WELCOME AND RESEARCH AWARDS

WELCOME
Welcome to the first issue of Research Matters, an internal bulletin providing VU researchers with research success stories and upcoming opportunities. We hope to bring these bulletins to you regularly. We had thought of calling the bulletin “Hey, you missed out my project!” because we are bound to have omitted many great contributions to our research culture. If we have, sorry, we’ll try to include it in the next edition. Much is happening on the VU research front and we thought it timely to provide both information on our research and a forum for research communication and conversation. We look forward to your future contributions.

Regards,
Professor Jim Mienczakowski
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Region)

2005 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S RESEARCH AWARDS

The 2005 VC Research Awards were held on Thursday, August 10 at the VU Conference Centre (City Flinders Campus). The Awards celebrated the hard work and recognition of outstanding VU researchers in the research categories of: Research degree graduate, Staff member, Supervisor and Team. The evening event was a resounding success through the hosting of DVC Prof Jim Mienczakowski and the Office for Research. The function was attended by a large number of staff, students, and industry and community representatives.

Citations were awarded to:

Research Degree Graduate: Dr Kate Murphy, Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development; Dr Mukti Mishara, Faculty of Business and Law; Dr Florica-Corina Cirstea, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, Dr Nicola Dragomir, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology.
Research Team: Animal Rehabilitation Technology (ART) Group, Team Leader Prof John Orbell, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology; Corporate Governance in Post-world Trade-Organisation Entry China, Team Leader Prof Roman Tomasic, Centre for International Corporate Governance Research.
Research Staff: Assoc Prof Rezaul Begg, Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development; Prof John Zeleznikov, Faculty of Business and Law; Prof Yanchun Zhang, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology.

AWARD WINNERS
Research Team Category: Prof John Orbell, Dr Lawrence Ngeh, Assoc Prof Stephen Bigger, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science.
Research Staff Category: Prof Yanchun Zhang Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science.
Research Degree Graduate Category: Dr Florica – Corina Cirstea, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science
Research Supervision Category: Assoc Prof Stephen Bigger, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science.

2005 VC Research Award recipients with the Chancellor: Prof Yanchun Zhang, Dr Florica-Corina Cirstea, Hon. Justice Frank Vincent, Assoc Prof Stephen Bigger and Prof John Orbell.
RESEARCH GRANT SUCCESSES

ARC LINKAGE PROJECT
Congratulations to Assoc Prof Robert Stewart (School of Human Movement, Recreation and Performance, VU) and Prof Aaron Smith (School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management, La Trobe) for receiving a research grant in the ARC Linkage Projects 2006, Round 2. The project, The Influence of Context on Player Attitudes to Drugs: Implications for Sport Policy in Australia, is valued at $89,958 ARC and $30,000 from Turning Point and Australian Drug Foundation over 3 years.

The research project will generate evidence about drug use in sport that can be used to both evaluate current policy and better inform the drugs-in-sport debate. It is anticipated that the results will directly assist their strategic goals of education, advocacy and harm minimisation. The sport industry will benefit by obtaining a more detailed understanding of how players view drugs-in-sport and in particular how they discriminate between various drug types.

VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROJECT
Congratulations to Tony Kruger and Brenda Cherdenichenko, School of Education, for their success in being funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) with external community research partners Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services for a two-year, $130,000 project exploring the broad question of poverty and schooling. ‘The Standpoint Project’ will work with small teams of teachers in schools on an action-based investigation of the ‘Low Income Awareness Checklist’, a tool developed for schools by Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services.

SMART WATER FUND PROJECTS
Colour removal from recycled water using TiO2
This project targets colour removal from recycled water that is to be used in 3rd pipe systems. The presence of colour in these systems increases the likelihood of customer dissatisfaction, and their rejection of recycled water for domestic use. By removing the colour from this water source, the acceptance of recycled water is increased enabling greater substitution of potable water.

The project will receive funding of $220,000 over 2 years and is being led by Assoc Prof Linda Zou (Institute for Sustainability and Innovation, ext: 8265), and Dr Bo Zhu has been appointed to a post-doctoral position to work on this project. The project not only focuses on a key water issue but also on applications of nanostructured TiO2 produced at Victoria University. The effectiveness of this approach will be trialled on wastewater from Melbourne Water’s Western Treatment Plant and Eastern Treatment Plant.

Integrated membrane systems for tailored irrigation water
An integrated membrane system will investigate the production of irrigation water high in nutrients and low in sodium by a dual membrane process. The water will pass through a nanofiltration (NF) membrane and then a reverse osmosis membrane (RO), with the reject from the NF combining from the permeate of the RO to produce the irrigation water. Seeded precipitation and membrane distillation of the RO reject may also be examined as techniques for increasing the water recovery of the process.

