3 Minute Thesis

Over 40 universities have registered to join the Trans Tasman finals to be held at UWS on October 18 2013 and heats are underway in UWS Schools and Research Institutes.


Jordan Collier and his slide

3MT winner, Luke Bozzeto with Prof Simeon Simoff and A/Prof Miroslav Filopovic

Winners Luke Bozzeto with his slide as backdrop

Schools of Business and Law 3MT. Entrants and their slides

Schools of Business and Law 3MT. Entrants and their slides

Matt Donald

Melissa Donald (Winner)
School of Nursing and Midwifery

The School of Nursing and Midwifery held the 3MT heat as part of the 2013 Research Futures Forum. Professor Mary Chiarella, University of Sydney, gave the keynote address and 33 research candidates presented their work over two days. The 3MT was won by Suza Trajkovski (Winner) and Karen Myors was both the Runner Up and winner of the People’s Choice.

Jessica awarded the Valette Williams Scholarship

Jessica Mowle has been awarded the Valette Williams Scholarship in Botany 2013, from the Australian Plants Society (North Shore Group), for her project: “Promoting conservation and future generations of Wollemi Pine through manipulation of microbial communities.”

Jessica said that she was excited to hear the news. The Valette Williams Scholarship is funded by the North Shore Group of the Australian Plants Society (APS) to sponsor projects that contribute to the knowledge of the ecology, conservation, or propagation of native plants in Sydney and the surrounding regions.

There are less than 100 Wollemi Pine left in the wild and as such Wollemi is critically endangered. Jessica’s PhD project focuses on “Promoting conservation and future regeneration of Wollemi Pine through manipulation of microbial communities.” The scholarship will help fund work to identify and propagate microbial associates that enhance the fitness of Wollemi Pine challenged by pathogens. The small population size and low genetic variability of Wollemi Pine means that the population has a ubiquitous susceptibility to plant pathogens, particularly Phytophthora cinnamomi, which has been identified in the approved recovery plan as a key threat to the survival of the Wollemi Pine in the wild. Jessica is the sole recipient of the scholarship this year.
Louise Ryan wins international essay competition

Louise Ryan, PhD candidate, Institute for Culture and Society was one of the winners of an international essay competition which pays for her to go to a conference in Berlin in June and to apply for a 3 month fellowship. Louise’s essay was on MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) in Tasmania titled: Modern museums as tourist destinations: MONA: a ‘Subversive Adult Disneyland at the end of the world’? The Conference is Travel and Museums: Rethinking the Modern Experience. For further details please see the background paper.

Petar to represent Australia

Petar Jovanov, Doctor of Creative Arts candidate, School of Humanities and Communication Arts was chosen as the composer who will represent Australia at the Asian Composers League Young Composer Competition – 31st Asian Composers League (ACL) Festival & Conference in Singapore, 20-24 September 2013 with the work Strange Ways for three percussionists. Dr Bruce Crossman said that the opportunity will give Petar international engagement that will act as a type of research training for him.

