Sydney InSPIRE Conference for HDR students

UWS, UNSW, UTS, U Syd and Macquarie University held the inaugural Sydney InSPIRE Conference for HDR students during the week commencing July 14, 2014.

Each university hosted a themed day: Professional Skills (U Syd), Research Integrity (Macquarie U) Writing and Publishing (UTS) Supervision (UWS) and Post PhD Career Options (UNSW).

InSPIRE offered expert training and professional development for students to promote high quality, collaborative and interdisciplinary research.

There were two networking events with opportunities to meet research collaborators in industry, business, government and the NGO sectors.
Tweethearts can search using #InSPIRE2014

There are more slides and references from InsPIRE to come, but in the meantime here are two great links;

Nick Hopwood @NHopUTS
Want to succeed in academic publishing? Some things to avoid

Improving your on-line research visibility
by Dr Patrick Chu (99 Scholars) tweeted by Katy Vigurs @drkatyvigurs
Congratulations Corner

Saya Kawase

Saya Kawase from Japan won the highly prestigious 2014 Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship.

Saya in undertaking a PhD program at the MARCS Institute. Her research is a longitudinal study of perception and production in adults and children who are learning English as a second language. Her supervisors are Dr. Michael Tyler and Prof. Catherine Best.

“I am interested in the mechanism of learning second-language (L2) speech by adult and child learners. My PhD project will examine vowel reorganization in first-language (L1) in addition to L2 by a series of experiments, and hopefully help further understandings of second language vowel learning considering attunement and rephonologization in L1 and L2 phonological categories.”

“I am immensely happy to work with Dr. Michael D. Tyler and Prof. Catherine T. Best, co-originators of the Perceptual Assimilation Model of Second Language Speech Learning (PAM-L2), along with a rich research environment at the MARCS Institute. Last, but not least, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the Endeavour Scholarship to allow me to continue my research and develop my professional knowledge and skills as a researcher.”

Saya completed her Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature, School of Education at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan and Master of Arts in Linguistics at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada. Since her graduation, she had worked as a research associate at Waseda University, and as a full-time English teacher in Tokyo and Saitama, Japan.

The Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships aim to promote knowledge, strengthen education and research links and build enduring ties between Australia and the world.

Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

» Aidan Hall and Tim Sutton have again been successful in winning conference travel awards. They will attend the Entomological Society of Australia Conference in Canberra later in the year.

» Catarina Martins, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, won Best Poster Prize at the 20th World Congress of Soil Science (http://www.20wcss.org/)

for her poster entitled Impact of Warming and Reduced Precipitation in a Temperate-Boreal Ecotonal Forest in Northern-Minnesota, USA.

This is a great achievement for Catarina as there was a huge number of posters in her session 'Mechanisms Controlling Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Soils'.

School of Medicine

» Grace Micali has been awarded funding to support her research by the L&M Cowan Foundation. Grace is enrolled in the School of Medicine and carries out her research at the Ingham Research Institute where many UWS researchers are collaborating with UNSW researchers. Grace’s supervisory panel is Dr Slade Jensen (Principal Supervisor) and Dr Bjorn Espedido (UWS) and Prof Neville Firth (UNSW Faculty of Medicine). Grace’s topic is Type 1b Partitioning Systems of Staphylococcal Resistance Plasmids.

Grace’s achievements this year include being nominated for the UWS Young Woman of the West Award.

The L&M Cowan Foundation has previously supported research on anti-microbial resistance and feral cat control at the University of Sydney and capacity for Tuberculosis Control in Papua New Guinea with the Australian National University; and Australian Wildlife Conservancy.
School of Humanities and Communication Arts

Petar Jovanov, DCA student in Hollywood for the LA Asian Pacific FilmFest 2014: The Water Vessel

Petar composed the music for the film. His principal supervisor is Dr Bruce Crossman.

Writing & Society

Isabelle Li

Isabelle Li’s story, ‘Red Saffron’ was highly commended in the Margaret River Short Story Competition. Her story is now included in a collection of the stories coming out of the competition. Isabelle’s principal supervisor is Prof Hazel Smith.

Hoa Pham

Congratulations to Hoa Pham whose book, The Other Shore, has been published. Hoa’s principal supervisor is Prof Gail Jones.

Luke Carmen

Luke Carmen was awarded the Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist award for 2014. He shares this award with Hannah Kent, Ballikaur Jaswal and Fiona McFarlane. Luke’s principal supervisor is Prof Ivor Indyk.