The project is funded by the Victorian Smart Water Fund, and will receive $165,000 over 2 years. Assoc Prof Linda Zou (Institute for Sustainability and Innovation, ext: 8266) is leading the project, and she is collaborating with Assoc Prof Greg Leslie (UNSW), Dr Daryl Stevens (Aris Consulting), Dr Simon Wilson (Melbourne Water) and Prof Stephen Gray (VU). Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water has expressed interest in funding the membrane distillation component of the project and is considering this process for treating wastewater at Nhill.

CSIRO COLLABORATION FUND PROJECT: LOW ENERGY DESALINATION
Victoria University will be the lead cluster party of a CSIRO Collaboration fund project on low energy desalination. Prof Stephen Gray (Institute for Sustainability and Innovation, ext: 8097) will manage the collaboration between 9 Universities and CSIRO, and will receive funding for a PhD student to work on fouling in membrane distillation systems. Prof Stephen Gray will also co-supervise a PhD student at Murdoch University and a post doctoral fellow at Melbourne University. Victoria University will receive funding of $256,000 over 3 years.

MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY, PHILIP ISLAND NATURE PARK AND BHP-BILLITON
Prof John Orbell, School of Molecular Sciences, has been successful in securing financial support for his work on the use of magnetic particles to remove oil from wildlife following oil spills. The research funds are comprised of $60,000 from the Maritime Safety Authority and the Philip Island Nature Park, and $27,000 from BHP-Billiton.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES: FOOD SME CAPACITY BUILDING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MENTORING
Assoc Prof Suku Bhaskaran and his team at the Food Marketing Research Unit, have successfully obtained a grant from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. The project is titled “Food SME Capacity Building and Business Development Mentoring Projects” and is valued at $137,500.

VICHEALTH GRANT
Hybrid, from the Program of Multimedia, TAFE School of Further Education, Arts and Employment Services (FEAES), in conjunction with the School of Education and the Youth Transitions Unit, FEAES, has been successful in its bid for a $261,000, three-year VicHealth action research project in the area of Youth, Technology and Social Relationships. The Avatar Project will study the effect of technology on social inclusion in young people via the development of a 3D computer game and related online collaboration tools:

![Avatar image](image-url)

Chit Chat National park: a 3d collaborative game space created by Toshi Endo, John Power and Christian Rubino. Rubino, a VU TAFE Multimedia games teacher, will lead the development of the Avatar games environment.

DEST FUNDING
DEST has engaged the Youth Transitions Unit (TAFE School of Further Education, Arts and Employment Services) in a research project ($19,000) involving a 2 stage Learnings Survey to evaluate the last 3 years of the pilot Partnership Outreach Education Model (POEM) - a program for disconnected young people. The outcomes of this research will be used to inform subsequent education models for this cohort.

ARTS VICTORIA INNOVATION GRANT
Multimedia/ Hybrid researcher Stuart Favilla has been awarded a $10,000 Arts Victoria Innovation Grant for the development of playable interfaces for Indian music.
NEWS FROM THE DIVISION OFFICES, FACULTIES, INSTITUTES & TAFE

PROFESSOR JIM MIENZAKOWSKI, DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH & REGION)

Professor Jim Mienczakowski has an international track record in ethnographic research specialising in mental health and health education. He has been an Associate Dean Research, Dean, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Research at two other Australian Universities before joining Victoria University.

After training and working in theatre in London, Jim worked in professional performing arts and community education for a number of years before returning to his academic studies. Professor Mienczakowski has taught in England, Australia and the West Indies. His published theatre works, translating ethnographic research narratives into performance, have been staged in Australia, London and the USA- where his ethnodrama methodology has become an established research practice in numerous university arts and social science departments.

OFFICE FOR RESEARCH: NEW DIRECTOR, NAME CHANGE AND RE-STRUCUTURE

The Office for Research has recently seen the arrival of a new Director, Dr Gayle Morris. Gayle is formally from University of South Australia where she held a research-only position as a colloid and surface chemist at the Ian Wark Research Institute. She currently holds four ARC Linkage Project grants.

The Office team has also recently been renamed and re-structured, and of particular note to researchers are the roles of our Grants Administration Officers. Ms Zana Stefanovski is responsible for internal research grants and Ms Palmina Fichera is responsible for external research grants.

