

Access the LTC Newsletter “*Learning & Teaching Matters*” each semester on the LTC website at Short url: <http://www.acu.edu.au/138827>

Learning & Teaching Matters


Fostering Excellence in Learning and Teaching at ACU

In this edition.....

This edition of *Learning & Teaching Matters* features an interesting article on the new collaborative space at St Patrick’s Campus – coming to a campus near you soon? There’s a report on the ACU Teaching & Learning Conference 2010, information on the LTC workshops for semester 2, information on the ALTC Citations winners for this year and news on the GCHE at ACU.


There’s information on several upcoming conferences, maybe one of them is just right for you! And at the end of the newsletter, there’s a list and contact details for all the LTC staff.

If you have an item to include in the next edition, or even just an idea for something we should cover, just let us know.

Happy reading! 

Why don’t they come to lectures?

Some recent research from the University of South Australia indicates the major reasons are too many assignments due at the same time, and a lecturer who just reads the slides.

What can we do? Check the due dates of other unit assignments if the course is a fixed sequence, and consult with other Unit Coordinators to adjust if possible. And work on your presentation style: why would students bother to come unless you’re ‘value-adding’ to a set of slides they can read? 

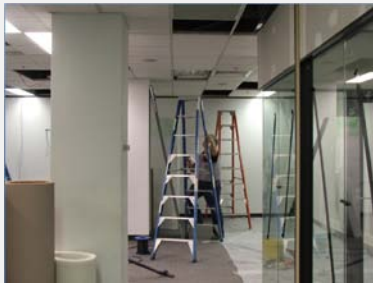


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From this.....




St Patrick Campus Collaborative Space

At the end of 2009, LTC staff member Associate Professor Kym Fraser was asked by Associate Vice Chancellor Chris Sheargold to lead on the retrofitting of a traditional campus teaching and learning space into a collaborative learning space. The space, for 60 students, was to be designed to be used in second semester by every Faculty and therefore for a wide range of learning and teaching purposes. Kym consulted extensively with representatives from each Faculty and from central services including the Library, the Office of Student Success, IT, and Campus Operations. She also worked with national colleagues who had built flexible learning spaces in other Australian universities.

The St Patrick Campus collaborative space is equipped with interactive two touch white boards, glass boards for use by students and staff, short throw projectors, moveable chairs and tables, and lap tops for student use. All staff teaching in the space in second semester were invited to a four hour professional development session in orientation week. All campus staff were invited to a one hour demonstration of the space, also in orientation week. Initial responses by staff and students have been very encouraging as the two unsolicited quotes below attest:

- ♦ *“Had a great group activity using laptops and glass boards yesterday. Students loved it!”*
- ♦ *“My experience was good - everything worked well and the arrangement certainly encourages student interaction.”*

These are just two of many messages received. The space will be comprehensively evaluated in semester two and this feedback will be used in the development of future collaborative spaces. 

To this.....



2010 NetSpot Prize goes to Victoria again!


ACU's focus on improving students' access to flexible and learner-centred teaching approaches is supported by our LMS system, which in turn is supported by NetSpot. NetSpot provides technical support and hosting services. To encourage innovation in the use of complementary applications apart from the basic unit website, NetSpot last year sponsored a \$1000 prize; the inaugural prize went to Dr Donna Gronn, of the School of Education Victoria.

This year's winner, from a field of seven applicants, is Dr Elizabeth Bradshaw, School of Exercise Science Victoria, for her unit EXSC220, run in Semester 1 this year.

Congratulations Elizabeth!

The selection panel, comprising internal and external experts in online education, evaluation of teaching and a student representative, found Dr Bradshaw's unit to be student-centred in its focus on sound pedagogical and navigation structure, with excellent use of complementary and supplementary applications such as the use of a digital whiteboard, podcasts, and the use of the Echo360 recording system to provide students with maximum opportunities to access materials and peers. As one might expect in a subject like exercise science, the use of visuals in the form of still and dynamic visuals is also crucial in understanding and practising. Dr Bradshaw's materials were outstanding in this regard.

The \$1000 prize will be presented to Dr Bradshaw in a ceremony on the Melbourne campus, yet to be finalised.

Professor Yoni Ryan 



Liz Bradshaw

"Hopefully more people will hear about the NetSpot Prize and be encouraged to be more innovative in the use of technology in their teaching."



NetSpot and Australian Catholic University have been working together for more than five years helping us to focus on our core mission. NetSpot administers our Learning Management System (LMS) - Blackboard, and provide support for staff and students through the Blackboard Support Helpdesk. They are generously providing a prize of \$1000 for ACU staff for the best use of the LMS that supports student-centred approaches to learning.

