Orientation 2014

Professor Deborah Sweeney, A/PVC Research welcomed new Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students at an Orientation morning in March at Parramatta campus.

The program included advice on setting up and maintaining the supervisory relationship, reporting milestones, ethics and e.research and the 3 minute thesis competition.

People unable to attend will be sent a package of information including the UWS handbook and Hugh Kearn’s book “Planning your PhD”.

After a morning of introductory talks students and staff enjoyed a lunch at the Boilerhouse.

Demei Qi
Nadi Sadr Lahijany
Masud Rana and guest
Marlee Bower and Zoi Triandafilidis
James Weng
Magdalene Wong-Borgefjord and students from the Institute for Infrastructure Engineering
Congratulations Corner

**Jordan Collier**

PhD student in the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, Jordan Collier has been selected as the state finalist to participate in the 2014 FameLab Australia NSW State Heat. This is great success for Jordan and his recent paper on Infrared-faint radio sources: a new population of high-redshift radio galaxies attracted huge attention around the world.

**Petar Jovanov**

Congratulations to Petar Jovanov on the success of his music in the film *The Water Vessel*. He was the composer working with filmmakers Vincent Tray and Iqbal Barkat (former UWS colleague) on the film as part of his Doctor of Creative Arts portfolio within Music, at the School of Humanities and Communication Arts.

*The Indie Fest*, October 2013, Filigree Films, *The Water Vessel* won an Award of Merit. This is a showcase for cinematic gems and unique voices. It is noted as a top-tier international awards competition with entries from all over the world run from La Jolla, San Diego, California, USA. See the website:

*The Water Vessel* is also an Official Selection at the upcoming The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2014.
Adam Sutton

Adam Sutton wins CRC for Polymers student prize.

Adam Sutton has won the award this year for the best student report, titled ‘Characterising Smart Block Copolymer by Free Solution Capillary Electrophoresis and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance’. Adam’s principal supervisor is Dr Patrice Castignolles. Adam was awarded $1500 cash and support for flights, accommodation and entry to present at the RACI Congress being held in Adelaide from December 7-12, 2014. Each year the CRC for Polymers runs the competition and this year there was one winner (Adam) and two highly commended applicants (Amma Gemmell from UQ and Edward Stephens from UNSW). The prize for the highly commended winners is $250 cash. Congratulations Adam.

Honglang Duan

Congratulations Honglang Duan, winner of the HIE Student Paper Award for 2013.

Honglang’s research centres on understanding the processes that kill Eucalyptus species, mainly E. globulus - the Tasmanian Blue Gum.

Considering this species is one of the most widely grown plantation eucalypts in the world, making up around 65% of all plantation eucalypts, understanding its susceptibility to the increasing threat of drought in Australia is essential.

Honglang’s research paper entitled ‘Carbon dynamics of eucalypt seedlings exposed to progressive drought in elevated [CO₂] and elevated temperature’ published in Tree Physiology.

The article was prominently featured on the cover of this leading journal in Forestry Science (Impact Factor of 2.853), and was accompanied by a commentary by leading researcher Prof Danielle Way.

Honglang Duan, Jeffrey S. Amthor, Remko A. Duursma, Anthony P O’Grady, Brendan Choat, David T. Tissue (2013). Carbon dynamics of eucalypt seedlings exposed to progressive drought in elevated [CO₂] and elevated temperature. Tree Physiology 33: 779-792

The paper has already scored at least 5 citations since its publication a couple of months ago.

Holly Harrison

Holly Harrison, HCA School DCA composition candidate, won first prize and the commission in the Orkest de Ereprijs for her composition performed at the event, entitled Cabbages and Kings (from Lewis Carroll of course!) at Appledorn, Netherlands.

This involves the commissioning of a new piece which Orkest de Ereprijs will play throughout their concert season next year (2015), beginning with the opening and closing concert of the Young Composers Meeting 2015 and with a prize of 2,500 euros. One of the judges was Louis Andriessen, a leading figure in European minimalism. There were 16 young composers at the 20th Young Composers Meeting 2014: Final Concert on 1 March 2014 in Appledorn; they were chosen for the event from throughout the world including Europe, Asia, Australasia and Canada/USA. Holly won against this formidable line-up.

