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## Message from the Dean



I am very pleased to update you on a number of recent changes made by the Vice-Chancellor regarding support for research and research training at UNSW.

In addition to my current role as Dean of Graduate Research, I have been appointed to the new position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Strategy). In addition to my current responsibilities for higher degree research training and the Graduate Research School, in this new role I will be working closely with the DVC (Research) in the generation of external research income and improving UNSW's overall research performance matters.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Dianne Wiley to the new position of Senior Associate Dean, Graduate Research. In this important new role, Dianne will work with me in ensuring the provision of high quality services and support for all higher degree research students. A profile of Professor Wiley appears later in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact either Dianne or myself regarding any higher degree research issues.

A second important change for research students is a new policy, approved by the UNSW Academic Board, regarding the format of PhD theses submitted for examination. In exceptional cases, Faculty Higher Degree Committees may now approve submission of a thesis for examination in the format of a series of publications. Please ensure you read the full policy and guidelines outlined later in the newsletter, and discuss the best format for your research to be presented in your thesis to pass examination, with your supervisor and postgraduate coordinator.

Margaret M Harding  
Dean of Graduate Research

### Important Dates & Upcoming Events

- 2 June - PRSS Opens, apply thru [MyUNSW](#)
- 4 June - Communication for Research Students ([Counselling Service](#))
- 4 June - Interviewing Skills for Academic & Research Positions ([Careers & Employment](#))
- 5 June - PhD What Next? Career Options After Your PhD ([Careers & Employment](#))
- 9 June - Queens Birthday Public Holiday
- 18 June - International Researchers Unite ([ISS](#))

## New Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Research

Meet the new Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Research – Professor Dianne Wiley.

Professor Wiley, who took up her appointment as Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Research in May, holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering and brings a wealth of research and management experience to the newly created role. She was Acting Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at UNSW in 2008, having previously served as Associate Dean (Academic) from 2005-2007, Associate Dean (Research Training) from 2003-2005 and Associate Dean (Education and Information Technology) from 2000-2002.

'Research students are key to building the research reputation of the University and the Graduate Research School plays an important role in supporting and assisting them' Professor Wiley said of her new role as Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Research at UNSW.

An internationally renowned Chemical Engineer, Professor Wiley is a fellow and member of many professional organisations, and was the Deputy Director of the UNESCO



**Professor Dianne Wiley**

Centre for Membrane Science and Technology for 7 years. Apart from design of membrane systems for water treatment and gas separation, her other major research focuses on the economic and technical assessment of technologies for carbon capture and storage (CCS) sometimes known as geosequestration. This latter research is funded by the CRC for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC).

Professor Wiley can be contacted in the Graduate Research School via email at: [d.wiley@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.wiley@unsw.edu.au). Please feel free to contact Professor Wiley regarding any higher degree research issues.

## PhD Students Attend TechFest 2008

NICTA Enhanced PhD students were given the opportunity to attend TechFest 2008 – the annual event showcasing National ICT Australia (NICTA) achievements.

This year's event was held at the Canberra NICTA laboratory. UNSW PhD students displayed their networking skills meeting students and researchers from the other NICTA laboratories in Canberra, Brisbane and Victoria.

NICTA's 'Impact Awards' were presented by CEO David Skellern to the highest achieving researchers and support staff. The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy spoke about the value of NICTA to the ICT industry in Australia on the second day of the event.

For further details on TechFest see [http://www.nicta.com.au/nicta\\_events/techfest](http://www.nicta.com.au/nicta_events/techfest)

## Submission of a Thesis as a Series of Publications

The new Academic Board Policy on the format of theses submitted for examination, including Faculty specific guidelines, may be obtained by downloading the "Thesis Submission and Examination@UNSW" document from the Graduate Research School website (see link below).



Important points to note:

- the decision on whether this is the most appropriate format for your thesis will be made by the Faculty Higher Degree Committee
- almost all students publish research during the course of their candidature; however this does not mean that the research in the thesis should be presented in this format
- approval for submission in this format will be made in exceptional cases only
- research students should discuss their thesis submission with members of the review panel at their third year annual review and seek the advice from their supervisor, postgraduate coordinator, and the Chair of the Faculty Higher Degree Committee at least 6 months in advance of the planned submission date.

<http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/currentstudents/thesiskit/thesissubmission.pdf>

## PhD What Next? Career Options After Your PhD

UNSW Careers & Employment are presenting an information session for PhD students on Thursday 5th June, 4 - 6pm, Central Lecture Block, Theatre 4. Guest Speakers have been invited from Academic, Public, Industry & Research to speak to students about career opportunities in these sectors after completing your PhD.

Register to attend at <http://www.careers.unsw.edu.au/careerEd/workshops>

## UNSW Research Students in the News

Mushin Karim, PhD student in the School of Psychiatry, had his research recently profiled in the Education section of the Sydney Morning Herald Education. The article described Mushin's current research area where Mushin is helping to build a robotic hand as part of the Thinking Systems Groups, UNSW Brain Sciences. Mushin is currently supervised by Michael Breakspear who was also profiled in this section.



Emma Macdonald, PhD student in the School of Marketing, was recently profiled in the May edition of the Campus Review. The article was featured in the Faculty Focus section of the publication and highlighted Emma's research focus and her experiences as a research student at UNSW.

