IN THIS ISSUE

The VC’s Peak Awards for Excellence in R&RT 2007

2008 Endavour Research Fellowship Success

2007 Sport and Recreation Awards

Video Game Addiction: A Hot Topic

New Research Writer/Journalist

Postgraduate Scholarship News

CSES Grant Success with Loughborough University in the UK and with the Department of Premier and Cabinet

RQF Update

News from the Faculty of Business & Law

2008 Research Development Workshops

OFFICE FOR RESEARCH BULLETIN TEAM:

Dr Gayle Morris
Director
E: Gayle.Morris@vu.edu.au
T: (03) 9919 4708

Ms Zana Stefanovski
Grants Administration Officer
E: Zana.Stefanovski@vu.edu.au
T: (03) 9919 4710

THE VC’S PEAK AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN R&RT 2007

Warm congratulations to all of the research and research training citation and peak award winners for 2007. The peak award winners were:

Research Degree Graduate was awarded to Dr Iwona Miliszewska from the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science, School of Computer Science and Maths. For an exceptional contribution to knowledge which will support improvements in transnational education, and for am exemplary commitment to publishing the outcomes of her research.

Research Supervision was awarded to Associate Professor Chris Perera from the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science, School of Architectural, Civil and Mechanical Engineering. For sustained and exemplary excellence in research supervision, and for contributions of the highest order to applied research in water engineering.

Research Team was awarded to the Research Group in Mathematical Inequalities and Applications Team from the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science, School of Computer Science and Maths, Associate Professor Neil Barnett, Associate Professor Peter Cerone, Professor Sever Dragomir, Associate Professor Anthony Sofo and Dr Xun Yi.

2008 ENDEAVOUR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SUCCESS

We are delighted to advise that two students from VU have been selected to receive a 2008 Endeavour Research Fellowship to undertake a Postdoctoral Research programme in Japan.

Mr Guandong Xu, one of Prof Yanchun Zhang’s PhD students, has been just awarded a 2008 Endeavour Research Fellowship from DEST. This is a Postdoctoral Fellow position to do joint research at Tokyo University in Japan for six months. The host is Professor Masaru Kitsuregawa, one of the leading computer scientists in database and data mining.

Mr Serdar Degirmencioglu, a community psychology academic researcher from Turkey, has been successful in receiving an Endeavour Research Fellowship awarded by the Department of Education, Science and Training. He will be with VU for about 4 months from late February.

Serdar plans to study community-based organisations, particularly those focussing on children and youth from a strengths perspective. The specific area will be the interplay between local government and agencies and how they support each other. This will be important work to transfer back to Turkey where he says the rhetoric and models do not match the structures and practices.
Awards, sponsored by Victoria University and AFL Victoria, were recently held at the MCG on Monday, 19 November 2007. The Centre for Ageing, Rehabilitation, Exercise and Sport (CARES) and the School of Human Movement, Recreation & Performance are proud, inaugural and ongoing sponsors of two of the Sport and Recreation Awards: namely the Applied Research Award in Sport and Recreation Science Award and the Sport and Recreation Education Award.

The awards, now in their 11th year recognise individuals and organisations for their positive and inspirational contributions to sport and recreation in communities across Victoria. The Awards highlight the Victorian Government’s ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of all Victorians by promoting physical activity and healthy eating.

2007 SPORT AND RECREATION AWARDS

The 2007 Go for your life Sport and Recreation Awards, sponsored by Victoria University and AFL Victoria, were recently held at the MCG on Monday, 19 November 2007. The Centre for Ageing, Rehabilitation, Exercise and Sport (CARES) and the School of Human Movement, Recreation & Performance are proud, inaugural and ongoing sponsors of two of the Sport and Recreation Awards: namely the Applied Research Award in Sport and Recreation Science Award and the Sport and Recreation Education Award.

The awards, now in their 11th year recognise individuals and organisations for their positive and inspirational contributions to sport and recreation in communities across Victoria. The Awards highlight the Victorian Government’s ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of all Victorians by promoting physical activity and healthy eating.

