



MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

FRIDAY 26TH MARCH 2010

Welcome back to the Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

We are well into the new year already it seems but this is your first newsletter of the year. I welcome your input throughout the year and hope that you enjoy the read. There is plenty to get your teeth into already with Learning and Teaching @UNSW organising the regular Connections seminars and several interesting education conferences and symposiums coming up shortly. Our meetings are monthly and I look forward to seeing you there (see page 3 for the list of dates).

Regards, RT (Ed)

Coming Events

- *The next L&T CONNECTIONS meetings is this Monday 29th March on Digital Storytelling — see pg 2.*
- *Next MedEd meeting is on Weds 14th April at noon in the Seminar Room, Lower Ground floor, Wallace Wurth*
- *3rd Biennial Threshold Concepts Symposium 1-2 July at UNSW*
- *ANZAME conference is at James Cook University, Townsville on 13-16 July.*

Report on March MedEd meeting

A handful of diehard stalwarts made it to the first early morning meeting of the year where we were given an interesting demonstration of the new Blackboard 9 Learning Management System by Dr John Langlands from SoMS. John has worked hard over the summer to get his postgraduate Pharmaceutical Medicine and Drug Development distance courses ready in Blackboard 9. So far, he has been pleased with the result— the courses are running well with only a few glitches and he reports that Blackboard has been mostly well received by the students.

We also welcomed our outreach librarian, Toni Le Roux who brought along Tom Croucher (Research Publications) and Joanne Croucher (Library Repository Services) to show us the new ResPubs system that is replacing the old publications reporting systems and also feeding directly into UNSWorks. (See adjacent for more information on these topics).

Blackboard 9

All current courses have been converted to Blackboard. Fortnightly software demonstrations and Q&A sessions for staff will run throughout semester on Mondays 1230-1400 in the L&T Workshop Room on Level 4 Mathews Building. <http://lms-blackboard.telt.unsw.edu.au/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

ResPubs system

The University's new publications system, ResPubs, can be accessed at <https://respubs.online.unsw.edu.au/respubs/login.main>, using your staff ID and Unipass (i.e. your myUNSW login). You can upload your publications directly here for the HERDC Publications data collection. It will also be used to inform the University's Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) submission. The system has been updated with new functionality to assist with this and is linked to UNSWorks—so that if you enter your publications here, they will appear in UNSWorks. If you find you do not have access, you may need to contact Tom Croucher (x58517, t.croucher@unsw.edu.au) to arrange access.

Professional Practice Supervision

A PPS course is being developed for clinicians and other professional practice supervisors at UNSW. There are two modules in the course: Module 1. Learning and Teaching, and Module 2. Assessment and Feedback. Each module is designed to explore participants experience and issues of interest, combined with an analysis of theories and approaches to professional placement education. The overall aim is to assist educators to understand and manage the complexity of the issues involved in supervision in the professional setting.

Piloting will take place in July with two groups (Exercise Physiology and Social Work educators, and Medicine and Optometry educators) meeting on campus to cover the workshops for both Modules.

More information will be issued shortly with the course hopefully opening for its first intake at the start of 2011.

Suggested reading this month = Herdsa News

Herdsa news is an educational interest news forum with contributions likely to stimulate debate and learning on policy and practice. The latest issue—Dec 2009 below contains items on philosophy in L&T, the first year experience, and also an article by and about the Academic Learning and Teaching Fellows at UNSW (page 12):

<http://www.herdsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/HERDSA-News-Volume-31-No-3-December-2009-with-banner.pdf>

SOTL and Professional Development

L&T@UNSW CONNECTIONS

Next meeting is on:

Monday 29 March, 1230-1430

Workshop, Level 4, Mathews Building

Light lunch will be provided by L&T@UNSW with support from the ALTC

Topic:

Digital Storytelling Applied to Learning and Teaching Presentation

Lariane Fonseca, Swinburne University of Technology

The presentation will discuss the basic elements and use of 'digital storytelling', its role in memoir creation and application in the learning and teaching context. Digital storytelling can be a powerful means of improving your teaching practice through construction of assessment and other applications. The session will provide the opportunity to examine how digital storytelling can be applied in different learning and teaching contexts.

