Overview - 3(1) contents and editorial

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Abstract
The increasing emphasis on quality and effectiveness of teaching in the past few years together with a climate of reduced resources, has heightened the need for innovation in academic life. In this edition five of the eight articles are reports by staff on their own teaching innovations. Penelope Watson reports on a student-centred learning project using self-managing teams in the Faculty of Law. The project was successfully trialed this year in the compulsory subject of Torts and met or exceeded the objectives in terms of student learning outcomes. Don Lewis reports on a project where materials previously developed for PAGE were used in on-campus teaching. Brian Martin reports on an activity in which he invited second year students to participate in a research project and coauthor publications. Fazel Naghdy deals with a different approach in his article on the use of problem based learning to meet the needs of a diverse group of students in advanced robotics. Parviz Doulai discusses his project which uses the World Wide Web and computer simulations. He mentions the development time required as well as the benefits to the effectiveness of teaching. Each of these reports contains ideas and approaches that may be adopted and adapted for other subjects or departments. The other three articles are included not only as provokers of thought but also as sources of practical assistance to staff. In their article John Goldring, Ainslie Lamb and Linda Tapsell describe a workshop on problem-based and experiential learning and remind the reader that although quite a lot of this is already happening at Wollongong, many academic staff were not sure what it was all about. Robert Cannon (the only author not from Wollongong) suggests a new approach to time management that shifts the focus from time and things to relationships and results. The last paper, written by myself, proposes a model of teaching and learning activities which can be of practical assistance to staff in the reappraisal or development of subjects or in the conversion of subjects for flexible delivery. I hope you find this edition both enjoyable and helpful and I look forward to your comments and contributions.
In this Issue

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• Using the web in teaching
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• A model of teaching and learning activities

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Since the last edition of *Overview* two significant changes have occurred. The Centre for Staff Development has become Academic Development Services.

Secondly, I am particularly pleased to welcome three new members to the Editorial Board. Linda Tapsell from the Department of Public Health and Nutrition, Anne Porter from the Department of Statistics and Nina Southall join Maureen Bell and Richard Caladine to form a vigorous team which will maintain the quality of the publication while ensuring that it appears more regularly than has been possible in the past.

Academic life has become much more complex than when I first joined the University twenty-five years ago. The tensions between teaching, research, administration and professional service have become acute, particularly in the context of funding cuts and increased competition between universities. *Overview* has always tried to be of practical assistance to hard-pressed academic staff. I hope that this, and subsequent editions, will maintain that tradition.

John Panter,
Head,
Academic Development Services
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Penelope Watson

Adaption and Use of PAGE Materials for Internal Teaching
Don Lewis

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Fazel Naghdy

A Computational Hypermedia Teaching and Learning Environment in Engineering Education
Parviz Doulai

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Robert Cannon

MOLTA (a Model Of Learning and Teaching Activities): a teaching development tool.
Richard Caladine
The increasing emphasis on quality and effectiveness of teaching in the past few years together with a climate of reduced resources, has heightened the need for innovation in academic life. In this edition five of the eight articles are reports by staff on their own teaching innovations.

Penelope Watson reports on a student-centred learning project using self-managing teams in the Faculty of Law. The project was successfully trialed this year in the compulsory subject of Torts and met or exceeded the objectives in terms of student learning outcomes. Don Lewis reports on a project where materials previously developed for PAGE were used in on-campus teaching. Brian Martin reports on an activity in which he invited second year students to participate in a research project and co-author publications. Fazel Naghdy deals with a different approach in his article on the use of problem based learning to meet the needs of a diverse group of students in advanced robotics. Parviz Doulai discusses his project which uses the World Wide Web and computer simulations. He mentions the development time required as well as the benefits to the effectiveness of teaching. Each of these reports contains ideas and approaches that may be adopted and adapted for other subjects or departments.

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I hope you find this edition both enjoyable and helpful and I look forward to your comments and contributions.

Richard Caladine
Academic Development Services
University of Wollongong
The library has a selection of books on teaching and learning in higher education. Some of the practical and helpful titles are:

**AUTHOR** Habeshaw, Sue.
**TITLE** 53 problems with large classes: making the best of a bad job / Sue Habeshaw, Graham Gibbs, Trevor Habeshaw.
**Main Lending-1st Floor 378.17/29**

**TITLE** The Art and craft of teaching / edited by Margaret Morgan Roth Gullette.
**IMPRINT** Cambridge, Mass. : Distributed for the Harvard-Danforth Center for Teaching and Learning, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University by Harvard University Press, 1984.
**Main Lending-1st Floor 378.125/1**

**AUTHOR** Elbow, Peter.
**TITLE** Embracing contraries: explorations in learning and teaching / Peter Elbow.
**Law Lending-1st Floor KZ/378.125/ELB**

**TITLE** Lecturing to large groups: a guide to doing it less but better / compiled and edited by L.W. Andresen.
**Folio-1st Floor 371.396/6**