Three Jerks

Michael Mohammed Ahmad and Luke Carman, along with fellow writer, Peter Polites, were in a Sydney Writer’s Festival event titled Three Jerks.

The event was an oral and collaborative storytelling performance about the controversial gang rapes in Western Sydney prior to the 2000 Olympic Games, and the impact this event had on young men growing up in the area at that time. The controversial subject matter of their performance has attracted a lot of media attention, including a segment on ABC news.

Michael Mohammed Ahmad

Michael Mohammed Ahmad’s book “The Tribe” was published by Giramondo.

It has already attracted an excellent review written by Ghassan Hage. He says: “The Tribe arrived on my desk one afternoon and I began reading it on a very late flight from Melbourne to Sydney on that same day. I read it during the flight. I read it on the train to the city. I read it on the bus home. And I finished it in bed. By then it was one in the morning and I was one satisfied reader. This is a significant and astonishing novel that takes us inside the cultural world of the Adam family, a socio-economically disadvantaged Australian Syro-Lebanese extended family from Sydney and Melbourne”. Michael’s principal supervisor is Prof Ivor Indyk.
Take a Break … Recreational Resources from the Library

The Library subscribes to a couple of online resources which can help you to unwind and relax.

EduTV

EduTV is an online streaming resource where you can watch movies, documentaries, dramas and TV series. To use this resource go to http://subjectguides.library.uws.edu.au/libe and click on EduTv. You can search for a title or browse the relevant subject headings on the left. Login required if off campus.

OverDrive

OverDrive offers online access to bestselling books (fiction and non-fiction). You can view, borrow or return items through the Digital Editions or OverDrive Media player app which can be downloaded (http://uws.lib.overdrive.com/8BE72394-5C00-4BE3-931B-66550B3DFEED/10/50/en/Default.htm). Search for a title or click on subject on left hand side to get to more details of the collection.

Shut up and Write

Shut Up and Write has started at UWS

Over 30 people attended the first event at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment. Senior staff showed strong support and quite a few came along to join in.

We started with 15 minutes of chat and then put on the timer for an hour. All phones and other noisy distractions were turned off.

There was a quite and buzzy hum of keyboard strokes around the room. Participants had come prepared for what they were intending to write about. The Institute has held a second event and will make it a regular practice.

Shut Up and Write at Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

Shut up and Write began in San Francisco and has been adopted by universities in the UK and at RMIT, Melbourne University, UTS, the University of Sydney and others.

The program is based on two principles;

» Recognition that writing can be a social activity and that members benefit from a supportive and concentrated writing activity with a social component.

» Distraction reduction by use of the pomodoro technique developed by Francesco Cirillo. Used in writing it is part of a suite of productivity techniques which are collectively termed ‘time boxing’. The idea of time boxing is that the best way to tackle any big job is to break it down into a set of small, discrete tasks then limit the time you have available to do them. Once you have decided on a mini goal you set a timer and off you go. Dr Inger Mewburn, The Thesis Whisperer.

How it Works

A group of writers gather and chat for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes they start writing in silence with no distractions (phone, email, twitter, other social media, talking etc). They usually set the time using a pomodoro app and after an hour of writing they stop and finish the meeting with a further 15 minutes of chat and refreshments/food.

Shut Up and Write at Campbelltown

At the Bankstown Shut Up and Write students chatted about the difficulty in finding time to write (work, study, children etc) and one person remarked that she was surprised to find that she worked better under pressure, with less time available.

Dr Peter Bansel talked about some techniques that he uses such as thinking about writing when he can’t actually do it. He thinks about what he will write and forms it mentally in sentences, sort of writing when not writing and ready to put down give the chance. He also said that it always better to have too much written and to have to take some out. It is removed, but not discarded, filed for possible future use in another article or elsewhere.

Shut Up and Write times and places will be advertised as they arranged (check your student email account).
Learning and Teaching at UWS

iPad Suggested Apps

Lots of suggestions for:
- Accessing vUWS content
- Taking notes and annotating documents
- Productivity Presentations
- Mind mapping and brainstorming
- Digital storytelling
- Reading documents
- Replacing native iPad camera
- Health and well-being

Student Services and Initiatives

Do you know about these services at UWS?

The 2014 UWS final is on the 22nd September at the Playhouse, Kingswood campus starting at 2.00pm.

