Congratulations to Amalia Di Iorio and Michael McKenzie for their success in obtaining an ARC Linkage grant in the banking finance and investment category. Amalia and Michael’s application was the only one in this category that was accepted for funding by the ARC. Also interesting to note is the fact that RMIT is the only university in the country to have had success in the last 2 rounds in this category.

Details of their grant is as follows:

Category: 3503 BANKING, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT
LP0348473

Administering Organisation:
RMIT University

Investigators:
Assoc. Prof Michael McKenzie (School of Economics and Finance)
Dr Amalia Di Iorio (School of Economics and Finance)
Mr R.B. Heeps (Midwine Consulting)

Title: Liquidity Measurement and Risk Management in the Australian Insurance Industry

Funding:
Year 1: $29,919
Year 2: $29,919

Split across calendar years:
2003 $14,960 2004 $29,919 2005 $14,960

Partner Organisation: Midwine Consulting
Summary:
The APRA draft guidelines require Australian insurance companies to implement a liquidity risk management strategy without providing details of an acceptable level of liquidity risk, nor how liquidity is to be measured. The aim of this study is to address the issue of how to measure liquidity and to provide a framework in which a liquidity risk management policy may be established which benchmarks the proposed measure of liquidity. This research may be expected to lead the policy debate in Australia as to how insurance companies may satisfy the APRA guidelines.

Also Prof. Tim Fry in the School of Economics and Finance had an ARC Linkage success via his former University – the University of Melbourne, that we are pleased to be able to report.

Details of Tim’s grant are as follows:

Category: 3402 APPLIED ECONOMICS
LP0348635

Administering Organisation: The University of Melbourne

Investigators: Dr E.M. Webster
Prof. Tim Fry (RMIT – School of Economics and Finance)
Dr J. Yong
Mr M.J. Klee
Mr T. Harcourt


Funding:
Year 1: $60,000 Year 2: $100,000 Year 3: $100,000

Split across calendar years:
2003: $30,000 2004: $80,000 2005: $100,000 2006: $50,000

Partner Organisation(s):
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Productivity Commission
IBISWorld
Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance
Austrade

Summary:
This project will examine determinants and effects of enterprise entry and exit on growth, export and productivity in Australian industry using innovative panel enterprise data sets which have been collated and linked from existing ABS surveys, administrative data and accounting data. Currently, there is only one short longitudinal enterprise data set in Australia. Further data sets are required if policy makers are to understand patterns and
causes of growth and business survival in Australia. Understanding provided from these studies should significantly improve our understanding of how businesses perform.

Well done Michael, Amalia and Tim. ARC funding is highly competitive and this is a terrific outcome that the Faculty is happy to acknowledge. Details of Tim’s and Michael and Amalia’s grant along with details of all other successful application can be found on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au

Interview with the new Acting Assoc. Dean (Research) - Dr. Pam Green

BC: While you are new to the Faculty, you have been at RMIT for a while can you tell us a bit about your background and what you were doing prior to accepting the appointment of Acting Assoc. Dean (Research)?

PG: Prior to my move to Business I was working within the Research Training Group in the Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation. I was running the research supervision program for RMIT, supervising students, running PhD writing groups for Computer Science, and engaged in research and scholarship. Before that I was in FELCS in the position of Research Director, co-ordinator of the Doctor of Education, co-ordinator of Research Methods as well as many other duties.

BC: What do you see as the challenges to research faced by RMIT and the Faculty, and what do you consider to be the best strategies for us a Faculty to face these challenges?

PG: The challenges for us as researchers at RMIT are to grow the research culture further, to build on our strengths, to show case our successes and to extend track records that enable us to forge further into various research arenas.

By focussing on our strengths and working collaboratively across the University and beyond we can expand our research capacity to take up new options and to build and grow in terms of research and innovation. We need to continue to build industry partnerships and recognise those links that sustain our research interests and drive us into fresh opportunities. This will enable us to enhance our research income and publications as well as work with students on research that has real world application. As busy academics we are pushed to find innovative ways to research, and to work with colleagues (including our postgraduate students) in ways that have meaning to ourselves as individuals but also to the university per se.

BC: What are your areas of research interest and expertise?

PG: Areas of research interest include research on research, research supervision, qualitative research, research training, transition, as well language and literacy. I am very interested in research approaches that employ qualitative methods but I do combine such methods with quantitative ones when relevant. Approaches that I use include case study work, naturalistic inquiry, narrative inquiry and phenomenography.

I am particularly interested in research supervision and have supervised many students to completion.
BC: Can you tell us a bit about some of the research projects and activities that you have been involved in?

PG: At present I am finalising a phenomenographic study on what RMIT research perceive to be research. I am working with a team of researchers and we are currently writing a book on Phenomenography as a result of the project. I am about to embark on a study on the nature of the doctoral journey and issues related to motivation and completion. In recent times I have done some research on supervision, professional doctorates, and transition to university.

