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NEWS FROM THE RSO

Most recently Flinders was awarded three ARC Future Fellowships and two ARC Discovery Early Career Research Awards (DECRA) from the inaugural scheme. With seven Future Fellowship applications submitted our success rate was 42.9%, well above the 30.8% national rate, whilst for the extremely popular DECRA scheme, 21 applications were submitted at a success rate of 9.5%, slightly lower than the national rate of 12.8%.

Flinders submitted 47 Discovery Project applications with seven of them successful. This gave us a success rate of 14.9%, considerably lower than the national average of 21.9%. We were more successful with ARC Linkage Projects, submitting eight applications with three successes. Although low in application numbers for a university with strong applied research, we were pleased that our 37.5% success rate is in line with the 36.1% national rate. Unfortunately we were not successful with the one Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) funding application although we did share success in partnership with four applications through partner institutions.

Flinders researchers were also members of a successful Discovery project being led by Deakin University.

Congratulations to all the research teams and support staff involved in the submissions. We look forward to working with all applicants to build on this success.

ARMS CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

The Australasian Research Management Society, (ARMS), is the professional society for anyone engaged in management and administration of research.

Since its founding in 1999, the ARMS network has grown to involve more than 1300 people from universities, research agencies and institutes, medical research institutes, R&D corporations, research centres, government departments, funding bodies, industrial R&D teams, service providers, commercialisation bodies and consultancies.

More information about ARMS can be found online here.

As Flinders University is a corporate member, you are able to join ARMS at no cost using this online form.

By joining ARMS, you can benefit from:
- An annual conference, which attracts hundreds of participants.
- High quality, targeted professional development and networking events run throughout the year by regional chapters and special interest groups.
- Online resources, some exclusive to ARMS members.
- Awards and financial support for professional development opportunities.
- Our mentoring program.
- Regular updates via electronic newsletters

And more!

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The RSO hopes you will consider joining ARMS under our corporate membership.

Please contact Nikki Johnson or on extn 17972 or the ARMS Secretariat if you have any questions.

ERA UPDATE

Many thanks to all researchers who have coded their outputs in the ERA 2012 system. Your feedback has helped refine the system and has contributed to 76% of all outputs in the system coded by researchers within two weeks. That’s a distinction! – Well done 😊

Code completion of remaining outputs for ERA 2012 is now being overseen by Strategic Research Leaders to provide baseline coding analysis. All outputs are being provided to the Strategic Research Leaders to begin analysis and strategic coding realignment. This initial analysis and coding realignment will take place in mid December with modelling work on the submission to start in January.

The recent half day workshop for Research Strategy Leaders held at Flinders with Chris Marshall from the ARC ERA team was extremely insightful. Research Services is looking forward to working with the Strategy Leaders to show Flinders Research to its best advantage in ERA 2012.

The ERA 2012 Flinders website is up and running. If you have any questions or need any further information, please email era@flinders.edu.au.

2012 KEY DATES REMINDERS

- ERA ARC Submission opens March 2012
- ‘No Nonsense IP’ Seminars Dec 2011 to June 2012
- NHMRC Project Grants Close 14 March 2012
- ARC Discovery Project workshops TBA in early 2012
- NHMRC Project Grant workshop TBA in early 2012

RESEARCH REPORTS AND Successes

OPPORTUNITY SA INNOVATION SHOWCASE

The inaugural OpportUNity S.A. Innovation Showcase was held on Thursday October 20, 2011 at Adelaide Oval.

OpportUNity S.A. is the joint initiative of the three South Australian University Commercialisation Offices and their respective Universities, and has been established to showcase local innovation and research capabilities to national and international industry, government and investor audiences.

The slides for the research capabilities and technologies pitched on the day have been uploaded to the event site, and photos from the day can be viewed on the event’s Facebook page. Video of the pitch presentations will be made available on the event site in the coming week, so please check back in a few days to see Team Flinders in action.

Industry has already shown interest in three of the Flinders technologies pitched at the showcase event.
Solar technology, autonomous underwater vehicles and relational agent technology each received interest from investors and local organisations, and meetings are being arranged in coming weeks to explore possible collaborative opportunities.

To learn more about this event, or be involved in future opportunities of this nature, contact Melissa Geue at Flinders Partners, or head to www.opportunitysa.com.au

**Article Submitted by Melissa Geue, Flinders Partners**

**GLOBAL TALENT ON THE ROAD TO FLINDERS**

Flinders University has awarded its first international research fellowships to four global leaders in the fields of social work, psychology and physical science.

The inaugural Visiting International Research Fellowships will enable researchers from Oxford and Manchester universities in the UK, Canterbury University in New Zealand and the University of Victoria in British Columbia to undertake a research project with their respective Flinders host faculties.

Sharing a pool of almost $30,000, supplemented by matching funds from the faculties, the Fellows will spend anywhere from three weeks to three months working alongside Flinders staff on various research projects, with the wider aim of building lasting research collaborations.

Those funded under the program are Prof. Charles Spence from the Department of Experimental Psychology at Oxford University, Dr Sara Tai, a Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at the University of Manchester, Assoc. Prof. Susan Strega from the School of Social Work at the University of Victoria and Dr Vladimir Golovko, a Senior Lecturer from the Chemistry Department at Canterbury University.

