

Newsletter: September 2011

[www.acen.edu.au](http://www.acen.edu.au)



### National Director's Message – Judie Kay

Australians were very much in evidence at the recent WACE conference with 38 Australians registered for the conference.

WIL in Australia was well showcased through a range of papers and presentations. The ACEN gathering over drinks was very well attended and a noisy affair with lots of networking taking place. Some reflections on the conference from ACEN members are included in this newsletter. A highlight was Prof Ian Goulter, VC of Charles Sturt University receiving the prestigious McLaren Award for high achievement and continuing commitment to the enhancement of cooperative education internationally. Professor Goulter has been a champion of WIL in Australia over many years and a key supporter of ACEN.

Resulting from a meeting during the conference ACEN entered into a partnership with the US based CEIA that will enable ACEN member's access to the Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships. An issue of this journal is due for publication shortly and ACEN members will be notified of how to access it. Another outcome was the National Association meeting I co chaired in Philadelphia with Norah McRae from CAFCE, the Canadian Association with representatives from Japan, Thailand, UK, South Africa, Sweden, Canada and the UK. There was agreement to collaborate on a range of activities including some professional development topics and sharing WIL resources.

The ACEN National Executive met during August at the University of Sydney. At this meeting the executive welcomed Calvin Smith, newly elected member from Griffith University, and Don Mc Dowall, who provides administrative assistance to the National Executive, to their first face-to-face meeting of the executive. At this meeting the National Executive continued working on the ACEN Strategic Plan, progressed the governance review, considered the outcomes of the WIL Student Scholarship 2011 and planned for 2012, discussed plans for the 2012 National Conference and 2012 Research Symposium and agreed to broaden our use of technology to enhance communication with ACEN members. While at the University of Sydney the National Executive was very pleased to be invited to attend a meeting of the Engaged Enquiry Scholars Network and see presentations of several initiatives at the University of Sydney in this area as well as contribute through a presentation from Calvin Smith around assessment and WIL.

As always, there continues to be many developments in WIL in Australia. The ALTC commissioned project "Assessing the Impact of Work Integrated Learning on student work readiness" has been awarded to a consortium led by Griffith University. ACEN will support this project as well as the other major National project "LEADING WIL: using a distributed learning approach" also by a consortium led by Griffith University. ACEN members will receive regular updates as these projects progress.

Check this newsletter or the ACEN website for a range of state based symposiums coming up over the next few months. Also **very** soon you will receive an email with the call for Abstracts for the 2012 Conference to be held at Deakin Waterfront campus Geelong (30<sup>th</sup> Oct -2nd Nov ) as well as more information about Research Symposium to be held at Victoria University ( 29<sup>th</sup> October). This conference will be one you will not want to miss.



**The ACEN National Executive met in Sydney Aug 16 and 17, 2011.**  
L to r: Carol-Joy Patrick, Griffith University (Past ACEN National Director); Assoc Prof David Jorgensen, Central Queensland University (ACEN National Secretary); Dr Deborah Peach, Queensland University of Technology (Qld Chair); Kerri Moore, University of New South Wales; Mathew Campbell, Australian Catholic University (ACEN National Treasurer); Ms Freny Tayebjee, University of Western Sydney (NSW/ACT Chair); Judie Kay, Victoria University (ACEN National Director); Sonia Ferns, Curtin University (WA Chair); Assoc Prof Dineli Mather, Deakin University (Vic/Tas Chair); Lisa Westcott, James Cook University; Assoc Prof Heather Smigiel, Flinders University; Dr Calvin Smith, Griffith University; Don MacDowall (ACEN Administration); Brett Van Heekeren, Charles Sturt University. Absent: Verity Kingsmill, Flinders University.



### Student WIL Scholarship

For the second year, the Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN) has offered three Work Integrated Learning Scholarships to assist with the costs of work integrated learning (WIL) for students with financial hardship. In 2010, the first year the scholarship was offered, there were 70 applications. In 2011, **828** applications were submitted by students from all states of Australia, including two overseas applications. Brief details are as follows:

- 84% of Scholarship applicants were female with only 16 % being male.
- The majority of applicants were from New South

Wales, followed by Queensland.

