



footnotes

UWS Office of Research Services

uwsresearchstudentnewsletterWinter2009



Dean of Research Studies Professor Lesley Wilkes

Welcome to the 2009 academic year. We've had a busy start with some policy changes and adjustments. One of the most important for candidates who are in the early stages is an amendment to the range of time available for completing a Confirmation of Candidature. The new time allows for completion within 3 months. There is a general expectation that all full time candidates will have completed their Confirmation within 6 months. The new times reflect changes to the Ethics approval process where the merit and integrity aspects of the proposal are judged as part of the Confirmation of Candidature.

Once again, I remind all of you to regularly check your student email account. Even if you have a staff email account you must also access your student account as the university is obliged to use it for all correspondence.

Teaching. Teaching opportunities for research students capture the expertise and enthusiasm of doctoral candidates and provide opportunities for candidates to develop teaching, communication and organisation skills.


However, you should be careful to balance your workload. Have a look at your scholarship conditions, it is recommended that you spend no more than 8 hours per week on teaching and this should include preparation and marking time.

Extensions. From time to time candidates may need to apply for an extension of either candidature or scholarship. It is important when I am reading your application that I can see you have a sound plan for completion and I can gauge what has already been achieved. To help your application always include a timeline that clearly states how much you have completed and what needs to be done.

I hope you all have a successful year and I look forward to hearing about your progress. Please use resources that are available to you and ask questions if you are unsure.

Congratulations to the School of Medicine

The School of Medicine has attracted a large number of new research candidates in 2009. The increased number of research candidates in Medicine will broaden the research profile of UWS. Professor John Morley, School Research Co-ordinator, says that "Current research students in the School of Medicine are involved in a diverse range of stimulating and novel research programs, from basic biomedical and clinical sciences to medical education, population and mental health. The postgraduate research students are an integral part of the research being undertaken within the School of Medicine, and contribute significantly to the development of a strong research culture within the School".



DCA Candidate Jean Bunton's work performed in Hong Kong

Jean Bunton's hour long musical, part of her Doctor of Creative Arts (DCA) degree, was performed by the Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra. Jean has a commission to turn her honours work--Sing the Sounds of English--into a musical and her next work for the DCA is also wanted for performance in Hong Kong.

The Magic Jungle is a 60 minute piece written for chamber orchestra, narrator, two children actors/singers and a singing monkey! Through a series of adventures Max the Monkey takes Rosie and Tim to his home in The Magic Jungle. Here they discover that every animal in the jungle can play a musical instrument - the hippo plays the piccolo, the baboon plays the bassoon. One by one they are dazzled by the sounds of The Magic Jungle. Meanwhile, there is trouble afoot as the villainous snake who plays the oboe seeks to create disharmony by turning the other animal's instruments into woodblocks!

With its narration, lively music, songs and special effects, The Magic Jungle provides children as young as three and above, with an unforgettable introduction to the instruments of the orchestra.

Jean Bunton, originally from England, lived in Hong Kong for 23 years before coming to Australia. She has worked as a writer of educational children's books, published by Pearsons (North Asia), Commercial Press (HK) and more recently by The People's Educational Press, Beijing. After arriving in Australia, Jean started studying music at the University of Western Sydney. She is currently doing a Doctorate in Composition with Dr Bruce Crossman and Dr Diana Blom.

Jean comments: "Last year I collaborated with the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong in a CD recording entitled Sing the Sounds of English. The CD is a collection of 27 songs which contain all 44 phonemes of the International Phonetic Alphabet. The songs are especially designed to help Chinese children learn English pronunciation in a fun way." This CD will also be launched at the world premiere of The Magic Jungle.



