

# footnotes

UWS Office of Research Services    uwsresearchstudentnewsletterNovember2011

## 2011 3 Minute Thesis

**Cherylea Browne represented UWS at the 3MT Australasian final at UWA in September. Cherylea Browne talked to Footnotes about the competition.**

"I felt very privileged to be apart of the finals. The standards were set very high and every talk was incredible. It was very interesting to see what other students were researching. The most nerve racking thing for me was that I was very scared about going over time. Luckily, there is a big timer right in front of you, which definitely calms your nerves.

A handy hint would be to not only make your talk informative, but funny. Since, there are so many talks on the day (44 in Perth), you need something that makes you stand out. The most enjoyable part of the competition was meeting people from all over Australia that were doing research in really interesting areas. At the end of the competition, we got to let our hair down on the 3MT dinner cruise which took us up and down the Swan River.

Overall, it was a wonderful experience. I would like to thank UWS for giving me this opportunity to be apart of the 3MT finals. I would encourage all research students to give it a go next year, not only have I become a better public speaker, I have made friends from all over Australia and now I have something else to add to my CV".

UWA 3MT website to find the film of the finalist's presentations (<http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/news/3mt>) and the photo gallery (<http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/news/3mt/image-gallery>)

You can download both high resolution and low resolution copies of photos from this website, but if you'd like to download any of the film you will need to go to [http://podcast.wasp.uwa.edu.au/~publicaffairs/3\\_minutes\\_thesis/2011/](http://podcast.wasp.uwa.edu.au/~publicaffairs/3_minutes_thesis/2011/)

The podcast page also contains film of the closing ceremony which has not been put up on the web – this includes footage of Balarka Banerjee (2010 winner) giving out book prizes and announcing the People's Choice winner and of Jack Rivers running off with his cheque!



All of the finalists in the 3 Minute Thesis at UWA



Dean of UWA's Graduate Research School Winthrop Professor Alan Dench and judges

## New Support Network for Arabic Postgraduates

The Support Network for Arabic Postgraduates (SNAP) develops quality research skills and knowledge for international higher degree research students from Saudi Arabia in a small group environment with academic staff and an Arabic speaking tutor. At the 2006 Census Arabic was the fourth most spoken language (with Cantonese) in Australia. Of the total number of Arabic speaking people nationally, 46% reside in the communities in the Greater Western Region of Sydney. As a consequence, many international students from Arabic speaking backgrounds are attracted to the region and UWS.

SNAP supports the research programs of international students and local students from Arabic speaking backgrounds. There are a range of research projects under way including the technological, linguistic and cultural challenges of 21st Century learning and teaching in the Middle East, Turkey and Australia. SNAP is also a vehicle for a concentrated research program on globalising pedagogies with a specific focus on the influences of culture and the Arabic language on the academic exchange of knowledge.

SNAP meets fortnightly and activities include sharing current work and the practicing of Confirmations of Candidature and interviewing techniques.

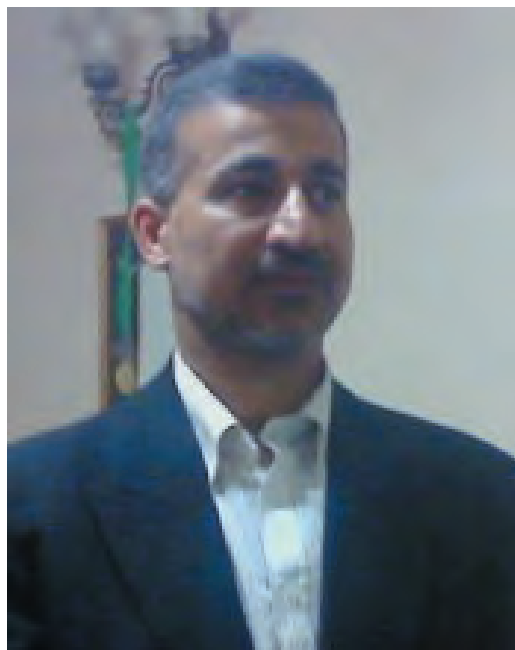
For further information contact [Associate Professor Carol Reid](#).



