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NEW VU INTERNAL GRANTS

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT GRANTS SCHEME

We are pleased to announce funding for an internal grant scheme entitled “Researcher Development Grants Scheme”.

Aim

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.

Funding Limits

Financial support will be in the range: $5,000-$30,000 for one year.

Eligibility

Applicants must be employed at 0.5 FTE or above by Victoria University.

Conditions of Grant

Applicants must lodge an application to an external funding body within one year of the completion of the project.

Guidelines and Application Form

Guidelines and application form will be soon available at http://research.vu.edu.au/funding0.php

Closing Date

Applications close 4 pm on Monday, 6 November 2006.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Zana Stefanovski in the first instance on ext 4710.

OPTIMISING THE SMOKE ALARM SIGNAL

Two joint-submissions between Professor Dorothy Bruck from the Wellness Promotion Unit (School of Psychology) and Professor Ian Thomas (CESARE) to the US-based Fire Protection Research Foundation were recently successful despite a strong field of applicants. The combined funding for this research is $325,000 which will cover two projects. The first project, Waking effectiveness of different signals in the hearing impaired (AUD$200,000) will examine the effectiveness of smoke alarm signals for sleeping people who have consumed alcohol.

These projects are the latest of several projects that the Wellness Promotion Unit – CESARE research partnership have completed on this topic including:

• Another recent groundbreaking project for the Fire Protection Research Foundation examined the waking effectiveness of smoke alarms for an aged (65 – 85 years) population (AUD$97,710),
• An ARC – Linkage grant with the Building Commission Victoria, the Australian Building Codes Board, Health Services Engineering Pty Ltd & Umow Lai and Associates Pty Ltd exploring the best signal for awakening populations ‘at risk’ of not waking such as children, the sleep deprived and those using sleeping medications,
• An ARC – Linkage grant with Onesteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd exploring the waking effectiveness of different signal types for three vulnerable groups; sleep deprived young adults, children and alcohol intoxicated.

A RECENT MEDIA RELEASE

TEENAGE SLEEP: UNDERSTANDING AND HELPING THE SLEEP OF 12-20 YEAR OLDS

By Dorothy Bruck

Published in August, 2006 by the Wellness Promotion Unit, Victoria University, Australia

A full-text copy of the book is available at: http://www.vu.edu.au/teenagesleep

Although teenagers have one of the highest rates of sleep problems of any age group there has been no book about their sleep – until now. This e-book is written for parents, school counsellors, youth health workers, high school teachers and teenagers.

Eighty percent of teenagers report having unusual behaviours during sleep. The time around puberty is when there is a lot of changes in sleeping behaviour, a time when some weird things to do with sleep or dreams either stop or start. It’s a time when people start doing things when they are awake that change the way they fall asleep (or don’t fall asleep) or change the things that happen during sleep. It’s a time when hormones affect the timing of sleep, the way we handle emotions and our level of daytime sleepiness. In this e-book Professor Bruck explains how and why both puberty and teenage lifestyles change sleep related behaviours and, most importantly, what can be done to change unhealthy sleep patterns.
This guide discusses problems like night fears, wet dreams, scary dreams, sleep deprivation, snoring, needing too much sleep, sleep drunkenness, not being able to get to sleep or stay asleep. Sleep walking, feelings of restless legs, being paralysed, midnight binge eating, hallucinations, the meaning of dreams and many other things are all covered.

Sleep is so important to our wellbeing that if something starts to go wrong and continues to go wrong, it can cause lots of personal and social problems, poor school marks and probably also physical illnesses. Parents start to get worried when these things start to happen. In some cases neither the young person nor the parents even realise that the root cause is a sleep problem. They may blame it on laziness, anxiety, depression, nutrition, drugs, parties, alcohol, caffeine, boyfriends/girlfriends and so on.

