**ARC & NHMRC SUCCESS**

**DISCOVERY PROJECTS TO COMMENCE IN 2007**

We are pleased to announce that the following Discovery Projects have been funded by the ARC for 2007.

- **A/Prof SF Collins; Prof GW Baxter; Dr SA Wade; Prof KT Grattan**  
  **Project Title:** Fibre Bragg grating microstructures: a novel sensing tool?  
  **Funding of $285,000 over 3 years.**  
  **Project Summary:** This project seeks to produce novel optical fibre sensors based on in-fibre Bragg gratings that will find applications in the measurement of transverse strain. The development of improved measurement techniques provides for better monitoring of industrial processes that will provide greater efficiency and safety, and thereby significant annual cost savings and improved safety.

- **Prof M Faulkner; Dr M Shafi; A/Prof PJ Smith**  
  **Project Title:** Cognitive Radio Technology: Increasing Spectral Efficiency of Wireless Communications.  
  **Funding of $379,185 over 3 years.**  
  **Project Summary:** The radio spectrum is an expensive resource and normally requires licensed operation. Cognitive Radio has been proposed as a means of releasing large tracts of unused spectrum without causing interference to other users. It uses a combination of frequency agility and intelligence to identify unused spectrum for transmission. This study will evaluate the performance gains of such a system by developing a spectrum occupancy data base to test a variety of radio access strategies. Cognitive Radio is particularly suited to providing low cost broadband access to remote, rural and city fringe dwellings.

- **Dr X Yi; Prof Y Zhang**  
  **Project Title:** Privacy Protection in Distributed Data Mining.  
  **Funding of $165,708 over 3 years.**  
  **Project Summary:** Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has dramatically altered the world's social and economic landscape. ‘From data to knowledge’ is one of the priority challenges recognized by National ICT Australia. However, privacy concerns may prevent it from realization. This project aims to fulfil ‘from data to knowledge’ without breaching privacy of data from distributed resources held by different parties. The outcomes of this project will create new directions in the research of privacy-preserving distributed data mining and are applicable to Australian counter-terrorism and homeland defence in detecting bio-terrorism from privacy sensitive data.

**NHMRC PROJECT GRANT**

We are pleased to announce that the WEAVE NHMRC project grant application has been funded. Funding amount is $654,525 over 3 years.

**Investigators:** Kelsey Hegarty, Jane Gunn, Angela Taft, Gene Feder, Jill Astbury (VU) and Stephanie Brown.

**Project title:** Women’s Evaluation of a randomised controlled trial for Abuse and Violence in General Practice.

**Aims:** Primary aims are to evaluate if a multi-faceted practice based system intervention in general practice involving screening for intimate partner abuse, health provider education, guidelines, brief problem solving intervention and practice organizational change increases:  
- Abused women’s safety behaviours and planning  
- Abused women’s mental health status and quality of life  
Secondary aims are to see if a practice based system intervention increases:  
- Abused women’s readiness for change and action with regard to the abuse  
- Abused women’s comfort to discuss intimate partner abuse to general practitioners (GPs) and/or practice nurses (PNs)  
- GP’s and/or PN’s inquiry about safety of women and children and is cost effective.
Usability Research is very important for all interactive systems, and is now getting the attention it deserves from the IT industry. It is included in all research projects led by Dr. Sharda, such as the current ones funded by the Sustainable Tourism-CRC, and the $500K IntelliRain project submitted to the Smart Water fund. This project will develop intelligent software to maximise the utilisation of harvested rain water stored in a tank for watering a suburban garden. Thorough Usability Testing will be carried out to make IntelliRain ‘Grandma Proof’.

Research done by Dr. Sharda’s students has led to Re-Engineering of the Usability Testing Process for Live Multimedia Systems and a novel proposal for the Development of Usability Testing Systems and Procedures for Mobile Tourism Systems. Outcomes of this research have been published in international conferences such as the 2005 Annual Conference on Information Technology in the Hospitality Industry and the 2004 International Research Conference on Innovations in Information Technology, as well as the Journal of Enterprise Information Management.

