



National Director's Message – Judie Kay

Another busy year draws to a close and ACEN has continued to grow from strength to strength throughout 2010!

The National Conference held at Curtin University in Perth in September was a great success with over 200 delegates attending; see a round up later in this Newsletter. At the Conference it was announced that the 2012 ACEN Conference will be held in Geelong at Deakin University's waterfront campus in October 2012....so start planning your abstracts now!

The refereed papers from the Perth Conference were uploaded immediately following the Conference onto the ACEN website and are a great resource of WIL research and practice across Australia see further www.acen.edu.au/conferences. In addition as ACEN members you have access to the WACE *Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships*. The log-in details are provided in this Newsletter. This is another great resource to utilise.

The Research Symposium held at Murdoch University prior to the 2010 Conference was also an outstanding success. A working group is currently developing a WIL Research Strategic Proposal based on the outcomes of the Symposium at the invitation of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. Members of the ACEN National Executive are meeting with Dr Carol Nicoll, CEO of the ALTC prior to Christmas. The outcomes of the meeting will be outlined to ACEN members in the New Year. It is planned to hold the next Australian WIL Research Symposium at Victoria University in Melbourne immediately prior to the National Conference in Geelong in 2012.

ACEN held its AGM during the Perth Conference and it was great to see so many members present. Four new members were elected to the National Executive: Keri Moore from UNSW, A/Prof Heather Smigiel from Flinders Uni, Lisa Westcott from JCU and Brett Van Heekeren from CSU. A very warm welcome to them all. They are already making a valuable contribution to the work of the Executive.

For an outline of ACEN's major activities in 2010 please see my report to the AGM which has been posted onto the ACEN website.

We have greatly appreciated the overwhelming support from the 33 Universities who became foundation members of ACEN in 2010. We are currently arranging membership renewals for 2011. We are also inviting Universities that did not join last year to join in 2011. We look forward to your support

and participation at ACEN activities and events in 2011. Please note institutional membership means that all staff from the member University can register on the ACEN website and take advantage of the many benefits of ACEN's institutional membership. Please forward this newsletter to colleagues across your University and encourage them to register as members so they too can receive future updates.

Looking forward to 2011, already in the pipeline is the development of a calendar of state based events which will be supported nationally. In addition, the National WIL Portal launch will take place in Semester 1, there will be further initiatives to encourage WIL research in Australia and there will be greater links internationally through National Associations. The National Executive is also meeting very early next year to develop a strategic plan for ACEN. We welcome your input so please contact me or any other Executive member if you have any ideas about other ACEN initiatives you would like to see included.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very peaceful and restful festive season and holiday and I look forward to catching up in 2011.

Upcoming Events

18 - 20 May 2011

Association for Co-operative Education (ACE) 2011 Conference, Victoria, BC, Canada
"Quality @ Work"

Call for proposal submissions on:
Quality in student learning; Quality in the workplace;
Quality in Co-op programs

www.co-op.bc.ca/ace2011 or Dave hiscoop@uvic.ca

14-17 June 2011

17th World Conference on Cooperative & Work-Integrated Education, Drexel University, PA, USA
"Historic Challenges. Global Solutions"

Call for abstracts:
Refereed Paper; Paper Presentation; Panel / Workshop; Academic Salon / Roundtable Discussion
www.waceinc.org/philly2011/index.html

28 June - 1 July 2011

The Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education (FYHE) Conference, Fremantle, Western Australia
'Design for Student Success'

Explores WIL for 1st year students
www.fyhe.com.au

ACEN National Conference – Round-up

ACEN held a very successful Conference from 29 September to 1 October 2010 on *Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Responding to Challenges* at Curtin University, Perth. The Conference was attended by 210 delegates with representation from 34 Australian and 4 overseas Universities.

The Conference was preceded by a research roundtable on 27 September at Murdoch University which provided a forum for 35 leading researchers and scholars from 23 Universities to discuss issues, strategies and cooperative research. The Roundtable produced a set of issues to guide future research and Dr Carol Nicoll, CEO of the ALTC encouraged ACEN members to collaborate and submit joint applications for ALTC funding.

The feedback received from delegates from the Conference was overwhelmingly positive, with comments such as: "A good quality of presentations- perhaps the most consistently engaging series of presentations of any conferences I have attended".

