NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR ERESEARCH

WELCOME TO THE NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR ERESEARCH, DR LYLE WINTON

Dr Lyle Winton became eResearch Associate Director in May and will work closely with the Office for Research, ITS, the Library and other areas of eResearch capability in leading VU’s eResearch strategy and support services.

“As research and life in general become increasingly more digital, it’s important that the university works with researchers to provide the infrastructure, skills and expertise needed for continued participation in the international arena,” he says.

Lyle’s most recent positions have been at the Victorian eResearch Strategic Initiative (VeRSI) and the University of Melbourne where he was responsible for IT and research systems development, knowledge transfer, training and liaising with several research communities.

His research background is in experimental high energy physics and distributed computing, where he worked for a time with the previous AD eResearch, Glenn Moloney. Lyle also has a professional IT background in industry and higher education across infrastructure development, software design, software development and management. Both aspects of his career have involved collaborating with people across disciplines, sectors, organisations and countries.

Lyle says, in his experience, outcomes are often about getting the right researchers and experts together with the right resources in the same room.

“As technology improves, these ‘rooms’ and ‘resources’ are increasingly virtual,” he says.

“I’d like to encourage all VU researchers to consider incorporating e-research into their research programs and careers. The platforms built today (virtual labs, databases, knowledge bases, data gateways, tools, access to remote facilities) can act as a springboard for further research funding, collaborations and answering bigger questions”.

Dr Lyle Winton, eResearch Associate Director

THINKING ETHICS

NEW ETHICS APPLICATION FORM

The Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee (VUHREC) has released a new Human Research Ethics application form. Developed by the Ethics Policy Development Subcommittee, the new form will simplify the application process for researchers. It is also designed to facilitate the ethical review of research applications by HREC members.

Supplementary forms for specific fields of research have also been developed.

The old version of the form can still be used until 31 December 2011, but from next year only the new forms will be accepted.

Researchers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new form including the supporting documents.

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CULTURE SHACK MAKES PLACE-BASED LEARNING FUN/CREATIVE

Young learners from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Melbourne’s west clearly called for more arts-based and public pedagogies in Dr Anne Harris’ VU Education doctoral study Cross-Marked: Sudanese Australian Young Women Talk Education (2010).

From this qualitative film-based study, Sudanese students and their migrant and refugee-background classmates raised the idea of pathways from secondary school to higher education via the arts. Due to economic, academic and family pressures, many low SES and migrant youth who are active in the arts via church, community or school are not making it to further education and in some cases are leaving school early. Other recent research suggests alternative pathways can increase self-confidence, cultural capital and social integration.

So from April 11 to 24, chief investigators Dr Harris and Mary-Rose McLaren led phase 1 of the creative arts pathway program Culture Shack at Footscray Community Arts Centre.

The program involved over 30 young people along with local, central Australian and international artists as well as eight pre-service teacher-interns and New York University’s Prof Phil Taylor. Students completed hip hop, animation and drama workshops, working toward RPL competencies in Certificate Three Creative Industries.

The program culminated in a public forum entitled Artful Practices: A Community Conversation, which brought together community and council workers, artists, scholars, pre-service teachers and multicultural young people. The forum addressed Culture Shack’s potential in interdisciplinary applied research, curriculum pathway development and sustainable learning in the workplace and community initiatives through partnerships with organisations like Footscray Community Arts Centre.

The pilot program was evaluated using qualitative methods including focus groups, one-on-one interviews, video and arts-based methods including drawing, creative writing, performance, ethnocinema, hip hop and animation. A project report is due in July.

Two peer-reviewed articles and two book chapters have already resulted from the study, and the research team is negotiating a multi-format book for disseminating the research findings and multimedia data outputs electronically.

Culture Shack phase 1 partners included FCAC, Kindred Studios in Footscray, Youthworx Media in Brunswick, Young Playwrights’ Inc in New York, and VU Creative Industries TAFE.

The program was funded by a 2010 Learning and Teaching grant and is currently seeking funding for next year’s phase 2.

For more information, contact Anne Harris at anne.harris@vu.edu.au
SENSE PUBLISHING ANNOUNCES A NEW BOOK SERIES

VU researchers Dr Marcelle Cacciattolo, Dr Mark Vicars and Associate Professor Tarquam McKenna have been invited to develop a series of books on new literacies for SENSE publishing.

The series on literacy teaching, research methods and critical pedagogy will be published over the next five years in collaboration with Research Professor Shirley Steinberg (University of Calgary) and VU Adjunct Professor Ian Ling.

