.au.

Further information can be obtained from project manager Barbara McClure on 9919 4159, envirohub@vu.edu.au.

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY OF ARTS, EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Dr Neil Hooley and Professor Maureen Ryan have recently had two book chapters published concerned with improving the education of Indigenous children in mainstream schooling.

‘Indigenous family and community involvement in Australian curriculum development’ has been included in International Perspectives on Contexts, Communities and Evaluated Innovative Practices: Family-school-community partnerships, edited by Rollande Desilandes (Routledge, 2009), while ‘Learning to Teach Across Cultural Boundaries’ appears in Narratives on Teaching and Teacher Education, edited by Andrea Mattos (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

Dr Mark Vicars, Marcelle Cacciattolo and Assoc Professor Tarquwn McKenna have been awarded $21,000 funding support from The Australian Thai Institute for their project “Strengthening the teaching of English language and literacy in Thai schools.” The proposed research will establish links between educational institutions in Thailand and Australia to support the teaching and learning of English at primary, secondary and tertiary institutions in Thailand. The project will involve developing partnerships with Burupa University, Thailand and VU. It will create on-going communities of practice with selected public, primary and secondary schools in the Bangkok and Chonburi region of Thailand.

Sue Smith, in the School of Education was invited to Sydney by the Buddhist Council of N.S.W. to train Buddhist education teachers in the experiential learning and self-discovery approaches that are employed in the ‘Discovering Buddha’ curriculum that she devised as part of her studies. “Through a combination of meditation and stories we aim to teach children how to be more mindful of their actions and kinder to themselves and others, rather than teach them how to be Buddhists,” Sue explained. She has been kept busy since submitting her dissertation “To be wise and kind: a Buddhist community engagement with Victorian state primary school.” Footscray Primary School was one of the principal research sites in her study and Sue will be presenting some of her research findings of how children experience meditation at the Parliament of the World’s Religions this December in Melbourne.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PSYCHOLOGY (SSSP)

The Australian Government recently announced the appointment of new members to the prestigious Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) – a Principal Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council. Professor Jill Astbury (SSSP) has been appointed to this prestigious body. The Committee’s role is to set and maintain standards of ethical conduct in health and medical research. In doing so AHEC meets the dual objectives of encouraging new research and technologies while taking into account ethical considerations on behalf of the community. The press release notes that Professor Astbury is Research Professor at Victoria University, and Co-Chair of the Coordinating Group of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, an initiative of the Global Forum of Health Research. Her research investigates how social position, gender and the violation of human rights impact on
women’s mental health and underpin gender disparities in rates of psychological disorder.


WERC UPDATE

1. BERWYN CLAYTON INVITED TO BE PART OF NATIONAL VET RESEARCH FORUM

WERC Director Berwyn Clayton has been invited to participate in a national VET research forum entitled ‘Developing national research priorities for 2010 and beyond’. The forum is being facilitated by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

2. WERC CIRCLE

The WERC Circle - an ongoing network of VU people interested in VET research

- recently hosted a presentation on Learning in the Workplace and Community by Judie Kay, Associate Director, Portfolio of Learning for Work and Community Service, VU College. The presentation was entitled ‘LWC at VU: National and International Activity and Perspectives’.

3. NEWS FROM THE AVATAR PROJECT TEAM

The Avatar Project was the subject of a prominent news article in the Saturday Age on September 5, which focused on the virtual world-based activities and experiences of disadvantaged school students from other cultures. The online version of the article, which appeared on Page 12, is below:


- be-virtually-anyone-20090904-fbgq.html

ISI SEMINAR WITH THE VICTORIAN BRANCH OF AWA

ISI conducted a 1 day seminar with the Victorian Branch of the AWA on “Recent Advances in Desalination and Recycling” on 14 September. Invited speakers included: Professor Yoram Cohen (UCLA), Professor Rafael Semiat (Technion, Israel), Professor Tony Fane (Singapore) and Professor Rami Massalem (Ben Gurion, Israel). Kenneth Moore from CH2MHill and Carsten Berberich from Worley Parsons also presented, along with Professor Stephen Gray.

