July already! It’s been a heady six months.

The absence of a PVC (S,LT), until the appointment of Professor Anne Cummins in July, has meant the Learning and Teaching Centre has been largely self directing, although, as always, we have been able to call on the good advice of the PVC A, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, who remains a strong supporter of learning and teaching.

Our achievements have nevertheless been impressive. We introduced you to our two new staff, Associate Professor Kym Fraser, the Graduate Attributes Project Manager, based in Melbourne, and Dr Jo Caffery, Workshop Coordinator, based in Canberra.
Learning and Teaching Centre

Issue 2, 2009

- Orientation and Induction for new Academic Staff and Sessional Staff
- The roll out of the new unit outline template incorporating the Graduate Attributes
- Working with International Students
- Assessment principles
- Numerous eLearning workshops
- Writing grants and awards submissions
- Large group teaching
- Help with Word when Using Templates

Evaluations have been highly positive.

Evaluation of unit requests has increased 50 percent in Semester 1. Enrolments in the first unit of the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education are the highest ever, at 20; they are a highly enthusiastic cohort!

We are all looking forward to the rest of 2009 and the consolidation of the new portfolio of Students, Learning and Teaching.

More information on these workshops can be found on the LTC website at http://www.acu.edu.au/138870

Professor Yoni Ryan

Director, LTC

LTC Planning 2009

Staff in the LTC recently met in Sydney for a very productive two-day face-to-face planning meeting. During this meeting we assessed our role within the ACU and established a future operational plan, which we are sure will assist the ACU in meeting its goals in enhancing student learning. We met with our new PVC (S,LT) Professor Ann Cummins who assisted us in directing our future. But we did have some fun too! Alongside is a photo of some of us having a wonderful laugh, eating vegetables, chicken and rice at a lovely Indian restaurant.

From left: Yoni Ryan (LTC Director); Ann Applebee; Phoebe Palmieri; Bill Franzsen; Kym Fraser; Annette Schneider rsm; Jo Caffery
In S1, 2009, twenty one staff, including 2 from institutions external to ACU, commenced the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. As a means of establishing a network of learners, monthly videoconferences were scheduled in the semester to enhance the fully online learning experience. Anecdotal feedback from participants in these optional gatherings has affirmed the benefit of these in helping people put ‘faces to names’ so the initiative will also be included in the S2 activities for this Foundations unit. It is affirming to know that staff want to develop communities of practice within the university and that this small initiative is assisting them to do so.

The GCHE research unit, UNHE 503, requires participants to conduct a small project related to their work in higher education. It is envisaged that this project will draw on the learning from the three previous units. In S1, 2009, the requirement to present a ‘work-in-progress’ seminar via videoconference was included for the first time as part of the unit assessment for the eight participants. The feedback from the five presentations conducted at the time of writing this short piece has been very positive. The professional conversations after each presentation were most helpful, affirming ideas and challenging thinking. Building on a videoconference held early in the semester, this initiative will also be included in the research unit in S2, 2009.

The following picture shows some of the Melbourne based GCHE graduates. Congratulations.

Annette Schneider

For further information on the GCHE go to http://www.acu.edu.au/138831

GCHE Melbourne Graduates from left: Michael Buchanan; Marj Horne, Marie Emmett (Dean of Education), Gabrielle McMullen (PVCA), Brendan Hyde, Ann Applebee.
Unit Outlines and Graduate Attributes Workshop – Professor Yoni Ryan

This proved a difficult topic for staff, grappling with Word and .pdf challenges, as well as developing Graduate Attributes specific to their units. The Graduate Attribute Project Manager, Associate Professor Kym Fraser, will continue to work with individual schools, course coordinators, and individuals who would like particular assistance. You can contact Kym on x3305 or kym.fraser@acu.edu.au. You can also find some useful resources on UO&GAs at http://www.acu.edu.au/138870

Scholarship in Teaching & Learning: Inaugural ACU Conference – Phoebe Palmieri

ACU staff members have been successful in gaining awards that recognise their achievements, and grants to fund research and development projects. Some of these grants and awards are internal to ACU, and some are sponsored by the Australian Learning & Teaching Council.

At a series of half-day conferences, to be held in Semester 2, staff will present the findings of their grant projects, and talk about how they have used their awards.

These conferences will also give you an opportunity to discuss the processes involved in applying for a grant or award, since you may want to do this in the future.

All the half-day conferences will take place by national video conference to all campuses. The dates will be in September, October and November, so watch out for more news in ACU Update! Or contact Phoebe Palmieri phoebe.palmieri@acu.edu.au or ext. 3374, for more details.

All at LTC congratulate our staff who gained ACU six ALTC Citations this year! Well done all!