Because the internet has become the first information resource for most young people and their parents this guide has been published on the web. It is organised into seven thematic chapters and the material is presented through a series of over 100 questions. Case studies, simple diagrams, simple activities and boxes of interesting information make the guide easily accessible to all. Most importantly, the e-book is comprehensively cross referenced to readily find information. It recognises that most people will not read it from start to finish but search for the information that most concerns them. Links to other relevant internet sites are included.

IRRIGATION OF SALINE RECLAIMED WATER FROM SMALL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS.
Prof Stephen Gray and A/Prof Linda Zou have been successful in obtaining a small consultancy ($19,450) from Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water to review the potential of integrated membrane systems to provide tailored water quality for irrigation. This work compliments a Smart Water project on a similar topic.

EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY MUSIC VICTORIA (CMV): VICTORIA SINGS.
ViHealth recently awarded The Wellness Promotion Unit (Heather Gridley, Jenny Sharples and Jill Astbury) $74,000 to undertake a two-year evaluation of the Victoria Sings project. Victoria Sings is a state-wide initiative run by Community Music Victoria that aims to promote and support community-based singing across Victoria. Whilst there is a substantial body of knowledge exploring the benefits of singing for individuals (e.g. self-esteem, increased social network, relief of or protection from depression), there is a very small body of published research about the ways that music and especially singing in groups can be of benefit for communities. The evaluation will take an Action Research approach to address this gap, looking at the impacts of community singing on the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. We are also assisting Community Music Victoria to develop an organisational plan-of-action so that it can continue the success of this initiative in the future.

WORKING WITH VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
One of the Wellness Promotion Unit’s prominent researchers in the area of Human Rights, Gender-based Violence and Mental Health, Professor Jill Astbury, received $7000 from the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault to undertake a review of evidence on the range of interventions that have been developed to assist victims/survivors of sexual assault. The monograph examines international and national research that has been carried out to improve outcomes, especially mental health outcomes for survivors and to explore the strengths and weakness of a range of approaches to practice that are currently operating in Australia. Based on the results of this review, Professor Astbury has also included recommended future directions for research and practice developments in the area.

PHOENIX RESEARCH PROGRAM
PHOENIX research program led by Dr. Wei Dai started in 2003 at the School of Information System, Victoria University, with the vision that the teaching, research and industry engagement can be dynamically linked to each other through activities that have both theoretical and practical foundations. The main research theme of PHOENIX program is in applications integration taking the leverage of already established Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) processes and infrastructures and the emerging enterprise Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) solutions to support industry requirements. Real-time enterprise solutions are delivered through PHOENIX collaborative information service bus powered by products and tools of leading vendors such as Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) of IBM and NetWeaver Exchange Infrastructure (XI) of SAP across wired and wireless networks.

The project activities were reported at an IEEE Newsletter in July 2004, url: http://www.staff.vu.edu.au/PHOENIX/phoenix/index1.htm. The program since attracted a large number of postgraduate students to participate in various forms from Victoria University, Monash University, Swinburne University and RMIT University, with the support of international research collaborators and industry partners. The research program has received principal approval in seed funding from a prominent external collaborator in supply chain sector and is also at a stage of signing up MOU with a number of e-health organization and company. It has substantial in-kind support from IBM Academic Initiative Program, SAP Academic Alliance Program, and Microsoft MSDN Academic Alliance where leading edge software products and tools have been actively and extensively applied to support both teaching and research activities. More details about PHOENIX research activities including its publications, research teams, and partners can be found at url: http://www.staff.vu.edu.au/PHOENIX/phoenix/index1.htm

LOCAL EVALUATIONS OF THE DHS NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY
Since 2004 Dr Wally Karnilowicz, through the Wellness Promotion Unit, has been working with local communities and the Department of Human Services to evaluate the DHS Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. So far DHS has rolled out fifteen of Neighbourhood Renewal projects across Victoria, ranging in location from inner city housing estates in Collingwood and Fitzroy, to outer suburban communities like Warrnambool and Broadmeadows, and to regional locations like Colac, Shepparton and Long Gully in Bendigo. Each Neighbourhood Renewal project engages local community members in decision making with local and state government to implement a 6-point plan of action to:
• Increase people’s pride and participation in their community
• Lift employment and learning opportunities and expand local economies
• Enhance housing and the physical environment
• Improve personal safety and reduce crime
• Promote health and wellbeing
• Increase access to services and improve government responsiveness.