The NetSpot prize is designed to engender creative learning and teaching strategies that support student-centred approaches to learning at ACU. (Note: no externally created Blackboard units will be considered for this prize).

Applications
Applications must address ALL sections on the Nomination sheet. Applications will be assessed by the Selection Committee comprising two external and four internal members, and chaired by the Chair, University Flexible Learning and Teaching Committee (ULFUTC).

Selection Committee will comprise:

EXTERNAL	INTERNAL
NetSpot representative	Chair - ULFUTC
External expert in online pedagogy	Deputy Chair Academic Board
	ACU online representative
	Student representative

The completed application should be submitted to:

NetSpot Prize
netspot-prize@acu.edu.au

or

Dr Director of Flexible Learning and Teaching
Level 1/23 Berry Street, North Sydney

Closing Date for Applications: 5 July 2010

Results will be announced by the beginning of September 2010



LTC Workshops for Semester 2

LTC and ACUonline are offering a range of workshops for you during Semester 2. So far we have delivered workshops on:

- Finding Your Voice - Wimba Voice Tools and Enhancing Online Interaction
- eLearning Webinar – Getting Ready for Semester 2
- Sessional Staff Orientation
- Sessional Staff eLearning Orientation
- Collaborative Space Professional Development Workshop
- New Academic Staff Orientation
- Using the Interactive Whiteboard

The LTC Workshop Program for Semester 2 is available on the LTC website at

<http://www.acu.edu.au/138961>

Upcoming workshops include:

- eLearning: Beyond the Basics (Level 2)
- Exam Development – Writing Good Examination Questions
- Deans/Heads of School Workshop
- Copyright
- Using Grade Book
- Blackboard Tools – How to use the various Blackboard tools to engage learners (Level 2)

and more.....

Why not enrol in a workshop today?

To enrol go to:

<http://www.acu.edu.au/161068>



LTC Happenings

The ACU Learning and Teaching Conference - *Locate. Innovate. Elevate Learning and Teaching at ACU*


With the successful ACU Learning & Teaching Conference now over, you can access some of the workshop PowerPoint presentations on the LTC website at Short url: <http://www.acu.edu.au/251970>.

We hope these inspiring and well-received presentations provide you with some new ideas to take into your classrooms. The Welcome Address to conference by Vice-Chancellor Greg Craven is also available on this site.



The evaluations and debrief from the ACU Learning and Teaching Conference are also now completed. Feedback from delegates indicates they were highly satisfied with the program and the various presentations and workshops, with some commenting they found it hard to choose which sessions they went to because there were so many of interest. Similarly delegates gave very positive feedback on conference organisation and venue. We have also taken note of some program and organisational elements we can improve for next time we stage this event.

If you would like to view the evaluations in more detail, they are available on the LTC website in the Learning and Teaching Conference 2010 section at Short url: <http://www.acu.edu.au/251970>.

We thank all those who attended the conference for their contribution to the success of the day. 

ALTC Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

LTC staff are thrilled at the success of six of our many outstanding teachers in the 2010 ALTC Citations for contributions to student learning in Australian universities.

Ms Alison Blair

For sustained enthusiasm and expertise in leadership through early adoption of the web, and staff development for quality online education

Dr Donna Gronn

For an outstanding contribution to the pedagogically sound use of technology in teacher education, through teaching and staff development

Dr Vanessa Rice

For an influential contribution to the postgraduate education of exercise physiologists through innovative work-integrated learning

Professor Graham Rossiter

For a comprehensive, research-enhanced contribution to religious education in Australia and overseas

Dr Tracey Sanders

For empowering and creative teaching practices that enhance student learning through collaborative and community partnerships on the Brisbane ACU campus


Dr Anne Scott

For inspiring students to become effective primary teachers by making the vital link between literacy, numeracy and ICT in the cause of social justice

ACU's result is gratifying: many other universities received far fewer Citations, even those with many more staff than we have.

Well done to all, and their colleagues who supported them! 



Don't forget the deadline for applications for Teaching Development Grants for 2010: see short url: <http://www.acu.edu.au/139029> for guidelines. The closing date is **24 September**. 



Graduate Certificate in Higher Education News

Fifteen ACU staff have commenced the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education as part of the 2010 mid-year intake, making a total of 35 staff who have commenced the GCHE in 2010. These figures indicate that ACU has a very high rate/proportion of staff enrolment in a GCHE-type course compared with other Australian Higher Education institutions.

