



# “artsVISOR”

Newsletter, Issue 7, August 2004

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**News from the Faculty HDR Coordinator**

Welcome to our somewhat delayed seventh issue of “artsVISOR” in which we continue to focus upon issues of concern and interest to those of us currently (or potentially) acting as postgraduate supervisors.

Should you wish to respond to any of the items featured in this issue, please feel free to email us so that your responses can open discussion and debate amongst us all.

If you are aware of new members of staff in your particular discipline, area or centre, it would be much appreciated if you would advise them of this and past issues as well as advising Liz Hewitt [at: [eah@deakin.edu.au](mailto:eah@deakin.edu.au)] of their names and contact details for future issues.

Lastly, not only do we invite contributions to “artsVISOR” but also we invite you to copy relevant excerpts for postgraduates in your charge.

**Dr Ron Goodrich, Faculty HDR Coordinator**  
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**[1] Postgraduate Research Day @ Waterfront**

Both Schools of the Faculty of Arts are planning a Higher Degree by Research mini-conference in conjunction with the D.U.S.A. conference at the Waterfront Campus on **Thursday, 30 September 2004**.

The aim is to provide a collaborative environment for Arts students to present short work-in-progress papers, particularly on methodological and theoretical issues. We also want to provide a forum, at a time when many H.D.R. students will already be together, where any issues of specific interest and relevance to Arts students could be raised.

It would be much appreciated if you would discuss this with your students and encourage them to attend the day and, where possible, to offer a paper. Students have already been notified of this event. Your own participation, of course, would also be greatly appreciated.

**[2] “Endeavour” International Postgraduate Scholarships**

Opportunities for students in Australia and Asia to undertake study exchanges have been increased through a new \$4.5 million scholarship programme announced on the 24 June 2004. The Hong Kong-based company, Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited, will match the Australian Government's contribution of \$2.25 million over three financial years beginning in 2004/2005. The new funding will include 120 postgraduate and postdoctoral research fellowships.

The Endeavour-Cheung Kong Fellowships for postgraduate and postdoctoral research, worth \$1 million each year, will fund 20 postgraduate/postdoctoral students coming from Asia. Two-thirds of the recipients will reside in mainland China and Hong Kong.

These awards will also enable 20 Australian students each year to study in Asia with 14

earmarked for students studying in China or Hong Kong. The scholarships are valued at up to \$25,000. These awards will be administered under the existing Endeavour international scholarships programme.

Further details for Scholarship study in 2005 at

<http://www.dest.gov.au/international/awards/endeavour.htm>

### [3] Fulbright Professional Award in Australian-United States Alliance Studies

**Closing date: 31 August 2004**

To undertake research in the USA in 2005/2006.

Valued up to \$A20,000 (3-6 months)

This Award was established in 2001 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs as a portfolio contribution to Australia's ANZUS 50th Anniversary commemorations. The award aims to contribute in a practical way to contemporary Australian scholarship on the Australia-U.S. alliance relationship.

The Award is open to Australian citizens who are junior or middle level academics, and professionals from public and private fields to teach, or conduct seminars, as well as research contemporary aspects of the Australian-United States alliance (defence and security) and broader bilateral relationship (trade/economics/ politics) of interest to both alliance partners.

The recipient of the Award will be preferably affiliated with Georgetown University's Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies in Washington D.C. and/or the Edward A. Clark Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies at the University of Texas, Austin.

It is a condition of the Award that the recipient produces a tangible contribution to contemporary debate in his or her area of specialty in the format of a monograph, which can be used by Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, and/or published with an appropriate accreditation. In accordance with the Fulbright programme's aim of promoting mutual understanding between Australia and the United States, the recipient will also have the opportunity to participate in activities organised by Georgetown University, the University of Texas, Austin, the Australian Embassy, the Fulbright Programme, and Washington political and intellectual communities.

