1. **New Staff**

The Faculty welcomes appointees to new administrative posts.

- The two School Managers began their new positions on 22 February, Cheryl Edwards in the School of Social and Policy Studies, and Robyn Shepherdson in the School of International Studies. They will assist the Dean of their School with the management of areas such as budgeting, space, strategic development, marketing, and human resources. After her years in the School of Social Work administration team Robyn is well known to us. International Studies will be an interesting shift of focus for her and a broadening of horizons. Robyn’s room is 306 SS South, extension 15836. In January Cheryl arrived from the UK where she has recently been employed as Graduate School Manager, University of Leeds. Her office is in room 345 SS South, and her phone extension 15835.

- On 1 March Sam Kilsby joined the Faculty as my Executive Assistant. Sam has most recently been working with the VC’s Executive Officer and her Top Floor experience and contacts will be an advantage for her and for the Faculty. It’s a pleasure to have these three people appointed to positions that will have much benefit for the Faculty. They have our best wishes and support as we work to achieve harmonious progress together.

2. **Thanks**

For three weeks in February Betty Andrews was my Executive Assistant. Betty arrived to find a new office, temporary desk, an unfamiliar computer programme, and problems with Meeting Maker. She worked around the installation of office furniture, organised new phones, equipment and stationery, and made sure that everything works. In the meantime, with calmness and efficiency, Betty attended and noted meetings, managed my diary, and met many assorted problems. Thank you Betty for all you have achieved.

Sincere thanks also to Vickie Armstrong, to Jonathan Wheare, and to all support staff who have been integral to setting up the new office suite and equipment. The coordination was not easily accomplished. Thank you all.

3. **Flinders City Campus opening**

On 25 February more than 100 participants from across the SA non profit community services sector gathered for what was a very successful launch event of the Flinders city campus. The jointly sponsored event by Flinders and Anglicare SA, ‘Not for Profit Community Service Forum: Prospects for the Future’ was opened by the Vice Chancellor and Dr Lyn Arnold, CEO Anglicare. Keynote speakers included Robert Fitzgerald, Adjunct Professor ACU and Chair of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Third Sector; A/Prof Jo Barraket, Australian Centre of Philanthropy and Non Profit Studies, QUT; Les Hems, Director of Research Centre for Social Impact, UNSW and A/Prof Jo Baulderstone. Other Flinders contributors included A/Prof. Fiona Verity. There was also excellent back up support given by Loretta Geuenich, Rob Manwarring, Charlie Murray, Mick Piotto, Julie Tonkin and Sonja Yates. Despite some minor technical problems the city centre campus proved to be an excellent venue that should be fully exploited by the Faculty. The organising committee comprised Simon Shrapel, Anglicare and Jo Baulderstone and Chris Miller, Flinders and emerged from the Flinders-Anglicare Steering Group.

**Flinders University Victoria Square**

Guidelines for the use of the premises are now available and will soon be posted on the Victoria Square web pages. The ground floor space is to be staffed by International Office and Admissions staff, and a permanent position will be based in the city to coordinate the facility and work with other members of staff. The area is managed through the Office of the DVC(I).
4. **Vale Les Heathcote**

Long-time staff of the Faculty will be saddened to hear of Dr Les Heathcote’s death on 24 February. Les was a well respected and much appreciated Reader in the Geography team, who had maintained his connections with us through his adjunct academic status.

5. **Committee Changes**

Recently there have been substantial changes to the composition of the Faculty Executive, the Faculty Board, and to the B.A. Board of Studies. To those who have held membership of these groups, thank you most sincerely for your insights and interest. The work you have invested, in many cases over a long period, has been invaluable, and your service to the Faculty is very much appreciated.

There will be other changes to Faculty committees. The intention of any revisions of structure, terms of reference and/or membership, is to reduce overlap and extra layers of administration, and, most importantly, to produce the best possible outcomes. The input of staff involved with the committees is much valued.

