ISEAL ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INSTITUTE OF SPORT

The University’s Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL) was launched on Friday with the announcement of a research partnership with the Australian Institute of Sport.

About 150 guests from the sporting and academic world attended the launch at the Footscray Park Campus.

Director of the AIS, Professor Peter Fricker, said he was delighted to partner with ISEAL because of its research depth and excellent facilities.

“What makes the Institute unique is that it brings together all the best people to form a critical mass of expertise,” Professor Fricker said. “The state of the art facilities that ISEAL is putting together in its new building will enhance the spirit of collaboration that ISEAL is developing.”

Professor of Sport Science Damian Farrow, whose position is jointly funded by VU and the AIS, announced three joint initiatives and research projects being led by ISEAL and the AIS:

- Undergraduate and postgraduate programs developing research skills to support AIS sport programs in skills acquisition, physiology and performance analysis
- Applied research projects leveraging the strengths of the two groups to enhance athlete talent development pathways of partner sports organisations
- Working with the CSIRO on harnessing interactive technologies for sport skill learning

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ISEAL represents the future of sport and science,” Professor Harman said. “VU is perfectly positioned to make our fundamental and applied research in sport, exercise and active living relevant to the full spectrum of stakeholders from the community level to elite athletes.”

Other speakers at the launch included the CEO of the VU’s major sporting partner, the Western Bulldogs, Campbell Rose, and ISEAL Director Professor Hans Westerbeek.

Professor Westerbeek said he was excited about the future of ISEAL, which will move into its new purpose built facilities on the Footscray Park Campus at the end of the year.

NEW STUDY REVEALS THE UNTAPPED TOURISM POTENTIAL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The travel behaviours of international students who are studying in Australia is not well understood and the tourism industry has not yet capitalised on the untapped market potential, a report co-authored by Victoria University’s Professor Brain King has found.

Destination Melbourne and VU recently presented the results of a far-reaching study which examines the relationships between International Educational Visitation and tourism.
More than 140 people attended the launch at the City Flinders Campus on June 23, including a wide range of industry representatives.

The report found that international students are opportunistic travellers who tend to take day-trips and short breaks generally within friendship groups of international students.

Of the 6000 international student respondents, five out of six intend to bring family members to Australia for their graduation. Chinese, Korean and Indian students were the most likely to do this, with 80 per cent having friends and family in attendance at graduation.

Prof King has urged the tourism industry to increase its targeting of the visiting friends and relatives market, which already makes a substantial contribution to the Australian economy through travel related expenditures.

“Though an important market in themselves, students are relatively time poor and have constrained budgets,” Prof King said. “Visiting friends and relatives are more free spending and therefore have a better economic impact.”

Prof King said the discussions with industry representatives that followed the study’s release generated ideas about how industry can capitalise on the potential of the international student market.

The creation of improved work experiences for international students within the tourism industry will open new market possibilities. The full report can be downloaded at:


**REVIEW OF HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS APPLICATION**

The Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee (VUHREC) is currently undertaking a review and revision of the ethics application form for research involving human participants. As Chair of the VUHREC, I would like to invite research staff and students of the University to provide constructive input relating to the current application form and areas that may be improved, particularly with regard to user-friendliness, applicability for specialised types of research undertaken by staff and research students, and available support information. The VUHREC is also examining the option of an electronic ethics application that can be completed on-line by researchers and I invite research staff and students to indicate their support for this option. Please submit any comments and suggestions to Harriet.Speed@vu.edu.au by 30 July, 2010.

Harriet Speed, Chair of Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee.

**YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

Dr Itamar Levinger has received the Young Investigator Award in the Wingate Congress of Exercise and Sport Sciences, Israel. Dr Levinger presented two papers including (a) insulin signalling, metabolic risk factors and aerobic fitness in middle-aged men and women. (b) The effects of acute exercise on undercarboxylated osteocalcin in patients with type 2 diabetes.

