

Faculty of Education

Research Bulletin



August marks the time for Open Days and advertising to our community what we stand for in terms of courses, research and new experiences. It's timely to reflect on our purposes and intellectual challenges for research and learning and teaching. In this regard I found one of the articles in the weekend Age interesting. This was a La Trobe University 'friendly' article written by Don Watson, a first La Trobe University intake student forty years ago. His recollections are of a sense of community born out of necessity. There were few buildings and amenities and teaching spaces were shared with residential student needs including bathrooms and kitchens. It's worth reflecting on these origins as a means of retaining an element of that founding spirit in our current research and learning activities. Implicit is that distinctiveness that can continue to make our offerings leading edge in the hotly contested zone of attracting research students. The recollections highlight issues of social justice, equity, inclusion and open-mindedness to left field ideas. Quoting from the article:

"It [La Trobe University] was the frontiers of the suburbs," Watson says. "Nearly everyone that I knew was the first in the family to go to university. We weren't there to follow in our fathers' footsteps — there weren't many people there from private schools who were going into the professions. There were people who were in a sense doing something entirely new. And there were some radical staff who I think had an influence.".....La Trobe's Soviet-style buildings may have been uninspiring, but what happened behind their walls was often innovative. Early classes had a high proportion of female students — 40 per cent, compared with 28 per cent at the established universities — and drew many undergraduates from northern suburban working-class families and the country. Five

years after opening, La Trobe became the first university to take mature-aged students who had not matriculated... La Trobe became known as a hotbed of left-wing activism during the 1970s. Just as importantly, the courses were seen as cutting-edge — Watson recalls a humanities subject in which every student chose for themselves four classic pieces of literature on which to write during the year. As new Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson puts it: "That's why a number of people chose to come here — rather than doing boring economics at Melbourne, they wanted an innovative program." The Age, July 28, 2007

This Friday, August 3rd many of us will meet for our mid year Research Retreat on the Bundoora campus. In trying to build capacity for the next round of the Research Quality Framework, it seems appropriate to ponder the bigger questions surrounding our University's purposes and how we can collectively gather our strengths to move towards a coherent and distinctive research future. The social scientist in me is mindful of the merit of embedding personal achievement in the context of the locality. That is, working collaboratively with each other and across schools and faculties to reinvigorate that pioneering spirit of enquiry, radicalism and willingness to embrace difference with gusto. I hope this dialogue will start this Friday and continue in staff rooms and campuses over the coming months. For people who are involved with Open Day this weekend and other activities, more retreats and opportunities are planned for Bendigo and regional campuses.

I will be at conferences in China during the month of August. During my absence Ray Lewis will be Acting Associate Dean of Research. Queries can be directed to Gail McNaulty.

Cheers,



What's on the Calendar?

Faculty Research Retreat – Friday August 3rd,
Bundoora Campus, Institute of Advanced
Studies, 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Following on from recommendations from the Beechworth Retreat of 2006, this coming together is the first of a series of similar days planned where staff have the opportunity to work with the 'experts' or senior researchers in the Faculty. Designed around practical workshops, the offerings reflect staff input related to needs. Participants have been asked to do 'homework' for the sessions so that time is spent on targeted outcomes specific to individual needs. The pleasant working environment and goodwill we bring to the day should lead to 'take-home' outcomes for all.

Thanks to our new Research Administrator, Gail McNaulty, for co-ordinating the day.

Research Development Seminars

Developing the Grant Application

Invited presenter, Professor Gilah Leder

- **August 14**, Bendigo Campus: Ironbark Centre, Room 102, commencing 4.00pm
- **August 17**, Bundoora Campus: School of Educational Studies - Board Room, commencing 10.30am

Professor Leder has recently retired from her position as Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies and Director of Graduate Studies with the University. In her career she has successfully supervised 50 research students and gained insights into the research process few could match. Professor Leder's advice will be for staff starting out and striving to complete their studies as well as for the more experienced colleagues who are looking for success indicators and tips. A great chance to learn from an expert who knows!

For back copies of the Bulletin, go to:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/education/publications.html#20>

Applications are now open for the inaugural

Emerging Researcher of the Year Award

The Faculty of Education Research and Higher Degrees Committee is offering a new award for emerging early career researchers in the Faculty. This prestigious award is to be made on an annual basis and will normally be awarded at the formal 'Awards Ceremonies' for the University. To be considered for the award, staff members must be either:

- An Early Career Researcher as defined by the ARC (i.e. within the first 5 years of completing a doctoral degree); or
- A Level A or B Academic staff member within the first 5 years of achieving Active Researcher status

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Research publications (refereed journal articles and chapters in books that meet La Trobe University Research Collection criteria);
- Research grants – external and internal;
- Awards and other indicators of esteem; and
- Any other outputs that demonstrate research quality and impact that could contribute to the Faculty of Education's RQF profile.

For application guidelines see:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/education/research/informs.htm>

Applications for 2008 Faculty Research Grants Scheme funding close shortly

Please be aware that there is a stepped process for applications:

- 24th August 2007 - expressions of interest to the Associate Dean Research close
- 3rd September 2007 – applications close - completed applications to be received by Gail McNaulty (*not Terri De'Argenio*).

Please refer to the web link for details:

http://www.latrobe.edu.au/education/downloads/research/FRGS_2008_Guidelines.doc

Useful Article:

Noel Gough's article titled 'Publishing in Refereed Academic Journals: a pocket guide' is very helpful for researchers. Please see the following link:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/education/research/index.html#ERS>