Characters from "The Magic Jungle"



Flowers for Jean



The orchestra playing "The Magic Jungle"

Orientation Day, March 1st

UWS held an orientation morning for new research candidates on March 1st. There are 100 new candidates in 2009. This is one of the biggest intakes of new research candidates in recent years. The three Associate Deans Research, Professor Michael Atherton (College of Arts), Professor Bobby Banerjee (College of Business) and Professor Shelley Burgin (College of Health and Science), addressed the new candidates at the orientation.



Professor Atherton
(photo by Sally Tsoutas)

Professor Atherton spoke about the importance of writing. He said that writing cannot be learnt but must be done and that successful researchers should welcome criticism as an aspect of critical thinking. He suggested that students write daily, often and always and said that constant writing lessens ones anxiety about the blank page. Writing is the capturing of one's thoughts and it can be difficult. Professor Atherton suggested that candidates think about types of writing and attempt many, including various applications, seminar papers, abstracts, confirmations of candidature documents, posters, speed papers, full conference papers, journal articles, the thesis and books.

Professor Atherton recommended that candidates read Bruce Kaplan's "Editing Made Easy" (Penguin) and the essay "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell.

Professor Banerjee spoke about the supervisory relationship and how it is in the interests of the candidate to manage the relationship. The penalty for failure is much higher for the candidate and inadequate supervision is the major cause of unsuccessful candidatures. Professor Banerjee said that each supervisor may need more or less managing and that the supervisory relationship is substantially different from previous teaching relationships.

In a research degree the candidate is taught how to think, rather than what to think and the relationship is more akin to mentorship with a sharing of interests. Professor Banerjee encouraged candidates to have regular meetings and to produce strong first drafts. He cautioned that merely turning up to see a supervisor is not a meeting. Candidates need to produce evidence of their work and demonstrate independence of thinking and the ability to work well without direct supervision and this may take some practice.



Professor Banerjee talking about candidate expectations

Professor Banerjee encouraged candidates to think about what they want from their supervisors. He strongly advised candidate to clarify the nature of any joint publications early in the candidature.

The UWS Research Code of Practice has advice on authorship and is available on the UWS policy pages at <http://policies.uws.edu.au/view.current.php?id=00166#p10>

Professor Shelley Burgin, Associate Dean Research in the College of Health and Science spoke about Intellectual Property and Occupational Health and Safety.

Professor Burgin advised candidates to use laboratory books, where suitable, to protect intellectual property



Professor Shelley Burgin

by documenting progress. Entries should be signed by the candidate and countersigned by the principal supervisor. Professor Burgin said that field work was about risk management and simple measures such as letting someone know what you are doing, taking a companion if possible, being properly prepared, reporting on return and recording reflections as well as data were important measures to help ensure your safety.

See the UWS Policy pages for Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures, <http://policies.uws.edu.au/masterlist.php>

Associate Professor Kate Stevens, MARCS Auditory Laboratories and Associate Head of School Psychology, spoke as a past graduate and as an experienced supervisor and researcher. Kate said that her supervisor gave her excellent advice in urging her to take opportunities and this has led to wide range of research collaborations from the air transport field to performing arts. Kate urged candidates to work their supervisors, use any resources available, and participate in as many research activities as possible.



Kirsten Robertson-Gilham and Claire Scobie.

Kirsten and Claire had previously met when Claire wrote an article for the Sydney Morning Herald on Kirsten's work as a music therapist. Since then Kirsten has completed a research masters degree at UWS in one year and both Claire and Kirsten have been awarded scholarships at UWS to undertake doctorates. Kirsten will continue her work with music therapy and Claire will study eighteenth century Indian culture in a Doctor of Creative Arts.



Joel Graham and Tessa Lunney

Joel's PhD title is "Effect of Cultural Assumptions of Liberalism on Multicultural Theory and Practice". Joel is enrolled in the School of Humanities and Languages. Asked about his doctoral ambitions Joel replied: "I'm doing a PhD in the school of Humanities and Languages focusing on cultural studies in general and multicultural theory and policy in particular. I chose UWS not only because of its many cultural research centres, but also the multicultural campus life. I hope to change the world for the better, but will settle for being an academic and being able to give students and others a slightly more nuanced view of life and each other".

