

Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme



**TEACHERS
HELPING
TEACHERS**

Welcome to the third newsletter for the Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme (PATS). 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 third issue of the newsletter, we wish to introduce three of the PATS mentors who have helped make the scheme a success. In related news, **Dr Grace Rumantir**, a previous mentee in PATS has received the **2010 Faculty of IT Teaching Excellence Award** and **Ms Sally Rogan** from the University of Wollongong, a member of the PATS external reference group, has received an **ALTC citation for the Peer Assisted Study Scheme (PASS)** now in its tenth year of operation. Congratulations to Grace and Sally!

We are very happy to announce a new member to the PATS team—**Mr Jason Ceddia**. Jason will be a research fellow in the scheme. He was previously a senior lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSSE) in the Faculty of Information Technology. Jason has won several prestigious awards: 2006 Vice Chancellor's Teaching Showcase, 2005 Vice Chancellor's Teaching Showcase, and 2002 CSSE Innovation Teaching Excellence Award.

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

Unit Evaluation results:

The unit evaluation results for semester 2, 2010 have been released. The seven participants (FIT, SCI & ENG) who took part in the PATS program achieved the following results in the University Wide-Item5:

- Two units moved out of the *critical attention* zone (median < 3.0) into *meeting aspirations* (median > 3.6)
- Two units moved out of the *critical attention* zone (median < 3.0) into the *needs improvement* zone (median greater than 3.0 but less than 3.6)
- Three units remained in the *critical attention* zone

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

PATS Mentors

PATS is extremely fortunate to have currently recognised outstanding and award-winning academics as mentors in the scheme. Below are just three of the many mentors who have helped make the scheme a success.

Dr. Karen Hapgood

Karen is a senior lecturer in the department of chemical engineering in the Faculty of Engineering. In 2008, she won the Dean's award for Teaching Excellence and in 2010, a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. Karen has also been awarded several major research grants. Her research interests include powder technology, granulation processes and pharmaceutical technology.

Dr. Catherine Yule

Cathy is a senior lecturer from the School of Science at the Sunway campus in Malaysia. In 2008, she was awarded an ALTC Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning for her emphasis on environmental education - particularly through field experience.

A/Professor David Taniar

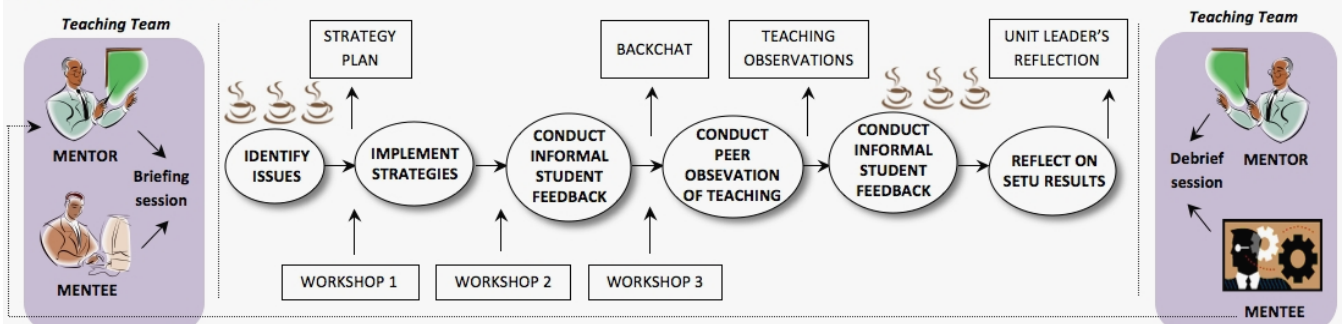
David is a senior lecturer from the Faculty of IT. In 2008 and 2009, he won the Faculty of IT Teaching Excellence Award for Postgraduate Teaching. David's research interests are in databases (query processing and grid), data mining (techniques and applications), mobile query processing, mobile information systems, web information systems and XML databases.

Research in Progress

The PATS process in which participants follow is represented in the following flowchart:

Getting the PATS process going

At the end of each semester, Associate Deans of Education (ADEs), Heads of Schools (HoS) and academics will receive unit evaluation results for all units taught in their faculty. The quantitative results are made public while the qualitative student results are only available to the ADEs, HoS and the academic in charge of that unit. Engagement formally in the scheme will commence through the normal practice of identifying units within faculties that require critical attention or need improvement and those which have performed at the high-end of meeting aspirations or outstandingly.



A **briefing session** takes place prior to the semester in which all participants attend. Partners are given six coffee vouchers each as an **incentive** to meet up during the semester. During the **meetings**, participants discuss issues and ideas and come up with strategies to improve the unit requiring **critical attention**. A series of **workshops** will be conducted during the semester where presenters will share their teaching strategies and methods. As part of the scheme, participants are expected to produce four **deliverables**: a strategy plan,

a backchat session, a peer observation of teaching and a unit leader's reflection. At the conclusion of the semester, a **debriefing session** takes place in the form of focus group discussions. Participants discuss about the PATS process, their own experiences and way to improve the scheme for future participants.

From 2011, PATS will be a part of the **Graduate Certificate of Higher Education (GCHE)** unit HED5011 (Learning and teaching in higher education Level 1).

OTHER NEWS

ALTC Teaching Fellow's Report

The ALTC Teaching Fellow's 6-month progress report is due on Tuesday February 1st, 2011. The report details the activities and outcomes of the first six months of PATS.

ACDICT Learning & Teaching Academy

Angela will attend a secondary meeting for the Australian Council of Deans of ICT (ACDICT) Learning & Teaching Academy in Sydney on Monday 14th February, 2011.

ALTC Fellows' Forum

The ALTC Fellow's forum will be held in Brisbane on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd February, 2011.

Papers in Progress...

Our expression of interest (EOI) was accepted by HERDSA and the full paper is due on Friday 25th February, 2011 for the conference taking place in July on the Gold Coast. We are also submitting a paper to Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITiCSE) due on Thursday 14th January for the conference held in Germany in July, 2011.

Workshops

Three PATS workshops took place in November and December.
Workshop #1: Planning your Teaching - 21 academics attended
Workshop #2: Interactive Lecturing - 20 academics attended
Workshop #3: Peer observation of teaching - 18 academics attended
Some of the feedback provided:

"Excellent 'live' role-play of peer observation practices"

"Really good session, very well facilitated - most enjoyable"

Semester 1, 2011 PATS

There are currently ten academics from three faculties (Business & Economics, Pharmacy and Education) who will participate in PATS in semester 1, 2011. The details of the initial briefing for the participants are below: *Date: Tuesday 25th January, 2011*

Time: 10-11:30am

Location: Room 3.22, Building C, Level 3, Caulfield Campus

What's next...

- **Initial briefing session for all new PATS participants on 25th January, 2011**

CONTACT

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

Jessica Wong

Jessica.Wong@monash.edu