



## Graduate Women WA

Graduate Women (WA) Inc.

*Empowering Women and Girls Through Education*

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, the 2017 Graduate Women WA Awardees who could attend the presentation ceremony received their cheques.

The presentation evening is the result of a lot of organising, collaborating and detail management all of which goes on behind the scenes and involves a wide cross-section of people. The work begins with the awards and their values being determined by the Education Trust. The decision of the Trust is ratified by the committee. The GW WA and Trust diaries are checked and dates for the opening and closing of the applications are determined as well as a date for the presentation night that fits in with the maturing of fixed term funds. Further time management is required in setting up the adjudication panel and managing the incoming electronic applications (69 of those in both 2016 and 2017). Post-graduate studies offices are notified so that the awards can be advertised at the different universities. All the various forms are modified to reflect the current year, the website is updated and a schedule of Facebook notifications set.

The handing over of the cheques is not the end of the responsibilities. There is a GW WA and GW WA Education Trust acquittal requirement for each of the awards, as well as an Australian Tax Office acquittal requirement for those awards with Deductible Gift Recipient status. This detailed process is audited by the Trust, and more specifically, Brenda Robbins. GW WA is indebted to her for her meticulous handling of this responsibility.

Special thanks must also go to Trish Todd who continues to streamline this complex event, managing the application forms and the advertising, as well as appointing and overseeing the adjudication panel. Her detailed review of the applications and follow-up reports provide the GW WA committee and the Trust with all necessary information.

And well done to Karen Bothwell who has the responsibility for the office side of the applications. GW WA now requires all applications to be in electronic format which puts significant strain on the emailing system as the application period ends. Yes, it would be best if the arrival of applications was evenly spread out, but we know that isn't going to happen. It's too stressful for everyone if frantic phone calls are required from applicants whose applications have overloaded the system! Karen monitors the event each year to ensure that we have enough email storage capacity for the expected volume of applications.

Finally, everyone gets to enjoy the presentation evening. The winners, of course, are happy and eager to discuss their work. Members present can savour the delight of winners and be proud of the on-going contribution of GW WA in assisting women in post-graduate studies. As well as congratulating winners, it is a time to reflect on the huge changes that have been made in the opportunities for women, and to honour the women and their families who have given the funds, and the names, to our awards. It is also a time to thank those members who continue in that spirit of giving, ensuring that our funds will continue to make a difference in the years to come.

## Meet the 2017 Scholars

### **Graduate Women (WA) Open Scholarship**

\$2995.50

Linda Wijaya is enrolled in a PhD in Psychology at Murdoch University

Linda commenced her PhD in Psychology at Murdoch University in March 2014. She has published 6 articles in academic journals. She has also presented 3 recent conference papers. Linda's research is on complex regional pain syndrome (CPRS), examining the biological underpinnings of CPRS with a goal of improving therapeutic strategies. Linda is seeking funding to enable a final set of experiments on skin cells, building upon her findings. One referee describes her previous studies in the PhD as having been "technically challenging, time-consuming and expensive in terms of laboratory consumables but rewarding in terms of scientific outcomes" and the proposed study "to be ground-breaking". Linda received \$2995.50 for laboratory consumables.



### **GWWA Mary and Elsie Stevens Scholarship**

\$2400

Maria Kuznetsova is a PhD student in Geomechanics at UWA

Maria completed her bachelor's degree at Bauman Moscow State Technical University and her Masters at the University Joseph Fourier in France; she received several scholarships for these studies. She commenced her PhD in Geomechanics at UWA in March 2015. Maria has published 2 journal articles. One of the 3 conference papers she has presented received a Best Student paper. Maria is studying wave propagation problems in biomodular media using analytical and numerical perspectives. The research results can play an important role in geophysical and exploration applications by providing additional information on the composition and structure of the earth's crust. Her numerical results so far have been published but have raised questions requiring deeper investigation. Maria will use her funding to spend 3 weeks at a laboratory at the University of Queensland working with experts there.

