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The Research Students Centre Grad News is available online in the second week of every month.If you would like to contribute an item or provide information for inclusion in the **RSC Grad News** please send the details via e-mail to a.wilkinson@qut.edu.au

GRANT-IN-AID

DANIELLE JAY BOONE SPENT TIME IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN COLLECTING DATA FOR HER DOCTOR OF EDUCATION THESIS

I spent 14 weeks (29 March – 7 July 2006) in Metropolitan Detroit, Michigan (USA) to collect data for my Educational Doctorate (EdD), thesis. My research focuses on the phenomenon of young children's artwork being displayed. The methodology I have selected is existential phenomenological psychology – based on the work of Amadeo Giorgi (1970, 1971, 1985).

In addition to collecting data, I was fortunate to have taken advantage of various professional development opportunities offered by other researchers from North American universities.

I completed both my undergraduate (1996) and graduate studies (1999) at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan (www.oakland.edu). Oakland University is a growing, top-rated academic institution offering students a high-quality education. Located in suburban Rochester, Michigan in north Oakland County, OU boasts one of the most picturesque campuses in the country.



School of Education and Human Sciences - Oakland University

Prior to leaving Australia in March, I contacted the university and learned that during my visit I would be able to secure short-term accommodation through Oakland University's visiting scholar program. This program offers its residents the unique opportunity of enjoying the convenience of living on campus in a smaller community of scholars. The accommodation is conveniently located on campus near the university library.

While on campus, I met with one of my mentor's from my master's studies at Oakland University. Professor Marc Briod specializes both in early childhood education and phenomenology. Professor Briod and I met prior to my data collection to discuss phenomenological interviewing techniques with young children. Together, we reviewed the protocols I designed and also explored other aspects of my thesis.



University Student Apartments - Oakland University

Professor Briod offered journal articles to assist me with my research. He will be presenting a paper at Amadeo Giorgi's upcoming phenomenological conference in California. Professor Briod is a friend and colleague of Giorgi's. Although Professor Briod invited me to attend the conference, I had to decline as it is scheduled to occur in late September and I returned to Australia in early July. Nonetheless, we will remain in contact, as Professor Briod is quite interested in my doctoral research.

At the end of June 2006, I traveled to University of Alberta in Edmonton (www.ualberta.ca). University of Alberta has the largest Faculty of Education in all of Canada and is world-renowned for its contributions to the field of educational research. During my visit, I stayed on campus at Lister Hall which is part of University of Alberta's conference centre. The purpose of my trip was two-fold: 1) to meet with Professor Anna Kirova to discuss the data analysis portion of my thesis and 2) to participate in a workshop conference with Professor Max van Manen.



Department of Education - University of Alberta



Professor Anna Kirova from University of Alberta is also a phenomenologist and early childhood specialist. Professor Kirova supervised my master's thesis while at Oakland University. She holds two doctorates – one from University of Sofia, Bulgaria and the second from University of Alberta. Her doctoral work

at University of Alberta was supervised by world-famous phenomenologist Professor Max van Manen. Her doctoral research focused on the phenomenon of children's loneliness feelings. Professor Kirova and Professor van Manen continue to work closely as colleagues at University of Alberta. As always, Professor Kirova was very supportive and offered many suggestions to assist in my studies. We discussed the various types of phenomenological research and the pros and cons of each.

A rare opportunity presented itself during my visit to University of Alberta. Professor van Manen invited me to participate in University of Alberta's *Thinking Qualitatively: A Workshop Conference* from 26-30 June 2006 in Edmonton, Alberta (www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/iiqm). Professor van Manen arranged for me to join his full-day workshop entitled 'Phenomenological beginnings: The hype of hyper reflection'. I was one of 18 postgraduate students and supervisors who were able to have a full-day to work closely with Professor van Manen. The morning session began with an overview of the philosophical underpinnings of phenomenology, followed by cooperative group discussions about identifying 'phenomenon' for purposes of research. In the afternoon session, Professor van Manen provided the group with detailed methodological steps for data collection and analysis. I was fortunate to have had Professor van Manen join my cooperative group and offer direct feedback on my own research and understandings of phenomenology. Professor van Manen was an exceptionally engaging speaker, as he is dedicated to teachers others about the power of phenomenological research.

I departed the USA on 7 July 2006. On my journey back to Brisbane, I reflected on the amazing experiences I had during my stay. I am quite satisfied with my accomplishments. During my visit, I completed my data collection, began data analysis, and discussed my EdD research with widely recognized researchers from North American universities. The QUT Grants-in-Aid award and the support of the Research Degrees Committee have assisted me in taking advantage of numerous opportunities made available during my visit.