Details & information: [www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au)

### [4] Overdue & Forthcoming Faculty Colloquia to March 2005

Amongst our postgraduates formally required to undertake a Faculty Colloquium are the following whose estimated due dates occur before the 31<sup>st</sup>

March 2005 (those currently overdue are marked in bold). At the time of compiling this list, there were several times available for booking, arrangements for which should be negotiated by principal supervisors with Liz Hewitt [email: <[eah@deakin.edu.au](mailto:eah@deakin.edu.au)>]

#### S.C.C.A:

Dobbyn, Timothy (PhD): August 2003 (Edwards)  
Cormick, Craig (PhD): June 2004 (Meehan)

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Liu, Meng-Chin (PhD): Aug. 04 (Haysom) → Dec. 04  
Liu, Su-Sin (PhD): Aug. 2004 (Walker) → Dec. 04  
Watkins, Alexandra (PhD): Aug. 2004 (Ommundsen)  
Goddard, Trevor (PhD): October 2004? (Birch)  
Bethell, Paul (MA): November 2004 (Hughes)  
Johnston, Peter (PhD): November 2004 (Meehan)  
King-Smith, Susan (PhD): Dec., 2004 (Mishra)  
Yuk, Mee Young (PhD): February 2005 (Vincs)  
Caldwell, David (MA): March 2005 (Tebble)  
Lang, Lisa (MA): March 2005 (Meehan)  
Ling, David (MA): March 2005 (McCulloch).

#### S.S.I.S.:

Johnson, Mark (PhD): January 2003 (van Hoofft)  
Barker, Sharon (MA): October 2003 (Kenny)  
Day, Phillip (PhD): Dec. 2003 (Crick → Mewett)  
Hingston, Jarrod (MA): February 2004 (Mansouri)  
Watters, Gregory (PhD): February 2004 (Walker)  
Brewer, Douglas (PhD): March 2004 (Remenyi)  
Whitting, Christopher (PhD): Mar. 2004 (Mansouri)

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Duras, Anthony (PhD): August 2004 (Vandenberg)  
Olczak, Margaret (PhD): August 2004 (van Hoofft)  
Williams, Gerard (PhD): Aug. 2004 (Grigg) → Sep. 04  
Sweet, Jonathan (PhD): September 2004 (Logan)  
Lewis, Peter (PhD): October 2004 (Butcher)  
West, Alexander (PhD): October 2004 (Butcher)  
Schmidt, Isabelle (PhD): Nov. 04 (Remenyi) → Dec. 04  
Ford, Gentle (PhD): December 2004 (Stokes)  
Vlahos, Peter (MA): December 2004 (Lowe)  
Humphries, Mark (PhD): January 2005 (Burgess)  
Kelly, Elizabeth (PhD): January 2005 (Jacobs)  
Joel, Tony (PhD): January 2005 (Beaumont)  
Hellier, Carmel (MA): January 2005 (Fenner)  
Menzel, Kelly (PhD): Apr. 04 (Hancock) → Jan. 05  
Abdallah, E. (PhD): Feb. 04 (Mansouri) → Feb. 05  
Carter, Paul (PhD): February 2005 (Alomes)  
Myers, Phillip (PhD): February 2005 (Remenyi)  
Abbott, J. (PhD): Oct. 02 (Walker) → Mar. 05  
Ernst, Ralf (PhD): March 2005 (Remenyi)

## [5] Revised Faculty Colloquium & Research Progress Review Procedures

For further details about the revised procedures involved and some samples of documentation, please see the Faculty's website:

[www.deakin.edu.au/fac\\_arts](http://www.deakin.edu.au/fac_arts) [Research ---> HDR@Deakin ---> Colloquia].

Please keep in mind that the requirements listed in colloquia procedures act as a checklist of issues to be covered within the documentation.

