

# Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme



**TEACHERS  
HELPING  
TEACHERS**

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**Welcome** to the first newsletter for the Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme (PATS). PATS is an Australian Teaching and Learning Council (ALTC) Teaching Fellowship funded program aimed at improving the quality of teaching and student satisfaction within identified units – and build leadership capacity amongst currently recognised outstanding teachers.

This newsletter will be published every two months for the entirety of the program. We welcome your feedback, input and comments at any point along the way.

In this first issue of the newsletter, we wish to outline our program and express our gratitude for the interest and enthusiasm of a number of colleagues from all around Australia who are involved in the program.

The PATS reference group consist of three subgroups. Our external reference group members provide valuable advice and guidance to inform our work. Other reference group members from within Monash will enrich our program with their perspectives. The Monash Peer Assisted Learning Fellows will provide insightful comments and act as critical friends.

Central to the scheme is an independent external evaluator Dr Leigh Wood from Macquarie University. The purpose of the evaluation is to systematically investigate the worth and merit of the program.

In 2010, three ALTC National Teaching Fellowships and nine ALTC local Teaching Fellowships were awarded. To find out more information, visit: <http://www.altc.edu.au/fellows>

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and we look forward to engaging PATS within your Faculty.

*Each month we will introduce the people whose commitment makes this program possible.*

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**ALTC Teaching Fellow:  
Dr. Angela Carbone**

Angela is the Director of Educational Quality in the Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University. She is responsible for providing senior level leadership to the Faculty's learning and teaching strategic and action plans. With a background in Computing, Mathematics and Education, Angela held the position of senior lecturer at Monash University prior to the commencement of the program.

In her career, Angela has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, notably the Prime Minister's Award for University Teacher of the Year (1998) and the Australian Award for University Teaching in the category of Computing and Information Services (1998).

**ALTC Teaching Fellowship  
Research & Admin Officer:  
Ms. Jessica Wong**

Jessica is an exciting new addition not only to the PATS team but also to Monash University. Having been accepted into both ANU and Monash University, Jessica decided to pursue her interest in the area of health and administration through non-conventional methods. With experience working in the US and Australia, Jessica brings a refreshing perspective to the program.

## PATS NEWS

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### Faculties engaging in PATS:

- Faculty of Engineering (Clayton)
- Faculty of Science (Malaysia)
- Faculty of IT (Caulfield)

### **PATS REFERENCE GROUP:**

#### External Reference Group

Ms Sally Rogan, Ms Katherine Lindsay, Mr Phillip Dawson, Associate Professor Roger Hadgraft and Dr Jane Skalicky

#### Monash Reference Group

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Professor Peter Stewart, Dr Sheila Vance, Ms Catherine Barratt, Dr Wendy Sutherland-Smith, Mr Adrian Devey, Dr Judith Rochecouste and Ms Lisa Smith

#### Monash Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Fellows

Dr Susan Edwards, Dr Jane Bone, Ms Jill French, Dr Yvonne Hodgson and Dr Gerry Rayner

#### External Evaluator

Dr Leigh Wood

## OTHER NEWS

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### ***New ALTC Fellows Orientation***

The new 2010 ALTC Fellows had their orientation during the 26-27th July. The two day program covered managing the fellowship, evaluating the fellow program and media training.

Former fellows (Professors Geoff Crisp, Peter Goodyear and Cynthia Mitchell and Associate Professor Les Kirkup) also shared their Fellowship experiences.

## Research in Progress

Prior to the beginning of Semester 2, 2010, participants from the Faculties of Engineering and Science attended a PATS briefing outlining the plan of activities. During the semester the partners will meet informally over a coffee, to identify key issues surrounding the unit and discuss ways to address these issues. Partners will be supported by their faculties via CALT workshops, resources aimed at improving the health of a unit and other incentives.

Past CALT workshops tailored for the needs of PATS participants included...

- Stimulating Students Intellectually
- The what and how of a peer review
- Aligning assignment work with learning objectives

These workshops will be open to all staff to attend and will take place in the upcoming months.

Another point of reference that has been found to be helpful to PATS is the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) guide: Peer observation partnerships in higher education (2005) written by Maureen Bell.

*“Peer observation of teaching is a truly effective process for ongoing change and development in higher education teaching. This guide aims to support higher education teachers through a program of skills, knowledge and ideas development to meet their own developmental aims within their immediate teaching environment.”*

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### ***ACDICT Learning and Teaching Network Forum, July 2010***

The ALTC Fellow was invited to present the PATS scheme at a two-day program held by the Australian Council of Deans of ICT (ACDICT) to disseminate new developments, networking and sharing of good practice. Time slots were also devoted for the discussion of hot issues identified by the participants. A key outcome of the forum was the identification of future actions to enable the establishment by ACDICT of a framework to support the strategic development of new collaborative initiatives to enhance ICT teaching and learning outcomes across all Australian Universities.

### **What's next...**

- **CALT workshops**
- **Focus group sessions**

### **CONTACT**

If you wish to provide feedback or comment on the PATS program, please feel free to contact:

**Jessica Wong**  
[Jessica.Wong@monash.edu](mailto:Jessica.Wong@monash.edu)