6. **Occupational Health and Safety:**

   **Management Representatives** [MR]: with the relocation of the Faculty Services Office to the South Building, Vickie Armstrong has accepted the position of MR, Work Group 3, on the Area OH&S Committee. This move leaves the SSNorth Work Group 1 appointment vacant, and an MR is yet to be named for Work Group 2, Flinders Business School. Deans of Schools and the Director of NILS are asked for nominees to fill these two important roles.

   **OHS Audit**: the Faculty has met WorkCover audit requirements re supervisor training and the non-conformance issued following the audit has been lifted.

   **OHS On-Line Training for Supervisors**: new staff who are supervisors and those super-visors who have not completed the course satisfactorily are reminded to do so, see [http://www.flinders.edu.au/ohsw/training/suptrng_reg.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/ohsw/training/suptrng_reg.cfm). The programme may be completed in blocks of perhaps one or two modules at a time. Please note that the University requires that all supervisors repeat the course every five years.

   **Draft Policies**: the Smoke Free Workplace Policy was widely dispersed for comment. The Area Committee has suggested that attractive zones for smokers might be created in areas where people may be particularly stressed, the Margaret Tobin Centre for example.

   **Building Emergency Evacuations** are being arranged for both SSNorth and SSSouth buildings. In the North Building Mel Mazzone has accepted appointment as Chief Warden, Karen Smith as Deputy, and Steve Fildes has agreed to assist. Justin DeRosa is Chief Warden in the South Building, with Tracey Kohl and Robyn Shepherdson as the Deputies. It is important for all staff to become familiar with the actions to be taken in an alarm situation, and teaching staff are reminded to use the desktop link available in all Faculty AV teaching areas to inform students of the emergency procedures.

   **OHS Training**: staff are invited to email Vickie Armstrong to nominate any OHS training needs. Manual Handling and Asthma Management training sessions will be scheduled and other courses will be arranged as required.

   **Incident Reports and Rehabilitation Statistics** for 2009 have been reviewed. Over the full year there were five incidents reported, none involving students. There are no current rehabilitation cases.

7. **Reminders**

   **Newly Renovated Theatres N1 and N2**

   Teaching staff who hold classes in these theatres may wish to familiarise themselves with the new fitout. Please contact ISD lecture theatre support (Extn 1-2345, Option 1) to arrange an orientation session.

   **Academic Promotions**

   The Information Sessions for potential applicants and supervisors have been recorded and a copy of the relevant DVD may be borrowed from the Faculty Office, 270 Sth, extn 13822. The deadlines for applications to be reach the Executive Dean are as follows:

   - For Promotion to: Level B Fri. 2 April
   - Level C: Fri. 16 April
   - Level D: Fri. 7 May
   - Levels D Plus & E: Fri. 28 May

   **Space Audit**

   Buildings & Property auditors will check teaching and meeting rooms and computer labs between 22 and 26 March. They will enter the rooms as unobtrusively as possible to count users. David Banks, B&P Director, would be glad to know if classes that normally occupy a room are are being held off-campus during those periods.

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**Professor Phyllis Tharenou**

Executive Dean
Max Smith spent three weeks in China during January/February teaching for the School of International Relations, collecting data for his PhD and visiting education agents on behalf of the University. Max will be hosting Dr Yunlai Zhang from Beijing Technology and Business University for six months under a collaborative research agreement with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Dr Yunlai Zhang arrives at Flinders University on April 1.

Prof. Carol Tilt gave a presentation entitled ‘The Impact of Academic Research on Professional Accounting Practice’ at the Future of Accounting Education Forum held at the UniSA on 4 February. The event was sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, and the Centre for Accounting, Governance and Sustainability. Information and transcripts are available at http://www.unisa.edu.au/cags/icaacagsforum4feb.asp.

Dr Victor Pontines was a Visiting Researcher at the South East Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre (SEACEN) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 25 January to 5 February. Victor also presented at the Linkages Between Real and Financial Economies workshop, held as part of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) project on ‘Linkages between Real and Financial Aspects of Economic Integration in East Asia, on 28 February in Singapore. His presentation was entitled, ‘Business Cycle Synchronization and Financial Integration in the Asia-Pacific Region’.