The next seminar (after Easter break) is:

Researching Learning and Teaching: Making the Tough Stuff Fun

Selena Griffith, COFA

Thursday 15 April, 1230-1400

Level 4, Mathews Building

The presentation will look at using game theory and scenario building to develop exercises to assist students in dealing with complex concepts- "Making the tough stuff fun". This will cover threshold concepts and difficult knowledge. Selena will talk about the context of a particular exercise she has developed around learning about wicked problems. The themes are design, complexity and change. Selena will also run a condensed version of the activity.

A light lunch will be provided by L&T@UNSW with support from the ALTC. Please register online as above.

For more information on these seminars and other events, and to register online, go to:

http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event_rego/events.cfm

Visit the Connections blog for useful resources, film clips and links from past seminars:

<http://blogs.unsw.edu.au/connections>

For more information on L&T topics see the:

[Learning and Teaching @ UNSW](http://www.unsw.edu.au/learningandteaching) website

UNSW Library – Welcome back Kate

For library research support and help with UNSWorks etc speak to our Outreach Librarians:

Kate Dunn - x 51012 email: Mobile: TBA Email: kate.dunn@unsw.edu.au covering the Schools of: Public Health and Community Medicine, Medical Sciences, Psychiatry, Women's and Children's Health and Centres affiliated with these Schools

Toni Le Roux - x58241 or Mobile: 0411 103 269 Email: t.leroux@unsw.edu.au covering: National Centres, Lowy Cancer Centre, Clinical Schools, Conjoint and liaison with Hospital Libraries

Websites of the month

Henry Stewart Talks: <http://blogs.unsw.edu.au/librarynews/blog/2010/03/henry-stewart-talks-%e2%80%93-biomedical-life-sciences-collection/>
A collection of high level lectures and study resources.

JoVE: <http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/cgi-bin/local/access/ej-access.cgi?url=http://www.jove.com/index.stt> A video journal of experiments.

Feedback is welcomed on the Henry Stewart site (on a 3 month trial). Toni Le Roux t.leroux@unsw.edu.au

Conferences for 2010

3rd Biennial Threshold Concepts Symposium

Being held at UNSW on 1st-2nd July. The website - including the call for papers - is available at <http://www.thresholdconcepts2010.unsw.edu.au/>

Further information from: Jan McLean, Learning & Teaching@UNSW, 9385 2509, email: j.mclean@unsw.edu.au

ANZAME 2010:

'Overcoming BARRIERS, RE(E)Forming Professional Practice'
13-16th July at James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland
<http://www.jcu.edu.au/anzame10/>

For the full list of upcoming conferences and submission /registration details see:

<http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/SOTL>

Want to learn more about Learning and Teaching?

Try the FULT and GCULT courses available free for teachers at UNSW = see details available at:

http://learningandteaching.unsw.edu.au/content/LT/capacity/prof_dev.cfm?ss=2

MedEd Interest Group Seminars 2010

This year's seminars follow the same pattern as last year, with alternating early and lunchtime meetings on a monthly basis. A new sub-group is forming this year with Gary Velan g.velan@unsw.edu.au as organiser. This group is aiming to bring together SoMS teaching staff keen to do research in education and extend their scholarship in learning and teaching. Working title = the SOMS Teaching Interest Group (STInG). Half-hour meetings will run prior to the MedEd Weds lunchtime meeting days from 1130-1200 at the same location (see * below) with arranged speakers and discussions.

Video-conferencing can be arranged for the MedEd meetings—please contact Rachel (rachel@unsw.edu.au).

