Vice Chancellor’s Citations for Excellence in Enhancing Learning

Congratulations to the recipients of this award for 2017: Dr Peter le Breton, Centre for University Teaching and Learning and Dr Caroline Nilson and Dr Martin Hopkins (Team), School of Health Professions. The NEST Team in CUTL manages three internal teaching awards and three national teaching awards per year. The VC’s Learning and Teaching Awards Committee confers the recipients though a selection process.

Dr Peter le Breton, On Track Tutor from CUTL and recipient of a Vice Chancellor’s Citation for Excellence in Enhancing Learning. Congratulations Peter!

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (EAAC)

Marnie Nolton is the CUTL representative on the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (EAAC). The friendlier term – Re* Team – plays on the familiar sustainability themes of ‘refuse/reduce/reuse/recycle/rethink. In this role, Marnie can act as your ‘go-to’ person within CUTL for all matters related to sustainability and is happy to represent the interests of CUTL staff on matters of sustainability that can help improve workplace practices (Green Office) as well as living practices (personal and professional). Marnie is available to discuss these sustainability concepts and how they be may be able to be implemented within our workplaces and communities. For more information, contact Marnie Nolton at M.Nolton@murdoch.edu.au

Events

May 22 - Murdoch TEL Discovery Workshop. Register via TCMS.

May 25 - Student Success through Online Learning - workshop. Register via TCMS.

June 2 - June 30 - Entrepreneur Workshop Series. Applications close May 19. Details here.

June 2 - Student Partnership in Decision Making - workshop. Register via TCMS.

June 3 - World Environment Day, 9am-3pm. Come plant both wetland and dryland species in Chelodina Wetland and bush areas around it. See https://worldenvironmentdaymurdochuniversity.eventbrite.com for details.

June 9 - E-Portfolio Show and Tell. Register via TCMS.

June 15 - Promote Original Writing with Grammarly and Urkund. Register via TCMS.

June 21 - WAND Small Grant Scheme dissemination event. Email N.Davis@murdoch.edu.au to register.


A big welcome to Alison Cameron who is Acting CUTL Operational Coordinator until the end of July
SCALT student projects are well under way. Two SCALT students will be presenting at the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) in Sydney in June. The theme of the conference is Curriculum Transformation. There is a dedicated stream for student led submissions: Students in Curriculum transformation, Embracing students as change agents, creating opportunities for students to provide the initiative, work alongside key institutional stakeholders and lead change. For more information please contact Denyse MacNish D.Macnish@murdoch.edu.au.

Access Programmes Update

The start of 2017 has seen the Access Programmes enrolling their biggest intakes to date. There has been significant growth across the OnTrack programme and the completion of the first and commencement of the second and third iterations of FlexiTrack. OnTrack is experiencing record enrolments of over 600 students with 28 tutorial groups running across 3 campuses.

The addition of FlexiTrack has not impacted interest in OnTrack and offering a fully online course to a new demographic is proving popular with around 200 students enrolled across the currently open teaching periods (Y3, WU1). In collaboration with Port Hedland High School a pilot programme using FlexiTrack has just commenced and planning for an international version of FlexiTrack is underway. Access is a dynamic and growing space and we expect it to continue to offer an increasing number of pathway opportunities into Murdoch degrees into the future.

Networks Enhancing the Scholarship of Teaching – upcoming academic development events

The NEST Team coordinates academic development seminars and workshops in learning and teaching. NEST is hosting the following two L&T fellowship events in May and June:

Dr Cathy Stone, 2016 Equity Fellow, Opportunity through online learning: Improving student access, participation and success in higher education, Thursday 25 May, 12.30-2.30pm.

Professor Sally Varnham, National Senior Teaching Fellow, Creating a National Framework for Student Partnership in University Decision-making and Governance: an OLT Fellowship workshop, Friday 2 June, 9.30-12.00noon.

Journal Publication

CUTL’s Chris Cunningham (Peer Assisted Study Officer) recently had a paper titled Cooperative Staff-Student Research in Public Speaking in Higher Education published in the journal, Teaching and Learning Together in Higher Education (TLTHe). Within it, he discusses his observations of the difficulties many students face in the area of public speaking, and how an encounter with a motivated lecturer led to Chris “working on and developing a peer-led, scaffolded skills building program to assist students." Well done, Chris!
In Focus

Urkund workshops reveal what’s behind the percentage

ITS with CUTL have commenced a collaboration with Urkund to develop and enhance the product to meet the University's needs. We look forward to sharing further updates.

Learning Innovations (within CUTL) have a new advanced workshop on the agenda, and it’s helping Academic staff evaluate the originality of student writing.

Text-matching tools are integral to increasing academic literacy. It works by comparing the text in a student assignment against a database of academic literature, past student assignments and web content to produce reports which show matches to existing published text. The reported matched text is most often accounted for with accurate referencing and, as an educative tool, helps students to focus on writing original content and sharing their ideas.

For staff, Urkund offers a lightweight and stable technical solution, seamless integration with LMS and requires little administrative overhead. The new advanced workshop Promote Original Writing with Grammarly and Urkund has been very well received by Academic and Professional staff seeking to learn how the tools unique functionalities aid in marking, evaluating and accounting for matched text – and see that there’s more to the percentage than meets the eye!

This workshop can be customised to the needs of your discipline or area. Get in contact with the Learning Innovations team to book your session. Mike Fardon, Manager Learning Innovations M.Fardon@murdoch.edu.au or Kate Rodgers, Learning Innovations Officer K.Rodgers@murdoch.edu.au

The next session will be delivered as a webinar on June 15th at 2pm AWST, so staff at all campuses can participate. You can register for this session via TCMS and a virtual conference link will be sent to you before the event.