Tessa is enrolled in the School of Communication Arts. Tessa says "My PhD is half creative and half academic, so I'll be writing a novel and an exegesis. I'm looking at the Australian war experience in Australian literature, and how traumatic war experiences are spoken about - or more importantly, not spoken about. I'm interested in the idea of silence around traumatic war experiences, and how this 'silence' manifests - is it literal, or couched in humorous anecdotes, or are code words and euphemisms employed? The novel is about 3 generations of an Australian war family, from WW2 to now, and their experiences of the wars Australia has been involved in".

Danielle and Susan are both enrolled in the School of Medicine. Danielle hopes to achieve a better understanding of health status of Vietnam-born Australians, especially those with diabetes and perceived characteristics of health services which are culturally and linguistically appropriate.



Danielle Tran, Susan D'Silva, and Sumudu Wijetunge.

Susan: "I'm trying to make my 9 to 5 job of Tumour Banking easier for myself and my fellow Tumour Bank Officers'. When I tell this to lay people the question that invariably follows is, 'What's Tumour Banking?' Tumour banking is the collection and distribution of human tissue used in cancer research.

Sumudu's topic is "Passive Wireless Sensor Networks for Structural Health Monitoring" and he will investigate the suitability of the emerging technology of "Passive wireless sensor networks" on the application of "Structural Health Monitoring" of structures, such as large buildings, bridges, towers, etc. Sumudu is enrolled in the School of Engineering.



Elizabeth Salisbury, Michael Thompson, and David Rosenberg.

Elizabeth, School of Medicine, is researching mucinous tumours of the breast and other organs.

Michael is enrolled in the School of Marketing and will use complexity science to understand complex marketing systems. He hopes to meet a variety of interesting people and learn about the research that inspires them.

David said of his project: "Selective education in NSW presents a unique opportunity to cater for the needs of gifted students. Unfortunately, this opportunity is under-utilised as students are taught using the same curricula that are used in comprehensive public schools. I am interested in assessing the expectations of students in selective schools with regard to learning mathematics, comparing their testimonies with the findings of prominent research in the area, and developing recommendations for ways in which the curricula can be better adjusted". David is enrolled in the School of Education.



Orientation Day participants chatting at lunch time.



Dr Rachel Morley, School of Communication Arts

Many Schools and Research Centres also held orientation days for their candidates to acquaint them with their new environment.

Dr Rachel Morley, a new full-time academic at UWS, spoke at the School of Communication Arts orientation for new research candidates and Bachelor Honours students. Rachel submitted her PhD at Macquarie University in January 2009 and was therefore able to share some insights about her recent doctoral experience.

In her presentation Rachel spoke of the importance of fostering and maintaining a community dedicated to intellectual engagement in order to stimulate ideas and provide an outlet for intellectual creativity. She recommended doing some teaching as a way of giving students a sense of ongoing accomplishment connected to study (the completed thesis can seem so far away), but also warned about letting teaching intrude on doctoral work. Rachel also encouraged candidates to take up a hobby where it was ok to make mistakes without fear of consequence. The trick for Rachel was playing the saxophone but for others it might be sport or something else. Balancing social life became an issue with friends who saw "study time" as negotiable, i.e. it could be put off, but she found they were more accepting of her unavailability when she said she was "working" as work time was something friends could relate to more readily. Rachel's doctoral study, 'Re-membering Michael Field: Scenes from a Biographical Praxis', took an ethnographic approach to exploring and documenting the experience of engaging in biographical research and was based on her own experience of researching and writing about the Victorian poets Katharine Bradley and Edith Cooper, also known as the 'Michael Fields'. She is now looking forward to taking up a new role in the supervisory relationship as part of her own continued enjoyment in contributing to the scholarly community.

