MAJOR VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR WATER CENTRE

The Victorian Government, through the Victorian Water Trust, has agreed to provide one million dollars over five years to support the University’s Werribee Centre for Sustainable Water Use.

The Centre’s programs will be associated with the production of ‘fit-for-purpose’ water from saline waste water streams and its substitution for potable water and river water used for irrigation and industrial processes in the western region of Victoria.

The mission of the Centre is to build capacity in sustainable water use research, technology and knowledge dissemination in the western region of Victoria. An important focus for research will be improving the efficiency of desalination, membrane technologies and other processes that remove total dissolved solids (TDS), total suspended solids (TSS) and other biological organisms from waste water. The Centre will contribute to the security of Victoria’s future water needs, to cleaner production for industry, and to the University’s objective to serve the Western Metropolitan Region of Melbourne.

The Victorian Water Trust funding will be an important contribution to creating a centre of excellence in sustainable water use research at Werribee. The Centre will be a resource for industry and the community. The funding will strengthen Victoria University’s water research program which was recently augmented by the University being appointed to be the Lead Cluster Party for the CSIRO Flagship Collaboration Fund on Advanced Membrane Technologies for low energy desalination. The collaboration program comprises CSIRO and a consortium of nine Australian universities.

SPORT & RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS

On Thursday 8 March, two new projects, Active Girls Inc. and Women in Sport Leadership: Clearing Hurdles, funded by grants from Sport & Recreation Victoria, were launched by the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, James Merlino, at the Victorian Institute of Sport. Professor John McCallum, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education Programs) outlined the nature of these exciting new research projects, which will be conducted by researchers from Victoria University’s Centre for Ageing, Rehabilitation, Exercise & Sport (CARES) and the School of Human Movement, Recreation & Performance.

Active Girls Inc. will study young women’s participation in physical activity at transitional life stages. It will follow 2 groups of girls over a 3-year period tracking their physical activity patterns. Research has shown that young women participate in less sport and physical activity than young men, and women become less active as they get older. It also is apparent that the age at which young women drop out of physical activity is getting lower. The researchers for the project are Dr Caroline Symons, Dr Melinda Craike and Dr Jo Zimmermann.

Women in Sport Leadership: Clearing Hurdles will examine how women overcome societal, organisational and familial barriers to become elite level coaches, officials and administrators in Victoria. The research will explore potential and perceived barriers to achieving sport leadership and the success
stories of women who have gained leadership positions. It is hoped that through this research awareness of the factors creating barriers will lead to the development of ways for Victorian organisations to assist the advancement of women in leadership positions. The researchers for the project are Dr. Caroline Symons, Dr. Daryl Marchant and Ms. Lenora Sundstrom.

The recently completed 3-year research project titled Count Us In: Developing Physical Activity Programs for Women, was also funded by a grant from Sport & Recreation Victoria, and has had a number of important outcomes. The researchers were Dr. Clare Hanlon, Professor Tony Morris, Ms. Susan Nabbs and the late Associate Professor Precilla Choi.

AWARD FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Richard Chauvel from the School of Social Sciences has secured two Australian Leadership Award Fellowships: “Elections and Democratisation in Indonesia” and “HIV–Aids in the Indonesian province of Papua: Leadership and capacity building in policy making, program delivery and research”. The funding for these two fellowships totalled $252,354.

The fellow for the Elections and Democratisation project is Dr. Chusnul Mariyah, a political scientist at the University of Indonesia, where she was a colleague of Dr. Chauvel. Chusnul’s research under this fellowship will examine how electoral processes have influenced and shaped the “creation of a robust and functioning democratic system” in Indonesia. Chusnul’s research compliments the doctoral research of five of Dr. Chauvel’s postgraduate students. Kusna Budi, Turiijn, Honest Molasy and Erwin Nur Rif’ah are studying aspects of democratisation and decentralisation, while Ms Renei Suwarso, who won an Australian Leadership Award Scholarship, is researching the influence of direct elections for heads of government on the role and influence of political parties.

The HIV–Aids project will enable six Papuans to study and conduct research at VU for four months. The fellowships are designed to assist the Papuan Provincial Government, the Commission for the Prevention of HIV-Aids and Cenderawasih University. The research to be conducted under this fellowship is related to the research of another of Dr. Chauvel’s postgraduate students. Ms Adelce Mandibondo is researching the role of the Protestant Churches in combating domestic violence in Papua.