*Hamid Alasaadi, SNAP member*



*Hussain Alsaari, SNAP member*



*Makki Ilaj, SNAP member*



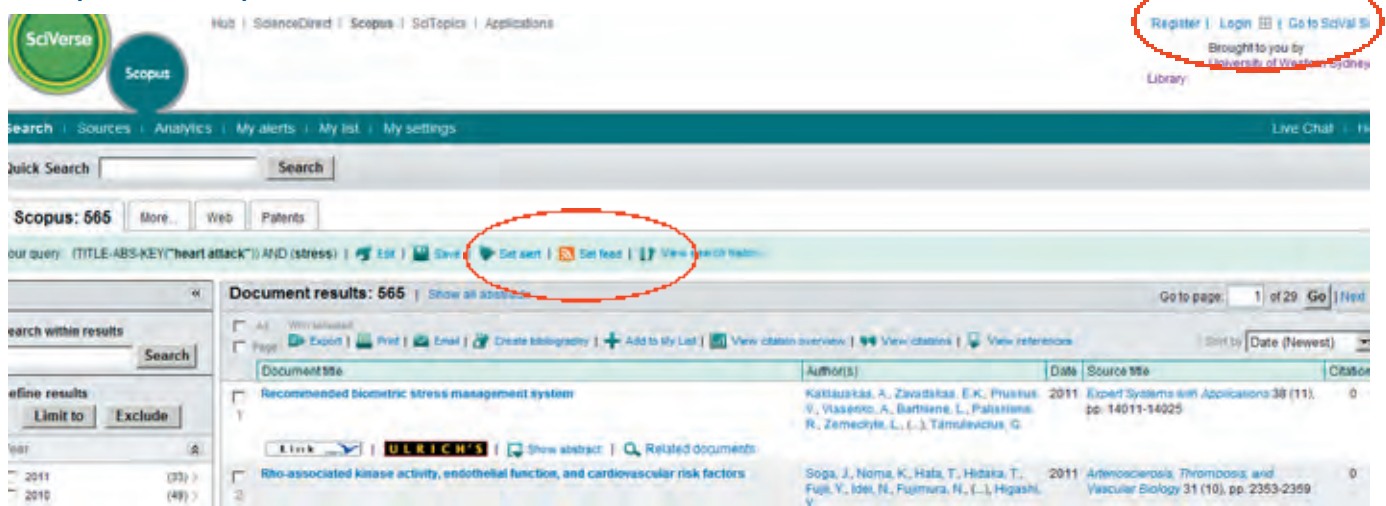
# Library News

## Keeping up to Date - Alerting Services

It is crucial to keep up to date with current academic literature published in your field of research. Many databases and journals provide free alerting services, via email or RSS notification, to assist with this process. Register with the database/journal publisher, then create alerts to receive the following

- » Table of Contents (TOC) of your favourite journals each time a new issue is published.
- » New material on selected keywords.
- » New material published by a specific author.
- » Citations to a seminal work, or groundbreaking new work in your area.

### Example from Scopus



For assistance please contact your campus based Liaison Librarian <http://library.uws.edu.au/infoContacts.php?case=LL> or Susan Robbins, Research Services Librarian [s.robbs@uws.edu.au](mailto:s.robbs@uws.edu.au) 9852 5458

## Writing & Society Research Centre News

The Writing & Society Research Centre celebrated two successes in the months of September and October.

In September the Writing & Society hosted *Creative Ecologies: A Postgraduate Retreat in Creative Arts Scholarship*. The three day retreat held at Yarramundi House on the Hawkesbury Campus explored some of the challenges associated with writing an exegesis for a creative writing doctorate to gain a greater understanding of the relationship between creative and critical discourses so that students could approach the writing process more confidently.

