

LTSU Newsletter

LTSU Newsletter September

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Welcome to the second edition of the LTSU Newsletter! This newsletter will be distributed every second month. The purpose of the newsletter is to let you know what's happening to promote learning and teaching at USQ.

What's New on the Learning and Teaching website



Ms Tanya Morgan, Manager Careers and Employment in Student Services interviews Professor Jonathan Garnett on his recent visit to USQ. USQ has been organising a busy L&T Visiting Scholar Program for the last two years. Many scholars have been interviewed for future professional development activities and to develop self-help resources. To access these, please visit the [Learning and Teaching Website](#). More on Professor Garnett's visit below.

A new 'how to' flyer has been developed for those who are considering a benchmarking exercise, '**Benchmarking in learning and teaching @ USQ**'. The link is available from the '[How to' flyers page](#) under the 'Improving teaching' heading.

Date Claimers:

Next week - USQ Assessment Priority: Promoting a sustainable

culture of assessment, 14 – 18 September.

For this series of events we will be joined by four very distinguished scholars in the area of assessment:

- Professor Kerri-Lee Krause – Griffith University
- Professor Marcia Devlin – Deakin University
- Dr Keith Willey – University Technology Sydney, and
- Dr Liz Godfrey – University of Auckland

To participate in these events please watch for the email reminders coming from 'Academic Development'.

Professor Sue Thompson from Liverpool John Moores University (UK) will visit on **22/23 October**.

Professor Thompson has a special interest in graduate employability and in academic professional development. Please contact [LTSU](http://www.ltsu.edu.au) if you would like to meet Professor Thompson.



Emeritus Professor of Learning and Teaching Fred Lockwood, from Manchester Metropolitan University will be visiting USQ on the 2 November

Fred will participate in our Scholarship of Learning and Teaching Summit. More details for this will be available soon. Make sure you mark this date in your calendar, it is not to be missed.



Early next year – USQ Learning & Teaching Symposium 2010 - 16-18 February 2010. Further details to follow.

Visiting Scholar

[Professor Jonathon Garnett](#), Director of Institute for Work Based Learning at Hendon campus, Middlesex University (UK), visited Fraser Coast and Toowoomba Campuses in August. Please visit USQ's



Professor Jonathon Garnett

[Learning and Teaching Website](#) to access interviews and discussions held with Professor Garnett during his visit to USQ.

USQ staff benefited greatly from his research interest and lecturing background in work based learning in higher education, APEL, and the use of work based learning to develop the intellectual capital of universities and employers.

Teaching Excellence

2010 USQ University Learning and Teaching Fellowships Announced

Senior Fellows

Mr Steven Goh (Faculty of Engineering and Surveying)

Leadership Capacity of Academics and Professional Authority in Advancing Life-Long Learning. *Professionals*- The project is designed to improve the quality and relevance of curriculum development through structured interaction with professional associations.



Associate Fellows

Mr Chris Willems (Faculty of Arts) - The development and implementation of a pilot coaching program for lecturing staff about the presenting-to-camera environment. The project is designed to enhance the competence of staff in the presenting-to-camera environment. An initial pilot series of coaching sessions will be developed for roll-out across the University to assist staff in their use technology.

Dr Ann Dashwood (Faculty of Education), **Mrs Alice Brown** (Faculty of Education), **Dr Jill Lawrence** (Faculty of Arts), **Dr Lorelle Burton** (Faculty of Sciences) - *The online International Self-Assessment of Learning and Teaching (International SALT) project*. The project aims to build capacity and strengthen learning and teaching relationships among USQ's international teachers. This project will be aligned with existing on-line USQ support features to ensure a consistent approach to learning and teaching quality among USQ teaching staff.

Prof Ronel Erwee (Faculty of Business) and **Assoc Prof Peter Albion** (Faculty of Education) - *Communication strategies for Doctoral supervisors and students: doing it at a distance*. The project will examine the challenges experienced by external doctoral students and source information from supervisors about resources and approaches suitable for off-campus teaching and learning strategies. On-line teaching support via Wimba, Skype, and 3D virtual spaces will form part of the project to support an on-line community of doctoral students.