Over 95% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the Conference was interesting and relevant and a valuable forum for the exchange and development of new ideas and practices.

Delegates were delighted with the quality of presentations, and the opportunity to network and meet like minded people to discuss WIL. It was also great to see so many Universities including WIL in their institutional strategies and priorities.

All refereed papers from the Conference can be accessed from the ACEN website:

www.acen.edu.au/conferences

The next ACEN conference will be held in October 2012 at Deakin University's Geelong campus.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) National Showcase 2010 – by Keri Moore

The Showcase, hosted by the University of Canberra, was very worthwhile. Apart from enjoying the extraordinary venue, I spent my day listening to an excellent collection of reports on how WIL is managed at several Universities. Attending the Showcase saved me a great deal of time and effort in canvassing what has taken place across the sector this year. The input from industry representatives was valuable, but more important was the realisation that the issues confronting the different Universities in this field have common threads. The Showcase presented me with a lot of fresh ideas and valuable contacts to follow up. My thanks go to the organising committee.



Professor Carole Kayrooz
DVC and VP (Education)
University of Canberra

E-portfolios, employability and WIL: Special interest group

Call for expressions of interest

Introduction: There is a natural link between WIL and employability - and e-portfolios might be one of the ways of connecting them. ACEN members who are interested in exploring this nexus are welcome to join this special interest group. The group activities will be decided by its members in due course, but at a minimum, they are expected to include an email list to share information and connect members, a brief update in the ACEN newsletter, and perhaps occasional meetings as part of larger events (such as the ACEN conference). Regular reports of developments and activities will be reported to the ACEN Executive.

Background: Reflective learning, particularly in relation to WIL, is a key facet of employability and e-portfolios are often helpful vehicles for the creation and management of reflections and evidence of learning. Employability can be a strong driver for learners to engage with e-portfolios as in many systems, students can personalise the view that they present to different prospective employers (although the assumption that employers will or want to access student portfolios is questionable) (JISC InfoNet, 2009). E-portfolios are a way of demonstrating evidence of "softer skills" to employers, such as teamwork and communication and similar capabilities highlighted in this fellowship (Stefani, Mason, & Pegler, 2007). In some industries, such as medicine and related subjects, professional bodies require evidence of continuous professional development for maintaining registration (Halstead & Wheeler, 2009). This has obvious links to e-portfolio use by undergraduates who intend working in such industries, and their continued use beyond graduation is encouraged.

Who's invited? Anyone with an interest in this topic—from the highly experienced to the interested observer. To register interest, email Beverley Oliver (b.oliver@curtin.edu.au)

The National WIL Portal Project

Following on from the closed tender process recently carried out for the National WIL Portal Project, ACEN is pleased to announce that CareerHub is the successful tenderer for the creation and build of the Portal, with the contract being negotiated and signed on 16 September 2010. CareerHub is a key provider of web-based systems to the University and TAFE sectors nationally and ACEN is confident that their experience will ensure that the Portal meets the needs of all stakeholders.



Around the Grounds: Chapter Chair Updates



Queensland - Dr Deborah Peach

Successful ACEN-Q event hosted at Griffith

The WIL Unit at Griffith hosted the final state-wide ACEN-Q video-conference for 2010 on 4 November. This was video-cast from Nathan to JCU, Townsville and Cairns, and CQU, Mackay and Rockhampton, with 35 people attending from USC, Griffith, QUT, GU, USQ, ACU and JCU. Presentations included:

- An overview of national and international WIL news (Dr Deborah Peach, QUT)
- Enabling systems: national WIL Portal (Mr Paul Kidd, JCU)
- Themes from the ACEN Conference 2010 (Dr Liz Ruinard, Griffith)
- Reflections on employer engagement (Mr Paul Kidd, JCU and A/Professor Ian Devenish, CQU)
- At the intersection of CDL & WIL: field studies in Exercise Science (Dr Greg Reddan, Griffith).

This was a congenial and beneficial event with a lively discussion of issues such as potential fees for pharmacy placements. The first ACENQ Forum for 2011 will be hosted by Central Queensland University via video link. If you would like to present at this event please contact Ian Devenish, i.devenish@cqu.edu.au.