AWARDS

Assoc Prof Santina Bertone, Faculty of Business and Law, has been given life membership of the Beta Gamma Sigma Society. This is the international honour society recognising outstanding achievement in business programs accredited by AACSB International – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. She is Associate Dean (Research and Research Training) in the faculty.

VISITING RESEARCHERS AND OVERSEAS PLACEMENTS

Prof Raphael Semiat from the Technion, Israel is being hosted by the Institute for Sustainability and Innovation (ISI) at the Werribee campus for from 14th July until September 20. While he is here, Prof Semiat is working on techniques to reduce membrane scaling with the Werribee Centre for Sustainable Water Use, and will be working with Prof Michel Lefebvre, Prof Malcolm Chakian, Adva Zach-Maor and Prof Stephen Gray (ISI).

Assoc Prof Dao Duo Qi from the Environmental Engineering Department and the Beijing University of Technology is working with Assoc Prof Linda Zou on new carbon materials. He has been with us since April 2006 and will here for approximately 1 year.

The Arts, Education and Human Development Faculty’s Associate Dean (Research and Research Training), Dr Michele Grossman, who is also a member of CCL, is off to Canada in September to spend 4 weeks as a Faculty Research Fellow at the Gorsebrook Research Institute of St Mary’s University. Michele’s trip is funded by a grant from the Canadian High Commission Faculty Research Program. She will be looking at comparative oral and textual traditions in Native Canadian and Indigenous Australian life-writing.

REFUGEE RESEARCH

Ten community researchers from countries including Sudan, Ethiopian, Congo, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq are about to go out to towns and cities including Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide, Wagga Wagga, Towoomba and Brisbane to conduct 500 interview and 8 focus groups on the settlement experiences of refugees who arrived in Australia between 2003 and 2005. The Institute for Community Engagement and Policy Alternatives (ICEPA) is undertaking the project, which is funded by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs who tendered the project last year. ICEPA are partnering with the University of the Sunshine Coast in the Queensland and Sydney interviews. The bi-lingual community researchers are working in the sites under the supervision of ICEPA associates including Dr Chris Sonn, Assoc Prof Jenny Sharples, Dr Marcelle Cacciattolo and Dr Michele Grossman from the Faculty of AEHD, while the survey instrument was prepared by Dr Segu Zuhair from the Faculty of BL. The research is designed to provide the Minister with advice on policy and practice needs across the Government sector. ICEPA Director Assoc Prof Danny Ben-Moshe said the project was a good example of partnering with communities to undertake research. This is one of several refugee related project ICEPA is undertaking and should be complete by the end of the year.

BOOK PUBLICATIONS AND LAUNCHES

Assoc Prof Bernadine Van Gramberg published a research book Managing Workplace Conflict – Alternative Dispute Resolution in Australia (Federation press, Sydney, 2006). In an extensive book review published in the ADR Bulletin, the reviewer wrote: ‘While there have been other texts on these themes Bernadine van Gramberg’s work is topical, analytical and stimulating. It is relevant for employers, unions, human resource departments, ADR practitioners, government agencies – and ultimately for all workers in contemporary Australia. Bernadine is Head of the School of Management, Faculty of Business and Law.

Prof Roman Tomasic has published a book with VU colleagues Corporate Governance: Challenges for
China/Beijing, Law Press, October 2005. The book contains 19 chapters based on research from an ARC grant won by Roman and Associate Professor Neil Andrews. Roman is head of campus at City Queen Street, Faculty of Business and Law.

The book, Engaging the New World: Responses to the Knowledge Economy, a tribute to the work of Prof Peter Sheehan, was launched on Wednesday 12 July at the VU Conference Centre (City Flinders Campus). The book reflects Peter’s outstanding contribution to public discourse in Australia as a researcher, writer, leader and adviser to governments. The VC, Professor Elizabeth Harman, welcomed the Hon. Simon Crean MP to launch the new CSES book. The function was attended by a large number of friends and colleagues of Peter Sheehan, and staff and students from the CSES and Victoria University.

**SYMPOSIUM**

**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: FACULTY OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

The Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development (AEHD) held a highly successful Postgraduate Research Symposium in mid-July, a freshly designed and executed version of its biennial program of postgraduate research presentations that reflects the interdisciplinary nature, excitement and commitment to high-quality research of the Faculty’s research students and supervisors.