SECOND YEAR OF FUNDING APPROVED FOR PIPELINE PROJECT

Professor John Orbell and Dr. Robin Mitra have received confirmation of a second year of funding of $120,000 from GWM Water for the, collaborative, School of Engineering & Science/ISI project entitled "An Investigation into the Control of Bryozoan (Plumatella and Fredericella) Infestation of Water Pipeline Systems". This is a three year plus project to establish a VU-based research platform and an Australia-wide resource base for the control of Bryozoan infestation in water pipeline systems such as the North South Pipeline and the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

ILSCM UPDATE

1. Logistics Cities: Professor Nagel presented the final report on the Scoping Framework for Logistics Cities in Victoria, to Minister Tim Pallas, Minister for Roads, Ports and Major Projects, at Freight Week on the 11th of September. In receiving the report, the Minister said: “I look forward seeing the Logistics City concept make a positive and lasting difference to Victoria and its role as Australia’s freight and logistics capital.

Professor Nagel said: “Melbourne can enhance its position as the leading Australian centre for the movement of goods with a co-ordinated approach to the creation of Logistics Cities. Logistics cities can be built in stages so that initially they house freight terminals and associated transport and logistics services. These can be developed into villages with manufacturing, warehousing and distribution hubs and, as these villages expand they can be integrated with existing urban centres to create a logistics city. We have a marvellous opportunity to build on existing transport and urban planning strategies in our proposals for the expanded freight needs of the city. If freight and logistics infrastructure and services are properly co-ordinated they can bring additional benefits in employment, social amenity and efficiencies in sustainability”.

2. Subsequently, ILSCM has also released a report on a “Western Region Metropolitan Logistics City”, in collaboration with all six of the Local City Councils in the west. In his forward, Minister Pallas noted: "Freight Futures proposes the establishment of Logistics Cities to ensure that freight and logistics activities are clustered together, linked with business and education services, and fully integrated with appropriate infrastructure, transport and land use planning. As we plan the Metropolitan Freight Terminals in the west, north and south east of Melbourne, the Government recognises the value in also encouraging the development of Logistics Cities associated with these Terminals." Professor Nagel has acknowledged the valuable contributions of the Victorian State Government, the six Councils of the West. He has also thanked the research team at the ILSCM for their perseverance in the production of these two milestone reports. This has enabled the translation of an innovative concept into something that is practical within the Victorian Planning Framework.

3. ILSCM, in conjunction with Integrated Management Information Systems (IMIS) Pty Ltd., was successful in securing a contract to assist the Port of Melbourne Corporation in the collection and modelling of containerised data both through the Port of Melbourne and the Dynon Rail Terminal. Work on the project has commenced and the results will be reported in due course. In responding to the project requirements, both the ILSCM and IMIS offered a team with the suitable mix of logistics, statistical and econometric analysis skills with a detailed knowledge of the Melbourne containerised freight supply chain structure.
4. The Laboratory for Logistics Innovation - Powered by IBM, was launched by Mr. John Lenders, MLC, and the Treasurer of Victoria, on the 21st of May 2009. The Laboratory for Logistics Innovation has been established in the spirit of close industry-university collaboration with IBM, and aims to facilitate industry-academic and postgraduate research, as well as providing support for undergraduate project work. In her speech, Professor Elizabeth Harman laid down the challenge for the researchers at VU to lead in addressing the problem of “information congestion”.

5. **Dr Yong Wu** was on a Staff Exchange Visit to the Southeast University, China. ILSCM has an agreement with SEU in terms of staff exchange, joint research activities, and joint grant applications. Dr Wu’s visit will further enhance the mutual collaborations.

6. **Prof Peng Shi** delivered a plenary speech. “Filtering on Hybrid dynamical Systems”, in the 9th International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems, 12-14 Aug, 2009, Shenyang, China. The conference was sponsored by IEEE, and over three hundred people attended the event.

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