

Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme



**TEACHERS
HELPING
TEACHERS**

Welcome to the fourth 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 fourth issue of the newsletter, we wish to introduce some of the new PATS mentors who will be participating in semester 1, 2011. In related news, **Associate Professor Karen Hapgood**, a previous mentor in PATS and a featured mentor in the last newsletter, received a professional appointment in January 2011 to the position of Associate Professor. Congratulations Karen!

At the beginning of February we submitted the 6-month progress report on PATS to the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). It provided an outline of all our activities to date and results from semester 2, 2010.

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

Semester 1, 2011

This semester we have five faculties participating in the scheme:

- Business and Economics: two participants
- Education: six participants
- Engineering: two participants
- IT: six participants
- Pharmacy: four participants

In four of the five faculties, the participants have been paired up, with one academic taking on the role of the mentor and the other the role of the mentee. In the Faculty of Pharmacy, the four participants will work together as a small group rather than two pairs providing support and mentorship as a group.

An initial briefing for all new participants took place in late January and was repeated in February and March. During the meeting, they were given an overview of the scheme and expectations of their participation.

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

PATS Mentors

This semester PATS is once again extremely fortunate to have currently recognised outstanding and award-winning academics as mentors in the scheme. Below are just four of the mentors participating.

Dr Amy Cutter-Mackenzie

Amy is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education and has generated substantial external research income (including an ARC Discovery grant). Her achievements include being selected as a Fellow/Participant in the 2010 Monash Research Accelerator Program (\$110,000), as well as being awarded a prestigious ALTC National Teaching Excellence Award (2010), the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award (2009) and receiving a prestigious ALTC Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (2008).

Dr Kris Ryan

Kris is a senior lecturer in the department of mechanical and aerospace engineering in the Faculty of Engineering. Kris was the winner of the 2007 Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award recognises "the contribution made by academics who have shown outstanding leadership and innovation in teaching and research." This is the second time Kris has acted as a mentor—he also participated in semester 2, 2010.

Ms Nell Kimberley

Nell is a senior lecturer in the department of management in the Faculty of Business and Economics. She received an ALTC Citation in 2006 for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning - leading by example and addressing student learning needs through the development of innovative faculty-wide transition programs and resources. Nell has also been the winner of the Pearson Education ANZAM (Australia and New Zealand Academy of Management) Management Educator of the Year.

PATS Mentors cont.

Dr Matthew Butler

Matthew is a lecturer in the Faculty of Information Technology. In 2008, he received an honourable mention at Faculty of IT Teaching Excellence Awards in the category of undergraduate teaching. In 2010 Matthew was part of the Information Technology Computer Programming Multi-Campus Team that received an ALTC Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. The team was recognised for team leadership that re-invigorated a challenging multi-campus, multi-disciplinary first year core programming unit through introducing innovative feedback processes to develop independent student learning.

OTHER NEWS

ACDICT Learning & Teaching Academy

The second ACDICT Learning and Teaching Academy (ALTA) meeting was held on 14th February in Sydney. The ALTA executive established funding guidelines for ICT learning and teaching improvements. Information about the grants scheme, dates and processes can be found on:

<http://www.acdict.edu.au>

ALTC Teaching Fellows' Forum

The ALTC Fellows met together as a community of scholars to share progress on their programs, and attend facilitated workshop and discussion sessions on February 21st to 22nd in Brisbane.

Melbourne University PATS Interest

Associate Professor Roger Hadgraft, a member of our external PATS reference group, is using the PATS resources to develop a similar scheme in the Faculty of Engineering at Melbourne University.

Publications

- Carbone, A., Wong, J., Ceddia, J., (2010). A scheme for improving ICT units with critically low student satisfaction. *ITICSE* [submitted]
- Carbone, A. (2010). Building peer assistance capacity in faculties to improve student satisfaction of units. *HERDSA* [submitted]
- Carbone, A., Wong, J., Ceddia, J., (2011). A case study approach to building effective partnerships for unit quality. *Global Journal of Engineering Education*. [in progress]

Research in Progress

PATS Guide

The PATS guide has been completed and is available to view online: <http://opvclt.monash.edu.au/educational-excellence/promoting-excellence/pats.html>. The guide provides information on all things PATS and will be a vital tool for future participants and faculties in the program. Below are just some of the responses given by participants about the scheme.



- supportive, collegial
- non invasive
- places more priority on teaching
- effective
- valuable
- improving quality
- expands network

- Academics think their unit is the hardest unit to teach
- Academics want "quick and dirty" tips and tricks
- Academics are time poor



- hard to find time
- feeling stigmatised
- success tied only to unit evaluations (quantitative)
- requires total dedication from both partners to be successful
- more work to do

News about ALTC Abolition

The Prime Minister has announced the abolishment of the ALTC from January 1st, 2012 as one of the savings measures to address the recent Queensland floods. Lobbying by the ALTC Fellows has resulted in \$50M restored to fund Higher Education Projects over the next three years.

To lobby against the government's proposal to abolish the ALTC:

- contact or email Senator Nick Xenophon
- contact your ADE, DVC (Education) or VC and ask them to lobby
- Go to Get Up! to vote for "Reversing the govt's decision to abolish the ALTC": <http://suggest.getup.org.au/forums/60819-campaign-ideas/suggestions/1416367-reversing-the-govt-s-decision-to-abolish-the-austr>
- Join the Facebook group "Save the Australian Learning and Teaching Council"

Upcoming Symposium

ALTC Teaching Fellow's Symposium

Peer Assisted Educational Programs

As part of the original submission to ALTC, one of our dissemination strategies is to hold an ALTC sponsored symposium, organised by Monash University. Experts in the area of Peer Assisted Educational programs will be invited as guest speakers as well as PATS participants who will speak about their experiences in the program. Invitations have been sent out and the Symposium is open to the public with registration capped at 100. More information about how to register will be provided closer to the date.

- **Date:** Tuesday 7th June, 2011
- **Time:** 8:45am—5pm
- **Location:** Room H1.25, Building H, Caulfield Campus, Monash Uni

What's next...

- **Areas for improvement**
- assessing the health of your unit.

CONTACT

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

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