Inspiring research

NEWS FROM THE RSO
ERA 2015 UPDATE

Two information sessions were held on 7 August 2014 at Flinders for faculty staff to attend. The sessions hosted by Professor David Day and featured an opportunity for staff to question Professor Day and Research Services Office Data and Reporting Team staff on the RePortal and Flinders requirements for ERA 2015. The two sessions were recorded and have been made available on the Flinders ERA website. Please note that a FAN and password are required to view the sessions.

The sessions also included a walkthrough of the Flinders RePortal system in relation to the discipline code assignment required for ERA 2015. The instructions have been also made available on the ERA website.

RESEARCH NEWS AND SUCCESSES
SA SCIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS RESULTS

The SA Science Excellence Awards celebrated their ten years in fine style at a gala night at the Adelaide Town Hall, 8 August 2014, where Flinders University was successful with their nominees on the evening. Dr Daniel Tune, School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, and Ms Karen Burke da Silva, School of Biological Sciences, were named as the winners in their respective categories.

Dr Daniel Tune, the 2014 PhD Research Excellence – Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering award winner, was unable to attend the night as he is currently in Germany continuing his Postdoctoral career. His award was accepted on behalf by his supervisor, Professor Joe Shapter, the SA Science Excellence 2010 Science Educator of the Year. “Maintaining this kind of recognition of young scientists and STEM teachers and professionals is particularly important in light of the recent alarming Federal trends towards divestment from these vital areas,” Dr Tune said. He further went on to thank Flinders University, The Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Research Facility, the Australian Nanotechnology Network, and, most importantly, Professor Joe Shapter.

The 2014 Early Career STEM Educator of the Year – Tertiary Teaching was Ms Karen Burke da Silva. Ms Burke da Silva, in her acceptance speech, said the best teaching environments were ones with a supportive team around them. She advised others, “Not to be afraid to ask for what you want and to go for what you want.” The new Biology Discovery Centre is an example of this at Flinders, where Ms Burke da Silva was integral in the design of the building. “It’s a fantastic environment for teaching students,” she said.

Dr Daniel Tune’s SA Science Excellence Award

Ms Karen Burke da Silva receiving her award at the gala night

August 2014

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The outgoing SA Scientist of the Year, Professor Graeme Young, gave a wonderful speech to encapsulate his year as the 2013 SA Scientist of the Year. He asked the rhetorical question, “Is this a career-achievement award?” and answered it as he felt best, “I do not see this as a life-time achievement award, but rather the next step in a never-ending vocation.”

Editorial support for applications for targeted awards has and can be provided by the Research Services Office. Please contact Tonia Keating to discuss assistance.

Flinders looks forward to celebrating future South Australian Science Excellence achievements. To see Flinders past success, visit the Flinders Research Awards page.

NHMRC FELLOWSHIPS RESULTS

On Friday 29 August 2014, the Minister for Health, Peter Dutton, announced the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) 2014 Practitioner and Research Fellowships. Flinders University was successful in both awards, as well as Professor Peter Mackenzie, Flinders Medical Science and Technology, receiving a one year extension on his current NHMRC Research Fellowship.

Only seventeen Practitioner Fellowships were awarded across the whole of Australia, with Professor Doug McEvoy, Professor of Medicine based at the Flinders Southern Adelaide Clinical School, as the Flinders successful applicant. Practitioner Fellowships are awarded to active clinicians and public health or health services professionals to undertake research that is linked to their work. Professor McEvoy will receive $551,435 for his project, “Translational Research in Obstructive Sleep Apnea”.

Associate Professor Taher Omari, Flinders Medical Science and Technology, was awarded an NHMRC Research Fellowship. Research Fellows are judged to be researchers in the top 10% of their fields, with strong career track records, and often with the ability to translate research into commercial, health practice or policy outcomes. Associate Professor Omari was awarded $686,645 for his project, “Translational Studies of Novel Methods for the Assessment of Gastrointestinal Motility”.

