

October 2007

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Message from the Editor



Hello everyone,

This issue will again include updates on various areas of the Division.

For the Staff Profile section this month I had the pleasure of interviewing Valli Rao, from the Academic Skills & Learning Centre and our new Financial Controller, Judy Luyt.

With Chris Lawrance and Anne Zelnick both leaving the Division, we need to recruit 2 new OHS Officers and 1 new RACLO Officer. Anyone interested in filling these positions please contact me.

Just another reminder that Tuesday, the 6th November has now officially been declared a public holiday - Family & Community Day.

Keep the news coming
Anja Roberts

Important Dates

1 November (Thursday)	Examinations in Second Semester courses begin for coursework students.
*6 November	<i>Public Holiday – Family & Community Day</i> <i>*Legislation yet to be formally passed</i>
17 November (Saturday)	Examinations end.
26 November (Monday)	Examination results released.
26 November (Monday)	5pm Conditionally approved graduands must check ISIS for confirmation to graduate in December ceremonies.
3 December 2007 (Monday) 5pm	Conditionally approved graduands must check ISIS for confirmation to graduate in 20/21 December ceremonies.
14 December 2007 (Friday)	Closing date for application to transfer program for First Semester First closing date for applications for direct graduate coursework programs, see www.anu.edu.au/sas/admission/ for more details.
20, 21 December 2007 (Thursday, Friday)	Conferring Ceremonies.
21 December 2007 (Friday)	University closes for Christmas break from 5:00pm

Staffing updates

SAS

- Sarah Hawkins has re-joined SAS as Deputy Manger, Admissions, Scholarships & Prizes after the birth of her daughter
- Peta Moore has left the Research Students Office

RSS

- Tom Gowing has left us to join CASS. Judy Luyt replaced Tom as Finance Officer on the 15th October

Exams

- Welcome back to Blazenka Klaric

ASLC

- James Connor has left the Academic Skills & Learning Centre to pursue other interests

SRIE

- Anne Zelnick has accepted a position with CASS and is sadly leaving SRIE on the 2nd November
- Chris Lawrance is also leaving SRIE on the 2nd November. He will be joining the Crawford School



HEALTH TIP OF THE MONTH

"He who has Health has Hope, and he who has Hope has everything." – Arabian proverb

Computer Quote

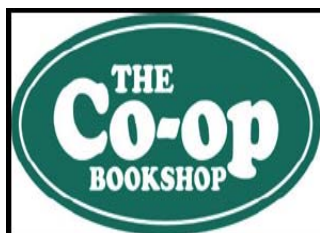
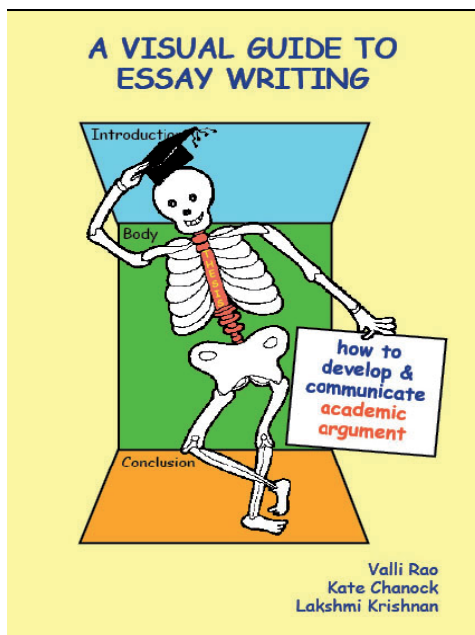


"I just wish my mouth had a backspace key!."

Author unknown

Academic Skills & Learning Centre

Our own Valli Rao from ASLC will shortly be launching a new book that she co-authored. Please see details below.



