

footnotes

UWS Office of Research Services

uwsresearchstudentnewsletterApril2012

The Seven Secrets of Highly Successful PhD Students

Dr Hugh Kearns, Flinders University, presented this workshop to a full audience. Hugh's ideas are practical and he gives great examples of how to make the advice really work. Hugh recently returned to Australia after presenting his workshops at universities across the UK and USA.

The seven secrets revolve around the following main points

- » Care and maintenance of your supervisor
- » Write and show as you go: This is show and tell not hide and seek
- » Be realistic: It's not a Nobel Prize
- » Say no to distractions: Even the fun ones and the ones you think you must do
- » It's a job: That means working nine to five but you get holidays
- » Get help: You are not an owner-operator single person business
- » You can do it: A PhD is 90% persistence and 10% intelligence

Student comments

Great workshop, thank you

Hugh was thoroughly engaging and clearly very in touch with PhD student needs, anxieties and problems

This workshop is very useful for PhD students, it should be organised annually

I thoroughly enjoyed it! Excellent use of humour and the content was very easy to understand. The tips provided can be easily implemented and it gives me hope.



Hugh watching on as students rate their performance against the secrets.



This, and other titles, are available at;
<http://ithinkwell.com.au/bookshop.php>



Open Access Videos

Hopefully, you are all aware of the attended workshop program offered to HDR students at UWS.

No?

See; http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/candidate_support

In addition we've posted four new video short versions of some of the workshops, link on the same page;

- » *Importance of the Library*, Lisa Armitage
- » *Writing Your Literature Review*, Dr Claire Aitchison
- » *Introduction to SPSS*, Dr Maureen Morris
- » *Online lecture: How to create and enter SPSS files*, Dr Maureen Morris

New videos will be created in the coming months and added as they become available. Next topic; Thesis Examination.

The Australian Association of Writing Programs

UWS Writing and Society doctoral candidate Michael Richardson is the winner of the **AAWP's 2011 Coop Bookshop Postgraduate Prize**.

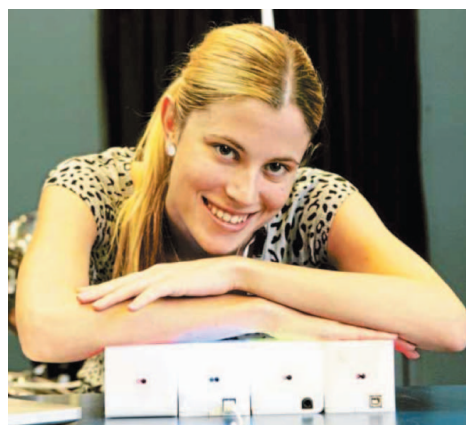
The Postgraduate Prize for best conference paper is open to Postgraduate conference participants each year. The competition encourages excellence in research and scholarship in Creative Writing, and rewards Postgraduate research candidates participating in the AAWP conference for their achievements in writing exemplary conference papers.

The title of Michael's work is *Who Speaks? Torture and the Ethics of Voice*

Comment by one of the judges:

"Who Speaks?" is a profound interrogation of the ethics of writing torture. Richardson refuses to hold himself apart from his writing, his choice of torture as subject, and the terrifying world we live in where 'ethics twist in the inescapable affective dynamics of biopower'. This refusal to remain separate – the willingness to implicate himself, and by extension his reader – demonstrates great personal courage. While I don't envy Richardson his journey, I admire him for exploring the human capacity to harm, something we too often turn away from. Richardson writes with eloquence and unflinching resolve, ordering his thoughts and arguments in a deeply considered, embodied and structurally potent way: a twist in three movements".

Music Cubes Help Hospital Patients

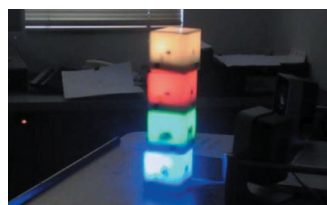


Samantha Ewart

Samantha Ewart, doctoral candidate in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts has been in the news lately. Samantha received the Women of the West's Highly Commended award and her innovative work has been widely reported in the press.

Samantha has developed "music cubes", coloured boxes with instrument sounds that can be used to build compositions. The music cubes light up and change colours when they are turned. Samantha's research shows that hospitalised teens found the cubes alleviated boredom. "I found that the Music Cubes were received very positively by young people in hospital because they could either interact individually or in a group, which can help promote wellbeing through socialisation," Samantha says. She said a group of hospital patients could have a party with the cubes, turning different sounds on to whatever beat they liked.

Samantha's project will continue at The Children's Hospital in Westmead during school holidays throughout 2012.