SPORT IN FOCUS - SHAPE RESEARCH CENTRE LAUNCH

Flinders new Sport, Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) Research Centre was launched at a symposium at Flinders in the City on 22 August 2014. SHAPE is a leading multidisciplinary research and development group bringing together researchers in the areas of sport, health and physical education.

Unlike other centres that focus on performance, SHAPE seeks to tackle community health issues of national significance and consider the social challenges facing contemporary Western society, such as gender issues and negative body images.

Speaking at the SHAPE of Australian Football and Sport in the 21st Century symposium were AFL Port Adelaide Player Hamish Hartlett, David Parkin OAM, Narelle Smith, Dr Kathryn Jackson, Jenny Williams and Professor Kevin Norton. Over 70 people attended from many key organisations, including the Office of Recreation and Sport, Department for Education and Child Development, Department of Health, Surf Lifesaving SA, AFL, AFL Sport Ready, the SANFL, Port Adelaide Football Club, Adelaide Football Club and, one of SHAPE’s key partners, the South Adelaide Football Club.

“it was a highly successful day that launched the SHAPE Research Centre among key Sport, Health and Physical Education stakeholders within the South Australian community. The feedback from the day has been outstanding with many of these organisations looking forward to engaging with us in their research endeavours,” Professor Murray Drummond, the Centre’s Director, said.

More information about SHAPE can be found here, including opportunities to partner with the Centre and collaborate.

FLINDERS SPACE ARCHAEOLOGIST IN CONVERSATION WITH “SPACE ODDITY” ASTRONAUT

As a space archaeologist, Dr Alice Gorman from the Department of Archaeology gets to meet more astronauts than most people. Colonel Chris Hadfield, however, is in a league of his own.
Hadfield, who has become the hero of millions around the world through sharing his experiences in space on social media, was in Australia for National Science Week and the Melbourne Writers’ Festival this August.

His most famous exploit is performing David Bowie’s classic “Space Oddity” on the International Space Station [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_RB1ENTayU].

“I was thrilled when The Conversation asked me to interview him”, Dr Gorman says. “But what do you ask the most interviewed astronaut on Earth? I decided I should draw on my perspectives from studying the archaeology of space exploration. A particular interest is how human bodies relate to machines in space, and the attachments people form to hardware”.

NANOCONNECT IN THE NEWS

NanoConnect is the industry collaboration program managed by Flinders Centre for NanoScale Science and Technology. In late 2013 the Centre received funding from the Department of State Development for 2 years to continue this collaborative research program. Due to the success of the program, the Advertiser recently featured an article about NanoConnect and some of the current industry partners involved with the program, including, submarine battery manufacturers – PM8, ultrasound manufacturers – Signostics, watch makers – Bausele and printing specialists – Cutler Brands. To read the article in full please visit:

NanoConnectInTheAdvertiser

NanoConnect provides a simple, low risk mechanism to enable companies to access University knowledge and resources. To find out more about the program visit www.flinders.edu.au/nanoconnect or email nanoconnect@flinders.edu.au

Article supplied by Dr Rachel Sparks, Executive Officer, Flinders Centre for NanoScale Science and Technology

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

AINSE, NOT JUST FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

At a symposium and information session held at Flinders on Tuesday, 19 August, approximately 30 Flinders staff and students were able speak with key researchers from ANSTO and AINSE.

AINSE programs can assist a student to becoming an early career researcher through a pathway of attending a Winter School as an undergraduate student, through to awards and support for postgraduate students and then research awards for researchers to access the national facilities at Lucas Heights (ANSTO) and other AINSE facilities.

Presenting at the symposium were Dr Paul Di Pietro, AINSE Managing Director, Michelle Durant, AINSE Administration Manager, Dr Joseph Bevitt, Scientific Coordinator and Head of the Bragg Institutes User Office, Professor John Dodson, Head Institute for Environmental Research, ANSTO and Dr Rachel Popelka-Filcoff, AINSE Senior Research Fellow from the School of Chemistry and Physical Sciences.

