

TEACHING MATTERS

No. 11, September 2015

Welcome!

Welcome to the September edition of 'Teaching Matters'. Students are being welcomed back across the campus this month and we wish to extend this to new staff joining the institution as well; we look forward to getting to know you and working with you in the months ahead. We have highlighted a number of opportunities for everyone to get the most out of your return after the summer break!

Please visit [our website](#) for more information about any of the items here, and of course you are welcome to [contact us](#) with any questions or feedback you may have.

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eLearning Excellence Awards 2015

Three DIT eLearning projects have been shortlisted for an Excellence Award at the upcoming 14th European Conference on eLearning. Congratulations go to **Dr. Frances Boylan** (LTTC) for her submission about [The 12 Apps of Christmas online course](#); **Dr. Pauline Rooney** (LTTC) for her submission about the online CPD module '[Technology Enhanced Learning, Teaching & Assessment](#)', and to **Alice Luby** (School of Marketing) for her submission about her cross-faculty project [Action Accounting](#).



There were 70 submissions initially for these awards from which only 40 made it through to the second round. Those selected were then invited to write a detailed case study on their project, and finally 12 were shortlisted as finalists. Frances, Pauline and Alice will have to present to a panel of judges, along with the nine other finalists, at the conference in the UK at the end of October. We would like to wish them all the best and fingers crossed! Watch this space!

Launch of three TU4Dublin Collaborative Curriculum Initiatives 12-2pm, Friday 18th September at The Courtyard, DIT Aungier St



Three TU4Dublin Collaborative Curriculum Initiatives will be launched this Friday 18th September at a special lunchtime event in DIT Aungier St.

- **TU4D Programmes for the Future:** Seven cross-institutional programme teams have been selected to create flagship courses that align with the new TU4D curriculum model.
- **TU4D First Year Experience Prototype Projects:** 20 prototype projects emerging from Ewan McIntosh's workshops have been funded to develop new strategies that will underpin the foundation of a unique TU4D first year curriculum.
- **The Change 1 Thing by Spring** initiative has been started in all three partner institutions and will culminate in a Showcase event in March 2016.
- Friday's launch event will be chaired by **Prof Brian O'Neill** and opened by **Dr Mary Meaney, ITB President**. **Prof Rhona Sharpe**, Oxford Brookes University will provide a short keynote before launching the Projects. The launch will be followed by a workshop facilitated by Prof Sharpe.
- [Click here to register for this event](#) or contact us if you have any queries.

Are you a new Lecturer at DIT?

WELCOME!

- Check out the resources at www.dit.ie/teaching/ and at <http://www.dit.ie/lttc>
- Our short CPD in **Learning, Teaching and Assessment** may be of particular interest to you. It introduces participants to some of the key concepts and practices associated with teaching in higher education. There is an opportunity to try out some strategies within a 'micro-teaching'. It commences on October 29th (10-5) and another full day on December 17th with online activities in between. This module may also be useful for experienced lecturers who want a refresher.
- Further details and the online application form are [available on our website](#).



More CPDs for 2015-16 - something for everyone!

- There were **50 graduates** from our various CPDs in 2014-15. In addition to the new CPD in Academic Leadership and the TELTA and the short **Learning, Teaching and Assessment** modules, we have **five** other CPDs running this year.
- Modules include: **Higher Education Policy, Academic Writing and Publishing, Supervising UG Dissertations and Projects, and Assessment and Feedback.** [Full details are on our CPD website.](#)

Launch of Academic Leadership in Teaching, Learning and Assessment CPD module

23 DIT and ITB Academic Leaders commenced a new LTTC CPD in academic leadership on 24th June 2015.

The blended **Academic Leadership in Teaching, Learning and Assessment** course runs from June to December and comprises presentations, webinars, discussion based activities and workshops.

Dr Muiris O'Connor, Head of Policy and Strategic Planning, HEA provided the first presentation. Other presenters include **Lewis Purser** from the IUA, and **Dr Michael Hallissy** from the Digital Hub.