Three broad areas were explored: 1. Form, genre and tradition; 2. Practice-led research and methodology and 3. Voice, style and technique.

Twenty one students attended the retreat, twelve from UWS and nine from universities throughout Australia. Over the three days students were treated to a range of expert guest lectures, plenary discussions, reading and writing circles, as well as time for personal and free writing. Participating academics included: Professors Hazel Smith (UWS), Ivor Indyk (UWS), Nick Jose (UWS), Anthony Uhlmann (UWS), Jane Goodall (UWS), Donna Lee Brien (CQU), Brad Haseman (QUT), Ross Gibson (USyd), as well as Associate Professor Sara Knox (UWS) and Dr Anthony Macris (UTS). The retreat was conceived and convened by Dr Rachel Morley.

The retreat was an enormous success and all participants raved about the knowledge and generosity of the presenters. Just some of the comments from students were:

- » "To date the most useful and interesting thing I've done since starting my DCA ... It felt essential to me",
- » "This was perhaps the most important and definitely the most useful course/retreat we have had. The breadth and depth and knowledge of the presenters was extraordinary and their generosity in giving feedback invaluable. It was a profound retreat, using language that creative practitioners could access and make their own" and
- » "I was expecting this retreat to save my project from oblivion and it did."



*Yarramundi House, Hawkesbury*



*Creative Ecologies: A Postgraduate Retreat in Creative Arts Scholarship at Yarramundi House, Hawkesbury campus*



*Participants at the retreat*

In October the Writing & Society Research Centre was delighted to learn that one of its postgraduate candidates, Jesse Blackadder, had won the 2011 Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship. In a media release Jessica Harris described how these scholarships allow “those with a non-science focus to experience Antarctica first-hand so that they may communicate this unique experience and understanding to other Australians”. Jesse Blackadder is using the experience to continue her research for her historical novel about Ingrid Christensen, the first woman to see Antarctica. Ingrid Christensen accompanied her husband Lars on four Antarctic whaling ships in the 1930s but while the first woman to “see” Antarctica she was not the first woman to land on the continent, this privilege falling to another woman named Caroline Mikkelsen. This novel is part of Jesse’s Doctorate of Creative Arts under the supervision of Professor Gail Jones. Jesse left Hobart on October 23 and is currently travelling on the Australian Antarctic Division icebreaker *Aurora Australis*. She will visit Australia’s Davis station before returning in early December.



*Jesse Blackadder*





## MARCS News

News from Iceland...Guillaume Gibert, Thinking Head Postdoc working with Kate Stevens at MARCS Labs, has scooped the pool taking out both the International Jury and Public Awards at the Gathering of Animated Lifelike Agents (GALA) annual international festival. GALA was held during the 11th International Conference on Intelligent Virtual Agents - IVA 2011, in Reykjavik University, Iceland.

Based on one of his papers for IVA 11, Guillaume submitted to the judging panel a movie of a new and more realistic eye model that he developed for the Thinking Head avatar. The eye model takes into account pupil dilation and corneal reflection, e.g., a reflection of the world surrounding the avatar appears on the cornea of each eye, such as an image of the human with whom the avatar is interacting. Pupil dilation/constriction and corneal

reflection should help to increase the sense of presence of the avatar during face-to-face communication.

The winning movie of the Thinking Head avatar with the improved eye model was created by Guillaume with assistance from MARCS Personnel Steven Fazio, Donovan Govan, and Kirk Olsen.