Maria was already in Queensland. The award was accepted on Maria's behalf by her husband Maxim Khudyakov and her supervisor Elena Pasternak.



**GWWA Foundation Bursary**  
\$2900)

Valeria Senigaglia is enrolled in a PhD in Marine Science at Murdoch University

Valeria, an overseas student, enrolled in a PhD in Marine Science at Murdoch University in June 2016. Her previous degrees were completed at the University of Parma and Aberdeen University. Valeria has published three journal articles and a technical report. She received a Fulbright scholarship in 2012. Valeria is researching the ecological consequences of providing food to the dolphins in Bunbury within the context of wildlife tourism. She is seeking funding to participate in an international conference in her field in Canada which will include a workshop on the Bayesian Belief Network, a new methodology for resource management which she is wanting to incorporate into her thesis.



Valeria's award was accepted on her behalf by her friend and 2016 GW WA scholar Marianne Nyegaard.

**GWWA Mary Walters Bursary**  
\$3000

Amy (who likes to be known as Kit) Prendergast is enrolled in a PhD in Environment and Agriculture at Curtin University

Kit commenced her PhD in Environment and Agriculture at Curtin University in June 2016. She completed a combined BA/BSc at UWA with 1<sup>st</sup> class Hons and with HDs in every subject. She received 2 Convocation prizes and is on a Forrest Scholarship. Kit has published 4 articles in research and local journals. She is studying native bees in the urbanised southwest of WA, aiming to understand what local and landscape factors determine their distribution, abundance and functional composition. Kit is seeking to add to the approach of morphological identification of specimens with DNA barcoding which provides a much more powerful tool to identify species.



The cost associated with the barcoding is \$10 per sample and she has received funding for the required 300 samples.

### **Graduate Women (WA) Joyce Riley Bursary**

\$2450

Laura McLaughlin Engfors PhD in Psychology at UWA

Laura, an Australian citizen, commenced her PhD in Psychology at UWA in March 2013. She completed her BPsych with 1<sup>st</sup> class Honours at the University of South Australia for which she received Chancellor's letters of commendation, a university merit award and an APS Prize for being the highest ranked Psychology student at the University of South Australia. In 2017 Laura received an excellence-in-research student award for her publication and a Capstone Editing Conference travel grant. She has published one journal article in a research journal. Her research seeks to understand why people vary in their ability to recognise people from their faces. She has completed 4 studies in her research. Recently she has been given the opportunity to collaborate with a leading scholar at Wellesley College in Boston who has a large multivariate data set relevant to her work. Laura is seeking funding to undertake an Advanced Structural Equation Modelling course in analysis of a moment structures (AMOS) in Melbourne offered by the Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Inc (ACSPRI). Apart from being able to use this data in her research it also provides the opportunity for an important international collaboration.

Unfortunately, Laura was unwell and unable to attend. She will meet with President Jenny Jones and Trust Chair Lyn Abbot early in October to receive her prize.

### **Graduate Women (WA) Jillian Bradshaw Scholarship**

\$3500

India Dilkes-Hall, enrolled in a PhD in Archaeology at UWA

India Dilkes-Hall, an Australian citizen, enrolled in a PhD in Archaeology at UWA in March 2016. She completed a BA with 1<sup>st</sup> class Hons in Archaeology at UWA; she had a weighted average mark of 81.6% in her BA and 82.1% in her Honours year. She received a Jean Rogerson Honours studentship and a Kimberley Foundation Honours Student Grant. In 2017, she received an Australian Archaeological Student Grant. India has published two articles. India's research is on the history of people and plant relationships in the Kimberley. On her next field trip, she hopes to collaborate with, ideally, two senior Gooniyandi female traditional owners over a period of five days to learn more about traditional ecological knowledge and ethnobotanical practices, and conduct some experiments. The participation of the Gooniyandi women will greatly enhance her project and she is seeking funds to pay traditional owners as per Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies provided by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). India's budget is \$3500: the stipulated rate is 350 per person/per day and she is seeking to spend 5 days with them.

