

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

### DR CHRISTINE ARMATAS

Dr Christine Armatas has over 15 years of experience working as an academic in curriculum design, assessment and evaluation. She has worked on curriculum and e-learning projects of varying sizes, including the award winning 3C Project at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Interprofessional Education Program at Victoria University. Her research interests include the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning and institutional assessment and evaluation.

### DR GILL BEST

Dr Gill Best is a Senior Lecturer and Manager, Students Supporting Student Learning (SSSL) in the Centre for Student Success. She holds a PhD from Victoria University titled 'First Year University Students and their Parents: Conjoint Experiences of University'. Gill has worked at VU since 1991 and has been experimenting with, devising and implementing student peer mentoring programs since 1998. Gill considers SSSL programs to be an exciting and transformative way to support students both academically and socially and sees the students within the programs as a key to unlocking students' talents, skills and knowledge. Gill visited UTEP in 2010 where she enjoyed learning about UTEP's peer learning programs, and meeting the students and staff.

### PROFESSOR MARY CAROLAN-OLAH

Professor Mary Carolan-Olah, PhD, MPH, BN, is Coordinator (Research & Research Training) and Leader of the Clinical and Community Health research unit within Victoria University's College of Health & Biomedicine. Professor Mary Carolan-Olah is a registered Nurse, a certified midwife, and she has been conducting research in high risk pregnancy for almost 10 years. Her research has made significant impact in a number of areas,

including: pregnancy in women over 35 years, gestational diabetes mellitus and predictors of perinatal morbidity.

### DR KAREN CHARMAN

Dr Karen Charman is a senior lecturer at Victoria University, and the President of the Public Pedagogies Institute. Her academic research is around pedagogy and curriculum as well memory, representation and communities. This research has been undertaken in a variety of different ways, through the development of curriculum to assist transition to higher education, education and museums and memoir and archives.

### DR GARY EDENS

Dr Gary Edens is the Vice President for Student Affairs at The University of Texas at El Paso and provides administrative leadership to thirty-four student service departments including University Recruitment, Scholarships, Career Center, Counseling Services, Recreational Sports, International Programs, Residence Life, Union Services and the Student Engagement and Leadership Center. As the Chief Student Affairs Officer, he is also a key leader in developing the university's enrolment management strategies and has actively worked to improve retention rates and decrease time to degree. Dr Edens graduated from UTEP in 1990 as a Top Ten Senior with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He went on to earn both his Master's degree in Public Administration and Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration from The University of Texas at El Paso.

### DR DONNA EKAL

Dr Donna Ekal is Associate Provost in the Office for Undergraduate Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. Her duties include leading the departments in Undergraduate Studies, coordinating the university programming with El Paso Community College, and participating in other campus programs and activities. Prior to coming to UTEP, Dr. Ekal was

principal of El Paso Country Day School, a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, and worked on a U.S.A.I.D. grant with University of Illinois at Egerton University in Njoro, Kenya. She received her undergraduate degree from University of Minnesota in Agronomy and her graduate degrees from Cornell University.

### **ADRIAN GALLAGHER**

Adrian Gallagher is a graduate of the University Of Melbourne and RMIT with over 24 years of experience in academic and special libraries. From July 2007 to 2011 Adrian worked as the Learning Commons Manager at Victoria University completing a range of projects including the creation of the Footscray Park and Footscray Nicholson Learning Commons. In 2011 Adrian received a Vice Chancellors award for contributions to Learning Commons Projects at Victoria University. In previous roles Adrian was the RMIT Swanston Library and the Victorian Parliamentary Librarian. Adrian is currently the Associate Librarian, Information Resources, Systems and Infrastructure at Victoria University Library where he has been responsible for library projects integrating repository systems with university research publication systems and implementing open access platforms for university data collections.

### **DR EFFY GEORGE**

Dr Effy George teaches in the Bachelor of Arts first year program at Victoria University, Australia. Her research and teaching interests include Anthropology, South Asia, Asian Art History and Gender Studies. From 2009 to 2015, she has designed and coordinated the Web 2.0 Global Learning Community (GLC), a suite of collaborative programs involving Victoria University and the University of Texas, El Paso.

### **DR DARKO HAJZLER**

Dr Darko Hajzler is a registered psychologist. He has worked as a counsellor and lecturer at several universities within Australia and in the United

States. Dr Hajzler seeks to understand the situations of students in order to provide them with options and support them while they explore these possibilities. He has received training in language based models: including behavioural, cognitive behavioural (principally REBT), hypnosis, narrative, and psychoanalytic.

### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALAN HAYES**

Associate Professor Hayes is a teaching and research academic at Victoria University. He has over 25 years of experience in muscle and exercise physiology with a focus on the importance of muscle mass and function in health, disease and aging. Associate Professor Hayes has been instrumental in facilitating research collaboration with the College of Health Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso. He continues to advance research engagement as the Assistant Dean, Western Centre for Health Research and Education and as Deputy Director of The Australian Institute for Musculoskeletal Sciences based at Sunshine Hospital.

### **RALPH KIEL**

Ralph Kiel has been University Librarian at Victoria University since August 2009. His main current interests are managing the Library through a time of significant changes, engaging with the university's patrons and stakeholders, expanding the Library's service catalogue into innovative areas, and ensuring the Library delivers high quality services that are cost effective. He has been involved with the education sector all his working life, starting in Victorian secondary schools and TAFE colleges before moving to University libraries in 1999.

