



LIFE LONG INDEPENDENT VETERINARY EDUCATION

For more information on any of these news stories,
please visit www.live.ac.uk

Introduction – By Professor Stephen May:

The articles in this Newsletter reveal continued progress in four essential themes related to education: Curricular Design (Professional Doctorates, Mongolian Visit), Teaching Delivery (Moodle and India), Assessment and Feedback (July “INSET” day), and Teacher Development (PG Cert in Veterinary Education). We also continue to explore professional skills such as “observation” and making meaning (Artist-in-Residence) and support “students as producers” through presentations and publications arising from individual student projects. We welcome feedback, and hope this newsletter will stimulate all our readers in their engagement in the most important activity of veterinary schools – the education of the next generation of professionals that make up “the veterinary team”!

LIVE Research

The LIVE team is a multidisciplinary group with expertise in all aspects of educational and social science research. Anyone is welcome to attend one of our monthly research meetings where we offer support and suggestions to help with new or existing projects. If you have anything you would like to discuss with the LIVE team, or would like to find out more about the research we are currently involved in, please contact Carrie Roder (croder@rvc.ac.uk) for our next meeting date.

Are you involved in Teaching or Training? PG Cert in Veterinary Education doubles intake.

Now in its 4th year, the RVC’s PG Certificate in Veterinary Education has doubled its intake with 45 participants enrolled. The 22 staff from the RVC are joined by participants from the US, Australia, Denmark, Sri-Lanka and Kenya, most of whom are studying by distance learning. Observing teachers both on-site and at a distance via video recordings and skype discussions has become a focus of some interesting research which we are currently writing up for publication.

A further 13 participants have now carried on to the Postgraduate Diploma and 7 are undertaking a Research Project to complete their MSc in Veterinary Education. Research projects include:

- 1) Evaluating the educational value of animated plastinated anatomical specimens in teaching veterinary anatomy.
- 2) The use of web-based Re-Usable Learning Objects to enhance student performance.
- 3) The effects of video feedback on the self-perceptions of surgical performance in 5th semester veterinary

students.

For more information on the MSc, please visit <http://www.live.ac.uk/our-work/msc-in-veterinary-education> or email mscvetedu@rvc.ac.uk.

Professional Doctorate Launch

In January 2014, the RVC launched two professional doctorate programmes in Agriculture and Food (DAgriFood) and Veterinary Practice (VetD) under the Advanced Training Partnerships funded by the BBSRC (UK).

Professional doctorates are specialist research qualifications aimed at professional development in specific areas. Unlike PhDs, they are not the basis for academic careers but rather enable individuals to perform at the highest level in relation to applied research and professional practice. According to a report by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)¹, students undertaking a professional doctorate are expected to:

“...make a contribution to both theory and practice in their field, and in particular to develop professional practice by making a contribution to (professional) knowledge”.

LIVE is central to the launch of professional doctorates as Stephen May is the Director of the Professional Doctorate programmes and Ayona Silva-Fletcher is a module leader responsible for the taught components focused on quantitative and qualitative research methods. More information on these can be found on the rvc website.

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/Postgraduate/Research/professional-doctorate/Index.cfm>

Mongolian Veterinary Teachers visit the RVC!

Recently Dr Ayona Silva-Fletcher hosted a visit from a group of six Mongolian veterinary teachers from the only vet school in Mongolia – the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology, Mongolian State University of Agriculture. The teachers came to review and update their current teaching practice in the light of the latest veterinary educational theory.

The visit was sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, represented by Dr Barbara Wieland.

For the full story and more photos, please visit

<http://www.live.ac.uk/news/mongolian-veterinary-teachers-visit-the-rvc>



Veterinary teachers from the Mongolian State University of Agriculture. Dr Ayona Silva-Fletcher (third from left) organised the visit on behalf of the RVC, while Dr Barbara Wieland (third from right) represented the sponsors, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Mongolia.

Development of a Joint Moodle Platform with India

LIVE is involved in a British Council funded project on Knowledge Economy partnerships with Madras Veterinary College, India to develop a joint moodle platform for offering online training course. The objective of this project is to share knowledge in pedagogy, course design and learning materials to develop courses for continuing professional development of veterinary and para veterinary professional throughout the globe. The joint platform is due to be launched by the end of this one year project which started in November 2014.

INSET Days

The Learning Development Team (led by Dr Rachel Davis) works closely with the Director of Staff Development (Kim Whittlestone) to ensure RVC students receive a high quality teaching and learning experience. With this in mind, we launched a Teaching and Learning INSET day in July 2012 (to complement the existing Assessment INSET Day held each winter) which focussed on supporting students in difficulty e.g. dealing with stress, anxiety, mental health issues and SpLDs. At T&L INSET 2013, we tackled the complex issue of feedback. Stephen May opened the session with an inspiring key note on 'Assessment, Feedback and the Student Experience'. This was followed by a series of workshops facilitated by Jonathan Silverman (University of Cambridge – Verbal Feedback), John Sandars (Leeds Institute for Medical Education – Assessment FOR Learning) and Jill Maddison (RVC – A Problem Solving Approach to Reasoning).

Building on these themes, T&L INSET 2014 (provisional date Tuesday 22nd July) will launch a new RVC Feedback Policy, focussing on the more practical aspects of quality feedback with opportunities for staff to develop their knowledge and skills and implement changes in time for the start of the 2014/15 academic session.

Student Presentation Awards

These awards are a chance for students to get the opportunity to present at Conferences and Seminars and gain valuable experience in presenting in front of large audiences. Each year, LIVE offers up to 3 awards (1 per term), each award up to the value £250.00. For more information on these awards, how to enter and to read previous winners abstracts, please visit www.live.ac.uk/our-work/live-student-presentation-prize

Artist in Residence at the Royal Veterinary College, 2014

By Geoffrey Harrison:

Since starting in September 2013, this residency has been a fantastic and eye-opening experience. I've been fortunate enough to have been shown all over the college and met some really interesting people doing brilliant work. There is still quite a lot that I have left to explore but what I have seen has given me lots of ideas for work. I've been able to take this inspiration and make some new paintings and as well as

an ongoing series of drawings, I will soon have finished 5 paintings and I'm about to start work on the 4 large canvases that the college will keep at the end of the residency. Please visit our website for more information and pictures on Geoff's residency.

More information on Geoff's residency can be found on our website:
<http://www.live.ac.uk/news/artist-in-residence-at-the-royal-veterinary-college>



Bonnie and Viper at work, at our Camden campus. These are our resident greyhounds used for animal handling.