# LEARNING, TEACHING + TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

# TEACHING MATTERS

**No. 6, January 2015**

## Welcome!

**We are all well back in the swing of things now and there are plenty of items of interest in this latest issue – assessment, feedback and supervision all feature strongly; the fields of assessment and supervision, like all other specialized disciplines, have developed many important concepts, principles, and methods to guide practice, and these feature in our upcoming events. We also want to draw your attention to the new and improved [LTTC web site](#), which is growing by the day and as always, make us an early port of call for supporting your academic professional development needs!**

## CPDs in Semester Two

There are currently over 20 colleagues participating in LTTC modules for CPD already this semester.

The **Learning, Teaching and Assessment** CPD has **new dates:**
**March 5th, 19th, Apr 2nd and 16th from 10am- 1pm**. This schedule is based on 4 half days every fortnight with individual and group based online activities. This module also has a micro-teaching component to allow participants to receive formative feedback on a sample of teaching practice.

Contact **Orla Hanratty** ([orla.hanratty@dit.ie](mailto:orla.hanratty@dit.ie)) to discuss this module. For further details on this and other CPDs, check out our [CPD website](#).

## LTTC Special Event: Prof Sue Bloxham

We are delighted to welcome **Professor Sue Bloxham** to the DIT Learning, Teaching and Technology Centre for two very useful sessions, open to all staff of DIT, IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown:
- **Presentation:** *What does research tell us about effective higher education assessment?*
- Tuesday 10th February 2015, LTTC Aungier Street
- 9.30-10.15am
- [Read further details and book for this presentation](#)
- **Workshop:** *Planning Assessment Enhancement*
- Tuesday 10th February 2015, LTTC Aungier Street
- 10.30am-1pm
- [Read further details and book for this workshop](#)

**Sue Bloxham** is Emeritus Professor of Academic Practice at the University of Cumbria and an educational consultant. Sue's interest in assessment focuses particularly on how we manage our higher education assignments and examinations to support the achievement of students from under-represented groups. She has also researched and published on matters such as student skills development, group assessment, feedback, course design and marking.



*Professor Sue Bloxham who will visit the LTTC on Tuesday 10th February*

## DIT Spring Academy – Video in Education

DIT's Learning, Teaching & Technology Centre, with the support of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, is delighted to host the very first Spring Academy on *Video in Education*, Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th February.

This 3-day event at DIT Aungier St offers participants an opportunity for hands-on training and practical advice in the production and use of video in higher education. Topics covered include screencasting, lecture capture, presenting to camera, emoderating, video production and editing (a final schedule will be available from next week).  The guest speaker is Professor Gilly Salmon, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Education Innovation, at the University of Western Australia, who is renowned for her contribution to the discussion around the use of new technologies in education. The guest workshop facilitators will be Dr. Eugene O'Loughlin (NCI) and David Quin (IADT) both of whom have a vast amount of experience in the area of video in education specifically. Also, we will be linking live over the course of the three days with our Spring Academy partners at NUIG and WIT who will be running similar workshops locally.

Places are limited to 20 participants: if you are interested in attending, please complete the online booking form. Preference will be given to participants who plan to attend all three days.

## 15th Annual Showcase of Learning and Teaching Innovations

The 15th Annual Showcase event took place on Wednesday 14th January 2015, and we were delighted to welcome just over 100 participants from across the TU for Dublin Institutes to Aungier Street.

The main theme for the Showcase was **Reprogramming Higher Education to Enhance the Learning Experience.** Keynote speakers were **Ms Laura Harmon,** President, USI and **Prof Chris Rust,** Emeritus Professor of Higher Education, Oxford Brookes University.

Other highlights included contributions from current teaching fellows, e-learning workshops, curriculum redesign case studies, curriculum enhancement collaborative initiatives, and exhibition space.

We have made a range of resources from the Showcase available on our website, including recordings of both Keynote addresses. **Please visit the Showcase online!**

## DIT Graduate Attributes Toolkit

The DIT Graduate Attributes policy was approved by Academic Council in November 2013. It was agreed that by 2015, all programmes would provide their students with opportunities to  become:

- **Engaged:** Civically engaged, socially responsible graduates with an international outlook who contribute meaningfully and positively in their professional, community and social environments.
- **Enterprising:** Graduates who have the skills, knowledge and attributes needed to apply creative ideas and innovations and to find practical solutions.
- **Enquiry based:** Graduates with a spirit of curiosity and a desire to learn, motivated to draw upon existing knowledge, generating new

ideas, seeking out learning opportunities, exploring the application of theory to practice and actively creating new knowledge
- **Effective:** Effective, highly skilled and confident graduates with the capacity to achieve desired results, believing that they can make a positive difference.
- **Expert in chosen subject discipline:** Graduates with the professional knowledge and capacity independently to practice, reflect, review and build upon disciplinary expertise and judgment.

To support this initiative, a graduate attributes Toolkit is currently under development. The working group would welcome your comments on the Toolkit format. Please send your feedback to graduateattributes@dit.ie.