**The ANU Co-op Bookshop
invites you to a book launch**

A visual guide to essay writing: how to develop & communicate academic argument

- Where:** The Co-op Bookshop
The Australian National University
Building 17 Union Court
- When:** Wednesday 14 November 2007
5.00 pm for 5.30 pm
- Launched by:** Alastair Greig, Head,
School of Social Sciences
Sue Wigley, Arts 1st year
Steven Jones, Arts 2nd year
Andrew Jackson, Arts/IT 1st year
Emma Welsh, Arts/Economics 2nd year
Richard Temperly, Psychology 2nd year
MC: Agnes Boskovitz, PhD Computer Science
- RSVP:** Valli.Rao@anu.edu.au

Refreshments courtesy of the Academic Skills &
Learning Centre and the Co-op Bookshop

Counselling Centre

The ANU Counselling Centre is hosting a lunch time seminar entitled:

Resources for carers in the ACT

Presented by Ben Graham, Carers ACT on behalf of the Counselling Centre, ANU

'A carer is someone who provides or has provided unpaid care and support to a person who has needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical and/or mental illness.' Carers ACT provides information, counselling, education, support and respite for people who have taken on caring responsibilities. This seminar will outline these resources for those of our community who provide this important function.

When: Thursday 1 November, 2007 12.30-1.30pm
Where: Finkel Theatre, JCSMR (next to Vanilla Bean Cafe)

No need to book. All staff and students welcome.

Heather McLeod

Examinations/ Graduations

- 3200 graduation invitations have been sent to students
- Examinations & Graduations Office welcome back Blazenka Klaric to assist with Special Examinations arrangements during November

Brendon Colquhoun

Staff Accolades

*A huge congratulations goes to our Graduations Team who have won a 2007 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Service Quality. The Graduations Team consists of Brendon Colquhoun, Sarah Hawkins, Melinda Barnes, Stephen Norris, Kate Gilchrist, Gary Hulm, Steve Hughes, Libby Dinn from SBS and Wendy Slater from Research Students Office. The award is a reflection of all ANU staff involved with Graduations and the fantastic improvements that have been made over the past few years to make the day a special occasion for graduates and their families. It is however the graduation team who are at the heart of the planning & coordination of the event leading up to, during and after the ceremonies. The Graduations Team will receive their award at a reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on 8 November.

* Another big congratulations has to go to our Academic Skills & Learning Team

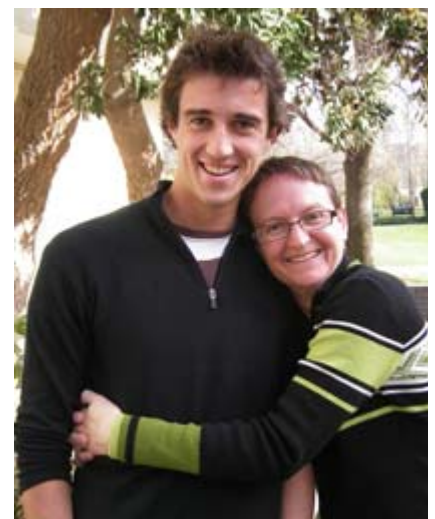
"An online radio show created by the Academic Skills and Learning Centre (ASLC) at ANU has been named best education podcast for 2007 by a respected education program at Fordham University in New York.

SkillSoup was created by Dr Megan Poore in February this year as a means of using new technology to reach technology-savvy young people, or "digital natives".

Each week, Dr Poore and her student co-host Darian Williams chat with academics, general staff members and select students about various aspects of studying at a tertiary level. Previous topics have covered transition to university, doing tutorials, and finishing the PhD.

SkillSoup was named Best Educational Podcast in the Higher Education Category by Fordham University's Podcast for Teachers, which is a respected program for people interested in digital education.

More information: <http://academicskills.anu.edu.au/podcasts/skillsoup.php>
or email Dr Poore at megan.poore@anu.edu.au"



Student Business Solutions

Advancement Project Team Participates in Asia Pacific Conference

During September, the ANU Advancement Project team participated in the Higher Education User Conference (HEUG). Referred to as the Alliance Down Under Conference, the event is an opportunity for higher education institutions in the Asia Pacific region to come together and share common experiences regarding Oracle upgrades and implementations, supporting products, and policy and procedure best practice. The conference was held over 3 days in Brisbane and was attended by an estimated 350 representatives from more than 20 Universities from Australia, NZ, Asia, North America and Europe. Vendors such as Oracle, Hewlett Packard, Accenture, and StudyLink also participated in the conference.