Further information about the Usability Research Facility is given under http://sci.vu.edu.au/~nalin/#ResearchAreas

RESEARCH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Elisabeth Satya Dewi, Communication, Culture and Languages
Thesis: Relationship between Women Migrant Workers and their Children in Indonesia: Feminist Perspectives, Family Values and Motherhood.
Presentations:
1. 14th Indonesian Postgraduate Roundtable, Melbourne, 6 May 2006, Indonesia Forum The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
2. 13th Annual Workshop on Southeast Asian Women, Clayton, 23 June 2006, Monash Asia Institute Centre of Southeast Asia Studies.

Anamai Damnet, Communication, Culture and Languages
Publication and Conference Presentations arising from Anamai’s Thesis. 1 journal publication to be published in 2007 and 5 Conference Presentations during the course of his/her PhD studies.

Lisa Pizaro, Communication, Culture and Languages
Has a piece of creative writing published in “Strange 3”. A newly launched journal of Creative Writing. The piece was entitled, “Every Wave on the Ocean is the Ocean Waving”, and was taken from her PhD novel.

Josie Daw, Human Movement, Recreation and Performance
Travelled to Darwin for a month recently to gather information for her research into the Darwin-based dance company Tracks Dance. She spent six days a week with the company as they made a new work for the Darwin Festival, filming, photographing, and interviewing key creative personnel involved in the project. While in Darwin, Josie presented a paper titled “Flexibility is Required: the Creative Process in Dance Making” at the School of Indigenous Knowledge Systems at Charles Darwin University.

Matt McGregor, Human Movement, Recreation and Performance
Recently presented at Deakin Uni’s annual research symposium, run by the School of Exercise & Nutrition Science. His topic is “Disseminating potentially controversial information to the general public”, and it will be a confessional style presentation, with issues he has experienced in conducting his research on cognitive function and wasting jockeys.

Chris Jones, Human Movement, Recreation and Performance
Was awarded an international student travel scholarship by the World Leisure Congress to present a paper at the World Leisure Congress Conference in Hangzhou in China. Chris is travelling to China on 13 October to present the paper and return to Australia on 22 October.

Rob Townsend, Education

Also presenting a paper at the: Isolation: Disconnection, solitude and seclusion in a connected world conference at the University of Tasmania in Dec 2006.

R Townsend: Moving from space to space: adult, community and public education as a resource for alleviating social isolation in regional communities.
FACULTY OF BUSINESS & LAW

SUNTHORN BOONKAWE WINS BEST PAPER AWARD

A VU research student in the Business and Law Faculty recently won a best paper award for his co-authored paper on corporate social responsibility. Sunthorn Boonkaew (pictured) presented the paper to the Fifth Asia Pacific Forum in a session devoted to student researchers. Written with his supervisors, Professor Michael Polonsky and Michael Pearlman, the paper is titled ‘Defining the Extent and Scope of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) within the Tourism Industry – an Analysis of Stakeholders’ Views in Thailand’. Sunthorn is an academic from Thailand and has been undertaking postgraduate studies at VU since 2004. Congratulations Sunthorn and keep up the good work!

Another enterprising research student from the Business and Law faculty has set up his own website to promote the issue he is researching for his PhD thesis. Jasim Ahmed Mohammad Ali is researching the paradox of high unemployment among in nationals in the United Emirates, despite some 80% or more of the workforce being non-national guest workers. He has set up a website to promote the issue – http://www.emiratization.ae/

Sue Smith, Education
Last July Sue travelled to India to present a research paper at the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religions Conference in Kolkata. Sue’s paper discussed how Buddhist principles and practices might be applied to values education in Victorian primary schools. Sue said that she benefited greatly from being in an academic community that was exploring the interface between Eastern and Western philosophical thought.

Sue’s work at Footscray Primary School using meditation and storytelling to engage children to consider their actions was also reported in an article on values education in the Sunday Age (7/9).