## Re-launch of the LTTC Website

**The LTTC Website was re-launched on Monday 12th January 2015.**

The new site has an adaptable template to allow for optimal viewing on phones, tablets and other devices. But as ever, it will contain all the latest details on our workshops, webcourses, programmes, events and publications. We acknowledge the help of **Deirdre Dennehy, Niall Dixon** all those who assisted us in the redesign of the site. Please contact us if you have feedback!

## Webcourses Upgrade

Webcourses is one of DIT's most heavily used systems: since September 2014 it has been accessed by almost 17,000 individual DIT students and staff, with up to 7,000 logging in every day. Webcourses operates in the Blackboard 9.1 environment and on Wednesday 14th January was upgraded to the most recent version of the software, Blackboard October 2014. The upgrade went smoothly and has facilitated improvements to the webcourses wiki tool, SafeAssign, Flickr and Blackboard Collaborate. While the upgrade has been a success, a very small number of minor issues have been reported. If you have any concerns about the operation of webcourses since the upgrade please email details to lttc@dit.ie

## Webcourses: making your Semester 2 modules available to students

Automatic student enrolment for **registered** students should now be complete for the majority of webcourses modules. However, this process does not work for a small number of webcourses modules. If students are not enrolled on your webcourses module or are otherwise not as expected, please contact lttc@dit.ie. We aim to resolve all such queries within 24 hours.
Please remember that it is up to individual lecturers to make modules available to students. This is a quick and easy process and instructions are available at http://bit.ly/15ILLqk

## Explore Online Teaching

Are you interested in exploring online teaching? Perhaps you have an evening class who would welcome not having to travel for some lectures? Then two related workshops running in late February / early March will be of interest. "Developing a hybrid module" is a two hour workshop running on Wednesday 25th February which will explain how to plan your module, design and develop content, harness technologies to create learning opportunities, and pilot the module. This is followed on Wednesday 4th March by "Using webinars to deliver a hybrid module", which will run through the practicalities of running an online lecture. More information available at http://lttc.dit.ie/lttc/workshops/workshops-availablenow/
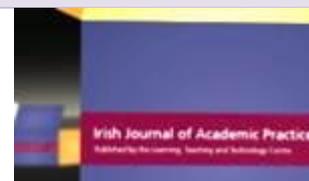
## Research Corner

**Michael Gleeson,** MSc in Applied eLearning graduate, and School of Mechanical and Design Engineering had his paper *Analysing the Impact of Digital Photography Projects on Student Engagement and Performance in Higher Education Engineering Discipline* accepted for **ICERI2014**, the 7th International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation.

## IJAP 2015 Call for Papers!

**IJAP, the LTTC online peer reviewed journal for pedagogic research and scholarship** [learning, teaching, technology and professional development, with special emphasis on innovative practices] is now inviting articles for **Issue No 4, June 2015**.

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.

**Important Dates:**
- Paper Submission Deadline: **April 30, 2015**
- Issue Publication Date: **June 16, 2015**

Manuscripts should be between 4000-6,000 words in length, including all references. Author guidelines are available on the journal website

If you would like to discuss a contribution please contact one of the editors, **Roisin Donnelly** (roisin.donnelly@dit.ie) or Kevin **O'Rourke** (kevin.orourke@dit.ie)

## National Forum Seminars at DIT this Semester

**"Apps and Gaps": Student and lecturer perceptions of how apps can promote successful transition to first-year undergraduate study**
- **Friday 27th February 2015 in DIT Kevin Street**
- Get Smart! is a bottom-up, curriculum-led approach which integrates modules, and improves students' academic engagement and career readiness. It is now emerging into a 'first-year experience' programme with features such as ezines and a new app. In this context and against the background of the "wired classroom" and the National Digital Strategy for Ireland, there is considerable focus on using apps to promote student engagement, successful transition and academic performance.
- **More details at the Forum website**

**Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations – Facilitating the Transition to the Workplace or Further Research**
- **Tuesday 3rd March 2015 in the LTTC Aungier St, 11am to 1pm.**
- This workshop aims to make new and current undergraduate research project supervisors aware of current good practice in supervising students with an emphasis on ensuring a smooth transition to the workplace or further study. The opening 2 hour session will be facilitated by **Professor Gina Wisker**, Professor of Higher Education & Contemporary Literature and Head of the Centre for Learning and Teaching at the University of Brighton and author of "The Undergraduate Research Handbook".
- **Register for this seminar at EventBrite**

| | Teaching Tip of the Month |
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| | **This month, we suggest two online resources offering useful tips in a manageable format:**<br>• **SEDA Blog** – this blog is regularly updated offering discussion of teaching and learning issues and suggestions for your teaching. The <u>latest entry</u> gives a good overview of **assessment literacy** for students.<br>• If you have recently starting supervising students, you may be interested in this online supervision toolkit which includes <u>good advice for new supervisors</u> |
| | ## CONTACT US!<br><br>We welcome enquiries and your feedback to **lttc@dit.ie** |