Welcome to our second Faculty of Education Research Newsletter for 2011. Much has happened in the 2 months since our last newsletter, particular with changes announced to the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) that will take place in 2012. Our Faculty performed well in ERA 2010, achieving a rating of ‘at world standard’ in the field of research known as Curriculum and Pedagogy (FoR 1302). Senator Kim Carr announced a number of changes to ERA for 2012 as summarised below

- The refinement of the journal quality indicator to remove the prescriptive A*, A, B and C ranks;
- The introduction of a journal quality profile, showing the most frequently published journals for each unit of evaluation;
- Increased capacity to accommodate multi-disciplinary research to allow articles with significant content from a given discipline to be assigned to that discipline, regardless of where it is published (this method was successfully trialed in ERA 2010 within Mathematical Sciences);
- Alignment across the board of the low volume threshold to 50 outputs (bringing peer-reviewed disciplines in line with citation disciplines, up from 30 outputs);
- The relaxation of rules on the attribution of patents, plant breeders’ rights and registered design, to allow those granted to eligible researchers to also be submitted; and
- The modification of fractional staff eligibility requirements to 0.4 FTE (up from 0.1 FTE), while maintaining the right to submit for staff below this threshold where affiliation is shown, through use of a by-line, for instance).

ACU has established a group of senior researchers and administrators to plan our submission for ERA 2012. While the changes to ERA 2012 will have implications for the entire sector, particularly the removal of the journal tiers, the ACU ERA group is also considering the impact of the changes for ACU specifically. In Education, we aim to improve upon our performance in 2010 by increasing the number of fields in which we perform ‘at world standard’ or above.

**Resources for ECRs and Developing Academics**


This is a recommended resource for all those who are just starting out in academic life and even for those wanting to further develop themselves as academics. The kit contains a series of 6 books, written by a group of Australian academics, which are available on line through the ACU library.

The six books are titled:
- Building your academic career
- Getting started on research
- Writing for publication
- Teaching and supervision
- Winning and managing research funding
- Building networks

This resource is available through the ACU library via [this link](#). (ACU student/staff log on required)


This book, written by an Australian academic, is divided into six parts:
- Academic Life
- Applying For Jobs And Promotions
- Teaching
- Publishing
- PhD Studies
- A Final Word

The author suggests in his introduction that this book serves as the induction that academics should probably receive when they commence their first appointment but rarely do. Somehow academics are supposed to just pick this information up along the way and this may or may not occur to varying degrees! The book is written in a very accessible format making it easy to read. Although published some 12 years ago, the material remains relevant and the book serves as a good introductory text.
Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure


The document outlines research priority areas where public investment in research infrastructure would be focused and in so doing, identifies the following priorities:

- Environmentally sustainable Australia
- Promoting and maintaining good health
- Technologies
- Safeguarding Australia
- Understanding cultures and communities
- eResearch (a cross-discipline research enabler)

A consultation period on the Roadmap document will culminate in a final draft that will be presented to the Minister for approval in August 2011. These priority areas are of significance to researchers intending to compete for external competitive grants.

Ethics at ACU
(prepared by Professor Deborah Harcourt)

I have been recently appointed to the panel of reviewers for the University’s Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), one of several representatives from the Faculty of Education. The HREC meets to consider applications for any research involving human participants to ensure it is conducted in a way that protects all people involved in the research, the participants, the researcher and the University. Ethics approval also helps to ensure that research complies with established guidelines such as the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research involving Humans. I am particularly interested in supporting researchers in using the ethics application process to consider their projects from conceptualization through to dissemination in order to uphold ethical standards throughout the research process. I see the ethical approval process often viewed as a hurdle or inconvenience for researchers, but if considered in the spirit of promoting research integrity, it is actually a very useful protocol for the examination of key considerations, structures and procedures that best value, respect, identify and enable human participation in research. My interest in ethics is such that I am currently working with Dr Jonathon Sargeant (School of Education, Brisbane) on a book of guidelines for conceptualizing, conducting and disseminating ethical research with children. I have also published widely in the area of informed consent and children and have just edited a book with Bob Perry (Charles Sturt University) and Tim Waller (University of Wolverhampton, UK) that debates the ethics and dilemmas of educational research with children. I am hoping that my expertise in this area will be a valuable contribution to the HREC at ACU.

