

CSRMR has taken on two summer scholars; Carol Bond, who will be working with Deanna Kemp; and Ming Lei, who will be working with Daniel Franks and Warwick Browne.

Kristy Farrelly has accepted a contracts and legal role at JKTech. Kristy is moving to JKTech from her previous position as Education Officer for MISHC.

ACMER has recently started publishing a monthly newsletter for their centre. The December issue can be viewed at: <http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au/publications/ENews/ENewsDecember2008.pdf>

New Staff Profiles



Mark Jones has joined the BRC as a Software Engineer. Mark has studied IT, maths and physics, and has been designing, developing and maintaining object-oriented software for the last eight years. Projects Mark has been involved in include Intellection's Mineral Analysis Product (iDiscover), Leica's Remote Mine Site Management System (SDM), and CSIRO's Nexsys system. Prior to this, Mark's primary occupation was sole carer for his five children.

Marilyn Wilckens commenced on the 24 November as the SMI's new Postgraduate Research Admin Officer. She comes to us from her previous role in a similar position with the School of Engineering, where she has been since 2002. Prior to this role, she worked with the Academic Handbooks Office as an Administrative Assistant. She was responsible for keeping the University's Alumni database up-to-date and editing committee minutes. Marilyn has extensive knowledge in the area of postgraduate research for domestic and international students. She has completed a BA(Sociology & English Literature) at UQ and is currently enrolled in the MBA Program through the UQ School of Business.



Miranda Delaney joined the education team at MISHC in mid-November. She recently finished a Grad Cert in Writing and holds a BA from UNSW. With her experience working in various roles at UQ, Miranda will work with Clair Cooper to assist Associate Professor Andrew Morrell in running the MISHC Education Department.

Upcoming Events:

23-27 February 2009 – Life of Mine Planning - Technical Aspects of Operation and Closure.
ACMER training course. For more information, go to:
<http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au/training/trainingdetails/LifeofMineFeb09.html>

From Chris Moran, SMI Director:

Dear SMI,

December 2008 marks the completion of my first year as your Director. Christmas is also a good time to reflect on the year past and those coming. This year we have come to understand the full ramifications of separating the SMI from the EPSA Faculty. This has required a lot of work and patience on behalf of many SMI staff - my thanks to them for that.

We also set up the SMI Research Committee this year. The Research Committee is chaired by Malcolm Powell from JKMRC, with representatives from each centre (Sue Vink - CWiMI, Thomas Baumgartl - CMLR, Cath Pattenden - CSR, Matthew Dean - BRC, and Tim Horberry - MISHC). My thanks to these people for putting in this additional time in 2008 - particularly as the Research Committee finds its feet. This committee fulfils two important roles for us: (1) to carry out a number of formal UQ requirements on certain programs; and (2) to form a new location within the SMI where people can create cross linkages. We have provided a modest sum of money for the Committee to disburse on the latter. Given your response to the availability of this money, we have increased it slightly in the budget for 2009.

The 2009 budget for the SMI is currently looking in good shape. As I wrote to you earlier on this, I won't repeat details except to say that we do not expect a significant impact of the global downturn in 2009 because most of our budget is already secured. The only caveat on this is that it assumes all contracts will be honoured - we have no reason to think otherwise.

On the global downturn, we do expect that it will be more challenging in 2009 to initiate new contracts compared to recent years. So far, signals from our clients indicate that SD will not be compromised in operations and that research projects with a solid underpinning business case will still be considered. This may help us sharpen some of our cases to ensure the rationale for their funding is clear and upfront. Given that we expect 2009 to be more challenging, it is likely that the impacts of that will be felt first in 2010 and then potentially most acutely in 2011 because by then most of the contracts we have now in place will have concluded. Over this period the most important thing individuals can do is ensure that we deliver on milestones, focus and coordinate our approaches to companies for research support and provide assistance to those on the front line of project development wherever we can. We will be looking very closely in the New Year into diversifying our income sources. Currently, the SMI does very little work with government except through CRC's and ARC Linkage. We need to deepen our involvement with the latter two going forward and create opportunities in other government programs. I will be working with the Directors of each Centre on this in January and February next year.