Participants at the opening workshop on 24th June 2015

National Forum highlights prominence of teaching and learning research by DIT

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning has published the findings of a research project to map research output focused on Higher Education Teaching and Learning in Ireland from 1990-2015, revealing that DIT is second nationally in a comprehensive review of literature in this field.



The purpose of this work was to document the volume of work that has been undertaken, and to provide insights into gaps and future questions for researchers. A systematic literature review

using a recognised framework was undertaken, generating a bibliography of some 2275 publications. The outcomes of this review showed that UL was the most prolific institution, with DIT following a close second with UCD. The review showed a strong focus on STEM subjects, but also that a third of all publications were focused on e-learning. Gaps appear to emerge in research into the student experience as an area for further development. You can read [a two page summary of this research at the Forum's website](#), and the full report is also available there too.

Registration now open for Technology-Enhanced Learning, Teaching and Assessment (TELTA) online module



Applications are invited for the next Technology-Enhanced Learning, Teaching & Assessment (TELTA) online module which will run from **21 October** until **16 December 2015**.

Delivered fully online, TELTA is an accredited CPD module (5 ECTS) which gives participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in existing and emerging learning technologies. Shortlisted as a finalist for the **ECEL eLearning Excellence Awards 2015**, a unique approach is taken within the module in that participants set their own personal learning objectives at the outset, thereby enabling them to reflect on weekly topics from their own professional perspectives. Participants also get the opportunity to develop their personal learning networks as they discuss meaningfully, with like-minded peers, how technologies could be utilised to enhance learning, teaching and assessment experiences.

Credits from this module can contribute towards the MA in Higher Education, offered by the Learning, Teaching & Technology Centre at the DIT.

For further information (including testimonials from previous participants) and a link to the registration form, see: <http://dittelta.wordpress.com>. We look forward to meeting you virtually in October 2015!

Graduations and New Starts in MA in Higher Education, MSc in Applied eLearning, Postgraduate Diploma and CPD modules

We are delighted to welcome a total of 42 new students to our programmes this month, including the **Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching, MA in Higher Education** and **MSc in Applied e-Learning**. We will welcome additional groups to our **CPD modules** commencing later this month too – places are still available on these and you can [find out more on our website](#).

Meanwhile we are delighted to announce the successful completion of 19 participants from across our Masters qualifications for both academic staff and industry practitioners: 7 from the MA in Higher Education; and 12 from the MSc Applied eLearning - graduations are in November. Congratulations to them all, and we wish them continued success into the future, reaping the benefits of the programmes by continuing to put all that they have learnt into practice - don't forget to keep in touch!



MA induction, 8th September 2015



MSc induction, 8th September 2015

ENRRICH Project and Living Knowledge Conference

Dr Claire McDonnell of the LTTC is working with **Dr Catherine Bates** and **Sinead McCann** (DIT Access and Civic Engagement Office) on Work Package 8 of a project funded from July 2015 under the EU Horizon 2020 Science With and For Society strand.

The project is called **Enhancing Responsible Research and Innovation through Curricula in Higher education (EnRRICH)** and €200,000 was awarded to DIT to develop new ways to build RRI into the curriculum, including hosting the [Living Knowledge Conference](#) on community-based research in DIT in June 2016.

More information on the Living Knowledge conference including the call for proposals and conference themes is available at the [Living Knowledge website](#).

First Year Tutor Light Lunches



First Year Tutors are invited to join light lunches across DIT over the next number of weeks to compare notes and experiences:

- Thursday 15th October, Aungier St (room 2048)
- Thursday 22nd October, Bolton St (BL135)
- Tuesday 10th November, Grangegorman (RD004)
- Thursday 12th November, Kevin St (KE1054)

Further details will be available at www.dit.ie/lttc next week.