Other representatives from the Faculty of Education on the HREC are Sue Saltmarsh, Catherine McLoughlin, Nerida Blair and Jack Frawley.

The following link is to direct to ACU’s Human Research Ethics page: [http://www.acu.edu.au/162020](http://www.acu.edu.au/162020)

Seminars & Workshops

The Faculty has four research training workshops planned for 2011 which will be video conferenced across all campuses and are open to staff, students and other interested parties.

The first of these workshops entitled “Supervisors and Higher Degree Researchers Publishing Together” was held on 6 June.

The workshop was introduced by Professor Deb Keen, chaired by Associate Professor Sue McNamara from the Ballarat campus and presenters included Associate Professor Sue Saltmarsh, from our Sydney campus, and two HDR students, Kate Simpson and Tatum McPherson Crowie.

This workshop was recorded and staff can access the recording on [Sharepoint](http://www.acu.edu.au/162020).

Following the next scheduled workshop we will be making DVD’s available and distributing them to our HDR students.

The faculty have secured the following bookings for workshops. Please book these in your calendars, they will be held via video conference across all campuses.

**Mon 4th July, 12 - 1.30pm**
**Getting Published**
(presented by A/Prof Joseph Zajda)

**Wed 28th Sept, 11am – 2pm**
**Publishing from your teaching**
(presented by A/Prof Joce Nuttall)

**Wed 16th Nov, 11am – 2pm**
**Journal selection** (metrics, impact factors etc.)
(presented by Prof Deb Keen and A/Prof Joce Nuttall)

It is anticipated that these workshops will run for 1.5 hours and the commencement time will be confirmed with the presenters and further updates will follow.

Enquiries & RSVP’s should be directed to: [assocdeaned.research@acu.edu.au](mailto:assocdeaned.research@acu.edu.au)
Senior Proven Research Team (SPRT)
(prepared by A/Profs Joce Nuttall (pictured on right) & Suzy Edwards (pictured on left))

Associate Professor Joce Nuttall and Associate Professor Susan (Suzy) Edwards joined the Faculty in February and March respectively as members of the Faculty’s Senior Proven Research Team (SPRT). Since joining the Faculty they have been busy establishing the parameters and research focus of the SPRT. The main focus is on Professional Learning and Engagement in early childhood education settings and the team is currently working on several projects involving teachers, children and families in the early years. One such project involves an ARC Discovery Project examining teacher thinking about different types of play based learning and how these relate to children’s learning about sustainability. Findings from this project will be presented at the KPV Early Childhood Conference to be held at the Caulfield Racecourse in June, and have also recently been published in a special issue on early childhood curriculum in the Australasian Journal of Early Childhood.

The SPRT is also currently working with the City of Casey and the City of Knox to support early childhood teachers working in kindergarten settings with the implementation of the new national Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). This work will be completed towards the end of the year and should result in the development of exemplars for using the EYLF which will be submitted for publication in key early childhood journals. The SPRT have also been contacted by SDN Children’s Services in Sydney where they will present two workshops, and where Associate Professor Joce Nuttall will give a keynote presentation on establishing interagency relationships across early childhood services.

Towards the end of this year the SPRT will host two international guests from the United Kingdom with expertise in early childhood education. Organisation for these visits is still at the planning stage, however it is anticipated that there will be two to three seminars for Faculty of Education staff to attend. The SPRT has also recently appointed its first PhD student who will be focussing his work on examining the role of play-based learning across a range of early childhood curriculum approaches, such as Developmentally Appropriate Practice, Steiner and Reggio Emilia. The SPRT is currently in the process of advertising for a second PhD student and a level B academic to join the group.

