

From [Tara Murphy <tara@physics.usyd.edu.au>](mailto:tara@physics.usyd.edu.au)
Sent Sunday, July 18, 2010 1:59 am
To [Kirk D Borne <kborne@gmu.edu>](mailto:kborne@gmu.edu)
Cc
Bcc
Subject Informatics teaching

Hi Kirk,

I am emailing to thank you for the excellent resources that you have developed for Informatics teaching.

I am also involved in teaching Informatics (an introduction to information technology) for science and computer science students at The University of Sydney. I also teach Computational Science to physics, chemistry and biology students; and Engineering Computing - a compulsory unit for chemical, civil and mechanical engineers. All of these courses are aimed at first year undergraduate students.

Earlier this year I chaired a review of the role of computing in the undergraduate physics syllabus. I used your courses as exemplars of this kind of teaching - which places core computer science concepts in a practical context. They are great examples of the new era of informatics-style courses that are emerging, partly as a response to the new focus on data-driven research.

I have been aware of your leadership in this area since 2008 when I developed a postgraduate training workshop - the 'Astroinformatics School' - which is attended by approximately 50 students and postdoctoral researchers a year within the Australian astronomy community. I found your material very valuable when researching possible focus areas for this workshop.

It is always enjoyable to meet other people who are interested in excellence in teaching. I hope to expand my courses in the future, and look forward to discussing the challenges of teaching IT in a science context,

Tara

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