From the Associate Dean Research

Built Environment’s research strategy for 2014-2016 has five major goals:

- fostering a high performance research intensive culture
- enhancing quality research reputation, industry collaborations and international profile
- investing strategically in research income generating capacity, strengths and potential
- building recognition of the HDR contribution to research production and faculty reputation
- strengthening the research-teaching nexus.

Within that framework the intent is to support a wide range of activities but also to concentrate scarce resources in strategic initiatives that pay dividends in multiple ways. The faculty’s current prioritisation of Urban Informatics (UI) and High Performance Architecture (HPA) are cases in point. Both of these ventures address all five of our major strategic planning goals.

The Urban Informatics initiative has been supported by UNSW with the appointment of Chris Pettit as professor of urban science and he takes up his position next month.

Much of our current energies are now focused on the High Performance Architecture area which has also been identified as a future cornerstone of BE’s future national standing and international competitiveness through expanding research performance and teaching capacities.

The aim of HPA - a term well understood in industry - is to enhance environmental performance in terms of both sustainability and habitability at different scales: the human, building, and urban scales.

On Wednesday 29 April the faculty is hosting several visitors to talk to us about their research in this area. One of them, Professor Ray Cole from the University of British Columbia, is also delivering an Utzon lecture that same evening. Details of both events are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our interest in HPA is also tied up with the future legacy of the CRC for Low Carbon Living headed by Scientia Professor Deo Prasad. And on Friday 10 April there will be a forum organised by the CRC to discuss a new initiative to augment postgraduate research opportunities around a new “node of excellence” based at UNSW. Details of this are also provided below.

Overall, the HPA initiative for which we hope to secure critical UNSW backing provides a timely opportunity to integrate the research and teaching opportunities in an area which reinforces the university’s historical strengths in engineering, technology, science and social behaviour research.

Rob Freestone
Associate Dean Research
Research Highlights

Research Evaluation Committees Announced for the 2015 ERA

Professor Robert Freestone is one of 11 UNSW staff, from 36 UNSW nominations, to be appointed to the Research Evaluation Committee for this year’s ERA exercise. The full UNSW list is as follows:

- Professor Chris Tinney – Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCE)
- Professor Robert Freestone – Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA)
- Professor John Gascoigne – Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA)
- Professor Melissa Knothe Tate – Engineering and Environmental Sciences (EE)
- Professor Chris Rizos - Engineering and Environmental Sciences (EE)
- Professor Brian Uy - Engineering and Environmental Sciences (EE)
- Professor Roger Layton – Economics and Commerce (EC)
- Professor Paul Patterson - Economics and Commerce (EC)
- Professor Pierre Del Moral – Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences (MIC)
- Professor Igor Shparlinski - Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences (MIC)
- Professor Louisa Jorm – Medical and Health Sciences (MHS)

The ARC reported that “The membership has been drawn substantially from more than 700 nominations which were submitted to the ARC in 2014 from the sector.” The complete list of panel membership may be found in the ARC website:

Meet the Researchers – Lan Ding

Dr Lan Ding joined the Faculty of Built Environment in 2013 as a Senior Lecturer. Prior to this she was employed as a Senior Research Scientist in CSIRO for over 10 years and also as a Senior Lecturer at University of Wollongong. Lan has a background in Architecture and Artificial Intelligence in Design through her Doctoral Degree received from the University of Sydney. While working with CSIRO, Lan led a number of projects in the areas of sustainable buildings and cities, energy efficiency and climate adaptation, sustainable urban development and assessment, intelligent cities, building information modelling, urban informatics, consumption behaviour modelling and life cycle building design.

Lan has won various awards for research innovation and leadership over the last ten years, including the national award winning project ‘DesignCheck’, the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia (ACEA) Gold Award of Special Merit and Project of the Year for the Sydney Opera House Project, the Fresh Innovators Award, and the CSIRO Divisional Award 2008 Sustainable Ecosystems for excellence in a successful project providing an information resource to help the development industry create more sustainable neighbourhoods.

Lan’s current research activities include leading two large projects through the CRC for Low Carbon Living: ‘Validating and Improving the BASIX Energy Assessment Tool for Low-carbon Dwellings’ ($519,388) and ‘Closing the Loop on Evidence-Based Low Carbon of Non-Residential Buildings’ ($689,245). Lan currently supervises 4 PhD students.
BE Research in the News

**Edgar Liu:** *Living Together: the rise of multigenerational households in Australian cities.* 4GB Radio Interview, 10 March 2015. [Listen to interview.](#)

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News from the Centres

**City Futures Research Centre**

[Professor Susan Thompson](#) has been elected to the executive board of the [International Society for Urban Health (ISUH)](#). ISUH is an interdisciplinary organisation that advances the generation, exchange, and application of high quality urban health knowledge to attain health equity in urban settings worldwide. ISUH’s focus is sustainable and healthy global urbanisation through research, exchange and translation of knowledge to promote and apply more effective policies and strategies.