Innovative Research Universities/Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry WIL Launch

The IRU and the ACCI signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote understanding and uptake of WIL. They have worked collaboratively to produce a brochure explaining WIL to industry and a series of case studies about University/WIL partnerships at the various member Universities. These will be launched physically and virtually at various sites in early 2011.

Invited Keynote Speaker

In recent months Dr Deborah Peach, Director WIL, Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering, QUT and Chair ACENQ has given keynote addresses at WIL events at the University of Surrey, Liverpool John Moores University and the University of Canberra. Deborah focussed on whole of institution approaches to developing real world and work integrated learning curriculum and the links between WIL programs and helping students develop life skills that will enable them to thrive not just survive in 21st century.



NSW / ACT - Freny Tayebjee

The NSW Chapter will hold two events in 2011. Firstly, a forum in April which will focus on WIL case studies in various disciplines and secondly, a WIL Showcase in September which will enable Universities to profile their achievements both at the institutional level as well as at the practitioner level. This second event will be a follow up on the excellent National Showcase held at the University of Canberra in November 2010.



Western Australia – Sonia Ferns

The Western Australian arm of ACEN has enjoyed a very busy year with several activities that have promoted the WIL agenda. Hosting the ACEN conference prompted state wide collaboration on the challenges of incorporating WIL into the curriculum. Curtin University hosted Carol-Joy Patrick as a visiting scholar in October. Carol-Joy conducted forums for the University community, sharing her experiences and insights about WIL and highlighting the challenges of assessment. The annual WA Teaching and Learning Forum will be held in 1 and 2 February 2011 and is being hosted by Edith Cowan University. The focus of the event will be 'Developing student skills for the next decade' encompassing the themes of employability and diversity. Beverly Oliver from Curtin University is establishing an ePortfolio special interest group. All ACEN members are urged to participate



VicTas - Dineli Mather

The Vic/Tas Chapter met on 22 October 2010 at Swinburne University's Hawthorn Campus hosted by Dr. Jay Hays and Professor Mike Clements from the Office of Industry Engaged Learning. Some of the members attended the networking coffee prior to the meeting.

The highlight of the meeting was an industry presentation from IBM Australia. The presentation was made by Skev Iannou (Manager market insights) and Stephanie Hoff (WIL student on placement with Skev). Skev gave an industry supervisor's perspective on WIL placements and Stephanie gave a student perspective. Skev and Stephanie also spoke about what Universities can do to help students make the best of their placements. Robust discussion was held through the presentation and the members agreed that the topic of preparation of student for WIL placements was worthy of a separate event.

The WIL Showcase was presented by Dr. David Low from the Department of Primary Industries and Monash University. David spoke about the DPI Student Project Shop which is designed to attract students into further study as higher degree by research students and careers within the DPI through WIL. The program uses a web based system in which students access information and link to WIL opportunities across the country. David encouraged ACEN members to promote the program to their students.

The Vic/Tas Chapter will start preparations for the 2012 National Conference, which will be hosted by Deakin University's Waterfront Campus in Geelong (30 Oct - 2 November 2012) and the Research Symposium hosted by Victoria University (29 Oct).



Prime Australia Endeavour 2011

Minister's Asia Awards

40 students nationwide have received a "Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award"

allowing them to continue their research and take part in an internship in Asia.

The Prime Minister's Asia Endeavour Award is a scholarship awarded to Australian postgraduate or undergraduate students seeking to enrich their academic experience and apply their knowledge to an international work context in Asia.

ACEN Newsletter Contributions

Member contributions welcomed.

- articles
- upcoming events
- news
- photos
- member profile
- program profile
- job or voluntary opportunities
- new resources

Send to enquiries@acen.edu.au

Resources

ACEN 2010 Conference Proceedings

See ACEN website – www.acen.edu.au

Higher Education, Skills and Work-based Learning (HESWBL), Journal

- Free access until 31 January 2011.

www.emeraldinsight.com/2042-3896.htm

The Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships

www.ceiainc.org – See Member Login link for access

Login: waceuser123@ceiainc.org

Password: waceuser

Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement

- Login required but registration is free

<http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/ijcre>

“The sting in work experience”

The Australian, 8 November 2010, p1 - cont p.10

(article available via Factiva)

- NB: regarding the content of this article check with your University's Legal Office to determine their interpretation of the Fair Work Act, as not all Universities have stopped their unpaid, not-for-credit placement programs.