Research Higher Degree students present their work in three minutes using a single PowerPoint slide.

It is great fun, a celebration of research communication powers and a perfect opportunity to invite friends and family for a fun afternoon to discover the fantastic research that HDR students conduct. Click here for more information.

99 Scholars, Dr Patrick Chu, will be making a cartoon version of the People’s Choice. There is a link to Dr Chie’s InSPIRE presentation on page 2

First Prize Winners (to date)

School of Science and Technology – Adam Sutton
Characterisation of Block Copolymers for Smart Macromolecular Materials. Principal supervisor – Dr Patrice Castignolles.

School of Medicine Winner – Jan Townsend
Infertility: What’s the man got to do with it? Principal supervisor – Dr Laura Surmon

Institute for Infrastructure Engineering (IIE) – Mr Kwok-Shing Wong
Effects of wind-induced tall building motions on occupants’ manual task performance. Principal supervisor – Prof Kenny Kwok

Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE) – Tracey Steinrucken
To Determine the Mechanism For Dieback in the Invasive Tree Parkinsonia Aculeata. Principal supervisor – Dr Jeff Powell

School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics – Sangeeta Bhatia
You have your mother’s genes: a new approach to determining interspecies difference. Supervisors – Prof Andrew Francis, A/Prof Volker Gebhardt Dr Mark Tanaka

School of Social Sciences and Psychology – Catherine O’Gorman
Conceptual Metaphor and Spatial Representations of Time: The Role of Emotion. Principal supervisor Dr Agnes Petocz

MARCS Institute – Ms Valeria Peretokina
“Sorry, could you say that again? Or the ways second language listening can be improved”. Supervisors: Prof Catherine Best, Dr Michael Tyler, Dr Bruno di Biase, Dr Jason Shaw
Still to come;

Institute for Culture and Society 21st August
School of Business TBA
School of MARCS Institute 4th August
School of Education 21st August
School of Law 14th August

Tracey Steinrucken (Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment)

Nukte Ogen (School of Humanities and Communication Arts)

Adam Sutton (School of Science and Technology)

All Competitors, School of Computing Engineering and Mathematics
with Head of School Prof Simoff (2nd right) and HDR Director
Prof Wei Zheng (far right)

Winner Sangeeta Bhatia with Head of School, Prof Simoff
(School of Computing Engineering and Mathematics)
Competitors, Institute for Infrastructure Engineering

Mr Kwok-Shing Wong (Institute for Infrastructure Engineering)

Mr Xin Yu

Ali Razzazzadeh

Graeme McKenzie

Toby Raeburn (School of Nursing and Midwifery)

Catherine O’Gorman, winner School of Social Sciences and Psychology, with Dr Kerry Robinson (left)
Links

From Pat Tomson (@ThomsonPat)

Don’t send your examiner to sleep
The research proposal as writing work
Doctoral dilemmas about social media
What’s the difference between research aims and objectives?
It is not sufficient to simply say that there is a ‘gap’ ... there are always gaps in what we know
A drafting strategy
A reflection on method
Co-writing the first messy draft

Anitra Not; Storify on good presentations
Trailer for new PhD movie http://phdmovie.com/

James Hayton, podcasts

Writing your Thesis in a Second Language
Self Doubt and Confidence
The ‘ex-wife strategy’ and other tips for acting like a meerkat by Thesis Whisperer
53 Interesting ways to communicate your research
The Thesis Whisperer
‘Feeling Better Connected’: Academics’ Use of Social Media

Deborah Lupton, News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra 10 June 2014
Storify by Dr Lizzie Towl on Building and Maintaining Networks
Dr Alex Hope (@DrSustainable) Why We Must Teach Ethics Along With Programming

Career Advice from the Guardian

Make sure you’re being selective with what you do and don’t put on your CV (@GuardianCareers)
Guardian top 10 questions to ask in job interviews
iThenticate (@iThenticate) view on;
What is self-plagiarism and how can it be avoided?
Cliff Pickover (@pickover) First-known modern example of an ANTI-acknowledgment in a serious technical paper. bit.ly/1quZCpA pic.twitter.com/aLBVpIrTEF

Nick Hopwood (@NHopUTS)

Making ontology and epistemology easy(er) through music
Current trends in publishing and where things might be heading
Book Review: study skills for post graduates by Thesis Whisperer
PhD Comics The Neurology of Writing

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