**CRC Low Carbon Living**

Australian home renovators are being invited to participate in a survey investigating home renovation processes and the role that mainstream and social media play in shaping these practices. With a focus on media and popular practices of home renovations the project responds to the largely ineffective top down approaches used to drive carbon reduction by households. [More information...](#)

A number of PhD and Masters scholarships are now available through the CRC, for work on specific areas of research relating to low carbon built environments. For Australian students, these scholarships are valued at $65,000 over two years for Masters and $95,000 over three years for PhD students. First preference is for Australian residents/citizens but international applications and top-up awards will also be considered. Scholarship positions are available in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. [More information...](#)

A proposed CRC/UNSW "node of excellence" with an initial focus on postgraduate research will be announced on 10 April (see Events).

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**HDR News**

**News and Announcements**

Induction Day for all new HDR students is planned for Monday 20 April. An introduction to the Faculty, its facilities and services, along with information on research funding, ethics and the APR process will be followed by a luncheon for all new students and their supervisors. All of the HDR cohort will be invited, providing an opportunity for new students to meet and socialise with their colleagues.

**New students**

We have welcomed 7 new HDR candidates for 2015 (So Far)

**Students Submitting (So Far)**

5 HDR candidates have recently submitted their thesis; a few more have been given an extension of 3 weeks so we should see the total rise over the next month.

**Events**

The April monthly cohort workshop for 2015 is scheduled for Thursday 2 April. The DPR will be attending and all HDR students are encouraged to come along to contribute their ideas and opinions. Krishna Munsami will be giving a talk around his research topic and Laura Crommelin will give an overview of the faculty seminar series that City Futures coordinates.
News from the Research Programs

HMInfo

In early February, HMInfo moved from City Futures Research Centre to level 4. We thank City Futures for their support during our time there and we look forward to continuing our work from our new location.

The move has been part of a busy start to the year. We are happy to announce that we have continued funding from ADHC for the next three years which will help us to continue to provide our much needed clearinghouse service information website and online forums. A grant application, in partnership with Mei Boon of Vision Sciences, has recently been submitted for the 2016 NHMRC Project Grant round. The topic was “Risk Factors for Near Miss and Injurious Incidents in Older People with Visual Impairment”.

We also have a number of research projects drawing to a close, including “DIY Home Modifications for People with a Disability”, for which we hosted an industry forum in late February, as well as research on “Mapping the Evidence Base on Home Modifications. The results of this research will be made available shortly.

Catherine Bridge was an invited keynote speaker at the Symposium on Trends in Universal Design (STUD 2014), Kuala Lumpur, where she delivered a paper on “Older Australian out and about in the global context: Their bathroom preferences and what this means for standards development and accessible tourism”. Catherine was also invited to deliver a Keynote presentation at the Abbeyfield National Conference, held in Melbourne.

Upcoming BE Events

BE Research Workshop Learning from the UK Research Excellence Framework

Prof Mark Tewdwr-Jones, Newcastle University, UK

Tuesday 21 April 2015; 1.00pm, AGSU, Level 2, Red Centre. (lunch from 12.45pm)

Similar to the ERA but with more direct implications for funding, the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) is the system for assessing the quality of research in higher education institutions. This presentation will provide a personal perspective on the preparations, conduct, results and implications of the exercise. In particular it will; look at the documentation and assessment of ‘research impact’ which is likely to be a dimension of growing importance in assessing the quality and contribution of research in the Australian higher education sector.

RSVP

BE Research Workshop High Performance Architecture Workshop

Wednesday 29 April 2015, 9.00am – 12.30pm followed by lunch, AGSU, Level 2, Red Centre

The faculty is hosting a panel of visitors who have been invited to discuss current capacities and future potentialities for focused research and teaching in the area of “high performance architecture” (HPA).

The aim of HPA is to minimize a building’s environmental footprint, while creating a healthy, functional and aesthetic environment that exceeds the requirements of occupants. Integrated architectural design and embedded performance evaluation are essential to maximise indoor environment quality
and improve efficiencies in the building sector. HPA can also contribute to the environmental performance of the surrounding locality.

For further information refer to your email invitation, sent 23 March 2015.