Dr Karnilowicz has undertaken evaluation of these projects in Warrnambool ($58,080), Bendigo ($9,625), and Maidstone/Braybrook ($31,040). The evaluation asks local residents about several key issues including their pride and participation in their local area, housing standards and the environment, opportunities for employment, learning and enterprise, crime and safety, ways that their community supports their health and wellbeing, and government responsiveness to local needs. Dr Karnilowicz has trained community members to conduct face-to-face evaluation interviews with other local residents, continuing the community-engagement and capacity building principles inherent to the project. Residents’ responses are contrast with the results of a Telephone Survey conducted with residents of the area surrounding the Neighbourhood Renewal zone to build a complete picture of the effects of the Strategy for the targeted area.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ADVANCE
The School of Education in partnership with ICEPA and the Faculty of Business and Law have won a new research project. The research is to evaluate the Youth leadership program Advance.

RESEARCH GRANT SUCCESS
This guide discusses problems like night fears, wet dreams, scary dreams, sleep deprivation, snoring, needing too much sleep, sleep drunkenness, not being able to get to sleep or stay asleep. Sleep walking, feelings of restless legs, being paralysed, midnight binge eating, hallucinations, the meaning of dreams and many other things are all covered.
ETHICS & BIOSAFETY

The protection of the welfare and rights of all stakeholders in research is emphasised by Victoria University’s commitment to ethical research through the three committees comprising of the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee (AEEC) the Human Research Ethics Committee (VUHREC) and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).

To safeguard all parties involved, researchers are reminded that projects must not commence without prior written approval from the appropriate committee. Remember, research in a wide variety of settings is subject to automatic scrutiny. Ensure you have the necessary clearance prior to commencing your research.

Where can I find out more? The Office for Research Ethics and Biosafety web page hosts each of the Committees' web pages at:

http://research.vu.edu.au/ethics0.php

The Advance’s program is administered by the Office for Youth within the Department for Victorian Communities. This program is available in to all Victorian Government Secondary schools and is primarily targeted at school students who are in year 9,10,11 &12.

The Advance program aims to provide opportunities for young people to participate in community life thereby strengthening their links with community organisations. In additions to this the Advance program provides an opportunity for young people and schools to connect with major volunteer organisations. These organisations extend to Wildlife Victoria, CFA, Scouts, Police Cadets, Environmental Groups and Bicycle Victoria.

The research team including Dr Robyn Broadbent, Associate Professor Theo Papadopolous, Dr Marcelle Cacciato and Associate Professor Brenda Cherednichenko will be undertaking this new research between October 2006 and December 2007.

HAROLD WHITE FELLOWSHIP BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Dr Julie Stephens of the School of Social Sciences in the Faculty of AEHD has been awarded a Harold White Fellowship by the National Library of Australia for 2007.

This prestigious fellowship attracts national and international applicants and is awarded to four people each year. The three-month award carries a $10,200 stipend plus airfares to and from Canberra.

Julie’s award will be used to further research on a project entitled “The Uses and Abuses of Feminist Cultural Memory”, which will draw extensively on the NL A’s Oral History and Folklore and Manuscript Collections relating to Australian feminists from the 1950s onward.

2006 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S RESEARCH AWARDS

We would like to remind you of the call for nominations for the Vice Chancellor’s Awards for 2006. Specifically we would like to draw your attention to the Research and Research Training Award. Categories include:

1. Staff Researcher
2. Research Degree Graduate
3. Research Supervision
4. Research Team

from applicants across the University, from the Faculties, Schools, Divisions, Institutes and Centres. One award for TAFE will be available for a Staff researcher.

Note: Citations are valued at $500 and peak awards at $5000.