Geoff Upton was recently interviewed by ABC Regional Radio Western and North West Queensland on the complexities of achieving contractual agreements in China in the context of an announced disputed $60 billion iron ore contract with China. The Marketing and Communications Unit has purchased a copy of the audio. Geoff has also been interviewed by ABC Regional Radio SA on the trend to offshore manufacturing following the announcement of the termination of the John West tuna canning contract in Port Lincoln/ John West was the last seafood cannery in Australia.

Publication

The History Department office has been moved into room 386 South, where Nada Lucia is sharing the office space with Julie Tonkin and Sonja Yates, International Relations administrative assistants.

Catherine Kevin’s edited collection, Feminism and the Body: interdisciplinary perspectives (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009) was published in late November. Catherine has a chapter in the collection called ‘Great Expectations: Episodes in a Political History of Pregnancy in Australia since 1945’.

By definition, feminism is concerned with the historical, social and political meanings of sexual difference in the human body, and the spectrum of experiences those meanings produce. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, gendered forms of violence persist, abortion remains a political issue, reproductive and cosmetic technologies and their concomitant ethical questions are proliferating, and the presence of women’s bodies in public spaces and for public consumption produces a range of anxieties about women’s well being and the common good. Feminist scholars from across the disciplines grapple with these issues in Feminism and the Body. In so doing they continue a history of intellectual endeavor that, for centuries, has striven to identify the interplay between corporeal differences and relationships of power.

In December Catherine gave a paper at ‘Baz Luhrmann’s “Australia” Reviewed’ conference – an interdisciplinary conference on history, film and popular culture – at the National Museum in Canberra. The paper was entitled ‘Solving the “problem” of the motherless indigenous child in Jedda’
(1955) and Australia (2008): the white maternal in the Australian epic before and after Bringing Them Home. This will be published in the journal Studies in Australasian Cinema.

One of the Department’s second year Australian History students – Carolyn Lake – had an essay on film and the Australian History Wars selected from over 120 submitted from institutions worldwide, to be the lead article in a new Intellect journal called Screen Matters. This is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes the work of undergraduates under the guidance of mentors (Catherine Kevin in this case). An 800 word version of the article will be published in the Independently Weekly shortly.

For ten days in late January Eric Richards was the guest of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Otago. He was guest speaker at the Dunedin Burns Club, Annual Burns Supper 2010, where he delivered ‘The Immortal Memory’, speaking on ‘Burns, Inverness and the Antipodes’. At the Settlers Museum, Dunedin Eric gave a Public Lecture to an audience of more than 200 on the subject of ‘Debating the Highland Clearances’. He presented a research seminar on ‘Perspectives on Australian Immigration since 1901’ to the Department of History at the University of Otago. During his stay he spoke to postgraduates and conducted research in Otago archives.

Meantime his new book From Hirta to Port Phillip: the St Kilda Emigration to Australia in 1852 has been published by the Islands Book Trust in Lochs, Isle of Lewis. The third edition of his book The Highland Clearances: People, Landlords and Rural Turmoil is again being published in Edinburgh, by Birlinn.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

On 17 February Michael Barr gave a public lecture at the National University of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur as the guest of IKON (Institute of Occidental Studies). His paper, ‘Networks of Power and Influence in Singapore’, is derived from his forthcoming book of the same title. Before travelling to Malaysia Michael spent a week teaching an intensive course on International Political Economy at University of Muhammadiya Yogyakarta (UMY) from 8-12 February as part of a collaborative programme hosted the International Relations departments in UMY and Flinders. While he was in the region Michael also took the chance to meet up with current and prospective PhD students.

Michael presents a collection of his books to Dr Wahuyini Kartikasari, International Programme Director, Dept of International Relations, UMY.

Michael with some of the UMY students from his class at UMY. (Lost your hat, Michael?)