- Griffith University had the highest percentage of applicants with 22% followed by Charles Sturt University with 17% and Southern Cross University with 10%.
- A total of 91 different academic programs were being undertaken. 79 applicants were undertaking Masters programs and 5 applicants were completing doctoral programs. 67 students were undertaking double degrees. 5 applicants indicated they were studying by distance education.
- Most applicants were studying a Bachelor of Nursing (23%) or a Bachelor of Education (20%).
- Of the 366 students where location of placement was known, 32% indicated that they would be undertaking their WIL in regional areas, 31% in metropolitan areas and 31% in rural areas. 5.5% of applicants indicated they were intending to undertake overseas placements (2% of the total 826 applicants).
- Loss of income was the primary concern for most applicants with 72% of applicants indicating that they would have to give up paid work in order to complete their WIL activity. A small number of applicants also indicated they would have reduced Centrelink benefits as they would no longer be considered full time students whilst undertaking WIL. 5% of applicants reported that their WIL would cause them to lose all sources of income for the duration of their placement.

The analysis of the scholarship data was intended to provide ACEN and its member universities with an evidence-based understanding of the barriers students encounter when undertaking WIL activities, in order to develop strategies to address these issues. The 3 winners were contacted by Judie Kay who congratulated them and presented them with their scholarships.

One scholarship recipient wrote

*'Undertaking an overseas placement was a brilliant opportunity that I was given, and accepting it was difficult because I was restricted with dates and did not have enough time to save. There are many additional costs with completing a placement overseas, not only flights and accommodation, but being unable to earn an income over the duration of the placement, and paying my rent at home. I am very grateful to be the recipient of the ACEN scholarship, and it helped me to cover some of the additional costs associated with my placement.'*

24 countries around the world. In total, 121 presentations (referee papers, paper presentations, and academic salons), workshops and panel sections were conducted over the 5-day conference. A number of ACEN members attended the event here are some personal reflections on their conference experience.

*"Being able to attend a WACE conference was a great professional development opportunity for me as a VU staff doing researching in Learning in the Workplace and Community (LiWC/WIL). I was inspired by the amount of LiWC/WIL work that has been done to date and what was in the pipeline for the future. I had an opportunity to discuss with and learn from many colleagues from around the world about various LiWC/WIL practices which interestingly were quite different to the ways LiWC/WIL were undertaken here in Australia, but still very effective. It was interesting to see the many common issues and how they were innovatively addressed in different countries and continents, and initiations of possible research collaborations among various countries to tackle "global" issues. I also had an opportunity to share my work-in-progress LiWC/WIL research and seek feedback from colleagues and experts at the conference. My personal perception is that Australia and the English speaking countries generally seem to be ahead in term of advancing LiWC/WIL practices and research but I can clearly see the catching up efforts that other countries, even though in a different stages of LiWC/WIL development and implementation, are making to close the gap."*

**Cuong Nguyen, Victoria University**

*"I loved the conference. It was very well organised and supported throughout. I was favourably impressed by the range and depth of presentations and workshops; and of both presenters and the entire group of delegates. I found the keynotes each morning informative, thought-provoking, even bordering on entertaining. I made new and lasting friendships and began possible collaborations with a few people from this region, Europe, North America, and Africa.*

*I must say I had some of the best times with colleagues from Australia, most of whom I had never met before. It might be important for me to reflect on and come to understand this phenomenon. On the one hand, I was struck that the same kinds of problems are being experienced by practitioners around the globe in very different contexts; some of which are similar to those I confronted when first in the field 15 years ago. On the other hand, I was impressed by new ideas and stronger commitment to research and better solutions to problems than perhaps in the past. I saw as a particularly healthy sign that there are advances being made around the world from which much can be learned, and that the neither the field nor the conference was dominated by the United States, especially good news given the holding of the conference this year in America.*



