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# Faculty of Education

## Research News

MARCH/APRIL, 2005 – ISSUE 2

### SUCCESSFUL GRANT FUNDING

**Tony Herrington, Jan Herrington, Garry Hoban and Sue Bennett** have been awarded the DET contract for "Research study into the impact of professional learning through information and communication technologies online modules" for the amount of \$30,000.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO WILMA VIALLE – INVITED SPEAKER

**Assoc. Prof. Wilma Vialle** has been invited to speak on spiritual intelligence at the ECHA Conference in Finland in 2006.

### SUCCESSFUL STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

Two PhD students, **Raelene Anderson** \$500 and **Kori Nemme** \$705 have each been awarded a NSWIER Student Research Grant.

**Raelene Anderson's** grant will assist in facilitating her PhD research project titled "The Development of Autonomy and Independence in first year PhD students". Participants in the inquiry will comprise five full time PhD students and five supervisors from four Humanities Faculties. Data collection will rely on multiple data collection methods such as semi-structured interviews, a research journal and a personal journal. The amalgamation of these approaches is aimed at providing a vehicle for exploring and interpreting the first year doctoral experience from the perspectives of participating students and

supervisors, myself as researcher and my own personal experience with the inquiry topic. Interviews for the project are to be conducted throughout 2005 and early 2006 with proceeds from this Grant contributing to the cost of employing an assistant to transcribe interviews.

**Kori Nemme's** grant project aims to investigate the development of spiritual understanding in children from preschool through to secondary school. The study is motivated by the relative absence of a theoretical base for the development of children's spiritual understanding in its broadest sense. The current literature on spirituality focuses almost exclusively on adolescents and adults. The work that has been completed with children tends to be more narrowly focused on religious or faith development or has been conducted with non-Australian samples. The purpose therefore of this research is to investigate how younger children make sense of the spiritual realm in the broadest sense, including faith development, but incorporating other aspects of the child's developing world view. Using a multiple case study design, several children will be chosen to be studied in depth. Data will be collected through a variety of qualitative sources including observations, interviews, work samples and journals. It is anticipated that the research will contribute to a small growing literature that seeks to describe how children's notions of spirituality develop, that will inform curricula development in the future.

## GARRY HOBAN – KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Garry Hoban will be giving the keynote address on "The Sustainability of Professional Learning through School Based Action Learning". DET conference, Opal Resort, Coffs Harbour, 21st/22nd April.

He will also be presenting a paper at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Conference entitled **Using a Web-environment to Support the Sharing of Teaching Strategies in an Action Learning Team, April 11-15**. Also performing book launch for new edited book published by Kluwer Academic Publishers/Springer, *The Missing Links in Teacher Education Design: Developing a Multi-Linked Conceptual Framework*.

## 2006 DISCOVERY PROJECTS SUBMITTED

The following research projects have been submitted for the 2006 Discovery Projects:

**S. Bennett, L Lockyer, B. Harper** - Advancing the theory of Learning Object Reuse in Primary and Secondary Education

**B. Ferry, J. Herrington, T. Herrington, M. Chinnappan, L. Kervin, D. Jonassen.** Scaffolding mathematics through a simulated learning environment

**L. Kervin and J. Herrington** Theorising transfer: Investigating the nature of learning from simulations

**J. Wright, V. Harwood, M. Rasmussen, A. Hickey-Moodie.** Artful Connections: Youth, Community Art Projects and Public Pedagogies

## 2005 DEST PUBLICATION COLLECCTION

The Deadlines for the 2004 DEST Publication Collection are as follows:

A1. Books; B. Book Chapters - Deadline 8 April 2005

C. Journal Articles; E1 Conference Publications - Deadline 15 May 2005

If academics or students have published anything in 2004, would you please forward the hard copy to me, including the verification material. Please contact Karen McRae if you have any further enquiries.

## REPORT ON RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM FOR MARCH 2005

The Research Colloquium was held on 11-12 March. The Colloquium was well supported by the Faculty and research students, particularly those who will have to present their proposals in the next 12 months. The next Research Colloquium will be held on 26-27 August 2005.

## RESEARCH UPDATE

### Graphic Calculator use in NSW

A/Prof Tony Herrington, Dr Mohan Chinnappan and Dr Boris Handel (UTS) are collaborating with Texas Instrument on a project that involves the assessment of teacher attitudes towards the use of graphic calculators in NSW high schools. This project is funded (\$20,000) by Texas Instruments and University of Wollongong New Partnership Grant scheme.

