This newsletter contains information regarding the promotion of research related activity in the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning.

1] **Student information session**

An information session has been organised for all later year undergraduate students and honours students regarding the advantages and disadvantages of doing a PhD and advice on the intricacies of the application process. This session will be held on Friday 10th September, from 4.30 to 5.30 in the Research Lounge. Please encourage all students who you think would benefit from the session to attend.

2] **Policy breakfast.**

A few months ago, Sharon Andrews and Lisa Harris organised a very successful session with not-for profit organisations to discuss policy and research. One constructive outcome of the session was the suggestion that we should hold a breakfast every couple of months with much the same group of people to chat about issues of mutual interest - such as research in progress, student placement and research opportunities, collaborations of various sorts. The date of the first breakfast will be announced soon.

3] **Research leave for next year.**

At the last meeting of the School research committee, we considered applications for research leave for next year. Two applications from the Environment and Planning group were approved, one for collaboration with AHURI, and one for general leave. Up to four additional colleagues might be able to apply and be granted research leave. One position each is available for a six-month collaboration with CASR and Globalism Institute, two for general leave. The Research Committee will consider additional applications, if any, at its October meeting [held on 1st October]. If you are thinking of putting in an application, please let Brian Walsh know as soon as possible. You should then discuss your plans with your workplan supervisor, and if appropriate with the director of CASR [Chris Chamberlain] or the Globalism Institute [Martin Mulligan]. Your representative on the Research Committee, or Pavla Miller who currently chairs the Committee, can also provide advice.

4] **ARC Linkage application workshops.**

Research & Innovation at RMIT have arranged for Carla Tiens, a publications writing professional, to provide support for staff who intend to submit ARC Linkage applications in Round 2 2010 and Round 1 2011. It is planned that Carla will work with academics over two x two hour workshops.

The days scheduled for College of DSC workshops are:

Thursday 23rd September 10.00am - 12.00pm
Thursday 30 September 10.00am - 12.00

The times may change a bit if enough people request a change. The workshops would provide staff with an excellent preparation for the drafting of an ARC Linkage application. If you would like to attend, please advise Pavla Miller before Friday 3rd September.
5] **ARC applications and pooling our resources.**

Part of the RMIT research plan is to substantially increase our share of competitive research funding. In our school, which already receives a very large amount of such funding, it will be difficult enough to maintain our level of success, let alone increase it dramatically. Several initiatives can help us maintain and perhaps even improve our record.

   a. **speed dating.**

There are colleagues in the school who have great ideas for research projects, others who have a good knowledge of possible industry partners, yet others who have experience or track record that they are willing to share. I would like to bring as many of such colleagues as possible together for a half-day catered session to see if we can forge new research partnerships. This session will be held in the Research Lounge, on Friday 8th October, from 12 to 4.30. For the session to work efficiently, we will shortly be asking all interested colleagues to send in a brief summary of relevant areas of expertise and interests in collaboration.

   b. **collegial application planning and review day.**

Thinking through research applications is an arduous and difficult task. Explaining the ideas to colleagues, and discussing them in a collegial setting, can considerably speed up the process of writing. I would like to convene a one-day catered application writing workshop on 29th November in the Abbotsford convent.

   c. **writing, editorial and review assistance.**

The DCS College already provides professional assistance with reviewing final drafts of applications. The School can step in earlier, and provide focussed assistance with some of the arduous editing tasks. Please advise Brian Walsh if you would like to take part.

**Links to funding opportunities:**

(For details on all external funding opportunities for Australian researchers)

(For details on funding opportunities in the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning)

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