

## Faculty of Education Sharing Scholarship



### Outdoor Education

Faculty of Education video conference rooms  
(Cradle Coast B159, Launceston A221c & Hobart H325)

#### Faculty of Education presents:

Dr Tim O'Connell (Brock University)

Tim is engaged in a number of local, regional and international projects which examine how psychological sense of community develops in groups of people who participate in outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.



Tim will be presenting two seminars where he will discuss his research.

#### Sense of Community in Outdoor Education: Results from a Multifaceted Study

9<sup>th</sup> October 2009      Time: 3.10-4.00pm

In many educational settings, students develop strong feelings of attachment to their classmates, which has positive educational and social outcomes. This attachment has been referred to as psychological sense of community, and is comprised of perceptions of: membership, influence, integration and fulfilment of needs, and shared emotional connection. While positive sense of community is often a "natural" result of students learning together, little is known about how community is actually experienced by students. This seminar will present the results of a multifaceted study which used surveys and focus groups to examine students' perceptions of community in an outdoor education setting. Findings suggest that curricular elements and instructors' leadership style impact feelings of community. Recommendations for creating positive community in general education settings will be presented.

#### Reflections on Trends and Emerging Issues in Outdoor Experiential Education in Canada & Beyond

6<sup>th</sup> November 2009      Time: 3.10-4.00pm

Experiential education in Canada, particularly in the outdoors, has a long tradition and is rooted in the historical fabric of the country. Recent curricular developments have thrust outdoor experiential education into the spotlight in the province of Ontario. As recommended by a blue ribbon panel led by Canadian astronaut Roberta Bondar, outdoor experiential education, in the form of environmental education, has been reintroduced to the kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum. This case will be used to explore the historical background of outdoor experiential education in Canada, and contextualize global trends and emerging issues in the broader field of experiential education.