RSVP

Utzon Lecture
Changing the Storyline: From green to regenerative
Dr Raymond J Cole; University of British Columbia, Canada

Wednesday 29 April 2015; 6.30pm, Law Theatre G04

Green building strategies, performance goals, and associated assessment methods currently emphasize the ways and extent that buildings should reduce the degenerative consequences of human activity on the health and integrity of ecological systems. In contrast to this necessary but, as will be argued, insufficient ‘doing less harm’ approach, the emerging notion of ‘regenerative sustainability’ is garnering attention as a necessary and complementary aspiration. This more positive and engaging approach emphasizes a co-evolutionary, partnered relationship between humans and the natural environment that builds, rather than diminishes, social and natural capitals. A central argument though the presentation will be the storylines embedded in the ‘green’ and ‘regenerative’ approaches and their potency to affect significant sustainability advances through building design and neighbourhood development.

RSVP

Other Events

Node of Excellence in a Low Carbon Built Environment
Friday 10 April 2015; 3.00 – 5.00pm, Lecture Theatre 3 (G03), Lower Ground Floor, Tyree Energy Technologies Building, UNSW

The Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living (CRCLCL) is undertaking a legacy project to help build significant capacity in Australia to conduct high quality industry led research that enables Australian industry and governments to lead in the move towards a lower carbon built environment. A joint CRC / UNSW Node of Excellence will be launched on Friday 10 April 2015. Speakers include Hon Robert Hill AC, Chair, CRC-LCL Board, Prof Deo Prasad AO, CEO, CRC-LCL, and Prof Alec Tzannes AM, Dean of the Faculty of Built Environment.

Please RSVP by 7 April 2015 to Sara Fagir, Ph: 02 9385 5402, Email: s.fagir@unsw.edu.au

Factors Which Impact on Timely Submission of Doctoral Theses
Thursday 9 April 2015; 10.30am – 12.00pm

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is hosting a presentation by Dr Robin Humphrey of Newcastle University, UK, regarding higher degree research completions. In a quantitative study utilising data routinely kept in Newcastle University’s Graduate School, logistic regression was undertaken to identify which elements of the University’s Code of Practice and research training were significantly associated with submission within four years. Important conclusions were drawn, and suggestions can be made about making use of similar data resources in other institutions.

More information and to register.
Early Career Academic Network (ECAN) Seminar: An Experiment in Interdisciplinary Team Working and Collaborating Across Cultures

Thursday 9 April 2015; 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Are you asked to work more collaboratively? Want to hear about an innovative approach to team work? Dr. Robin Humphrey, Director of Postgraduate Research Training, Newcastle University, UK, will talk about an innovative, interdisciplinary and cross cultural Researcher Development School which took a group of doctoral students and early career researchers through a programme that was short-listed for a prestigious Times Higher Education Award for Outstanding Contribution to Early Career Researchers.

More information and to register.

Women in Research Network (WiRN)

UNSW's Women in Research Network helps research active women, who are academic members of staff, connect with one another in order to form positive professional relationships. The network is guided by a planning group of women researchers and supported administratively by the Researcher Development Unit. Their next brown bag lunchtime session will be on Wednesday 16 April 2015, 12.30 – 1.30pm in the AGSM Courtyard (upper campus).

More information and to join the network.

Research Training – Upcoming UNSW Events

Cleaning and Exploring your Data with Open Refine
Tuesday 7 April 2015; 10.00am – 12.30pm
Open Refine is a powerful free tool for exploring, normalising and cleaning up datasets. In this tutorial we'll work through the various features of Refine, including importing data, faceting, clustering, and calling into remote APIs, by working on a fictional but plausible humanities research project.

More information and registration link.

Data Visualisation with Google Fusion Tables
Tuesday 7 April 2015; 2.00pm – 4.00pm
This two hour workshop introduces Google Fusion Tables and uses a practical example whereby participants create a "heat map" of NSW highlighting crime hotspots by drawing together geospatial data containing Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries together with NSW Crime statistics to illustrate the power of Fusion Tables.

More information and registration link.

Excel Fu
Friday 10 April 2015; 9.30am – 5.00pm
"Excel Fu" workshop runs over one day and comprises of a series of hands-on exercises and slide-based background material. Attendees will leave with two key skills – how to handle their research data within Excel, and how to use advanced features of Excel to answer research questions pertaining to their data.

More information and registration link.

Supporting HDR Students' Thesis Writing
Wednesday 22 April 2015; 10.00am – 1.00pm
This workshop will provide tools and resources to help you support your HDR organise and structure their research thesis. Led by Associate Professor Sue Starfield, Director of The Learning Centre, this
workshop will explore techniques to help write introductions and discussions, often the most challenging to write and can impede timely completion.