Professor Max van Manen and me at Thinking Qualitatively – A Workshop Conference (University of Alberta)

I feel honoured to have been selected as a recipient of the award. The experiences I have had will be invaluable to my future in the field of educational research. The professional links I made while in the USA have allowed me to build my community of practice. As a result of this trip, I have also been able to start building a relationship between QUT, Oakland University and University of Alberta by sharing research and publications related to phenomenological research. By engaging with other phenomenologist's, I have returned to QUT with a deeper understanding of my own research and plan for future projects that will extend beyond my thesis.

TRAVEL LOG of Danielle Jay Boone 29 March – 7 July 2006

- WEEK 1: Field work – Initial visit to research site
- WEEK 2: Field work – PHASE I – Establish rapport/finalise consent
- WEEK 3: Field work – PHASE I – Establish rapport/finalise consent
- WEEK 4: Field work – PHASE II – Observation/interaction
- WEEK 5: Field work – PHASE II – Introductory interviews
- WEEK 6: Field work – PHASE II – Introductory interviews
- WEEK 7: Field work – PHASE III – Round 1 semi-structured interviews
Meeting with Professor Marc Briod (Oakland University)
- WEEK 8: Field work – PHASE III – Round 2 semi-structured interviews
Move into university apartment as part of visiting scholar program (Oakland University)
- WEEK 9: Field work – PHASE III – Round 3 semi-structured interviews
- WEEK 10: Field work – PHASE III – Make-up semi-structured interviews
- WEEK 11: Field work – PHASE III – Wrap-up
- WEEK 12: Field work – PHASE III – Wrap-up
- WEEK 13: Data analysis [transcripts]
Move out of university apartment (Oakland University)
- WEEK 14: Data analysis [transcripts]
Thinking Qualitatively – A Workshop Conference (University of Alberta)
Meeting with Professor Max van Manen (University of Alberta)
Meeting with Professor Anna Kirova (University of Alberta)

| Launch of ATN More |

ATN MORE online modules - (visit the website: <https://olt.qut.edu.au/udf/atnmore/index.cfm>) The modules provide resources and information to help you improve the research skills that will be required during candidature. ATN MORE is the acronym for Modules On-line for Research Education. The ATN universities have developed online research skills modules for research students. The available modules are:
Risk Assessment
Ethics
Critical Writing
Critical and Creative Thinking
Practice Led Research in Arts Media and Design

The two modules, Critical and Creative Thinking and Practice Led Research in Arts Media and Design will be offered as moderated modules, but the dates have not been finalised.

| Welcome to our New Coordinator of Research Candidature |

You may have noticed a new face in the Research Students Centre. Lisa Leeton has joined us as the new Coordinator of Research Candidature. She will be working in conjunction with the wonderful women who oversee all aspects of higher degree research candidature from enrolment to examination. Lisa comes to us after spending fifteen plus years at the University of Queensland (UQ) and with CSIRO. She has previously completed Bachelor, Honours and PhD degrees in research science before working within CSIRO for 5 and a half years. She is now looking forward to getting to know everyone in the RSC and to using her experience towards enhancing and improving the research candidature administration process at QUT. Lisa is an avid book reader and horse-rider and will happily chat to anyone about her dog for minutes on end.

Welcome Lisa.

(Email: lisa.leeton@qut.edu.au Ph: 31381858)

| New Online form available |

The **change to thesis title** form is now available on QUT Virtual. If you haven't already checked out the online forms that we are developing for research students, go to QV and click on Research Forms.

| Cut off dates for Graduation |

Cut off date for Graduation ceremonies in April is March 9th. 2007

| Nominations for Research Degrees Committee Student Representative |

The RDC wishes to appoint a student representative for the 2007 calendar year. The RDC meets once a month to determine decisions, outcomes and recommendations relating to Higher Degree Research students at QUT and it has the following terms of reference:

- develops and recommends to University Research and Innovation Committee to recommend to University Academic Board policies and procedures relating to research higher degree supervision, training and research in the University;
- advises University Research and Innovation Committee on the provision and delivery of resources and facilities for research degree training and research;
- in conjunction with Teaching and Learning Support Services, the Library, the Office of Research and other support departments, organises and conducts training and information sessions for research higher degree students and supervisors;
- considers for approval, in accordance with University policy, recommendations from faculty academic boards regarding the admission, supervision and examination of research higher degree students;
- monitors the progress, supervision and examination of research higher degree students within the University and reports on these matters to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Commercialisation);
- considers applications and determines recipients for domestic postgraduate research scholarships and grants-in-aid awards;
- recommends to University Academic Board (or delegate) the award of research degrees to candidates, through Student Business Services.

