ETHICS AND BIOSAFETY AND VC RESEARCH AWARDS 2007

ETHICS AND BIO SAFETY ON THE MOVE

The Office for Research is pleased to announce the commencement of changes to ethics administration at VU. Human research ethics administration across the faculties is now serviced via the Office for Research. This has been made possible through the assignment of two new Ethics Officers, Ms Pushpa Richards and Mr Daniel Loton.

The Office for Research trusts that the transition process will be as seamless as possible. Current administrative processes will remain during the transition process, with the exception of the lodgement of hard copy applications. All hard copy applications are to be delivered to the Office for Research, 6 Geelong Road, Footscray Park campus.

Welcome our new staff members

Pushpa Richards has been working at VU close to five years. Pushpa has demonstrated her effective administrative capabilities as a Student Administrative Assistant within the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science. Pushpa brings with her significant experience in the field of research administration, and skills and experience in the servicing of research committees within the faculty.

Pushpa is responsible for providing ethics advice to researchers and supporting the Faculty of Business & Law Human Research Ethics Committee, VU’s Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee and Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Dan Loton has recently completed a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at Victoria University, focussing on research on the relationship between video game playing, self esteem and social skills via the internet. As a psychology graduate, Dan has received training on human research ethics and has experienced the ethics application and approval process first hand. Dan brings with him a keen interest in the field of ethics and experience in administration and account management.

Dan is responsible for providing ethics advice to researchers and supporting the Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development HREC and the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science HREC.

For further details regarding Animal Experimentation Ethics, Human Research Ethics and Institutional Biosafety, please refer to the Ethics and Biosafety web site at: http://research.vu.edu.au/ethics0.php

Ethics & Biosafety Contact Details:

• Mr Anthony Benka, Coordinator, Ethics and Research Training Projects.
  Phone: 9919 4148 (Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays)

• Ms Pushpa Richards
  Ethics Officer (Phone: 9919 4781)

• Mr Daniel Loton
  Ethics Officer (Phone: 9919 4461)

VC AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH 2007

Up to thirteen awards, known as the ‘The Vice-Chancellor’s Citation for Excellence in Research’, will be granted when applications are of an appropriate standard.

Applications close Monday, 20 August 2007.

The 2007 guidelines and nomination form are available from: http://research.vu.edu.au/vc_awards.php
**WYNDHAM BUSINESS AWARDS**

Now in their thirteenth year, the Wyndham Business Awards were recently awarded in June hosted by the Wyndham City Council. Victoria University has been a proud sponsor of these awards since their inception. The awards are the second largest in Victoria, surpassed only by the State Government’s own business awards. They attract entries across a variety of categories including manufacturing, franchise, service, retail, transport and new and emerging businesses. This year VU’s Dr Gayle Morris and Barbara McLure were part of the judging panel; Barbara having judged each year since the awards began. Business excellence plays an important role in economic growth and these awards highlight the depth and diversity of very good businesses in Wyndham. Gayle presented the award for Arts and Entertainment to the Laverton Skate Centre (pictured below) at the awards dinner attended by over 500 people.

![Dr Gayle Morris, Director Office for Research, with Laverton Skate Centre, Arts and Entertainment award winners.](image)

**RQF UPDATE**

DEST requests second round nomination of international and end user for RQF panels. VU is in the process of informing our international research partners as well as our industry end users. The closing date for this round of nomination is 2nd July. If you have any suggestions please contact Dr Ren Yi at the Office for Research. Meanwhile, VU also organised internal champions for each RQF panels. The first VU RQF panel champion meeting will be held on 22nd June. DEST will also release the RQF guidelines in the near future. Office for Research is the process of informing the knowledge economy. The Centre has agreed to a challenging set of themes: health economics, technological change and economic growth; the convergence of information technologies and biotechnologies and its economic, social and other effects; environmental economics and policy responses; diversity at the personal and individual level, particularly with respect to participation in the knowledge economy. The Centre earned $1.049 million in external research income in 2006.

**FACULTY OF BUSINESS & LAW RESEARCH UPDATE**

Three University research centres based in the Business and Law Faculty are going strong, according to their 2006 annual reports. The three centres are: Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Research (CHTR), Centre for International Corporate Governance Research (CICGR) and Centre for Strategic Economic Studies (CSES).