BC: Why is research important to you and what do you think it offers to society?

PG: Research is a way of looking and relooking at the world. For me it is about ways of making meaning and finding new meanings that have implications for practice but also for the ways in which we frame what we know and what we do. Research enables us to follow a passion – to find a way to look at an area of interest, usually a problem or key question, with a view to mapping possibilities, exposing ways of seeing and providing real world follow up in the form of appropriate action. Thus, for me research is about reconstructing or reviewing what we think we know, as well as about exposing and teasing out new ideas and possibilities. Research is a way to build knowledge, to extend practice, to critique ‘the taken for granted’, and to bring about change. Doing research, for me, is about praxis- through action and reflection we move to create change and critical consciousness.

BC: Do you have any advice to offer aspiring researchers that may help them achieve their career and research goals?

PG: For me research is about passion so following your interests is crucial as it enables us to sustain our work. This is why doctoral work is such a privilege- it is a time where we can focus on the areas that drive us. I would say that the doctorate is a starting point for aspiring researchers. Once this is achieved, then publication is crucial in order to have an impact, and to establish your track record that is in turn vital when applying for research grants. Looking for research options within our own practice is also important. For those of us who spend much time teaching, there is opportunity to build research options there and to look at practice. This is an area in which I think we need to build. Having a mentor is a wonderful way to move further into the world of research. Some times this happens by chance, but at times we need to make it happen. Approach someone who is an active researcher that you admire and from whom you think you could learn - they may well be able to tell you some of the ‘secrets’ of research.

Welcome to New Research Students Enrolled at RMIT Business

On behalf of RMIT Business, the Research Development Unit is pleased to welcome the following new research students who have recently commenced their research programs with us:

School of Accounting and Law

David Brennan, PhD, Research Interests: An analysis of corporate governance practices across different cultural contexts.
School of Business Information Technology

Peter Keane, MA, Research Interests: Extended innovation in postal services – A pilot study.

Victor Pagunsan, Master of Business by Research, Research Interests: Tools to facilitate the development of information systems for total quality management in State Government.

Carlton Raccani, Master of Business by Research, Research Interests: The success of software development processes – Enhancement programmes in Australia.

Paul Sullivan, PhD, Research Interests: The success of external audit in exposing fraud and criminal behaviour.

Wenqing Wang, PhD, Research Interests: e-commerce and security.

School of Economics and Finance

Michael Gangemi, PhD, Research Interests: Modelling regional economic development.

Bernadette Harrison, PhD, Research Interests: Industrial heritage and the rejuvenation of ports/harbours in post modern cities.

Paul Jens, PhD, Research interests: Valuation models of biotechnology companies.

Bhavish Jugurnath, PhD, Research Interests: Harmonisation of tax in APEC.

Tianshu Cathy Liu, PhD, Research Interests: Development of bi-lateral free trade in Asia-Pacific regions and trade relations between China and Asia-Pacific countries.

Chunmei Lu, Master of Business by Research, Research Interests: Derivate products and the Chinese Stock Exchange.

Hartono Murtyiyoso, PhD, Research Interests: Synchronicity on the Australian Stock Exchange

Roslyn Sayers, PhD, Research Interests: Generation X and Y leadership: An international perspective.

Alexandra Schulze, PhD, Research Interests: Optimal currencies, capital investment strategies and optimal capital structures.

Yuenan Wang, PhD, Research interests: Diversification benefits and stock selection strategies of China’s share market.

School of Management

Eugene Boyle, Master by Research, Research Interests: Corporate governance in a sustainable and entrepreneurial public sector.

Anna Daniel, Master of Business by Research, Research Interests: Innovative models in the music sector.

Holly Dinh, PhD, Research Interests: To be advised.

Ernest Green, PhD, Research Interests: An aspect of understanding and the implication of personal significance in work and non-work.

Alberto Ramirez, Master of Business by Research, Research Interests: Effects of dissimilarity openness climate and different approaches to diversity training on dissimilarity openness behaviours in the workplace.

Karen Vella, PhD, Research Interests: Organization as metaphor and its place in 21st Century legends and stories about the experience of the change agent. Exploration of the ‘awake’ organizational player and collusion of players in their own experience of ‘fit’ in the organization.

Grant Walters, PhD, Research Interests: Social capital, with an emphasis on how companies can incorporate the social contract into the way they do business.

Darren Welsh, Master of Business by Research, Research Interests: Recruitment and retention of health care professionals in rural and remote communities.
School of Marketing

Emma Coath, PhD, Research Interests: A best practice supply chain model for exporting Australia’s fresh produce to global retailers in Thailand.

James Gardener, PhD, Research Interests: The future direction of military enterprise logistics solutions with a view to asset optimisation, integration and reduced whole life cost.

Mai Thui Huong Phan, PhD, Research Interests: Transport logistics – Sustainability and business. Green logistics and the profitability of organizations.