Dr. Chauvel would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Brian Fairman (VU) and Professor Huriyet Babacan (ICEPA) in liaising with AusAid and preparing the budget for these two ALA fellowships.

Dr. Chauvel has also been successful in obtaining funding for another research project in Papua. Together with Dr. Vidhyandika D. Perkasa and Ms. Medelina Hendylio from Jakarta’s Centre for Strategic and International Studies, he was awarded a research grant of $67,020 from Australia-Indonesia Governance Research Partnership (AIGRP). The research will examine the causes of weak governance in the central highlands of Papua.

TOURISM GRANT FROM DUBAI

Researchers at the Centre for International Corporate Governance Research have been successful in receiving a grant from Zayed University in Dubai to investigate the potential market for tourism from Australia to Dubai. Professor Anona Armstrong and Professor Brian King are collaborating with Assistant Professor Ian Michael and Professor Badram from Zayed University on the research. The Dubai members of the team will be in Melbourne from 22-25 April 2007 to hold focus groups with people who have visited Dubai.

CIRCLES OF ACE TEACHING PRACTICE:
A STATEWIDE PRACTITIONER RESEARCH PROJECT

Researchers from the School of Education have had a key role in two innovative practitioner research projects funded by the Victorian Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFEB). The projects involved community education and adult literacy practitioners from around the State in researching local issues and developing and implementing small-scale projects in response to needs.

Jill Sanguinetti at the School of Education was one of a team of three researchers (including Professor Richard Teese at Melbourne University and Associate Professor Barry Golding at Ballarat University) who were charged with working with groups of ACE (Adult and Community Education) practitioners based in approximately fifty community providers, to plan, carry out and report on practitioner research projects.

Each of the three academic researchers led a ‘Circle of ACE Research Practice’ whose aim was to test, implement and further develop the findings of three (more formal) research projects that they had carried out for ACFEB in previous years. ACFEB had decided that because of the significance of the findings of these three earlier projects, what was needed to take the findings into the world of practice, rather than leave the reports on the shelf and fund new projects.

Jill Sanguinetti’s earlier project, funded by ACFEB and Victoria University (as a VU Partnerships grant), was entitled ‘The ACE Experience: Pedagogies for Life and Employment in Adult, Community and Further Education’ (ACFEB 2004). This was an action research project that involved 22 practitioners from ACE centres around Victoria reflecting upon and documenting their pedagogical challenges and successes. Dr. David Maunders (VU) and Dr. Peter Waterhouse (Workplace Learning Initiatives) were consultant researchers in this project, which resulted in what is now known of as ‘The ACE Pedagogy Framework’.

The Circle of ACE Teaching Practice’, managed by Judy Bisland at the Sandybeach Community Centre in Sandringham, was a follow-up project whose purpose was to apply the ACE Pedagogy Framework in practical research and further develop it. This follow-up project has now been through two separately funded rounds of practitioner research.

In the first round, practitioner projects picked up on different dimensions of the pedagogy framework, focusing on ACE pedagogy, reflective practice, generic skills development and the notion of ‘place’ as an aspect of local pedagogy. Jill Sanguinetti and Peter Waterhouse (WLI) each facilitated one of the two Circles.

In 2006 ACFEB repeated the project with a different cohort of ACE practitioners. Merryn Davies joined the team as an additional facilitator and research leader. Projects were carried out in 24 centres statewide. Jill and Merryn led three all-day workshops and Jill travelled to Horsham and Wypechfoot to assist with projects.

Reports were presented on January 29 at a workshop at the Rendezvous Hotel in Flinders Street. In a fascinating, marathon session, powerpoint presentations of seventeen different project reports were presented and discussed. Typical titles were:

- Cohesive Learning: A Model for Effective Teaching and Learning in VCAL (Wodonga)
- Out of the Swamp: An introduction to new technology to tutors at a community house (Ferntree Gully)
THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CARIBBEAN STUDIES (AACS) INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The Australian Association for Caribbean Studies (AACS) International Biennial Conference, convened by Dr Karina Smith from the School of Communication, Culture and Languages, was recently held at Victoria University's Footscray Park campus. The conference theme, Movements: local, national, and global Caribbean Popular Cultures, sparked a stimulating discussion on the movement of Caribbean popular cultures within and between Caribbean nations; within the Caribbean diaspora; and from the local to the global. The theme also encouraged reflection on the way in which moments in Caribbean popular cultures contest, resist, and rupture neocolonial power structures.