This excellent achievement places Holly at the front ranks of emerging composers on the international scene at present.

In addition, Holly is one of eight young composers selected for the 2014 Mizzou International Composers Festival, Missouri in July next year! There were more than 217 applications worldwide.
**Luke Carman**

Luke Carman (Writing & Society) has been shortlisted for the ALS (Australian Literature Society) Gold medal for his book An Elegant Young Man. The award will be announced at the ASAL conference in July.

This is a particularly significant achievement for Luke whose name sits beside the likes of Alexis Wright (2007 Miles Franklin award winner), as well as Christos Tsiolkas and Alex Miller. Congratulations Luke!

**Kay Rozynski**

Kay Rozynski (Writing and Society) won the best paper at last year’s AAWP (Australasian Association of Writing Programs) conference and also gave birth to Arlo Phoenix Méndez on 17 February (3.7 kilos and as Kay says ‘proud owner of a full head of dark hair, ten long fingers and the obligatory rosebud mouth all babies have to make you fall instantly in love with them’).

Double congratulations to Kay.

**Xiaoying Sheila Qi**

ICS Graduate Wins ‘Best PhD Thesis in Sociology’

ICS graduate Xiaoying Sheila Qi has received the prestigious Jean Martin Award for her thesis which examines how ideas and knowledge move between cultures. The Jean Martin Award is a biennial prize from the Australian Sociological Association awarded to ‘the best PhD thesis in sociology in Australia’.

Dr Qi’s thesis developed the concept of the intellectual entrepreneur, who not only selects alien ideas but negotiates the resistance of the receiving culture, thereby changing both the original ideas and the culture that incorporates them.

Dr Qi paid tribute to ICS for giving her the freedom to pursue what she believed was important in the thesis.

“I enjoyed my time at the University of Western Sydney, and I’m especially grateful to the University for providing me with a full scholarship, which really made the whole thing possible,” she says.

“I want to acknowledge the support of my supervisors, Professor Greg Noble (opens in new window) and Professor Peter Hutchings (Dean of the School of Humanities and Communication Arts).”

**Martin Edmond**

Recently graduated Writing & Society student, Martin Edmond, won the New Zealand 2013 Prime Minister’s Award for Literary Achievement for Non-Fiction

Martin has just completed his DCA which was a dual biography of Rex Batterbee and Albert Namatjira. It will be published by Giramondo this year.

Congratulations Martin.
Being Venice

BEING VENICE, the feature film written and directed by Miro Bilbrough (Writing and Society PhD student) has been released on DVD and several digital platforms including iTunes. Starring Alice McConnell and Garry McDonald, the film was produced by Dragonet Films and Firesign, and shot entirely on location in Sydney.

After premiering at Sydney Film Festival and In Competition at Mannheim Heidelberg International Film Festival in 2012, Being VENICE was nominated for The Age Critic’s Award at Melbourne IFF. Last year the film enjoyed theatrical release in New Zealand where the Dom Post noted it was “…stunningly well performed, deceptively well written, and shot through with a heat-hazed love for its setting that borders on the rhapsodial”.

View of the trailer plus stills of this visually lush production

Miro Bilbrough, was also the script editor for The Rocket which just won the Best Original Screenplay at the AACTA awards.

Details of the AACTA awards

What’s green, sticky and attracts kids?

Andrew Gherlenda, PhD student, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, showing stick insects to a keen audience of primary school students.

The First Foot Forward Primary Program developed by the University of Western Sydney provides primary school students with opportunities to increase their awareness of higher education and help raise their educational and career aspirations.

Success in Endeavour Awards Applications

Two UWS PhD students have been awarded Endeavour Awards.

Alison Maniego will thus spend 4 months in the Institute of Prof. Patrick Couvreur (the inventor of nano-oncology) in Paris to perfect her potential drug delivery system and show how capillary electrophoresis and NMR spectroscopy can help characterising these systems.

Joel Thevarajah will spend 2 months in the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz, Germany in the group of Dr Robert Graf, and 2 months in the group of Dr Herve Cottet, University of Montpellier, France, to have access to state-of-the-art equipment and methods in respectively solid-state NMR and capillary electrophoresis for the first comprehensive characterisation of chitosan films for cell culture.
Ensuring original work: Thesis checking with Turnitin

What is Turnitin?

