

Learning and Teaching Developments

Quarterly updates from the Learning and Teaching Academy and Educational Development Unit

Welcome to our first issue

Welcome to Issue 1 of *Learning and Teaching Developments* - a new joint newsletter from the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) and Educational Development Unit (EDU) at the University of the Highlands and Islands. We'll be using this newsletter to provide quarterly updates from the LTA and EDU across areas including educational practice, scholarship and research, and current and forthcoming events, projects and initiatives. Going forward we will highlight interesting learning and teaching developments from other parts of the university.

This first issue is being circulated to colleagues who have engaged with the LTA and EDU through events or projects, although we hope you consider sharing this more widely. Colleagues who aren't already signed up to receive this newsletter can email lta@uhi.ac.uk and request to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

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[University Deans are first Principal Fellows of the HEA](#)

Dr Gary Campbell (Dean of Faculty of Science, Health and Engineering and Assistant Principal for Curriculum Enhancement) and Michael Rayner (Dean of Research) have recently been recognised as Principal Fellows of the UK Higher Education Academy (PFHEA). Gary and Michael are the first members of the university to achieve this important national recognition, which is awarded to individuals who can demonstrate substantial strategic influence in the development of higher education learning and teaching both internally and within the wider sector. Congrats both!

Gary and Michael successfully secured their Principal Fellowships as part of a wider initiative to help lead and embed the ALPINE framework within the university. Speaking of which...

ALPINE Successes

ALPINE (Accredited Learning, Professional development and Innovation in Education) is the university's framework for the professional recognition of good practice in learning and teaching, learning and teaching support, and educational leadership. ALPINE allows the university to award colleagues Associate Fellow, Fellow and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA).

Applications for Senior Fellow were considered by a recognition panel in January 2017 and outcomes were communicated in February. Registration is now also open for the next round of ALPINE recognition panels. The deadline for registration is February 15.

[More information](#)

The first recognition panel met in November 2016, and we are delighted to announce that the following staff have now been recognised as Fellows of the HEA:

- Scott Connor (University of Highlands and Islands)
- Elaine Dalloway (University of Highlands and Islands)
- Sarah Jane Gibbon (Orkney College UHI)
- Andrew Gibson (University of Highlands and Islands)
- Allane Hay (Moray College UHI)
- Scott Innes (Perth College UHI)
- Shona Magill (SAMS UHI)
- Elizabeth McFarlane (Argyll College UHI)
- Yvonne McNiven (Argyll College UHI)
- James Moore (Orkney College UHI)
- Linda Richardson (North Highland College UHI)
- Dale Robertson (Perth College UHI)
- Scott Timpany (Orkney College UHI)



Support Portal

The [support portal](#) is a brand new suite of resources developed by the Educational Development Unit to support learning and teaching staff. The resources address particular skills gaps identified through working with staff. Topics include 'enhancing the learning environment'; 'finding and using images' and 'creating and using video'. Each topic can be accessed when required and comes with an estimated completion time. Times range from 1 to 10 hours. Like the award-winning Essential Student Skills resource, access is via a url providing staff with the flexibility to locate the resources where they will be most useful.

Critical Perspectives - new to the LTA blog

January saw the publication of the first of our Critical Perspectives blog posts - a new regular series on the LTA blog in which we take a critical look at a key issue or concept related to educational research or practice. Matt Sillars from Inverness College UHI kicks things off with his thoughts on Learning Styles. If you would like to author a future Critical Perspectives post please contact Heather Fotheringham through



lta@uhi.ac.uk.

Visit the LTA blog [here](#).



[Learning and Teaching Conference: save the dates](#)

The university will be holding a Learning and Teaching conference on 19-20 June 2017. There will be a programme of face-to-face events in Inverness, with the opportunity to participate virtually through webinars and videoconference. Further details and a full call for proposals will be published in the coming weeks [here](#).

[Beyond the university](#)

The recently compiled [Educational Developers' Cookbook](#) was compiled by Teaching Commons at York University. It's a collection of practical ideas offered for use by the educational development community.

[The Journal of Perspectives in Applied Academic Practice](#) is an online journal aimed particularly at those writing up their academic practice for the first time. The editorial team offer direct support for those who are new to publishing, and peer support for those new to reviewing.

[Spotlight on - the Learning Lab](#)

Located within An Lòchran at the Inverness Campus, the Learning Lab is central to the activities of the Learning and Teaching Academy and Educational Development Unit. It is also a facility that colleagues from across the university can use to undertake educational research and development activities, and to run workshops. In recent months the Learning Lab has hosted external events by the Open Educational Practices Scotland (OEPS) project and the Higher Education Academy, and supported events by the university's research clusters. You can learn more about the Learning Lab on the [LTA website](#)



[LTA Scholarships for 2016/17](#)

Each year the LTA announces an open call for university colleagues to undertake evaluation and research projects on topics of interest either within the university, or in the broader field of learning and teaching. This year the LTA Scholarship call was open to proposals for projects in the areas of:

- Institutional Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) review (joint LIS/LTA Scholarship)

- Investigating results from the Student Satisfaction and Experience Survey
- Inclusive assessment practice

Proposals are currently under consideration and successful projects will be announced soon. Further information, including past projects, can be found in the funding section of the [LTA website](#).

LTA Connect webinars

The Learning and Teaching Academy runs a monthly webinar featuring an internal or external speaker presenting on a key aspect of educational practice theory or research. Webinars are recorded whenever possible, with links made available via the [LTA website](#).

Please contact lta@uhi.ac.uk if you would like to present at a webinar in the future.

[More information](#)

Open for registration

Seeking professional recognition through ALPINE
Various date

Frameworks for enhancing how we use Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)
Thursday 23 March 2017 1200-1300

The University of Highlands Equalities Development Day
Thursday 23 February: Facilitated by Helen Duncan

[More information](#)

This newsletter is edited by Alex Walker (LTA) and Anne Chard (EDU).

For any enquiries regarding the newsletter please email alex.walker@uhi.ac.uk



Our mailing address is:

The Learning and Teaching Academy and Educational Development Unit
University of the Highlands and Islands
An Lòchran, 10 Inverness Campus
Inverness, Hld IV2 5NA
United Kingdom

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