

TEACHING MATTERS

No. 2, June 2014

Welcome!

As we all know, this is a busy time of year across the Institute, and this is reflected in the range of exciting initiatives in this month's newsletter. We have enjoyed working with everyone throughout this year, and our next newsletter will be ready to greet you for your return in September. We hope that the summer break will include an opportunity for us all to take time to relax, reflect and recharge. Don't forget to check the [LTTC website](#) for further details of all of the items in this edition.

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5th Annual Graduate Student Conference



- **Our 5th Annual Graduate Student Conference takes place on Tuesday next. 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.
- **Conference Keynote: [Dr Colleen McKenna](#)** from [HEDERA](#) in the UK, speaking on **Investigating practice: research as part of learning.**
- [Find out more...](#)

Launch of Issue 3 of IJAP (Irish Journal of Academic Practice)

<http://animoto.com/play/o2iRe7OCjRVrv53P4phGLO>



At our annual **Graduate Student Conference** on 17 June, **Dr John O'Connor** will launch the latest issue of our eJournal: <http://arrow.dit.ie/ijap/>. There are 13 papers in this latest issue, on a wide range of current and important topics on learning and teaching for educators today including:

Assessing large group teaching; development of eLearning systems; intercultural competence learning for health professionals; pedagogy for the teaching of laboratory practicals; mobile learning; blended learning in Irish insurance education; Digital storytelling; Teaching effective online course design; Using an interactive and multimedia-enhanced e-book; Model making as a constructivist learning tool in building technology; Effective teaching in mathematics; Engaging students' learning through active experimental learning; Virtual classrooms in the workplace.

Dublin e-Learning Summer School 2014 – 23rd-27th 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](#).

Mobile Learning @ DIT 2014



And the Mobile Learning @DIT 2014 project is underway! Huge congratulations to Trevor Boland, Sara Boyd, Kathy Young, Daniel King, Aidan Meade, Colin Freeman, Grainne Murphy and Ann Hopper who have all secured a place on the project. All of the participants will be using mobile technologies in very different ways to enhance their learning and teaching practices over the next semester, and they will be supported on an individual basis in their efforts by Frances Boylan (LTTC). Each participant will be attending a series of bespoke workshops and will be keeping a blog detailing their progress so if you would like to follow them and learn from their experiences, see <http://ditmobilelearning2014.wordpress.com/the-projects/>.

DITTELTA Online Module: registration open



DITTELTA is an online course on **Technology-Enhanced Learning, Teaching and Assessment**, accredited by the DIT. Following its successful launch earlier in 2014, DITTELTA will run again from 4th November. Registration closes on **10th October 2014**.

You can find out more about this course, and view a video introduction, at <http://dittelta.wordpress.com/>

Launch of the Academic Writing Centre

The newly established DIT Academic Writing Centre organised a workshop on *The Pedagogy and Practice of Academic Writing*, on 4th June in DIT Cathal Brugha St. The workshop was facilitated by **Dr Alison Farrell**, Academic Writing Centre, Maynooth University, and **Dr Roisin Donnelly** of the LTTC. Over the next week, interviews will take place for Centre tutor posts in preparation for the Centre's opening in September. For more information, see <http://www.dit.ie/awc>



Research and Awards

- Congratulations to **Dr Roisin Donnelly** of the LTTC on the awarding of her [SEDA Fellowship](#).
- Congratulations also to **Dr Barry Ryan** (CoSH) on winning the [Jennifer Burke Award for Innovation in Learning and Teaching](#), 2014.
- Staff may be interested in a current call for papers: [EDIN](#) and [AISHE](#) are collaborating to publish a special issue of the [AISHE-J online journal](#) in February 2015, on the theme of *Leadership in Educational and Academic Development*. Full details are available on the [EDIN website](#).

National Forum: Roadmap for Digital Capacity and Latest Event at DIT



The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning launched its Phase I document on **Developing a Roadmap for Digital Capacity in Higher Education** on 28th May. The document can now be [downloaded from the Forum's website](#).

Members of the Development Team undertaking the extensive consultation and producing this publication included **Dr Kevin O'Rourke**, Head of e-Learning Support & Development in the LTTC, **Yvonne Desmond** of DIT Library, and **Clare Gormley**, a graduate of DIT's MSc in Applied eLearning, and now a Learning Technologist at DCU.

Meanwhile, a FREE National Forum event is being coordinated for **Monday 16th June** in DIT Kevin St. This event will focus on the **Use of Technology to Enhance the Assessment of Large Groups**. [Visit this link for more information and to register](#).

Online How To Guides by Campus Engage

Nine short **How To Guides** on community-based learning and research and volunteering have been produced for Campus Engage by a range of contributors, including Dr Claire McDonnell of the LTTC. The guides are now available [online here](#) and are designed with a range of audiences in mind (HEI staff, community groups and students).

Re-imagining the Technological University for Dublin First Year Experience

By way of a follow-on action from the 13th-14th May workshop facilitated by Ewan McIntosh, a number of cross-institutional themed working groups are being established. To join, **indicate your preference [online here](#)** – we would be delighted to hear from you.



Seed-Funded Projects - Update

12 applications were received for Teaching, Learning and Assessment Projects for the next academic year, three from CoAT, two from CEBE and seven from CoSH. The review panel comprising: **Dr John Donovan**, DRE, **Rebecca Dempsey**, DITSU, **Margaret Phelan** from ITTD, **Ciaran O'Leary** HoLD, CoSH, and chaired by **Dr Jen Harvey** of the LTTC has been established to review applications.

DIT Graduate Attributes Policy

The LTTC in conjunction with the DIT Career Development Centre, coordinated a focus group with 15 DIT graduate employer representatives in DIT Cathal Brugha Street recently to discuss and agree the attributes of the 'perfect' graduate. [Read more here.](#)

On-going DIT Teaching Learning Assessment Strategy Review

A second consultation session was held on 4th June in Cathal Brugha St. Areas of focus and strategic indicators were discussed under the themes of Curriculum, Teaching, Students, Diversity and Engagement. For more information [please visit our website here.](#)

Webcourses End of Year

As we are now at the end of the academic year, you might have some questions about what will happen with your webcourses modules.

Most importantly, any content you have developed and uploaded to your webcourses module will remain available to you over the summer and you can continue to work in webcourses as normal.

If your module was available to students during 2013/2014 it will continue to be available to them until the first week of September. This is primarily to facilitate repeating students. In early September all 2013/2014 student accounts will be deleted in order to facilitate the year progression. If you do not want your 2013/2014 student accounts to be deactivated in September please email lttc@dit.ie. (This is generally only a requirement for modules which do not follow the standard academic year, but if you have any concerns please let us know).

A full system backup of webcourses is taken at the end of each academic year but it is strongly recommended for you to take your own backup and to download and store this on your own PC or laptop. Full instructions are [available here.](#)

Finally, eLearning support and development staff are here throughout the summer, and please feel free to contact us, <http://www.dit.ie/lttc/aboutthelttc/staff/>

Accredited Programmes, CPD Short Courses – places available

- **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 still 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