Resources Corner Quick links

Use this link

http://www.uws.edu.au/research/research_candidates/candidate_support

for connections to:

- Workshops
- On-Line Workshops for Higher Degree Research
- Mathematical and Statistical Analysis Support
- Candidature Project Funds
- Conference Scholarships

UWS Policy pages

<http://policies.uws.edu.au/masterlist.php>

Like to find out more about "Self Editing"?

Try this on line resources (vUWS):

<http://elearning.uws.edu.au/webct/urw/lc5116001.tp0/cobaltMainFrame.dowebct>

and follow these links:

- Higher Degree Research
- Final Stages
- Self-edit your thesis



Postgraduate Essentials First Year

Postgraduate Essentials is an on-line orientation program bought on licence from the University of Melbourne. It has six modules covering issues such as getting started, being organised, working with your supervisor, ethics, literature, writing and confirmation. There is non-interactive module available for supervisors.

Here are some quotes from the current 2009 program:

"I found all modules really helpful. They were well structured and provided useful information and links to useful information. At first I thought this was going to be chore and another hurdle to jump that I didn't need. Then, as I progressed through the modules I quickly realised their relevance and importance. Even the module on writing a literature review I found really helpful. I say 'even' as I thought I had a pretty good understanding of what was involved in this aspect - how limited and superficial my knowledge was.

I also found the 'support' module which outlined the assistance available from the library a great resource.

All the modules, as I stated earlier, are useful and pertinent.

I have been printing off these modules and filing them so that I can refer to them over the next three years. That is another fantastic feature of this online course - the fact that you can print off the information and store it for later use.

Coming from another University that doesn't have any support or at best limited support for postgrad students I realise how lucky I am to have been granted a place at UWS."

Postgraduate Essentials Completion and Beyond

Postgraduate Essentials: Completion and Beyond is a resource-rich, interactive online academic skills program for final-year PhD candidates. It is designed to assist candidates complete their thesis as well as prepare for life after the PhD. UWS plans to introduce "Completion and Beyond" in second session 2009.

Completion and Beyond was written with an eye to the two prime academic and intellectual imperatives of early career researchers. These imperatives can best be described as the pursuit of an original contribution to academia in the form of a substantial piece of scholarly writing, and the process of connecting that specific piece of research to the ability to successfully transition out of the academy into employment. In short, the work this course attempts to do is help doctoral candidates make the transition from 'student' to 'expert'.

The focus of the material presented throughout Completion and Beyond tends toward the shared endeavours of being a researcher, rather than drilling into the specificities of individual disciplines. As well as ensuring equal access for candidates across the University, this decision served a pedagogic function. In a climate where universities are increasingly encouraging academic staff to seek cross-disciplinary 'linkages' with other academics or industry positions, it is imperative that PhD candidates are trained out of focusing all of their research energies in departmental 'silos'. Although there are substantial differences between how a humanities PhD candidate views their relationship to the task of writing compared to their colleagues in Engineering, they share a common enterprise of writing for research audiences, working with academic protocols and aiming for similar outcomes. Knowing this enables candidates from one discipline not only to appreciate the work and experiences of people from other disciplines but also enables support and assistance to be sought from different places.

Completion and Beyond is a comprehensive independent study program to support PhD candidates through the tough, and at times isolating, final months of candidature as well as to encourage them in thinking and planning beyond the PhD.

Completion and Beyond is comprised of six distinct modules:

- Writing to Finish
- The Editing Clinic
- Submission and Examination
- Maintaining Momentum
- The Changing Nature of Supervision
- Beyond the PhD

Prizes and Scholarships

Sponsor: Australian Museum

Eureka Prizes

Science Communication and Journalism

http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=91750&_ksTicket=612305243bcc9b90e30154028038fd68&_ksExpires=2009040300:00:00

Sponsor: Royal Historical Society (RHS)

http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=54382&_ksTicket=d8b9ffeb31d9cf722f66aba64f58daa1&_ksExpires=2009040300:00:00

