The Research EDGE
The Graduate Research Centre. Supporting your research.

From the Dean of Graduate Studies

When the hard work pays off...
Most of us – however geeky we might be – cannot help but absorb the Olympic atmosphere pervading the news media around this time, and know that every medal winner interviewed talks about the ‘hard work’ that went in. And for those competing without getting a medal, the fulfillment of being at the Olympics as an elite performer still there.

Well, we have exactly the same situation with our research degree students at UniSA! We have a fantastic group of elite performers, some of whom win medals. In this issue, we highlight our three finalists in the prestigious South Australian Science Excellence Awards: Ataollah, Chris and Stephanie are being considered for the ‘PhD Research Excellence’ award. We are all barracking for them as representatives of the healthy state of this ‘sport’ at our university!

Prof Phil Weinstein

Science Excellence Award SA nominees

Three of the shortlisted nominees for the PhD Research Excellence category of the Science Excellence Awards did their PhDs at UniSA. This category recognises recent PhD graduates with outstanding early-career achievement in their field and strong potential to contribute to industry or enterprises in the state.

Dr Ataollah Nosrati (Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering) is a Research Associate with the Ian Wark Research Institute. His PhD research outcomes are of significant scientific and enormous technological value to the project sponsor and the Australian minerals industry as a whole.

Dr Christopher Raymond (Life and Environmental Sciences) published 12 international peer-reviewed papers during his PhD and wrote technical reports highlighting the importance of considering local community values, attachments to place, and conservation behaviours in the assessment of natural resource management priorities across South Australia and internationally.

Dr Stephanie Reuter Lange (Health and Medical Sciences) has made a substantial contribution to the field with the production of high-quality publications, conference presentations, successful grant applications and a provisional patent. Her research has focused on the clinical importance of carnitine and its contribution to the symptoms experienced by kidney dialysis patients as well as patients with chronic fatigue syndrome. She has received a number of awards, including a prestigious Fulbright scholarship.

A fourth shortlisted nominee, Dr Tom Raimondo (Life and Environmental Sciences), is a lecturer in the School of Natural and Built Environments.

Dr Carol Maher, shortlisted for the Early Career STEM Professional category (Health and Life Sciences), also did her PhD at UniSA.

Make a people’s choice vote on Facebook. Winners will be announced Friday 17 August.

Below left to right: Dr Ataollah Nosrati, Dr Christopher Raymond, Dr Stephanie Reuter Lange
Meet our Vacation Research students

High-achieving undergraduate UniSA students can apply for a Vacation Research Scholarship and spend up to 8 weeks doing supervised research (@ $300 per week) between November and February. Applications close 20 September.

This month’s featured student

Ashley Fulton worked with Dr Alison Coates in the Nutritional Physiology research Centre (NPRC) in the School of Health Sciences.

She also worked closely with another summer scholarship holder, Fleur. They assisted with three projects: studies investigating satiety and peanuts, pulses and cardiovascular health, and depression and fish oil. Each project gave them opportunities to learn new skills, including red blood cell fatty acid extraction in the lab, study recruitment, and a multitude of ways to measure health and welfare-related outcomes.

Ashley thoroughly enjoyed working with the NPRC: ‘The experience put me in an excellent position moving forward with my studies and commencing a PhD this year.’

Counselling Service

The student Counselling Service offers a professional and confidential service to assist with motivation and time management; adjusting to living and studying in Adelaide; personal issues affecting study; support following a crisis or trauma; managing stress, anxiety and depression; and taking care of your health and wellbeing.

To make an appointment, contact the Learning and Teaching Unit by phone or in person on your campus. During non-peak times, you will usually be able to see a counsellor within a few days, but in a crisis your request will be prioritised.

Mindfulness workshops

The counselling team is offering practical weekly workshops on improving focus and concentration using mindfulness techniques:

- City East (P2-40): Mon 13, 20 and 27 August, Mon 3 September, 1–2pm (contact 8302 2759)
- City West (BH3-20): Tues 14, 21 and 29 August, Tues 4 September, 2–3pm, Register
- Magill (G1-49): Thurs 16, 23 and 30 August, Thurs 6 September, 1–2pm (contact 8302 4423)
- Mawson Lakes (K1-02): Tues 7, 14, 21 and 28 August, 1–2pm, K1-02 (contact 8302 5006)

Skills and practices will be built on each week.

Research Professional online training

Research Professional is a funding database where staff and students can find Australian and international funding opportunities across a wide range of disciplines.

Training is available online for new staff or for staff who would like a refresher. This training will assist you in getting started, setting up your profile, and getting the most out of Research Professional.

Friday 31 August 8.30–9.30am (when registering, please ensure you select the correct time zone).

Scholarship opportunities

Completion and Fee-relief Scholarships

Are you in the final stages of writing your thesis?
You may be eligible for a Completion Scholarship. Applications close 15 August.
More information and how to apply

Are you a domestic student who has exceeded the funding period for your tuition fees?
You may be eligible for a Fee-relief Scholarship. Applications close 15 August.
More information and how to apply

ATN e-Grad School courses

Upcoming courses
Entrepreneurship, Project management, Leadership and communication, Research commercialisation, Public policy
3 September–12 October (LEAP employability skills)
More information and to enrol

NVivo software – version 10

Qualitative research software like NVivo helps researchers manage, shape and make sense of unstructured information. Subsidised by the Graduate Research Centre, licenses are available for purchase through Information Strategy and Technology Services for $120/year (follow the steps to apply). You will need to get the form signed off by your local cost centre manager.

Upcoming events – keep your diary free!

Mindfulness workshops
Varied dates in August/September
See the article ‘Counselling Service’ (this page).

Illumination: UniSA’s research degree information evening
Wed 8 August, 5–7.30pm
Find out where a research degree can take you. More information and to register

EAS HDR Forum
Fri 10 and Sat 11 August
Exceptional speakers and research degree students presenting. More information and to register

Here’s Health. Research
Wed 15 August, 6–8pm
Health and medical research showcase. More information

UniSA Open Day
Sun 19 August, 9am–4.30pm
Visit the Graduate Research Centre information booth to find out more about research degrees. More information