You can view the winning video at:

[http://marcs.uws.edu.au/files/GALA\\_video/gala\\_video\\_16thAug\\_PAL\\_H264\\_ver2.mp4](http://marcs.uws.edu.au/files/GALA_video/gala_video_16thAug_PAL_H264_ver2.mp4)

OR

[http://marcs.uws.edu.au/files/GALA\\_video/gala\\_video\\_16thAug\\_PAL\\_FLV\\_ver2.flv](http://marcs.uws.edu.au/files/GALA_video/gala_video_16thAug_PAL_FLV_ver2.flv)

GALA and the award ceremony:

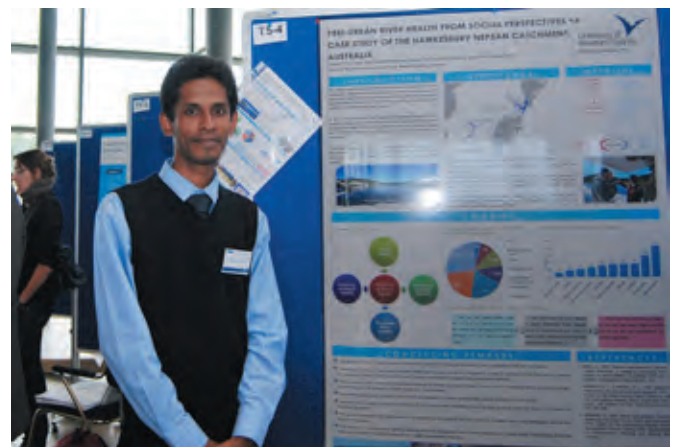
<http://di.ncl.ac.uk/publicweb/gala2011/>

## Pinto Presents Findings on River Health

### Uthpala Pinto talks about his recent conference presentation in Germany

The International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management "*Management of Water in a Changing World: Lessons Learnt and Innovative Perspectives*" was held in Dresden, Germany between 12-13 October 2011. Integrated water resources management is a systematic process for the sustainable development, allocation and monitoring of water resource use in the context of social, economic and environmental objectives. A major part of my PhD research involves understanding the health of peri-urban rivers (using the Hawkesbury-Nepean River as a Case study) from social perspectives. Over a year I have interviewed many river users, managers and researchers to collect detailed information on the meaning of river health, problems related to river uses and complex management issues related to the sustainability of the river health. Attending this conference at a final stage of my candidature allowed me to network with other scientists who were doing similar work in Europe and to better understand the role of the UN in water resource management in developing countries.

I also had an opportunity to visit some of the main reservoirs in eastern-Germany the Klingenberg and Gottleuba built between 1908 and 1914 and experience firsthand the social implications in managing them. The best aspect of presenting at an international conference is the valuable expert reviews received towards my research which will immensely improve the quality of my thesis!



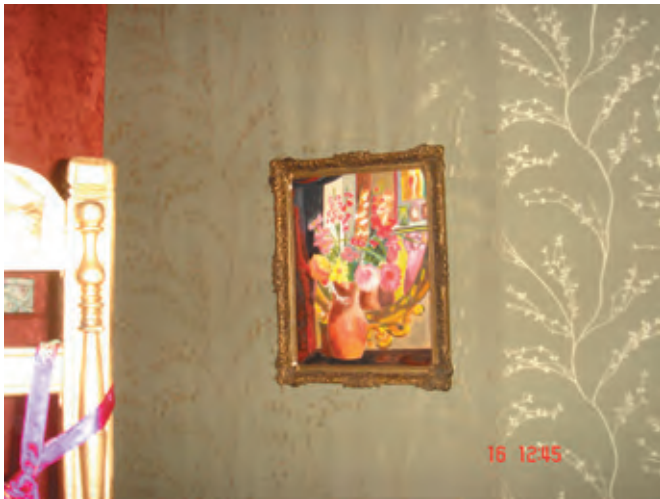
Uthpala Pinto, PhD Candidate School of Natural Sciences



Delegates at the International Conference on Integrated Water Resources

**Management Conference website;**  
<http://www.bmbf.iwrm2011.de/>

## Gorgeous Lounge for Writing and Society Scholars



The Writing and Society postgraduate lounge and mentoring space at Bankstown campus was lovingly decorated by Catherine Rey, a postdoctoral fellow with the Group. The decorative style was inspired by Charleston Farm in Sussex, England. Charleston Farm was the country home of artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant who, with very little funds available, decorated the walls, doors and furniture at Charleston. The house became a meeting place for the artists, writers & intellectuals of the Bloomsbury Group during the early decades of the 20th century.