**HELEN MACPHERSON SMITH TRUST GRANT SUCCESS**

Professor Terence McCann, School of Nursing and Midwifery, has been awarded over $53,000 by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust to conduct a 12-month study into the use of restraint and seclusion in aged psychiatry units in Melbourne.

The overall aims of the study are to understand elderly inpatients, relatives or guardians, and clinical staffs’ perceptions about, and to explore ways to eliminate, the use of restraint and seclusion in aged psychiatry units.

There are two key intended outcomes of this exploratory study. First, to develop a model to eliminate restraint and seclusion with patients in aged psychiatry units. The model will be implemented and evaluated in a future intervention study (the subject of a subsequent application to a national grant body). Second, to develop competency measures to assess prospective and existing clinical staffs’ attitudes toward restraint and seclusion.

Professor McCann expressed his sincere thanks to the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust for funding this important study. He said that the study also provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen research collaboration with North Western Aged Persons’ Mental Health Program (NWAPMHP) in Melbourne and Flinders University. Co-researchers include Mr John Baird and Dr David Barton, both from NWAPMHP; Professor Eimear Muir Cochrane, Flinders University; and Ms Val Goodwin, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Victoria University.

**OUTCOMES FOR A POSITIVE START TO SCHOOL PROJECT: THE NEXT PHASE**

The Victoria University Early Childhood Education Research Team has been successful in winning a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) tender that builds on the initial work undertaken last year by Victoria University academics. The team comprises of Associate Professor Andrea Nolan, John McCartin, Jan Hunt and Jenny Altkén, in partnership with the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute - Centre for Community Child Health, the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne. This current project will address the recommendations in the Victoria University report Outcomes and Indicators of a Positive Start to School. It will develop and validate an outcome-focused data collection and monitoring tool(s) to measure the outcomes and indicators of a positive transition to school for early childhood and school educators, parents/families and children. It is believed that this work is the first of its kind in the world. The key benefits from completing this research project will include increased rigour in evaluation of the Transition initiative; improved measurement of the impacts of transition programs on outcomes for children, their families and educators in both early childhood and school settings; gap(s) addressed in current evidence around transition to school; informed advice to early childhood educators, schools and families about quality transition-to-school programs; and evidence-based mechanisms provided to the early years sector to collect accurate data on, and evaluate, their own practices. The
EXERCISE AND SPORT SCIENCE LABS GET A CLOSE LOOK

Several groups of academic, technical and administrative staff in the School of Sport and Exercise Science had a sneak preview of the Learning Commons and Exercise and Sport Science (LCESS) building on 12 July. The new labs in the Sport and Learning Precinct Building will provide a suite of world-class, high technology laboratories in five major discipline areas. The labs include new spaces for 1. Exercise Physiology, 2. Biomechanics, 3. Motor Learning and & Skilled Performance, 4. Sport and Exercise Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology, and 5. Motor Control and Biofeedback. The labs will provide opportunities for world class sport and exercise research and testing with a wide range of groups, including children, older adults, and people with disabilities at the community and elite sport levels.

The labs are also designed for undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students. Associate Professor Dennis Hemphill, Head of School for Sport and Exercise Science, said, “The new labs will increase not only VU’s capacity for world class research, but also for engaged teaching and learning in sport, exercise and active living. The laboratories will be a gateway to VU for school, community and industry groups, plus expand Learning in the Workplace and Community opportunities for our students.”

All laboratories are designed with multiple integrated spaces to allow teaching, research and engagement activities to proceed simultaneously. International benchmarking has established that these laboratories meet international best practise. Collectively these laboratories create, for the first time in Australia, an international research and teaching facility in Sport and Exercise Science.

Staff and students who had the guided tour earlier were impressed with the range of facilities and spaces that would be available to them. The postgraduate research students were interested to see where they would have their work stations and what their new lab spaces would provide. Staff members were impressed with the range and quality of the facilities, including the various ‘green’ technologies.