The HEUG is organised into five key topic areas or streams – Human Resources and Payroll, Student Administration, Finance, Technical, and Data Warehousing. In addition to topic based presentations, there are general sessions for all participants such as the key note address which was given at this event by Curtis Barnes, Senior Director of Product Strategy for Education and Research for Oracle. Oracle and other vendors also provided presentations which informed participants about upcoming functionality and releases which is critical for University planning. Universities presented on various topics across the streams in an effort to share their Oracle experiences with attendees. Information provided in these sessions allows participants to learn about what other Universities have done to implement and upgrade Oracle in their institutions. The conference provides an opportunity to share ideas and materials that have been utilised by other institutions.

ANU was very active in this conference with participation in the executive forum, membership on the international Oracle Product Advisory Groups (PAGs), and presentation of a session describing the upgrade methods being successfully employed at ANU. ANU's participation in the executive forums and membership on the PAGs allows direct interaction with Oracle's executive and product teams. This allows ANU to directly influence upcoming product functionality, release timelines, and services offered in the region. A key focus of the conference is to interact with other customers to share ideas. Project Team members networked with colleagues from other institutions during the course of the conference directly sharing information and ideas. ANU also provided a presentation discussing the method the Advancement Project is using to upgrade its Oracle applications and offered to share development work and documentation related to the Advancement Project.

The project has benefited greatly from attendance at the conference. The team was able to work directly with other Universities to obtain materials and information which will assist in ANU's data conversion, the development of student online services, and the execution of testing. Team members attended most of the 40 sessions on offer over the 3 day event and will share that information with the other project team members and other University areas. The executive forum and PAG meetings have served to strengthen ANU's relationships with Oracle, other product vendors, and other university advocates of Oracle systems. All of these activities will help to enhance ANU's Advancement Project and add value to the project by helping to save time and budget, while improving deliverables and processes.

For more information about the Advancement Project please visit the website at <https://alliance.anu.edu.au/portal> (detailed instructions for subscription are provided at: http://info.anu.edu.au/cis/CS_Advancement/index.asp). Readers are also encouraged to visit the HEUG websites at <http://anzheug.anu.edu.au/blog/> (Regional) and <http://www.heug.org/> (US based site) to find out more.

Mark Erickson

SIGN Mentoring Program

Student Information Guidance Network (SIGN)

The SIGN Program is now recruiting mentors for the 2008 academic year. Information about how to become a mentor can be found at www.anu.edu.au/sign and all the training dates are listed in a drop down menu at the bottom of the online application form, under the heading Compulsory Training.

This year SIGN will include a SIGNPOST program for graduate students. Research students will, as far as possible, be matched with research students, and coursework students with coursework students.

Six training sessions have been scheduled for undergraduate students who wish to mentor new undergraduates. Two sessions will be run for graduate students in preparation of mentoring coursework and research students. A further two refresher sessions will be run for experienced undergraduate mentors.

The training dates are as follows:

UNDERGRADUATES - 9 - 1:30 pm

Tuesday 13 November 2007
Thursday 29 November 2007
Wednesday 30 January 2008
Tuesday 5 February 2008
Friday 8 February 2008
Wednesday 13 February 2007

GRADUATES - 9 am - 3 pm

Wednesday 14 November 2007
Tuesday 12 February 2008

REFRESHER TRAINING FOR CONTINUING UNDERGRADUATE MENTORS - 3:30 - 5 pm

Thursday 7 February
Monday 11 February

Contact: SIGN Program Coordinator, sign@anu.edu.au, 6125 3938

Margareta Olsson

DR&SS Staff Profile

For this month's Staff Profile I had the pleasure of interviewing Valli Rao, Academic Skills Advisor for the Academic Skills & Learning Centre.



Name: Valli Rao

Family: Valli lives with her two daughters in Turner. She moved to Canberra in 2002 to take up a job with the Academic Skills & Learning Centre. When the children were growing up, Adelaide was home, and her Mathematician husband's job is still in Adelaide, so they're a 'commuting family' for the time being! Their older daughter is a lawyer and the younger one graduates from ANU this December in Law/ Science.

