

# News in Brief

Centre for Research Innovation and Graduate Studies

Issue 9 - Summer 2006

## Business and Enterprise News

### UWE Business Plan Competition Results 2005-6

The presentation ceremony for the UWE Business Plan Competition was held on 4th May. Three winners were awarded prizes worth a total of £19,500. Students Emily Gray and David Wilson from the Faculty of the Built Environment won the Open Prize with a bright new business idea called ActiveBuddy.co.uk.

The runner-up award and the special prize for social enterprise was won by the Student Community Portal System developed by Patrick Dasoberi, Christopher Torkornoo and Joseph Agamah, students in the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. The student prize was won by Buckhill Ltd with their idea for Business to Web. As well as cash prizes, the winners receive a rent-free place in UWE's city-centre business incubators for a year to help them on their way to business success.

For further information please contact [enterprise@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:enterprise@uwe.ac.uk)

### Technology Transfer

The Technology Transfer Team are currently in discussion with a number of companies who are interested in developing innovations made by UWE staff, and we are assisting staff seeking development funds. We are pleased to report an increase in the number of invention disclosures submitted and are investigating their market potential.

### Activities

#### Innovation in Health and Social Care Delivery

Fern Urquhart, Business Interface Team Manager in CRIGS, gave a keynote speech at Stirling University on May 4th on best practice in Knowledge Transfer focused on stakeholder consultation expertise across UWE faculties. Present were NHS Trusts from across the UK, together with representatives of Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health and other UK universities with an interest in healthcare research.

#### Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)

UWE's KTP between the Faculty of the Built Environment and North Bristol NHS Trust has won a prestigious national KTP award for the **Best**

**Application of Social Science from the Economic and Social Research Council.** The project focused on engaging the views of public and patients during the design of the proposed new health services and facilities in north Bristol and South Gloucestershire, as part of the Bristol Health Services Plan.

#### South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)

SWRDA has recently agreed to fund the regional bid from SW HEIs on graduate utilisation. A second bid to Government Office South West for ESF funding has also been successful. These projects, which will run for up to

### Business

**The Business Interface Team** in CRIGS have recently presented to Barclays Bank and Honda plc as part of their ongoing relationship building with key external organisations on behalf of UWE faculties.

For further information on opportunities please contact [fiona.matthews@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.matthews@uwe.ac.uk) or [david.lennard@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:david.lennard@uwe.ac.uk)

For **Academic Consultancy** information please contact [richard.baldwin@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:richard.baldwin@uwe.ac.uk)

### Enterprise

If you would like further information or have an invention, novel software, material, design, prototype or any other potential product or service which might have wider commercial potential please contact [andrew2wilson@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:andrew2wilson@uwe.ac.uk)

**CRIGS** are considering holding a stakeholder consultancy and engagement event for all sectors in October. Please confirm your interest by emailing [bit@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:bit@uwe.ac.uk)

### KTP

A proposal for a Knowledge Transfer Partnership between the Faculty of Built Environment and Waycon Precast Ltd was approved by the DTI in April. The project will be led by Prof Ming Sun. We welcome Tejas Oza who started work in March as KTP Associate on Prof Sun's other KTP, with Management Process Systems Ltd.

Recruitment is underway for funded KTPs,

three years, will enable Careers teams in the HEIs to work closely with Knowledge Transfer departments such as CRIGS, who are already delivering the second regional project in the Knowledge Exploitation West (KESW) programme which covers areas such as entrepreneurship skills. The new project funding will help in developing new support and skills development in the region for graduates who are looking to work in the South West.

## Research and Graduate Studies

### UWE wins plaudits for its research training

UWE has been given the thumbs up by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for the academic quality and management of its postgraduate research degree programmes. Following a Special Review of all higher education institutions, UWE achieved the most positive outcome that the QAA is able to give.

This year, the Faculty of Health & Social Care joined the Built Environment, Education and the Business School in being recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for the quality of its research training at both masters and doctoral level. The MA in Applied Social Research now enjoys the ESRC quality kitemark as a suitable preparation for doctoral study in all four faculties.

### Successful Bids

**Alan Winfield** (CEMS) £250k by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council 'Walking with Robots'.

**Dr Bernado Batiz-Lazo** (CEMS) British Academy three year project which aims to study the use of automation in banking.

**Claire Doherty** (AMD) Arts Council grant project entitled 'Situations: Material City'.

**Sue Roulstone** (FBE) Department for Transport 18-month study into the 'Public Acceptability of Road Pricing'.

**Glenn Lyons** (FBE) Department for Transport 18-month study into the 'Public Acceptability of Road Pricing'.

**Elizabeth Towner** (HSC) Department of Transport one year project which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Child Pedestrian Training Pilot Projects.

### Great Western Research (GWR)

UWE has been successful with no less than seven applications for research studentships under the £14m Great Western Research (GWR) programme. GWR, funded by the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) and HEFCE, funds projects that bring together universities with partners from the private and public sector within the region, in areas of strategic importance to the south-west. These are materials, applied mathematics, sustainability, psychology and creative arts.

The research studentships have to be jointly supervised between HEIs and designed to meet specific business and regional needs. The studentship element of GWR is funded by industry, the South West Regional Development Agency and the universities themselves. A second call for

in the Faculties of CEMS, BBS and FBE, with projects expected to start in the next few months.

The annual **SW Regional KTP Seminar** was held in Bath in May and two UWE Associates presented their KTP projects, Vishwa Wijedasa (CEMS) working with Petlon Polymers, and Abid Mohammed (BBS) working with the Brandon Trust. Vishwa was awarded a prize for best Associate presentation.

