Welcome to our December newsletter.

This will be my last newsletter as I am retiring at the end of January next year. It has been a pleasure to lead the e-Grad School team who work diligently to provide our clients with the highest quality training experience through their administration of the eGSA online modules. In addition, I acknowledge my colleagues at the five ATN universities for their support during my time as Director of eGSA.

We have had another busy year in the online research training area and student participation in eGSA modules continues to rise. This year saw a total of 1293 participants register in the eGSA online modules over 100 training weeks.

As the year draws to an end I would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday break and all the best for your future research endeavours.

Paul Burnett

Professional Development for Admin Professionals

Are you a research administrator or manager? Have you thought about your professional development plan for 2016? Do you have money in the budget that you will lose if you don’t spend it before the end of the year? If so, why not register for the following module:

Developing Your Career for Professionals - developed specifically for research administrators and research training professionals. The module aims to provide participants with:
- Better understanding of their current skill set and their future training needs
- Improved knowledge base of the job market and career building strategies
- Good grasp of the development and use of Career Portfolios in setting goals and seeking new employment or promotion

Date: 12 March - 22 April (Week 0 starts 7 March. There will be an Easter Break from 26 Mar - 1 Apr)

Cost per participant - $350 + GST. (ATN university professionals will receive a discount).

Registrations close - 26 February 2016

Register and pay by credit card at the following link: https://qutpay.qut.edu.au/Cart/Products/e-Grad-School---LEAP-Developing-Your-Career-for-Professionals---Registration---Semester-1__66-2015-01.aspx

Tax deductions may be available. Further information about this is available at the ATO Website

Please contact the e-Grad School Coordinator at egsacoordinator@qut.edu.au if you have any queries.

Congratulations to our inaugural Outstanding LEAP and MORE students

In Semester 2 2015 we introduced the Outstanding Student Award certificates for students who consistently contributed high quality and interesting discussions in the weekly discussion board and for engaging with their peers beyond what was normally required to get a certificate.

Congratulations go to the following winners of these certificates:

**LEAP:**
- Research Commercialisation module
  - Chamilinda Weerakoon (RMIT)
  - Damien Sebben (UniSA)

**Public Policy module**
- Fiona McGregor (UTS)
- Matthew Van Kan (QUT)

**Leadership Group 1**
- Angela Yiu (UTS)
Join us on LinkedIn

- Many of our students often comment that they would like to continue with our online community discussions after they have finished their modules. In response to this we have created a group on LinkedIn that will be open to anyone who wishes to join and participate!

- The aim of the group is to provide alumni with a forum to discuss any current issues, to network & improve their career visibility and to promote collaborations. We will post the occasional update or article but welcome anyone to post their ideas or comments. So to join please click on the following link and we will see you in the e-Grad School LinkedIn Group!

Did you know?

We asked past eGSA students if taking eGSA courses had assisted their employability:

- 71% said they have helped them with the career goals
- 70% said they have already used the skills they have learned
- 65% said they have improved their career prospects
- 20% said they have already gained employment or a promotion from doing the course

Ask the Moderators….

Our moderators have a wealth of experience, and we take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts throughout the year.

If you have questions you’d like to ask, please email them to us at egsacoordinator@qut.edu.au

We asked the moderator of Developing Your Career, Dr Paige Maguire, the following questions:

**Q1:** What is the single most important piece of advice you would give to someone starting a PhD/Masters by research tomorrow?

Don’t be defined by what you think is the “only successful” career path for a research graduate (keep open to all opportunities). Just because your supervisor did X or your parents/friends envision a particular career for you doesn’t mean you have to do it. There are so many more valid and valuable opportunities in today’s career market that need critical thinkers.

**Q2:** What do you think that students can do to enhance their online learning experience?

Be bold and take advantage of the online forums to discuss any thoughts you have about the subject (not just what the suggested prompts are). This is a safe and collegial environment so it is a great place to practice speaking up or asking questions especially if you are an introvert; as you will need to do this later in academic environments and having confidence in yourself will get you 80% of the way!! And…..here is my one gripe: READ the information about what you need to do for each module before starting – it is up to you to understand the requirements about any endeavour you take on!!

**Q3:** What have you enjoyed the most about your career to date?

The enormous opportunities that have been offered to me, the risks that I have taken and the travel that my decisions have resulted in. I have done so many different and interesting things and each one has led to new contacts and new opportunities.

**Thought of the day**

Learning without reflection is a waste. Reflection without Learning is dangerous.

Confucius

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season….