Welcome from the new eGSA Director

Hello and welcome to the mid-year newsletter and my first as the new Director of the e-Grad School (eGSA). Professor Paul Burnett, the previous Director, has retired from QUT to enjoy some well earned R & R. Prior to my appointment as Dean of Research and Research Training and QUT, and Director of the e-Grad School, I was Assistant Dean Research, Commercialisation and External Relations in QUT’s Creative Industries Faculty. My background is in digital storytelling.

I look forward to sharing eGSA activities with you as we continue to work with our Australian Technology Network (ATN) colleagues – Curtin, RMIT, UniSA, UTS and QUT - to enhance university-industry collaboration.

Helen Klaebe

e-GSA Presentation at Quality in Postgraduate Research (QPR) Conference 2016

Dr Paige Maguire, Deputy Director of the e-Grad School, recently presented at the QPR Conference in Adelaide, on student experiences and perceptions of additional employability training during their research higher degree candidature. Data from a longitudinal survey of eGSA alumni suggests most students want training in more than just their research discipline during candidature, the influence of supervisors on this training and indicated that eGSA courses seem to be positively impacting the career progression and momentum of its alumni.

When asked 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.
- undertaking additional training with eGSA had no significant effect on PhD completion times

Attention: Admin Professionals – why not do a short online course in Project Management?

If you’re a research administrator or manager you will benefit from this course.

Have you thought about your professional development plan lately?

Do you manage projects within your role? If so, you should register for the Project Management for Professionals online course aimed at providing participants with skills and experience in:

- defining a project
- identifying key components for planning a project
- determining specific needs and processes involved in successfully managing a project.

Date: July 25 (Week 0) to September 2 (Week 5).
Cost per participant - $450 + GST. (ATN university professionals will receive a discount).
Hurry! Registrations close – 15 July 2016

Register and pay by credit card at the following link: https://qutpay.qut.edu.au/Cart/Products/e-Grad-School---LEAP-Project-Management-for-Professionals-Registration---Semester-2_66-2014-01.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.

Student Profile – Rowan Holmes (UTS) – Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT) and Practice-led Research in Creative Arts, Media and Design (PLR)

Q: What motivated you to do the CCT and PLR modules?
I am presently in the first year of a Doctorate of Creative Arts (DCA) program at the University of Technology, Sydney. Because I mostly work from home in my studio in the Blue Mountains outside Sydney, travel to campus involves about five hours per day. The CCT and PLR modules offered me an opportunity to broaden my understanding of both these areas while dovetailing the work into my regular studio schedule. I’m glad I made this decision.

Q: What is your background, ie what area are you currently working in and were the resources useful?
I am a fifty-something musician with a background in punk rock and experimental music. I completed the Bachelor of Sound and Music Design at UTS in 2014, and proceeded directly to an Honours year. My subject for Honours, which is also my DCA subject, is the Bohlen-Pierce scale, a new approach to making music in which the new scale has thirteen notes per repeating interval, rather than the twelve of the present-day system. The ‘BP’ notes are all different to the ones you see on a piano, and the scale repeats at a larger interval than the octave, which is called the ‘tritave’. This is almost completely new musical terrain - the scale was first discovered in the early 1970s - and I am trying to create a range of works using the scale which illuminate practical and theoretical concepts for future use. I found the resources in the course extremely useful, for reasons I will give below, and I recommend it unhesitatingly.

Q: What did you expect to gain from completing the module(s)?
I had hoped to gain an insight into present-day approaches to the issues dealt with, and to challenge my own
preconceptions, which were mainly built up through 'general life experience' rather than academic study. I hoped that I would emerge from the course with a clearer understanding of what it was that I was actually trying to do in the sense which must be finally accounted for via the exegesis, in particular.

Q: Were your expectations met? Absolutely.

Q: Any other comments you'd like to make?

I found both units to be of great value in determining the context in which my present research is taking place. One of the most valuable aspects was simply answering the questions, as they have been framed in a way which forces the participant to actually think deeply about their meaning. As a consequence of this, I have a clearer conception of what I want my exegesis both to be and to not be, and the units have set me on a course of informing this matter more deeply. This will no doubt continue beyond the time of the unit, and I am grateful for that opportunity and what it has brought.

I found the PLR module very useful in the context of a 'creative' doctorate. In these fields, the distinction between 'practice-led' and 'practice-based' research is significant and has a bearing on methodology and, dare I say it, philosophy of research. If I was to nominate a single instance in which these units have been most immediately useful, it would be in posing these questions and providing an academically rigorous context in which to begin to consider them.

Additionally, it was a pleasure to meet - even virtually! - in both units such a group of interesting people who are pursuing so many intriguing projects.

Did you know?

The Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) recently carried out a comprehensive review of Australia’s research training system.

Key findings of the review include the need to:

- Improve training opportunities in industry-relevant research areas
- Create industry placements for higher degree researchers
- Benchmark training for all against the best overseas institutions
- Establish alternative entry pathways and flexible scholarships for higher degree researchers
- Better embed transferable skills development in HDR programs


eGSA Outstanding Student Awards

The Outstanding Student Award certificates are given to students who consistently contribute high quality and interesting discussions in the weekly discussion board and engage with their peers beyond what is normally required to get a certificate.

Congratulations go to the following winners of these certificates for Semester 1:

LEAP:
- Research Commercialisation module
  - Negar Jamshidi (RMIT)
  - Vijay Yadav Tokala (Curtin)
- Global Sustainability module
  - Oanh Ho (RMIT)
  - Catherine Kerrigan (UniSA)
  - Elizabeth Sidiropolous (Victoria University)
- Leadership (Groups 1 and 2)
  - Muhammad Zahee Abbas (QUT)
  - Angela Brown (UniSA)
  - Andisheh Ashourpour (Curtin)
  - Reece Sophocleous (UOW)
  - Kristian Agung Prasetyo (Curtin)
  - Genine Meredith (UniSA)
- Entrepreneurship
  - Joshua Brooks (UOW)
  - Kate Ferguson (RMIT)
  - Catherine Kerrigan (UniSA)
- Project Management (Groups 1 and 2)
  - Angela Brown (UniSA)
  - Chandana Kulasuriya (Curtin)
  - Milo Savic (Swin)

MORE:
- Developing Your Career
  - Abid Hasan (UniSA)
  - Madeline Hintz (QUT)
  - Jim Hughes (UniSA)
- Critical and Creative Thinking
  - Vicki-Ann Dimas (RMIT)
  - Laura Kenny (QUT)
  - Rowan Holmes (UTS)
- Practice-led Research in Creative Arts, Media & Design
  - Rowan Holmes (UTS)

Welcome!

We wish to welcome JCU students who will be joining us for the first time in the coming semester.