I recognise that 2008 has been a very busy year for most people in the SMI. Our ethos of on-time delivery into an industry that has itself been moving at breakneck speed is a challenge for us. I recognise that many people will be ending the year tired and, hopefully, satisfied with the year's delivery. Whilst there are no silver bullets for the heavy workloads we all carry, I am commencing discussions with UQ senior staff on how the university may be able to help. As you might imagine this is a common issue around the campus.

This year a number of you completed the first UQ Staff Engagement Survey. In the New Year I will facilitate staff discussions of the results and we will draft some actions going forward to deal with the main areas of concern. Overall, the SMI profile is consistent with the UQ-wide results. Those of you who attended the Vice Chancellor's presentation will be aware of the main findings. For us, I feel two signals are of particular importance. You have indicated that the cross-institution collaboration is not as good as you would like to see it. Second, the survey shows that the staff would like to participate more. By linking these two findings it seems apparent that the SMI management need to find opportunities for you to participate in cross-institute linkages. The Research Committee has provided a first start to this but clearly we need to find broader participation mechanisms.

Next year we will all be faced with working with a new UQ finance system. This will affect all of us. I ask that you show patience and in particular do not vent frustrations on those through whom you are likely to first encounter teething difficulties with the new system, i.e. our finance and other professional support staff.

I wish you all the best for the festive season. I hope you relax during the break and return safely recharged for what will likely be a very exciting 2009.

From the SMI Research Committee:

The SMI Research Committee is pleased to announce that two Early Career Researcher Grant awards have been made.

Dr Nick Bainton of the CSRM for his application to study and publish on:
Sacred Geographies, Resource Development and Cultural Change in Lihir, Papua New Guinea
He has been awarded A\$ 20 900

Dr Manoj Khanal of the JKMRC for his application to study:
Strain Controlled Low and High Velocity Single Particle Experiments under Repeated Loading Conditions
He has been awarded A\$ 39 100

Well done to these two who were selected from the good applications that were received.

BRC Relocation to Level 7

As of November 24, the Bryan Research Centre can now be located on Level 7 of the Sir James Foots Building. Moving out of Level 7 is the Earth Systems Science Computational Centre, which has re-located to level 8.

Updated Contact details for BRC are:

Staff Member	Office	Phone Extension
Lauren Stafford	701	64135
Scott Bryan	702	64152
Gideon Chitombo	703	64029
Alan Bye	705	64072
Italo Onederra	706	64138
Alan Cocker	706	64153
Marcin Ziemski	716	64154
Alan Todoir	716	64154
Mark Jones	717	64028
Peter Townson	717	64028
Dion Weatherley	719	64116
Ian Brunton	719	64116
Matthew Dean	718	64136

Travelers' tales

Italo Onderra from BRC on his recent trip to South America: "Gideon Chitombo and I attended the HSBM (Hybrid Stress Blasting Model) project meeting in Vina del Mar, Chile from the 18th until the 21st of November. The following week I conducted a two day HSBM training workshop in Santiago, Chile to Codelco and IM2 delegates.



Participants in the HSBM training workshop.

Recent Travel:

- December 1 - December 11: Claire Cote from **CWiMI** went to Santiago.
- November 16 - November 27: Gideon Chitombo and Italo Onderra from **BRC** went to Santiago.
- November 3 - November 14: Geoff Gault and Saniel Alexander from **JKMRC** went to India.
- October 26 - November 5: Ben Adair from JKMRC went to Europe and South Africa.

Completed Projects:

CSR

- Cumulative Impacts Report
- Study on the Socio-economic Implications of Closure of Century Mine.

JKMRC

- Measuring material interaction properties for discrete element modelling (DEM)

New Projects:

JKMRC

- Audited Milling Energy Data

SMI wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