CHTR reports an outstanding growth in total income, rising from $655,660 in 2004 to $1,282 million in 2006, nearly 60% of this being external research income. Publications also rose steeply over this period, from 14 DEST author-weighted points in 2004 to 63.28 DEST points, as have research students (from 1 in 2004, to 10 in 2006). The Centre aspires to be a global leader in hospitality, tourism and events research and to be distinguished by its robust partnerships with industry and the community and its enriched working environment for associates and staff. The Centre is led by Associate Professor Barry O’Mahony and supported by 7.85 EFT staff, including one student member, Dr. Suzanne Bergin, who recently graduated with a PhD from Victoria University. Dr. Regina Quiazon, recently a research assistant at the Centre, also graduated in May 2007 with a PhD from VU.

The Centre for International Corporate Governance Research had a strong year in 2006. Highlights included: VU Citations for Excellence in Research given to the CICGR research team led by Professor Roman Tomasic (2005) and Citation for best Postgraduate research graduate, Adjunct Professor Mukti Mishra, who completed his DBA thesis under the supervision of CICGR director, Professor Anona Armstrong, and research associate, Professor Michael Muetzelfeldt. Three PhD candidates in the Centre completed their theses in 2006, and five more graduated with their PhDs in 2006. The graduands in 2006 were: Dr. Andrew Wenn, Dr. Aster Yong, Dr. Joy Lee and Siti Nuranyah, with Xinting Xia (a staff member), Ann Mitis and Susan Zeidan graduating in 2007. Ann Mitis and Susan Zeidan won best paper awards. The Centre’s publications output in 2006 included 20 book chapters and 51 refereed articles.

The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies is headed by Professor Peter Sheehan. In 2006, the Centre was awarded $3.25 million over five years under the University’s Priority Innovation and Research Projects (PRIP) funding. Under the funding agreement with the University, the Centre has agreed to a challenging set of increased research output targets, grouped under four themes: health economics, technological change and economic growth; the convergence of information technologies and biotechnologies and its economic, social and other effects; environmental economics and policy responses; diversity at the regional and individual level, particularly with respect to participation in the knowledge economy. The Centre earned $1.049 million in external research income in 2006, with a three year extension of the Merck Company Foundation grant of $US 600,000 being part of this. The Centre achieved a total of 44.3 author-weighted points in publications, including 10 for books and 9 for chapters of books. The Centre has had 16 PhD completions since 2001.

**NEW STAFF MEMBER AT THE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION**

Welcome to Nicholas Milne who joined the ISI team on 4th June 2007. Nicholas is a post doctoral research officer working on the Smart Water project – Guidance for industry for use of recycled water. He is working on this project with Kevin Zhang, Stephen Gray, Darrell Reeve and CSIRO and is located out of Werribee. Nicholas has come from UNSW where he just completed a PhD on electrochemical aspects of lithium batteries.

![Nicholas Milne](image)

**SUPPORT FOR FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MISSIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering receives funding from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) for the Frontiers of S&T Missions and Workshops element of the International Science Linkages - Science Academies Programme, part of Backing Australia's Ability. In order to strengthen and further the objectives of the International Science Linkages Programme, ATSE is offering Australian researchers an opportunity to submit expressions of interest for international Missions and Workshops during the calendar year 2008-2009.

Support will only be provided for the following activities:

a. overseas missions by Australian scientists and technologists and missions by overseas researchers in similar disciplines into Australia;

b. participation by Australia’s scientific and technological community in workshops held outside Australia by foreign organisations;

c. workshops held in Australia in which a significant number of the lead participants are from outside Australia; and

d. a programme of site visits arranged in conjunction with workshops referred to in sub-items (b) and (c), but the workshops must be the predominant activity.

All EOI Proposals will be assessed by the International Relations Committee against the goals and priorities of the ISL Programme. Administrative
and financial support for selected activities will be provided by ATSE. An EOI form as well as further information is available on the ATSE website: http://atse.org.au or email elizabethm@atse.org.au. Closing date for receipt of EOI Proposal – Tuesday 31 July 2007 by 5.00 pm EST.