In Semester 2 we have 55 active participants across the three GCHE units being offered. This includes 11 staff in the final unit, UNHE 503, who are undertaking projects related to teaching and learning and professional practice. (See the June 2010 LTC newsletter for a snapshot of the projects completed in 2009.)

The Review of the GCHE is progressing well. Currently, Review Committee members are considering the results of the surveys and interviews regarding the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the current course, and the suggestions made for improving the course. This information will shape the development of the revised GCHE.



National Learning and Teaching Forum

Excellence in learning and teaching is central to the discussion on tertiary education. The National Learning and Teaching Forum convenes practitioners and academic leaders from across the tertiary sector to discuss the underpinnings of learning and teaching strategy that is innovative, engaging and evidence based.



The two day forum will consider how tertiary institutions develop sustainable teaching systems and embed teaching and learning excellence at all levels.

How have new concepts in learning and teaching influenced the way in which modern universities design their courses?

What are some of the challenges for a sector wide approach to academic quality?

What does the new generation student want? How can teaching become more outcome based and student centred?

For more information or to register for this event, contact:

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A report on the recent:

'Assessing Learning' and 'Smarter Feedback' Seminar

Smarter Feedback
University of Queensland



**Giving more students better
feedback in less time**




Phil Race
BSc PhD FRCSE FRCGS FRCR FRCRAC FRCRAC
Emeritus Professor
Leeds Metropolitan University
Friday, 27 August 2010
www.phil-race.co.uk

On Friday 20th August, Sally **Brown, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Professor of Higher Education Diversity in Teaching and Learning, Leeds Metropolitan University** and **Phil Race Emeritus Professor at the same institution**, participated in a Seminar Series held by UQ's academic development unit, TEDI.

Sally gave a spirited presentation entitled '**Assessment for learning: Improving the student experience**'. Drawing on extensive literature, she strongly emphasised the role that effective assessment plays in student learning and reinforced the need for early, incremental and innovative assessment approaches that took into account the concepts of reward, inclusivity and engagement. Against a backdrop of increased student numbers and globalisation, it is her belief that assessment and feedback are two of the best tools available to academics, to support student achievement, progression and retention.

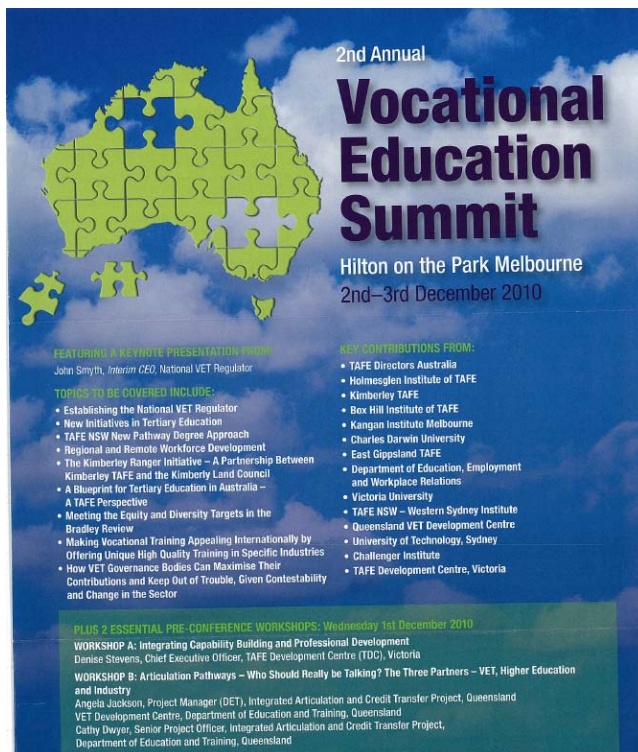
Phil Race's highly entertaining seminar intensified the arguments for learner-centred assessment and feedback, suggesting that in general academics assess far too much; use the same old ways far too often; use assessment that takes far too much of their time and far too much of their students' time and in so doing drive down the quality of student learning. Feedback is also often poorly given and provided too late. Again, drawing upon the work of highly regarded past and present thinkers in the field, he provided some excellent strategies for doing feedback smarter and making it more productive for students.

Key messages from both speakers included that students learn best through experience (doing) and that an important component of feedback is to let students know how they can improve.

