Three-minute Thesis – UWS joins national competition

Would you like to present your thesis in three minutes, represent UWS at a national competition AND win a prize of $5,000?

All current research higher degree candidates are invited to participate in the first Australia and New Zealand wide competition.

Entrants present the Three Minute Thesis as a compelling three minute oration on their thesis topic and its significance in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

First prize of $5,000, runner-up prize of $2,000 and people’s choice prize of $1,000

For more information on rules, deadlines and links to past winners:
http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/three_minute_thesis_competition

Welcome to new College of Health and Science
Director of Research
Professor Deborah Sweeney

Among her many responsibilities, Professor Sweeney has oversight of all research higher degree candidate matters in the College of Health and Science and represents the College on the Research Studies Committee.

Would you like to describe your academic career and interests?
I am an Optometrist by training who became interested in research after a researcher and his PhD student came to a 2nd year lecture recruiting for “guinea pigs” for some of the studies they were running looking at the eyes response to contact lenses. I never looked back and have been involved in research since that day. I have spent my entire career at UNSW but have been involved in a Centre that did a lot of work with US based industry partners and for the past 18 years in a Collaborative Research Centre (Vision CRC) where we have been involved in developing new breakthrough products. I was part of the team and head of the Clinical Group that resulted in the first contact lenses that could be worn for 30 days and nights being released on the market worldwide nearly 10 years ago. My other focus of research has been developing an implantable device to correct vision – a small contact lens to be placed into the cornea that changes its shape and so corrects refractive error.

What is the best advice for a new student?
I think it is very important to have a good relationship with your supervisor and sitting down at the beginning and talking about your and their expectations is a good way to begin.
Do you have any other handy hints?
My other advice is to manage your supervisor well! Book a regular weekly or fortnightly meeting – it is easier to cancel or have a coffee catch-up if you don’t need a meeting but a bit harder to schedule time at short notice. Send an agenda and any information you want your supervisor to review at least several days before you meet. And send out brief notes and action items so you both know what has been agreed.

My other piece of advice is to discuss and always think about what you want to publish out of your work as you go along. It helps enormously when it comes to writing up if you already have a couple of the experiments/studies already published not to mention how good it looks on your CV when you are applying for a post doc or job.

What do you think are the questions facing research students these days?
A big question has always been how to get a PhD – life balance. It is really important to think about it like a job – you have to be committed but you have to have breaks and a holiday once a year too.

Do you have any plans for students in Health and Science?
Yes I do hope that there might be some students in the future that I can work with in the vision area but at present my focus is trying to make sure we provide a supportive environment for all our students.

What are your thoughts about student publishing?
Another point about publishing is to think about where you want to publish – you need to talk with your supervisor but make sure you are familiar with the journals in your sector and think about where some of the work you are doing might best fit – a methodology paper might need a different journal to your literature review and where your supervisor is publishing may not always be the right place for you to start publishing.

What excites you about being involved with research students?
Research students are really the lifeblood of a University, a College, a School and a Centre. They are the next generation of academics, research, industry scientists. There is no better experience than being involved with students as they develop their skills and understanding. By the time the PhD is completed the student has gone from a person asking many questions and looking to their supervisor for direction to a real expert in their chosen field and to be able to be part of that journey is always amazing to me.

Is there anything else you would like to add?
If you are not good at writing make sure you join a writing circle as soon as you can – it is an essential part of your thesis and the sooner you start and the more practice you get the easier it becomes!

Orientation
The 2010 Orientation for new candidates was held at Parramatta this year with special guest speaker Dr Katrina Schlunke from UTS. Katrina is a past graduate of UWS and she gave good advice about setting up and managing candidatures. Candidates were welcomed by Professor Christine Halse, Director of the Centre for Educational Research and College research leaders, Prof Debbie Sweeney (Health and Science), Prof Michael Atherton (Arts) and Prof Bobby Banerjee (Business) answered questions from the audience and in return asked questions of students.

Dion Khlentzos, School of Education and Jose Santa Maria, Centre for Education Research
College of Health and Science: Welcome to new candidates

Professor Branco Celler, Executive Dean of the College of Health and Science, and Professor Debbie Sweeney, Director of Research College of Health and Science, welcomed new students at Campbelltown and Parramatta Campus.

Candidates Elise Wright, Anwen Krause-Heuer and Ryan Hyland gave an engaging presentation and sage advice which included how to manage your supervisor, using time wisely (if waiting for an experiment to run don’t goof off but do some reading, look up things on the web etc.), use End Note; from the beginning and don’t forget to enjoy a life a well.
**School of Communication Arts**

SOCA welcomed new higher degree research and B Honours students on Friday 26th March. A/Prof Hart Cohen spoke about writing groups and retreats run by the School and upcoming reading groups. Students were introduced to key staff, including liaison librarian Kaysha Russell.