Dr Alexander Kirst (Faculty of Engineering and Surveying) and Mrs. Lyn Brodie (Engineering and Surveying) - *The development of an online marking rubric for use in self and peer assessment by students*. Marking rubrics are widely advocated as a way of providing equitable assignment assessment and detailed feedback to students which traditionally involves complicated spreadsheets or paper handling. The project proposes to develop a web-based online system that simplifies the task, allows for peer assessment and also provides the opportunity for the statistical analysis of results

Learning & Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF) expressions of interest

Initial notification of successful applications has been distributed and notification regarding revised proposals will occur this week.

Faculty Awards

Nominations have now closed and awardees will be announced at Faculty Assemblies in the near future.

USQ Awards for Teaching Excellence, Awards for Programs and Services that Enhance Learning and Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

Nominations close 31 October 2009. Please direct enquiries to Jill Young, Project Officer (Teaching Excellence) by email: teachexcel@usq.edu.au

Teaching Tip

Benchmarking in Learning and Teaching:

We all talk about continuous improvement in learning and teaching and using benchmarking as a strategic approach to comparative and evaluative processes against other organisations; but what does this mean for staff at USQ? Who are we benching marking against and how does it influence day to day work? Is there a project in your work you want to benchmark? For more info see [Benchmarking in learning and teaching @ USQ](#)

Achieving academic skills is a journey, not a destination:

Students need academic skills to succeed at university and provide them with a platform for life long learning. Why should you develop academic skills in your course? Providing support for students' academic skill development has been shown to reduce student anxiety and student questions about assessment, thereby saving the lecturer valuable time. For more info see: [Developing students' academic skills](#)

Upcoming USQ Teaching Academy Events

- Teaching Academy Mentoring Workshop (to be confirmed)
- Friday 6 November 2009 - Participation in the Community Engaged Research Evening
- 16-18 February 2010 - Participation in USQ Learning and Teaching Symposium 2010

Academic Development

LTSU Induction Day for new academic staff



LTSU recently conducted its regular mandatory one day induction workshop for all new academic staff at USQ. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Jacquie McDonald and Jennifer Bundy.

The response from participants was a very positive one, and evaluation collation from the workshop included comments such as *“the induction was informative and provided valuable L&T information to assist my teaching processes”*.

Induction is held twice a year and the purpose of the induction process is to introduce staff to fundamental concepts behind learning and teaching matters within the USQ context. The next induction workshop will be held in February 2010.

Special Congratulations: publication



Dr Henk Huijser (pictured left) has a new book, *The Multicultural Nation in New Zealand Cinema*, published by VDM Verlag, Saarbrücken, Germany.

This book is about representation and the importance of visibility and inclusivity in the stories we tell each other about ourselves. It is therefore also about power and local access to the means of representation in an increasingly globalised world. Through interviews with key people and a series of focus groups, the book explores where policy makers, film makers and viewers from a variety of ethnic backgrounds situate themselves and others within contemporary Aotearoa/New Zealand.

LTSU Project Teams Report Summary

Learning and teaching is one of USQ's nine, cross-institutional goal plans that inform and reflect [USQ's Strategic Plan 2009-2013](#). The ten projects in the [USQ Learning and Teaching Plan 2009 - 2013](#) are implemented through [LTSU plans](#) which shape annual Faculty Learning and Teaching Action Plans. An update on each of the LTSU Projects follows.

1 Course and Program Mapping

New templates for program accreditations have now been finalised and await approval from UPMC. Development of the new Course Specification is progressing well but some delays will be experienced in implementation, but this should only affect Specs for S3. Faculty SCHED officers have been updated on the workflow associated with Course Spec's post Project S go live. The initial mapping of Graduate skills in the Course Specifications for the Faculty of Sciences is now complete. Dr Sara Hammer presented to the Information Systems Department a workshop on

Mapping Graduate Skills across their whole program.

2 Assessment

Work on [resources](#) continues, including the development of the USQ Assessment Booklet. Planning continues for faculty-driven initiatives such as the assessment event in September. This event entitled: USQ Assessment priority: Promoting a Sustainable Culture of Assessment, will take place between the 14-18th of September and includes a number of professional development and planning events with four discipline-based and learning and teaching scholars visiting and presenting during that week. Learning and Teaching Performance Funding for an assessment related project in the Faculty of Arts has been approved and the project will commence in the next few weeks.

3 Vertically Integrated Curriculum

Planning has begun toward developing a survey instrument to be implemented by ALS staff to course lectures/coordinators of first year courses as a way of mapping the five critical areas: academic learning skills, internationalisation, indigenous perspective, community engagement, work-based learning. This initiative will provide a reference point and stepping-off point to strategically target our ALS resources/faculty contact.

