

SUPRA CONNECT EXPRESS & 2007 CONFERENCE LAUNCH

5-6pm Thursday 3 May, Hermann's Bar, Wentworth Bld.

RSVP by 27/4/07: admin@supra.usyd.edu.au (finger food provided)

CALL FOR INTEREST IN SUPRA 2007 POSTGRAD CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

In the editorial for the new Connect conference edition of SUPRA's eXpress Magazine I tried to outline why SUPRA embarked on organising a cross-disciplinary conference:

SUPRA has always been concerned about the intellectual and physical isolation of postgraduate study. At postgraduate level, research and coursework study becomes increasingly specialised, to the point where there may be only a handful of people in the University (or the world for that matter!) that understand your work.

To a certain extent, this is unavoidable if we are to make steady advances in knowledge in complex fields. But it can leave us with a lack of broader intellectual stimulation and lack of understanding of the social context of our research or study. It also leaves us cooped up in small offices for hours on end with square eyes from staring at computer screens. This can not only make our research experience less rewarding and enjoyable, it can also weaken our research by closing us off to potentially useful ideas and approaches.

SUPRA believes that a cross-disciplinary approach is essential pedagogically. We also think that collaboration is essential to the mental health of postgrads. We hoped that encouraging postgrads to present to a cross-disciplinary audience would encourage them to think about the social context of their research and the importance of keeping its social benefit in mind. We also wanted to encourage postgrads to think about their research from different angles and perhaps make connections with postgrads from other departments or faculties for the purpose of collaboration. We hoped this would remind us that we are part of a university and not just a faculty, department or research cluster and that a university-wide collegial atmosphere helps our research as individual students and produces knowledge of value to the community at large. And, of course, we could all use the chance to get some presenting experience away from the discerning and intimidating eyes of professors and world experts!

To this end we want to make the cross-disciplinary postgrad conference annual. We also want to make it bigger and broader with postgrads involved in organising and running it from start to finish. So we are putting out the call now for postgrads that would like to be involved in organising this years conference. This will be great opportunity to contribute to the research community at Sydney Uni and would look great on your CV.

If you're interested we invite you to attend the conference launch. This will be an informal chance to chat about ideas for the conference and to sign up for the organising committee. If you can't make the launch email publications@supra.usyd.edu.au and we'll let you know when the first meeting will be.

We're also interested in hearing from those of you involved in organising department or faculty postgrad conferences to see if we can find ways to collaborate and coordinate. Hopefully this will add to your conference academically but you might also be able to take advantage of the resources we are putting into our conference.

Richard Bailey
SUPRA Publications Officer

www.supra.usyd.edu.au



EXPRESS ALERT

A PUBLICATION FOR POSTGRADUATES

www.supra.usyd.edu.au

NO.3 23/04/07



SUPRA

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

ELECTION NOTICE

Annual elections are being held to elect the 25 member SUPRA Council for the 2007/2008 term. Nominations are invited for the 21 General Councillor positions. Of the 21 Councillors to be elected by all subscribers:

- at least 8 shall be female
- at least 3 shall be coursework students
- at least 3 shall be research students.

Employees of the Association are ineligible to be candidates. Candidates and their nominators must be SUPRA subscribers.

NOMINATIONS

A nomination form available from www.supra.usyd.edu.au or from the Returning Officer. It may be photocopied or further forms are available from the Returning Officer. Nominations opened at 9am on Tuesday 24 April 2007. **NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 5.00pm ON THURSDAY 10 MAY 2007.** Nominations must be received by the Returning Officer and Secretary before the deadline to be valid. They may be:

- posted to: The Returning Officer and Secretary, PO Box 506, Marrickville NSW 1475, OR
- emailed to: returning.officer@ozemail.com.au, OR
- faxed to (02) 9150 9872

WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATIONS

On Friday 11 May, following the close of nominations, a list of candidates and their nominators will be available for viewing as soon as practicable on the SUPRA website. Candidates wishing to withdraw their nomination may do so until 5.00 pm on that day, Friday 11 May, by email advice to the Returning Officer at returning.officer@ozemail.com.au or by fax to (02) 9150 9872.

DRAW FOR POSITIONS ON THE BALLOT PAPER

A draw will be conducted following the close of the withdrawal period on Friday 11 May 2007 at 6.00 pm at the SUPRA offices. Candidates or their representatives are invited to witness the draw.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidates may provide, by the close of nominations, a statement of not more than 200 words via email to returning.officer@ozemail.com.au. It must have as a heading the candidate's name. A digital photo may also be provided (ensure it is scaleable). This information will be posted on the SUPRA website during the voting period. The Returning Officer reserves the right to edit or amend or omit part or all of a candidate's statement if deemed necessary.

OTHER POSITIONS

The other 4 positions will be elected at meetings of those groups prior to this election:

- 1 COUNCILLOR representing Indigenous subscribers to be elected by and from Indigenous subscribers
- 1 COUNCILLOR representing International subscribers to be elected by and from International subscribers
- 1 COUNCILLOR representing Female subscribers to be elected by and from Female subscribers
- 1 COUNCILLOR representing Queer identifying subscribers to be elected by and from Queer identifying subscribers

For details about the elections of equity officers please refer to the SUPRA website at www.supra.usyd.edu.au

BALLOT PROCEDURES

Subscribers may either vote in person or using an electronic/postal voting system. Electronic/Postal voting will open on Monday 14 May 2007.

In person voting will be available at the SUPRA offices on Monday 28 May and Tuesday 29 May 2007. Voting will close on Tuesday evening 29 May 2007.

Please direct all queries to the Returning Officer by email to returning.officer@ozemail.com.au, faxed to (02) 9150 9872 or by phone to 0432218026. Ema Esteves, Returning Officer