



MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MONDAY 25TH MAY 2009

The Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

A packed newsletter this week with news and articles to interest everyone: more exciting education conferences this year; up-coming workshops; review of an issue of the "Simulation and Gaming" journal - experiential learning and how games can help students to learn; how UNSWorks will get your educational research out into the public domain; and how to download the UNSW library toolbar; and lots more. Regards, RT (Ed).

Uni News and Coming Events

- **SOMS /BABS seminar.** *Adaptive Tutorials Using Virtual Slides and other Adaptive eLearning Platform Developments.* Weds 27th May from 12-1 pm. Biomed Theatre F. All welcome.
- **3rd Biennial Thresholds Concepts Symposium 2010**
UNSW is hosting this with USyd (More details on page 2).
- **The UNSWL&T Forum** will take place on Friday Sept 11th—more details available soon but put this in your diary now!
- **UniServe, ISSOTL, ASCILTE, HERDSA** are holding great conferences this year – see inside Page 2 for details. If you are attending, please let us know and feedback your experiences to the group.

Report from the May MedEd Meeting

Starting up Learning & Teaching Research. RT hosted a discussion on this topic. This will be developed into an online resource accessible via the MedEd website. If you have any relevant contributions please send in by end of May.

The next seminar in this series is "Research in education 2 — Ethics approval and design" with Professor Heather Worth on Weds 2nd Sept in SGR 6 in Mathews basement. See http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/Ethics/HumanEthics/HumanEthics_index.html

Next MedEd meeting is Thurs 4th June 1130-1300 in SGR 6 UG Mathews. At 1130am our outreach

librarian, Toni Gifford, will be on hand to encourage us to put our publications and conference presentations on-line with **UNSWorks**.

From 12-1pm we will be presenting abstracts for the upcoming ANZAME conference. See Page 3 inside for more details.

UNSWorks is the UNSW institutional repository which has been developed to host the research outputs of the University and make them easily discoverable.

Digital repositories aim to expand the influence and research impact of both UNSW and its academics. Conferences papers, posters and unpublished L & T resources can also be included. ARC and NHMRC also strongly recommend deposits in open access repositories to meet grant requirements. Take a look at: <http://unsworks.unsw.edu.au/>

Journal Reviews and Resources

A new issue of **Simulation & Gaming: An International (Interdisciplinary) Journal of Theory, practice and Research** is available free to the public: 1 June 2009, Vol. 40, No. 3. Some interesting articles on simulations/ gaming and learning available here. <http://sag.sagepub.com/content/vol40/issue3/?etoc>

This journal is over 35 years old and aims to serve as an international forum for the "exploration and development of simulation /gaming methodologies used in education, training, consultation and research". More on the journal and past issues can be found at: <http://www.sagepub.com/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal200777>

The current issue contains a long but fascinating article by Kolb and Kolb on meta-cognitive learning with reference to their experiential learning cycle with discussion on learning self-identity, learning processes and styles (though, rather disappointingly, with little direct reference to how this fits with gaming in learning). **Alice Y. Kolb and David A. Kolb. (2009). The Learning Way: Meta-cognitive Aspects of Experiential Learning. Simulation Gaming, 40, 297-327.** <http://sag.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/40/3/297?etoc>

Thanks to Geoff McDonnell, Research Fellow at the Centre for Health informatics, for this recommendation.

For sessional teachers (e.g. Phase 1 facilitators) & those who provide their training take a look at the **UNSW Compendium of Good Practice in Learning and Teaching. Issue 4, February 2007 (Special Issue: Sessional Teaching at UNSW):** <http://www.ltu.unsw.edu.au/content/exchange/compendium4.cfm?ss=0>

Please send in your reviews of 50–200 words on journals, books, workshops or conferences for the next MedEd newsletter issue ASAP to Rachel (rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

SOTL and Professional Development

Threshold Concepts in Learning

UNSW in conjunction with the University of Sydney, is hosting the **3rd Biennial Threshold Symposium on 1st-2nd July, 2010**. This international symposium will bring together researchers and practitioners from across the world to present, critique and discuss new research and developments in this area, and will include Erik Meyer and Ray Land who are the originators of concept.

