

Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme



**TEACHERS
HELPING
TEACHERS**

Welcome to the fifth 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 fifth issue of the newsletter, we wish to invite you to the 2011 ALTC Symposium on Peer Assisted Educational Programs taking place at Monash University on Tuesday 7th June. Please see below for details.

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

2011 ALTC Symposium

Peer Assisted Educational Programs - Building Quality in Higher Education Units

Details

Date: Tuesday 7th June, 2011 Time: 8:45am—5pm
Location: Room H1.25, Building H, Level 1, Monash University, Caulfield

Aims

The Symposium aims to **inform** academics on Peer Assisted Educational programs available to use as part of their teaching curriculum. It will provide **opportunities** to share ideas and innovations; discuss research directions; and develop future collaborations.

A poster session will also be available for those who wish to share their Peer Assisted Educational Program. The posters will be displayed during the entire event and will provide an excellent opportunity for discussion and **networking**. If you wish to submit a poster, please send a one-sided pdf document by Friday May 20th to: jessica.wong@monash.edu

Registration

If you wish to attend the symposium please register your interest via the following link: <http://opvclt.monash.edu.au/educational-excellence/peerassistedteachingscheme/>. Registration closes on Friday May 20th so get in quick as there is a cap on the number of attendees. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be provided.

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

Keynote Speakers

We are delighted to have four experts in Peer Assisted Education Programs come and share their knowledge and experience at the 2011 ALTC Symposium.

Associate Professor Angela Carbone

Angela is the Associate Director in the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) at Monash University. Prior to this appointment, Angela was a Senior Lecturer and Director of Education Quality in the Faculty of Information Technology. In 2010 she received an ALTC Teaching Fellowship grant for the Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme (PATS).

Ms Sally Rogan

Sally is a Senior Manager at the University of Wollongong (UOW). In 2009, Sally was appointed Head of Student Support and Peer Learning at UOW. Since 2005, Sally has also been the National Trainer for the Australasia region for Supplemental Instruction/PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) and Head of the PASS National Centre at UOW.

Mr Paul Denny

Paul is a Senior Lecturer in introductory computer science and computer programming in the Faculties of Science and Engineering at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. In 2007 he created PeerWise to support students authoring, sharing and discussing course-related assessment questions.

Dr Keith Willey

Keith is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Technology, Sydney. He is also the Project Manager and lead developer of the self and peer assessment software tool known as SPARK^{PLUS} currently being used by faculties at over 20 national and international universities.

OTHER NEWS

ALTC Extension Grant

The Australian Learning & Teaching Council has approved funding for the ALTC Teaching Fellowship to the amount of \$10,000. This will allow us to develop more resources (eg. website, guides, etc) and provide learning and teaching workshops nationally.

ACDICT Learning & Teaching Forum

Angela has been invited to present the ALTC Teaching Fellowship program at the ACDICT Learning and Teaching Academy (ALTA) Forum taking place in Adelaide from May 2–3, 2011.

University of Ballarat

Angela has been invited to present the ALTC Teaching Fellowship program to the Graduate School of Information Technology & Mathematical Sciences at the University of Ballarat on Thursday 19th May, 2011.

Australian Teaching Awards

Angela has been invited to be on the assessment panel for the 2011 ALTC Australian Awards for University Teaching. The panel will be meeting on Wednesday 29 June, 2011.

Publications

- Carbone, A., Wong, J., Ceddia, J., (2010). A scheme for improving ICT units with critically low student satisfaction. *Refereed paper, 16th ITiCSE Conference (2011)*. Darmstadt, Germany. [Accepted]
- Carbone, A. (2010). Building peer assistance capacity in faculties to improve student satisfaction of units. *Refereed paper, 2011 HERDSA Conference*. Gold Coast, Australia [Accepted]
- 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]
- Carbone, A., Wong, J., Ceddia, J., (2011). Currently untitled. *Fourteenth Australasian Computing Education (ACE) Conference (2012)*. [in progress]

Research in Progress

PATS Guide

The PATS guide has been updated to include: different ways to gather informal student feedback, a template survey for collecting student feedback, instruments to conduct a peer observation of teaching and links to other useful information. Visit the following link for the latest version of the PATS guide: <http://opvclt.monash.edu.au/educational-excellence/peerassistedteachingscheme/resources.html>

Mid-semester meeting

The teaching fellow recently met with the PATS participants to discuss their progress in the scheme so far. During the meeting a suggestion was made to develop a “PATS pack” for the participants — this would contain pro formas for: areas needing improvement, strategy plan, informal student feedback, backchat, Peer Observation of Teaching and a critical reflection. These would provide the participants with the specification of the tasks and the dates when the tasks are due. This is currently being developed.

The Road to Improvement

1. What areas can you improve your unit?

Content | Organisation | Delivery | Feedback | Assessment | Resources

2. What strategies will you use to achieve these improvements?

Aligning tasks with objectives | Interactive lectures | Recording of lecturers

3. What can you do to improve the health of your unit?

a. Gathering informal student feedback (ISF)

Purpose: The process of ISF focusses on what the lecturer can do to improve the students’ learning early on in the semester (w4-5). It helps the lecturer create a collaborative learning culture and improves both the teaching by the lecturer and the learning by the students.

Backchat: This occurs in the following lecture where the lecturer acknowledges the students’ feedback, and the key issues highlighted in the feedback are “fed back” back to the students.

Resources: A template of an ISF form is available in the PATS Guide. Information on different ways to gather feedback and provide feedback to students can be found at: <http://www.ballarat.edu.au/freidafeedback/>

b. Peer observation of teaching (POT)

Purpose: Provides an instrument in which to obtain feedback from peers and colleagues.

Resources: Instrument for conducting a peer observation of teaching, Macquarie University: http://www.mq.edu.au/lrc/pdfs/FBE_peer_obs.pdf
Instrument for peer review, HERDSA Guide by Dr Maureen Bell
Trial Instrument for peer review, Monash University (Dr Tessa Dunseath)

What’s next...

- **2011 ALTC Symposium on Peer Assisted Educational Programs on Tuesday 7th June**

CONTACT

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

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