## PROFILE ON PROFESSOR STEVE DINHAM

Last year, "Research News" profiled new staff members to the Faculty and their research areas and is continuing this segment with **Professor Steve Dinham**, who joined the Centre for Educational Leadership in January 2005.

Steve taught in government secondary schools in NSWs before being appointed to the University of Western Sydney where he held a number of positions, including Head of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Associate Dean. He moved to UNE in 2002 to take up the Chair Of Teacher Education, Pedagogy and Professional Development in the School of Education and moved to the University of Wollongong in January 2005 as Professor of Educational Leadership and Pedagogy.

He has conducted a wide range of research projects in the areas of educational leadership and change, effective pedagogy/quality teaching, postgraduate supervision, professional teaching standards, teachers' professional development, middle managers in schools, and teacher satisfaction, motivation and health.

With Dr Catherine Scott he is co-director of the International Teacher 2000 Project which is examining teacher and school executive satisfaction, motivation and mental health in Australia, England, New Zealand, the USA, Malta, Canada, Cyprus, and a number of other countries. With colleagues at UNE, UWS and the NSW DET, he is involved in a \$1,000,000 ARC research project investigating programs and practices responsible for producing outstanding educational outcomes in Years 7-10 in NSW public schools.

He is a Past President of the NSW Chapter of the Australian College of Educators and chairs the Steering Committee responsible for the NSW Minister for Education and Training and ACE Quality Teaching Awards introduced in 2001.

In June 2002 he was appointed to the Interim Committee for the NSW Institute of Teachers. In August 2002, he was appointed to the Commonwealth Review of Teaching and Teacher Education.

He is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Administration, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

2004 Aubusson, P.; Brady, L.; Dinham, S. & Scott, C. *Investigating Teachers' Action Learning*, Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme, \$40,000, New South Wales Department of Education and Training.

## UPCOMING FACULTY SYMPOSIUM & CONFERENCES

### **30-31 MAY 2005 - Symposium: Schools That Liberate Learning**

The Australian Centre for Education Leadership, Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong, in association with the UniCentre is delighted to announce a two-day Symposium: Schools That Liberate Learning by Dr Margaret Wheatley and Prof Myron Rogers, world-renowned authorities on leadership and organizational learning. The Symposium is scheduled for 30 and 31 May 2005 and will provide a rare opportunity to meet and interact with Margaret and Myron.

Further information and registration details are available from:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/conferences/csll/>

### **30 Nov-2 Dec 2005 – INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY SCHOOLS CONFERENCE (ITSC) –**

Hosted by the Faculty of Education (dates to be confirmed)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The deadline dates for Faculty Research Grants and Workshops are:

22 April 2005	Workshop on Grants – 1:30 – 3:30pm Deans Meeting Room
9 May 2005	Deadline for Grants to Assoc. Dean Research Office
17 May 2005	Faculty Research Grants will be considered FRC Meeting

Application Forms and Guidelines are available from Karen McRae, Professional Officer (Research).

## CONFERENCES

**Dr Gordon Brown** will be involved in the secretariat organizing the International Association for Critical Realism (IASR) Conference "**Engaging Realist Alternatives.....**".

Realist approaches to scientific method and methodology date back to Aristotle. In the late twentieth century, however, positivism and poststructuralist methodologies have been predominant. The critical realist alternative suggests that it can resolve many of the philosophical and practical problems associated with positivism and poststructuralism and provide the philosophical underlabouring for more consistent and relevant methodologies in both the physical and social sciences. This conference aims to bring together scholars interested in engaging with realist approaches at a theoretical level (exponents and critics), and in providing a forum for practical examples of research in the physical and social sciences, which have been informed by explicitly realist assumptions. Further information is available from Gordon or from the following website: <http://www.uws.edu.au/about/acadorg/clb/sef/conferences/iacrconference>

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4<sup>th</sup> International Literacy Conference LITCON 2005 held in Penang 15-17 August 2005 by the Universiti Sains Malaysia

International Conference on Elearning 2005 “E-learning: towards lifelong learning” held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, by Universiti Malaysia Sabah 26-26 July 2005

Both Universities are on the faculty list of universities the faculty wants to work with the develop international research partnerships. Both great places to work and visit. Further information from Peter Kell.