Nominations for all award categories to the Staff College by cob close on Friday 6th October, 2006.

Details about the awards process, awards criteria, award application workshops and nomination and application forms are progressively being uploaded on the VC Awards webpage accessible at http://lts.vu.edu.au/SLED/QITU/awardsVC_awards.htm or contact Leoni Arandez x8379 or Pamela Every x8370, Staff College.

Support for nominations: The relevant Head of Faculty, School, Division, Institute or Centre, and the Associate Dean (Research), are expected to ensure that the candidate/s is offered appropriate assistance to prepare the application. This role involves mentoring, reading and editing the application/s and generally championing the candidate/s so that each application, which he/she is required to endorse, is of a high standard.

The co-ordination and administration of the nomination process and the updating of the website will be jointly managed by the Office of Research and Staff College. The Office for Research will be available to offer guidance in the categories of Staff Researcher and Research Team, and the Office for Postgraduate Research in the categories of Research Supervision and Research Degree Graduate.

ADJUNCT RESEARCHERS AND EXPERT PANEL APPOINTMENT

ISI ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – TERRY TURNLEY

Terry Turney, the Director of Nanotechnology in CSIRO, has accepted a position as an Adjunct Professor at Victoria University. Terry has a wealth of experience in nano-particle production and application, as well as gas membrane development, and has a vast array of networks in both science and industry.

ISI ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – STEWART BURN

Stewart Burn, CSIRO Stream Leader - Integrated Urban Water Systems, CSIRO Land and Water, has accepted a position as an Adjunct Professor at Victoria University. Stewart has a wealth of experience in asset management of water systems and has a vast array of networks in both science and industry. We look forward to Stewart playing an active research role at Victoria University.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF CHINA, EXPERT PANEL APPOINTMENT

Prof Yanchun Zhang has been appointed as a member of expert panel for “Cheung Kong Scholars Program” in 2006 by Ministry of Education of China. Cheung Kong Scholars Program is a very prestigious program in China (like ARC’s Federation Fellow program) to appoint distinguished professors to work in top Chinese universities.

http://www.kfsf.org/eng/project/education/chk_award/main01.shtml

BANKSIA AWARDS 2006

A successful submission by the Department of Sustainability and Environment Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Australasian Native Orchid Society Victorian group, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Zoo, University of Melbourne, Victoria University and RMIT University, in the Land and Biodiversity Award category for the 2006 Banksia Awards. The submission was titled “Back from the Brink: Saving Victoria’s Threatened Orchids”. Congratulations to everyone involved in winning this prestigious award.
A critical essay by Dr Michele Grossman (Associate Dean, Research and Research Training, Faculty of AEHD) based on her research around Indigenous Australian textuality and modernity has appeared in Lynette Russell (ed.), Boundary Writing: An Exploration of Race, Culture and Gender Binaries in Contemporary Australia (University of Hawai’i Press, 2006). She has also been commissioned by The Australian’s newly launched monthly supplement, Australian Literary Review, to write on Carpentaria (Giramondo Press), the new novel by Indigenous Australian author Alexis Wright. Michele’s contribution to ALR will appear in October 2006. In September, Michele was invited by Victoria Police (Footscray) to make a presentation at their Youth Policing Strategies Forum based on her research with ICEPTA’s DIAMA-funded project on the settlement experience of newly arrived African refugees to Australia.

BOOK PUBLICATIONS
Professor Finkelstein has also recently published two co-authored book chapters – ‘Eating out and the appetite for leisure’ (with Rob Lynch) in C Rojek, A Critical Essay by Bill Eckersley that the School of Education has recently launched a new website for its Researching Innovative Partnerships in Education Project (RIPE). The proposed project aims to identify the features of Project Partnerships that contribute to the learning of school students, pre-service teachers, teachers and teacher educators. The intended outcome of the research is to establish the conditions for strengthened partnership-based teacher education. For further information about RIPE, which is funded by the School of Education and will involve around 15 Project Partner school sites, the website address for the RIPE project is http://education.vu.edu.au/partnerships/

RESEARCH ARTICLES
Andrew Funston and Dr Katie Hughes, (both of Communication, Culture and Languages) have co-authored a research article on communication technology and the family in ‘Use and Value of ICTs for Separated Families’, Telecommunications Journal of Australia, 56.2, Winter 2006.