SAVING THE WORLD – ONE WORD AT A TIME

Professor Roger Jones has been chosen to play a major writing role in an upcoming publication by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Professor Jones has been selected as Coordinating Lead Author of Chapter 2, Foundations for Decisionmaking, of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). This is the first step in a 4-year drafting process, with the Working Group II volumes scheduled for completion in 2014.

The IPCC was established in 1988, under the joint sponsorship of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to assess the major scientific and technical issues confronting governments and other parties interested in climate change. Through its reports, methodologies, workshops and expert meetings, the IPCC has become a primary source of independent scientific information for governments and other stakeholders. Before the reports are released, they are subjected to extensive and open peer review, plus review by governments, before being accepted by the IPCC to ensure that they are scientifically valid, comprehensive, balanced and relevant to deliberations of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Roger Jones is a Professorial Research Fellow at the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies (CSES), having joined VU in early 2009. Previously he worked for CSIRO for 13 years. Trained as a physical scientist, he now applies an interdisciplinary focus to understanding climate change risk, bridging science, economics and policy, particularly in developing methodologies for assessing adaptation and mitigation strategies for managing climate change risks. These have been used widely in Australia and internationally, contributing to the Australian Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the United Nations Development Program Adaptation Policy Frameworks and a range of individual projects. He was a convening Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Working Group II Fourth Assessment Report Chapter on New Methods and Characterisations of the Future, released in 2007. He is currently working on a range of adaptation projects and developing new methods for assessing mitigation policy with Professor Peter Sheehan of the CSES.

BEST PAPER AWARDED FOR ACCOUNTING EDUCATION RESEARCH

A joint conference paper presented by Dr. Riccardo Natoli and Professor Beverley Jackling has received the best paper award in the education stream at the recent Accounting & Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) conference, Christchurch, 6-9 July, 2010.
Titled ‘Engaging business students: An Australian university perspective’ the paper reflects well on the emerging research expertise in the School of Accounting around Accounting Education research. Professor Jackling is deputy dean of the Faculty of Business and Law and head of the recently formed Financial Education and Research Unit, which draws together research expertise across Accounting and Economics and Finance. Riccardo is a PhD graduate from the economics area and actively engaged in a number of research projects in the Faculty.

INVITATION BY LUXEMBOURG NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND

It was with some surprise and pleasure that an invitation was received recently by a Business and Law staff member to become an expert grant assessor for the Luxembourg National Research Fund. Associate Professor Santina Bertone specialises in research into cultural diversity and immigration in the labour market, with a strong focus on social policy and the social/economic interface in labour relations. She was therefore pleased to be offered the role by the Luxembourg fund, which will provide valuable insights into research activity in her chosen area within Europe. Santina has also been an international reader and grant assessor for the Australian Research Council for the past 10 years.

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF FOBL GRANT-WRITING RETREATS

In a new initiative aimed at engaging early career researchers in writing for grants, the Faculty of Business and Law (FoBL) recently provided its VU RDGS 2010 applicants with an opportunity to work on their research proposals in a facilitated, supportive environment at a full-day writing retreat. Organised by the Faculty’s Research Facilitation Unit (RFU), the workshop was held at the Sunshine Convention Centre on 8 July, with eight of the Faculty’s RDGS applicants attending. As well as benefiting from guided group discussion of ‘lessons learned’ from past RDGS rounds, participants were provided with dedicated writing time to develop and refine their proposal in a quiet working space, with RFU staff at hand for one-on-one consultation as they worked.

RESEARCHERS IN SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY, TOURISM AND MARKETING WIN BEST PAPER AWARDS

Associate Professors Barry O’Mahony and Ann-Marie Hede have both won best paper awards at the recent Academy of Marketing conference in Coventry, UK. Barry’s co-authored paper topped the papers in the sports marketing category, and was sponsored by the Journal of Sport Business and Management, which is a new Emerald journal. A full reference is given below:


Associate Professor Anne-Marie Hede’s paper was awarded in the arts marketing category by the journal of Arts Marketing, which is also a new Emerald journal. The paper was as follow:

“The Literary Fan: Legitimising Fandom in the Presence of the Inauthentic”.