As a student rep on the committee you will be involved in decisions relating to higher degree research students at QUT and will be able to provide a student perspective to such decisions. The RDC usually meets on the first Monday afternoon of every month from 2 pm onwards.

If you'd like to nominate for this role then please contact the RDC Secretary (Email: lisa.leeton@qut.edu.au or Ph: 31381858) by February 23rd.

Please consider nominating as you will find it invaluable experience, it will give you an insight into the higher research degree process, and it will look good on your CV!

| Interesting Snippet of information - the rewards of the Vacation Scholarship Scheme |

Simon Joslin, a final year student in IF90 B CI (COM DESIGN)/B INF TECH received a best paper award from CGIE 2006. The paper was titled **Modelling Quest Data for Game Designers**.

Simon has been asked to submit the paper to the ACMIE journal. Simon was a vacation scholarship student and, according to his supervisors, wrote the paper with little help from them (Ross Brown and Penny Drennan). Congratulations, Simon!

| Latest news - Masters Scholarship Scheme |

The university will be offering a new scholarship scheme to encourage full time masters student enrolment in 2007. The full details are not yet available but it is hoped that there will be 50 places available if students enrol before June 30. Students may receive a scholarship for up to 18 months. Note though that students must complete their masters. They are not able to upgrade to a PhD. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, talk with the Research Students Centre - research.degrees@qut.edu.au or with your Faculty Research Office.

| Orientations 2007 |

The **Research Student Centre** is holding their 2007 Orientations for new research students on **6th March at Gardens Point Campus** and on **13th March at Kelvin Grove Campus**. The **International Students Orientation** will be on **15th March at Gardens Point Campus**. If you are new to the university or haven't attended an orientation before, come along. Contact training.rsc@qut.edu.au to register.

The **Business Faculty** are holding an orientation for postgraduate students on **21st February, 5.00 - 6.30** in Z302 and a drinks and nibbles session afterwards in Z1064 (6.30 - 7.30pm).

The **IT Faculty** are holding an orientation BBQ for postgraduate research and honours students on **7th March** at 126 Margaret Street (ground floor) from 12.00 - 2.00pm.

The **Creative Industries Faculty** are holding an orientation for postgraduate research students on **13th March**, in building Z2, Room 307 following the RSC orientation at 3.30pm. There will be an honours orientation for Creative Industries Faculty students in N417 at Kelvin Grove, from 12.00 - 2.00pm on **15th March**.

| Events, Training & Resources |

| IT SERVICES: CURRENT COURSES RELEVANT FOR YOU |

MS Word Advanced Training

When: 01/03/07

Venue: V121 Gardens Point

Cost: \$190.00

Duration: Full Day (9am to 4pm)

Upon completion of this course participants should be able to:

- Manage the use of Styles
- Create and work with Table of Contents and update page numbering
- Use outlining in documents
- Use sections to correctly format documents
- Create headers, footers and indexes
- Create, modify and delete bookmarks, endnotes and footnotes
- Create and work with tables
- Create captions and use the AutoCaption facility
- Track changes and perform document reviews
- Create master and subdocuments

To register for this course please visit www.itstraining.qut.edu.au

IT Services: Hotline: 07 3138 1611; Fax: 07 3138 7072; IT Helpdesk: 07 3138 4000 | Email: its.training@qut.edu.au | Website: www.itstraining.qut.edu.au | Online IT Training: <http://training.qut.edu.au>

Details of other training opportunities are available by visiting:

ATN Leap Modules

<https://olt.qut.edu.au/udf/ATN-LEAP/index.cfm>

Endnote on line learning site

<https://olt.qut.edu.au/udf/LIB102/index.cfm?fa=displayHomePage&CFID=3432155&CFTOKEN=35524901>

Teach and Learning Courses

<http://www.talss.qut.edu.au./service/Learning/>
<http://www.talss.qut.edu.au./service/TeachingDevelopment/index.cfm?fa=displayPage&rNum=659672>

