NEW ADDITION TO THE DVC (RESEARCH & REGION) DIVISION

PROFESSOR PETER CREAMER JOINS VU

Professor Peter Creamer has recently arrived to take up his position as Pro Vice Chancellor (Industry and Community) at Victoria University. Professor Creamer came to VU from Anglia Ruskin University (UK) where he held the position of PVC (Corporate Development) and before that was Director of Research and Development at the University of Portsmouth (a university which is experienced in work based learning).

He is an Engineer with strong industry and university experience in the areas of regional engagement, commercial development and fundraising, among other things.

At VU he will take on a pivotal role in supporting the twelve new roundtables, Office for Industry and Community Engagement (OICE) and establishing the new VU commercial office.

Professor Peter Creamer, Pro Vice Chancellor (Industry and Community).

Professor Creamer said: “My main goal is to develop external engagement so that it becomes part of the daily life of all colleagues and delivers mutual benefits for our students and our partners in a win-win situation.”

“I want to keep us on track and relevant in what we do and why we do it. Victoria University is one of those universities I really like in that it shows a pathway for those of all abilities - you can stay on the train as long as you like.”

Based at Footscray Park Campus, Professor Creamer is an engineer of 39 years' experience, half in industry and half in academia, and has chosen Hoppers Crossing as his home suburb.

UTEPP VISIT TO VU

Dr Diana Natalicio, President of University Texas El Paso (UTEP), visited VU in July including research and engagement workshops and a research public lecture. Dr Natalicio began her now 19-year tenure as UTEP’s president in 1988, and she has been central to the University’s meteoric rise on both the state and national level.

“Access has no meaning if it’s access to a mediocre education. Our students when they graduate from university have to compete with universities from across the US and even across the world. And if they don’t have the same skill set and experiences, we are doing them a great disservice unprotected from the competition they will face,” she says.

To increase its profile, UTEP needed increased funding from alternative sources. Dr Natalicio says: “If we continued to rely on state funding without identifying other sources of revenue, we were going to condemn ourselves to a very modest role on the national scene, and we were not going to be able to retain or attract the kind of faculty we believe our students deserved.”

UTEP did it through an aggressive fundraising campaign and an increased focus on funding for research. In 1993 the university’s endowment was $39 million, so they began the first campaign with a goal of $50 million all to be raised in El Paso, Texas, one of the poorest regions in the United States. At the close of the campaign, UTEP raised $66 million.

Dr Diana Natalicio, President of the University of Texas El Paso.
BOOK LAUNCH: ART-BASED RESEARCH: A PROPER THESIS?

The challenge of doing doctoral study in the creative arts is the topic of a recently launched book that would never have happened but for staff and students of Victoria University.

There is a growing need for work that explores the creative research thesis and this book: Art-Based Research: a proper thesis? Developed out of a Symposium organised by former research student Dr Flossie Petsch and Professor Elaine Martin, Director of Graduate Research.

The book is edited by Elaine Martin and Judith Booth, formally a member of staff at VU, Dr Booth is now working at Deakin University. The book contains ten chapters and six of these are by VU staff and research students.

Professor Linda Rosenman, DVC Research and Region, was part of the launch in Readings, book store, Carlton, on 14th June. Professor Rosenman commented on the extent to which VU had worked to push development in this area of creative research. Associate Professor Ann McCulloch, from Deakin University, a pioneer of the creative research launched the book. Dr Enza Gondolfo, a contributor to the book, read a section of her chapter.

