

WELCOME to the July/August 2010 issue of the LTSU Newsletter! The purpose of the newsletter is to let you know what's happening to promote learning and teaching at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Australia.

Learning and Teaching Successes

ALTC Citations

Three USQ staff - Associate Professor Aileen Cater-Steel, Dr Birgit Loch and Dr Rhoderick McNeill – were recipients of the 2010 [Australian Learning and Teaching Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning](#). These citations recognise innovative approaches to education and excellence displayed in teaching methodology. More information is available in the Teaching Excellence section below.



Lecturer Awards

The UniJobs Lecturer of the Year Awards for 2009 resulted in nominations for USQ lecturers. The top 10 nominees from USQ were presented with certificates by the DVC (Global Learning) on 29th July. Pictured (left to right) Assoc Prof Lorelle Burton, Dr Kazem Ghabraie, Prof Phil Candy (DVC Global Learning), Dr Jill Lawrence, Ms Lara Lamb. See [UniJobs website](#) for further information.



What's New on the Learning and Teaching website

The Learning Centre

[The Learning Centre](#) has been specifically created to help students develop their academic skills for success at university. Support is for all USQ students no matter their location.

[Learning Skills Workshops](#) and [Mathematics Workshops](#) and [Chemistry Workshops](#) are happening throughout Semester 2 at all three campuses and through Wimba Classroom.

[Mathematics materials](#) on the Learning Centre website have been re-designed to make them more accessible and user-friendly.

New Flyer

“Designing Assessment for Students with a Disability”

Some students at USQ arrive with a range of conditions that are referred to as disabilities. These conditions can be divided broadly into: physical impairment, learning or information processing issues, and neurological, psychological or medical conditions. In order to succeed in their studies, students who have one or more of these conditions must manage these in addition to the usual student work-life balance issues of work, friends and family. See the [“How To Flyers”](#) website for more information.

USQ Learning & Teaching Week 2011

USQ Learning & Teaching Week 2011 is scheduled to be held 9th - 13th May 2011.

A program is currently being created to attract academic and professional staff from across USQ's three campuses. USQ is committed to providing opportunities for enhancing staff professional development and the student experience. Held annually, the week-long event will showcase exciting developments in teaching and learning practice and celebrates staff excellence. Additionally, 2011 will incorporate the [Third International m-libraries Conference](#) – mobile technologies: information on the move. This conference is being facilitated by USQ and will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Papers have been called for this conference.

Visiting Scholars

Professor Sally Brown and Professor Phil Race from Leeds Metropolitan University are scheduled to visit from the 16th – 17th August.

Professor Phil Race works on both sides of the teaching-learning equation; working with students to develop their learning skills and with staff to develop their teaching methods. See [USQ L&T Website](#) for more information.



Professor Sally Brown is Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Professor of Higher Education Diversity in Teaching and Learning at Leeds Metropolitan University. See [USQ L&T Website](#) for further information.



DEHub – Southern Skies Distance Education Academic Exchange. The DEHub visit took place in May, and included international visitors from Brazil and Argentina, and guests from the University of New England in Armidale, Australia. See [USQ L&T website](#) for further information.



Mr Malcolm Fialho, Senior Diversity Officer from University of Western Australia, visited USQ to conduct a series of workshops with the title “Courageous Conversations about Race”. See [USQ L&T website](#) for further information.



Dr Andreas Ulovec, mathematics educator from Faculty of Mathematics at University of Vienna (Austria), visited USQ. See [USQ L&T Website](#) for further information.



Teaching Excellence

ALTC Citations

[The Australian Learning & Teaching Council](#) (ALTC) Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning recognize and reward the diverse contributions that individuals and teams make to the quality of student learning. The Citations are granted to people who have made significant contribution to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period. The following three people were successful in their application and USQ is proud of their achievements:

- Associate Professor Aileen Cater-Steel has been recognised for her leadership and innovation in designing and developing cutting edge IT service management curriculum.
- Dr Loch has been recognised for her innovation in the use of technologies for mathematics, and her leadership in the use of technologies that enhance and promote student learning.
- Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr McNeill has been recognised for a unique, sustained and extensive contribution to distance and on campus music education in Australia and Southeast Asia.

Academic Development

LTSU Induction Day for new academic staff

Held on Monday 12th July at Springfield campus, Wednesday 14th July at Toowoomba campus, and Friday 16th July at Fraser Coast campus. Overall 25 new staff were in attendance and some very positive feedback was received about the process assisting in introducing the staff to the support and educative structures at USQ.

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 nine 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

The mapping of graduate skills continues with programs, however development of the mapping tool to align program maps across programs has been delayed slightly.

2 Assessment

A tailored professional development related to assessment is progressing and three-fifths of the resources to be developed in 2010 have been completed, including the assessment for disability flyer, the assessment foundation module and the assessment checklist.

3 Vertically Integrated Curriculum

A review of project mapping has been completed. The first test run of a mapping instrument will be underway by month end (August).

4 Learning and Teaching Evaluation

CPR information sessions as well as integrated CPR information sessions with Academic Induction program have been completed. The Formative Peer Review of Teaching PD/ workshops for the year has been finalized. A Benchmarking virtual partners meeting is planned to take place mid-August. Completion of EOI - National Teaching Standards Framework Project has also taken place.

5 Technology Enhanced Learning

[Digital Tools for Learning and Teaching Brilliantly](#) community - 2000 registered users (staff and student access authorized)

[ePortfolios](#) community - 6270 registered users. The clustrmap (visitor locations) has been added to the front page and error with dates corrected.

Wimba has been given approval for a Pronto trial.

6 Academic Professional Development

There has been an increased number of visiting scholars. Visits to Fraser Coast and Springfield has been ongoing with inductions on all 3 campuses taking place on July 12, 14, 16. There has been progress on planning of cultural awareness PD and Language and Linguistic PD.

7 Learning and Teaching Scholarship

There has been endorsement by the Prof. Graham Baker (USQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Scholarship) for the inaugural Community of Practice for Early career researchers. Two 'Getting Started Teaching Scholarship' Community of Practices were also held.

8 Teaching Excellence

As reported above, there were three successful nominations for the Australian Learning

& Teaching Council (ALTC) Citations.

9 Learning Support

The Learning Centre workshops program was redesigned and implemented in S1 and S2; the mathematics materials on this same section of the website have also been re-designed. Meet-Up is still expanding and running at all campuses. An improved intensive one day academic skills program (UPGRADE) took place at Springfield at the end of July. Additionally, a renewed Building Pathways for Academic Success program took place.

Date Claimers

Learning & Teaching Week 2011: 9 – 11 May 2011

[The Third International m-Libraries Conference](#): 11 – 13 May 2011

Teaching Tips

Learning and Teaching Awards

The USQ Teaching Excellence Project is designed to assist staff in the development of their learning and teaching record and to facilitate this recording in e-portfolios. The Teaching Excellence team also assist staff to apply for Citations and Awards. These include USQ Faculty and Individual Awards and Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Awards. For further information see the [Flyer](#).

Learning and Teaching Grants and Fellowships

The USQ Teaching Excellence Project is designed to assist staff in the development of their learning and teaching record and to facilitate this recording in e-portfolios. The Teaching Excellence team also assist staff to apply for Grants and Fellowships with the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). For further information see [ALTC website](#) and the [Flyer](#).

Contact Us

Learning & Teaching Support Unit

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