The sessions covered a broad spectrum of disciplines and highlighted the ANSTO facilities available to researchers through the AINSE programmes. These included Archaeology and Geosciences, Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Materials - Properties and Engineering, and Materials - Structures and Dynamics.

Of particular note was the information that the facilities would be of benefit to some areas of research in Health and Medical Sciences that are currently being underutilised.

AINSE has 42 Australian and New Zealand members, who are represented by a Councillor. Flinders’ AINSE Councillor is Associate Professor Claire Lenehan, and she is the first point of contact for information about AINSE. She can be contacted by email - claire.lenehan@flinders.edu.au.

ECR GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP AVAILABLE

The Grant Writing Workshop, recently run by RiAus has been made available on their website. Presentators at the workshop were Professor Tanya Monro, Director of Institute of Photonics and Advanced Sensing (IPAS), University of Adelaide, Associate Professor Jeremy Thompson, and Dr Dale Godfrey, IPAS, University of Adelaide. To view the workshop visit their website here.

Share your research successes and/or information regarding upcoming research related events in your area. Contact Nikki Johnson for article submissions or further information.
**SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

**ECR NETWORK: UNDERSTANDING THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH**

The ECR Network program specific for Adelaide professional research scientists returns in 2014. This year they are opening the eligibility to include not only early career researchers, but also late-stage PhD students and mid-career researchers.

This event will take in one of the important but sometimes overlooked parts of advancing a research career – understanding the political landscape. The Chief Scientist of Australia, Professor Ian Chubb, to discuss the directions that the federal government policy may be moving in. Professor Chubb will be joined by the South Australian Minister for Science and Information Economy, The Honourable Gail Gago MLC. This is a unique opportunity to not only hear from the Chief Scientist and other political powerbrokers about the political situation affecting your career, but also talk with them about the issues you face. Be aware of the role of politics.

As with all 2014 ECR Network events, this event will also be livestreamed and will be discussed on twitter using #ECRChat.

**Where:** RiAus (55 Exchange Place Adelaide SA)  
**When:** Thursday, 11 September  
**Time:** 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
**RSVP:** [here](#)

ECR Network events are restricted to early career researchers, late-stage PhD-students and mid-career researchers. Register using your university/institution email address.

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**ARC PRESENTATION - HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences invites all interested parties to a presentation by Professor Denise Meredyth, Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts Australian Research Council.

The presentation will help prospective applicants to prepare an ARC grant submission in the Social Sciences and Humanities. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and answers.

**Where:** Room 115, Social Sciences South  
**When:** Thursday, 25 September  
**Time:** 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
**RSVP:** mary.lyons@flinders.edu.au by Monday 15 September 2014 for catering purposes

Morning tea will be available from 10:30 AM with the presentation commencing at 11:00 AM.

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**ARMS SA CHAPTER 2014 – RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The first of two SA based, ARMS Accreditation Foundation Module Professional Development sessions will be held in October.

**Where:** University of Adelaide Boardroom, 115 Grenfell St  
**When:** Thursday, 30 October  
**Time:** TBC - please note that each module is 3.5 hours  
**Cost:** $340 per module for ARMS members / $450 for non-members  
**RSVP:** Email the ARMS SA Chapter to register your interest -

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**PhD SPEED DATING**

After the success of the first PhD Speed Dating event, held on 23 July at the Flinders New Venture Institute’s first ever ‘PhD Speed Dating’ event, a second event will be held on Wednesday, 19 November from 6 PM. To register your interest, go here - https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/phd-speed-dating-event-tickets-12699712181

PhD Speed Dating is an innovative concept created by the New Venture Institute to help local business people discover what PhD candidates could do to boost their business practices and bottom lines.