We encourage you to consider putting forward a paper – please note this conference is not until next year so there is plenty of time to plan and research!

Also, we will be establishing a special interest group in the area of threshold concepts to bring together those at UNSW who are interested in or already exploring the area in relation to their teaching. If you are interested in joining a group please let us know by return email.

In case this area is new to you and you'd like to know more, a key paper that outlines threshold concepts can be found at:

<http://www.etl.tla.ed.ac.uk/docs/ETLreport4.pdf>

Jan McLean L&T@UNSW jan.mclean@unsw.edu.au

Themes of the symposium:

- Transforming knowledge and learning– thinking, learning, understanding, perceptions, frameworks (epistemological dimensions)
- Transforming world views, identities, feelings, values, perspectives (ontological dimensions)
- Transforming practice—teaching, learning, curricula, assessment

Plus most critically:

- Transforming the very notion of threshold concepts themselves –through critiquing, problematising, evaluating, creating—and moving the notion of and the research on threshold concepts forward.

(Threshold Concepts continued...)

Transforming Further details, including a call for Papers – will be publicized in June 2009. As with previous symposia, we encourage papers from all contexts, disciplines and perspectives including from staff, students, academic developers and from those in leadership positions. There will be a range of formats offered, including papers, roundtable discussions and creative spaces

FULT graduates

A coffee morning is being arranged in late June for all current FULT attendees and recent FULT graduates.

Please contact Rachel (rachel@unsw.edu.au) if you are interested in organizing this or wish to attend.

From UNSW Library

How to download the very useful Library Toolbar –in case you missed the instalment on this last year:

- Open **Firefox** (This is the only installation that will work on an *Apple* computer). If you do not have *Firefox*, you will need to download and install it first before you proceed. Download *Firefox* here: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>
- Visit: <http://libx.org/editions/45/48/45486C11/libx-45486C11.xpi>
- You will be presented with an installation window. Wait three seconds for the *Install Now* button to become available and then click on it.
- After the installation, the *Add-ons* screen will display. Click on *Restart Firefox* and wait for *Firefox* to restart.
- The *UNSW Library Toolbar* installation is now complete. Full instructions on how to use this are available at: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/SOTL>

The Outreach Librarian for the medical faculty is: Toni Gifford t.gifford@unsw.edu.au Tel: 9385 8241.

More Education Conferences

National UniServe Science Conference 2009 on 30 Sept – 2 Oct, University of Sydney. Proposals deadline now closed.

<http://science.uniserve.edu.au/workshop/conference.html>. This is a three day event held annually at The University of Sydney. Day 1 enables discipline groups to meet and share issues of current importance. Days 2 & 3, the Symposium, provide a platform for presenting and developing high quality research in tertiary science teaching and learning.

The 2009 theme is: "Motivating science undergraduates: Ideas and Interventions" with 2 streams:

- Research experiences in undergraduate science [Stream 1](#)
- First Year university or Year 13? [Stream 2](#)

HERDSA 2009 (July, Darwin). Programme now available: <http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2009/progday2.html>

Take a look at the abstracts as these will be accessible by end of May and the proceedings (published post conference) can be very useful. Some of the session themes: designing for work place learning in a health discipline; engaging students in the research experience; improving the 1st Yr experience; online learning environments.

ISSOTL conference 2009 is on 22-25th Oct in Bloomington, Indiana, USA. <http://issotl09.indiana.edu/>. Proposals deadline is 1st June. Conference Themes: Solid Foundations, Emerging Knowledge, and Shared Futures in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, each with multiple threads.

ASCILITE conference 2009 is being held on 6-9th December in Auckland, NZ. The conference themes reflects on the emergence of multiple spaces in personal and learning environments. <http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/auckland09/>

Next seminar meeting: Thurs 4th June 1130-1300 SGR6, Matthews

UNSWorks and ANZAME conference presentations

At the next MedEd meeting we welcome Toni Gifford, our library liaison officer, to discuss UNSWorks and how it can work for us.

From 12-1pm, 2-3 presenters will be presenting their ANZAME conference presentations:

Keri Moore will present her workshop for ANZAME on "Exploring Teaching Strategies and of the Application of Client-centred Care during Undergraduate Physiotherapy Clinical Practice"

Rachel Thompson, Chris Hughes et al will discuss their PeArL for ANZAME on the Med Program wiki assignment and eMedpedia.