ATSE will not fund the following activities:

• conference sponsorship
• attendance or participation in conferences
• collaborative research projects
• Postdoctoral or Fellowship exchanges

ILSCM GRANT SUCCESS

Mr Kerry Hammond has been successful in obtaining funding of $30,000 from the Telematics Course Development Fund for funding towards the following project ‘Simulating supply chain logistics as an interactive and real time experience’.

PENGUIN FOUNDATION GRANT SUCCESS

Professor John Orbell has been successful in obtaining funding of $20,000 over one year from the Penguin Foundation for funding towards the following project ‘The development of prototype technology for the ‘Magnetic Cleansing’ of wildlife’.

Investigators: Professor John Orbell (Chief Investigator), Professor Stephen Bigger, Dr Lawrence Ngeh, Dr Hien Van Dao – Animal Rehabilitation Technology (ART) Group, Institute for Sustainability & Innovation/School of Molecular Sciences, Victoria University.

Dr Peter Dann, Dr Rosalind Jessop and Ms Margaret Healy from the Phillip Island Research Centre and Phillip Island Nature Park.

UPCOMING VUECR 2007 SEMINAR:

Seminar to run from 5.30-7.30 pm.
Wine and cheese provided!

Tuesday 31 July:
‘VU Policies & Guidelines on Research’

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

REMEMBER:
VU RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT GRANTS SCHEME FOR 2007

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. Closing date for applications with the Office for Research is 20 July 2007. For further details please visit: http://research.vu.edu.au/vu_rdgs.php

VU GRANT PREPARATION SUPPORT SCHEME

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new research funding scheme. These small grants are designed to assist researchers at Victoria University to prepare applications for external research funding involving two or more institutions or significant University collaboration with industry. Please forward one copy only of the completed form to the Office for Research through the appropriate Head of School. Applications should be forwarded to Zana Stefanovski, Office for Research, 6 Geelong Road, Footscray Park Campus, Phone: 9919 4710, Fax: 9687 2089.

Please note the applications close at ANYTIME.

To download the application form, visit the following website: http://research/oride/vu_gpss.php

• The Australian Research Council is calling for applications for Linkage Projects (Round 2). Closing date for applications with the Office for Research is 2 November 2007 and with the ARC on 23 November 2007.

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. Typically, research projects funded under the scheme involve risk.

Proposals for funding under Linkage Projects must involve a collaborating organisation from outside the higher education sector. The collaborating organisation must make a significant contribution (equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding), in cash and/or in kind, to the project.

Under the Linkage Projects scheme, the ARC offers postgraduate awards and fellowships to provide industry-oriented research training and enable postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research opportunities in collaboration with industry.

Linkage Projects awards and fellowships offered by the ARC are:

• Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry), available for postgraduate research students.
• Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (Industry), available for researchers with fewer than three years’ postdoctoral experience at the closing date for applications.

• Linkage Industry Fellowships, which enable the temporary transfer of a researcher to a project partner organisation.

For further information please visit: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/default.htm

• Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) applications are invited once a year and should be lodged online for 2007. The call for AISRF applications will open on 6 August 2007, with the round closing 5pm (AEST) 28 September 2007. Last years AISRF Programme Guidelines (similar for 2007 according to DEST) are available at https://sciencegrants.dest.gov.au/AISRF/Pages/doc.aspx?name=docs/htm/AISRF_Guidelines.htm

• The Australian Rotary Health Research Fund is calling for applications for Research Grants in mental illness. Closing date for applications with the Office for Research is 20 July 2007 and with the agency on 27 July 2007.

http://www.arhrf.org.au

• The Leukaemia Foundation is pleased to announce that applications to its National Research Program for 2008 are now open. The Leukaemia Foundation is a national not-for-profit foundation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and related blood disorders. Through its National Research Program, the Foundation seeks to foster innovative research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of these cancers, and the care of patients and families.

Research Grants-in-Aid

Applications for grants-in-aid in the range $50,000 - $100,000 per annum will be considered for research staff salaries and/or maintenance costs to support research projects. The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest with the Office for Research is 20 July 2007 and with the Foundation on 27 July 2007.

Fellowship and Scholarship Program

Clinical Fellowship
Post Doctoral Fellowship
New Investigators Grant – Western Australia
PhD Scholarships
Honours Year Scholarships

Application forms and guidelines for applicants can be obtained from the following website at: www.leukaemia.org.au

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