The Library provides a range of resources and services to assist you in your study and research. All higher degree students have access to liaison librarians.

A team of Liaison Librarians is available to provide discipline specific assistance, including identifying the best resources for your research, advanced searching techniques to retrieve the best search results, and setting up alerting services to maintain currency in your research field. Each new candidate will be contacted by the Library before the end of semester. You are encouraged to make an appointment with a librarian as soon as practicable to ensure the best possible start to your research. Continuing candidates requiring assistance may contact Susan Robbins, the Research Services Librarian (s.robbins@uws.edu.au or 9852 5458) who will redirect the inquiry to the most appropriate Liaison Librarian.

The Research Services Librarian is available (in conjunction with your supervisor) to assist in identifying the best possible publication avenues for your research outputs.

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**Library Services for Research Candidates**

The Library provides an extensive range of services to research candidates, some of which are outlined below.

**Training**
The Library conducts training sessions on:

- Using *EndNote* to manage references
- Getting published
- Citation Tracking for literature reviews
- Searching for patents.

Training session details, including online bookings are available at Library Website>Services>Training and Support.

**Obtaining Materials**
Our Document Delivery service borrows items not held by the UWS Library in support of your research. Journal articles and book chapters are emailed to your UWS student email account. Books will be available for collection at your nominated campus. To register for this service, and request items for loan go to Library Website>Services>Services for Postgraduate Students>Document Delivery

Research candidates may suggest books for purchase online at Library Website>Services>Services for Postgraduate Students>Suggestions for purchase

**Additional Assistance**
Library Website>Research Resources provides information on a range of research related areas from searching for theses, to locating grey literature and publishing your research output.

A full range of services for postgraduate students is available at Library Website>Services>Services for Postgraduate Students. Susan Robbins, Research Services Librarian may be contacted at s.robbins@uws.edu.au or 9852 5458.
What do you need to know about Intellectual Property as a research student at UWS? The following paragraphs will help you answer this question so you can protect your innovative ideas and inventions.

**What is IP?**
Intellectual Property (IP) results from the application of someone’s mind or intellect to create something new or original. Types of IP include patents, trade marks, designs, trade secrets, copyright, circuit layout rights, plant breeder’s rights and confidential information. IP is an asset which should be protected.

**Who is an Inventor?**
This depends on what type of IP we are talking about and it will be defined by the relevant law governing that IP. It may include anyone whose involvement and contribution was essential to the development of the invention (IP). There can be more than one inventor and may often include both students and supervisors.

**How do I protect IP?**
In a laboratory, you must maintain a Lab Book, clearly describing all methods and results, with all work signed and dated. In all other situations, maintain records to demonstrate when you developed your IP. Do not share your ideas with anyone other than your collaborators.

A great support to UWS staff and students in view of IP protection is the UWS Intellectual Property Evaluation Panel. It assists staff and students with progression of any intellectual property which may require protection and commercialisation. Simultaneously, it provides a great opportunity for UWS staff and students to present their innovations and have them assessed by experts.

The Panel is chaired by Dr Fiona Cameron, Associate Director Innovation, and consists of representatives of each School, the Office of Research Services, a patent attorney and industry specialists.

The UWS Intellectual Property Evaluation Panel convenes four times a year to hear presentations on UWS academic and student intellectual property.

The IP Evaluation Panel dates for 2010 are:
Friday, 30 April, Friday, 11 June, Friday, 8 October, Friday, 5 November

**What do I do when I create something new?**
- Talk to your supervisor and Head of School to advise them you have IP which could be protected.
- Check if your idea is really new by conducting a simple Patent & Literature Review. Contact a UWS Librarian for help using e-resources, such as SCOPUS.
- Obtain an Invention Disclosure form from UWS I&C and start documenting your IP.
- Ask the friendly team at Innovation & Consulting for advice anytime.

**Contact**
UWS Innovation & Consulting
Dr Stephan Golla, Technology Commercialisation Manager (acting), 9685 9853,

ip@uws.edu.au
**Justice Research Group**

The Justice Research Group held a series of workshops in February with some interesting topics such as “Speed Dating: Using Time-Pressures Methods to Produce Better Research”, presenter Prof Bob Hodge, and “Performing Your Thesis” presented by Prof David Tait and Dr Meredith Rossner.

Dr Meredith Rossner said that the program was a valuable opportunity to expose students to a variety of methodologies and techniques. She added that writing a thesis can be a very isolating experience, and the Justice Group is happy to provide a space where students can come together to talk about the nitty gritty of their research projects. One of the most exciting things was watching students from a range of disciplines share and learn from each other about the research process. The students responded well to group activities, and were able to collaborate successfully to carry out the required tasks.

Meredith said that a number of students had trouble reading material strategically – for a specific purpose, skimming over irrelevant sections. Organisers gave detailed suggestions about how to do this, and provided ongoing suggestions to encourage strategic reading.

