

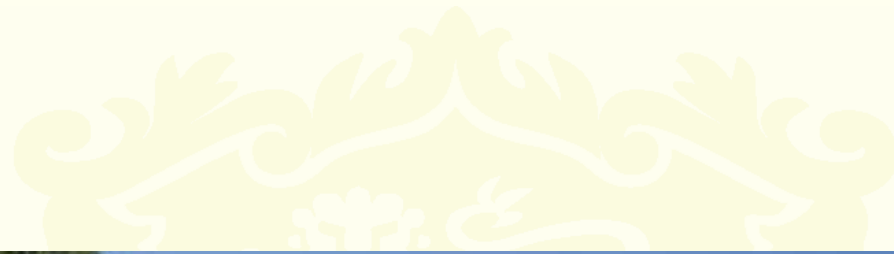
Distance Teaching and Learning without Walls:

**Developing academics' skills in
video-conferencing in the CREO Project at
The University of Sydney**

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Background

- **Orange Campus, The University of Sydney**
 - Faculty of Rural Management: UG & PG
 - now offering UG courses in Pharmacy, Liberal Studies, Computer Sci.
 - Sem I 2003: 9 units w/ enrolments: 9 - 49 students
 - **‘Partnership project’**: the University, the Western Institute of TAFE, the NSW State Department of Education & Training, the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science & Training.
- ‘Centre for Regional Education, Orange’ = CREO**



Teaching and Learning at a Distance

- *A technology-facilitated curriculum:*
 - video-lecturing
 - online and print materials
 - online communication and activities
 - other: labs, computer-based learning
 - ...plus local tutors
 - ...and lecturers' visits

Pharmacy Lecture Theatre



Arts Videoconferencing Room



Web Link:

<http://www.artsit.usyd.edu.au/labguides/servicesvcr.htm>

Orange Videoconferencing Room



Academic development in video-lecturing

- Why a training & development program?
- Who would facilitate it...?
--> LearnTel <http://www.learntel.com.au/>
Director LearnTel: Carol Daunt
- Survey: The CREO lecturers preferred
2 x half-day Intro. workshops
(.: normally a 2 day program!)

Workshops

- Structure: 2 x half days, 3 hrs each
- Timing: Nov 02, Feb-Mar 03
- Content:
 - v'conf equipment, systems, add-on equip't
 - thinking visually
 - learning (& teaching)
 - 'hands-on': mini-lessons

The CREO lecturers...

- English: 8 History: 2
- Pharmacy: 3 Psychology: 9
- + Library: 2
- + other staff attended...
- 19 / 22 participants indicated *very little* or *no* experience of video-conferencing.

Lecturers' early concerns...

...as revealed in brainstorming notes:

- *How is it different? (vs. chalk 'n' talk)*
- *How do we interact with remote site?*
- *What about engagement of all students?*
- *Is it user-friendly?*
- *What about technical support?*
- *What will the Uni. get out of it? (!)*

Lecturers' Evaluation

Workshop 1 [n = 22]

- content: the workshop had met their needs well or very well [20]
- relevance: the workshop had met their needs well or very well [20]
- presentation: the workshop had met their needs well or very well [21]

Workshop 1 - Open-ended comments:

- most useful: hands-on focus, practical tips, seeing the equipment and set-up,
- 'demystification' and 'dispelling ignorance'
- least useful: equipment failure (11.11.02);
poor system functioning
- requested: more interactivity, more hands-on,
practice in combining various media

Lecturers' Feedback on Workshop 2 (March 03, 'hands-on')

- Most useful: *learnt from watching others, eye contact, interaction with students, doc.cam*
- Other useful aspects: *good to be a student, to see or be at 'the other end', being up close to the equipment*
- Early experiences: *'Really good! I'm enjoying it!'; technical problems with synch. local and remote video-lecturing, great technical support at both ends*
- T & D suggestions: *more practice sessions, Orange students' feedback, several satisfied: 'enough'.*

Workshops: Observations & Implications

1. Infrastructure, local & 'remote' :

- equipment: lighting, microphone placement, dial-up system, doc. cam. needed
- v'conf-equipped teaching spaces are either too big or too small
- more information needed on booking spaces, equipment, personnel

Workshops: Observations & Implications

- Introductory workshop structure: the most effective way is not the 'remote-local' model...
- University-wide workshop program: organisation and management
- Advanced workshops and networking activities - and using the technology to share expertise and ideas

Collaboration is essential...

... the technology demands it!

- Carol Daunt LearnTel Pty. Ltd
- Simon Carlile Assistant PVC (IT), in 2002.
- Stephen Crump Exe. Director, CREO Project
- Jim Ward & staff Room Bookings
- Rafik Razzouk, Ian Trevena, Doug Kohlhoff, Russell Cook Information Technology Services (ITS)
- Tim Hughes, Tom Coble ITS, Faculty of Rural Management, Orange
- Janusz Tydda, Bala Muralee ITS, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nicholas Clarke & staff Audio-Visual Services, Fac. Mgt. Office
- Chris Aquilina & staff AVIT unit, Faculty of Medicine
- Marie-Thérèse Barbaux-Couper, Paul Blackbee ArtsIT Unit, Faculty of Arts
- Academic Reps. Dep'ts of English & Psychology, Faculties of Pharmacy & Comp. Science
- Mary Jane Mahony Faculty of Health Sciences

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