Welcome to the third edition of the Transnational Education newsletter. This year is proving to be one with many challenges, with the global financial crisis and the rapid spread of the H1N1 virus around the world being of particular concern. Despite these adversities it is encouraging to be able to highlight a number of success stories and new initiatives in this edition.

Dr Madeleine Reeve
Pro Vice-Chancellor
International and Development Portfolio

Update on partnership managers
In 2009 Global Business Development (GBD) at RMIT welcomed some new partnership managers to the Transnational Education team – Caryn Nery and Mary Jacobenov. Both Caryn and Mary have strong backgrounds in higher education and project management. The wealth of experience they bring to their roles will be invaluable in maintaining and enhancing the strong relationships already in place with RMIT’s offshore partners. Mary and Caryn will be taking on a range of partnership management responsibilities. Please check the RMIT TNE web pages for updates.

Partnership Management Model survey
A very big thank you to everyone who responded to the online survey on the implementation of the Partnership Management Model. Your feedback was very valuable and it was reassuring to see that your experience of the Model has been generally positive, and that you have found the new arrangements to have improved your communications with RMIT. The online survey formed part of a wider review of the Partnership Management Model implementation and your feedback, along with feedback from internal stakeholders, has enabled us to identify where policies and procedures need to be further refined and services enhanced.

New resource for international students
Many of the programs RMIT runs with its offshore partners include opportunities for students to undertake part of their study at RMIT in Australia. While such opportunities represent an exciting learning experience, moving from the familiarity of one’s home country to live and study at RMIT Melbourne also represents a challenging transition for many students. RMIT therefore seeks to assist students in this transition, and has developed a range of services and resources for this purpose.

One such resource is the recently launched International Student Stories web site. As part of the University’s Learning Lab, the site allows international students already studying with RMIT Melbourne to share their advice and experiences with newcomers. The advice is focused on four areas that students often find difficult to adjust to in their new environment:

- expectations about studying in Australia
- structuring assignments
- understanding referencing
- developing critical thinking skills.

Barbara Morgan from RMIT’s Study and Learning Centre oversaw the creation of the site with Dr Lynnel Hoare from the School of Management and the Global Cities Research Institute. As Dr Hoare notes, ‘The literature in relation to transnational education and intercultural studies, as well as our own experiences, tell us that the process of acculturation to learning and teaching styles in Australia is a significant hurdle for international students. We hope that this resource will help new international students to understand they are not alone in any initial confusion they may face and that it will help them to learn how other students have overcome the same challenges.’

Other useful resources for students coming to RMIT Melbourne can be found on the main RMIT University web site.
Taylor’s students win medals at Invention and Innovation Awards

Brilliant minds and bright ideas were in abundance at the eighth Malaysia Invention and Innovation Awards 2009, held in February in conjunction with the Malaysian Technology Expo (MTE) 2009 and the Global Invention and Innovation 2009.

Ivan She Sai Hoe, a final-year RMIT Bachelor of Computer Science student from Taylor’s School of Computer Science received the bronze medal from a field of 460 nominated projects for his project entitled Real-time IP Surveillance System (RISS).

The submission was his brainchild and final-year project, which was undertaken in consultation with lecturers Mr. Sanath Sukumaran and Ms. Tan Ee Xion. The Real-time IP Surveillance System is designed for utilisation by organisations or companies to enhance the safety and security of employees, visitors and students, as well as premises and assets.

‘The whole expo was a great experience as I was able to compete with not just students, but with other professionals, who have been in the industry for years. I would not have won without the support of my dedicated lecturers and my school’, Ivan said.

A first-time participant, Taylor’s College was one of three private universities that joined 48 public universities and national research centres across Malaysia to showcase their inventions.

In another win, three other students, Ignatius Sia, Darius Suwardi and Chan Yin Khuan, won three awards in the eGENTING Programming Competition 2008, an eight-hour open-book competition that challenges the creativity and programming prowess of competitors. Participants were required to think on their feet and produce solutions for realistic programming problems.

Ignatius said the competition was an eye-opener for him as it exposed him to the skills and knowledge required of a professional programmer. ‘I see programming problems as puzzles; it’s very interesting to experiment and try to solve each one. This experience has further enhanced my interest in programming and pushed me to discover more possibilities and different methods in solving programming problems’, he added.

We congratulate all four students, their lecturers and Taylor’s College for their success and look forward to showcasing future winners!

Email: rachel.hancock@rmit.edu.au
Tel. +61 3 9925 1639
Fax: +61 3 9925 5153

Transnational Education News/July 2009
RMIT offshore graduations 2009
In addition to the main graduation ceremony held in Melbourne, RMIT and its partners hold graduation ceremonies in China, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam for RMIT award programs. These important events allow family and friends to attend graduation ceremonies. Offshore graduation ceremonies are open to all eligible RMIT graduates.
Upcoming graduation ceremonies for offshore RMIT programs include:

• Hong Kong
  The Grand Hyatt
  Sunday 30 August 2009
  10.00 am and 2.00 pm
  www.hongkong.grand.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels

• Kuala Lumpur
  Hotel Nikko
  Friday 18 September 2009
  2.00 pm
  www.hotelnikko.com.my

• Singapore
  The Raffles City Convention Centre
  Monday 21 September 2009
  7.30 pm
  www.swissotel.com/EN/Destinations/Singapore/Swissotel+The+Stamford/Hotel+Home/Hotel+Description

Singapore Institute of Management, main campus
Thursday 27 and Friday 28 August 2009
10.00 am – 3.00 pm
RMIT’s partners should have already been contacted regarding the date, time and venue for each graduation ceremony. Details of staff members wishing to attend a graduation ceremony will be required to ensure seating, but if in doubt, please contact your Partnership Manager. Students wishing to graduate should contact partner staff, and complete applications to graduate. Details can be found at: www.rmit.edu.au/graduation/offshore.

Welcome to Professor On Kit Tam
Professor On Kit Tam has been appointed Professor of Economics and Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor, International, in the College of Business at RMIT University. His responsibilities include providing strategic leadership and oversight of the College’s international engagement activities and transnational programs to enhance outcomes in education, research, and industry links.

Prior to joining RMIT University, Professor Tam was Deputy Dean, International in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Monash University and previously held academic and executive positions at the University of New South Wales, the Treasury Department of the Australian Government and Philips Hong Kong. He has also held visiting positions in major Australian and overseas universities including the Australian National University, the University of California, Berkeley, Renmin University of China, University of Hong Kong and the University of London.

Professor Tam has extensive experience in international education and offshore program delivery and is an active researcher. Professor Tam has published many articles and several books and is currently Adjunct Professor of Finance at China’s Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing and Co-Director, China Centre for Institutional Investor, Nanjing University.