Orientation Apps for Students developed by the DIT School of Hospitality Management & Tourism



The School of Hospitality Management & Tourism has just launched two new mobile apps - "**DITGetSmart!**" for first years and "**Prep4DIT**" for Foundation Access & International students starting in their school. These apps are designed to improve the orientation experience for these students and includes floor plans, maps, schedules, lecturing staff details and social media resources, and are the first of their kind in the DIT. Both apps are available free to incoming students on the Google and Apple App Stores, and were the result of a collaborative effort between Lecturers **Nevan Bermingham** and **Mary O'Rawe**, Northside AT Officer **Trevor Boland**, course coordinators **Deirdre Ryan** and **Bobby Maher**.

Research Corner – Conferences and Publications!

ViCEPhEC in Nottingham DIT was very well represented at the recent **Variety In Chemistry Education / Physics Higher Education Conference** held in the University of Nottingham. **Dr Vanessa Murphy** spoke on the group project on authentic assessment she undertook as part of the Diploma in 3rd Level Learning and Teaching. **Dr Barry Ryan** (MA Higher Ed), **Dr Aaron MacRaghne** (MSc Applied eLearning) and **Dr Claire McDonnell** (LTTC) each presented also. [You can view the programme and abstracts here](#). The conference tweets have been archived using Storify and [provide a useful record](#) of the event.

Dr Barry Ryan presented his research on using augmented reality with his students at the UK's [Association for Learning Technology Conference](#) at the University of Manchester. Barry has kindly written a review of this conference to share with colleagues here at DIT – this is [available on our website](#) and is an ideal opportunity to catch up if you could not be there. It's good to hear that e-learning development at DIT is staying with the cutting edge!



Dr Michael Seery, a graduate of the **MSc in Applied eLearning**, has recently published a paper entitled *Flipped learning in higher education chemistry: emerging trends and potential directions in Chemistry Education Research and Practice*.

Meanwhile, we are delighted to share some positive feedback from **Ian Griffin** of the Insurance Institute of Ireland (III) who is shortly to graduate from the **MA in Higher Education**, commenting on our **Academic Writing and Publishing** module:

"I wanted to drop you a line about the AWP module and the impact the IJAP publication has made. As you know, I was kindly accepted to publish an article for the journal for which I am very grateful. The result of this led to Kristian Spring (Research Assistant, Bingham Young University, USA) contacting me as part of her research into 'the current landscape of international blended learning'. I participated in a Skype interview with Kristian as part of her survey on international blended learning. The questions were relating to the III's blended learning model and delivery and student engagement / experiences within the blended learning environment. As part of her research too, she has cited the IJAP paper in her research paper with student engagement being difficult to define and is a concern for educators."

Find out more about the **Irish Journal of Academic Practice (IJAP)** at the [journal website](#).

National Forum Focused Research Projects



The National Forum has published reports and *Insights* (two-page summaries) of its focused teaching and learning research projects, completed in June 2015. **Dr Pauline Rooney** and **Dr Claire McAvinia** of the LTTC together with **Yvonne Desmond** of DIT Library collaborated with colleagues in UL, Mary Immaculate College, RCSI, and NUI Galway in a project to investigate **Learning Resources and Open Access in Higher Education Institutions in Ireland**. The project explored how academics are creating and sharing digital resources for teaching, and how they might be supported in this work in future. You can read [summary findings of this project at the Forum website](#), and the full report is also available there too.

Teaching Tip of the Month: Daily Tips and Weekly Updates

- **Teaching Professor Tips** is a free app available on iTunes or Google Play for Android. It prompts the user with daily tips to enhance students' learning, assessment, feedback and teaching life in general. [Find out more and see a quick overview here](#).
- **Platotonic** is a free weekly email newsletter which started life as a student project on the MSc in Applied eLearning. You can sign up to receive a digest of learning and technology news each week from the [Platotonic website](#).

CONTACT US!

We welcome enquiries and your feedback to lttc@dit.ie