More information and registration link.

Writing for Publication in Academic Journals
Wednesday 29 April 2015: 10.00am – 1.00pm
How do you navigate the peer review process? Are you able to structure your writing for effect? Associate Professor Sue Starfield, an experienced editor for an international, peer-reviewed journal, will make suggestions for techniques to help structure your journal article and navigate the peer review process. The workshop will end with a brief opportunity to receive feedback on your own article.

More information and registration link.

Quality Conversations in an HDR Supervision Context
Tuesday 5 May 2015; 10.00am – 1.00pm
The aim of this workshop is to help research academics new to or considering supervision understand the roles and responsibilities of a supervisor during a period from HDR accepting offer to confirmation of candidature.

More information and registration link.

Publications

The following 2014 and 2015 research activities have been entered into ROS since the release of the last newsletter.

Books


Book Chapters


Journal Articles


Conference Papers


Other


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**Did You Know…?**

…. the university maintains a list of Quality Research Outlets

While journal and conference rankings are no longer used, the university does maintain lists of quality research outlets as part of its research performance measure. You can find the master lists of quality journals, conferences, publishers and non-traditional outlets on the intranet at https://research.unsw.edu.au/unsw-list-top-quality-research-outlets (login required).

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**Current Funding/Research Opportunities**

**Australian Academy of the Humanities | Travelling Fellowships/Publication Subsidy**

- **Travelling Fellowships**: A Fellowship of up to $4000 available to permanent resident scholars in Australia working in the humanities …more | **External Deadline**: 9 April 2015

- **Publication Subsidy Scheme**: Support of up to $3,000 for the publication of scholarly works of high quality in the humanities …more | **External Deadline**: 9 April 2015

**BE Visiting International Scholars**

This program aims to support short term stays in the faculty by distinguished overseas scholars with the aim of encouraging research collaborations and production of research outputs. A total of $20,000 funding has been allocated to support visits by 2-3 visitors.

**Closing date: 10 April 2015**

More information

**BE Book Publication Subsidy**

This program provides financial support for the publication of scholarly monographs authored by BE staff by quality commercial publishers (HERDC-eligible books). Edited books where the editor is a BE staff member and where at least five of the chapters are authored by BE staff may also be eligible. A pool of up to $20,000 is available in 2015 with an indicative maximum allocation per grant being $5,000. The expectation is that this support (possibly with any other guaranteed support) will confirm publication.

**Closing date: 10 April 2015**

More information
BE Research Symposia/Exhibitions
This new program aims to support the staging of both research symposia and exhibitions through small research grants. A total of $20,000 funding as been initially allocated. Depending on the number of proposals, this is seen as supporting at least four initiatives.

Closing date: 10 April 2015  More information

MAAS Visiting Research Fellowship Program
The Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences (including the Powerhouse Museum) has just launched a fellowship program and invites applications for projects that align with any of their eight disciplines:
- Technologies
- Health and medicine
- Physical sciences
- Engineering
- Architecture and the built environment
- Design and decorative arts
- Fashion
- Contemporary culture.

More information.

Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme
The DAAD scheme funds the exchange of academics (travel and accommodation expenses) between Australia and Germany to work on joint research projects. A particular focus of the scheme is the involvement and development of early career researchers. An information workshop is being held to provide more information on the scheme:

Workshop Summary
Time & Date: 2 - 3:30pm, Monday 30 March
Venue: University of Technology, Sydney
Building 2, Level 4, Lecture Theatre 10
RSVP: Email Kerrie Thornton (k.thornton@universitiesaustralia.edu.au) by 24 March to RSVP.

Applications for DAAD funding commencing in 2016 open on 9 April and close on 29 June 2015. A detailed application pack will be made available on the Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme webpage in late March.

National Library of Australia Fellowships
Six funded Fellowships are offered, open to Australian and international researchers and established and emerging scholars. The Fellowships support researchers to make intensive use of the Library’s rich and varied collections.

Closing date: 17 May 2015  More information

Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc (AFGW) Barbara Hale Fellowship
This $8,000 fellowship is offered annually to women graduates who are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia and are enrolled in the second or subsequent year of a PhD degree by research.

Closing date: 31 May 2015  More information
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc (AFGW) Georgina Sweet Fellowship
This $5,000 fellowship is offered annually to women graduates who are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia and are enrolled in the second or subsequent year of a PhD degree by research.

Closing date: 31 May 2015

More information

Related Links

BE Research Resources

UNSW Research