Dr Carole Boyce Davies, Professor of English and African New World Studies at Florida International University, launched the conference with her keynote lecture on Carnival and the Caribbean Diaspora. Following Dr Boyce Davies' lecture was a program of papers touching on topics as varied as Jamaican Roadsides, Jamaican Intellectual Property Law, St Croix folklore, the Cuban Education system, Dub poetry, and videogaming in Venezuela. Aside from Australian-based Caribbeanists from universities such as VU, ANU, QUT, UWA, and Wollongong, there was a strong contingent from the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean representing universities such as Johns Hopkins, UCLA (Santa Barbara), Loyola Marymount, University of Toronto, and California State University (Chico).

Dr Susan Mains, a Grenadian art activist, displayed her art works at the conference and presented a paper on the similarities between the Caribbean tradition of jouvert and the Vienna Actionist art movement. Jigzie Campbell, a Melbourne-based Jamaican performer who trained at the Jamaican School of Dance, accompanied by her son Rueben Campbell, a Melbourne-based Hip Hop artist also known as RuCl, performed for guests at the conference reception. On the second day of the conference, delegates were led on a walking tour of Footscray by local Taunwarrung elder Larry Walsh which was followed by dinner at Jamaican restaurant, Yeah Maan.

A selection of the conference papers will be published in a special issue of Kunapipi: Journal of Postcolonial Wring in 2008.

NEW RESEARCH STUDENT INDUCTION PROGRAM

This is a two-day Program intended to: introduce new research students to each other, to Victoria University as a research institution and to the people who will be of most help to them in their time as a research student. There is also an afternoon session for part-time research students and this offers a condensed version of some of the ‘got to know’ information.

TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2007

9.30 – 10.00: Registration

10.00 – 11.00: Who we are, what we offer and expect
Professor Elaine Martin, Director Graduate Research and, Head of the Office for Postgraduate Research

11.20 – 12.20: The feedback from existing Research students, the good and the not so good sides of life as a research student
Professor Elaine Martin, Existing Students

12.20 – 1.00: Welcome from the DVC Research
Professor Linda Rosenman
1.00 – 2.00: Lunch
2.00 - 4.00: What is this thing called research?
Associate Professor Jim Sillitoe, Postgraduate Student Advisor

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2007

10.00 – 12.00: Introduction to essential processes
Ms Natalie Sciberras, Postgraduate Research Co-ordinator and Ms Lesley Birch, Research Training Scheme and Scholarships Co-ordinator

12.00 - 12.30: Meet the Faculty Student Advice Officers

12.30 – 1.30: Lunch

1.30 – 2.30: Finding and using information to support your research
Ms Susan Monaghan, Research and St Albans Campus Librarian

2.30 – 3.30: Rights and Responsibilities
Director of Graduate Research, Associate Deans Research and Research Training

3.30 – 5.30: Social Event
Featuring Idance: Ms Browyn Day Dance Instructor. Come along and unwind with some food and drinks, followed by a group salsa dance lesson.

For Further Information please visit:
http://www.vu.edu.au/postgrad

Registration Website:
http://wcl.vu.edu.au/PostgraduateTraining/

RECENT INVITED/KEYNOTE TALKS ON ICT AND E-RESEARCH

Professor Yanchun Zhang, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science, School of Computer Science and Maths has been invited to a number of talks and seminars on Web Community and e-Research were given in Japan in December 2006 and January 2007. Three further invited talks or keynote speeches are invited and scheduled in June and October 2007’s conferences/forums in China.

