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Scholar is a bi-monthly publication of the University Research Committee (URC) at the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) Knowledge Village Blocks 5 & 15 PO Box 20183 Dubai UAE Phone: (04) 3672400 Fax: (04) 3672760 Web site: www.uowdubai.ac.ae



Message from the Chair

It gives me great pleasure to introduce "Scholar", the official UOWD Research Newsletter. Scholar will be published bi-monthly and contain research related news and information. While our main aim is to report on the research successes of UOWD staff members, we will also be providing useful information about research resources, activities and events. Contributions to Scholar are most welcome. Just send an e-mail to scholar@uowdubai.ac.ae.

You are probably aware that the Research Committee has undergone a "re-structure". I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of the previous members of the committee for their hard work, and, in particular, the founding Chair, Associate Professor John Simpson. I am confident that the Research Committee will continue to work towards enhancing the

dynamic research culture at UOWD and establishing UOWD as a regional leader in terms of research outcomes. The most important objective of the Research Committee is to support staff research development and initiatives, so if you have any suggestions or feedback, please let us know. Minutes of the Research Committee meetings will be available to all staff shortly through the Staff Intranet.

The pursuit of research is critical to any university because it creates new knowledge, improves the quality of teaching and learning, and promotes interaction with the local community. It comes as no surprise that research is a key criterion in academic promotions and career development. This issue of Scholar clearly highlights how productive we are in terms of research at UOWD.

Publication Successes!

Dr Ashraf Mahate and his research colleague, Prof P.S. Sudarsanam, have had a paper accepted in the British Journal of Management titled "Are hostile acquisitions too bad for shareholders? Long term value creation by hostile and friendly acquirers". The British Journal of Management is considered to be one of the best management journals in Europe and has an impact factor of 1.483.

Anita Dani presented a paper at the SETIT (Sciences of Electronics, Technologies of Information and Telecommunications) International Conference in Tunisia in March. The title of the paper is "Incremental

Computation of Aggregate Operators over Sliding Windows".

Lois Smith and **Dr Swapna Koshy** have just returned from Hong Kong where they presented a paper at the First International Conference on Enhancing Teaching and Learning Through Assessment. The paper is titled "Improving Students' Learning Through Authentic Assessment".

Dr Michael Willemys presented a paper titled "Manager-employee communication: Emotional intelligence and communication strategies" at the Arabian Society for Human Resource Management (ASHRM) Annual Conference, in Bahrain this April.

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Let's not keep it that way. Let's aim for more! ■

Dr Lejla Vrazalic,
Chair, Research Committee

Prof Mokhtar Metwally and **Dr Jamal Roudaki** have had a paper titled "Financial Performance of Islamic Banks in GCC Countries" with Dr Waleed Al-Sultan, accepted by the Journal of Islamic Banking and Finance (Pakistan).

Dr Jamal Roudaki has also had another paper accepted by the Journal of Accounting – Business and Management, titled "Attitudes of Accounting Educators and Financial Managers in the UAE Towards the General Education Requirements in Learning Accounting". The paper will appear in the October issue of the journal.
(continued on page 2...)

UPCOMING RESEARCH SEMINARS!

Wednesday, June 22 at 2:00pm: "Ranking and Clustering Australian University Research Performance (1998-2002)" – Dr Abbas Valadkhani (UoW Australia)

Saturday, June 25 at 6:00pm: "Economic integration and globalisation issues with relationship to the laws of competitive and comparative advantage and with special application to the Emirates" – Dr Ohan Balian (A special seminar by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Economic Policy Advisor, with our thanks to Dr John Simpson for arranging this)

Wednesday, June 29 at 2:00pm: "The Effects of Cultural Factors on Website Navigation" – Dr Syed Kabir Nasir (UOWD)

Wednesday, July 6 at 2:00pm: "Teaching Ethical Decision-Making: An inter-university simulation project" – Dr Stephanie Jones (UOWD) with Mark Karstadt from the Dubai Women's College and Santiago Zorzopulos from the Dubai Ethics Resource Centre

Wednesday, July 13 at 2:00pm: "Empirical Investigation of Internet Banking in the UAE: Bank adoption levels in the context of customer satisfaction and influencers of adoption among potential users" – Dr Cedwyn Fernandes (UOWD)

For more information about upcoming seminars, including abstracts and biographies of the presenters, please visit the revamped UOWD Research website (www.uowdubai.ac.ae/research) and follow the Research Seminars link.

