

ALTS 2012: Developing and Supporting a Flexible Curriculum

The fourth Annual Learning & Teaching Symposium took place on the 11th January 2012 with the theme ***Developing and Supporting a Flexible Curriculum***. Around 60 staff members from diverse disciplines attended to hear guest keynote speakers and examples of good practice, and to discuss ideas related to the topic.

This year the Good Practice Fair was timed to coincide with the symposium. The posters from the fair (and previous fairs) can be seen [here](#).



Professor Peter McGeorge, Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching, opened the Symposium and introduced the first keynote speaker, Professor Debra Humphris. Debra Humphris took up post as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education & Student Experience) at the University of Southampton in September 2008. Within her portfolio she provides strategic leadership for the education offer and student experience across the University and at all levels, as well as widening participation, recruitment and admissions and employer engagement. Outside of the University Debra chairs the Employment and Skills Board for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, the Partnership has been successful in becoming one of the first Local Enterprise Partnerships named by the Coalition Government.



As Professor of Health Care Development, Debra has worked closely with a wide range of public and independent sector organisations to shape and redesign service in relation to policy drivers, to evolve workforce development and support education innovation. Debra's recent research activity focused on redesigning services in relation to the needs of people with long term conditions. Originally recruited to the University from the Department of Health in 2000, Debra has led its major development of interprofessional learning in health and social care, the New Generation Project. This education innovation was undertaken in partnership with the University of Portsmouth and is widely acknowledged as a global leader. Following this she was responsible for the development and leadership of the Health Care Innovation Unit.

Professor Humphries' keynote was recorded and can be viewed [here](#)

Following on from Professor Humphris' keynote were six showcases of good practice:



- **Intergenerational Fairness: a context for entrepreneurial learning (within any subject area)** Lesley Hetherington (Director of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Skills) - get the presentation [here](#)



- **Learning through doing using Lego Serious Play.** Dr Bruce Scharlau (Computing Science) - contact CLT if you would like a copy of this presentation



- **Students in the driving seat of curricular innovation.** Dr Alan Denison (Medicine and Dentistry) and Ian Robotham (Medi-CAL Unit) - get the presentation [here](#)



- **Peer mentoring.** Dr John Barrow (Medical Sciences) and Katja Christie (Student Centre) - view the presentation [here](#)



- **CASS Writing Course pilot: Identifying students who could benefit from an early intervention in the development of academic writing skills** Dr John Morrison (CASS) & Greg Gordon (Law) - get the presentation [here](#)



- **What do students REALLY want?** Tessa Birley (Student President, AUSA) and Josefine Bjorkqvist (President for Education and Employability, AUSA)

The afternoon's keynote speakers were Dr Malcolm Hole (Geosciences) presenting a case study on **Flexible Assessment Packages** and Dr Adelyn Wilson (Law) presenting a case study on **The School of Law's engagement with local secondary schools pilot scheme: provisional results and impact**.

Dr Hole and Dr Wilson's keynotes were recorded and can be viewed [here](#)

Attendees were then given the choice of attending one of four parallel group discussion sessions:

- **Using Collaborate (web conferencing and voice tools) to enhance communication and interaction with students** Dr Sara Preston & Laraine d'Antin (Centre for Learning & Teaching)
- **Copyright & IPR: Good practice in a flexible curriculum** Dr Colin Calder (Centre for Learning & Teaching) - the presentation can be viewed [here](#)
- **Flexible approaches to using technology for online interaction** Sarah Cornelius & Yvonne Bain (Teaching Quality for Further Education Programme, School of Education) - get the presentation [here](#)
- **The pros and cons of using audio feedback to support student learning** Dr Darren Comber (Centre for Learning and Teaching) & Dr Lindsay McPherson (School of Biological Sciences) - get the presentation [here](#)



The Symposium closed with a panel session, chaired by Professor Peter McGeorge, Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching, and consisting of Dr John Morrison (Director of Teaching & Learning, College of Arts and Social Sciences), Dr Richard Wells (Director of Teaching & Learning, College of Physical Sciences), Sarah Cornelius (Senior Lecturer, School of Education) and Tessa Birley (President, AUSA).