Turnitin from iParadigms is a web-based text-matching software that identifies and reports on similarities between documents. It is also widely utilised as a tool to improve academic writing skills.

Turnitin compares electronically submitted papers against the following:

» Current and archived web: Turnitin currently contains over 24 billion web pages including archived pages
» Student papers: including UWS student submissions since 2007
» Scholarly literature: Turnitin has partnered with leading content publishers, including library databases, text-book publishers, digital reference collections and subscription-based publications (e.g. Gale, Proquest, Emerald and Sage)

How can you check your thesis?

You can submit your research paper to Turnitin and receive an Originality Report which will indicate the extent of ‘originality’ within your paper. You will be able to submit your paper as many times as you wish. These submissions will NOT be saved into the Turnitin database.

Turnitin is accessed from within the Completion and Beyond vUWS site. All enrolled HDR students have access. To find the Turnitin link:

» Login into vUWS with your MyUWSAccount
» Locate Completions and Beyond vUWS site from the course listing on the left
» Open the Completion and Beyond vUWS site. Turnitin is located in the ‘Turnitin’ section
» To submit your paper to Turnitin, go to: Turnitin for Higher Degree Research Candidates >> View/Complete

Note: Only the first submission of the paper will generate an immediate originality report. It can take 24 hours for an originality report to be available for subsequent submissions.

The original submission is returned with matching text highlighted with links to the original sources. This is called an Originality Report.

For further information see UWS Student Submission Instructions. Or, review the video that demonstrates the process

Can supervisors see the Originality Report?

Only research candidates will have access to the reports generated. To share a report between candidate and supervisor, consider the following options:

Option 1: The candidate and supervisor meet and candidate will log into vUWS and navigate to the Originality Report. Reports are best viewed online as they are interactive; allowing candidates to view matches between the paper and a specific selected source in the Turnitin repositories

Option 3: The candidate can print the Originality Report and meet with their supervisor; however this will be less interactive.
The Nature of an Original Contribution

At a recent “Final Stages” workshop we were talking about the requirements of a doctorate for examination and what might constitute “original knowledge”.


An Original Contribution may be;

Something that has not been done, found, known, proved, said, or seen before that results from

» Asking or identifying new questions, topics, or areas of exploration
» Applying new ideas, methods, approaches, or analyses to an old question, problem, issue, idea, source thinker, or text
» Developing or applying new theories, theorems, theoretical descriptions, or theoretical frameworks
» Inventing, developing, or applying new methods, approaches, computations, techniques, or technologies
» Creating, finding, or using new data, data sets, archives, information, material, or sources
» Applying old ideas, methods, approaches, or analyses to new data, material, or sources
» Developing or applying new analyses, analytic approaches, frameworks, techniques, models or statistical procedures
» Coming up with new ideas, connections, inferences, insights, interpretations, observations, perspectives
» Producing new conclusions, answers, findings, or proofs
» Combining or synthesizing things (experiments, facts, knowledge, models of inquiry, problems, sources, technologies, theoretical constructs) from other fields or disciplines
» Is publishable
» Adds to knowledge
» Changes the way people think
» Moves the field forward/advances the state of the art

The list was given to students attending the Orientation in March but many of you may find it interesting.

Semester one workshops

Free and available to all HDR students. Chat to your supervisor if you are not sure what to attend.

Workshops include;

» Introduction to research writing for international students
» Thesis Writing Circles
» Getting ready to write your literature review
» Presenting your research orally
» Preparing for Confirmation of candidature
» Headings that work
» Using nVivo
» Publishing from your thesis
» Writing your discussion chapter/conclusion chapter
Links, blogs, handy hints etc

Dr Pat Thomson
pat thomson (@ThomsonPat)
Blogging; don’t lose control
Your writing is “slow” – some thoughts on pace
Good academic writing – it’s about revision not editing

James Hayton Three Month Thesis
What goes in the introduction, what goes in the conclusion?
Writing your thesis in a second language

Higher Education (@GdnHigherEd)
PhD supervisor: the perfect one doesn’t exist, so where else can you find help?
Ideas about who else can support you, after all your supervisor is not superman/woman.
gu.com/p/3npn6/tw

Dr Inger Mewburn aka The Thesis Whisperer (@thesiswhisperer)
4 things you should know about choosing examiners for your thesis
Are research students a bit like Meerkats?
Mum and Dad are fighting – what should I do?