RQF UPDATE: DRAFT GUIDELINES AND VU RQF PANEL LEADERS

DEST released the Draft RQF Guidelines and feedback questionnaire on 29th June. After consultation involving VU RQF panel leaders and deputies, VU’s response to the draft guidelines was provided to DEST on 13th July. The key dates and activities for the RQF exercises are as follows:

RQF Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 Sep 2007</td>
<td>Applications due for exemption from in situ requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Oct 2007</td>
<td>Notification of Decisions on applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Jan 2008</td>
<td>Expressions of Intent to Submit Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Mar 2008</td>
<td>RQF Information Management System opens for submissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Apr 2008</td>
<td>RQF Information Management System closes for submissions Vice- Chancellor's certification received</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-Jun 2008</td>
<td>Validation of submissions and evidence portfolios</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assignment of evidence portfolios to Panels</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distribution of Metrics analysis to Panels</td>
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<tr>
<td>July-Aug 2008</td>
<td>Assessment Phase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2008</td>
<td>Panels finalise Quality and Impact scores for Research Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2008</td>
<td>Minister announces outcomes of the RQF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2009</td>
<td>RQF Evaluation commences</td>
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If you would like to get a copy of the Draft RQF Guidelines, please contact Dr Ren Yi at the Research Office or visit the Office for Research website (http://research.vu.edu.au/ordsite/rqf.php).

VU RQF steering group members and appointed representatives have recently attended several panel specific workshops in Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane, in preparation for the RQF submissions.

At VU, RQF panel leaders have recently been appointed (current as at 27/7/07). They are:

- **Biological sciences**
  - Alan Hayes (Chair)
  - Gabriela Stephenson (Deputy)

- **Physical, chemical and earth sciences**
  - Stephen Collins (Chair)
  - Andrew Smallridge (Deputy)

- **Engineering and technology**
  - Stephen Gray (Chair)
  - Greg Baxter (Deputy)

- **Mathematical and information sciences and technology**
  - Arthur Tatnall (Chair)
  - Sever Dragomir (Deputy)
  - John Zeleznikow providing assistance

- **Agricultural, veterinary, food and environmental sciences**

Todor Vasiljevic (Chair)
Mary Millikan (Deputy)
Clinical sciences and clinical physiology
Not Applicable
Public health and health services
Rezaul Begg (Chair)
Mary Carolon (Deputy)
Psychology, psychiatry, neurological, behavioural and cognitive sciences
Tony Morris (Chair)
Dot Bruck (Deputy)
Social sciences and politics
David McCallum (Chair)
Richard Chauvel (Deputy)
Economics, commerce and management
Michael Muetzelfeldt (Chair)
Peter Sheehan / Bruce Rasmussen (Deputy)
Law, education and professional practices
Bruno Zeller (Chair)
Tarquam McKenna (Deputy)
Nicolia Yelland providing assistance
Humanities
Phil Deery (Chair)
Michele Grossman (Deputy)
Creative arts, design and built environment
John McLaren (Chair)
Mark Minchinton (Deputy)

The first VU RQF panel leaders’ forum was held on 22nd June. DVC Research & Region, Office for Research, Associate Deans (Research), University Research librarian and VU RQF panel leaders participated in the forum. Background to the RQF as well as upcoming RQF issues were discussed. If you would like to obtain a copy of the forum presentation, please contact Dr Ren Yi or visit website: http://research.vu.edu.au/ordsite/management/restricted/RQF_Panel_%20Leaders_Forum.ppt

If you have any panel specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact the VU RQF panel leaders and deputies.

For more information regarding RQF policies and VU RQF preparation, please contact RQF steering group members or Dr Ren Yi (x4705) at the Office for Research.
**RQF COMMITMENT TO OPEN ACCESS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR VU'S RQF REPOSITORY**

The Office for Research and the Library are participating in a joint effort to create and populate an RQF repository to meet the requirements set out by DEST for facilitating access to the four best individual outputs included in portfolio evidence submissions.

To do this, Library staff are currently inputting data collected from the VU trial RQF exercise. This data will be expanded to include relevant publications once Research Groups are formed.

The Office for Research and the Library are also preparing a joint submission for ASHER funding (Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories) to improve functionality of the RQF and Eprint repositories. ASHER funding is available through the Australian Government to assist Universities to establish, upgrade and populate repositories. $25.5 million will be available to Universities through the ASHER programme over three years.

In tandem with an emphasis on improving quality of research, the Government has also indicated a strong commitment to making publicly funded research available to researchers and the general community.

‘There is currently no way a researcher or member of the community can be sure that they have identified all the research available on a particular discipline and how it can be accessed.’