The overheads from all of Phil Race's Australian presentations, as well as some excellent learning and teaching material with references, can be located at Phil Race's website <http://phil-race.co.uk/> 

Other News – Conferences and Events (contd)

2nd Annual Vocational Education Summit 2-3 December 2010



Ensure you aren't left out of the discussions which will help shape the future of vocational education in Australia.

Featuring a Keynote Presentation from:
John Smyth, Interim CEO, National VET Regulator

Topics to be covered include:

- Establishing the National VET Regulator
- New Initiatives in Tertiary Education
- TAFE NSW New Pathway Degree Approach
- Regional and Remote Workforce Development
- The Kimberley Ranger Initiative - A Partnership Between Kimberley TAFE and the Kimberly Land Council
- A Blueprint for Tertiary Education in Australia - A TAFE Perspective
- Meeting the Equity and Diversity Targets in the Bradley Review
- Making Vocational Training Appealing Internationally by Offering Unique High Quality Training in Specific Industries
- How VET Governance Bodies Can Maximise Their Contributions and Keep Out of Trouble, Given Contestability and Change in the Sector

For more information, visit www.iir.com.au, email info@iir.com.au or call +61 2 9080 4090. 

EDUCATION 2011-2021: GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES OF BLENDED AND DISTANCE LEARNING SUMMIT 15 - 18 Feb 2011.

DEHub partners and ODLAA will host the Education 2011-2021: Global challenges and perspectives of blended and distance learning Summit at the Dockside Venue, Darling Harbour, Sydney, from 15-18 February, 2011.

Summit website


<http://www.dehub.edu.au/summit2011/index.html>

The Summit presents an opportunity for Australian and international researchers, practitioners, students, industry experts and government to come together to debate global research, practice and professional issues.

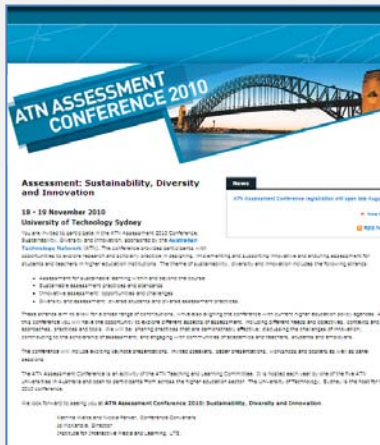
DEHub and ODLAA aim to bring together colleagues globally who are engaged in pedagogical research to work together collaboratively to address key issues in the field. DEHub takes a broad view that collaboration involves connecting, sharing and co-building of knowledge in a variety of global contexts amongst and with a range of researchers and practitioners. The Education 2011-2021: Summit presents an opportunity for this connecting, sharing and co-building of knowledge.

Conference Themes:

Theme 1: Research and Development;
Theme 2: Community and Open Learning and
Theme 3: Learning and Teaching.

For further information contact us at summit@dehub.edu.au 

Other News – Conferences and Events (contd)



Conference information and further information on keynote presentations may be found at <http://www.iml.uts.edu.au/atnassessment/>

Please contact atn.assessment@uts.edu.au for any further information.

Dr Jo McKenzie
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2007 Australia
<http://www.iml.uts.edu.au> 

ATN Assessment Conference 2010-08-30 Assessment: Sustainability, Diversity and Innovation 18 - 19 November 2010 University of Technology Sydney

We invite you to participate in the ATN Assessment Conference to be hosted by the University of Technology Sydney on the 18-19th November 2010.

This year's theme is Assessment: Sustainability, Diversity and Innovation.

The conference provides participants with opportunities to explore research and scholarly practice in designing, implementing and supporting innovative and enduring assessment for students and teachers in higher education institutions. The theme of sustainability, diversity and innovation includes the following strands:

- Assessment for sustainable learning within and beyond the course
- Sustainable assessment practices and standards
- Innovative assessment: opportunities and challenges
- Diversity and assessment: diverse students and diverse assessment practices.

Our keynote speakers will provide topical and provocative perspectives on assessment:

- Professor Dai Hounsell - Vice President for Academic Enhancement at the University of Edinburgh on "Assessing the 21st-century graduate: seven challenges"
- Professor David Boud - Professor of Adult Education at the University of Technology Sydney on "Sustainable assessment for long-term learning"
- Professor Keithia Wilson, Professor of Psychology, Senior Fellow, First-Year Experience at the Griffith Institute for Higher Education, and Program Director, First Year Experience in Griffith Health; and Associate Professor Alf Lizzio, Head of the School of Psychology, both from Griffith University, on "Assessment in First-Year: Staff and Student Perceptions of Appropriate and Effective Practice".



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Learning and Teaching Centre Newsletter



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