New changes to the documents are effective from the 1 July, 2004.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Liz Hewitt in the first instance at: [eah@deakin.edu.au](mailto:eah@deakin.edu.au)

## [6] Updated Proof-Reading & Copy-Editing Services

Please note that there are now six people with appropriate experience and background, who, in alphabetical order, are available for consultation:

Philip Bentley: <[pgben@ozramp.net.au](mailto:pgben@ozramp.net.au)>

Christine de Boos: <[de\\_boos@optusnet.com.au](mailto:de_boos@optusnet.com.au)>

Rodney Cummins: <[rjtc@pipeline.com.au](mailto:rjtc@pipeline.com.au)>

Maryrose Hall <[maryrose.hall@optusnet.com.au](mailto:maryrose.hall@optusnet.com.au)>

Mary-Jo O'Rourke <[maryjo@alphalink.com.au](mailto:maryjo@alphalink.com.au)>

Susan Trigg: <[strigg@pipeline.com.au](mailto:strigg@pipeline.com.au)>

The best time for our students to start thinking about and organising their copy-editing needs in particular is at least six or more months before submission. The Faculty's "completion assistance" scheme can be utilised to help defray costs involved in proof-reading and copy-editing.

For a more detailed discussion of what is involved in proof-reading and/or copy-editing, please see "artsVISOR," Issue Four, August 2003, pp. 1-2 on our website.

## [7] Supervisors & Examiners: Recent Questions & Answers

***The following issues emerged in recent months as sufficiently problematic as to be worth highlighting:***

**Question:** Why has the third nominated examiner been rejected when credentials and expertise are not in doubt?

**Response:** If one of the two examiners already nominated or appointed is also from the same university as the third, then Deakin's policy is that no two examiners can be from the same institution.

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**Question:** Why does the Faculty insist of having at least two supervisors for research masters and three for research doctoral students?

**Response:** The point of supervisory panels for masters and doctorates is not only to enable a better spread of expertise from the students' point of view but also an automatic means of providing relief for members of staff taking leave during the period of candidacy.

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**Question:** Do we, as supervisors, have to contact those we are nominating as examiners (after all, everyone in the area knows how good they are)? And if so, when?

**Response:** As soon as our students submit an Intention-to-Submit-Thesis application (eight weeks beforehand in the case of conventional dissertations; twelve weeks in the case of performance- or practice-based ones), we ought to contact potential examiners in order to confirm:

- interest in the research project (based upon a draft of the abstract);
- expertise and/or experience in assessment;
- current contact details and institutional affiliation(s);
- willingness to be listed as a potential examiner;
- availability to act as an examiner if nominated by the University upon receipt of thesis.

For those who, for one reason or the other, are experiencing difficulties or might be absent at the relevant time, please contact Liz Hewitt in the first instance [email: [eah@deakin.edu.au](mailto:eah@deakin.edu.au)] who can provide a generic pro forma email based on the above to potential examiners.

## [8] Expectations of Honours Applicants from Postgraduate Perspective

Most of us have been aware that the Faculty has engaged in a series of discussions about the nature of honours programmes with the aim of completing a review of them early next year. From a postgraduate point of view, Deakin's honours students form the bulk of applications in many disciplines, though it should be noted that few of them are subject to quite the rigorous "vetting" that, in practice, applicants from other places or with other qualifications undergo.

In informal discussions had with colleagues locally and interstate, the kinds of skills expected of honours students looking to postgraduate study include, for example:

- critical, not simply reproductive, familiarity with the relevant major debates in a topic justifiable

use of primary and secondary texts or sources, be they print or non-print, verbal or visual;