Assoc. Prof. Anthony J. Langlois has been appointed to the position of Visiting Senior Fellow in the Centre for International Studies at the London School of Economics, from July to December 2010.
Awards

• For the first time, Vice-Chancellor’s Awards have been given for excellence in research for early career researchers. It is very pleasing that two of our staff, Reg Nixon and Nathan Weber, have received two of the 10 awards available across the University.

• At the December graduation ceremony Norm Feather was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa. The citation read: ‘Professor Feather has made a sustained and dedicated contribution to the foundation and development of Psychology at Flinders University and is still active in international conferences, conducting research and writing journal articles. He has served Flinders University and the discipline of psychology with distinction over a career spanning more than 40 years.’

Grant

Mary Luszcz and Ruth Walker in partnership with their overseas colleagues Christianne Hoppmann and Denis Gerstorf (who visited Flinders in 2009) have been awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Grant. Funding commenced in February for their project, ‘Well being, cognition and health in the oldest old: Exploring associations between long term change and daily life fluctuations.’

Staffing

• Two new full-time postdocs have been appointed in the Eyewitness Memory lab, each for a period of 2½ years. One is Dr Matt Palmer who is known to all. The other is Dr Ruth Horry who recently completed a PhD at University of Sussex and is currently on a postdoc at University College London.

• A number of staff will be absent for significant chunks of 1st and/or 2nd semester this year on various forms of leave: Tracey Wade on Outside Studies Program (OSP, sem 1) and Long Service Leave (LSL, sem 2), Richard Clark (LSL & Rec Leave, sem 1; gold watch, sem 2), Robyn Young (OSP, sem 1 into 2), Nathan Weber (OSP, mid-year), Michael Gradisar (OSP, sem 2), and Marika Tiggemann (OSP, sem 2).

PhD Completion and Postgraduate Student Publications (2010, in press)

• Paul Halford has just completed his PhD in law, supervised by Neil Brewer, on Eyewitness identification in real world conditions.


Conferences

Adelaide Sleep Retreat, Adelaide (January)

• Short, M., The sleep patterns of Australian adolescents.

• Short, M., The direct and indirect effects of adolescent sleep on depression, daytime functioning and academic performance.

• Lovato, N., Cant, M., Lack, L. & Wright, H., The working memory performance of older adults with insomnia.


11th Conference of the Society for Personality & Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV, USA (January).

• Hedrick, K., & Wenzel, M. How do we truly forgive ourselves? Poster

• Wenzel, M., & Okimoto, T. G., The justice-restoring effects of forgiveness in interpersonal and intergroup contexts. Poster.

The Forensic Sciences in Australia. Sydney (February).

• Brewer, N., Legal limitations: Admissibility, cross-examination, defence experts, lay judges and fact-finders.

Other

• Mary Luscz was invited to give a talk on 1 February to the ‘Health Care for the Older Person’ research team in the School of Nursing & Midwifery. Mary spoke on the vision, current research projects and future directions of Flinders Centre for Ageing Studies.

• In 2009 Julie Robinson attended the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development African Workshop, Maseno, Kenya, 1-4 December. She presented two papers, Career
planning, and Research incubators: Support for early career researchers. A paper pre-recorded by Julie, Lessons from the Past. MARRC Forum: Christmas on Christmas Island? was presented in Adelaide on 4 December.

- ‘The Secret Life of Twins’ transmits in Australia on BBC Knowledge: Episode 1 which examines twin similarities and features (albeit briefly) Tracey Wade, will premiere on Friday 19 March at 9.30pm. Episode 2 which examines twins’ differences will premiere on Friday 26 March at 9.30pm.

PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM PROGRAM FOR MARCH

All colloquia will be held on Thursdays 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM, in Room 223, Social Sciences North Building

4 Mar  Anna McKinnon, on her recently completed PhD research (Flinders), The relationship between children’s autobiographical memories for their traumatic experiences and the development of PTSD

11 Mar  Dr Michael Gradisar (Flinders), Sleeping like a teen: Where is the line defining exaggeration?

18 Mar  Prof. Janet Polivy & Prof. Peter Herman (U.Toronto), How do external cues control eating?

25 Mar  (No colloquium—Staff meeting)

01 Apr  Prof. Mary Luszcz (Flinders), The Australian Longitudinal Study of Ageing and beyond

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND POLICY STUDIES

Sociology

Dr Nik Taylor has accepted an invitation to become an Associate Editor for Society & Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies. Nik’s article ‘Animal Shelter Emotion Management: a case of in situ hegemonic resistance?’ has just been published in Sociology 2010 44: 85-101

Dr Mary Holmes is carrying out research on voter dissatisfaction and the increased success of the British National Party, with Flinders PhD Graduate Nathan Manning. They have had some fascinating chats with folk in Yorkshire and Lancashire, most of whom so far find the BNP ‘distasteful’. Mary has just published: ‘The Emotionalization of Reflexivity’, Sociology 2010 44: 139-154.

Prof Anthony Elliott has been awarded a research grant under the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) International Science Linkages (ISL) Programme. The grant is for a project titled: ‘The New Individualism and Japanese Society and Economy’. Co-project leader in Japan is Prof Masataka Katagiri, Professor of Theoretical Sociology at Chiba University and Visiting Professor at Flinders Sociology. Other Flinders Sociology staff associated with this project include Dr Suzi Adams, Mr Daniel Chaffee, Mr Daniel Mendelson and Mr Eric Hsu. The purpose of the ASSA ISL Programme is to facilitate collaborative research efforts between nations, and it is hoped that Flinders Sociology and Chiba Sociology will develop a joint bid in the coming year to the Australia/Japan Foundation.

Prof Elliott has also published the following works recently: the Italian translation of his bestselling book Concepts of the Self has been published in 2010 by Piccola Biblioteca Einaudi. His article on the sociology of climate change, ‘Chancing our Arm’, also appeared in the Australian Book Review, February 2010.

Dr Constance Lever-Tracy has edited The Routledge Handbook of Climate Change and Society, to be published in May. Routledge publicity describes the book as taking ...‘the reader into largely uncharted territory in its exploration of anthropogenic climate change’. Congratulations Constance.
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES

The Women’s Studies Office has just moved to a shared space up the corridor – room 219 South. The phone number hasn’t changed – extn 13437. We hope the inconvenience will be minimal, and that staff and students will be patient during the transition. Sue Western is sharing the new office space with Trisha Farmilo who presently looks after Politics and Public Policy and FIPPM.

Yvonne Corcoran-Nantes has returned from Seoul, Korea, where she was a keynote speaker at the Asia Pacific Forum - MDG3 late last year.

Heather Brook visited teachers Ms Barbara Richards (deputy principal) and Ms Deborah Smith at Brighton Secondary School to discuss their Women’s Studies programme.

Postgraduate students in the department presented research proposals and updates at a half-day seminar in February.

POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY
FLINDERS INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

News

The Department office facilities have been re-located to 219 South, where Trisha Farmilo has joined Susan Western, the Women’s Studies office administrative assistant.

The University and Anglicare SA will host a forum entitled Not for Profit Community Service Sector, which will involve staff of the Department of Politics and Public Policy and other staff of the School of Policy and Social Studies, Anglicare SA, SACOSS, the Office of the Ageing, and Monsignor David Cappo. The forum is to be held on Thursday 25 February at the Victoria Square teaching facility.

Publications


NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR STUDIES

A mature draft report was recently submitted to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship investigating the relationships between increasing immigration levels and our environmental and built physical assets in Australia. The mix of methodologies used in this project will hopefully assist policy development and framing of this important public debate. The project team consisted of members from NILS, Flinders Institute of Housing, Urban and Regional Environments (FIHURE) and CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems.

