

# TEACHING MATTERS

No.1 May 2014

## Welcome!

With Spring well and truly here, below are details of some events taking place in the LTTC and across DIT in the next few weeks. In this edition of our newsletter we bring you the latest updates about our workshops, programmes, projects and eLearning. Don't forget to check the LTTC website for even more in May and throughout the year!

### IN BRIEF:

*Closing date for LTA small project applications \*23 May\**

*Launch of Review of Learning Teaching and Assessment Strategy 7<sup>th</sup> May*

*RAFT Assessment Toolkit now available*

*New LTTC Teaching Resource*

*National T&L Forum Seminar Series - seminars in May-June*

*Graduate Attributes - roll-out on-going across the Colleges*

### Student and Staff Research

We've been delighted to hear of research presented and published by our students:

- **Lisa Donaldson**, who is currently a student on our MSc in Applied eLearning, will present her work at this year's [EdTech conference](#) at UCD
- **Dr Barry Ryan** (CoSH) has had his paper *Graduate Teaching Assistants; critical colleagues or casual components in the undergraduate laboratory learning?* published in the European Journal of Science and Mathematics Education, [available here](#)
- **Amr Arisha** has published *Internationalisation of Higher Education: Knowledge Capture Framework* in the proceedings of the 9th International Business and Social Science Research Conference, [available here](#).

LTTC staff are also presenting and publishing research:

- **Dr Pauline Rooney** has recently published a book chapter, 'Serious games in higher education: What do our "digital natives" really think?' in P. Felicia (Ed.) *Game-Based Learning: opportunities and challenges*. Newcastle upon Tyne; Cambridge Scholars Publishing
- **Dr Roisin Donnelly** has published *Supporting lecturers in the affective academic writing process* in the Spring Edition of the Journal of Academic Writing.
- **Dr Claire McDonnell** presented a paper on implementing community-based learning and community-based research at the [6th Living Knowledge conference in Copenhagen](#) in April. Claire has also published an article for the Royal Society of Chemistry on using wikis to facilitate group collaboration and assessment, [available here](#).
- Evaluative research by members of the LTTC on the impact of accredited professional development programmes for people teaching in higher education will be presented at the [UK HE Academy's 10th Annual Conference](#) in July.

### Re-imagining the Technological University for Dublin First Year Experience

On 13th and 14th May, a one and a half day workshop facilitated by [Ewan McIntosh](#) takes place in the Gleeson Theatre, DIT Kevin St. This event will bring together students, educators, leadership and professional service and support staff to share, explore and build upon existing best practice, local research and current initiatives across ITT Dublin, ITB and DIT.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference



### You are all invited!

- **What** - Doing More with Less: making research informed decisions about your teaching
- **When** - 17th June 2014; 9.15am-2pm
- **Where** - Room 4-079, DIT Aungier St.
- [Find out more...](#)

## Dublin e-Learning Summer School 2014 - 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June, DIT Bolton St "Digital Futures"



The Dublin eLearning Summer School brings together academic staff and others involved in higher education over the course of a week to discuss all things digital as they pertain to the learning and teaching environment. The summer school provides an opportunity to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of digital culture, combining workshops and talks from peers working in the Irish third-level system.

This year's theme, **Digital Futures**, covers topics pertaining to the present and future digital landscape of higher education in Ireland. Discussions around social networking, mobile learning, and learning analytics, will be complemented by hands-on workshops with tools such as video, screencasts, social networking tools, Moodle and Blackboard. Full details are available on the LTTC website at <http://www.dit.ie/lttc/events/elearningsummerschool/>

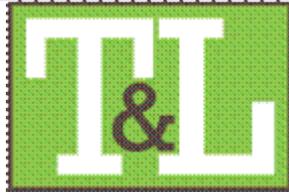
## Mobile Learning Project

Unfamiliarity with the technology is the main reason given by academic staff for not incorporating mobile technologies into their teaching and learning practices. With the **mobile learning project**, the LTTC aims to support staff who want to experiment with tablets and would like to do so within the structure of a pedagogically and technologically supported project. There are also a small number of tablets available to staff to borrow for the duration of the project if they do not have their own to work with.

**The LTTC are now inviting proposals from DIT staff who would be interested in getting involved in this project.** We are particularly interested in proposals that include incorporating student owned devices where possible. We hope that the project will encourage new, interesting and innovative applications of the use of mobile technology for teaching and learning.

For further information please [view the project webpages](#) or contact **Frances Boylan** ([frances.boylan@dit.ie](mailto:frances.boylan@dit.ie)). The application closing date is **May 16th 2014**.

## Recent seminars supported by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in DIT



DIT has recently hosted two seminars supported by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning 2014 Seminar Series:

- [Plagiarism and Academic Integrity](#) Symposium organised by **Dr Kevin O'Rourke** with colleagues from DIT, ITTDublin and ITB, on April 25th in Aungier St.
- [Irish Variety in Chemistry Education](#) seminar organised by Dr Michael Seery, on May 6th in Kevin St. A report on this event [will be available from this link](#) shortly.

## Teaching Fellowships

Teaching Fellowships are currently being called for in each of the Colleges. You can find out more by contacting your College Head of Learning Development. Details of past Fellowships [are given on our website](#).

Pictured here **Marisa Llorens**, who with **Edmund Nevin**, and **Eileen Mageean** is creating narrated video supports for students to support mathematics skills as part of a CoEBE Fellowship this year.

The final Fellowships Work-in-Progress session will take place on 23rd May in Cathal Brugha Street, when the Fellows for CoAT will present their work.



## Academic Writing Centre for Students

The Academic Writing Centre (AWC) is being established by DIT to assist students become competent writers in an academic environment. It is intended that the new Centre will provide free, non-judgemental writing help to any student, undergraduate or postgraduate, regardless of course, degree or level. An initial scoping study of staff and students(140 responses) revealed the following:

- *Best location for AWC?* alongside Maths Learning Support Centre (43%)
- *Main challenges for students?* basic generic writing skills (26%)
- *Best format to support student development of their academic writing?* workshops (23%)
- *Targeted support for a particular group?* 1st year students (27%)
- *Most effective promotion of AWC activities?* via year tutors (56%)

For more information, please contact [Maria-Jose.Gonzalez@dit.ie](mailto:Maria-Jose.Gonzalez@dit.ie)



**Accredited Programmes, CPD Short Courses and Workshops**

- **Do you want to learn more about teaching at third level?**
- **Or how about developing your use of e-learning tools and applications?**
- **Maybe you would like to take a short course before starting a Masters?**
- **Our taught programmes and CPD courses are open for applications for the coming year. You can find out more on [our website](#).**
- **Our Workshop programme is constantly updated. You can find out more on [our website](#).**

**CONTACT US!**

We welcome enquiries and your feedback to [lttc@dit.ie](mailto:lttc@dit.ie)