Sport and Recreation Education Award: Assoc Prof Russell Hoye and Dr Matthew Nicholson (finalists) La Trobe University, Cr Margaret Giudice (winner) Mayor Brimbank City Council, James Merlino, Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, Prof Creamer, Zane Job (finalist) Whitehorse Pioneer Football Club

VIDEO GAME ADDICTION

A HOT TOPIC

After publishing his research online, Mr. Daniel Loton, Ethics Officer in the Office for Research, has been contacted by three independent media organisations. The most recent contact culminated in a group discussion on the ABC show ‘Good Game’, which explored the legitimacy of the concept of video game addiction. Despite a dire lack of topical academic research, it seems video games have become a hot topic.

Media attention has been attracted by the American Medical Association’s call for evidence concerning video game addiction to be assessed in the next review of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, leading many to conclude that video game addiction may soon be a diagnosable mental illness. Dan Loton chose to research video game addiction for his Psychology Honours thesis in 2005. Some say it was a cheap form of self-treatment, but Dan maintains that the topic deserves further research, despite how much he plays video games.

One theory explaining video game addiction is that games are compelling to those who have little control or agency in their own lives, therefore the control afforded by a game environment, particularly the social interaction that online multiplayer games provide, becomes so compelling as to create dependence. Researchers have theorised that people with social difficulties may be vulnerable to excessive play, and that excessive play may exacerbate social difficulties.

Dan’s research tested this theory by investigating the relationship between problem video game playing (which is measured using a modified pathological gambling scale) and social skills. Despite the social skills scale having predicted social functioning, personality characteristics and psychopathology in past studies, in a sample of 621 heavy gamers, Dan found only miniscule relationships between the two constructs. He concluded that social variables play only a very small part in problem video game play behaviour. Dan’s full thesis is available online at his website: [www.computer gamerresearch.com](http://www.computer gamerresearch.com)

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Postgraduate Research Scholarship scheme is underway with 33 applicants for the Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship Scheme and 66 applicants for the Australian Postgraduate Awards and Victoria University Postgraduate Research Scholarships being received this year. Faculties have ranked their applications and the final University Ranking Committee will meet in the second week of December.

NEW RESEARCH WRITER/JOURNALIST

Craig Scutt has recently been appointed as the University’s new senior research writer/journalist.

His primary brief is to offer guidance and support for research groups completing Context and Impact statements for the RQF exercise.

The rest of Craig’s time will be spent promoting Victoria University research internally and externally. In this regard he would like to hear from researchers, including final year PhD students to discuss possible media opportunities. Email: craig.scutt@vu.edu.au or telephone: 9919 5025.

CSES GRANT SUCCESS WITH LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY IN UK

CSES together with Loughborough University in the UK, has received funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) (UK) to carry out a multi-stage research project titled: Economic Implications of Alternative Scholarly Publishing Models: Exploring the Costs and Benefits.

The aim of the project is to inform policy discussion and enable stakeholders to better understand the institutional, budgetary and wider economic and social implications of the three emerging models of scholarly publication (subscription publishing, self-archiving, and open access publishing), and thereby enable them to respond to the opportunities and challenges presented in the rapidly evolving research and scholarly communication environment.

The Australia team, assembled by Victoria University’s CSES, will be led by Prof. John Houghton, with research support from Prof. Peter Sheehan. It will also include Mr Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow, ANU. In the United Kingdom, the team assembled by Loughborough University, will be led by Prof. Charles Oppenheim of the Department of Information Science, with active research support from Dr. Adrian Gourlay of the Department of Economics and others from the Departments of Information Science as required.

The project commenced in September 2007 and will be finalised by October 2008, with total funding of £150,000 (initial estimate breakdown is 75% for CSES and 25% for Loughborough University).
CSSES GRANT SUCCESS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

CSSES has been successful in obtaining funding of $38,600 from the Department of Premier and Cabinet (VIC) for the following project: Global Emissions Scenario Project.