ALL WELCOME – FULT graduates encouraged to attend

This meeting will be held in Scenario Group Room 6 underneath Matthew's Building, Upper Kensington campus. A map of the upper campus is available at the MedEd website. If you get lost - please call ext (938)51146 and someone will come and find you.

*Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. **Please bring your lunch if you wish!***

Please email Rachel rachelt@unsw.edu.au if you hope to attend, or just turn up.

For Your Diary – MedEd 2009 seminar programme

Date	Time	Topic	Location
<i>Was held on Thursday 12th March</i>	11.00 - 13.00	<i>Seminar meeting with Dr Jason Frank Canadian expert on CanMEDS (clinical core competencies) http://rcpsc.medical.org/canmeds/index.php</i>	
<i>Was held on Wednesday 8th April</i>	11.30 -13.00	<i>Feedback from Summer conferences ANZAME 09 abstracts and papers</i>	<i>See page 1 for a brief summary of this meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday 5th May</i>	08.00 - 09.30	<i>Research in education 1—Getting started</i>	<i>SGR 6, Mathews UG</i>
NEXT MEETING Thursday 4th June	11.30 - 13.00	UNSWorks—Toni Gifford ANZAME presentations— Kerrie Moore, Rachel Thompson, Chris Hughes	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Mid-year Break			
Tuesday 4 th Aug	08.00 - 09.30	Feedback from Winter conferences	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Weds 2 nd September	11.30 – 13.00	Research in education 2 – Ethics approval and design Prof Heather Worth, to be confirmed)	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Tuesday 6 th October	08.00 - 09.30	Research in education 3 – Writing up and getting published (to be confirmed)	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Thursday 5 th Nov	11.30 - 13.00	MCQs in Assessment (Speaker TBA)	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Weds 2 nd December	09.30 – 13.30	MedEd L&T Forum With presentation of Faculty L&T Awards and FULT graduates All welcome	SGR 6-9, Mathews UG

N.B. Please let Rachel know ASAP if you notice clashes with other meetings that might affect our attendance.

MedEd Contact and Newsletter editor

Dr Rachel Thompson
L&T Fellow
Medical Faculty, OME
UNSW Medical Admin Building B27
cnr High and Botany Streets

Phone: 02 938 58038
Fax: 02 938 51874

Email: rachelt@unsw.edu.au

The MedEd Interest Group formed in November 2006 following a research presentation forum held at UNSW. It aims to bring together medical faculty staff interested in education issues to support scholarly practice, encourage research and create new networks amongst its members.

Our main activities include a monthly seminar series, this monthly newsletter, and an annual research forum. We will keep you in touch with upcoming grants, conferences, awards and new L&T publications, innovations and lots, lots more...

Feedback requests

Please contribute—start writing those book reviews! And if you read some interesting publications, or find new or exciting L&T or medical education websites, then please send them in. What are your best teaching tips? —send them in for “**Teaching tip of the Month**” (<100 words please).

What else would you like to see in the Newsletter?

Send ASAP to rachelt@unsw.edu.au

Please keep your details up to date for the MedEd mailing list:

If your email has changed or you wish to be join our mailings, please update the mailing list by sending your name, email address and current research /area of interest to: Vicki Truskett on V.Truskett@unsw.edu.au

Don't forget the MedEd Website with info on professional development, 2009 conferences, and lots more!

Find it at: www.med.unsw.edu.au under “For Staff” /Learning and Teaching

Quote of the month:

“In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.”

Bertrand Russell, *British author, mathematician, & philosopher (1872 - 1970)*

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1950/russell-bio.html

Web-link of the month:

TOMORROW'S PROFESSOR(sm) Mailing List

<http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php>

This site is a digest of interesting articles on education, academic teaching careers, research, etc
Posted and sponsored by Stanford Center for Teaching and Learning <http://ctl.stanford.edu>

Thanks to Chris Hughes for this recommendation

Share the good L&T websites that you come across with the MedEd Google group!

**The MedEd BLOG is
coming...**

WATCH THIS SPACE!!!