LEARNING, TEACHING + TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

TEACHING MATTERS

Welcome

Welcome to the February *Teaching Matters* digest. Remember to check <u>our main website</u> for more information about any of the items here or on the blog, and of course you are welcome to <u>contact us</u> with any questions or feedback you may have.

Follow us!

You can follow **our blog** to catch updates in between these digest emails. If you are using Wordpress, *Follow* the blog via your own account to get update of any of our blog posts via email.

Research and Scholarly Conversations Webinar – Monday 29th February, 1-1.45pm

Evaluating the effect of a student peer mentoring approach for mature students undertaking computer programming at foundation level
Nevan Bermingham
Hospitality, Management & Tourism, DIT
This webinar will discuss a new study which investigates if a peer mentoring structure for mature students at Foundation Level has an effect on their understanding of programming threshold concepts compared to traditional class only teaching approaches. While you can join online we do ask you to register so we can accommodate all participants.
find out more and register >>

Students as Researchers Seminar – Tuesday 1st March, 11am-1pm

Our second upcoming seminar from guest experts funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education will take place on Tuesday 1st March from 11am-1pm.
Students as Researchers – Linking Teaching and Research Throughout the Curriculum will be facilitated by **Prof Stuart Hampton-Reeves.** Registration is via EventBrite and the seminar is free.
find out more >>

LTTC Programmes Open Sessions – Wednesday 9th March 2016, 1-2pm and 5-6pm

Join us at the LTTC, 5th floor Aungier Street, on Wednesday 9th March at lunchtime (1-2pm) or in the evening (5-6pm) to find out all about the LTTC's programmes. Applications are now being accepted for our **Postgraduate Diploma in Third Level Learning and Teaching, MSc in Applied e-Learning** and **MA in Higher Education**. These exciting, innovative and award-winning programmes are tailored for today's busy academics and practitioners who are seeking to update or develop new skills and strategies that can enhance their students' learning. All programmes use student-centred methods, combining face-to-face sessions with online, interactive activities so that you can easily fit study around your work and/or other commitments. Programmes commence again in September 2016.
To register for either Open Session please email lttc@dit.ie

Perspectives in Education Seminars

Perspectives in Education, the LTTC's seminar series, is underway again this semester. The series began with a look at the question of whether the availability of online notes is deterring students from attending lectures in third level. This stemmed from recent media coverage of discussions at the Oireachtas in January. A lively discussion was held and we will make notes available via our website shortly. The next seminar takes place on **March 10th**, with the topic **Should HE lecturers have a formal qualification in teaching?**
find out more >>

E-Portfolios – Major National Event 21st-23rd March

Dublin Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Tallaght, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Hibernia College, with the support of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, are working together on a six-month project entitled **An ePortfolio strategy to enhance student learning and assessment, and staff professional development**. As part of the project, we are delighted to host a **National Irish ePortfolio Forum event ePortfolios in Ireland: What Now, Where Next? from Monday 20th to Wednesday 23rd March 2016.** This three-day event at DIT Aungier St will explore themes such as ePortfolio projects, tools and platforms, assessment and reflection, and digital identity and career progression.
find out more and register >>

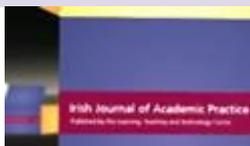## First Year Tutors Light Lunches – March/April 2016

Are you a 1st Year tutor or involved in teaching 1st years? If so, we have another 'light lunch' series you won't want to miss!
As well as lunch, you will have the opportunity to meet and chat with other first year tutors, meet face to face with members of the DIT Campus Life, Access and Student Services and get useful information on the services available to your students. There will also be the opportunity to discuss strategies for referring students to the services available, discuss good practice and identify opportunities for collaboration and synergy.
find out more >>

IJAP 2016 Call for Papers

IJAP, the LTTC online peer reviewed journal for pedagogic research and scholarship is now inviting articles for Volume No 5, June 2016.
The aim of the journal is to provide a platform to academics, researchers, scholars, professionals and postgraduate students, for publishing papers in the fields of third level learning, teaching and technology, and related areas. The deadline for paper submissions is 30th March 2016, and the journal will be launched at our Graduate Showcase event on 12th May 2016.
If you would like to discuss a contribution, please contact one of the editors:
roisin.donnelly@dit.ie or claire.mcavinia@dit.ie
find out more >>

Presentation and Discussion on Peer Assisted Learning, 18th February 2016

Dr Gita Sedghi, from the University of Liverpool, visited DIT on Thursday 18th February and shared her experience of Implementing Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) in Science Disciplines to Support 1st Year and International Students.
Gita gave a lunchtime presentation on her work on embedding peer-assisted learning in chemistry and supporting colleagues to extend it to a range of other disciplines, including maths. She has also supported staff in the School of Chemical & Pharmaceutical Sciences in DIT to pilot PAL this academic year and had a mentoring session with them on the morning of her visit.

DIT welcomes Prof David Nicol

We were delighted to welcome **Prof David Nicol** to DIT to speak on **Rethinking feedback practices in higher education: a peer review perspective**, on 16th February. David is currently Emeritus Professor of Higher Education at the University of Strathclyde, Visiting Professor of Higher Education at the University of Ulster and Adjunct Professor, University of Swinburne, Australia. The day comprised a keynote and workshop on how to implement peer review and peer feedback processes, highlighting good practice in assessment and feedback as learning processes.
[find out more >>](#)

Over 50 Colleagues Celebrate New Thinking!

Monday 1st February 2016, DIT Aungier Street
Over fifty DIT, ITTD and ITB colleagues came along to hear a brief roll-call of current teaching and learning initiatives happening across the three institutions- see [Celebration of New Thinking ppt presentation](#) and #DITLTTC for more information - and a big thank you to everyone who attended!

SAVE THE DATE! LTTC Showcase and Graduate Conference 12th May 2016

save the date®

The annual LTTC Showcase of Learning and Teaching Innovations, incorporating our Graduate Conference, will take place on <mark>Thursday May 12th 2016</mark> at Aungier St.

Further details to follow! Please watch our [website](#) and [blog](#).

Teaching Tip of the Month – Vote for Learning!

On a topical theme this month, we are highlighting polling and voting as a way of engaging with students, particularly in larger groups.
Techniques for polling your students inside or outside their classes have mushroomed in recent times. Not all involve technologies. In no particular order of preference, here are some suggestions with some links to help you find out more:

1. [Clickers](#) – the ask-the-audience approach, where each student has a handset and your questions are incorporated into regular PowerPoint slides.
2. [Socrative](#) – used as an app or via its website. This allows you to have qualitative as well as quantitative answers from students, and collates them in real-time to your screen.
3. How about paper instead of phones or clicker devices? [Plickers](#) allows you to set up questions and gather responses by scanning QR-coded paper handouts held by your students. Takes a little practice but cost effective!
4. Add a poll to your [tweet in Twitter](#) – simple and very popular.
5. Muddy Points: give each student a post-it note and ask them to jot a point they have not fully understood before leaving class. The Post-its are stuck to a flip-chart sheet or board as they exit the room, so the points can be clarified at the next class.
6. Run a survey with [Google Forms](#) in class – results are collated anonymously and automatically and can be reviewed on-screen.

CONTACT US!

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