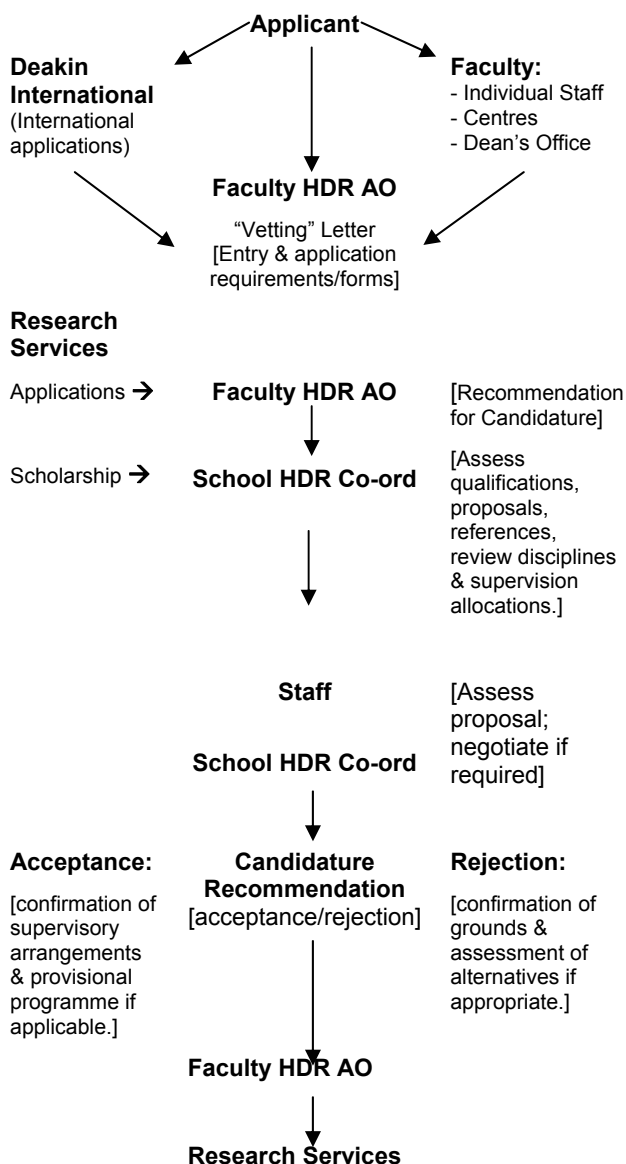
- capacity to pose relevant questions, of both the over-arching kind and the more specific kind;
- appreciation of the applicability or lack of applicability of research design or method to the topic at hand;
- demonstration of clarity, originality, and strength in analysis or argument;
- clarity of expression, including appropriate diction and style;
- organisation and presentation of dissertation, including use of appropriate conventions of the supporting apparatus (bibliography, notes, tables, and the like).

At the same time, it was also expected that such honours students would have experienced a number of characteristic processes in the conduct of their supervised research, including, for example:

- developing chapter summaries or synopses as part of research planning;
- drafting sustained chapters;
- coping with supervisory critiques of drafts, intellectually, organizationally, and stylistically;
- accurately compiling progressive bibliographies and foot- or end-notes in full;
- locating and evaluating the relevance and usability of primary sources or texts;
- continually trialling brief summations of the key or governing point of the research project or argument [= thesis];
- adhering to a timetabled or patterned basis of working to enable at least 50% of the draft thesis to be completed well within six months;
- systematically revising drafts, including linkages between chapters as well as the conclusion and introduction to the body of the thesis;
- applying skills to the development of future research proposals and papers.

One of the questions facing us is whether or not, when beginning to supervise such students, we can detect any “gaps” in such research skills and experience quickly enough in order to advise them of appropriate remedial action.

the following chart may prove helpful and help identify potential “blockages”.



Since instituting the above centralised “funneling” of applications from July 2001, we believe that the process works effectively and fairly for the vast majority of enquiries and applicants and allows us to keep track of what is (or should be) happening at every major phase during the normal 8-12 week period. However, as indicated above, we are always open to suggestions for improvement, be they major or minor.

## [9] Initial Phases of Considering Applications

A constant concern to many of us is the time taken between an applicant’s initial approach and the formal acceptance of that applicant. In order to understand the process at Faculty and School level,