The UWS 3 Min Thesis finals held on August 10th

First and People’s Choice; Tim Paris, MARCS Institute, “Brain Waves that Predict the Future”

Second; James Oliver, School of Health and Science “Bio-ethanol from the Outback”

Third; Kirstin Robertson-Gillam, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, “Choir Therapy Reduces Depression in Middle Age”

Dr Jeesun Kim, Tim’s supervisor; “Tim’s success at the 3 minute thesis was great news – although I must say that it was not a surprise. This is because Tim excels in many aspects of his academic work. In this regards, I would like to point out that he is not only quite brilliant but also works hard, throws himself into what decides to do – in two words, he is passionate and enthusiastic.”

All 3MT Photos thanks to Sally Tsoutas

All contestants l-r: Xiangbe He, Maneesh Mathai, Linhan Zhang, James Oliver, Kirstin Robertson-Gillam, Tim Paris, Trish Murphy, Grant Bickerton and Munirah Shaik Kadir

Linhan Zhang

James Oliver

Munirah Shaik Kadir

Xiangbe He

Tim Paris, MARCS Institute. Tim will represent UWS at the Trans-Tasman finals at UQ in October.
Daniel Portelli

Daniel recently submitted his thesis for examination. Here he speaks about his work being performed by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the finals stages of his candidature.

The performance of my work Finding Kensho by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) will be one I will cherish and continue to learn from. In the context of my research this composition created a strong sense of engagement and firsthand experience into the material I was researching. I was able to apply experiential knowledge I had read from composers of an East-Asian and European context that had resonance with my experiences growing up in Sydney's Greater West. I had a chance to sharpen up my music writing ability and make professional connections with the people involved. Highly claimed Australian composers/musicians involved in the event include Brett Dean, Nigel Butterley, Benjamin Northey, Brenton Broadstock and an unexpected arrival during the rehearsals from the Duke of Kent.
Like any time pressure during a HDR’s candidacy (for example, conferences, paper submissions, lectures, screenings, performances or a thesis submission) the pressure of the MSO program forced me to push myself to create quality work beyond what I already knew. The same can be said for writing my thesis or working with my supervisor Dr Bruce Crossman who continually pushed my work to a higher level and gave me confidence in my ideas and ability. My recent thesis submission (entitled: “Breath through Water: Personal Cross-Cultural and Collaborative Processes Flowing Towards Dao in Composition”) was almost equal to the pressure felt during the night before the Melbourne Symphony performance. But both are exceedingly rewarding and most certainly worth the effort. The thrill of new ideas and a greater sense of understanding things far outweighs the hardship endured to obtain it. Now, after submitting my post-graduate work, time pressures have significantly lessened so I am now seeking my own ways, independent of the support for the University, to create deadlines and continue to push myself to expand my body of work.

Daniel Portelli

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National Natural Science Foundation of China Grant
Le (Laura) Luo, PhD Student School of Business

Laura Luo has been awarded a prestigious grant by the National Natural Science Foundation of China. The project name is “Carbon disclosure, Carbon performance and market reaction: the Chinese Experience”. The grant amount is ¥540,000 (equivalent to AUD$83,076).

170,792 proposals were submitted, 165,651 were eligible and 34,779 projects were granted funds. A great success, congratulations Laura.

Further information on the grant scheme available from the NNSC website - www.nsfc.gov.cn/Portal0/default166.htm

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Ten Great Blog Spots

Selected by Eva Lantsoght, PhD candidate at TU Delft in the Concrete Structures Section. Eva is interested in reinforced concrete, the process of doing a PhD and the non-scientific skills needed to do a PhD.

http://phdtalk.blogspot.nl/2012/06/ten-great-blogs-for-phd-students.html

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Conflict of interest for appointment of examiners

Students should participate in discussions about potential examiners. The Deans and Directors of Graduate Study in Australia have written some guidelines on conflict of interest for the appointment of examiners. For your information the guidelines are at; Conflict of Interest Guidelines (DDoGS)

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School of Nursing and Midwifery

Connie is in the first year of her higher research degree with the Family and Community Health Research Group (FaCH), School of Nursing and Midwifery. Her research focus primarily involves the complexities and persistence of smoking-related addictions. Chronic smoking remains a continuing worldwide health care burden, a leading contributor to premature deaths and disabling diseases for people who continue to smoke (Degenhardt 2011; WHO 2011). It also remains a health hazard for their partners, children, colleagues and community members who are subjected to environmental “second-hand” tobacco smoke exposure. Worldwide, an estimated 40% of men and 9% of women currently smoke despite globally coordinated tobacco control efforts implemented by the World Health
Annual Progress Reports (APRs)

This was the first year of online Annual Progress Reports. Despite some technical problems at the start, online APRs have been successful with compliance rates up dramatically and students saying that they feel that notice is being taken of their report. The Research Studies Committee and Office of Research Services will undertake a review and a survey to refine the process for next year from a user point of view and to evaluate personal responses to the system. Schools and Research Institutes conducted thorough reviews of their cohorts and will share ideas about what worked best, eg. interviews, or review by stage of progress, whole of candidature review etc.

James Herbert, Finland Conference

James Herbert attended the 8th International Conference on Evaluation for Practice in Pori, Finland (18th-20th June), presenting his paper “Yearning for Learning? Conditions for Learning from Evaluation in Human Service NGOs” and participated in a plenary session on evaluation in Australian higher education. The conference attracted a multi-disciplinary audience of researchers and practitioners engaged with the challenges of bridging the gap between practice and research. Papers from the conference were published in a peer reviewed e-book (http://urn.fi/urn:isbn:978-951-44-8859)

James is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology and is supervised by Professor Natalie Bolzan and Dr. Mick Houlbrook.

Procrastination familiar to you?

Famously the bane of many a student but here is a short video about understanding and dealing with it.

The Science of Procrastination and How to Manage It, Animated by Maria Popova, Brainpickings

Looking for an Editor? A Word of Caution

An overseas editing company that violates UWS guidelines on editing has launched an advertising and marketing campaign targeting Australian postgraduate students. One of the services they are publicly offering is substantive editing. This is specifically prohibited by the ‘Guidelines for Editing Research Theses’, please see Institute of Professional Editors Limited (IPEd). These guidelines were written in collaboration with the Deans and Directors of Graduate Study Australia. Substantive editing is editing that deals with the subject matter of a document (i.e. it can alter or correct the information, ideas, research or argument of a thesis), and involves heavy editing or rewriting, and completing work for the student that they should be completing themselves, which is why it is prohibited by the guidelines.

To contact a professional editor visit the Society of Editors (NSW) Inc.

Dropbox? GoodReader? Writeroom? Scrivener?

Essential Mac and iPad Apps for Graduate Students by Masaki

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