Darcy Fitzpatrick, Josh Healy and Kostas Mavromaras represented NILS at the 20th Australian Labour Market Research Workshop held in Sydney from 15-16 February. This is an annual event for labour economists co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Darcy presented a paper titled ‘Female labour supply in Australia: Differential preferences of partnered and single females’. Josh presented a paper titled ‘The minimum wage workforce in Australia: Extending the evidence’. (These papers are available from the NILS website under Recent Publications.) Kostas chaired a session on young and older workers and was invited to discuss another paper on indigenous employment.

* * * * *
'Disciplines Setting Standards': The National Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project

The Australian Government is developing a new Higher Education Quality and Regulatory Framework which includes establishment of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). TEQSA will regulate the sector against agreed standards for higher education. The standards framework is under development and is likely to comprise the following five elements:

- Provider standards – National protocols and the Education Services for Overseas Students Act;
- Qualification standards: Australian Qualifications Framework;
- Learning and teaching standards: Academic standards, learning outcomes;
- Research standards: Excellence in Research in Australia; and
- Information standards – for the market and regulators.

The Government has commissioned the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) to manage a project to address the learning and teaching academic standards component of the framework. The approach is designed to ensure that discipline communities define and take responsibility for implementing academic standards within the traditions of collegiality, peer review, pre-eminence of disciplines and academic autonomy.

The ALTC’s Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project (LTASp) involves ALTC Discipline Scholars working with disciplines to define minimum learning outcomes for majors and degree programs. Learning outcomes will be determined by consensus among academic communities, professional bodies and employers and with reference to existing national and international work.

Professor Iain Hay (Flinders University School of the Environment) has been appointed as the ALTC Discipline Scholar for the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities. He is supported in this role by Jill Rashleigh, ALTC Project Officer. Together they are working during 2010 to help identify threshold learning outcomes in two demonstration disciplines.

At a widely reported national forum held in Melbourne early in February, key figures representing Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines from across Australia recommended that Professor Hay should work with History and Geography as key demonstration disciplines in 2010. This confirmed a recommendation made a week earlier by the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH). Other disciplines which have already agreed to be involved in LTAS in 2010 include: Law, Accounting, Engineering, and Creative Arts.

More information about the Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project can be found at: [http://www.altc.edu.au/standards](http://www.altc.edu.au/standards)
1. Happy New Semester!
Hello from (almost) everyone in Social Sciences Computer Support; Liz is on leave until Easter. We are your friendly IT people, contact details at the bottom of this page. As well as keeping your computers and network running, we also offer the following services in our office:

- Colour laser printer and photocopier which takes A3 and A4 size paper, can print double-sided and does transparencies
- Colour scanner (A4 size) with automatic document feeder and OCR (text recognition) software
- A computer with Adobe Acrobat Writer and Adobe Photoshop installed for Faculty use
- 5¼” disk drive for those old floppy disks
- 3½” disk drive for those newer but still obsolete floppy disks
- Zip drive for reading zip disks (100Mb and 250Mb capacities)
- Laminating up to A3 size.

Laminating is free to staff engaged in Faculty business. Student and private use is charged at 50c per page A4, $1.00 per page A3. Printing jobs are charged to the relevant department or person.

2. We can recycle
We have some recycling ability. Any empty printer toner cartridges or ink cartridges or waste toner bottles can be brought to us for recycling, as well as photocopier ink cartridges. We can get your unwanted or unusable CDs or DVDs recycled.

Any paper or card that does not have a plastic coating can also be placed in the recycling bins near you (paper ream wrappers cannot). Help make Flinders environmentally friendly!

3. After-hours access to computer labs
The computer labs, 106-107N, 221N, 010S, 113L and 114L, are open 7am to 6pm weekdays during semester and exams. The only labs available after hours are 106 and 107N.

Undergraduate students and postgraduates who do not have their own office, wanting after-hours access to the labs need to come to our office with their student card. Access needs to be renewed each semester and will only be given to students currently enrolled in Social and Behavioural Sciences or one of the Geography topics requiring specific software in our labs.