**WACE Conference**  
WACE's 17th World

Conference, themed "historic challenges-global solutions", was hosted by Drexel University in Philadelphia USA from 13th -17th June 2011 attracting nearly 250 participants and delegates from

*I think it is fair to say that Australia is demonstrating world leadership in the area of Work Integrated Learning. This could be seen in our strong showing in terms of attendance and in the leading-edge nature of the work on which we reported.*

*Based on this world conference, I would urge all ACEN members to seek to attend future conferences. It's a great bunch of people doing really interesting stuff in an area that makes a whole lot of difference in the world.*

**J. Martin Hayes, Swinburne University of Technology.**

*International conferences are the best (only) way to meet fellow researchers and begin to establish relationships for future comparative research. Often the real work starts when you get back home.*

*Compared to what is happening in places like Drexel, Waterloo and even Guelph, Australian WIL and Co-op Employment efforts remain largely underfunded and underdeveloped. Despite advances in some business areas the concentration in WIL, anecdotally, retains an Engineering focus. Spoilt for choice in workshops, presentations, seminars and plenary sessions. Co-op staff seemed to far outweigh the research active academics four to one. Not sure if this an historical relic or the way of the future. Attendance at some sessions was very low. To our relief enough attended our presentation to get some discussion going. We were thankful to those who attended our presentation for the generosity with their time and the genuine interest showed in the project being developed.*

**Genevieve Watson, University of Western Sydney.**



*Attending WACE 17<sup>th</sup> World Conference, Judie Kay, ACEN National Director, Prof Ian Goulter, Vice Chancellor Charles Sturt University, Carol-Joy Patrick, past National Director ACEN. Prof Goulter was awarded the Donald McLaren, Jr Award for professional achievement in cooperative and work-integrated education.*



## **The National WIL Portal Project**

After the launch in late May 2011 marketing and profile-raising activities continue, largely via email campaigns and newsletters, to

potential employer/host organisation portal users. Several speaking engagements at conferences in Canberra and Sydney are also scheduled in the next months to promote the National WIL Portal.

Teleconferences for tertiary Institutions have been held providing an opportunity for partner institutions to discuss their experiences of the portal so far, and hear updates regarding communication activities directed at industry and community. Initial feedback, both from industry associations as well as partner institutions, has been incorporated into the portal content and interface as appropriate, and the project team are keeping note of further changes or improvements that could be incorporated in either a short-term or longer term capacity. Feedback from tertiary institutions has been that opportunities through the portal have already resulted in new relationships with organisations and businesses.

Since the National WIL Portal Launch 45 organisations have registered through the portal. As a result of ongoing marketing and profile-building activities, approximately 70 opportunities have been delivered to partner universities with the most requested discipline areas business and commerce, engineering and tourism and hospitality. Examples of organisations currently using the National WIL Portal includes a major Australian bank, a range of local Government bodies, a Federal Government agency, small engineering firms and a national peak industry. Although it is too early to undertake a formal evaluation, informal feedback from organisations using the portal has been positive.



## **Australia's First Service Learning Summit held at Griffith University**

Hosted by co-founder of the Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN) and Service Learning Coordinator at Griffith University, Carol-Joy Patrick, the event was used to collect information about the state of service learning (SL) in Australia. Speakers included Barbara Holland, (Director of Academic Initiatives in Social Inclusion, University of Sydney; Vice-Chair, IARSLCE) and Carol Nicoll (Chief Executive Officer, Australian Learning and Teaching Council). Over 100 people attended the summit, representing twenty-two institutions. Participants commented that the opportunity for group discussions and networking, as well as the keynote presentations were highlights of the day



Photographs from 'Australia's First Service Learning Summit' May 9, 2011

## Upcoming Events



### International

**JUNE 20-22, 2012**

**WACE's 9th International Conference on Cooperative & Work-Integrated Education.** "Where East Meets West and Theory Meets Practice". Hosted by Bahcesehir University Istanbul, Turkey.

