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Abstract

Author biographies for the inaugural edition of the Journal of Student Engagement : Education Matters, including Ross Graham, Rebecca Riedel, Shawn Tyler and Carol West.



Author biographies

Ross Graham

Ross Graham is studying a Bachelor of Physical and Health Education at the University of Wollongong and is currently completing his third year of this degree. Having spent his childhood playing all manner of games and sports, both competitively and socially, a desire to be involved in a profession that teaches and encourages involvement and engagement within sports was preferred. Physical and Health Education, therefore, became the ideal course to undertake. In the future Ross would love to find employment teaching physical and health education, enabling him to share his enthusiasm for sports and encourage future generations to be physically educated.

Michelle Reid

Michelle Reid is a third-year student, currently undertaking a Bachelor of Primary Education at the University of Wollongong. After working with many students whose needs were not being met, both low and high achievers, she felt that she could make a difference in their world by supporting them in fulfilling their potential. Her goal is to make children see that learning is fun, to develop lifelong learners and to help children to exceed their own expectations, just as her teachers have done for her. Ultimately, Michelle would like to teach students with additional needs, both in Australia and worldwide, as she believes that all children are capable of achieving if we give them opportunities to develop and succeed.

Rebecca Riedel

Rebecca Riedel is a third-year Bachelor of Physical and Health Education student at the University of Wollongong. Rebecca completed a research paper in one of her mandatory third-year subjects, Sociocultural Perspectives on Physical Activity and Physical Education (EDPH301). This research paper was further refined to be considered for publishing in the *Journal of Student Engagement: Education matters*. Rebecca is currently undertaking her Honours research across Spring Session 2011 to the end of Autumn Session 2012. Professor Jan Wright, Professor Gabrielle O'Flynn and Ms Rosie Welch are Rebecca's supervisors for her Honours research. Rebecca's Honours research involves a biographical study of pre-service primary teachers and their perceptions of teaching physical education and related activities.

Shawn Tyler

I am currently undertaking a Bachelor of Primary Education degree, third year, through the University of Wollongong. As a mature-age student I am also a qualified



Enrolled Nurse – utilising these qualifications I am currently working within the Clinical Skills Centre of the University of Wollongong’s Graduate School of Medicine as a Technical Assistant. Having been engaged in children’s education through social contexts for many years, and having two school-age children of my own, it is my desire to work within the public education system focusing on the integration of new technologies. It is my hope to cultivate a classroom environment where equity and access inform pedagogy and provide a safe place for students to learn how to learn.

Conor West

Conor West is currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Primary Education at the University of Wollongong. In 2011 she was awarded a place on the Dean’s Merit List for 2010. As a first-year undergraduate, she worked as a research assistant for Russell Walton’s Ph.D. research into the link between giftedness and spiritual intelligence in children. The symbiotic relationship between education and the society in which it exists has always held a special interest for her, especially concerning the impact this process has on children’s spirituality. After the publication of this article, she hopes to complete further research into the shape, benefits and applications of children’s spirituality within education, with the aim to develop a more holistic education for future Australian primary students.