On line user guides

<http://www.its.qut.edu.au/assist/userguides/>

RSC Training Sessions on Offer Semester 1, 2007 |

| Event Name | Event Date | Event Time | Campus | Room | Suitable for:- |
|--|------------|---------------|--------|---------|------------------------|
| Using Word to help write your thesis | 24/01/2007 | 9.30 - 4.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| QIPS 1: Managing supervision at QUT | 23/02/2007 | 9.30 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Supervisors |
| FRAO Forum | 2/03/2007 | 1.00 - 4.00 | GP | O421 | Staff |
| Orientation HDR Students, GP Campus | 6/03/2007 | 9.30 - 3.00 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Supervisor Solutions (5 week program begins) | 12/03/2007 | | ONLINE | | Supervisors |
| Orientation HDR students, KG Campus | 13/03/2007 | 9.30 - 2.30 | KG | Q430 | Students |
| International Orientation GP Campus | 15/03/2007 | 9.30 - 2.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Program begins (9 week program) | 16/03/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Statistical workshop Pt 1 | 21/03/2007 | 5.00 - 7.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Wk 2 | 22/03/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Stage 2 Application: the research proposal | 27/03/2007 | 5.00 - 7.30 | GP | V714 | Students & Supervisors |
| Statistical workshop Pt 2 | 28/03/2007 | 5.00 - 7.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Wk 3 | 29/03/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Understanding the student portfolio | 2/04/2007 | 1.30 - 4.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Statistical Workshops Pt 3 | 4/04/2007 | 5.00 - 7.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| HPC Information Session | 4/04/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Wk 4 | 5/04/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Statistical course Pt 4 | 11/04/2007 | 5.00 - 7.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Wk 5 | 12/04/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| ATN LEAP (10 week program begins) | 16/04/2007 | ONLINE | | | Students |
| Plagiarism, Authorship and Intellectual Property | 17/04/2007 | 9.30 - 1.00 | GP | V714 | Students & Supervisors |
| IRIS Wk 6 | 19/04/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Word for Thesis Training | 24/04/2007 | 9.00 - 5.00 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Wk 7 | 26/04/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Making the most of conferences and Grants-in-aid Information Session | 1/05/2007 | 9.30 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Using PowerPoint | 2/05/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V711/12 | Students |
| FRAO Forum | 3/05/2007 | 2.00 - 4.30 | GP | V714 | Staff |
| Smart State Awards | 8/05/2007 | 10.00 - 12.00 | GP | V714 | Students & Supervisors |
| Understanding myself and others | 9/05/2007 | 9.30 - 11.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| IRIS Wk 9 | 10/05/2007 | 9.30 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Grants Workshop #1 | 14/05/2007 | 1.30 - 4.30 | GP | V714 | Student & Supervisors |
| Media Awareness | 15/05/2007 | 9.30 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Confirmation: How to make it happen | 16/05/2007 | 5.00 - 7.30 | KG | Q430 | Students & Supervisors |
| IRIS Wk 10 | 17/05/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Understanding Myself and others | 18/05/2007 | 9.30 - 11.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Presentation skills | | | | | |
| Fulbright, Feast France and Rhodes Scholar | 23/05/2007 | 11.00 - 1.30 | GP | V714 | Students & Supervisors |
| Grants Workshop #2 | 28/05/2007 | 9.00 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students & Supervisors |
| NVIVO 7 1 day workshop introduction | 8/06/2007 | 9.00 - 4.30 | GP | V121 | Students |
| QIPS 2: Project Management | 14/06/2007 | 9.30 - 12.30 | GP | V714 | Students |
| Networking Seminar | 22/06/2007 | 1.30 - 5.30 | GP | V714 | Students |

| Event Name | Event Date | Event Time | Campus | Room | Suitable for:- |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------|--------|------|------------------------|
| Examination Process | 25/06/2007 | 1.00 - 4.00 | GP | V714 | Students & Supervisors |
| Writing Your Thesis | 27/06/2007 | 9.30 - 1.00 | KG | Q430 | Students |
| Job Seeking Skills Pt 1 | 29/06/2007 | 9.30 - 11.30 | KG | Q430 | Students |

| Introduction to Research for International Students – IRIS |

Introduction to Research for International Students (IRIS) is a new program designed to assist recently arrived International Research Students. It is being offered in Semester 1, 2007 beginning on 16 March 2007. This is a free course offered by the Research Students Centre in collaboration with International Student Services, and is specifically for commencing International Research Students.

The programme covers topics such as

- Understanding your research process
- The literature review
- Research Writing in an Australian Context
- Oral Presentations
- PowerPoint training

In the past the enthusiasm and interest generated at the sessions has been encouraging, has boosted motivation and has given the students an opportunity to get to know one another and build a social network. We will strive to ensure that this continues in 2007.