<http://www.waceinc.org/bahcesehir2012/index.html>



### National

**October 2011**

**10<sup>th</sup>: NSW/ACT Forum: "Work Integrated Learning (WIL) in the Curriculum"**.

Macquarie University, NSW.

A full day forum featuring presentations and discussion on assessment, alternative curriculum design and the development of professional identity.

<http://acennswforum.weebly.com>

**13<sup>th</sup>: ePortfolio workshop, WA**

Time: 4pm to 6pm

Venue: Curtin University, Scholars Cafe, Building 104

**17th-18<sup>th</sup>: ePortfolio Conference in WA**

Curtin University, WA

The conference represents one of the first cross sectoral e-portfolio events in Australia, bringing together national and international educators and researchers from vocational education and training, higher education and adult and community education.

<http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/content/e-portfolios-australia>

**19<sup>th</sup>: Assuring Graduate Capabilities Forum. WA.**

Tim Winton LT, Curtin University

**20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> : ATN Assessment Conference 2011:**

Meeting the Challenges. Curtin University, Perth.

<http://otl.curtin.edu.au/atna2011/>

**December 2011**

**4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: NAGCAS Conference.** 'Shifting Goal Posts - Career Sustainability in a Changing World'.

Victoria University, Melbourne.

<http://www.gemsevents.com.au/nagcas2011/index.shtml>

**2012**

**Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

**ACEN National Conference** "Collaborative Education: Investing in the Future". Geelong, Victoria.

<http://www.acen.edu.au/conference2012/>

## Around the Grounds: Chapter Chair Updates



### Western Australia – Sonia Ferns

The WA Chapter of ACEN has a busy few months ahead with several events planned that will attract both national and international visitors to our state. While each event has a different theme, the focus will be on teaching and learning practices that provide authentic experiences for students and enhance employability skills.

ACEN WA will be hosting an interactive workshop which will showcase the use of ePortfolios to present evidence of the development and attainment of employability skills. This will be followed by a facilitated group discussion on 'authentic assessment' for ePortfolios. The workshop will provide opportunities for collaboration, problem solving, sharing ideas and identifying solutions. Details of the workshop are:

Date: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Time: 4pm to 6pm

Venue: Curtin University, Scholars Cafe, Building 104

**Assuring Graduate Capabilities Forum:** This forum will be presented by Professor Beverley Oliver as part of her 2011 ALTC National Teaching Fellowship. This event will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Curtin University. This will be an excellent opportunity for program leaders, teaching staff and curriculum developers to consider international and national perspectives on **articulating and assuring graduate capability standards**. The event will be opened by Professor Jill Downie, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences, Curtin University.

**ePortfolios Australia Conference 2011: Making a difference – showing the difference**

Curtin University will be hosting this conference on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The conference aims to bring together national and international educators and thought leaders to showcase the ways e-portfolio practice is *making a difference* to adult education in all sectors in Australia. Keynotes presenters include Professor Kathleen Blake Yancey, Dr Terrel Rhodes and Professor David Nicol.

**Australian Technology Network Assessment Conference 2011: Meeting the Challenges.**

This conference will be held at Curtin University on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011. This conference aims to provide participants with opportunities to explore research and scholarly practice relating to the challenges of authentic assessment in higher education. Keynotes speakers include Professor David Nicol, Professor Geoffrey Crisp and Professor Beverley Oliver.

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### VicTas - Dineli Mather

ACEN VIC/TAS Meeting 2, 2011, **WIL Seminar and Networking Drinks**. Thursday 15 September 2010, 2:15 - 5:30PM

Hosted by The University of Melbourne  
Alan Gilbert Building-1st Floor Executive Lounge,  
Grattan St Carlton

**Theme:** Perspectives on Partnerships in Work Integrated Learning

**Speakers:** Dr Sharon Winocur, Executive Director, Business Higher Education Roundtable (BHERT), Dr Violeta Schubert, School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne and Melinda Marty, Victorian Government Department of Business & Innovation