The symposium was held exactly one year since the formation of the new Faculty following the restructure in mid-2006. In addition to stimulating presentations by current research students from the Faculty’s 5 Schools, the 60-plus participants on the day were treated to 3 parallel roundtables on ‘Community Engagement: Beyond the Hype?’, ‘History as Fiction’ and ‘Bodies of Knowledge’. This was followed by a provocative set of presentations on ethnography and narrative methods of research from Faculty staff researchers including ARC Fellow Dr Patrick Wolfe (Faculty of AEHD), Professor Jill Astbury (Psychology), Dr Enza Gandolfo (CCL), Helen O’Shea (a former Faculty PhD student who is now a postdoctoral research fellow at Monash), Associate Professor Mark Andersen (HMRP) and Dr Michele Grossman (Associate Dean, Research and Research Training).

Fittingly, given the season of ‘the winter game’ here in Melbourne, the day concluded with a unique and galvanizing presentation on the aural (sound) culture of Australian Rules football from Performance Studies doctoral candidate and HMRP lecturer Margaret Trail.

**VU NARRATIVE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

Enza Gandolfo, the School of CCL’s Postgraduate Research Coordinator, reports that the VU Narrative Research Symposium with the University of East London’s Dr Maria Tambouki held earlier in the year was infectiously stimulating and engaging. The symposium, organised by CCL’s Assoc Prof Barbara Brook and VU Director of Graduate Studies Prof Elaine Martin, attracted a wide range of papers and attendees from other universities in and beyond Victoria. VU participants reported the symposium was precisely the sort of event we need to further develop our research culture.

**ICEPA SEMINAR SERIES**

http://www.vu.edu.au/researchvcepa/
- New Forms of Racism, 1 May
- Building Partnerships Between Community, Government and Agency Networks, 5 May 06
- Influencing Social Policy: Networks and Successful Advocacy, 9 June 06
- Mediating Diasporas: representations of the Homeland in Chinese, 23 June 06
- Approaches to Partnership Governance for Building Stronger Communities, 7 July 06

**OTHER RESEARCH NEWS**

VU TAFE Liberal Arts staff member Paul Ashton co-founded peer-reviewed philosophy ejournal Cosmos and History: http://www.cosmosandhistory.org/. Its international editorial board is 60 strong: http://cosmosandhistory.org/index.php/journal/about/editorialTeam

Research partnerships formed with overseas partners including Gluion (Berlin), Sonic Arts Research Centre (Queens University, Ireland) IRCAM (Paris).

**UPCOMING FORUMS, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS**

- Karina Smith will be convening the Australian Association for Caribbean Studies Conference at VU from 8-10 February 2007. The theme for this national conference is ‘Caribbean Popular Culture’.

**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

**OFFICE FOR RESEARCH: STRATEGIES FOR ARC LINKAGE GRANTS**

ARC Linkage Grant workshop scheduled for late August - early September 2006 at the Footscray Park Campus.

**OFFICE FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH:**

**DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPERVISORS OF RESEARCH STUDENTS**

All research student supervisors registered at the University as principal supervisors are required to undertake a minimum of two hours professional development each year to maintain their principal supervisor status. If you are a supervisor and have not yet had any professional development as a supervisor this year then please consider attending one or more of the following sessions. These sessions are mainly offered in non-teaching time in order to afford maximum attendance by teaching staff.

The Office for Postgraduate Research is keen to offer sessions specifically tailored to the needs or a group of supervisors and sometimes experienced supervisors themselves are keen to offer sessions for their colleagues. Any group or individual interested in the above should contact Prof Elaine Martin @vu.edu.au

**ONE-OFF SESSIONS**

To be held in the mid-semester break week beginning 15th – 29th September
- Developing the postgraduate research student attributes
- What does a research student study look like?
- Developing communities of practice for research students
- The production of a thesis
- What examiners look for
- The web as research assistant

Sessions are 2-4 hours in duration.

**SUPERVISOR CONVERSATIONS OVER BREAKFAST ACROSS SEMESTER 2**

Informal discussions that address supervisory issues of expressed concern over breakfast or coffee at 26 Nicholson Street – Café: 8.30-11am Fridays

Meeting dates: August 25th. September 1st

**UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

- B-Hert Awards for outstanding achievements in collaboration in research and development and education & training. Closing date 31 August 2006. www.bhert.com
- GlaxoSmithKline Australia Award for Research Excellence 2007. Closing date 1 October 2006. Nomination forms are available from the Office for Research.
- Cancer Institute NSW, Program Grants and Fellowships, applications close between 23 August and 6 October 2006. www.cancerinstitute.org.au
- Ian Potter Foundation, Closing date 2 October 2006. www.ianpotter.org.au

For further information please visit: http://research.vu.edu.au/grantscalendar/listall.php

THANKYOU: To all who contributed to the content of the first Research Matters bulletin.