For your diary

Date	Time	Topic	Location
Weds 14 th April*	1200-1300	Getting started in Educational Research	Seminar Rm LG02 Lower Ground Floor, Wallace Wurth Building, Kensington Campus.
Tues 11 th May	0800-0930	Helping Students in Difficulty: <i>Giving difficult feedback, Academic Misconduct, Fitness to Practice policy and related issues</i>	LG02, LG floor WW
Weds 9 th June*	1200-1300	Conference practice presentations— <i>email RT if you are interested in doing a trial run</i>	LG02, LG floor WW
Mid-year break			
Tues 10 th August	0800-0930	Conference presentations and feedback	TBA
Weds 15 th Sept*	1200-1300	TBA	TBA
Tues 12 th October	0800-0930	TBA	TBA
Weds 10 th November*	1200-1300	TBA	TBA
Weds 8 th December	0930- 1400	Faculty of Medicine Learning and Teaching Forum	Seminar Rm LG02 Lower Ground Floor, Wallace Wurth Building, Kensington Campus.

Meet the Educational Specialists

Meet Robyn Jay, Learning and Teaching Architect in the L&T Portfolio within IT. Robyn is part of the team supporting L&T@UNSW, the library and faculties to develop and implement the Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching (TELT) platform. She sees her role as 'conduit' between IT and the broader university community to clarify directions, listen to issues and facilitate communication.

With a background in education and elearning Robyn is well aware of the challenges and issues facing academics. She is also excited about what new and emerging technologies can do to enrich the experiences offered to students.

'There's a lot more to TELT than Blackboard 9, and a lot more to contemporary networked learning than TELT itself!' she says. For example, over the past year Robyn has been supporting the pilot of Wikispaces and the Wordpress blogging platform at UNSW and is currently involved in pilots of the Wimba and Adobe Connect Pro virtual meeting rooms.

A good place to start with what TELT has to offer is the TELT resource wiki – <http://telt.unsw.wikispaces.net>, and the TELT blog – <http://blogs.unsw.edu.au/telt>.

Robyn is available to attend meetings, morning teas, staff development days etc so let us know how we might maximise what Robyn has to offer. Ph 02 9385 8363 or email: r.jay@unsw.edu.au


 UNSW
MEDICINE

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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...

Your newsletter

Please contribute—start writing those book reviews and send in info on new L&T research. If you read interesting articles or find new and 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

To subscribe to the MedEd email group:

Send an email to
<majordomo@explode.unsw.edu.au> with the following command in the body of your email message:
subscribe meded-interest-group

Note: Do not include anything else in the body of the email and leave the subject heading blank

Don't forget the MedEd site with support for new teachers, resources to help you teach, previous seminar and training recordings, and lots more!

Several pages in < Learning and Teaching > under "For Staff"
on the faculty website: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/>

SPOTLIGHT on learning & teaching research

The Rural Clinical School (RCS), in conjunction with Nura Gili, provides educational support for the Indigenous entry students. The four week pre-entry preparation for medicine course is a compulsory component of the entry requirements. Once enrolled in medicine, all Indigenous students are offered one-to-one peer tutoring, organised by the RCS. There are currently 27 Indigenous students enrolled in medicine, and our aim is to support them in the most constructive and appropriate way.

A series of studies is currently being planned to investigate the experiences of Indigenous entry students in order to ascertain how best to continue the provision of support. The first step will be to evaluate the pre-entry program. One aim of the program is to positively impact on students' self confidence in their ability to undertake medical studies.

Lack of self confidence impacts on learning, and is a significant factor for Indigenous students (Garvey et al, 2009). The first study will be specifically investigating whether self confidence improves as a result of the pre-entry program. RCS has employed a new researcher, Lisa Watts, to assist in this research. Lisa has a background in social work, policy planning and education. If you have any questions, or are just interested in this work and would like to discuss further, please contact Lisa (l.watts@unsw.edu.au) or Mandy Ampt (m.ampt@unsw.edu.au)

Ref: [Garvey, G, Rolfe, I, et al. \(2009\). "Indigenous Australian medical students' perceptions of their medical school training." *Medical Education*, 43\(11\), 1047-1055.](#)
Mandy Ampt, Rural Clinical School

"The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn."

Gloria Steinem (USA feminist, journalist, and activist, b. 1934)