Undergraduate access for first semester will expire on July 4 and can be renewed in second semester. This will expire on November 28. Any undergraduates requiring access after these dates will need a valid reason with the approval of their lecturer. Access to email does not constitute a valid reason.

Postgraduate students who have their own office will still need to go to the Faculty Services Office, 250S, to obtain their key.

4. Check the facts of that conference!
Email scammers, tired of snaring you with sob stories about deposed princes and their locked bank accounts, are branching out. Their new target: Academia. Researchers get invitations to a hot new scientific conference and are asked to send their personal information in order to register. But when an online magazine checked up on the conferences, the location hadn't been booked, the named speakers didn't know anything about it and the organizer asking for information fell strangely silent.

If you get an invitation to a conference, especially from people you have never heard of, make sure it is legitimate before sending in any personal details or money.
There’s also the more humble but still lucrative “official listings” such as the world-known Who’s Who – Herzo-slovakian edition), which I myself had a confirmation to be in. Here’s the email I received (with a few comments of my own in brackets and underlined):

Dear Bobleter, Sandra,

You were recently chosen as a potential candidate to represent your professional community in the 2010 Edition of Who’s Who among Executives and Professionals.

We are please (*pleased) to inform you that your candidacy was formally approved January 4th, 2010. Congratulations!

The Publishing Committee selected you not only upon your current standing, but focusing as well on criteria from executive and professional directories, associations, and trade journals. (Say What?!) There is no fee nor obligation to be listed. (I bet.) As we are working off of (*Bad grammar! From such an auspicious publication?) secondary sources, we must receive verification from you that your profile is accurate. After receiving verification, we will validate your registry listing within seven business days.

To verify your profile and accept the candidacy, please visit here. Our registration deadline for this selection period is February 1, 2010. (But I only got the email on Feb 3!) To ensure you are included, we must receive your verification on or before this date. On behalf of our Committee I salute your achievement and welcome you to our association.

If I put the cursor on the 'visit here' link (it has been disabled, so it’s safe now), I can see: http://asymmetric.wokinginformer.com/si/si/23537/9435/1169758/ which doesn’t sound anything like a Who’s Who site. Especially the ‘woking informer’ which they hope I will read as ‘working informer’. There was also an unsubscribe link which took you to – surprise! – exactly the same place. No, I’ll have to live with my disappointment at not making this issue of Who’s Who.

5. (Real Humour) She’ll be right, mate!

Microsoft Office 2007’s dictionary recognises Australian colloquialisms such as g’day, sheila, bogan and dag.

24,000 Australians voted for the 20 Aussie words they felt were most culturally relevant. G’day led the pack with 2868 votes, following by sickie with 2152 votes, ute (1912), trackies (1597) and bogan (1557). Previously, when typed into Microsoft Word, all of these words appeared with a red line under them, indicating a spelling error.

Online voters got to pick from a shortlist of 41 words.

Australia's top 20 words were:

1. G'day 11. Jackaroo
2. Sickie * 12. Dob
3. Ute 13. Bonza *
4. Trackies * 14. Cockie
5. Bogan 15. Dinky-di
6. Dag 16. Ugg *
7. Sheila 17. Waratah
8. Wuss 18. Ironman
9. Uluru 19. Ridgy-didge *

*The asterisked entries didn’t make it!

The Social and Behavioural Sciences Computing Helpdesk can be contacted as follows:

Email: SSComputerHelp@flinders.edu.au
Phone: 13500 (8201 3500 - outside Flinders)
In Person: Rm 260 Social and Behavioural Sciences North
REMINDER!!

Thanks to all topic coordinators who have forwarded Topic Guides & Reading Lists to us so that we can have material ready for your students. If you have not done so, please send your Topic Guides & Reading Lists to your Liaison Librarian (Naomi or Tony) via internal mail or as email attachments now. Copyright permitting, we can place single book chapters and journal articles on eReadings giving your students ease of access. If your topic has a Reader, remember to send us a copy that we can process as a 2 hour loan for students.

