Students and Staff

1. Congratulations to the following students who have passed and submitted their archival copies of their research degree thesis so far in 2010: Aleksandra Acker, Andy Baylor, Eric Clarke, Pik Yu Lo, Kimba Thompson, Doris Paton, Nancy Varughese.

2. The Postgraduate Research Student International Conference Fund aims to provide HDR candidates with experience in participation at conferences of international standing. These conferences are essential to the dissemination of research and provide HDR students with an opportunity to further their professional development. Further details about the scheme together with the application form are available from: [http://www.rmit.edu.au/graduateresearch/conffund](http://www.rmit.edu.au/graduateresearch/conffund).

Think about a Semester 1 2011 application already.

3. 3 Minute Thesis Competition

The School of Education had three entries in the 3 minute thesis competition, held at the Research Student Conference on the 18th of June - Ahmed Alhazmi, Esme Bamblett and Rita Ellul. Our three students all did wonderful presentations. Esme Bamblett went forward as the School nomination to the D&SC College level.


Staff and Supervisors

The following email was recently sent out from SGR in relation to supervisor training.

Dear Heads of School,

I would like to bring your attention to the new Supervision of Higher Degrees by Research course which will be offered for the first time in second semester of this year. Completion of the course fulfills one of the key requirements for registration as a category 1 supervisor at RMIT - see: [www.rmit.edu.au/staff/research/regISTRATION](http://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/research/regISTRATION)

Could you please bring this to the attention of staff in your school who are seeking to become a higher degrees by research supervisor. Further information about the course, including how to apply, is available here: [www.rmit.edu.au/staff/research/profdevelopment](http://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/research/profdevelopment)

Dr Robyn Barnacle, Senior Research Fellow, School of Graduate Research.

My understanding is that if staff enrol in the informal course they DO NOT pay for the PD.
To assist with education reform in Lao, Michele’s research is examining modern teaching methodologies, which focus on the students, with traditional methodologies, which focus on the teacher. Commonly, regional areas of Lao practice traditional methodologies, while Lao’s training of teachers tends to emphasise modern methodologies. Michele’s research sheds light on the difficulties that arise when newly trained teachers graduate with skills in modern teaching and then are required to adapt their skills to the traditional methodologies for jobs in regional areas. In conducting her research, Michele is following the learning and development of final year teaching students as they transition from training to teaching jobs in regional Lao. Collecting first hand data of her subjects has necessitated Michele travelling throughout the country’s regional and urban areas to observe and conduct interviews, both with lecturers and students. Michele travels with an interpreter who helps to breakthrough any language barriers that arrive during field work. During her visits to villages Michele observes the new teachers and other staff at work in the classroom, and interviews teachers and community members about matters related to teaching and learning. She hopes to investigate the current college curriculum through speaking with lecturers, and gain an understanding of the expectations of teaching through observing and speaking with the new and trainee teachers.

Having spent the first few months of her Award travelling and collecting data throughout Lao’s regional areas, Michele recently found time to touch base with the Endeavour Awards Team to share her Endeavour experience. “I am glad to report that the Pakse College Director, Mr Khampiene, and my work supervisor, Mr Sourichanh, are truly supportive of my research and help me on a daily basis to navigate the rules of the Lao system. Their assistance has been invaluable. I have been given space in an air-conditioned office at the College and basic office equipment. My major task now is to write up my field notes and analyse the data I have collected so far. I will visit the villages again in a couple of weeks, so I need to work out what gaps there are in my information and how to make the task of data collection as efficient as possible. When I stay in the villages I find I become immersed in the local life. I am trying to keep a journal of authentic happenings, and as well, to conduct interviews where people start to talk about real events rather than what they think they should be saying to the researcher.” “I am enjoying life in the villages very much but it’s also good to be back in the town again for a while to reevaluate what I have seen and experienced and to reflect on it from a distance.”
Research Staff
The ARC has released the Funding Rules and Instructions to Applicants for the ARC Linkage for 2010.

*** Round 2 closes - 17 November, 2010

Expression of Interest to lorraine.bridger@rmit.edu.au

Changes to ARC Linkage for 2010 applications
1. The minimum per annum budget request for ARC funding is now $30,000. For an application to be eligible, each year's budget must meet this figure.
2. All applications submitted must meet a minimum requirement of 20% cash for any budget request of between $30,000 and $500,000. All ARC Linkage applications must be supported by cash and in-kind from Partner Organisations at the same level as the budget requested from the ARC. Projects requesting more than $500,000 are accepted however, they must meet a minimum requirement of 50% cash commitment from the Partner Organisations
3. ARC APAI stipends are no longer a "stand alone" application enumerated request. How to explain this. For those familiar with ARC Linkage, applicants could specific the number and type of Stipends being requested, eg. "regional or IT". The successful grant offer would then specify the number of APAs awarded as part of the funding. APAIs also required specific post award reporting, e.g. commencement of student(s), etc. The NEW Linkage Funding Rules, simply indicate that to make a request for a stipend it is an entry as a line item in the "Personnel" section of the project budget. The funded project will no longer specify a stipend and you may use the funding in any way eg. as a part time RA, stipend or whatever, you see fit.
4. Please note the ARC Stipend value for 2010 applications is $27,222. Therefore a "stipend only" application no longer meets the ARC minimum funding requirement of $30,000 per annum budget request.
5. The ARC Linkage application in now via the RMS on line system. I suggest you plan some additional time in data entry, especially if you have a number of Partner Organisations.

Reminder dates for your Research calendar for 2010
The Research Student Conference is on Friday the 19th of November 2010. Please start booking in your spot with Louise Prentice in the Research Office.