Background: Valli is originally from India. She could however not point to a part of the country claiming that that was where she was from: born in Calcutta, schooled in Delhi, University in Chennai, and home now in Bangalore, since this is where her husband is from. The Raos have lived in Australia for many years now – more than half their lives – and are at home in both cultures. Valli refuses to go into the question of whom they support when Australia and India play cricket as they are doing right now

Why do you think 'Academic Skills Advising' is an important field to work in?

Long ago when I did my PhD in Adelaide, I had just my supervisor to guide me through the intricacies of writing in the Literature field, and in how to write a thesis. He did his best, and I am grateful. But nowadays there are many more students, and academics have many more responsibilities, especially administrative, so students often benefit from the time advisers like me can give them. The skills that we can teach help them with aspects of their studies such as reading, research, taking notes, writing, making oral presentations, etc.

What did you want to be when you were young and what is it about your current life that reflects this initial desire?

I've always wanted to work with books around me, from a young age. I loved reading and writing – still do. I also had a strong sense that the world should be run on socially fair, open and democratic principles. Given these interests, as I grew older I just knew that I had to write my PhD thesis on Shaw and Blake, two writers with strong interests in social justice and equity. My job as an academic skills adviser meshes in with my interests because it is practical in nature, and helps students who would like to help themselves to become better at reading and writing.

What things keep you motivated?

When students come back and tell me that their marks have picked up by a grade as a result of the help they got, that really makes me feel good. But not only that – I actually enjoy the intellectual process of picking through, with the student, what might be improved in an essay draft they've brought along: how could they improve their argument, could the essay be structured in a neater way, how could they improve their sentence structure, etc. That sort of challenge keeps me motivated.

What are some memorable life experiences?

My best life experience has been having our two kids – they're both delightful young ladies now, and we're grateful that we've bungled through parenting more or less successfully! It's the most underrated job in the world, I feel!

Close on the heels of motherhood is another memorable experience for me – the year I spent researching in the British Library, being allowed to handle and read the original manuscripts of Blake and Shaw stored there, in order to write my thesis. It was a wonderful world of discovery.

Favourite place on campus?

Walking along Sullivan's Creek and watching the bird life is a favourite with me. I also love Menzies library with its fantastic collection of literature about Asia, India in particular. I am lucky to work in this ideal combination of books and bush that the ANU campus has.

Favourite Book?

That's a hard one ... If I had to be stuck on a libraryless desert island, I'd probably choose the Oxford English Dictionary (all 20 or so volumes!) simply because I am a dictionary-person who always wants to get to the root of the meanings of words. My passion is to understand that moment where words come face-to-face with non-words (experiences, concepts, ideas, feelings, whatever), letting us understand how that magic birth started.

Favourite Restaurant?

Essen, in Garema Place, enjoying their cappuccino, and sometimes playing chess, with friends or family.

Anything else you wish to share?

Please come to the launch of a book that I am co-authoring. The date is 14 November, the place is the Co-op Bookshop on campus, time 5.00 for 5.30pm. See the launch announcement under the ASLC contribution.

and Judy Luyt, our new Financial Controller....



Name: Judy Luyt

Family: Judy lives in Belconnen and has 2 children – Elliot is 13, and Rebecca is 12.

Background: Judy was born in Taree and moved to Parkes at age 1. Here she also completed her schooling. She attended Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, studying Mathematics and Computing. Judy and her partner moved to Canberra in early 1991 and she joined the ANU in August of that same year working for the HR department. Judy took over from Tom as Financial Controller on the 15th October.

Why do you think Finance/ HR is an important field to work in?

Staff and suppliers want to get paid and I am happy to oblige. Money makes the world go around and I like playing with it.

What did you want to be when you were young and what is it about your current life that reflects this initial desire?

I always wanted to be a Maths teacher when I was small. I suppose I have always been fascinated by numbers.

What things keep you motivated?

My children! I live for them. There is nothing nicer than seeing them happy and healthy.

