

# the Innovator

The Newsletter from the EH Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation

AUTUMN 2010 EDITION

CHARLES STURT  
UNIVERSITY



Industry &  
Investment

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Innovator and 2010.

Recent significant and widespread rains have elevated the chances of a really good winter growing season for 2010 in south-eastern Australia. With the green country comes renewed optimism for the agricultural industries. We need to continue to promote to the metropolitan community our role in the production of high quality food within sustainable farming systems to ensure continual government support for agriculture. In an election year, the spill-over benefits of sustainable practices on human and environmental health must be emphasised.

Well trained staff and students are critical to underpin scientific excellence in the generation of new knowledge. We need to convey to school children that a career in science is a great future, so that we have capacity to maintain productivity and environmental protection while adapting to climate change. Student training is a key role of the Graham Centre.

In this issue we focus on the research undertaken by our students. We also highlight the use of the travel funds we provide for staff and students to attend conferences in Australia and overseas. The 'global perspective' and development of international research networks is critical in maintaining high quality in research.

A reminder – a couple of key dates for industry engagement at Wagga Wagga:

- Beef and Sheep Field Days, 19 and 20 August
- Launch and Field Day for the new Graham Centre Field Site, 8 September

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Innovator which has a high content of animal-related projects, reflecting our increasing growth in this area.

Professor Deirdre Lemerle  
Director

Photo: John Kneipp, I&I NSW



## 2010 Seminar Series

The 2010 Seminar Series has now commenced. Local and international speakers will participate. The seminars are generally held fortnightly on Thursday afternoons in the Conference Room at Industry & Investment NSW, Wagga Wagga, however, please always check our [website](#) for possible changes to times and venue.

For more information about the Graham Centre Seminar Series, please contact Ms Nicole Hyde [nhyde@csu.edu.au](mailto:nhyde@csu.edu.au) or Dr Livinus Emebiri 02 6938 1629, [livinus.emebiri@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:livinus.emebiri@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Student activities

### Summer Scholarships & Student Internships for undergraduates

The undergraduate scheme in the Graham Centre encourages students to experience research undertaken by the Centre. It enables students to become familiar with the types of projects and potential supervisors available for undertaking a broad range of research activities.

The recipients of the Summer Scholarships are **Mia Fehring** and **Hannah Roe**. Mia is currently undertaking an honours year of a Bachelor of Science (Agronomy) degree with the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. Hannah is a first year Bachelor of Environmental Science student with the School of Environmental Sciences.

Three Internships have been awarded to the following students: **Laura Chisnall** (in her second year of a Bachelor of Science degree with School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences); **Michael Hopwood** (in his second year of a Bachelor of Science degree with the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences); and **Scott Stoll** a third year Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) student with the School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences.

## PhD Scholarships - Focus on Food Quality

Congratulations to **Monisola Alashi** and **Christina Chin Chiu Lei** who have been awarded the Centre's 2010 PhD scholarships.

Monisola Alashi studied Food Science and Nutrition at the Federal University of Technology, in Minna, Nigeria, graduating with a First Class Honours degree. She currently works as a Graduate Assistant in the same university and has two refereed publications to her name. Canola and rice proteins have very low value as they cannot be utilised as ingredients for the manufacture of human food; Monisola will be working on a project to improve their food functional properties through a range of enzymatic modifications. This work will be carried out here and in Canada, in collaboration with the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

Her project is titled "Functional properties of alkali-soluble protein hydrolysates", and will be supervised by Assoc Prof Samson Agboola and Dr Chris Blanchard (CSU Wagga) and Prof Rotimi Aluko (University of Manitoba, Canada).

Christina Chin Chiu Lei is currently working for Nestle in Malaysia, but previously completed a Food Science degree at CSU, as well as completing an honours project working on the impact of milling on rice quality. Christina's PhD project will assist pulse breeders in selecting varieties that have superior cooking and sensory properties.

Her project is titled "Pulse quality" and will be supervised by Dr Chris Blanchard, Dr Danielle Ryan and Assoc Prof Samson Agboola (CSU Wagga).

### THIS ISSUE

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### QUICK LINKS

- ◆ [Graham Centre website](#)
- ◆ [Seminar series](#)
- ◆ [CSU website](#)
- ◆ [I&I NSW website](#)