UPCOMING FORUMS, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS
Dr Karina Smith (Communication, Culture and Languages) is the convenor of the next biennial conference of the Australian Association for Caribbean Studies, which will be held from 7-9 February 2007 at the Footscray Park Campus. The conference features the eminent African-American scholar Carole Boyce Davies as the keynote speaker for this international conference. The conference theme is Mo(ve)ments: local, national, and global Caribbean Popular Cultures and, in addition to calling for a range of scholarly research papers, the Association is interested in hosting readings by creative writers, performances, visual art displays and film screenings. Further information on the conference, including information regarding paper topics and proposal deadlines, is available on the conference website: http://www.vu.edu.au/AEHD/SCCL/International_Bien nial_Cconference

DEAN’S OCCASIONAL SEMINAR SERIES, FACULTY OF AEHD
Professor Joanne Finkelstein, Executive Dean of the Faculty of AEHD, has begun a Dean’s Occasional Seminar series featuring presentations by distinguished research scholars external to the university. The first two seminars will be offered in September and October:

PORTRAIT OF A LADY: CONSTRUCTIONS OF FEMALE SUBJECTIVITY IN 19TH CENTURY ENGLAND
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PAULINE NESTOR, MONASH UNIVERSITY Venue: EATS, Level 1, Building P, Footscray Park Campus Date: Friday 15 September Time: 11.30am – 12.30pm with lunch to follow

THE POSTCOLONIAL MOOD
DR LEELA NANDH, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY Venue: Council Chambers, Level 6, Building K, Footscray Park Campus Date: Friday 6 October Time: 11.30am – 12.30pm with lunch to follow

Please contact Sharon Humphreys in the Faculty of AEHD for further information on sharon.humphreys@vu.edu.au or ext 4449.

INFORMATION SESSION AT THE RMIT CARRICK INSTITUTE
A/Prof Janice Orr, Director of the Carrick discipline-based initiatives, RMIT Carrick Institute, will host an information session about the current round of discipline-based initiatives and grant schemes. This is a free information session scheduled at RMIT on: FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER, 2006 9:30 am - 11.00 am Research Lounge, Building 28, Level 5, RMIT University, City Campus (entry through Building 8, Level 5) RSVP no later than Wednesday, 8 October, 2006. Bookings and Enquiries please contact Umit Ozer on 9925 8308 or email umit.ozer@rmit.edu.au

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
OFFICE FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH: STUDENT AND SUPERVISORS UP COMING DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

• Developing Communities of Practice for research students- Supervisors Only, 2/10/06, 2-4pm, 14 Geelong Road
• Presentations of work in progress, 2/10/06, 10-12 pm, 14 Geelong Road
• Helpful Hints for INTERNATIONAL scholarship holders, 3/10/06, 10.30-12 pm, 14 Geelong Road
• Supervising Postgraduate Research: HEG 1703 - Supervisors Only, 3/10/06, 10.30-12 pm, 20 Geelong Road
• Supervising Postgraduate Research: HEG 1703 - Supervisors Only, 3/10/06, 1-2.30 pm, 20 Geelong Road
• Helpful Hints for LOCAL scholarship holders, 3/10/06, 10.30-12 pm, 14 Geelong Road
• What examiners look for, 6/10/06, 10.30-12.30 pm, 14 Geelong Road
• Presentations of work in progress, 9/10/06, 10-12 pm, 14 Geelong Road

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

• Department of Primary Industries, Minister’s Prize for Excellence in the Application of the 3Rs in Teaching and Research in the State of Victoria, Closing 6 October 2006. http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au

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