Call for Entries: Screenwriter's Project

Indiefest Independent Film Festival and Market

http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=32723&_ksTicket=bee6beb1d10e41e3883fcd17099d68e9&_ksExpires=2009040300:00:00

School of Engineering

Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry)

Project Title: Geotechnical Characterisation of Compacted Ground Based on Passive Ambient Noise Techniques

Level: PhD

Stipend: \$26,669 per annum

Summary: The compaction of deep fills is a challenging geotechnical problem which can have a significant impact on the viability of a civil engineering project and on the types of infrastructure supportable by the fills. This project aims to develop an innovative, low cost non-classical method for assessing the quality of compacted fills based on passive ambient noise techniques and by calibration of the soil properties to beneficial effect of compaction that are currently not available.

Contact: Assoc Prof Chin Leo, Email: c.leo@uws.edu.au, Phone: +61 2 4736 0058

Applications close: 17 April 2009

Fulbright Sponsored and Endowed Scholarships

Full details and applications forms are available at:

<http://www.fulbright.com.au/scholarships/australian/postgraduate.html>

The following scholarships are sponsored by industry or government OR endowed through donations from business, individuals, governments and/or universities and are offered in specific fields of study:

- Science and Engineering sponsored by BHP Billiton
- Technology and Communication sponsored by Telstra

The following scholarship is open to applicants in all fields of study, however have specific eligibility requirements.

- Indigenous Scholarship supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Applicants are encouraged to consider Fulbright sponsored and endowed Scholarships as these scholarships offer the opportunity to develop wider networks. Applicants who apply for a Fulbright sponsored and endowed scholarship are also automatically considered for a Fulbright General Scholarship.

Current Australian Postgraduate Scholarship holders are encouraged to apply.

Postgraduate Scholarship Benefits Include:

- Travel entitlement of A\$4,700
- Stipend of US\$2,150 per month for a maximum of 12 months
- Establishment allowance of US\$2000
- Excess baggage allowance of US\$100

Duration

- Fulbright Postgraduate Scholars must spend a minimum of one academic year (8-12 months) in the U.S., the majority of time should be at their host institution.
- Fulbright funding is for the first 12 months only and applicants must demonstrate they have sufficient additional funds to support themselves and any dependants during their stay in the U.S.
- Fulbright scholarships support one academic year, applicants are able to extend their stay but without funding from the Fulbright Commission.

Australian Young Generation in Nuclear

Australian Young Generation in Nuclear aims to develop professional networks in Australia and internationally between young researchers engaged in nuclear fuel cycle activities and technologies. For more information about joining contact Mark Alexander, ANSTO mark.alexander@ansto.gov.au

Neutron School 16-21 Aug 2009 at ANSTO

This year's neutron school at ANSTO will be held 16-21 August 2009 under the auspices of the Asia-Oceania Neutron Scattering Association – AONSA, see

http://www.ansto.gov.au/research/bragg_institute/current_research/conferences_and_workshops/second_aonsa_neutron_school_2009.

This school provides training for newcomers to neutron scattering focussing on nanoscience. We will not only have lectures, but also practical sessions with hands-on experiments and data analysis. All neutron techniques (available at ANSTO) will be covered in the school, i.e. powder diffraction, single-crystal diffraction, strain scanning, small-angle scattering, reflectometry, and inelastic scattering using three-axis spectrometers. The participation fee is 200AUD.

Applicants should submit an abstract outlining their scientific interests with relation to neutron scattering. The template can be downloaded from

http://www.ansto.gov.au/research/bragg_institute/current_research/conferences_and_workshops/second_aonsa_neutron_school_2009/abstract or see attached.

Deadline for abstracts is 28 April 2009.

You are welcome to contact the Bragg User Office under bragg-user-office@ansto.gov.au for more information.

**Footnotes is produced by the Office of
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For comments and contributions please
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