## UWS SIMS Workshop showcases one of the University's flagship scientific instruments

The UWS SIMS (Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry) Workshop was hosted at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment on 2 November 2011. The workshop brought together researchers and industry representatives interested in the highly specialised analytical capabilities offered by the UWS SIMS. The UWS Solar Research Facility at Hawkesbury housed the only SIMS instrument of its kind on the east coast of Australia.

Case studies were presented by current users of the instrument and included Prof Raman Singh from Monash University, Dr Jisheng Han from Griffith University and Dr Gerry Triani and Dr Peter Evans from the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation (ANSTO). All presentations gave the audience insight into practical applications of the instrument and demonstrated its sensitivity in elemental and isotopic surface analysis.

The workshop was well received by all in attendance, with vibrant discussions and networking opportunities. Attendees from UWS, Monash, ANU, UNSW, National Measurements Institute, Bluescope Steel, Silanna and Bluglass found the day stimulating and relevant to their research goals. A tour of the SIMS facility was given by the

operator Dr David Nelson after the workshop, with many people indicating their desire to utilise the cutting edge equipment's capabilities.

Used in semiconductor R&D, materials and nuclear sciences as well as environmental applications, the instrument is available to both researchers and industry. For more information, please refer to our [website](#) or contact us on 02 9685 9742 or at [r.burnside@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.burnside@uws.edu.au)



Attendees at the 2011 UWS SIMS Workshop

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## Centre for Cultural Research News

### Rethinking Multiculturalism Reassessing Multicultural Education International Symposium

On August 30, 31 ten Australian and international scholars in the field of multiculturalism and multicultural education and thirteen government representatives from education departments across Australia joined Dr Megan Watkins, Associate Professor Greg Noble and Professor Kevin Dunn for a two-day symposium to discuss issues of cultural diversity and schooling.

Organised by the Centre for Cultural Research as part of the *Rethinking Multiculturalism/Reassessing Multicultural Education (RMRME)* Project, the Symposium was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives on multicultural education, to discuss its goals in Australia and overseas and implications in terms of policies and practices.

The speakers including Professor Handel Wright, University of British Columbia, Professor Mary Kalantzis, University of Illinois, Professor Stephen May, University of Auckland, Professor Georgina Tsolidis, University of Ballarat, Professor Geneva Gay, University of Washington and Dr Richard Race, Roehampton University reported on recent research and provided an overview of the different policies, initiatives and issues.

For further information on the RMRME Project and on the symposium, visit <http://ccr.uws.edu.au/rmrme/>



Video conference with Professor Mary Kalantzis, University of Illinois.



Discussion on policy and practice implication of multicultural education.

## Would you get a tattoo of your favourite equation or thesis findings?

This man did.



In case you were wondering, the first line is the Born Oppenheimer Approximation, the second is the same equation in the form of a 3-Dimensional Schrödinger Equation, and the final line is the solution in the form of a Schrödinger Equation.

From; <http://www.mentalfloss.com/blogs/archives/92188#ixzz1eJYNP1yu>

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## Best Student Paper awarded to Marina Belkina



Marina is presented her award by Prof Jens Rostrup Nielsen and Prof Mark Wainwright

School of Natural Sciences PhD candidate Marina Belkina, won the David Trimm Award for the best student paper titled entitled "Direct low temperature synthesis of carbon nanotubes on Si/SiO<sub>2</sub> substrates without using a metal catalyst" in the area of catalysts at CHEMECA 2011.

Congratulations Marina.