The meeting will be followed by networking Drinks at University House

[dineli.mather@deakin.edu.au](mailto:dineli.mather@deakin.edu.au)



### Queensland - Dr Deborah Peach

JCU was delighted to host Prof Barbara Holland as the keynote presenter at the July ACENQ meeting. This meeting was held by video-conference on 25 July with ACEN colleagues joining in from QUT, Griffith, UQ and CQU (albeit briefly due to technology problems). The focus of the meeting drew upon Prof Holland's expertise around Service Learning (SL). Participants enjoyed hearing the experience of a JCU student and also from Professor Holland on issues related to SL. These included the critical need to be clear about the learning objectives for SL, the difference between WIL and SL and the challenges that might arise when embedding SL experiences into the curriculum. Participants also engaged in productive location-based discussions on key issues related to SL.

The next ACENQ event will be held on September 9 from 10-12 noon. Hosted by QUT, with video links to JCU and CQ University, the topic is 'Teaching and assessing reflective writing for Work Integrated Learning' with guest speaker Michael Ryan, Faculty of Education, QUT. For more information please contact Dr Deborah Peach ACENQ Chair  
[d.peach@qut.edu.au](mailto:d.peach@qut.edu.au)



### SA / NT – Verity Kingsmill

For information regarding ACEN SA/NT activities contact Verity Kingsmill.

[verity.kingsmill@flinders.edu.au](mailto:verity.kingsmill@flinders.edu.au)



### NSW / ACT - Freny Tayebjee

The NSW/ACT Chapter of ACEN (Australian Collaborative Education Network) is holding its second and final forum for 2011 on **“Work Integrated**

### Learning (WIL) in the Curriculum” on Monday 10 October at Macquarie University.

There is an impressive line up of speakers:

- Professor Gail Whiteford (Macquarie University)
- Professor Philip Jones (University of New South Wales)
- Dr Franziska Trede (The Education for Practice Institute, CSU)
- Associate Professor Jackie Walkington (University of Canberra)
- Associate Professor Anna Wilson (Australian National University)

More speakers to be confirmed shortly.

Topics for discussion include assessment, alternative curriculum design and the development of professional identity. A full program will be listed on the website shortly.

This all day event is free for ACEN members and interstate members of ACEN are particularly welcome. Registrations are essential from <http://acennswforum.weebly.com>.

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### Articles / Resources

#### Assuring Graduate Outcomes, Bev Oliver, Curtin University.

This good practice report, commissioned by the ALTC, provides a summative evaluation of useful outcomes and good practices from ALTC projects and fellowships on assuring graduate outcomes.

<http://www.altc.edu.au/resource-assuring-graduate-outcomes-curtin-2011>

### WACE Conference Papers

Have you visited the WACE publications page, it features full papers from selected WACE conferences from around the world.

<http://www.waceinc.org/conferencepapers.html>

### Job Opportunities

#### ALTC WIL Project Manager (Griffith University, Logan Campus)

A part-time position supporting an ALTC WIL project is available at Griffith University, commencing early September, 2011 for approximately 22 months.

Full position description available from:

<http://www.acen.edu.au/news/docs/ALTC-WIL-Proj-PMPosDes.pdf>



acen national conference  
Collaborative Education:  
Investing in the Future

29 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2012

GEELONG VICTORIA



Make a note in your diary for the ACEN National Conference 29<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

### **ACEN 2011 Institutional Members**

Below is the list of ACEN member universities – with several more in the pipeline. An unlimited number of staff from these universities can register as individual members. If your university is a member, encourage your colleagues to register at: [www.acen.edu.au/join/](http://www.acen.edu.au/join/)

- Australian Catholic University
- Bond University
- Central Queensland University
- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University
- Curtin University of Technology
- Deakin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Southern Cross University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- University of Adelaide
- University of Canberra
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales
- University of Newcastle
- University of Notre Dame
- University of South Australia
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Sydney
- Victoria University

### **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](mailto:enquiries@acen.edu.au)