The Research EDGE

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DOT POINT NEWS

PhD student achievements snapshot across the schools:

- Sjaan Gomersall, Health Sciences, was awarded the Young Investigators Award at the International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport in Glasgow, recognising young leaders in research.
- Imania Widagdo, Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, won this year’s Veterans’ MATES Travel Scholarship for meritorious performance on the Veterans’ MATES project.
- Lei Yu, Communication, International Studies and Languages, presented the research paper, written jointly with Dr Shamsul Khan, ‘Regional environmental governance in the Mekong region: addressing Mekong’s environmental challenges’ in Beijing.
- Sharon Zivkovic, Education, won the Best Paper Award (other streams) at the 4th International Social Innovation Research Conference in Birmingham.

From the Dean of Graduate Studies

This month we bring you three high performers – PhD students who got a 1 from both examiners: that means straight through, with nothing more to do!

Getting a 2 (minor corrections only) is also not shabby, and I am proud to say that a full 35% of UniSA PhD students are high performers who receive either two 1s or a 1 and a 2 from their examiners.

I particularly like Moom and Mehrudin’s advice: write every day! And if you write enough quality material to get a couple of papers published as you go, that is a really good way of persuading the examiners that you deserve 1s and 2s! So keep up the passion, and keep writing!

Prof Phil Weinstein

Examination dream come true – two 1s

The following students reflect on their recent examination successes.

Rim Kadi, School of Commerce

Thesis title: ‘Balancing and crossing trust bridges to sustainability: the case of the water sector reform in Lebanon’

My PhD experience at UniSA was so gratifying I almost regret it is over. Despite the typical anxiety and the ups and downs that are bound to accompany any PhD thesis writing, I enjoyed every moment of this journey. It was a journey of learning and self development that extended way beyond my subject area, to include research and knowledge acquisition skills facilitated by a wide range of research support resources and activities.

Supportive school, division, IT and Library staff, the fellowship of other research students and faculty, and my good working relationship with my supervisors made the journey a memorable one too.

Moom Sinn Aw, Ian Wark Research Institute

Thesis title: ‘Nano-engineered porous materials for controlled drug delivery’

I appreciate the state-of-the-art facilities and modern infrastructure on campus, as well as the highly advanced analytical instruments available for scientific research.

My co-supervisors A/Prof Dusan Losic and Prof Jonas Addai-Mensah are passionate about research and dedicated to their work.

The commitment to completing my degree on time and a sense of purpose most helped me with writing my thesis. Also, the need to solve the given problems and address current issues encountered in the area of research was good motivation for doing my project.

A good practice for improving your writing is to write a few lines every day. It is no different to blogging or putting a daily entry in your journal.

(An extract continues on page 2)

Below left: Rim Kadi (right) with principal supervisor Jennifer McKay. Below right: Moom Sinn Aw
Three Minute Thesis Competition

The 3MT™ Competition is an important national event in which UniSA participates annually. Participation provides our research degree students with invaluable communication experience. View the UniSA Final

Prof Phil Weinstein, Dean of Graduate Studies, attended the 3MT™ National Final at the University of Queensland on Thursday 11 October. There were 43 finalists from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, including UniSA’s Carla Daunton (Mawson Institute, ‘A diagnostic test for chronic wounds’). These people are the cream of student communicators. Congratulations once again to Carla – she did not make the final eight, but represented UniSA very credibly.

Tim Paris (University of Western Sydney, ‘Brain waves that predict the future’) was the overall winner. View his presentation. Lauren Hollier (University of Western Sydney, ‘Girls and language: is testosterone the key?’) was runner up, and Tristan Simons (Deakin University, ‘Sun to socket: the Zinc-Air rechargeable battery’) won the People’s Choice.

Every year that UniSA competes, our students benefit from the learned experience of what is an effective communication strategy for presenting their research. This is a lifelong skill and a communication strategy for presenting their research. This is the learned experience of what is an effective research degree students with invaluable communication experience. View the UniSA Final

Scholarship opportunities

SafeWork SA WHS Supplementary Scholarships

Domestic students concurrently awarded a research degree scholarship are eligible. This scholarship aims to increase the momentum of high-quality Work Health and Safety (WHS) research in South Australia. It provides a $10,000 per year boost for the full duration of the main scholarship. Applications close 9 November

More information and how to apply

Swiss Government Excellence Research Scholarships

These scholarships enable selected applicants (domestic and international) to undertake research in the realm of their PhD or medical specialisation in Switzerland. Applications close 16 November

More information and how to apply

Publishing your research – don’t lose your rights

Getting into publishing? Want to gain the edge in publishing your work, managing your rights as an author, and handling copyright permissions for your thesis/papers? Attend this Library repeat seminar: Thursday 29 November, 9am–12.30pm, City West Library Function Room.

- Learn the top publishing tips from active early-career researchers and completing research degree students.
- Explore Creative Commons licensing, open access and the benefits of sharing your research via a repository such as the UniSA Research Archive.
- Contribute your questions to the panel – share with researchers, the University’s Copyright Coordinator, and Library repository staff.

Please register: staff and postgraduate students
If this seminar is full, you can go on the waiting list

Examination dream come true – two 1s (continued)

Mehrudin Murtic, School of Communication, International Studies and Languages

Thesis title: ‘As seen in the movies: towards a cosmopolitan imagining of post-Yugoslavia’

UniSA in general and the School of Communication, International Studies and Languages in particular have created an extraordinary encouraging environment for studying. In addition, besides being provided with the setting that helped me complete my research, I learned the skill of being an academic and educator.

My co-supervisors A/Prof Robert Hattam and Dr Adrian Guthrie (retired in March 2012) were the most inspirational, generous and compassionate supervisors I can imagine. Dr Daniela Kaleva, in her role as supervising supervisor, also made a significant and gracious contribution. Even though I had a great deal of freedom in regards to imagining and executing my research, all my ideas, research approaches and writings were challenged by my supervising team until my thesis reached the desired level we were all happy with.

What helped me most was dedication and persistence, as well as encouragement from my supervisors, family members and friends!

My advice to other students: write every day! Even a nonsense paragraph is 10 times better than a blank page.

Pictured below: A/Prof Robert Hattam (left) with Mehrudin Murtic