One of the events is Forum on Future Computing (FFC) – Transparent Computing and Active Service, hosted by Director General of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of China, Beijing, June 23-24. Theme: Computers are becoming available anytime and anywhere in many different forms. They are distributed ubiquitously, pervasively and unobtrusively
throughout the every-day environments in forms of small or large, visible or invisible, attached or embedded or blended, simple or complex, and so on. Wired or wireless networks connect these computers locally or globally, coordinated or ad hoc, continuously or intermittently, etc. On the other hand, computing systems including hardware, software, communication and networks are growing towards an ever increasing scale and heterogeneity, becoming overly complex. To cope with these new features and challenges, many novel computing paradigms have been proposed and emerged in the past decades. This forum will be an open platform for researchers to freely exchange their opinions and visions on potential computing trends, paradigms as well as related key technologies and grand challenges in the next decade and beyond. Yanchun will talk about Cross domain computing, e-research applications and health informatics.

SBS COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Many of you will already know of Ellen’s work as a multi-cultural commissioner in Victoria. Ellen has just been appointed to Chair SBS’s Multicultural Broadcast Committee for Television and Radio. This is wonderful recognition of Ellen and her work and a well deserved achievement. I’m sure you will all join with me in wishing Ellen every success in her new (additional) SBS role.

Elleni Bereded-Samuel is currently employed as The Community Engagement Officer based at the Office for Industry and Community Engagement. She is accountable for planning, developing and implementing strategies to increase the scope of the University’s community engagement, especially with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities through the development of existing and new community engagement relationships.

The Engagement Officer provides advice on engagement with communities generally and especially with CALD communities to ensure the University is well placed as possible to support communities and to broaden its capacities and capabilities in relation to community engagement.

The Engagement Officer works in collaboration with others across the University in initiating, framing and implementing strategic engagement projects.

In 2006 Ellen first was appointed as Victorian Multicultural Commissioner and Board of director of Royal Women’s Hospital. Ellen was one of the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor’s Citation for Outstanding Engagement with CALD communities in Australia and her name has been included on the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Ellen is also on 2006/07 Who is Who Australian Women among 4000 remarkable women in Australia.

UPCOMING VUECR 2007 SEMINARS:

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

Tuesday, 27 March 2007:
“Constructing Research Proposals’ (including budgeting and referencing)
Guest Presenter: Professor John Zeleznikow
Venue: Room 1.02, 295 Queen Street

Tuesday, 24 April 2007:
“Finding a Mentor’ (including peer review, research networking, team building)
Guest Presenter: Dr Michele Grossman
Venue: Conference Room 1, Level 6, Building K, Footscray Park Campus

RQF UPDATE

DEST recently announced the Research Quality Framework Reference Committee members. VU Vice Chancellor Prof Liz Harman is part of the twelve members committee. Meanwhile, twelve discipline specific workshops have been held in Canberra over the last couple of weeks. The summaries of workshops from each discipline will be released in the next couple of weeks.

31st March 2007 is RQF census day. According to The Recommended RQF documents, the RQF guidelines will be released in the second quarter of 2007. VU steering committee has also been formed. The chairperson of the VU steering committee is Prof Greg Baxter. Members are Dr Gayle Morris, Dr Neale Yates, Ms Susan Monaghan and Dr Ren Yi. If you have any RQF related questions, please contact the steering committee members.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

• ARC Linkage Projects - proposals submitted in 2007 (for funding commencing in 2008) are due for submission at the following closing times:

   Round 1 - Office for Research is Friday, 13 April, 2007 and with the agency Friday, 4 May 2007.
   Round 2 - Office for Research is Friday, 2 November 2007 and with the agency Friday, 23 November 2007.


• ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) scheme: Closing date with the Office for Research is Friday, 4 May 2007 and with the agency on Friday, 18 May 2007.


• VU Researcher Development Grants Scheme (RDGS) 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.

• VU Grant Preparation Support Scheme (GPSS) – These are small grants designed to assist researchers at VU to prepare applications for external research funding involving two or more institutions or extensive University collaboration with industry. Closing date: ANYTIME.

• The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation are calling for applications to the Foundation’s medical program to be awarded in 2008. Senior Medical Research fellowships and Clinical Investigatorships close with the Office for Research on 24 April 2007 and with the agency on 1 May 2007.

   http://www.anz.com/aus/fin/Trustees/guNamed.asp#Viertel


Awards:

http://www.ainse.edu.au/01post.html

• The Ian Potter Foundation is calling for travel grants. Closing date with the Office for Research is 28 May 2007 and with the agency on 4 June 2007.