Flossie Peitsch, Education
Book Launch: Macmillan Publication
Flossie Peitsch: Art and Soul
Researching Art and Soul Forum
2pm – 3:30pm
Artist’s Talk by Flossie Peitsch
Thurs Nov 30th
5:30 – 6:30pm

Robert Bollard, Social Sciences
Has had an article published in the journal Labour History, in its May 2006 edition. Details are here: http://www.historycooperative.org/cgi-bin/jjustopecgi http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/lab/90/bollard.html

Melissa Galea, Psychology
Presented her thesis at a CCN seminar last month.

Kate Dempsey, Psychology
Kate has produced an impressive 5 publications in 2006.

Judy Inglis, Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Research
Refereed paper presented at conference based on my PhD research.


Peter Sherwood, Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Research
Has co-authored an article that has recently featured in the Financial Review.

Sue Bergin-Seers, Research Fellow Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Research
Has had papers published in the proceedings of the following conferences:
- 2005 IHTVC Virtual Conference - A Process for the Classification of Small Motels in Australia
Sue Bergin-Seers, Professor Leo Jago & Paul Whitelaw.
- Council of Hospitality Management Education (CHME) 2006 Conference, Nottingham, UK - Performance Measures Used by Small Motels in Australia
Sue Bergin-Seers and Professor Leo Jago.
- 2005 IHTVC Virtual Conference - Performance Measurement in Small Motels in Australia
Sue Bergin-Seers and Professor Leo Jago.
- Council of Hospitality Management Education (CHME) 2006 Conference, Nottingham, UK - Performance Measures Used by Small Motels in Australia
Sue Bergin-Seers and Professor Leo Jago.
- 2006 performance measurement in small motels in Australia
Sue Bergin-Seers and Professor Leo Jago.

Stan Karanasios, Information Systems
Recently attended a one month research programme at the United Nations in Geneva where Stan was representing VU. There were 90 postgraduate students from 54 different countries and Stan was one of two students from Australia (the other from Melb Uni).

Chandana Hewege, Management
Has presented two conference papers and the third one has already been accepted to be presented in 2006 December. He served as the chairperson for a session at the International conference on business and information, July-12-14, 2006 Singapore.

RESEARCH NEWS FROM THE HYBRID INITIATIVE

INDUSTRY SHOWCASE WITH SOFTWARE COMPANY SATYAM – HYBRID’S INDIAN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

On Friday September 15, the Hybrid initiative organised its first industry showcase at Flinders Street campus. A high-level delegation from leading Indian software company Satyam p/l were invited to a demonstration of technology-based musical instruments developed by Hybrid researcher Stuart Favilla.

Satyam’s representatives witnessed a range of music played on the ‘light harp’ and electronically enhanced bassoon including traditional South Indian pieces and abstract ‘free music’ works. Participants were presented with CDs and a detailed information pack, and discussion took place on ways that Satyam and Hybrid might collaborate in the future on the development of this research project.

Satyam already has in place a Memorandum of Understanding with VU, and the Hybrid Indian Music interface project has recently been awarded an Arts Victoria Innovation grant. The showcase was highly successful and opens the way for future partnership arrangements.
UPCOMING HYBRID/OPR WORKSHOP: THE INTERNET FOR RESEARCHERS

Hybrid, in conjunction with the Office for Postgraduate Research, will be running a one-day hands-on workshop on November 1 on using the latest Internet tools to undertake, find, publish and manage research. The workshop concept arose out of an enthusiastic and lively discussion about the Internet and research at the VU Narrative as Research symposium in April this year. Details of the workshop are below:

THE INTERNET FOR RESEARCHERS: LATEST TOOLS AND TIPS

Learn how to undertake, find, publish and manage research using the latest ‘new generation’ Internet tools.

Wednesday, November 1
Lab 16, Floor 16, 300 Flinders Street
For bookings please contact the Office for Postgraduate Research.

Introduction – The New Web
Stefan Schutt/Miles Menegon
10AM – 10:30AM
Overview of the day, introduction to key concepts and terminology.