Tim wins a travel bursary

Tim Sutton, PhD candidate Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, has been awarded a Student Travel Bursary under the 2012/13 round of the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) Student Travel Bursary Program to attend the 6th international symposium on the biology and ecology of gall inducing arthropods and related endophytes, Lamington National Park, QLD.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/Institute</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARCS Institute</td>
<td>Dr Paola Escudero, <a href="mailto:paola.escudero@uws.edu.au">paola.escudero@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Wednesday July 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment</td>
<td>Dr Ben Moore, <a href="mailto:b.moore@uws.edu.au">b.moore@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>To be announced shortly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Culture and Society</td>
<td>Dr Julie Thorpe, <a href="mailto:j.thorpe@uws.edu.au">j.thorpe@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Tuesday August 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Science and Health/Complemed</td>
<td>A/Prof Caroline Smith, <a href="mailto:c.smith@uws.edu.au">c.smith@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Friday July 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Science and Health</td>
<td>Dr Graham Jones, <a href="mailto:Graham.jones@uws.edu.au">Graham.jones@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Friday July 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Medicine</td>
<td>Dr David Mahns, <a href="mailto:d.mahns@uws.edu.au">d.mahns@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Friday July 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Humanities and Communication Arts</td>
<td>A/Prof Hart Cohen, Dr Wayne Peake, <a href="mailto:h.cohen@uws.edu.au">h.cohen@uws.edu.au</a>, <a href="mailto:w.peake@uws.edu.au">w.peake@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Friday June 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Law</td>
<td>A/Prof Scott Mann, <a href="mailto:s.mann@uws.edu.au">s.mann@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>To be announced shortly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Social Sciences and Psychology</td>
<td>Dr Danuta Chessor, <a href="mailto:d.chessor@uws.edu.au">d.chessor@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Tuesday July 16, Kingswood Wednesday July 18, Bankstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics</td>
<td>A/Prof Miroslav Filipovic, <a href="mailto:m.filipovic@uws.edu.au">m.filipovic@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Thursday June 6, time approx 3pm-5pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Education</td>
<td>Dr Joanne Orlando, A/Prof Susanne Gannon, <a href="mailto:j.orlando@uws.edu.au">j.orlando@uws.edu.au</a>, <a href="mailto:s.gannon@uws.edu.au">s.gannon@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Monday July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Nursing and Midwifery</td>
<td>Dr Elaine Burns, <a href="mailto:e.burns@uws.edu.au">e.burns@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Monday June 3, Tuesday June 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Business</td>
<td>A/Prof Terry Sloan, <a href="mailto:t.sloan@uws.edu.au">t.sloan@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Tuesday June 4</td>
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</table>

What’s Up Doc? by Dr Danya Hodgetts,
So you’re thinking of writing an academic e-book...

New blog from Eljee Javier Writing motivations
Things you probably didn’t know about Google Scholar
This is a GradHacker post by Andrea Zellner, PhD candidate in Ed Tech/Ed Pysch at Michigan State University, @andreazellner

From Grammar Girl; how to write a better resume
Hint from Sara.j.Landes @SJLandes
A general tip - I use Google Scholar alerts to get the most up to date references when writing a paper or presentation
And from Jo Van Every @JoVanEvery
Good to think about WHY you are giving this conference paper. Is it future paper? feedback on work? expand network?

How to construct a Nature summary paragraph May have other applications?

From Pat Thompson (@ThomsonPat)
The PhD and publication/by publication – a very peculiar practice? Part one
Seven reasons why papers are rejected by journals by Pat Thompson
Pat’s most popular post ever: How not to write the methods chapter by Pat Thompson
James Hayton; Productivity v Creativity and Learning New Skills
Daily Writing Tips
How not to hand in your PhD by Inger Mewburn (Thesis Whisperer)

Peter and Markus keep away from the snakes.

Peter is collecting the common grass yellow butterfly to see where it goes in drought and how it might shed light on climate change.

Photo of HIE PhD candidate, Peter Kern, with Dr Markus Riegler featured in the QLD Courier Mail- they were spotted while doing field work in the QLD bush. Note the gaiters Markus is sporting, said Markus “We had to run through creeks and high grass. Perfect snake habitat. Fortunately just saw one throughout the trip. But was also good to keep off all those weed seeds”.

Frances Williamson leads OLT funded project

ICS HDR student Frances Williamson (right) is leading a new Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) funded project PASSwrite.

Read more about Frances and PASS on the ICS website, where you will also see an interview with Frances published in the Australian.
Newly released UWS Principles for the Editing of HDR Theses

The Research Studies Committee has written this document in response to the high number of student requests for the services of a professional editor. The Committee wants to ensure that editing services are not used in place of the development of good writing skills. Professional editing can be very expensive and may not be the best use of candidature project funds for students.

Communication skills

» All HDR Graduates are expected to be excellent communicators. Written communication skills are essential for further research, grant application writing and disseminating of findings.

» Research that is not published is, in essence, not done. It is expected that all HDR graduates will have the capacity to be excellent researchers in their post graduation careers.