Working with International Students Workshop

Also by popular demand by ACU Staff the LTC presented two workshops on Working with International Students. This very informative workshop included talks by Yoni Ryan, Nancy Reid, Donna Cook and Patricia Hacker. These talks provided us with a thorough overview of the challenges that international students face. The presenters have also provided us with valuable resources to assist ACU staff in teaching internationals students. You can find these resources at http://www.acu.edu.au/138870
eLearning Workshops – Ann Applebee

eLearning workshops are coordinated jointly by the Learning and Teaching Centre, Faculty eLearning Coordinators, ACUonline and the Library. This eLearning team operate as part of the Flexible Learning imitative and cover pedagogical, technical, operation matters.

eLearning Professional Development Scheme

The eLearning Professional Development Scheme (ePLDS) is an innovation the university is trialling in 2009, designed to enable academic staff to build on their skills and experience and develop expertise and scholarship in eLearning. Short url: http://www.acu.edu.au/138990

It aims to help staff to build on skills and experience and develop expertise and scholarship in eLearning and comprises technical, hands-on training in campus-based labs; workshops on pedagogy & scholarship of teaching using videoconferencing & online classes.

Lab-based workshops

A range of laboratory based eLearning workshops have been held in Semester 1 2009. These workshops covered Wimba voice tools, Respondus and Grade book as three examples of some technical matters addressed; copyright and linking multi-media elements were some of the library issues address and creating aligned teaching resources covered some of the pedagogy addressed in the most recent round.

Video and online workshops

In addition to Lab workshops the LTC also offer video and online workshops. This is a new imitative in 2009. The Moderating Online discussions (online) workshop was run in April and May with very positive evaluations - one participant commented “Workshop content is very good providing a lot of reading materials and a novice e-moderator may find out a direction for structured activity in their own platform.”

Two ‘Teaching Using Live Chat’ sessions were held for up to 18 staff, using the Live Chat Blackboard tool. This was extremely valuable for staff as the tool can usefully provide another avenue of communication with our face-to-face and fully online students.

Ann Applebee

I'd like to draw your attention to the forthcoming ‘Scaffolding learning workshop’ which explains ways of designing learning activities that will support your students as active learners. This workshop is not purely online but relevant to those teaching face-to-face.

How do you know if a workshop is right for you?


eLearning workshops are designated as Level 1, 2 & 3 but sometimes you may be unsure of which one to choose.

Which training should you select for eLearning professional development?

We know that many staff are keen to enhance their level of knowledge and skills in eLearning. At ACU we have staff very new to the technology and teaching strategies and many who are a long way ahead but are not sure how to develop further.

To assist staff we have designed an eLearning Professional Development Self-Assessment Quiz in the eLearning Staff Tutorial on Blackboard. This quiz is a tool to help you identify the levels of professional development that will best suit you.

Three levels of training in eLearning are provided a guide for those needing support for advanced levels of professional development or who may be looking to enhance careers in this area. You should not feel constrained by the levels - we acknowledge that some of the level boundaries are a little arbitrary. Feedback from the quiz will give you specific information about which aspects of eLearning are covered in which levels. General scores will only function as a very blunt instrument in this respect, though roughly speaking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2 or Level 3</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>0-60</td>
<td>60-75</td>
<td>75-85</td>
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<td>85-100</td>
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**Support**

To find out more about eLearning support available at ACU you can print out a copy of the current eLearning Helpsheet, 2009 (pdf, 285kb)

Go to

**Safe learning environments**

It is important for us to remember we need to teaching within a safe learning environment. "Creating a safe learning environment, in which teachers are fairly certain that students are who they say they are, only authorized learners and academic community members have access to online information, and electronic information is protected, requires the technical specialists, faculty members, and administrators to have a plan in place. Most often, the technical security of a system is the domain of IT specialists, who receive input from other members of the institution. Other policies, such as those involving privacy, tend to be established by the administration in response to legal or social initiatives. However, at whatever level is appropriate, these concerns must be addressed before learners and teachers can feel that their online classroom is a secure, supportive environment that promotes learning and collaboration."

Assessment Workshops — Bill Franzsen

On 25th May we ran the first of our new series of workshops on Assessment, Grading and Academic Integrity. In that session we discussed the different types of assessment task that you might choose and why; online assessment, including some do’s and don’t’s; aligning assessment tasks and learning outcomes; and some aspects of grading. This session was well received and many participants provided ideas for the later workshops in this series.