This work will be undertaken by a team led by Professor Peter Sheehan of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University and Dr Roger Jones of CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research for the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The central objective of the proposed work is to develop new and more realistic empirical foundations for climate analysis for use in the Garnaut Review of Climate Change and its Economic Impact (commissioned by Labour Party and State and Territory Governments in April 2007) and to position new foundation in the context of ongoing work by the IPCC and other groups. This will involve building a reference projection to 2030 of the anthropogenic factors influencing climate change, developing different ways of extending that path out to 2100, describing the likely climate implications of those paths using simple climate models and other techniques, and exploring the policy implications of these results.

Also in early December the State Government will be launching a report done by John Houghton with a South African partner on emerging ICT markets in South Africa.

AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FUND

Professor Terence McCann from the School of Nursing and Midwifery has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund for $56,017 in 2008 for the following project: Evaluation of a multimedia support program for primary caregivers of family members with first-episode psychosis.

RQF UPDATE

RQF panel advisor nomination closed on 20th November. Victoria University have nominated 12 candidates as RQF panel advisor. Meanwhile different professional bodies have released research output ranking for consultation. If you have any questions regarding these research output ranking, please contact the professional body in your field your Associate Dean (Research) in your faculty.

At VU, the 4th forum has been held at the City Flinders campus on 14th November. Meanwhile, the Library and VU RQF steering committee launched new software Scopus to assist VU researchers preparing RQF. If you are interested in Scopus, please contact Ms Susan Monaghan, the University Research Librarian. If you have any further questions regarding RQF, please contact the VU RQF steering committee.

All indications are that the new government will redefine the RQF and delay the implementation of the new scheme by at least twelve months. Nevertheless we want to build on the vast amount of work that has been achieved so far at VU in identifying areas of strength and connecting people into research groups. We can see great benefit in building on this to focus our research effort in the future. The VU group leaders have therefore been requested to continue with developing a scaled-back context statement.

FACULTY OF BUSINESS & LAW: LAUNCH OF WORKCHOICES RESEARCH

Researchers in the Business and Law Faculty and ICEPA won a tender this year to research the effect of the WorkChoices legislation on vulnerable workers and jobseekers in Victoria. Led by Associate Professor Santina Bertone (a longstanding ICEPA associate), the successful submission involved collaboration with the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law and other ICEPA associates. Both parties were aware that the legislation was controversial and its effects being researched by independent university teams around Australia (though the effect it would have on federal elections was speculative at that stage!).

The VU-led research, however, would be the first major research to focus on Victorian workers and to provide a voice to largely non-unionised workers across all occupational categories and rural/city locations. The grant for $25,000 was funded by JobWatch Inc., a community legal advice centre based in Carlton, which operates a telephone advice line to callers from around Victoria. The research incorporated a telephone survey of 554 JobWatch callers (based on a structured stratified sample), literature review and focus groups with 30 of those callers, across all age groups, with one group being held in Shepparton.

The report of the WorkChoices research was launched at the University of Melbourne/Brotherhood of Saint Laurence conference on Low Paid Work in Australia on 17 October 2007. Titled WorkChoices: the Victorian Experience, it was co-authored by Santina Bertone, Shelley Marshall and Colin Fenwick (of University of Melbourne), Professor Hurniyet Babacan (ICEPA), Dr. Segu Zuhair (Applied Economics, ICEPA research associate) and with the assistance of Vera Smiljanic from JobWatch.

A refereed conference paper based on the key findings of this research has subsequently been accepted for the February 2008 conference of the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand (AIRAANZ). The authors are also working on a journal article for submission to a major industrial relations journal.

WorkChoices may soon be repealed by the new Rudd Labor government, however, it remains important to document what happened under WorkChoices and how and why the loss of a protective safety net led in a very short time to major abuses of worker rights and entitlements, including severe job insecurity for some. For a copy of the report, feel free to contact ICEPA or Santina Bertone at santina.bertone@vu.edu.au.

INVITATION TO VISIT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Associate Professor Santina Bertone was invited recently to attend an invitation-only conference of the Oxford Round Table based at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University in England. The theme of the conference, to be held 23-28 March 2008, is Ethical Sentiments: The Restoration of Trust in Government and Business.