The range and diversity of research topics amongst the International students has been extremely impressive

confirming how important it is for us as a University to encourage the enrolment and inclusion of as many nationalities and cultures in order to enrich our research base and our community as a whole.

The IRIS program has been designed specifically for International Postgraduate Research Degree Students. If you fit into this category and have only just arrived, please contact Kerry Kruger on 313 89240 | k2.kruger@qut.edu.au for further information on the IRIS program and to register to attend.

| Postgraduate Careers Update |

Making the most of your Postgraduate Study

Welcome back to 2007. For those new to QUT, postgraduate careers is career support dedicated to the needs of postgraduate researchers. We run workshops, seminars, provide one on one career counselling and dedicated web pages. This year we have consolidated our provision of services in a more targeted fashion. The overview of this can be found on the "Whats On" section of our new web page. Workshop details (times, dates, registration information) will be found on the Careers webpages and on the Research Student Centre's web pages very soon.

"Good speakers – thanks! I was initially wondering if I was going to get much from the session but I loved it and really appreciated it." (Student)

Mentoring – in 2006 we had a small pilot of three student mentor pairs last year and are keen to grow this scheme this year, so watch this space and on our web pages for details of how to get a mentor.

We look forward to meeting you along your career journey

Postgraduate Careers

Making the most of your postgraduate study

- Individual consultations
- Workshops
- Search Strategies
- Resources

"I gained satisfaction from sharing my experiences and being a sounding board for someone else. I also gained a friend." (Mentor)

Student Portfolio - Students are now being asked to record evidence against the postgraduate skill areas in their annual progress reports. With this initiative the Student Portfolio is going to be even more important in 2007. The

Faculty of Health at Carseldine has already booked Postgraduate Careers to deliver a specific session on "Making the most of the student portfolio" early in 2007 and other workshops will be advertised through the research student centre.

Got an idea for a future event? Let us know. Email a.mcalpine@qut.edu.au

How can you help?

You can help Postgraduate Careers by keeping up to date with what we are doing, by providing feedback on the web page, on this newsletter, or by providing ideas of what we can do to assist your students with their future careers. The more we communicate with one another the better it will be for the postgraduate students of QUT. Contact Us. Email a.mcalpine@qut.edu.au

Humour

No newsletter would be complete without a little bit of humour to keep us going, so here is this issues contribution. Please send me your funnies for future issues.

The following psychological test can help reveal a lot about your personality...

In the middle of the table is a round food tray with five kinds of fruit in it. There are:

- a. Apple
- b. Banana
- c. Strawberry
- d. Peach
- e. Orange

Which fruit will you choose?

To reveal your personality click [here](#)

"If you have any talent, or any occupation that delights you, do it, and do it to the hilt. Don't ask why, or what difficulties you may get into."

Richard Feynman

| Library |

The Library Catalogue – Now it's personal!

My Library Profile is a personal login to the library catalogue that allows you to undertake searches, see your borrowing record and use online services without having to resubmit your personal details each time. After the initial login, you can move seamlessly between searching, placing a hold or lodging a document delivery request. Plus, you now use your QUT access account and password to log in – a library PIN is no longer required.

You can log in before you start searching or any time during your search because there is a link to My Library Profile from all catalogue screens.

What's in My Library Profile?

My Borrowing History lists items you have previously borrowed. You will need to activate this function before it will operate. Items borrowed last year will not be displayed.

Document Delivery forms are linked from your profile. By submitting requests from within your profile, as opposed to the link on the home page, you will avoid the need to authenticate again.

| e-GRAD SCHOOL (AUSTRALIA) |

eGSA, the e-Grad School (Australia) project, is building a virtual graduate school to operate in Australia and internationally. eGSA offers postgraduate award level qualifications in research commercialisation, research management and other university career paths.

Commencing this semester, Semester 1, 2007, the Graduate Certificate in Research Commercialisation begins the exciting new development in the eGSA suite of postgraduate awards. We are expecting approximately 35 students from the ATN universities this year. Currently QUT has eight students enrolled in the program.

eGSA is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training through its Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund and by the Australian Technology Network of Universities: Curtin University of Technology, Queensland University of Technology, RMIT University, University of South Australia, University of Technology Sydney.

For further information visit

<http://www.egradschool.edu.au>

<http://www.atn.edu.au>

The Research Students Centre **e-bulletin** is available online in the second week of every month.

If you would like to contribute an item or provide information for inclusion in the **e-bulletin** please send the details via e-mail to s.gasson@qut.edu.au