Congratulations to both Barry and Anne-Marie, we think they are both stars.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AT THE CTSR

Associate Professor Barry O’Mahony attended a lunch with the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change and Minister for Innovation the Hon Gavin Jennings MLC on behalf of Professor John Breen and CTSR (Centre for Tourism and Services Research) on the 15th July.

The event was hosted by the Tourism Transport Forum. Barry was able to advise on the Climate Change research stream within the CTSR and fielded a number of questions from the group of 16 at the RACV club private dining room about the research activities at the Centre. The event was part of the TTF Leaders Boardroom Luncheon series.

RESEARCH GROUP MEETS SIR ADRIAN CADBURY IN BIRMINGHAM UK

Kumi Heenetigala and Aida Maria Ismail of Governance Research Program, Victoria Law School recently presented papers at AMIS 2010 in Bucharest, 7th Corporate Governance workshop in Brussels and 8th International Conference on Corporate Governance in Birmingham. The chair of the Birmingham conference
was the corporate governance guru Sir Adrian Cadbury author of Cadbury report. In the picture (below) are Kumi Heenetigala, Sir Adrian Cadbury, Professor Chris Mallin (Birmingham University) and Aida Maria Ismail at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in University of Birmingham, which is one of the finest small galleries in Europe.

**VU OSTEOPATHY LECTURER GIVES KEYNOTE AT MILAN CONFERENCE**

Dr Gary Fryer, Senior Lecturer in the VU Osteopathy program, gave a well received keynote lecture entitled The role of physiological measurement in osteopathic research at the 8th International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research (ICAOR), Milan, Italy, in late June. The ICAOR is the only international conference solely devoted to research in the field of osteopathic manipulative medicine. The conference was originally scheduled for April but was rescheduled to 28-30th June due to the volcanic cloud over Europe. In addition to the keynote, Gary delivered a research presentation entitled Magnetic resonance imaging of subjects with acute unilateral neck pain and restricted motion. He also presented a research poster, Use of spinal and sacroiliac joint assessment & treatment procedures within the British osteopathic profession, which won the Best Research Poster prize. Gary has been an invited speaker at a number of osteopathic research conferences throughout Europe and the USA, and has presented many research papers at previous ICAOR conferences and has previously received several research awards.

**3MT – COUNTDOWN TO THE GRAND FINAL!**

You are warmly invited to attend the Grand Final of Victoria University’s Three Minute Thesis Competition, and post-competition celebration.

This year is the first that Victoria University has taken part in the trans-Tasman Three Minute Thesis Competition. The competition involves delivering a short, three minute oration that explains a Masters or PhD thesis to an intelligent but non-specialised audience. Entrants are allowed to use a single PowerPoint slide to help them convey their message.

The Grand Final of this event is being held on Friday the 27th of August at Footscray Park. The winner of the VU Grand Final will compete in the trans-Tasman final, held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane in September.

The Grand Final will be a great chance to find out more about research taking place within Victoria University. It will also be an opportunity to mingle and discuss research one-on-one with the entrants and other researchers attending the event. Food and drinks will follow in a celebration of Victoria University’s growing research culture. Those attending can also vote for their favourite participant in the People’s Choice award. The winner of the People’s Choice will receive an iPad.

Registered supervisors who attend the event will meet the 2 hour requirement for re-registration for 2011.

So come along and support VU’s first 3MT entrants and celebrate our research achievements!

**FRIDAY 27 AUGUST 3:30PM (REGISTRATION 2:50PM – 3:20PM)**

ROOM L114, FOOTSCRAY PARK CAMPUS

RSVP

20 August 2010 to katie.batterham@vu.edu.au for catering purposes.

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