

# TEACHING MATTERS

No. 7, February 2015

## Welcome!

Welcome to this month's newsletter, and although February might be the shortest month it has certainly been a busy one. You can read more about our recent events in collaboration with TU for Dublin colleagues here, in particular a report of the very successful Spring Academy held last week. Upcoming events are also highlighted, and remember you can find out more about any of the items in this newsletter at the [LTTC web site](#).

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### Open the Door To Your Learning! LTTC Open Sessions March 12th

- Interested in exploring new methods and techniques for your teaching?
- Want to know more about how new technologies can transform learning experiences?
- The LTTC's accredited courses could be for you! Find out more at our Open Sessions.

#### LTTC OPEN SESSIONS

Thursday 12th March 2015  
5th Floor, Aungier Street

Please drop in any time from 4pm-6pm  
or at lunchtime 1pm-2pm



### Supervising Undergraduate Dissertations – Facilitating the Transition to the Workplace or Further Research

- 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".
- **This seminar takes place on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 in the LTTC Aungier St, 11am to 1pm.**
- [Register for this seminar at EventBrite](#)



*Professor Gina Wisker who will visit the LTTC on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

## 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 have hosted the very first Spring Academy on *Video in Education*, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February in DIT Aungier Street.

The Academy was run in parallel with similar events in NUIG and WIT, and each day participants from DIT, IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown joined up with colleagues in Galway and Waterford via Adobe Connect – gathering opinions on digital media in education from across the country.



Monday's opening keynote speaker, **Professor Gilly Salmon**, provided an insightful and experienced voice on the topic of emoderation. Gilly joined us via webinar from Western Australia, and over eighty colleagues from Irish higher education took part. A recording of the keynote is now available at <https://ditspringacademy.wordpress.com/day1/>

Much of the week was dedicated to hands-on workshops dealing with presentation skills for video and audio, production of video and audio content, and efficient delivery of content to students and a wider audience. These sessions elicited really good feedback from attendees, including the comments "Excellent, informative, apt and extremely useful", "Inspiring", "I had high expectations and they were met". And all respondents to the feedback survey agreed with the statements "I would recommend the Spring Academy to a colleague" and "I intend to implement some of the ideas learned during the event".

The closing comments, delivered by **Lord David Puttnam** via video conference, were wide ranging and stimulating – covering copyright, the challenges for educators getting to grips with new media, and the importance of the choices we make in relation to education.

**Full details of the event, and archive recordings of some sessions, can be found at <https://ditspringacademy.wordpress.com/>**

## LTTC *Perspectives* Seminar Series



The LTTC's *Perspectives Seminar Series* resumed on 25<sup>th</sup> February with the opening seminar focusing on **Digital Literacies** with contributions from **Dr Allison Kavanagh** of Library, **Leo Casey** of the National College of Ireland and **Dr Kevin O'Rourke** of the LTTC.

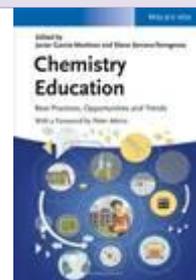
The next seminar takes place on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**, focusing on **Ethics and Plagiarism in Education**. Dr Kevin O'Rourke of the LTTC will facilitate discussion and the seminar takes place from **3pm-4.30pm** at the LTTC in Aungier Street.

## Research Corner

The LTTC is delighted to note the publication of two book chapters by colleagues in a new book on Chemistry Education called *Chemistry Education: Best Practices, Opportunities and Trends*.

**Christine O'Connor** (current MSc Applied eLearning cohort) and **Michael Seery** (graduate of the MA Higher Education and MSc Applied eLearning) have just had a book chapter published on *E-Learning and Blended Learning in Chemistry Education* ([view a summary here](#)).

**Claire McDonnell**, Learning Development Officer in the LTTC, has had a chapter published in the same book on *Innovative Community-Engaged Learning Projects: From Chemical Reactions to Community Interactions* ([view a summary here](#)).



## 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?**

On **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March** you may be interested to join our workshop, “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/>

## 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**.

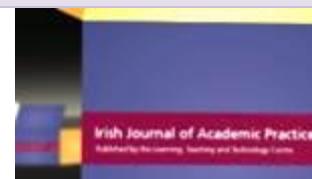
The aim of the journal is to provide a platform to academics, researchers, scholars, professionals and postgraduate students, for publishing papers in the fields of third level learning, teaching and technology, and related areas.

### 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](mailto:roisin.donnelly@dit.ie)) or Kevin **O'Rourke** ([kevin.orourke@dit.ie](mailto:kevin.orourke@dit.ie))



## New National Forum Report on Digital Capacity



### *Strategic and Leadership Perspectives on Digital Capacity in Irish Higher Education, Jim Devine (February 2015)*

This report, commissioned by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (National Forum), outlines strategic and leadership perspectives on building digital capacity across the Irish higher education sector.

This report explores and analyses leadership perspectives along with the stated strategic objectives of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) articulated in the Mission-based Performance Compacts (Compacts). This scoping exercise analyses the level of explication of digital capacity within institutions' formal strategies, by exploring the differences and similarities between institutional types in this regard, and by gaining valuable senior management insights into some of the key challenges and opportunities that our institutions are grappling with when it comes to enhancing teaching and learning with digital technology.

**You can view the report at the [Forum's website here](#) and summary *Insights* are also available from the website.**

## Teaching Tip of the Month

- This month, events at the LTTC have focused on technologies in education, digital literacies, and helping students learn to learn in this new landscape. Here are a couple of resources you may be interested in to support your teaching in this area:
  - [Did I Plagiarize?](#) The combination of numerous technologies and poor digital literacy can contribute to students' plagiarising work in their studies. This infographic/flow-chart helps students to understand the severity of different kinds of copying and what it might mean to their academic progress.
  - Meanwhile as part of the **Graduate Attributes** work here at DIT, some initial resources have been developed online to support academics developing their students' [Digital Literacies](#). These will be added to over the coming months – take a look!



## CONTACT US!

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