Brief report on the Centre for Creative and Authentic Leadership
(prepared by A/Prof Mick Bezzina (pictured on right))

The Centre for Creative and Authentic Leadership has existed in one form or another for over ten years. It was previously the Flagship for Catholic Educational leadership and the Flagship for Creative and Authentic Leadership. Perhaps the best way to give a sense of who we are is to touch on our activities for the last year – which encapsulate the complexities of who we are – with commitments to research, professional development and consultancy.

Our partnership with the Centre for Indigenous Education and Research gave rise to a number of projects in Indigenous leadership. Our LAND and PALL projects in leadership for learning were in their second and final year, and saw the teams working from Adelaide to Broome, and Perth to Darwin. The interplay between research and professional development was evident in the adoption by Wilcannia-Forbes diocese of the Leaders Transforming Learning and Learners framework, built on previous years’ research, as a whole of system leadership and learning project. Similarly, the early research and scholarship of the Centre in leadership capability was extended into our work with Lutheran Education Australia’s Leadership Development Program.

Our 5th International Conference on Catholic Educational Leadership in August showcased our strong local, national and international networks and partnerships. This was a major undertaking for our small Centre staff. We had 500 participants from capital cities, regional dioceses, and international universities and Catholic school systems. Its success was a testament to the passion, commitment and skill of staff of the Centre and the School of Educational Leadership, as well as the support of so many of our sponsors, and in particular the Australian dioceses and other school systems. Their presence at the conference, and our ongoing engagement in system activities like reviews and appraisals speaks well of the strength of the relationship that exists, and which the Centre values highly.

Our fourth AusAID Australian Leadership Award Fellowship program saw a further extension of our South East Asian and Pacific network, and the development of a formal link with the National University of Laos. In a similar vein, our activities in the international Centre for the Study of Leadership and Ethics have enhanced our international profile in this field of enquiry.

Our publications and conference presentations reflect strong common threads in the connections between leading and learning, in the moral purpose of schooling and in intercultural perspectives on leadership.

Looking ahead, it is anticipated that in 2011 we will be moving to activate the processes we have developed for an external advisory board in the light of the current Faculty review, and the long-awaited results of the University’s review of its research centres. We will be seeking to mobilise our current international networks around shared research agendas, and to continue to deepen our engagement with our partners and colleagues in the Faculty of Education and in the Centre for Indigenous Education and Research in the quest to gain increased competitive research funding. Most importantly, we will continue to explore ways in which our work of research, development and consultancy can continue to be of service to our major stakeholders in Catholic education.

The staff of the Centre are Mick Bezzina (Director), Soma Nagappan (Manager), Jack Frawley (Senior Research Fellow – a joint appointment with CIER) and Trish Kench, our part time admin assistant. Colleagues from the School of Educational Leadership are integral to our work.

If your appetite has been whetted by this brief outline, there are a number of options for finding out more. Our website is at http://www.acu.edu.au/217043 You can get a complete copy of our 2010 report by contacting Trish at patricia.kench@acu.edu.au who will forward either an electronic or hard copy on request. Alternatively, you may wish to chat with Mick on 4357, or email him at mick.bezzina@acu.edu.au
Welcome Professor Rudolf Straesser as Adjunct Professor
(prepared by Dr Vince Geiger)