While most students felt comfortable and reasonably competent producing visual representations (in this case a ‘treasure island’ of their thesis), they said they were less comfortable with other ways of presenting their research (in this case through rhythm and movement). However they could do it successfully.

**Workshops**

Have you seen the 2010 first session program?  
[http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/candidate_support#1](http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/candidate_support#1)

**Correction**

In the last edition of “Footnotes” Cathy Aggett was incorrectly listed as being enrolled in a DCA. She is not, Cathy is undertaking a PhD.
New Scholarship Policy

The Research Higher Degree Scholarship Policy – Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents applies to all scholarship holders, in addition to Conditions of Award and Degree policy.

First Cotutelle in the College of Arts

Ben Schulz is enrolled in the MARCS Research Centre and is undertaking a Cotutelle enrolment with the Université Lumiere, Lyon. The cotutelle is an agreement between two universities with the purpose of collaboration on a joint research project. The research project that Ben Schultz is undertaking is part of a broader project investigating the implicit learning of complex temporal patterns, and is funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant awarded to Kate Stevens, Barbara Tillmann, and Peter Keller (MARCS Auditory Laboratories and the School of Psychology). Ben’s project investigates the implicit learning of metrical and non-metrical rhythmic patterns using a serial reaction-time task.

The cotutelle will allow Ben to work closely with one of his supervisors (Professor Barbara Tillmann) at the Université de Lyon 2. During his stay abroad, Ben will recruit and test French participants and get experience working with international research teams, particularly the Sensory Neurosciences, Behaviour, and Cognition Lab (Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1). Ben will be able to discover, first-hand, different styles of research and learn how the research is implemented. Furthermore, Ben will be able to develop professional relationships in an early stage of his career and pursue research opportunities between the University of Western Sydney and Université de Lyon. The cotutelle agreement can lead to a double-badged doctoral degree from the two universities.

The cotutelle will increase and highlight international scientific cooperation between MARCS Auditory Laboratories at the University of Western Sydney and the Université de Lyon and pave the way for future collaborations. It will also allow both universities to improve the training of their students.

Congratulations to Elke for winning a prestigious CSIRO top up award

‘I feel very honoured to receive the scholarship from CSIRO and I’m grateful to my UWS supervisor David Ellsworth and CSIRO supervisor Anthony O’Grady for helping me attain it. My research is based in the Hawkesbury Forest Experiment and I will examining how rising carbon dioxide levels and temperature change Eucalyptus leaves.’

Elke Vermeulen

2010 Gender, Place and Culture Award for New and Emerging Scholars

Kelly Dombroski PhD candidate in the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy has been named runner up in the 2010 Gender, Place and Culture Award for New and Emerging Scholars.

Kelly will use the Award towards travel, accommodation and conference registration costs in order to participate in the Contemporary Ethnography across the Disciplines (CEAD) Conference which be held from 17-19 November 2010 in Hamilton, New Zealand.

Kelly will present a paper entitled “Poor mothers are not poor mothers: possibilities for social change in an awkward cross cultural engagement” She is also intending to present another paper “Mothering in a diverse economy: more than just work” at the Connecting Women, Respecting Differences Conference that will also be held in Hamilton directly after the first, from 19-21 November 2010.
Arts Conference; Sharing New Knowledge

Close to 100 candidates made presentations at the 4th College of Arts Higher degree Conference; “Sharing New Knowledge”. They were joined by their supervisors and invited guests, including Professor Handel Wright from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

School of Social Sciences Research Student Retreat

Staff and students spent two days in Blackheath at a research retreat discussing their research, sharing ideas and hearing from guest presenters. It was an excellent opportunity to spend a block amount of time reflecting on progress and planning the next stages of candidature.
**Scholarship opportunity**

**Discovery Postgraduate Research Award**  
*Corporate and Institutional Strategies for Climate Change: An International Comparative Study*

The College of Business is seeking an excellent candidate to undertake an Australian Research Council-funded project commencing in 2010.

**About the project**

This research project will advance knowledge about one of the most significant yet poorly understood problems facing the world today – global climate change. It will create greater understanding about how interactions between market, state and civil society actors shape climate change strategies. By conducting a comparative analysis of climate change strategy in Australia, Germany, the UK and the US the research will provide a database of best practices in climate change strategy and policy. The project is significant because it will build knowledge on how business firms can develop new climate-specific capabilities. The findings can help policy makers, managers and interest groups develop more proactive climate change strategie

Contact Professor Bobby Banerjee to discuss the project: *b.banerjee@uws.edu.au*, 0414 017 345

Contact the Research Scholarships Development Officer to discuss scholarships and enrolment at UWS: Tracy Mills, *t.mills@uws.edu.au*, +61 2 4736 0966

Visit the web for information about the research currently being undertaken in the College of Business:  

**Closing date** 16 April 2010.