Samantha's music cubes

Welcome to New Students



Orientation and welcome to new HDR candidates at Parramatta, March 21st 2012



Prof Wayne McKenna Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Research (centre) chatting with new students at lunch



Prof Wayne McKenna, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Research and Prof Andrew Cheetham, PVC Research at the welcome lunch

Three Presentations

Wanasinghe Chandrasena, a PhD student of Centre for Positive Psychology and Education (Formerly: E³ Research Program, Centre for Educational Research), Bankstown Campus, University of Western Sydney has made three conference presentations during the period from November to December, 2011. His research title is "A study of the relations between students' self-concepts, motivation, aspirations and achievement in high school science and chemistry" and it is conducted under the supervision of Prof. Rhonda Craven, Dr. Danielle Tracey and Dr. Anthony Dillon of University of Western Sydney. He has made two oral presentations at the Inaugural Annual Higher Degree Research Student-led Conference held at University of New South Wales on 4th November, 2011 and one poster presentation at UWS Research

Festival (RESCOM) 2011 held at Bankstown Campus, University of Western Sydney from 5th to 7th December, 2011. He also contributed to the UWS open day programme last year by making a three minute thesis presentation as he was the winner of the Three Minute Thesis competition held at Centre for Educational Research, University of Western Sydney.



Wanasinghe Chandrasena

Multi-tasking; academic style



Prof Michael Atherton reading a draft of Dorian Thorpe's exegesis while keeping an eye on the line.

Idle moment? Here's a little light reading;

How not to do a poster

How do I start my discussion chapter?

Twitter for PhD candidates

Self plagiarism and online publication... some musings

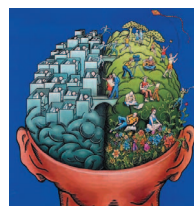
Solitude and creativity

Academic Conferences

Links courtesy of



thesiswhisperer and



researchwhisper

Royal Reward for Researcher



Professor Margaret Kartomi and Mr Kemal Sjachdinata, grandson of the Governor of Lampung

A Monash University researcher has been made Queen for her work in reconstructing the origins of the Indonesian province of Lampung's traditional musical instruments.

Professor Margaret Kartomi from the University's School of Music – Conservatorium, was invited by the Governor of Lampung, Drs Sjachroeddin ZP, to take the formal title of 'Ratu Berlian Sangun Anggun' which translates to 'Beautiful Queen Jewel'. The title is normally reserved for Lampung clan members and formerly for royalty.

Professor Kartomi began researching Lampung traditional music in 1983. One of her major achievements has been the discovery of the gamolan which was historically used by people in northern and north-western Lampung but was almost lost in contemporary times.



Replacing the needle and thread approach to repairing wounds



*Matthew Barton, PhD
candidate School of Medicine*

Matthew Barton was on the Science Show on Radio National talking about his development of an alternative to the suturing of wounds.

Matthew explained that suturing is a thousands of years old technology with dangerous potential complications such as

inflammation and scar tissue formation, pain and potential foreign body immune reactions. Current surgical alternatives such as gels, solders, and glues can be toxic or too weak to hold tissue together.

Matthew's work is focusing on photochemical tissue bonding, a technique that provides tissue sealing using a laser. Photochemical tissue bonding combines visible green laser light to activate a photosensitive dye called rose bengal which is mixed with a chitosan to bond adjacent nerve ends whilst remaining extremely flexible, so flexible in fact you can actually use it for keyhole surgery. As a bonus, it's also anti-microbial, thus preventing wound infection. The chitosan is sourced from the exoskeletons of crabs where it allows muscles and tissues in the animal to bind to the inside of the exoskeleton and act as a support.

Early results have shown that the chitosan adhesive has proved to bond firmly to tissue upon laser exposure with minimal heat production, while clearly showing that the adhesive is non-toxic and flexible within the body.

The chitosan adhesive has the potential to improve the outcome of peripheral nerve repair, as well as for other tissue applications. It can be integrated, for example, in a bandage, with agents that repair tissue and enhance healing without the need for sutures. For this reason the chitosan adhesive represents a major advancement for nerve repair when compared to other methods. Presently we are not using the chitosan film in humans as we are still testing it with animals. But because of its bonding strength, its lack of inflammatory and scarring response and non-toxic nature, we hope to see it used in surgery before too long.

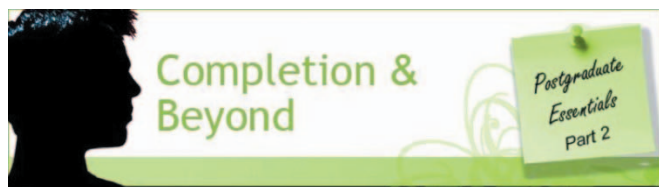
Says Matthew "So far the project has been extremely exciting and a steep learning curve for me. I've had to learn some of the skills of a microsurgeon, which has been a challenge, considering my gorilla hands. But the rewards are high. Following further work, we hope to radically improve the procedures and outcomes in this intricate area of surgery."

Read the full transcript or listen to the podcast at;

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/>

Saturday March 24th 2012.

Completions and Beyond and access to Turnitin



Turnitin is an online web-based text-matching software that identifies and reports on similarities between documents and is widely utilised as a tool to improve academic writing skills and identify plagiarism, unintended or otherwise. HDR candidates can access a secure Turnitin site in the on-line module, Completions and Beyond hosted in vUWS.

Email Mary Krone, m.krone@uws.edu.au for access, check in vUWS first.

Graduating in April?

Congratulations.

But don't leave us yet. Tell us about your research student experiences. You will be contacted about the UWS Research Student Satisfaction Survey and the government sponsored PREQ questionnaire. Please complete them, we really do want to know what your research education experience has been like and to listen to your suggestions.

Footnotes is produced by the Office of Research Services.

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