Welcome!

Since our last newsletter, I am pleased to report that there has been a lot of recent research success in terms of:

- Research publications;
- Grants; and
- Engagement and impact.

Please join me in congratulating the achievements of our researchers! I’m continually impressed by the calibre, breadth, and depth of the research being conducted within our School and its wider impact.

In line with our research strategy, we are still working towards:

- Building our culture of research excellence
- Attracting and training high quality higher degree research students
- Connecting and collaborating with stakeholders; and
- Promoting our research strengths.

So please, take a moment to look at the accomplishments of our researchers and let us know about your success so that we can promote it in our final newsletter for the year!

*Per ardua ad astra*

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**Michael Kortt**  
Associate Professor | Director of Research  
School of Business and Tourism  

6 November 2017
The journal rankings below comply with the current ABDC journal quality ranking. However, please let us know if you publish in a Q1 ranked journal listed on Scimago (http://www.scimagojr.com).

A* Ranked Journals

A Ranked Journals


B Ranked Journals


Scimago Ranked Journals (Q1/Q2/Q3)


Book Chapters

Books
Grants

Dr William Smart and Dr Vinh Bui have been awarded a teaching and learning internal grant ($7,500) to Develop Virtual Reality Assisted Lectures for Web Application Development.

Project summary: This project is intended to evaluate the use of Virtual Reality (VR) technology for improving the teaching quality in web application development. It will develop a series of VR assisted lectures in which VR is used to help deliver difficult concepts in web application development to students, especially to those studying online. It is proposed the project will evaluate the effectiveness of this new content delivery approach as well as the acceptance of the students to this technology.

This project will specifically target the Web Development II unit (CSC20177) as it is an advanced unit within the Bachelor of Information Technology (BInfTech) and is seen as an ideal testbed. The results of the project however, should be applicable to many currently offered units in the BInfTech and potentially to other courses (disciplines) at Southern Cross University.

Engagement and Impact

Excellence in Engagement Awards

The SCU Excellence in Engagement Awards 2017 were held last month at the SCU Enterprise Lab. The awards champion the importance of engagement as an approach that creates quality student learning experiences, innovative relevant research and, ultimately, stronger and more vibrant communities.

Dr Mieke Witsel and Mr Paul Weeks received the Excellence in Engagement award in the Engaged learning category. Their project: Opening a world of possibilities: engaging and empowering equity students through a fully-funded Singaporean experiential learning project, resulting in enhanced cultural understanding and international linkages. Mieke and Paul have produced two refereed conference papers and are about to start on a journal article on this same project. Congratulations Mieke and Paul!

Dr Kay Dimmock and Professor Betty Weiler were short-listed for their Engaged Research project: Facilitating partnerships between local government and the SCU community through postgraduate student research into community and business views of the proposed Ballina Pool. Congratulations Kay and Betty!

The Italian Minister for the Interior has given permission for Professor Yvonne Brunetto and Professor Chiara Saccon (Ca’ Foscari University, Italy) to undertake a study of the impact of individual and organisational support on the outcomes of police officers in Venice, Verona, Vicenza and Padua. Police will be given the opportunity to complete a survey whilst undertaking routine training. The data collecting phase is likely to take 12 months. The data will be used to benchmark Italian police performance with those in Australia, the USA and Malta.
Professor Yvonne Brunetto provided a keynote address on the impact of individual and organisational support on employee outcomes at an industry engagement event held at Edith Cowan University on the 18th October. The event provided a comprehensive understanding of how physical and psychological safety management in organisations have an impact on the job design of employees, which ultimately impact on employee wellbeing. A number of presentations at the event highlighted the contemporary challenges and emerging issues of safety management in complex environments.

Professor Robyn Keast spoke at the Ignite and Unite: Community Service Industry Alliance (CSIA) Women’s Business Breakfast in Toowoomba on the 19th October. Robyn spoke of the importance of making strategic connections for this sector and in particular for women in this sector. The key take home points of the workshop were:

- Connectivity is central to delivering individual and service outcomes
- There are numerous ways to connect in a fit-for-purpose manner
- Everything doesn’t have to be fully connected all the time. It’s not effective, it’s too costly and it’s too hard to sustain
- Be strategic (know what you want to achieve) and deliberate in the types of connections you develop and how these are used
- There are many Connectors and Super Connectors out there but to advance change and create real value, more Value Adding Connectors are needed to create compound value.

Engaging with this sector has led to ongoing engagement with CSIA as well as other interested bodies including YWCA and COTA.

Conferences

The 22nd Annual International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) Conference, will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland April 11-13, 2018. The call for papers has just been released.

The theme of the IRSPM 2018 conference is creating and co-creating value in public service delivery. One of the key debates in the public management community is about the ‘value’ that is created by public services. This debate has included elements concerning, among others:

- What this value comprises and for whom (services users, citizens, or the community)
- How is it understood by different stakeholders
- The balance and potential conflicts both between individual and public value and between the values underpinning public services and the value that they add to citizens and society
- The processes through which it is designed into public service systems, and organizations
- How it might be evaluated.

If you are interested in putting in a paper for the change management stream, please contact Professor Yvonne Brunetto.
Share your research success with us

Do you have a news item to share with the School of Business and Tourism and the wider community? If so we would love to hear and promote your research achievements within the School. Please email your research achievements to michael.kortt@scu.edu.au and tanya.stewart@scu.edu.au