Internet Research Tools
Stefan Schutt
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
An overview of online research tools such as Google Scholar, Furl, Del.icio.us, etc.

11:30 – 11:45 MORNING TEA

Blogging, Vlogging, Podcasting
Miles Menegon
11:45 – 1PM
A look at relevant new web communication technologies and their role in conducting, sharing, distributing and managing research projects. Technologies include YouTube, Blogger, Basecamp, 14Dayz.

1PM – 2PM LUNCH

eJournals / Online Publishing
Paul Ashton
2PM – 3PM
Technologies relating to the creation of online journals. Overview of new print publication options such as BookSurge and Lulu.

OpenSource
Stefan Schutt, Miles Menegon and Paul Ashton
3PM to 4PM
An open discussion/forum on how the web is affecting research practices, and a speculative look at the future of the web and its impact.

4PM Onward – drinks and nibbles.

INTENSIVE HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS FOR NEW MEDIA RESEARCHERS

During the September break at 300 Flinders Street, the Hybrid initiative ran two week-long intensive workshops focusing on hardware and software development for multi media and audio design. The workshops; Interface and Plug-in, each consisted of 5 full days respectively, presenting theoretical lectures, demonstrations, Max/MSP jitter programming tutorials and practical sessions delivered by Hybrid resident artists and researchers; the Bent Leather Band. Stuart Favilla, from the Bent Leather Band, designed the course in response to the emergence of small business in this sector across the globe. In attendance were VU students, Melbourne based academics and professional artists and a contingent of interstate participants who traveled from Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney to attend.

Interface featured hardware interfacing for sensors and focused on the development of devices such as controllers, mixers and instruments for the control of video and sound. In addition to covering theory and reviewing the field, participants were taught hands-on how to solder, some introductory electronics and completed the week designing, building and testing their own USB sensor interface.

The Plug-in workshop aimed at developing audio software plug-ins for the Music industry’s major composition and editing software platforms. This workshop covered areas such as acoustics, psychoacoustics, surround sound modeling, physical modeling, music synthesis, signal processing, tuning and temperament, granular synthesis, ergonomics and visual design. The participants were also introduced to the Max/MSP programming environment, which they used to create delays reverbs, compressors, filters and granular synthesis plugins for Cubase, ProTools, Ableton Live and Reason.

The participants were impressed greatly by the depth of the workshop content. Some of them were shocked to realize their initial project ideas in a matter of hours [not months] and developed projects well beyond their expectations by the end of each week.

The Bent Leather Band have distinguished themselves and VU in the field of computer music, presenting their leather instruments recently in Paris for the International Festival Resonances, for the Pompidou Arts Agora and at NimE06 the New Interfaces for Musical Expression in Paris during June this year. Their work has also won this year’s IAWM New Genre Prize and was selected for special mention at this year’s International Bourges Prize for electro-acoustic music.

THE MICROSOFT RESEARCH ASIA FACULTY SUMMIT 2006

The Microsoft Research Asia Faculty Summit 2006 is to be held on October 23-24 in Beijing, China. The annual event is a platform to facilitate communication and cooperation among universities across the Asia-Pacific region and address hot topics in computer science research and education.

More than 200 deans and professors from the top universities throughout the Asia Pacific region will attend the summit. Prof Yanchun Zhang from School of Computer Science and Mathematics has been invited by Microsoft Research Asia to attend the summit.

The first day is designed as an academic forum. The theme this year is “Growing with the Region.” The second day is the Computing in the 21st Century Conference, which has as its theme, “The Challenge of Quality Software.” Over the past seven years, this event has always attracted thousands of professors and students. The speakers this year include three Turing Award winners: Andrew Yao (2000), Jim Gray (1998), and Niklaus Wirth (1984). There will be discussion of computing as a central part of many human activities. With increasing functionality and complexity, how to make reliable, predictable, and secure computer systems and services remains a challenge to the IT community.

For the summit information, please visit event website at http://research.microsoft.com/ur/asia/summit06.

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES


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