Prof. Spence, a leading researcher in the field of social neuroscience, will work in partnership with Flinders Prof. Mike Nicholls in the Brain and Cognition Laboratory to study how “personal space”, or lack thereof, impacts a person’s ability to concentrate.

Dr Tai, who is internationally-recognised for her work in the early intervention of psychosis, will work alongside Assoc. Prof. Timothy Carey from the Flinders Centre for Remote Health in a bid to improve access to psychological treatments for Indigenous and at-risk youth, particularly in rural and remote Australia.

Assoc. Prof. Strega’s Fellowship, supported by Dr Heather Fraser, Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Social Planning, will include a symposium at Flinders in the City where she will share her experiences working with highly stigmatised groups such as sex workers and young mothers.

Dr Golovko will work with Assoc. Prof. Gunther Andersson in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences to study the chemical and electronic particles of materials using cutting-edge, Australian-first spectroscopic methods.

**EXPLORING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE**

Assoc. Prof. Peter Monteath from the History Discipline in the School of International Studies has been running a series of public lectures through October and November. Organised in collaboration with History SA and the University of South Australia, the five lectures are devoted to the theme ‘Exploring the Past, Shaping the Future’.

The lectures are sponsored by the State Government through an SA175 History Grant; they are a contribution to the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the official foundation of the Province of South Australia.

Each lecture explores the state of historical research in a particular area: environmental history (Prof. Chris Daniels), political history (Prof. Dean Jaensch), military history (Dr Peter Stanley), Indigenous history (Assoc. Prof. Daryle Rigney, Mr Shaun Berg and Mr Steve Hemming) and social history (Professor Emerita Alison Mackinnon).

For the full program of lectures, check the website of History SA and follow the prompts. For audio file recordings of lectures you might have missed, go to the History Discipline website.

Article submitted by Peter Monteath, School of International Studies
Dr. Vladimir Golovko
Flinders University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Prof. David Day, said the Visiting International Research Fellowships, awarded annually, will attract global talent to Flinders and further strengthen the University’s international research collaborations.

“This program supports academics at various stages of their career to forge lasting international relationships, thereby enhancing their research capacity,” Prof. Day said. “For Flinders it’s another way for us to foster and secure long-term international research partnerships,” he said.

Article sourced from Emily Charrison, MACO

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

Congratulations are extended to Prof. Mike Bull and Dr Celia Chen for their selection as finalists in the South Australian Science Excellence Awards.

Prof. Bull was selected as one of four finalists for the South Australian Scientist of the Year. His research on the pygmy bluetongue, the gidgee skink and the sleepy lizard for over 30 years has resulted in him being named as principal investigator of 19 successful project grants from the ARC since 1977. His work was also featured on David Attenborough’s Life in Cold Blood in 2008 and has contributed to programs to conserve colonies of the lizards in South Australia’s mid-North.

Dr Chen was nominated for PhD Research Excellence – Health and Medical Sciences. Her PhD research was testing an intervention to dissolve the clot-causing Central Retinal Artery Occlusion, with results suggesting that the technique could reverse vision loss if given early enough after diagnosis.

B-HERT AWARD FOR FLINDERS PROGRAM

Flinders University’s Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) has been named Best Research and Development Collaboration in the prestigious annual Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) Awards.

The MDPP was established in 2008 by Prof. Karen Reynolds from the Flinders School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics with the support of the SA Government. It is a collaboration between researchers at Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, end-users and industry to develop cutting-edge medical devices and assistive technologies and bring them to the market.

MDPP Director Prof. Reynolds said a primary strength of the MDPP is its role as a broker. “It allows us to quickly put a medical device company of any size in touch with relevant people, be they researchers, manufacturers or clinicians,” Prof. Reynolds said. “We have a transparent model for intellectual property and we also very carefully scope each project to ensure all stakeholder expectations are met. The MDPP is thrilled to receive the B-HERT Award. It is a great honour and a tribute to the vision and dedication of all our partners.”

The B-HERT Awards were established in 1998 to recognise outstanding achievement in collaboration between business and higher education in the fields of research & development and education & training. The objective of the program is to highlight at a national level the benefits of such collaboration and enhance links between industry and universities.

Article sourced from MACO

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

CREATING THE SEVEN SECRETS OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH STUDENTS

Dr Maria Gardiner will be presenting an upcoming workshop which encourages attendance by RHD supervisors.

You know what your research higher degree (RHD) student should be doing, but it just doesn’t seem to be happening. Despite your best efforts to set up good habits for your student, it does not work. Why is this, and what can you do to make completing a RHD easier for your students and for you?

Students attending the seven secrets workshop have consistently reported a marked improvement in their progress towards completing their RHD. Now they have asked us to please tell their supervisors the same things!

When: Wed, 7 Dec 2011 9:30AM - 12:30PM
Where: Rm 329, IST Building

To enrol in the course, please use the University’s iEnrol system here

If you have any research successes or information regarding upcoming research related events please forward these to the Editorial Team.