Approximately 35 scholars from around the world have been invited to discuss this topic over five days, with invitees being encouraged to make a formal presentation which may be submitted for publication in the Forum on Public Policy, published by the Oxford Round Table.

‘I’m very excited about this opportunity to network with others and discuss a topic which is dear to my heart. I must confess I’m also eager to be part of Oxford University, as it will be my first visit and an opportunity to absorb the history, culture and knowledge gathered there’ (Santina Bertone). Santina is Associate Dean (Research & Research Training) in the Business and Law Faculty. The timing of the invitation is opportune, as she is due to proceed onto Special Studies Program leave in July 2008. ‘It will be a real boost to my research’.
Following meetings in Washington between President Lelei Lelaulu of the global community development NGO, Counterpart International, Steve Noakes, Managing Director of Pacific Asia Tourism, and Professor Terry DeLacy of VU's Centre of Tourism and Services Research an idea was conceived for an Oceania Sustainable Tourism Alliance (OSTA). This was based on a recently established Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance in the USA with funding from USAID. OSTA’s objective is to bring research, educational and community development institution as well as the private sector into an alliance with development aid funding organisations like USAID to assist sustainable tourism development in South Pacific Island Economies.

Lelei Lelaulu is also chairman of the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI). Lelei invited Steven and Terry to attend the annual conference of FSPI, which this year was held in Samoa, to discuss the possibility of establishing OSTA. FSPI is the regional secretariat for a network of network members in Timor-Leste, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and metropolitan partners in Australia and United States of America. The headquarters of FSPI are in Fiji. Its executive director, is Rex Horoi. NZAID has recently concluded a funding agreement with FSPI to give it core funding for 10 years.

The Samoan Prime Minister, Sasuga Tualaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, who has been deputy PM or PM for 15 years, gave the opening address and expressed strong support for the OSTA concept.

Tourism is the Pacific Island communities’ major economic and employment activity, foreign exchange earner and offers hope for economic development in the foreseeable future. But social, cultural, environmental, educational, investment, infrastructure, communications, transport and, most importantly, climate change challenges abound. OSTA offers a structure to focus resources on addressing these challenges.

The FSPI annual conference and subsequent strategic planning and board meetings endorsed the OSTA proposal and determined to work with Victoria University and other potential partners to further develop the proposal and get it established and implemented.

Initial funding for projects will be sought from the World Bank funded Global Environment Facility (GEF), focusing of sustainable community based tourism and climate change adaptation. Other projects involve developing wireless broadband infrastructure to underpin web 2 destination marketing and selling portals.

For further information: Professor Terry DeLacy, Centre for Tourism and Services Research.

### 2008 RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Research grant opportunities: SPIN database</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARC Linkage EOI workshop: Round 1 &amp; 2 IP component</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR; Assoc Deans (R&amp;RT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>“Aspects of the Linkage Projects Scheme from an ARC Perspective”</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR; Dr. McKinnon, ARC, Exec Dir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research project budgeting</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>RQF update</td>
<td>Group Leaders</td>
<td>RQF Steering Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institutional Biosafety</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IP; students &amp; supervisors</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Development Grant Scheme</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>ARC Discovery Rejoiners</td>
<td>ARC Discovery applicants</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Animal Ethics</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Industry interactions</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR; OICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VicHealth research grant opportunities</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>Vic Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>ARC Linkage EOI workshop Round 2 &amp; 1 (inc. IP component)</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR; Assoc Deans (R&amp;RT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Research grant opportunities: SPIN database</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>ARC LIEF</td>
<td>Targetted: Centres &amp; Institutes</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARC Discovery EOI workshop</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR; Assoc Deans (R&amp;RT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>New Research in a New Era</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Research Ethics Training</td>
<td>Research staff</td>
<td>OIR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THANK YOU: To all who contributed to the content of the Research Matters bulletin. All the best for Christmas and the New Year 2008.