## NSW Scientist of the Year Awards - Now Open

The NSW Office for Science & Medical Research has called for nominations in the inaugural NSW Scientist of the Year Awards. These awards recognise and reward the state's leading researchers for cutting edge work that generates economic, health, environmental or technological benefits for NSW.

Eight research awards of \$5,000 each will be granted to individuals and one award of \$40,000 for the NSW Scientist of the year.

These awards are open to individual researchers who are Citizens or Permanent Residents of Australia, who have been resident in the State of NSW for more than 3 years. The nominated work must have been undertaken in the last 5 years, with the majority having been conducted in the State of NSW.

Nominations for the NSW Scientist of the Year Awards will be accepted up until 20 June 2008.



For further information please visit: [http://www.osmr.nsw.gov.au/science\\_communication/science\\_promotion/scientist\\_of\\_the\\_year](http://www.osmr.nsw.gov.au/science_communication/science_promotion/scientist_of_the_year)

If you are interested in being nominated for this award, or wish to nominate a colleague at UNSW, please contact Paul Ashworth, Manager, Award & Prizes for detailed assistance, Ph: 9385 2011 Email: [P.Ashworth@unsw.edu.au](mailto:P.Ashworth@unsw.edu.au).

## UNSW Student Awards & Achievements

### COFA PhD Student Antarctica Animation

Congratulations to Lisa Roberts, COFA PhD Media Arts student, who was invited to contribute to the Sur Polar: Arte en Antartida (South Pole: Art of Antarctica) held at the National University of Tres de Febrero in Buenos Aires to share knowledge and experiences of Antarctica with each other and the public through talks, presentations, screenings, performances, an exhibition of artworks, and a catalogue.

Lisa received funding to attend this event from UNSW and her contribution was a screening of '42 days', an animated response to the Antarctic landscape, which she made after traveling there in 2002 with the Australian Antarctic Division as an Antarctic



Arts Fellow, and of some recent animations made as part of her PhD research.

Lisa's understanding of what she, as an Artist, can contribute to understanding the changing landscape of Antarctica has been deepened through such engagements with people at this event, all working in different disciplines in the arts and sciences.

Lisa is supervised by Michele Barker at COFA.

## UNSW@ADFA Research Students Excel

Congratulations to Sudantha Balage, PhD student in the School of Aerospace, Civil and Mechanical Engineering (ACME) at UNSW@ADFA. Sudantha has won an ARIA award to spend time at CIRA (Italian Aerospace Research centre) in Capua, Italy. These grants are awarded to Canberra-based researchers to 'recognise excellence in research cooperation between the ACT and Italy and foster further research activity'.

Sudantha has been invited as a visiting researcher to CIRA by the Head of Space Programs and the Head of Aerothermodynamics and Space Propulsions Laboratory of CIRA. Sudantha intends to spend the time at CIRA to extend his work on re-entry aerodynamics of space capsules to incorporate the reacting flow gas dynamics.

## SPIE Scholarship Awarded to UNSW Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering Student

Congratulations to Raul Zimmerman, PhD student in the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, who was recently awarded the SPIE Scholarship in Optical Science and Engineering in the amount of \$1000.

SPIE is the world's largest international not-for-profit society in the fields of optics, photonics, and imaging with 17,000 individual members including 3,800 students.



Sudantha is currently supervised by Prof Russell Boyce, Dr Neil Mudford and Dr Sean O'Byrne.

PhD student Barkat Ullah has been awarded a travel grant from the 2008 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO). This is one of the world's top two conferences in the field of evolutionary computation. Barkat is studying towards a PhD with Dr Ruhul Sarker and Dr David Cornforth in the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE) at UNSW@ADFA.

Raul, supervised by Dr Gary Rosengarten, will be presented his award at one of the future SPIE meetings. As one of the recipients of the 2008 SPIE Scholarships, Raul is being recognized as a future leader of photonics in Argentina, and in the world in general by the SPIE.



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## Student PhD Completion Scholarships

Applications for semester 2, 2008 open Monday 2 June and will close on Friday 4 July 2008.

The UNSW PhD Students Completion Scholarships are designed to enable PhD students in the final stages of their candidature, who have not received any scholarship or other financial support during their candidature, to spend uninterrupted time (up to 6 months) to complete their thesis. Up to 5 scholarships, valued at approx. \$10,000 each will be available via a competitive application process for successful completion and submission of thesis in semester 2, 2008.

Full information, including an application form can be found at:

<http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/scholarships/phdcompletion.html>



## PRSS Scheme Applications Open 2 June

The UNSW Postgraduate Research Student Support (PRSS) Scheme is a new scheme to assist currently enrolled postgraduate research students to attend and present their research at local and international conferences. The Scheme provides successful applicants with up to a maximum of \$3,000 each to support costs for conference attendance in 2008.



Updated information and guidelines are now available on the Graduate Research School website. Applications open via MyUNSW on Monday 2 June and close on 7 July 2008. All research students should check their UNSW email accounts as an email will be sent to this account when the applications are open.

If you wish to apply for funding under the PRSS scheme it is important you have read all the information available on the Graduate Research School website:

<http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/resources/prss.html>

**Please advise Iona Reid, Student Liaison Manager, in the Graduate Research School of upcoming events including seminars, conferences and any research student achievements or awards for incorporation into 'Graduate Research Student News' and our News and Events website listing.**

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