Publication Successes (continued)

Dr Nidhal Abdulaziz will be presenting a paper in France this August at the 10th IFIP International Conference on Personal Wireless Communications (PWC'05). The title of the paper is "The Power Spectral Density of the H-Ternary Line Code: A Simulation Model and Comparison".

Dr Sami Khedhiri presented a paper at the 22nd Symposium on Banking and Monetary Economics held in Strasbourg (France) last week. The title of the paper is "Application of Non-Linear Correction Models to the Demand for Money in Tunisia".

Asima Shirazi will be presenting a paper titled "Child Labour in Pakistan: A Micro Study of Children in a Migrant Community in Karachi" at the international Childhood 2005 conference to be held in Oslo (Norway) from June 29 to July 3.

Dr Lejla Vrazalic will be presenting a paper at the Information Systems Development (ISD 2005) conference in Karstad (Sweden) this August. The title of the paper is "How Standard are the Standard Barriers to E-commerce Adoption? Empirical Evidence from Australia, Sweden and the USA" and is the outcome of a collaborative effort by Robert MacGregor (Australia), Lejla Vrazalic (Dubai), Sten Carlsson (Sweden), Jean Pratt (USA)

and Matthew Harris (USA).

Dr Lejla Vrazalic and Dr Rob MacGregor have also had a paper titled "The Effects of Strategic Alliance Membership on the Disadvantages of Electronic-Commerce Adoption: A Comparative Study of Swedish and Australian Regional Small Businesses" published in the Journal of Global Information Management (Vol 13, No 3), and a paper titled "The Role of Small Business Clusters in Prioritising Barriers to E-Commerce Adoption: A Study of Swedish Regional SMEs" published at the Cluster Conference hosted by the Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness in Ballarat (Australia) this July.

Our Visiting Professor, **Dr Ronan Reilly**, has had a busy year with a number of conference papers accepted all over the world, including:

- * "Examining the role of self-regulated learning on introductory programming performance" at the First International Workshop on Computing Education Research (ICER 2005) in Seattle this October
- * "Assessing the executive function of students on a third level introductory programming course" at the European Brain and Behaviour Society 37th Annual Meeting in Dublin this September
- * "A proposed model of repetition blindness" at the

International Conference on Neuroscience (ICON 9) in Havana this September

- * "An exploration of individual differences in the eye movements of readers of English text" and "Comparing reading in English and Thai: The role of spatial word unit segmentation for distributed processing and eye movement control", both at the European Conference on Eye Movements (ECEM 13) in Berne this August.

Although, **Prof Mokhtar Melwally** has left UOWD, he has had a number of articles published and accepted for publication in the last couple of months, including:

- * "Country-of-Origin Influence on Quality Perception of Products Sold in GCC Countries: A Case Study" published in the Journal of International Marketing and Marketing Research (UK), Vol. 30, No.2, pp.55-66
- * "Determinants of Aggregate Imports of GCC Countries: Co-Integration Analysis", Applied Econometrics and International Development (Spain), Vol.4, No.3, pp.59-76
- * "Attitudes of Private Firms in GCC Countries towards Employing Indian Nationals: A Case Study, Indian Development Review (India) – forthcoming
- * "Towards Unifying Monetary Policies in GCC Countries" Global Journal of Finance and Economics (USA), forthcoming, with Saif. S Alsowaidi. ■

Working Paper Series...