Australian Catholic University welcomes Professor Rudolf Straesser as a recently appointed Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Education. He is currently a Professor of Mathematics Education at the Institut für Didaktik der Mathematik within Justus Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. Professor Straesser is well known and widely published within Mathematics Education, especially in the specific fields of mathematics in the workplace, and the role of technology in enhancing learning and teaching within mathematics. He also holds editorial positions on a number of influential international journals in Mathematics Education including Educational Studies in Mathematics and ZDM – The International Journal on Mathematics Education. Professor Straesser was a visiting scholar at Brisbane and Melbourne campuses during the second half of 2010 where he supported the research activities of staff in Education by providing expert advice in the areas of publication and grant submission. Professor Straesser intends returning to Australia in the latter half of 2011 to continue work with his good friends and colleagues in ACU.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following students and their supervisors who have recently been advised that their thesis has passed. You have made a significant contribution to your field of expertise and it is a tremendous achievement to have reached completion. We look forward to your graduation to celebrate your success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Wills</td>
<td>Education VIC</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The history of Bantu education: 1948-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Supervisors:</strong> A/Prof Joseph Zajda &amp; Dr Peter Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Hussey</td>
<td>Educational Leadership</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>The engagement of newcomers in Church attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Supervisors:</strong> A/Prof Denis McLaughlin &amp; Dr Jan Grajczonek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Coleman</td>
<td>Education NSW</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A case study of the responses of two mainstream primary teachers in a non-metropolitan area of refugee English language learners in their classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Supervisors:</strong> Dr Lorraine McDonald &amp; Prof Maureen Walsh</td>
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HDR Student Presentations

HDR Student Presentations

A reminder to supervisors and their HDR students of the requirement to complete an annual presentation after Confirmation of Candidature. It is imperative that students make arrangements with their supervisors in the first instance. Please be reminded that a panel is required for presentations therefore bookings need to be made in advance to ensure availability.

Supervisors can access the national research colloquia schedule to view times that have been booked in advance, this document is available at: [http://sharepoint.acu.edu.au/Faculty/Education/research/default.aspx](http://sharepoint.acu.edu.au/Faculty/Education/research/default.aspx) to confirm bookings please contact Shelley Reynolds.

The following presentations are scheduled by video conference across all campuses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Degree / Presentation</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisors</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUE 28 June</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>MPhil Confirmation of Candidature</td>
<td>Aldemir Huseyin</td>
<td>Kath Engebretson Ismail Albayrak</td>
<td>Children’s religious education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE 28 June</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>PhD Work in Progress</td>
<td>Christine Creaser</td>
<td>Kath Engebretson</td>
<td>Polish and Maltese children in the Catholic schools of the 1950s and 60s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU 30 June</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>PhD Confirmation of Candidature</td>
<td>Kristen Hobby</td>
<td>Brendan Hyde Deborah Harcourt</td>
<td>A case study exploring young childrens’ spirituality within the natural environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rooms:
Aquinas 503, Mackillop 16, Signadou 110, St Patricks 530, McAuley AC22, Mount St Mary B
Research Week 2011 will profile the current research activities of ACU education staff and students and provide opportunities for prospective students, the community and research partners to find out more about what ACU education can offer. A range of activities, workshops and presentations will be held on each campus that will interest Higher Degree Research (HDR) students, prospective students, community and research partners.

Themes and highlights of the research week will include:
- The importance of research in education
- What might educational research for the future look like
- Acclaimed keynote speakers at showcase events
- Launch of ACU Senior Proven Research Team in Early Years Education
- Attain professional development requirements for attendance at particular events

Showcase Events and Course Information Evenings
Join the Executive Dean, Associate Deans, Heads of Schools and Senior Academic staff at a special evening showcase event to celebrate our research achievements and discover opportunities to enhance your professional qualifications, skills and knowledge through further education or research.

Showcase events will include:
- Acclaimed Keynote Speaker
- HDR and PG course information session
- Cocktails and Canapes

- Monday 3rd October 2011 - Ballarat
- Tuesday 4th October 2011 - Sydney
- Wednesday 5th October 2011 - Canberra
- Thursday 6th October 2011 - Brisbane
- Friday 7th October 2011 - Melbourne

*All events are free but registration is essential.

For further information or to register:
e: assocdean.research@acu.edu.au
w: www.acu.edu.au/322464

In 2010 ACU education was rated at world standard by ERA for the Field of Research Curriculum and Pedagogy (FoR 1302)

www.acu.edu.au/education