Library renovations are in full swing, the entry level has reopened and we look forward to the new service desk and café to be completed within a month.

Naomi Billinghurst:

School of Social and Policy Studies
   Department of Politics and Public Policy
   Department of Social Work and Social Planning
   Department of Sociology
   Department of Women’s Studies
National Institute of Labour Studies

Naomi.Billinghurst@flinders.edu.au
8201 2197

Tony Giorgio:

School of International Studies
   Department of American Studies
   Flinders Asia Centre
   Department of History
   Department of International Relations
   Centre for Development Studies
Flinders Business School
School of Psychology
Ageing Studies

Tony.Giorgio@flinders.edu.au
8201 3542
Online Presentation Tools: Beyond PowerPoint […yawn]

For those who might be re-thinking their teaching strategy to include more online delivery, I’ve compiled a short list of presentation tools that might help ease you in to it. In eLearning we don’t believe that attempting to replicate the face-to-face experience is the best approach to taking your topic online, but having engaging presentations that demonstrate key concepts can be a useful resource for students and add value to your core deliverables.

Real-time presentations on the Web with FLOlive

FLOlive is a Web environment that enables synchronous communication, collaboration and presentation. As a communication tool it can incorporate video and voice from a webcam, voice only using a headset, or text ‘chat’.

FLOlive can serve a variety of purposes, but as a presentation medium it can be as simple as uploading your PowerPoint slides, waiting for your students to login and away you go. You can draw or annotate over your presentation with the help of a whiteboard overlay, bring up websites or share any desktop application with your students, and even offer short quizzes or polls as you go to help maintain student engagement.

There is a simple recording function that allows you to record your session and have a link that you can send out to students who may have missed it. You could even use it for pre-packaging a lecture presentation and publishing it on your FLO site. It has also been used successfully for student presentations.

Yes, it sounds a bit complicated but the interface is refreshingly simple and intuitive. It’s also capable of delivering voice over IP over reasonably low bandwidth, so a top notch Internet connection is not necessarily required unless using video.

Of course it has its limitations and it’s a tool that works best for small groups, ideally less than 20. The University is licensed for up to 40 concurrent users, so it’s essential to book your session ahead of time. For use in teaching it’s also essential to attend a short workshop over at Staff Development.

For more information about FLOlive (it’s real name is Adobe Acrobat Connect) see: adobe.com/products/acrobatconnectpro/elearning/ For workshop availability refer to: www.flinders.edu.au/staffdev/index.php/course/GBA

Pre-packaging lectures with Adobe Presenter

Presenter is an add-in for PowerPoint that adds a swag of extra functionality for the specific purpose of delivering your presentation online. It has a very simple voice recording feature that allows you to work slide by slide recording your narration, and provides an editor for making simple audio edits.

Its main strength is that it publishes your presentation to Shockwave Flash format which means that, unlike native PowerPoint or video capture, it can be delivered over a low speed connection and it doesn’t require your students to have the PowerPoint or Acrobat reader software.

It also means that you get a clean easy-to-navigate interface that you can customise with optional table of
Engage and wow your audience with Prezi

In the words of its creators, “Prezi is zooming sketches on a digital napkin. It’s visualization and storytelling without slides.”.

Imagine, if you can, an infinite blank canvas upon which you assemble your presentation. You then add the free-form navigation style of Google Earth, allowing you to zoom in and out, and fly from one part of the canvas to another to connect key points and build a visual narrative.

Prezi is a fully online tool. There’s no software to install and it’s free to use. You can add a variety of elements to your presentation including images, text, audio and video.

It’s an interesting concept and one that you’ll start seeing more of at conferences, though I’m not fully convinced of it’s value beyond being a refreshing alternative to the conventional linear PPT slideshow. It certainly has the potential to be a more engaging approach to presentations and would make an interesting tool for student presentations or mind mapping.

It’s probably best seen in action to fully understand. www.prezi.com