

from theory to practice...

As well as ongoing theoretical discussions we are particularly interested in exploring practices and improving student learning based on theoretical studies of threshold concepts. How has knowledge of these areas of the curricula caused improvement in student learning? What faculty developments have been introduced to help individuals construct more effective courses and assessments and departments construct more appropriate curricula?



REGISTRATION:

The registration fee of \$500.00 (CDN) includes all of your meals and nutrition breaks. Guests will be treated to a Sunset Dinner Cruise through the famous Thousand Islands aboard Kingston's own Island Star.

To register please contact::

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Caroline Baillie, Professor of Engineering Education and Materials Engineering is delighted to host this event in the recently opened Integrated Learning Centre at Queen's University. The Inte-

grated Learning Centre, is a unique facility designed to support new and exciting initiatives in undergraduate engineering. Located in Beamish-Munro Hall, the building has been instrumented as a working laboratory or 'live building', where students are able to observe, monitor and manipulate selected building systems, including renewable energy alternatives.

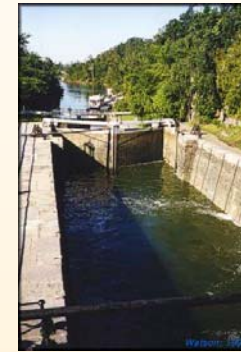


THRESHOLD CONCEPTS

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

First Call for Papers

We are delighted to announce that this, the second biannual symposium on Threshold Concepts, will take place at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. We are interested in developing threshold concept theory as well as moving theory into practice.



Kingston, was Canada's first capital and is one of Canada's oldest cities. Located at the gateway to the Thousand Islands, Kingston is alive with history, the arts, live theatre and natural beauty.



JUNE 18 - 20, 2008
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

THRESHOLD CONCEPTS SYMPOSIUM

KEYNOTE EVENT



Canoeing on one of Kingston and area's many lakes



The Keynote speakers will be the founders of Threshold Concepts, Jan Meyer and Ray Land. Jan Meyer is a Professor of Education and the Director of the Centre for Learning, Teaching, and Research in Higher

Education at the University of Durham in the United Kingdom. Ray Land is currently Professor of Higher Education and Director of the Centre for Academic Practice and Learning Enhancement at the University of Strathclyde. Together they are developing an associated conceptual framework on Threshold Concepts that can be used to enhance learning and teaching environments across the disciplines. If you would like to learn more about their research you may be interested in their most recent publication titled, "Overcoming Barriers to Student Learning: Threshold Concepts and Troublesome Knowledge."



TRAVELLING ONWARDS...

The first conference on *Threshold Concepts Within The Disciplines*, held in Glasgow during August of 2006, demonstrated the excitement and energy of this emerging new area of research. Threshold concepts behave like gateways or *portals* which some students *pass through* and others do not. Meyer and Land suggest that difficulty in understanding threshold concepts may leave the learner in a state of 'liminality', a suspended state or 'stuck place' and furthermore, that threshold concepts are likely to be transformative i.e. that they mark a shift in the perception of the subject by the student, and that they are probably irreversible. In the few years since the first discussions of threshold concepts in 2002, we see the emergence of work on thresholds in many varied disciplines

Apart from being a fascinating and important area of research, it is evident that the idea of threshold concepts appeals to many practitioners and teachers. Academics who are intrigued by their subject knowledge will engage with discussions about thresholds for their students, when conversations about 'teaching' have never been appealing. It is proving to be an important area of progress for curriculum development and discipline based educational development.

First Call for Papers

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS ARE INVITED ON THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

- Threshold concepts and troublesome knowledge in different disciplines
- Variation in states of liminality
- Learning outcomes: threshold 'concepts' (knowledge), threshold attitudes and threshold skills or capabilities
- Theory into practice—developing teaching strategies for threshold concepts
- Education development and threshold concepts

IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FORMATS:

- Garden Discussions—roundtable discussions
- Workshops
- Paper presentation (talk) and discussion
- Panel Discussions

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN:

- Presenting a Workshop
- Presenting a Talk
- Arranging a Panel
- Presenting a Garden Discussion
- Attending the Symposium (but not presenting)

If you would like to present in any of the above formats please submit an abstract for peer review of 500 words by September 30, 2007. We will be asking for full papers to be submitted at the conference if you would be interested in being considered for publishing in a special edited volume, following the precedent of the last threshold concepts conference.