» Academia uses theses as one way of testing the ability of graduate students to use written words for communicating ideas and arguments.

Student Responsibility

» HDR candidates are solely responsible for the content, style and presentation of the thesis and for certifying its authenticity. UWS Student handbook

» Examiners are asked to provide a written report on the thesis which includes comment on the student’s use of good quality English and satisfactory general presentation. The student is responsible for what the examiner receives.

Purpose of Editing

» Editing should not be used as a means of detecting systemic misunderstandings of grammar or language. Issues of this nature should be identified and dealt with earlier in the candidature.

» Editing does not replace writing skill development.

» External editing for research theses is not a standard procedure and will only be undertaken in exceptional circumstances, with the knowledge and support of supervisors.

» Editing is for the purposes of detecting minor errors in a thesis that may have slipped the attention of the writer.

UWS endorses the specific details negotiated between The Institute of Professional Editors and by the Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies on 12 November 2010.

The guidelines outline the extent and nature of editorial services that professional editors can provide when editing research students’ theses and dissertations. Academic supervisors and research students also need to be clear about the editor’s role as well as their own roles and responsibilities. Students should notify the School/Research Institute HDR Director of any intention to consult a professional editor.

“To be able to write a thesis or research paper is not an optional requirement for a higher degree student – it is an absolute necessity. If a student leaves UWS without being able to write papers in their field then UWS has failed and the student will later suffer when they try to gain employment. An analogy would be letting someone graduate from medical school without being able to write up patient records”.

UWS senior supervisor

Second semester workshops now open

The HDR workshops are open and free of charge to any research candidate enrolled at UWS. The workshops are targeted to particular stages of candidature. It is a good idea to read the workshop descriptors to select workshops that are most suitable and you may like to discuss workshop choice with your supervisor. To register please email HDR@uws.edu.au with your student number, name, school, degree and nominate the workshop(s) you wish to attend.
Basic presentation skills is on offer again this semester. This workshop looks at skills such as overcoming nerves and interacting with an audience. On-line assistance with presentation skills is available on the Student Learning Unit vUWS pages under Help with Academic Writing. Presenting your research orally, also on offer this semester, focuses on how to present your research.

Students at a Graduate Supervisor Forum

Standing at the back are A/Prof Theresa Winchester-Seeto (Macquarie U), Dr Michael Tyler (MARCS) and A/Prof Elke Stracke (U Canberra). Seated from the left are Sarah Fenwick, Mona Faris, Nhunh Nguyen, Valeria Peretokina and Laurence Bruggeman.

A/Prof Theresa Winchester-Seeto (Macquarie U), and A/Prof Elke Stracke (U Canberra) recently presented a workshop on their findings in an OLT funded project on Giving and Receiving Written Feedback in HDR Supervision: Enhancing Supervisors’ and Candidates’ Skills in a Cross-Cultural Context.

The workshop had previously been offered at the University of Canberra and presenters found that it worked well with student input. Students from MARCS, pictured above, came along and Ha Pham was also in attendance.

Research Futures Postgraduate Forum School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics (SCEM) and Institute for Infrastructure Engineering

2013 School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics (SCEM) and Institute for Infrastructure Engineering (IIE) was held from the 4th - 6th June. The Best Presentation Prizes of 2013 Forum were:

» Sangeeta Bhatia, 1st-year PhD Candidate
» Andrew O’Brien, 1st-year PhD Candidate
» Andrea Sosa-Pintos, PhD candidate
» Steve Lamb, PhD Candidate (IIE student)

Head of School, Professor Simeon Simoff said that the new forum provided an opportunity for the HDR and Honours students in SCEM and IIE to present and promote their current research to a broader audience and receive constructive feedback. The forum is an essential part of the preparation of students for confidently communicating (and defending) their research at different forums, ranging from conferences to panels with industry entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

Footnotes is produced by the Office of Research Services.
For comments, questions or contributions please contact Mary Krone, m.krone@uws.edu.au