Swee Lin Carol Tan, PhD, Research Interests: Competitive advantage in SME’s. Focus on competitive marketing strategy.

Research Development Unit

Lynda Bourne, Doctor of Project Management, Research Interests: Building sustainable relationships and the success of projects managed through multi-disciplined teams.

Also the Faculty has had the largest intake of Honours students since the Honours program started in the Faculty which is very pleasing, so we would also like to acknowledge the commencing Honours students:

Honours Students

Brendan Fairbanks, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Market asymmetry.

Cameron Smith, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Human resource management and employee turnover.

Daniela Stojcevski, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Behavioural finance.

Chris Karapalidid, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Dividend signalling theory and empirical evidence.

Daniel Loden, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Green marketing.

Gregory Malempre, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: The applicability of a peak-load pricing strategy for Melbourne’s City Link toll road - Pricing strategy and peak load pricing.

Jasmine Ferres, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Performance management.

Kim Longin, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Effectiveness of sanctions on corporate insider trading.

Marc Gugliotti, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Research and development (R&D) expenditures and the market value of the firm.

Olivia Yeung, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: brand equity.

Owen Howden, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Pricing competition, predicting excess returns and market efficiency.

Quang Huy Vu, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Managing a floating exchange rate – the efficiency of the FX market; effectiveness of monetary policy in external balance.

Yasmina Pasic, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: International marketing specifically the impact of culture on brand preferences.

Zheng Lin, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Impact of Chinese fixed exchange rate on other countries current account deficit.
Debbie Yuen, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Services organization: Transfer of people management, the implications for client and company and the factors affecting agency-client relationships.

Anthony Svirskis, Bachelor of Business (Hons), Research Interests: Celebrity and athlete endorsement in marketing.

Recent Submissions

The RDU is pleased to announce that the following students have recently submitted their theses:

Claire Noone, Doctor of Business Administration, School of Management.

Trevor Wilmshurst, PhD, School of Accounting and Law.
Thesis title: ‘A metaphoric approach to stakeholder theory - the decision to report environmental information.’

Congratulations Claire and Trevor.

Research Funding Opportunities

For details regarding other current research funding opportunities please visit the Research & Development Funding website which provides a list of grants, awards, scholarships and fellowships available to staff and students and is updated weekly at:

http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse?SIMID=jg30k3i1c6l

Also for a listing of scholarships available please visit the Joint Academic Scholarship On-line Network (JASON) website. JASON is an on-line database of scholarship information for postgraduate students. For further information please visit:

http://jason.unimelb.edu.au

Some current research funding opportunities that are open to suitably qualified staff and research students are:

National Archives of Australia: Australian Summer Scholarships Scheme

The National Archives of Australia invites university students to apply for the National Archives 2004 Summer Scholarships scheme. The scheme is open to third and fourth year undergraduates, as well as students enrolled in a graduate diploma or the first year of a postgraduate award. Students must be Australian residents studying in Australia. Two six-week scholarships will be awarded. Scholarship students will undertake the scholarship program in Canberra and will be provided with travel costs, accommodation, meals and a small honorarium. In return, they will undertake research projects utilising the Archives’ collection. The scholarship will culminate in a short presentation to Archives’ staff.

Further details are available on the following website: http://www.naa.gov.au/

Closing date: 31 October 2003.
Taxpayers Research Foundation - Request for Expressions of Interest

The Taxpayers Research Foundation Ltd is an approved research institution under Section 73A of the Income Tax Assessment Act. The Foundation’s objects are to undertake approved research projects in areas of taxation which would be of benefit to Australia.

The aim of the Foundations to fund research analyses and the writing of discussion papers, drafts and other statements to be used as a basis for determining future taxation policy.

The Foundation is now in a position to formally invite proposals for the 2003-04 year for funding of research work from researchers and academics.

Written expressions of interest are invited in the first instance.

Expressions of interest should be short and distinct outlining:
- area of research with a brief description’-proposed outcomes
- why the research is important
- qualifications of the proposed researcher/s
- proposals for commercialisation

Research Application Cover Sheet: All applications (including Expressions of Interest) must have a completed and signed Research Application Cover Sheet attached (see below) before submission to RMIT RSU (Research Support Unit). In addition to the signatures of the applicant and their HOD/ HOS, Faculty clearance (usually signature of Associate Dean (Research) is required.

If you are intending to submit a proposal for funding, please contact Nola Miles x57726 nola.miles@rmit.edu.au

RMIT deadline: Tuesday, 24 June 2003  External deadline: Monday, 30 June 2003

The aim of this newsletter is to keep staff informed of research activity within RMIT Business and of research opportunities both outside and within the faculty. If you have any contributions (we are always interested in research or researchers for our feature article) that you think would be of interest to the faculty please contact Bronwyn Coate at the RDU.

The Business Research News is also available for viewing on the RDU’s web site shortly after it has been distributed in paper form. The web site also contains information for research staff and students including the RDU’s library holdings.