Three new working papers are "fresh off the press" and will shortly be sent to colleagues at universities in the region and other local organizations. These are as follows:

Title: Financial Integration in the Asian Region
Author: John Simpson
WP Number: WP 38/2005

Title: Improving Student Learning Through Authentic Assessment

Authors: Lois Smith and Swapna Koshy
WP Number: WP 37/2005

Title: Global Integration of Banking Markets: at what cost?
Author: John Simpson
WP Number: 36/2005

Congratulations go to the authors. Copies of the working papers are available in the UOWD Library and can be ordered by sending an e-mail

to workingpapers@uowdubai.ae

Dr Swapna Koshy has taken on the role of Working Paper Series Co-ordinator and she will be assisted by **Saima Arfeen**, who has done a wonderful job to date in providing administrative support for the Series.

A full list of UOWD Working Papers can be found at www.uowdubai.ac.ae/research

The Impact of "Impact Factors" on Your Research Career

What is an "impact factor"?

The journal impact factor measures the frequency with which the "average article" in a particular journal has been cited in a particular year. It is published in the ISI Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

Why is the "impact factor" so important?

The impact factor indicates a journal's relative importance compared to others in the same field and, as such, it is a useful measure for determining the quality of a journal. The higher the impact factor, the better the journal! For example, in 2004 the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* had an impact factor of 4.756; the *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology* had an impact factor of 2.385; and the *Journal of Accounting Research* had an impact factor of 1.884. And the journal with the highest impact factor? (Sadly, not in the areas of business or IT) The *Annual Review of Immunology* had an impact factor of

52.431 in 2004!

How is the "impact factor" calculated?

The impact factor is calculated by dividing *the number of current citations* to articles published in the previous two years by *the total number of articles published* in the same period.

How do I find out the "impact factor" of a journal I have published in?

The University of Wollongong Library subscribes to the JCR database and UOWD staff have access to it through the Library website. Go to the UOWD home page, then click on the Library link, followed by the "Find electronic resources" link. Then click on "Database Search" and, when the page loads, look under "J" for Journal Citation Reports. ■

In Other News

Dr John Simpson is writing a regular column that appears in the Emirates Evening Post Business Section on Fridays. The column is appropriately called "Banking on Simpson" and discusses various economic issues relevant to our region, some of which are based on UOWD research. Dr Simpson is inviting others to contribute through their newsworthy research efforts.

Dr Nidhal Abdulaziz has been invited to be a member of the International Program Committee for the IASTED International Conference on Advances in Computer Science and Technology (ACST 2006), which will take place in Puerto Vallarta (Mexico) from January 23 to 25, 2006. ■

Individual staff members are responsible for reporting research related news if it is to appear in the newsletter. Any inaccuracies in the information provided in this newsletter should be reported to the Editor

Is Your Research Ethical?

All research undertaken at UOWD that involves human participants is subject to ethics clearance. This includes surveys (by mail, phone, Internet, etc.), interviews, focus groups, etc. Anyone undertaking primary data collection using the above methods should apply for ethics approval **prior** to the commencement of the project. Applications are considered by the Human Ethics Research Committee (HERC) at the University of Wollongong in Australia. In some cases, for research involving minimal risk to participants, applications can be made for an expedited review which means they are considered by the HREC Chair and do not have to be reviewed by the full committee which meets once a month. For more information about ethics clearance, including guidelines and application forms, visit www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/ethics/human ■

Refereed Conferences: CFPs

The 4th Conference on IT in Asia (CITA05)

12 to 15 December 2005;
Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
Website: www.cita05.org
Deadline for submissions: 16 August 2005

Australasian Meeting of the Econometric Society

4 to 7 July, 2006; Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Website: <http://esam06.anu.edu.au/>
Deadline for submissions: 10 March 2006

IBIMA 2005: The Internet & Information Technology in Modern Organisations

17 to 19 December, 2005;
Cairo, Egypt
Website: www.ibima.org/Cairo2005
Deadline for submissions: 3 October 2006

For more CFPs sign up for alerts at www.conferencealerts.com ■

What is INOMICS?

Inomics is an Internet service for economists which contains resources such as conference announcements, directories and a database of research papers in economics. Interested? Visit: www.inomics.com/ ■

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