Feedback from faculties on the Working Party findings has been processed and responses will be fed back into LTCs for appropriate action, thus closing the loop on this AQUA-imitated process. Completion of alignment of ALS resources to Graduate Qualities and Skills has identified critical areas that need further development (e.g. working in groups, interpersonal communication, professional presentation skills, and digital literacies). These resources will be prioritised and developed in line with LTSU-ALS communication strategy for Semester 1, 2010 and thus achieve a more coordinated and strategic delivery of academic learning skills support to 'at-risk' students.

4 Learning and Teaching Evaluation

Considerable work has been completed to support the pilots of the new Course and Program Review (CPR) processes and the outcomes of the 'AUSSE' student engagement survey have been rolled-out across the University. A number of CPR information sessions were conducted during July and August and the CPR resource kit was updated. The second trial of the CPR has been completed. Work has commenced on developing a new benchmarking approach, resources and training plan.

5 Technology Enhanced Learning

The ePortfolio system is now a stable and is becoming more visible students and staff through road shows, flyers, articles and student orientation sessions. There are approximately 200 new users each week. Seventy-three staff have recorded at least one presentation using Camtasia Relay to date. [Documentation and support material](#) is available.

6 Academic Professional Development

Mid-year induction for new academic staff was attended by 14 staff from across all Faculties and campuses. Activities focused on learning and teaching practice at USQ. Tailored PD sessions during July and August covered e-portfolios and the use of Camtasia Relay lecture recording tool.

Monthly meetings of seven existing communities of practice and an initial meeting of Faculty of Business School of Management & Marketing L&T Community of Practice occurred during August. A visiting scholar from Deakin Business School, Tony Burch, met with CoP convenors to identify USQ CoP best practice.

Visiting Scholar Prof Jonathan Garnett, Director of Institute for Work Based Learning, Middlesex University presented university wide sessions and focused discussions on work based learning.

7 Learning and Teaching Scholarship

The Scholarship of Tertiary Teaching and Learning (SoTTL) Summit has been scheduled for 2-3 November 2009. Fred Lockwood, Emeritus Professor Of Learning & Teaching, Manchester Metropolitan University has been engaged to present and lead discussions at the Summit, and other plans are soon to be forthcoming. The action research project looking at the motivations and barriers to SoTTL at USQ is making steady progress and data is currently being gathered.

8 Teaching Excellence

USQ's ALTC 2009 Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning were recently awarded to:

- Associate Professor Thiru Aravinthan (Faculty of Engineering and Surveying)
- Dr Jacquie McDonald (Learning Teaching and Support Unit) and Dr Cassandra Star
- Dr Janet McDonald and Dr Darryl Chalk (Faculty of Arts)

Mr Stephen Smith (Faculty of Education)

9 Learning Support

The project team for the Academic Learning Support Project has a new staff member at Springfield, Lynette Faragher, and therefore a renewed focus on the aims and objectives. The strategy for the team has been fully operational from the beginning of June, and there has been an increased uptake of academic learning support, especially at Springfield campus, and especially since Anita Frederiks now also provides maths support at Springfield one day per week. In the meantime a number of embedded workshops have been conducted for students in the Faculty of Education and Business (in Springfield), as well as more generic workshops for international students. The ALS team has also been heavily involved in the planning and delivery of Open Day activities. The focus of the project will soon shift to improvement of flexible delivery of learning support and improvement of evaluation methods, and these aims are expected to get a boost from a number of successful LTPF projects and Equity projects that ALS staff is involved in.

10 Learning and Teaching Management and HR

Outcomes for this month include:

- the inclusion of Learning and Teaching in the categories of Academic Development and Outside Studies Program (ADOSP).
- from 2010 funding for USQ Learning and Teaching Awards, Fellowships and Citations has been mainstreamed rather than continuing to be distributed from the Vice-Chancellor's discretionary fund which has been the practice to date.
- funding for Faculty Learning and Teaching Action Plans has also been mainstreamed and funding will now be approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching).
- initiation of staff engagement L&T Framework.

Contact Us

Learning & Teaching Support Unit

Website: <http://www.usq.edu.au/learnteach/default.htm>

Learning & Teaching Support Unit

www.usq.edu.au/learnteach/ltsu/

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