**AUTHOR** Meyers, Chet, 1942-
**TITLE** Promoting active learning : strategies for the college classroom / Chet Meyers, Thomas B. Jones.
**Main Lending-1st Floor 378.125/27**

**TITLE** Teaching more students [videorecording] / directed by John Davidson ; produced by Chris Rust.
**Spec Coll - Audiovisual 378.125/30**

**AUTHOR** McKeachie, Wilbert James, 1921-
**TITLE** Teaching tips : strategies, research, and theory for college and university teachers / Wilbert J. McKeachie ; with chapters by Nancy Chism ... [et al.]
**IMPRINT** Lexington, MA : D.C. Heath, c1994
**Main Lending-1st Floor 378.17/30**

**AUTHOR** Bridgstock, Martin.
**TITLE** Teaching without lecturing : a description and analysis of an educational experiment / Martin Bridgstock.
**Folio-1st Floor 378.125/10**

**AUTHOR** Weimer, Maryellen, 1947-
**TITLE** Improving college teaching : strategies for developing instructional effectiveness / Maryellen Weimer.
**Main Lending-1st Floor 378.125/29**

**TITLE** The importance of learning styles : understanding the implications for learning, course design, and education / edited by Ronald R. Sims and Sarbrenia J. Sims.
**IMPRINT** Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 1995
**Main Lending-1st Floor 370.1523/54**

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**HERDSA (INC.)**

HERDSA (Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia Inc) aims to bring together and support those people who are engaged in teaching in higher education, in the study of learning, teaching and policy in higher education, and in the continuous improvement of higher education.

Membership of the Society gives you the opportunity to interact with practitioners, learning support staff, academic staff development consultants, and educational researchers who share similar interests and, above all, a commitment to quality in higher education.

Members automatically receive a copy of each volume of the journal, Higher Education Research and Development, published twice each year, as well as the newsletter, HERDSA News. HERDSA publishes two separate series, the Green Guides and Gold Guides written by experts and practitioners in specific fields. These are available to members at reduced rates.

The Society's holds an annual conference at venues in Australia and New Zealand, and members are encouraged to attend and present papers. Special Interest Groups exist to cater for members' particular needs. Full details are available from the HERDSA Office.

For further information please contact:
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Email: herdsa@anu.edu.au
Website: http://sunsite.anu.edu.au.education/herdsa/index/html
The Union book shop has a selection of books on teaching in higher education. Some of the practical and helpful titles are:

- Creating a Teaching Profile, Graham Gibbs, Teaching and Educational Services, 1992
- 53 Interesting Things to do in Your Lectures, Gibbs, Habeshaw and Habeshaw
- 53 Interesting Things to do in Your Seminars and Tutorials, Habeshaw, Habeshaw and Gibbs
- 53 Interesting Ways to Assess Your Students, Gibbs, Habeshaw and Habeshaw
- 53 Interesting Ways to Teach Mathematics, Hubbard
- 53 Interesting Communication Exercises for Science Students, Habeshaw and Steeds

(All published by Technical and Educational Services Ltd, Bristol)

- Improving the Quality of Student Learning, G Gibbs, Technical and Educational Services, 1992
- Rethinking University Teaching, Diana Laurillard, Routledge, London, 1992
- HERDSA “Green Guides”, HERDSA Inc, PROBLARC, PO Box 555, Campbelltown NSW 2560

SITES WORTH VISITING

Here are a few world wide web sites that relate to teaching and learning in higher education. If you have a web site that you’ve found helpful or one that you’d like to share with your colleagues please forward its details to the editor. These sites will be links in the web version of Overview.

Deliberations
Deliberations is an electronic magazine on teaching and learning in higher education for academics, librarians and education developers. The current issue contains discussions and articles on: collaborative learning, preparing university teachers, flexible learning, effective learning, mentoring, lecturing and many more.
http://www.lgu.ac.uk/deliberations/home.html

HERDSA
The Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia brings together teachers, researchers, administrators, learning support staff, academic staff development consultants and all those with an interest in promoting research and development in higher education. Underlying the wide range of interests represented by its members is a shared commitment to the enhancement of the quality of teaching, learning and research in higher education.

HiEd
Higher Education Development International contains information on: models of teaching and learning in higher education, what’s happening in various universities around the world, the way Educational Development Units operate and information about conferences and publications in higher education.
http://www.abo.fi/hied/

Journal on Excellence in College Teaching
The current issue of the Journal on Excellence in College Teaching has as its theme the relationship between students and faculty.
http://www.lib.muhio.edu/ject/.

ultiBASE
ultiBASE, University Learning and Teaching in Business Art and Society is one of five clearing houses which have been initiated by the Committee for the Advancement of University Teaching (CAUT) to further the professionalism of tertiary teaching.
http://ultibase.rmit.edu.au