Attention all budding Entrepreneurs!

Free Business Pitch Opportunity
13th May on Parramatta Campus

Have you got a revolutionary business idea or a fabulous research project? Yes? - Then test it!

On Tuesday May 13th 2014 one or more successful UWS students will have the opportunity to pitch their innovative project to our UWS IP Panel

This is a great chance to get real world feedback on your idea, from a range of skilled experts with development support from the team at UWS Innovation. The panel consists of serial Entrepreneurs, Patent Attorneys, senior representatives from each of UWS’ Schools, and UWS Innovation.

Ekta Nankani, a PhD student from the School of Computing and Mathematics had the opportunity to pitch to the panel before she took her project out to work with an external company. Ekta found the advice she received from the panel, and particularly the patent attorney, very valuable.

“One of the most challenging decisions for any research student is to manage their IP. I was lucky to do an “Opportunity pitch” presentation at the IP Panel and meet with senior researchers, industry experts and advocates to discuss my research topic; in return the feedback received was very valuable. Staff at the Innovation office are very supportive and always ready to guide students. Exposure to different intellectual property rights and issues, patenting, legal implications when commercialising research is quite important and all the higher research degree students should be aware of such matters.”

If you are interested in this unique opportunity to hone your pitch skills or jump out of your comfort zone and explore new territory, send an application to Victoria Hirst at UWS Innovation.

The application should be no more than 1-page long and include your a) contact details, b) brief description of the idea c) and a statement about why does the market need your idea?

Submit your application via email to v.hirst@uws.edu.au.

Alternatively if you would like the opportunity to sit on the UWS Innovation Intellectual Property Evaluation Panel as a student representative, we would love to have you.

If you have any questions or would like to participate please contact Victoria Hirst on v.hirst@uws.edu.au or 9685 9742.
Protect Your Inventions

2014 UWS Intellectual Property Evaluation Panel

Have you created an innovative design, a new methodology or had a technical or scientific breakthrough? Do you have ideas or inventions that are innovative, and may be patentable, with market potential? If so, you may have intellectual property worth protecting!

Evaluation Panel assists staff and students with progression of any intellectual property which may require formal protection and/or investment.

UWS Staff and Students have the opportunity to apply to present their innovations to the Intellectual Property Evaluation panel for assessment and guidance. The panel can recommend provisional patent protection, full patent protection, prototype development support and provide general commercialisation advice.

Recent Panel Successes

“Purification of eye lens cells”

Dr Michael O’Connor and Patricia Murphy, School of Science and Health

Recommended by panel for Provisional Patent filing and Prototype funding

Researchers at the University of Western Sydney have developed a simple and efficient method for purifying human lens epithelial cells. This will be able to:

» screen for anti-cataract drugs
» develop lens regeneration therapies to treat cataract and/or presbyopia
» develop improved drug toxicity assays

“BrainCubator”

Dr Yossi Buskila, Dr Paul Breen and Mr James Wright, MARCs Institute

Recommended by panel for Provisional Patent, Trademark and Prototype funding

To simplify brain research, neuroscientists use brain slices. A major concern regarding brain slices is their short lifespan (6-8 hrs) as it limits the time available to study the neuronal properties in the slice. Researchers at the University of Western Sydney have invented a system which can keep brain slices physiologically viable for research for 36+ hours.

UWS Innovation is keen to hear from any academics or students who are developing novel inventions.

For more information please contact UWS Innovation at ip@uws.edu.au or call Victoria Hirst on 9685 9742.

A tweet from GrrlScientist (@GrrlScientist)

$25,000 Eppendorf & SCIENCE Prize for Neurobiology - young scientists anywhere in the world eligible [bit.ly/1eXjKtN](http://bit.ly/1eXjKtN) deadline 15 June

Eppendorf & Science Prize for Neurobiology. The international Eppendorf & Science Prize for Neurobiology is awarded annually to one young scientist for the most for the most outstanding neurobiological research based on methods of molecular and cell biology conducted by him/her during the past three years.

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For comments, questions or contributions please contact Mary Krone, m.krone@uws.edu.au