Using “Slow Motion Animation” (Slowmation) for Teaching and Researching Science Concepts

Garry Hoban (Faculty of Education)
A New Teaching Approach

• UBC (Vancouver)
• Different from clay animation in 4 ways:
  — orientation
  — materials
  — content
  — timing
• ARC-Discovery with Monash and UBC
Project Summary

• Over the last two years I have developed a new form of animation called “Slow Motion Animation” (Slowmation) for teaching science concepts in teacher education classes at UoW. Science educators at The University of British Columbia (UBC) are interested in using this new teaching approach in their own teacher education courses and then collaborating with UoW to conduct research to ascertain its value for the learning of preservice teachers. Benefits to UoW will be the advancing of UoW’s reputation in teaching as well as the submission of an ARC-Discovery Application with UBC and Monash University as collaborative partners.

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Two Awards for Slowmation

Dr Gary Hoban’s (Education) research in and promotion of the use of a new form of animation, called Slowmation, developed in his teaching over the last two years, has won a significant international award for developing this form of animation and using it in teaching to promote the learning of preservice students.

The award "2006 Technology Leadership Awards" is presented annually by the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. This international society is a subgroup of the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) which is considered the largest Information Technology group in education in the world. Dr Hoban’s award is for "Exemplary Use of Technology to Teach Content in a Teacher Education Methods Course" which recognises the value of preservice students making animations to learn about science concepts.

The international society presented another award this year for the "Exemplary Use of Technology to Teach Content in the Induction Years" which was won by Kristy Kervin (Honours student in Education) who has utilised "Slowmation" in the area of teaching mathematics to year four students. Kristy is supervised by Dr Hoban and Mrs Ann Baxter. Examples of animations made by students can be seen at http://edserver2.uow.edu.au/~ghoban/CITE_Garry/

The awards will provide an impetus to submit an ARC Discovery Grant in 2007 with the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Monash University as collaborative partners to research the value of students making animations about science concepts.