The praxis-based series, entitled Critical New Literacies: The Praxis of English Language Teaching and Learning (PELT) is designed to engage VU pre-service teachers, local in-country teachers and university researchers who are working in the field of critical pedagogy using English Language Learning in the South East Asian region.

SENSE’s Michel Lokhorst describes the series as a “groundbreaking and timely” contribution to the development of critical new literacies in the Asian region.

The series is one outcome of a recent AUS-Thai DFAT seeding grant, reported in May’s Research Matters, for strengthening the teaching and learning of English language and literacy in Thai schools.

Associate Professor Tarquam says the founding principle is practice of new literacies in English learning and teaching as negotiated with relevance to the localised educational context. The three initial PELT texts will be geared to courses taught at Victoria University.

“Following the implementation of the first three core books addressing research methodologies, innovative teaching and qualitative evaluation in English language teaching, we will extend invitations to VU colleagues, researchers and former higher degree students to contribute to additional texts in this series,” Associate Professor Tarquam says.

Meanwhile an on-line journal series The Journal Asian Critical Education will be designed to address, critique and engage local Asia in-country educational research. The same team of senior editors will address teaching and learning research through the lens of critical pedagogy with particular relevance to the Asian corridor.

Whilst the main focus for JACE is English education in schools across Asia, it will also address ethics, artful-praxis, social media, refugeity, language, power and social change across the Asian Diaspora.

The journal’s intention is to privilege the methodologies that are based in narrative, autoethnography, artful practice, biography and bricolage. These non-traditional forms of representing data are at the heart of this journal, which focuses on inter-culturality and interdisciplinary qualitative inquiry. A core principle for publishing in JACE is that respectful and “non-colonised” research will set out to relieve the negative aspects of imperialist life-worlds that have been covertly and tacitly put upon Asian citizens. It is being and working alongside people in the world that is at the core of the JACE viewpoint.

The international advisory committee will comprise of international scholars who by invitation will be drawn from the UK, Australia, USA, South East Asia and Europe. Professor Nicola Yelland, who is returning to VU having worked at the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED), will assist with the journal development. The editors are pleased to announce that the chair of the international advisory board leading the Review Editorial committee is Professor Roger Slee, the new director of IDEAS at Victoria University.

The concurrent conferences - Australian Discourse, Power, Resistance and the Association for Qualitative Research Australia’s ‘Will the real evidence please stand up: politicising qualitative research’ - will run from August 23 to 25 in Cairns.

The conferences will unite scholars, practitioners and researchers from across Australia and around the world with emerging qualitative research communities in the United Kingdom, South Africa, the Caribbean and Poland.

AQR and DPR are committed to promoting innovative debate around ways of ‘doing’ qualitative research and the event has received $5000 support and in-kind leadership from Victoria University.

Several of our VU colleagues are presenting at the event and the Executive is led by Dr Mark Vicars as President of AQR. Dr Julie White (La Trobe) and Assoc Prof Tarquam McKenna (VU) are leading the team of collaborators in the conference preparation with Mark.

Invited presenters and key speakers include Prof. Pat Sikes (UK), Prof. Bob Lingard (UQ), Prof. Fazal Rizvi (UMelb), Prof Marie Brennan (VU) Prof Komiya Tsey (JCU), Prof. Linda Tuiwai Smith (NZ), and Prof. Bob Stevenson from The Cairns Institute will be in attendance and/or presenting.

Mark Vicars and Tarquam McKenna will edit a book from the conference and there will also be special editions of “Creative Approaches to Research” and Qualitative Research Journal providing opportunities for our VU community and other presenters in Cairns to be peer reviewed and publish in a quality journal.

The School of Education will take the lead in AQR from 2011 with several colleagues on the executive. AQR publishes QRJ and VU scholars can access more details online at:

ISI GRANT SUCCESS

A project on stakeholder values, attitudes and emotions over recycled water has won a $246,500 grant from the Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence.

The Victoria University project involving Prof John Cary, AProf Adrian Fisher and Daniel Ooi aims to build understanding around public engagement for successful
implementation of reclaimed water.

It will investigate a more comprehensive understanding of the relative importance of emotional response, subjective perception of risks under different situations in Australia, the underlying social elements of appropriate engagement strategies for reclaimed water campaigns, and how different contexts influence community willingness to accept water recycling.

The project is part of a consortium of eight universities, CSIRO and around 20 water agencies and engineering firms developing a National Demonstration and Engagement Program for the use of recycled water with total funding of approximately $3million.

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the content of the Research Matters bulletin. 😊