## Are you a twitterer?

Available now: a guide to using Twitter in university research, teaching, and impact activities

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2011/09/29/twitter-guide/>

More on social media and researchers, from Scientific American;

<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/science-sushi/2011/09/27/social-media-for-scientists-part-1-its-our-job/>

## Have Your Say

### Candidate Satisfaction Surveys Count

The university wants to know about your experience at UWS as a research candidate.

There are two surveys;

#### Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ)

The PREQ is a national survey administered by *Graduate Careers Australia* (GCA). All Australian higher education institutions participate in this survey on an annual basis. The survey targets all graduating students who have completed Research degrees.

The current PREQ survey consists of 28 items and is made up of the following six scales:

- » Supervision
- » Intellectual Climate
- » Skills Development
- » Infrastructure
- » Thesis Examination Process
- » Clarity of Goals and Expectation
- » Overall Satisfaction

#### Research Student Satisfaction Survey (RSSS)

The UWS Research Student Satisfaction Survey targets all currently enrolled research students and taps research students' perceptions of their total student experience of the university. Areas investigated include the quality of supervision, outcomes, administration and access to various student services. The survey items are ranked on both importance and performance.

The survey is distributed in both hard copy and online versions. It is conducted every two years.

Surveys, Results and Action Taken	Report
Research Student Satisfaction Survey (RSSS)	RSSS 2009 (opens in new window) [PDF, 63Kb]

Results for the 2010 PREQ indicate that UWS research graduates are slightly more satisfied than the overall sector on quality of supervision, skill development, intellectual climate, thesis examination and overall satisfaction. However UWS rated slightly below the sector average for infrastructure.

You are strongly encouraged to participate in these surveys after you graduate. They are very important in driving better educational experiences for research candidates.

#### For more information

[http://www.uws.edu.au/strategy\\_and\\_quality/sg/surveys#8](http://www.uws.edu.au/strategy_and_quality/sg/surveys#8)





## RESEARCHING COMMUNICATION AT UWS

### ResCom 2011: Researching Communication at UWS Brain, Behaviour and Computation December 5-14, 2011

ResCom is for UWS staff and undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in interdisciplinary Human Communication Science, including research in Psychology, Music and Communication Arts, Linguistics, MARCS, Medicine, Sensory Neuroscience, Engineering, Bioelectronics and Neuroscience (BENS), Computing & Mathematics.

#### ResCom Highlights

2 Days of *Summer School Sessions* (Dec 5-6)  
1 Day of *Speed Papers and Keynote Addresses*  
(Dec 7)

#### 3 Symposia:

- » *Thinking Systems Frontiers: Intelligent Machines, Robots, Human-Computer Interaction and the Science-Arts Nexus* (Dec 8-9)
- » *Sensory Neuroscience* (Dec 12)
- » *Australian Workshop on Computational Neuroscience* (Dec 13-14)

For more information on ResCom 2011 click on the links to the left, or Sonya O'Shanna ([s.oshanna@uws.edu.au](mailto:s.oshanna@uws.edu.au)).

Attendance at the UWS Research Festival (5-7 December) is free for UWS staff and students. A minimal registration fee will apply for non-UWS personnel. Please note that *registration* for all components of ResCom is ESSENTIAL. This not only assures you of a place at the individual events but also allows us to accurately cater for both refreshments and printing. Please register via the online forms found [here](#).

Attendance at the Thinking Systems Frontiers Symposium (Dec 8-9) is free for members of the Thinking Systems team. A minimal registration fee will apply for non-Thinking Systems personnel

A minimal registration fee will apply to attend the Australian Workshop on Computational Neuroscience.

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## Looking forward to examination



*Writing and Society candidates at "Finishers" workshop.*

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**Footnotes is produced by the Office of Research Services.**

**For comments, questions or contributions please contact Mary Krone, [m.krone@uws.edu.au](mailto:m.krone@uws.edu.au)**