What are some memorable life experiences?

Definitely giving birth – I must have been foolish to go through the agony twice!

Seeing Elton John perform in Hong Kong. We were there on holiday at the time and managed to secure tickets to his show. It was fantastic!

Favourite place on campus?

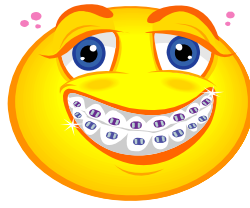
University House – I love the beautiful and tranquil grounds.

Favourite Book?

Although I am not much of a reader, I have read the 'Da Vinci Code' by Dan Brown and thoroughly enjoyed it. I prefer watching movies and definitely rate GREASE (the original of course) as my all-time favourite.

Favourite Restaurant?

Rubicon, in Griffith.



Computer Joke

"Hello. Tech Support; may I help you?" "Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect."

"What sort of trouble?" "Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away."

"Went away?" "They disappeared."

"Hmm. So what does your screen look like now?" "Nothing."

"Nothing?" "It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type."

"Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?" "How do I tell?"

[Uh-oh. Well, let's give it a try anyway.] "Can you see the C:\ prompt on the screen?" "What's a sea-prompt?"

[Uh-huh, thought so. Let's try a different tack.] "Never mind. Can you move the cursor around on the screen?" "There isn't any cursor: I told you, it won't accept anything I type."

[Ah--at least she knows what a cursor is. Sounds like a hardware problem. I wonder if she's kicked out her monitor's power plug?]

"Does your monitor have a power indicator?" "What's a monitor?"

"It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?" "I don't know."

"Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that?" [sound of rustling and jostling] [muffled] "Yes, I think so."

"Great! Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall." [pause] "Yes, it is."

[Hmm. Well, that's interesting. I doubt she would have accidentally turned it off, and I don't want to send her hunting for the power switch because I don't know what kind of monitor she has and it's bound to have more than one switch on it. Maybe the video cable is loose or something.] "When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?"

"No."

"Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable." [muffled] "Okay, here it is."

"Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer." [still muffled] "I can't reach."

"Uh huh. Well, can you see if it is?" [clear again] "No."

"Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over?" "Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle--it's because it's dark."

"Dark?" "Yes--the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window."

"Well, turn on the office light then." "I can't."

"No? Why not?" "Because there's a power outage."

"A power--!?! ..." [AAAAAARGH!]"A power outage? Aha! Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have

the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in?" "Well, yes, I keep them in the closet."

"Good! Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from."

"Really? Is it that bad?" "Yes, I'm afraid it is."

"Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?"

"Tell them you're TOO STUPID TO OWN A COMPUTER!"

Other



The Canberra Times Tour de Femme Pedal for Pap



The Canberra Times Tour de Femme Pedal for Pap is a women's only 20 kilometre ride that doubles as both a race and a participation event. This event caters for all levels of ability from Australia's top elite level cyclists to participation cyclists who get together with family and friends and enjoy the ride.

The Cervical Screening Program ACT is delighted to be collaborating with the Canberra Cycling Club event organisers in the lead up to the event and on ride day to raise awareness of the importance of regular two yearly Pap testing for women aged 20-69 years.

Everyone who enters by the closing date will receive a commemorative T-shirt, water bottle, bracelet and draw string backpack. It is not necessary to hold a club or open race licence to enter.

Start time	0900
Where	Alexandrina Drive Yarralumla (near Canberra Yacht Club)
When	Sunday 11 November 2007
Entry Fee	Open \$35.00 12-16 years \$25.00
Registration	Saturday 10 November at Stromlo Forest Park from 4.00pm-6.00pm
Further Information	http://www.canberracyclingclub.org.au (scroll to What's News?)
Online Entries	http://www.canberracyclingclub.org.au (scroll to What's News?)
Enquiries about the Tour de Femme	MaryAnn
Email	maryann@bikeshed.com.au
Mob	0408 447 164

**Pedal for Pap
Sunday 11 November
Starting 9.00am**

**All entrants to
register
Saturday 10
November from
4.00pm to 6.00pm
Stromlo Forest Park**