### **JOANNE KROPP**

Joanne Kropp has a B.A. in Drama from Texas State University, a MA in History from The University of Texas at El Paso and is a PhD candidate in Borderlands History at UTEP. She is a Senior Lecturer in UTEP's Entering Student Program (ESP) and teaches courses in Borderlands

History, World History, Latin American History, US History, and Women's Studies. Her research and teaching focus on environmentalism, law, gender, and migration/immigration. Ms Kropp currently teaches the GLCs with Victoria University and Guttman College.

### **PROFESSOR ANDREW MCAINCH**

Professor Andrew McAinch is a faculty member of Victoria University's College of Health and Biomedicine. He has clinical training as a Dietitian and Exercise Physiologist as well as research training in molecular physiology. Andrew has been the Treasurer for the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society for the last 5 years, is currently a member of the Council of Deans of Nutrition and Dietetics (Australia, New Zealand), Leader of the Lifestyle Associated Diseases Program area within the Centre for Chronic Disease and member of the College Research and Research Training Committee.

### **DR BELINDA MCLENNAN**

Ms Belinda McLennan serves as the Chief Operating Officer at Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES) Pty. Ltd., and served as its General Manager of Education and Training Services and General Manager of Education. Ms. McLennan was responsible for the delivery of AMES Education and Training services, including AMEP and Distance. Ms McLennan has previously held positions as the CEO of Tasmanian Polytechnic, and the Pro Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Learning at Victoria University.

### **GAON MITCHELL**

Gaon Mitchell is currently the Owner/Operator of Careers in the West. She has had a 25 year career history in post-compulsory education, predominantly in the higher education sector. This has focused on Career and Employability outcomes for students. Across 2010-2015 she had the opportunity to engage in an exciting strategic partnership that allowed Victoria University to build a successful Students-as-Staff campaign,

replicated on the UTEP model. The success of this model saw over 1000 students employed on campus across VU's various sites, and grow their employability and entrepreneurship possibilities. Since leaving VU in 2015, Gaon has established a consultancy specialising in work integrated learning, and has undertaken a range of projects including policy, online portal, and internship unit development.

### **DR IRMA VICTORIA MONTELONGO**

Dr Irma Victoria Montelongo received her PhD in Borderlands History from UTEP. Her fields of study include Gender and Sexuality, Latin American History, United States History and Borderlands History. Her research and teaching interests focus on race, class, gender, sexuality, and criminology on the United States-Mexico border. In 2009, Dr. Montelongo developed and taught the first Global Learning Community with Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia, which focused on globalization, migration, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality on opposite sides of the globe.

### **JACINTA RICHARDS**

Jacinta in her current position as Manager, Student Learning Pathways at Victoria University has a leadership role in preparing and inducting non-traditional students from diverse educational backgrounds for study in degree courses at Victoria University. As part of this responsibility she manages the university's Higher Education Participation and Partnership funded Early University Pathways initiative, working with secondary schools and the University colleges to build and support pathways for secondary school students, through co-enrolment in tertiary and secondary programs, early university credits, academic development and transition experiences.

### **ROBERT L STAKES**

Robert L Stakes is the Associate Vice President for Information Resources and Director of the University Library at UTEP. Robert has served as Director of the Library since 2005, at which time the UTEP library began a

transformation based on Learning Commons model for academic libraries. Since that time the Library has added a 300-seat open computer lab, the University Writing Center, the Math Tutoring Center, the Technology Support Center and IT Help Desk. Statistics show that 88% of enrolled students have accessed resources in the Library at least once in the academic year.

### **PROFESSOR STEPHEN RITER**

Dr Stephen Riter was educated at Rice University and the University of Houston. He was a faculty member at Texas A&M University between 1968 and 1980 rising to the rank of Professor. In 1980 he joined the University of Texas at El Paso as Professor and Chair of Electrical Engineering. He has also served UTEP as Chair of Computer Science, Dean of Engineering and 1996 became UTEP's first Provost. As Provost he was responsible for UTEP's teaching, research and public service programs. In 2005 Dr. Riter became UTEP's first Vice President for Information Resources and Planning and is responsible for all information related activities of the University including information technology and the UTEP Library.

### **DR CAROLYN WOODLEY**

Dr Carolyn Woodley is Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is Course Director of the Graduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education at Charles Sturt University. Carolyn's research interests include the use of ICT in teaching and learning, internationalising the curriculum, transnational quality and building capacity through community-based projects. While her PhD was in the area of postcolonial theory and identity, Carolyn has taught in Education, Arts, Business and Law programs in the tertiary sector over 20 years. She has published in international journals on various themes including ePortfolios, risks and benefits of social media, graduate capabilities and team assessment. Like many educators, she is currently exploring how best to exploit the pedagogical opportunities presented by social media. When at Victoria University, she worked on the VU/UTEP relationship in the areas of postgraduate Accounting as well as student exchange.

### **SUSAN YOUNG**

Susan Young is the Dean of Students at Victoria University. This is a newly established position to lead the university's student participation and efforts to enhance student success and retention and the overall student experience. Previously she was the inaugural Dean of the Victoria University College, providing foundation and general education support to the diverse student cohort both domestic and international—and building strong links with community and pathways into higher education and the workplace. She began her career in education working as a high school teacher and has a keen interest in the capacity building of individuals who are learning for work and life. Her current role enables Susan to contribute to VU's longstanding commitment to Excellent, Engaged and Accessible education.

