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Overview - 1(2) contents and editorial

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University of Wollongong

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Abstract
This issue of Overview begins with a personal view of teaching history, by John McQuilton of the Department of History and Politics. A winner of the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence, John explains how he sees the development of students’ critical and analytical skills as well as the ability to use primary and secondary sources as crucial elements in undergraduate education. Brian Martin gives an unusual view of tutorials in the social sciences: far from lamenting that some students don’t contribute, he sees it as his responsibility to structure the tutorial so that all students participate. He shares his ideas on getting students to debate, discuss, analyse and critique: plenty of food for thought here if your tutorials are getting stagnant! We include some vigorous debate on student evaluation of teaching: Mary Day expresses her concern about the use of quantitative measures as indicators of the quality of such a complex activity as teaching. The Editor has asked John Panter and Sylvia Huntley-Moore to respond to the points raised by Mary and their rejoinder is included in this issue. Ian McGrath of the Theatre Strand, School of Creative Arts, waxes lyrical over the role of the lecturer in motivating his or her students. He brings his theatrical expertise to focus on how a lecturer can learn some of the actor’s methods of reaching out to and inspiring an audience. This year’s successful applicants for Teaching Development Grants describe their projects, and there are two articles on the subject Introduction to Tertiary Teaching, one from the perspective of those who teach it, and one by Sharon Beder who successfully completed the course in Autumn session. While Overview publishes mainly articles from local contributors, the editorial committee could not resist including Earl Bardsley’s well-argued piece Why all the lecturing - and scribbling - must stop. Why is lecturing still the dominant method of teaching at university when all the research suggests that it is not the most successful route to effective learning?
In this Issue

- Teaching History: an Award-winner's view
- Increasing Tutorial Participation
- Oliviers of the Lecture Theatre
- Stop the Scribbling
- Preparing Tertiary Teachers

CENTRE FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY WOLLONGONG
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editor's note

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Overview welcomes articles from staff on any issue related to teaching and learning. There is a wealth of good ideas, innovative teaching methods, and creative solutions to perennial problems on campus. Don't keep them to yourself! We'd like to be able to include articles which represent the diversity of disciplines and approaches on campus. Please contact the Editor if you would like to discuss or suggest an article.

Overview appears twice yearly, towards the end of each session, and is distributed free to all academic staff and to any interested general staff. If you're on general staff and would like to receive it, please fill in the subscription slip enclosed and return it to CSD.

I hope you enjoy the articles which follow, and I look forward to your comments, suggestions and contributions.

Liz Ellis
Centre for Staff Development
Call for Contributions to Overview

Articles on any aspect of tertiary teaching and learning are welcome! They should be no more than 2000 words and be of practical relevance to teaching staff. Short practical articles on specific teaching techniques are also welcome, as is information about conferences, networks, special interest groups or mailing lists relating to tertiary teaching.

Please send contributions to Liz Ellis at the Centre for Staff Development, on Email or via internal mail, in Microsoft Word for the Macintosh, with an accompanying hard copy.

The deadline for the next issue is 30th April 1994.

Quality in Tertiary Teaching
9 - 11 February 1993
Edith Cowan University, Western Australia
Contact: Laurie Summers
Phone: (09) 383 8385
Fax: (09) 383 8092

American Association for Higher Education (AAHE)
23 - 26 March 1994
25th National Conference
Bridges Between University Teachers and Information Technology Specialists
Chicago
Contact: Steven Gilbert
Phone: 202 - 293 - 6440 ext 54
Fax: 202 293 0073
Email: aahesg@gwuvm.gwu.edu

Quality by Design and Development
4th National Conference on Professional Development in Higher Education
27 June - 1 July 1994
University of Tasmania at Launceston
PO Box 1214
Launceston, Tasmania
Contact: Dr Ann Mikhelson, University of Tasmania
Phone: (003) 24 3005
Fax: (003) 24 3437

Higher Education In Transition
6 - 10 July 1994
Conference of the Higher Education Research and Development Society
Australian National University, Canberra.
Contact: Margot Pearson
Phone: (06) 249 4594