### RAE2008

Preparations for UWE's submission to RAE2008 are well advanced. Following an extensive Mock RAE over the autumn/winter of 2005/6, recommendations on the shape and size of UWE's submission have been made to the Vice Chancellor. It is expected that an announcement will be made in June on which Units of Assessment UWE will be submitting to, along with the timetable for the compilation of full draft submissions during the autumn of 2006. There will be then be a further year for the University to adjust and enhance the submissions before the final deadline in October 2007.

### Residential Course for Research Students

UWE's annual residential course for research students of personal and career skills takes place June 27-29 at Buckland Hall, Brecon Beacons.

For further information please contact [paul.spencer@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:paul.spencer@uwe.ac.uk) or [hannah.neate@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.neate@uwe.ac.uk) or [hannah.neate@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.neate@uwe.ac.uk) in CRIGS.

### UK-India Education and Research Initiative

Opportunities exist in the Research Cooperation programme, the Collaborative programme and the Professional and Technical Skills programme. The initial deadline is 14th July but further opportunities will follow.

Please contact [caroline.bartle@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.bartle@uwe.ac.uk) or [denise.cook@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:denise.cook@uwe.ac.uk) in CRIGS if you are interested.

### New Brussels contact for UWE

Following the recent departure of Anne Hicks, UWE has a new liaison person, Andrew Smith, at the Brussels-based UK

research studentships, and a call for research fellowships, is currently open.

For further information please contact [sharron.whitecross@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:sharron.whitecross@uwe.ac.uk) in CRIGS.

### coming soon...

#### Women in Research

The Women in Research Task Group was established in 2005 by RIGS Executive. The Group is planning a number of activities to support these aims and is planning to host a networking event in October (date to be announced). The authors of a report on "Improving Women's Representation in Senior Positions in the HE Sector" have been invited to speak at this event. It is anticipated that this might also be an opportunity for the re-launch of a female researchers network.

For further information contact Prof. Kate Purcell [kate.purcell@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:kate.purcell@uwe.ac.uk) or Dr Denise Cooke [denise.cooke@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:denise.cooke@uwe.ac.uk).

#### Changes to AHRC Research Funding

A number of key changes have been made to funding schemes of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

The Resource Enhancement scheme has been closed. Projects where resource enhancement can be linked to a research process will now fall within the standard Research Grants Scheme. Where resources of such a scale and of such generic importance make it difficult to link with a research process, a Strategic Resource Enhancement Programme has been introduced to identify key resources which would be more widely used and have a potential transformative effect on Arts and Humanities research.

#### EU Framework 7 update

The proposals for the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013) is now under discussion in the European Parliament. This follows agreement on the EU budget last month which took the expected total funding for the programme to over 54.5bn euros. If all goes according to plan, the first calls for proposals are expected early in 2007.

One significant change is the new European Research Council (ERC), which will support "frontier research" ie research which represents "an intrinsically risky endeavour that involves the pursuit of fundamental advances in science, technology and engineering, without regard for established disciplinary boundaries or national borders".

For the latest information on Framework 7 please contact [caroline.bartle@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.bartle@uwe.ac.uk) or [denise.cooke@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:denise.cooke@uwe.ac.uk) in CRIGS.

### Other news...

#### Knowledge West

The QuickMark project is now run by the Knowledge West Project which includes six universities and Business West in the sub region. A team of new masters students is in training to deliver initial market assessments to small and medium sized companies in the area.

Research Office (UKRO). The UKRO is the UK's leading information and advice service on European Union funding for research and higher education. Andrew will be visiting UWE later in the year to update us on EU funding developments.

#### Winning Funds and influencing people

"How to win funds and influence people" was the title of a one day workshop organised by CRIGS and attended by some 40 research staff from across the university. The workshop provided information and tips on how to prepare research grant proposals and a 'hands on' exercise that simulated the competitive environment of designing collaborative projects to fit funders' priorities. It also included presentations on costing projects and on the benefits of effective networking. Further workshops for research staff will start again in September.

For further information please contact [paul.spencer@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:paul.spencer@uwe.ac.uk) in CRIGS.

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For information please contact [mandy.donoghue@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:mandy.donoghue@uwe.ac.uk) in CRIGS.

#### Whats on?

##### 27-29 June, 2006 Graduate Studies, All Day

Residential Course for Research Students, Buckland Hall, Brecon

##### 6 July, 2006 - Knowledge West 19.00-21.00

Collaborative Forum for Cross-Disciplinary Researchers, Watershed

For further information please contact [vanessa.luk@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:vanessa.luk@uwe.ac.uk)

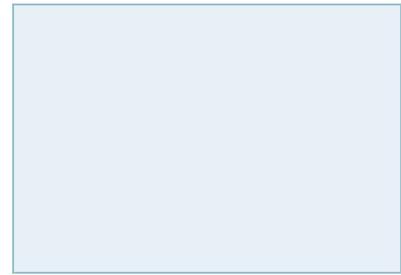
#### New Staff in the Centre for Research Innovation and Graduate Studies

We are pleased to welcome: **Lindsey Cotterell** as Administration Secretary in April; **Katie Trotman** as Project Officer - Enterprise & KTP and **Laura Fort** as Marketing Officer.

Contact [kim2.jones@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:kim2.jones@uwe.ac.uk) for more information.

### **Contracts**

The contracts team have had a record 756 contract enquiries this academic year until the end of April. This is cumulatively 20.7% higher than the same period in academic year 2004/2005 and 60.85% higher than academic year 2003/4.



If you have any comments or anything else you wish to see in this newsletter please contact [helen.ward@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:helen.ward@uwe.ac.uk) Tel. 0117 32 82249.