In order to make VU research more widely available to business and the community, as proposed in the Government’s Accessibility Framework, the Library will also upload all suitable material to the VU Eprint Repository by transferring copyright cleared material from the password controlled RQF repository to the open access repository.

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**AWARDS FOR VU STUDENT: RESEARCH ON “PROBIOTIC CHEESES DELIVERING BIOACTIVE PROPERTIES”**

School of Molecular Sciences student, Lydia Ong received the most prestigious Malcolm Bird Commemorative Award at the Australia Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST) 40th annual meeting, Melbourne, 24-27 June 2007.

This Award is named in honour of Malcolm Bird, fifth President of the Institute (1975-77), who passed away in 1977 soon after completing his term of office and who always showed an active concern for the welfare of young members. It is intended that young members be encouraged to adopt a professional approach to their careers by providing them with an incentive and opportunity to prepare and deliver a paper in public. The winner is judged based on the merit of a written paper, with finalists also then judged on their presentation at the Convention.

This year, the finalists in the Malcolm Bird Award were David Cusack, NSW Food Authority speaking on Animal clones in the human food supply chain, Lydia Ong, Victoria University, on Probiotic Cheddar cheeses delivering bioactive properties, and Santiago Ramirez, Food Science Australia/University of Tasmania on Why is the food industry not evolving as rapidly as others? The winner was announced at the convention closing ceremony held at the Crowne Towers in the Palladium and Lydia Ong was declared as the winner of this years Malcolm Bird Award receiving a certificate and $1,000 prize money.

Lydia is currently doing her final year of PhD research entitled Influence of probiotic organisms on proteolytic pattern, release of bioactive compounds and sensory attributes of Cheddar cheese under the supervision of Prof. Nagendra Shah. Her works have been published at International Dairy Journals and Lait publication. Lydia was the recipient of Postgraduate Student Seminar Award provided by the School of Molecular Sciences in 2005. Last year, she was presented with a Secomb Conference and Travel Fund, a monetary support awarded by Victoria University for travel to the Institute of Food Technologist (IFT) annual meetings, Orlando, Florida, USA, 24-28 June 2006. At IFT, she won the Manfred Kroger Dairy Foods Division Paper Competition for her presentation entitled Antihypertensive activity of probiotic Cheddar cheeses produced with probiotic Lactobacillus casei or L. paracasei.

More information about the IFT and AIFST conferences can be obtained at Food Technology, 60(8):43 and Food Australia 59(6):270.


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**FACULTY OF BUSINESS & LAW: BEST PAPER AWARD**

Congratulations to Dr Guneratne Wickremasinghe of the School of Accounting & Finance. Gunee’s paper entitled “Long-Run Purchasing Power Parity with Asymmetric Adjustment: Some Empirical Evidence from Sri Lanka” was nominated by the organizing committee members of the International Conference on Business and Information as “Best Paper Award”.

**INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION NEWS**

- Congratulations to Colin Hocking for receiving the National Carrick award for establishing the Iramoo Community Centre and Wildlife Park to advance learning and develop understanding and concrete action to conserve threatened species in the Western Melbourne region.

- Welcome to Xiaodong Dai who joined the IS1 team on 9th July 2007. Xiaodong Dai is a PhD candidate at School of Industrial Catalysis and Chemical Materials, China University of Petroleum. His PhD supervisor is Professor Zifeng Yan, Chair Professor of State Key Laboratory. As part of the collaboration initiative, Xiaodong will work with Associate Professor Linda Zou at Victoria University on studying the porous carbon materials in water purification applications. He will stay for 12 months at the Werribee Campus.

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**UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

CPA Australia is calling for applications in the following research programs:

- Research Grants Schemes - maximum of $10,000
- Frank Burke Scholarship - up to $10,000
- William P Birkett Research Grant - up to $10,000
- Small Business Research Grant - up to $10,000
- Not for Profit Research Grant - up to $10,000
- Public Sector Research Grant - up to $10,000


Closing date for applications with the Office for Research is 24 August 2007 and with the agency on 31 August 2007.

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