National Teaching Workshops
10 - 13 July 1994
Australian National University, Canberra.
Contact: Carol McLeod, Swinburne University
Phone: (03) 819 8500
Malcolm Pettigrove, A.N.U. (06) 249 0060

Sixth International Conference on Assessing Quality in Higher Education
19 - 21 July 1994
City Polytechnic of Hong Kong
Contact: Brad Imrie, CPHK.
<VSBRAD@cpkhux.cphk.hk>

20th International Conference on Improving University Teaching
10 - 13 July 1995
City Polytechnic of Hong Kong
Contact: Brad Imrie, CPHK.
<VSBRAD@cpkhux.cphk.hk>

Reflection and Consolidation
3 - 6 July 1994
International Conference on Problem-Based Learning
University of Newcastle, Australia.
Contact: PBL Conference 1994
Faculty of Architecture University of Newcastle
NSW 2308
Fax: 49 216913
Email: ARPROB@WOMBAT.NEWCASTLE.EDU.AU

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Special Interest Groups/Electronic Mailing Lists

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An easy way to exchange information
CEPES-L is an international electronic forum for people involved in Higher Education Studies as teachers, researchers, librarians, and/or program administrators. It offers a rapid and cost-free way for participants to ask questions and exchange information about current research, teaching strategies, useful texts, innovative courses, funding sources, building Higher Education Studies majors, minors, and graduate programs, relations between systems of higher education studies and academic issues.
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Please note: only messages that you want everyone to read should be sent to this address. All subscription-related commands (subscribe, signoff, etc.) should go to LISTSERV.

Any enquiry should be addressed to Ms Monica Cucoanes, computer system manager of UNICOM Project (Internet address: Monica@cepes.ro).

Flexible Learning in Higher Education Network
The above group is being developed to provide opportunities for contact between staff involved in open, distance or flexible learning developments.
Flexible learning approaches are increasingly being adopted in higher education in order to meet the needs of potential students, cope with increased numbers and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the learning experience.
Often the development of such approaches are being facilitated by individuals and small teams who could benefit from contact with others engaged in similar activities elsewhere.

In order to facilitate such contact, the Network will offer:
1. The Flexible Learning Mailbase List
This has now been established - to join enter flexible-learning John Smith
If your name is not John Smith, enter your own name!
The Flexible Learning List can provide an easy, quick and free way of making contact with colleagues at a distance.

2. Regional Circle Meetings
These are being arranged in localities where there is sufficient interest.
The first is in Edinburgh (details in a separate message) with others planned for Bristol and Liverpool.
These meetings should provide a good opportunity for colleagues within given areas to get together for seminars and visits, to share experiences and to learn of new developments.
Please contact me if you would like further details about the Network, would like to become a member or would be prepared to organise or participate in a Regional Meeting.
Fiona Campbell
Open Learning Coordinator
Napier University
219 Colinton Road Edinburgh EH14 1DJ (031 455 4307)

Australasian Institute of Tertiary Education Administrators
AITEA is the professional body for administrators working within tertiary education. It has a central Council and branches in each State and Territory. The Council produces the twice yearly Journal of Tertiary Educational Administration and the AITEA Bulletin.

Funding
for members who wish to pursue formal qualifications in educational administration, for members to take part in Staff Exchange Schemes

Professional Development Activities
seminars, residential management courses

Contact:
Ms Chris Miller AITEA State Secretary
Phone: (02) 230 1257
Fax: (02) 247 4846

HERDSA
the Higher Education Research & Development Association of Australasia, exists to serve the needs of teachers, researchers, students, administrators and everyone concerned with the present and future of higher education.

Publications:
Higher Education and Research Development Journal (twice yearly)
HERDSA News (quarterly)

Annual conference (see listings)
Contact: HERDSA Inc, c/o PROBLARC, PO Box 555, Campbeltown, NSW 2560

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PROBLARC
Penny Little (02) 772 9231
Gill Smith (046) 20 3340 or Email GK.Smith @ wvs.edu.au