

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Education Research Group of Adelaide.

ERGA is a cross-disciplinary community of educators promoting high quality university learning through evidence-based, practical approaches to teaching. Our membership includes academics from all the South Australian universities, as well as interstate and in New Zealand. Our aim is to disseminate the outcomes from research and teaching initiatives to all members of the university community.

This newsletter is just one of several ways that ERGA will let those who are interested in tertiary education research know of new events, conferences, collaborative activities, and professional development opportunities. We will also inform readers of important dates including major grant deadlines, teaching awards and so on.

ERGA Membership and Executive Membership – Key people, New Members

There are two levels of ERGA membership: the Executive (12 academic and professional staff from multiple disciplines) and ordinary membership. Convened by Edward Palmer of the CLPD at the University of Adelaide, the ERGA Executive are required to attend the majority of ERGA meetings and provide an avenue of communication on education matters between the members' discipline/school/faculty and the ERGA membership. Participation in other members' research and educational grant activity is encouraged but not compulsory.

Membership of ERGA is free.

The current Executive is cross disciplinary and includes Edward Palmer (Convenor, Centre for learning and Professional Education), Andrew Craig (Administrative Officer, Humanities), Said Al-Sarawi (Engineering), Bradley Alexander (Computer Science), Peter Devitt (Medicine), Nishani Singh (Professions Learning Centre), David Walker (Engineering), Craig Willis (Engineering), Katrina Falkner (Computer Science), Lynn Rogers (Biochemistry), Joy McEntee (Humanities), Linda Westphalen (Education).

We would like to welcome two new members to the executive, Senior lecturers Sophie Karanicolas and Catherine Snelling, both of the School of Dentistry, University of Adelaide. Sophie and Catherine were presented with the Vice-Chancellor and President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The two also took out the Team Teaching Award for the Stephen Cole the Elder Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This is the first time a team has taken out the Vice-Chancellor's teaching prize. Sophie and Cathy have been pivotal in developing the curriculum for the new Bachelor of Oral Health program, and have forged a successful teaching partnership.

And, while we're thinking about awards: ALTC Citations

Two ERGA members received ALTC citations presented in Sydney at the Opera House in August.:

- Dr Craig Willis (executive member), School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences;
- Ms Kayoko Enomoto, Centre for Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

ERGA extends warm congratulations to all these recipients. Acknowledgement of excellence in higher education teaching is always welcome!

ERGA Breakfast

After the very successful 2010 ERGA breakfast that spawned several strong research collaborations, another was held on 24 August 2011. Timed to take advantage of the upcoming ERGA conference, the annual Breakfast is designed as a venue for people to express their ideas on upcoming projects, or simply be a catalyst for like-minded individuals to join forces. Some of this research is then presented at the ERGA conference as well as in national and international journals. More information on the outcomes of the breakfast will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

2011 Workshop and Seminar Series

As part of our workshop and seminar series, ERGA is pleased to welcome Dr Mary Ryan to the University of Adelaide to give a seminar entitled *'Theorising and Implementing a Model for Teaching and Assessing Reflective Learning in Higher Education.'*

Dr Mary Ryan is a senior lecturer and research fellow in the Faculty of Education at the Queensland University of Technology. Her main interests lie in the areas of reflective writing and multimodal reflection in higher education, literacy pedagogy in schools and universities, disciplinary literacies, socio-spatial and social-semiotic theories, discourse analysis and critical pedagogy. She is currently leading an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Priority Program Grant (2010/2011) across the Faculties of Law, Health, Education, Business, Creative Industries, and Built Environment and Engineering at QUT. This project is focused on developing a research-based approach to teaching and assessing reflection in higher education. She is the author of three scholarly book chapters, 17 refereed journal articles, and a number of professional publications, and regularly conducts professional workshops across higher education faculties around reflective practice and assessment.

Who: Dr Mary Ryan, Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology

When: Thursday, 27 October 2011, 10.30am—12noon

Where: 209 Napier Building, North Terrace Campus, Adelaide University

To RSVP: Contact Andrew Craig at a.craig@adelaide.edu.au, before COB on Tuesday, 25 October.

Save the Date! 22 November 2011: Mark Guzdial and Barbara Ericson, College of Computing, Georgia Tech

On the 22nd November, Professor Mark Guzdial and Barbara Ericson will be visiting the University of Adelaide to run a series of seminars/workshops. Mark and Barbara are renowned for their work in Computer Science Education. Mark has a joint PhD in Computer Science and Education, is an ACM Distinguished Speaker, and has led the development of the Media Computation approach as a way of teaching introductory Computer Science. His current research focuses on facilitating student learning through "student design, construction and analysis of artefacts". Mark and Barbara lead the Georgia Computes! project, an NSF funded outreach project aimed at broadening participation. To accompany these events, on the 21st November, the Australian Council of ICT Deans will be hosting a workshop "Improving teaching: designing and facilitating for learning at the subject level", targeted at colleagues from Engineering, Computer Science and related disciplines.

Further details of the workshops and seminars will be released closer to the date.

ERGO: The Journal of the Education Research Group of Adelaide.

The latest edition of Education Research Group of Adelaide journal, *ERGO*, is now available.

ERGO is designed to promote the development of university teaching and learning. The journal is particularly focussed on publishing "works in progress", with articles peer reviewed by at least two independent reviewers in compliance with DEEWR requirements.

ERGO accepts papers in all fields of university teaching and learning, and provides a forum for publication of short, high quality research papers across the entire range of the discipline including, but not limited to, novel teaching methods, student assessment, the evaluation of learning and teaching, the application of new technologies to teaching, student characteristics and their influence on teaching and learning, and case studies. The journal is particularly aimed at researchers who have preliminary findings – hence the interest in publishing works in progress.

Published on an ongoing basis, *ERGO* is supported by the Centre for Learning and Professional Development. Deadlines for submissions are 20 May, 20 August, and 20 October.

And Last: the ERGA Conference - TRANSFORMATIONS

The 7th annual ERGA conference is about to run from 28-30 September 2011.

The conference theme is **Transformations**. We will be looking at the transition our students take from being novices, often straight from high school, to being researchers, professionals and self-directed learners at the end of their time in higher education.

Keynote speakers are **Professor David Boud**, Senior Fellow, ALTC, Professor of Adult Education, University of Technology, Sydney and **Professor Sally Kift**, ALTC Discipline Scholar, Professor of Law, Queensland University of Technology.