Several people observed that by running in study week we are leaving out those of you who run on a 13-week semester. The good news is that from now on these will run on the first Monday of exam week instead. The next session, Assessment 502, will therefore run on Monday 2nd November. The major topics for that session are likely to be Moderation and Academic Integrity, but these might change depending upon requests. Watch the LTC website for details and feel free to let us know topics that you would like to see covered in a future workshop.

As well as this workshop the Learning and Teaching Centre has also provided tailored assessment and grading workshops for individual Schools and one Faculty. If you think your group could benefit from a targeted session just contact us to discuss details.

Bill Franzsen

Grant Opportunities

ALTC – A call for EOI for the ALTC Competitive Grants will be sent out shortly.

ACU – See the website for information on ACU grant opportunities.

EDNA

EDNA workshops are great for professional development and support and are held in all states and territories across Australia. For a list of EDNAs up coming conferences and workshops go to
Semester 2 LTC Workshops

to watch out for

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<tr>
<th>Sessional Orientation</th>
<th>16 July 9-12</th>
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<tr>
<td>eLearning and Blackboard panel over lunch</td>
<td>16 July 12.15-1.30</td>
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<td>Scaffolding Student Learning – Level 1. By Hannah Forsyth</td>
<td>24 July 12.30-1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Staff Orientation</td>
<td>27 July 9-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sessional Orientation</td>
<td>29 July 9-12</td>
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<td>eLearning and Blackboard panel over lunch</td>
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<td>Online Group Work</td>
<td>3 – 21 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2. By Hannah Forsyth</td>
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<td>Moderating Online Discussions</td>
<td>14 September – 9 October</td>
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<td>Level 2. By Hannah Forsyth</td>
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<td>Key thinkers in eLearning</td>
<td>26 October – 13 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 3. By Ann Applebee and Hannah Forsyth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment 502</td>
<td>2 November</td>
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HOW LECTURERS GRADE THEIR EXAMS

FOR A LAUGH!!!!

DEPT OF STATISTICS:
All grades are plotted along the normal bell curve.

DEPT OF PSYCHOLOGY:
Students are asked to blot ink in their exam books, close them and turn them in. The professor opens the books and assigns the first grade that comes to mind.

DEPT OF HISTORY:
All students get the same grade they got last year.

DEPT OF RELIGION:
Grade is determined by God.

DEPT OF PHILOSOPHY:
What is a grade?

LAW SCHOOL:
Students are asked to defend their position of why they should receive an A.

DEPT OF MATHEMATICS:
Grades are variable.

DEPT OF LOGIC:
If and only if the student is present for the final and the student has accumulated a passing grade then the student will receive an A else the student will not receive an A.

DEPT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE:
Random number generator determines grade.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT:
Each student must figure out his grade by listening to the instructor play the corresponding note (+ and - would be sharp and flat respectively).

DEPT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION:
Everybody gets an A.

Additional workshops for October and November will be advertised through ACU National Update
2009 Conferences and Workshops

**ACU - Learning, Teaching, and Social Justice in Higher Education**

**Learning, Teaching, and Social Justice in Higher Education**
CALL FOR PAPERS
Symposium: “Learning, Teaching, and Social Justice in Higher Education”
Australian Catholic University, School of Arts and Sciences, Melbourne Wednesday, 18 November 2009

Any enquiries may be directed to:
Dr. Ellen Warne (Ellen.Warne@acu.edu.au)
Dr. Sue Rechter (Sue.Rechter@acu.edu.au)
Dr. Noah Riseman (Noah.Riseman@acu.edu.au)

**London International Conference on Education (LICE-2009)**
November 9-12, 2009, London, UK
(www.liceducation.org)

The London International Conference on Education (LICE) is an international refereed conference dedicated to the advancement of the theory and practices in education. The LICE promotes collaborative excellence between academicians and professionals from Education.

For further information visit LICE-2009 at www.liceducation.org

**UNESCO Global Education Conferences - 2008-2009**
Two of UNESCOs landmark international education conferences in late for 2009 on inclusive quality education, education for sustainable development, adult learning, and higher education will be held later this year.
LTC - e-Learning CALENDAR of events

http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/the_university/learning_and_teaching/learning_and_teaching_centre/academic_development_programs/

Please note that this program changes subject to the needs and request of ACU National staff. Please check this site regularly to see if a course you are interested in is on offer.

ALTC reports and resources are now available on the ALTC website.

The ALTC website is worth a visit as it has numerous educational support activities and advice. It is free to register!

Stanford University also issues an informative newsletter call ‘Tomorrow’s Professor’. You can register at this site for their regular newsletter to come to your desktop. [Add link with tips]  http://cgi.stanford.edu/-dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php

NetSpot Prize

Thank you to the staff who have completed the application process. The Selection Committee are now working through the judging process and the final result will be announced in August.