Please see below for a selection of feedback received about the Symposium:

- "Excellent, very interesting and thought provoking presentation"
- "the symposium was AMAZING and well timed to inspire me for the forthcoming semester"
- "Lots of new ideas from the examples presented and from talking to staff"
- "Great networking event and getting to meet academic and support staff from different schools"
- "the speakers were highly engaging and informative"
- "useful and some interesting approaches covered"
- "The symposium was excellent and very well organised"
- "Debra was an excellent speaker – well informed and witty"

Annual Learning and Teaching Symposium and Good Practice Fair

Developing and Supporting a Flexible Curriculum

Wednesday 11 January 2012

Keynotes will be held in MacRobert 613. Posters will be displayed in MacRobert 614.

A downloadable version of the [event programme](#) is also available.

09.30 **Coffee & Registration (& Good Practice Fair posters)**
10.00 **Welcome & Introduction**

Professor Peter McGeorge, Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching
Dr Kath Shennan, Chair of Institutional Steering Group for the QAA 'Developing and Supporting the Curriculum' Enhancement Theme

- 10.10 **Opening Keynote: University of Southampton Curriculum Innovation Programme: Choice and Flexibility**
[Professor Debra Humphris](#), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), University of Southampton
- 11.00 **Good Practice Showcase (30 minutes each; pick three of six):**
1. **Intergenerational Fairness: a context for entrepreneurial learning (within any subject area)**
Lesley Hetherington (Director of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Skills)
 2. **Learning through doing using Lego Serious Play.** Dr Bruce Scharlau (Computing Science)
 3. **Students in the driving seat of curricular innovation.** Dr Alan Denison (Medicine and Dentistry) and Ian Robotham (Medi-CAL Unit)
 4. **Peer mentoring.** Dr John Barrow (Medical Sciences) and Katja Christie (Student Centre)
 5. **CASS Writing Course pilot: Identifying students who could benefit from an early intervention in the development of academic writing skills** Dr John Morrison (CASS) & Greg Gordon (Law)
 6. **What do students REALLY want?** Tessa Birley (Student President, AUSA) and Josefine Bjorkqvist (President for Education and Employability, AUSA)
- 12.30 **Lunch (& Good Practice Fair posters)**
- 13.10 **Keynote Case Studies:**
1. **Flexible Assessment Packages:** Dr Malcolm Hole (Geosciences)
 2. **The School of Law's engagement with local secondary schools pilot scheme: provisional results and impact:** Dr Adelyn Wilson (Law)
- 14.00 **Parallel Sessions:**
- **Using Collaborate (web conferencing and voice tools) to enhance communication and interaction with students** Dr Sara Preston & Laraine d'Antin (Centre for Learning & Teaching)
 - **Copyright & IPR: Good practice in a flexible curriculum** Dr Colin Calder (Centre for Learning & Teaching)
 - **Flexible approaches to using technology for online interaction** Sarah Cornelius & Yvonne Bain (Teaching Quality for Further Education Programme, School of Education)
 - **The pros and cons of using audio feedback to support student learning** Dr Darren Comber (Centre for Learning and Teaching) & Dr Lindsay McPherson (School of Biological Sciences)
- 15:30 **Panel session: How might the 21st Century curriculum evolve in light of the current social and economic climate?**
- Professor Peter McGeorge, Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching (Chair)
 - Dr John Morrison (Director of Teaching & Learning, College of Arts and Social Sciences)
 - Dr Richard Wells (Director of Teaching & Learning, College of Physical Sciences)
 - Sarah Cornelius (Senior Lecturer, School of Education)
 - Tessa Birley (President, AUSA)
- 16.00 **Close:** Professor Peter McGeorge, Vice-Principal for Learning & Teaching