

Welcome

First of all I would like to send my warmest greetings to every one of you and specially thank you for your kind words of support and encouragement that I have received in my new role as Graduate Research Coordinator.

As your coordinator, I shall try my best to share with you the general aspects of Graduate Research and specific events and issues that emerge within the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) and the University of Tasmania. Your voice will add meaning to and greatly enhance our communication. Thus, we would love to hear ideas and news from you so that we can include them in our communication.

Now may I share with you the following issues:

Our research students and supervisor team

Currently there are 26 research students in the UDRH:

- ◆ 10 Masters students (unit code CRH800),
- ◆ 16 PhD students (unit code CRH900).

Several students are in their final stage of candidature and we expect to welcome them in the graduation ceremonies in 2007 and 2008. In addition, we have also received inquiries from prospective applicants.

We extend our welcome to new supervisors who have joined our supervision team. This has strengthened our Graduate Research supervision in terms of research expertise and availability. We welcome anyone who wishes to become a supervisor to register with the Graduate Research Unit.



Dr Quynh Lê

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Graduate research workshop 2006



Research active

The term “research active” has just been introduced in the university research discourse in an attempt to evaluate research performance of universities and individual staff. For graduate research students, the following three aspects are important for being “research active” during the course of your candidature:

COMPLETING YOUR RESEARCH THESIS SATISFACTORILY AND SUCCESSFULLY

Most research students want to complete their theses as soon as possible. The University encourages students to submit their theses at the minimal time if possible (2 years for full-time PhD and 1 year for full-time Masters Research). As many of our students have other commitments apart from being a student such as work, family, and community involvement, it is easy to be torn between different commitments.

Thus, it is important to work closely with your supervisor to ensure that regular consultation be established. At the end of each meeting with your supervisor, please work out together:

“NETWORKING IS
IMPORTANT FOR
EXPANDING OUR
RESEARCH
HORIZON IN TERMS
OF PROFESSIONAL
RELATIONSHIP
AND KNOWLEDGE
ENHANCEMENT”

- ◆ When is the next meeting? (Not “*whenever I have something to talk about, I will contact you*”.)
- ◆ What will we discuss next time?
- ◆ Anything you and I should do to prepare for the meeting?

DEVELOPING A PERSONAL RESEARCH PROFILE

Apart from focusing on writing and completing your thesis which is your ultimate goal, it is important to develop your research profile so that it enhances your research pathway or career opportunities before and after graduation. This includes conference presentations, session chairing, being a member of a conference organisation team, publications in a journal, book or conference proceedings, etc.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER RESEARCH STUDENTS, COLLEAGUES AND EXPERTS NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Isolation and lack of interaction can make your academic life unproductive. There are cases in which the only person that a student interacts with during his/her candidature is the supervisor. In a research context, the limit of our interaction is the limit of our research world. Thus, networking is important for expanding our research horizon in terms of professional relationship and knowledge enhancement. Students are encouraged to interact with others within and outside the UDRH.

Graduate research news

Apart from regular communication, we plan to issue the *UDRH Graduate Research News* approximately twice a year. It will include topics such as:

- ◆ Special feature,
- ◆ Progress reports: Students sharing their research progress,

- ◆ Graduate Research events and activities,
- ◆ Introducing a student or supervisor,
- ◆ Abstracts of theses or published papers,
- ◆ International links with other graduate research parties,
- ◆ Introducing books/journals/articles,
- ◆ Introducing useful web sites,
- ◆ Conferences,
- ◆ Postcards from former and current staff and students,
- ◆ Other news.

Your ideas on and suggestions for any of the areas listed above will be most welcome. Please send your contribution to Quynh Lê or Yvette Massey.

Photos will make our *Graduate Research News* more interesting and reader-friendly. Therefore, don't forget to send your photos too.

Graduate research community forum

Communication and interaction are essential in Graduate Research. However, it is rather unrealistic to expect regular face-to-face interactions involving everyone. We intend to develop a web-based Graduate Research Community Forum so that we can share ideas and information and solve problems together in an informal and interactive way. For example, a user can post his/her questions on the Forum and others may help by responding to the user. It will be particularly helpful to those who live and work in isolated areas.

New book: Graduate Research Papers

It is planned to mount a series of on-line/CD-ROM volumes of Graduate Research Papers. It is hoped that the first volume will be issued in October 2007. The ISBN number of this book is: **978-1-86295-386-4**. Any suggestions are greatly appreciated.

The main aim is to provide an opportunity for our research students to publish their work in progress (if they wish). Authors own the copyright of their respective papers. Others are also welcome to contribute. The focus is on rural health and it also welcomes papers dealing with broad issues in health.

You are most welcome to contribute to this publication. Please send your paper by email attachment to Quynh.Le@utas.edu.au.

“COMMUNICATION
AND INTERACTION
ARE ESSENTIAL IN
GRADUATE
RESEARCH”



Dr Peg LeVine in Takhmau Village, Cambodia

How to manage your postgraduate study life

Dr Peg LeVine, UDRH Senior Lecturer and clinical psychologist, has kindly offered a student support forum to our graduate research students. She will meet the students for a series of discussion on “Having a life and a PhD”. This support forum aims to help our students stay healthy and make their study life more fulfilling while pursuing a postgraduate degree. Date, Time and venue are to be confirmed.

Useful web sites for students and supervisors

UDRH GRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

<http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/gr/>

This is the web site of our Graduate Research program. Please make sure you visit this web site for up-to-date information on support programs, student theses and UTas research services.

GRADUATE RESEARCH RESOURCE BOOK

http://www.research.utas.edu.au/gr/docs/resource_book.pdf

This resource book is produced by the Graduate Research Unit of the University of Tasmania. It has a lot of useful information such as supervision agreements, preliminary research plans, candidature information, etc.

CURRENT GRADUATE RESEARCH CANDIDATE

<http://www.research.utas.edu.au/gr/current/index.htm>

This web site includes important candidature information, forms, policies and guidelines and strategies for part time candidates.

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS

http://www.research.utas.edu.au/human_ethics/index.htm

This web site includes statement of policy and procedures, handbooks, forms and FAQ. If you have not done your research ethics application, please talk to your supervisor.

CODES OF CONDUCT IN SUPERVISION

http://www.research.utas.edu.au/human_ethics/index.htm

This web site gives information about supervision regarding new candidates and current candidates, particularly supervisors' responsibilities.

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