

PORTFOLIO POSSIBILITIES: Trialling portfolios with first-year engineering students

Keywords:

Portfolio, reflective practice, engineering

What happens when reflective practice and portfolios are introduced to a group of first year civil engineering students? This presentation discusses the outcomes of a research trial that explored the process of creating a reflective portfolio with twenty-four first year civil engineering students. The structure of the portfolio was determined after taking into consideration the future needs of the Engineering Faculty; the outcomes of the unit in which the portfolio was housed; and the research findings from the growing literature in the area. The portfolios showcased the students' progress as they contained work samples from various engineering units with accompanying written reflections. The results so far indicate that the portfolio gave students the opportunity to articulate their ideas about learning and, more importantly, to further understand the process of becoming a professional engineer. This presentation will reveal the outcomes of the trial, outline the structure of the unit, including assessment issues, and also exhibit some student work.

Presenter details:

Veronica Goerke

Lecturer, Faculty of Media, Society and Culture

Curtin University of Technology

Telephone: 9266 7739

Fax: 9266 3166

Email: v.goerke@curtin.edu.au

Co-presenter details:

Jane Grellier

Lecturer, Faculty of Media, Society and Culture

Curtin University of Technology

Telephone: 9266 7739

Fax: 9266 3166

Email: j.grellier@curtin.edu.au

Professor M G Zadnik

Dean of Teaching and Learning

Division of Engineering, Science and Computing

Curtin University of Technology

GPO Box U1987 Perth Western Australia 6845

Telephone +61 8 9266 2326

Fax +61 8 9266 2602

Office Building 314.125

Email m.zadnik@curtin.edu.au

CRICOS Provider Code 00301J