

Seminar: Students Present the MURPA Research Experience at UCSD (via HD Interactive Video Link)

Date and time:

24 February 2009 from 11:00 am – 12 Noon

Location:

Building: 26, Room: 135, (via HD interactive video) Clayton Campus to UCSD

Presenters:

Nicholas Barnes, BSc/BCompSci (honours), **Li, Guanghua** (Aimee), BCompSci (honours), **Hoang Anh Nguyen**, (BSE (honours)), **Peter Serwylo**, BITS (honours),



The presenters, four Faculty of Information Technology undergraduates, have been visiting the University of California in San Diego (UCSD) over the summer break to engage in leading edge research projects before returning to Monash to complete their honours degrees in 2009. They will each present the results of their 9 week visit to UCSD, just ahead of their return to Monash.

The students are engaging in a new initiative called [MURPA \(Monash Undergraduate Research Projects Abroad\)](#). MURPA is modelled on UCSD's PRIME program, funded by the National Science Foundation, with a focus on eScience and Grid Computing, and provides a unique experience for undergraduate students to engage in research projects. [MURPA had pilot funding from the the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (International), the Monash eResearch Centre (MeRC), the Faculty of Information Technology and Monash Abroad in 2008 and a similar approach is happening in 2009.]

MURPA involves both an advanced seminar scheme, in which students can attend seminars given by world leading experts; and placement in an internationally renowned research group - initially at the UCSD. The seminar scheme is novel, because it uses a cutting edge High Definition interactive video link to the University of California, making it feasible to attract some of the world's best researchers "virtually" to Monash. These seminars also allow students to "meet" potential UCSD mentors and get some information about potential projects. The students selected this year, and their research projects, were:

- Mr. Hoang Nguyen [BSE], who worked with San Diego Supercomputer Center expert, Ms Ilkay Altintas, on a software engineering oriented project involving the Kepler scientific workflow engine;
- Ms. Li Guanghua (Aimee) [BCS], who worked with Dr. Wilfred Li on the virtual screening for inhibitors against avian influenza;
- Mr. Nicholas Barnes [BSc/BCS], who worked with Professors Andrew McCulloch and Roy Kerckhoffs on the software simulation of the heart; and
- Mr. Peter Serwylo [BITS], who worked with Dr. Jurgen Schulze on the visualization of 3D city models using large mega-pixel tiled display walls.

Enquiries:

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Research groups websites:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/ereseach/> (Monash eResearch) and <http://www.messagelab.monash.edu.au> (Message Lab)