

# Learning and Teaching Developments

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

## Welcome

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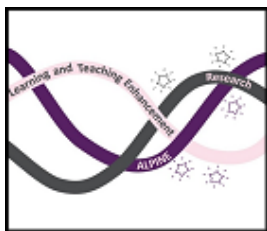
Welcome to Issue 5 of *Learning and Teaching Developments* - a joint newsletter from the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) and Educational Development Unit (EDU) at the University of the Highlands and Islands. We'll be using this newsletter to provide quarterly updates from the LTA and EDU across areas 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 newsletter 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](mailto:lta@uhi.ac.uk) and request to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

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## Expanded University Mentoring Scheme now launched

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The university has successfully offered the Mentoring Scheme for a number of years, with a focus on research mentoring led by Dr Melanie Smith at Inverness College UHI.

During this time, other university-wide areas of mentoring have developed

including the mentoring offered through the ALPINE professional recognition framework, to support colleagues in achieving Associate/Fellow/Senior/Principal Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

To support mentoring activities in these and other important areas, the university Mentoring Scheme has now been expanded to offer three distinct stands of mentoring:

- Research Mentoring (strand lead Dr Melanie Smith)
- Learning and Teaching Enhancement Mentoring (strand lead Ann Tilbury)
- ALPINE Mentoring (strand lead Alex Walker)

The expanded mentoring scheme is now open, and is being co-ordinated through the Learning and Teaching Academy.

[More information](#)

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## University Women's Network

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Thursday 08 March saw the advent of **These Women Can!** Hosted by the Learning and Teaching Academy, These Women Can! was our first university wide event to celebrate, debate and explore the challenges women face in Further Education, Higher Education and Research. The event was open to all and featured contributions from colleagues in student leadership, academic and wider professional roles.



Dr Sandra Cairncross, Assistant Principal for Widening Access and Community at Edinburgh Napier University, was our keynote speaker for the day, and spoke about her experiences of setting up the Edinburgh Napier Women's Network. A Women's Network was identified by the participants as being something that would be welcomed at the university and we hope to have a network established by the summer. If you would like to be part of this network then please complete a small survey which will help us identify the purpose of the network. [You can complete the survey here](#)

[Alex Walker from the LTA has written about her reflections of the day in a recent blog.](#)

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## ALPINE HEA fellowship successes

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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 Fellow and Senior Fellow were considered by a recognition panel in January 2018 and outcomes were communicated the following week.

The January 2018 Recognition Panel saw eight colleagues awarded fellowship of the HEA through the university's framework ALPINE.

The following people were awarded Fellow of the HEA  
Kath MacLennan, Inverness College UHI  
Margarete Paschke, Inverness College UHI  
Rosie Alexander, University of the Highlands and Islands  
Roisin King, Lews Castle College UHI  
Tracy Matheson, West Highland College UHI

The following people were awarded Senior Fellow of the HEA  
Diane Ross, North Highland College UHI  
Frances Ann Whittet, Perth College UHI  
Sophie Dunnett, North Highland College UHI

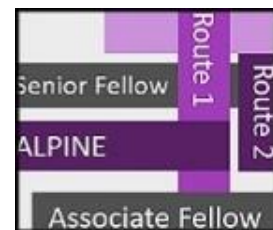
[More information](#)

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## ALPINE registration open

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The Learning and Teaching Academy are pleased to announce that colleagues wishing to register for ALPINE for recognition panels, being held in **November 2018** and **January 2019**, can now do so until **Friday 25 May 2018**.



ALPINE is open to any colleagues who deliver, support or lead the development of HE level learning and teaching at the university, and allows recognition based on educational practice and innovation, leadership, and education-related scholarship and research.

[More information and to register your interest in ALPINE](#)

Elizabeth McFarlane and Jelena Farkic, who were both awarded fellowship of the HEA through ALPINE, have answered some questions around the application process that people who are thinking about applying for fellowship through ALPINE might find helpful.

[Read about Elizabeth's and Jelena's ALPINE experience](#)



## Professor Frank Rennie awarded Principal Fellow of the HEA

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Frank Rennie, Professor of Sustainable Rural Development and Assistant Principal at Lews Castle College, has recently been awarded Principal Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy (PFHEA). This significant achievement recognises Professor Rennie's substantial influence and responsibility in the development of learning and teaching within the university and the wider higher education sector. Professor Rennie is now one of three Principal Fellows of the HEA within the university, and was supported to achieve his Principal Fellowship through the mentoring route of the university's [Accredited Learning, Professional development and Innovation in Education \(ALPINE\) framework](#).

Frank said this of his Fellowship status "I am very pleased to receive this marker of international recognition for Higher Education leadership, and I am sure that the significance of these Fellowships will only grow more important as university standards and educational services come under greater scrutiny."

Contact [lta@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lta@uhi.ac.uk) if you would be interested in having a mentor to support a direct Principal Fellow application to the HEA.

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## Event: Creating learning communities among online and distance students



This two-day event on 14-15 June 2018 will see colleagues coming together to explore creating learning communities among students who do not meet regularly face to face. Comprising of a series of workshops and seminars, the event will begin with a presentation from Simon Varwell from Sparqs, introducing their forthcoming publication on engaging online and distance learning (ODL) students. Other sessions will be led by colleagues from across the university and include: creating student societies, peer mentoring and support, and engaging with student reps.

A programme is now available and registration is open.

[More information.](#)

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## Module Leaders 'survival essentials' workshop: programme now available

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On Tuesday 5 June-Wednesday 6 June colleagues from across the university will present a virtual workshop to new and aspiring Module Leaders, providing a set of 'survival essentials' to guide them in their role.

Videoconferencing rooms have been booked across the partnership for participants to attend.

The full programme is now available and registration is open.

[More information.](#)

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## Digifest 2018

On the 6-7 March Scott Connor and Ann Tilbury recently presented at Digifest18. As well as delivering a high speed session on personalised learning on Day 1, they attended a range of presentations.

Scott and Ann's blog gives a flavour of their experience and reflections on the event.

[Read the blog](#)



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## 'An Introduction to...' webinars

With the University Mentoring Scheme being re-launched, the next round of ALPINE registration open and the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy being launched and implemented across the university, the LTA are presenting a number of short 'An Introduction to...' webinars.

### **Seeking Professional Recognition through ALPINE: An Introduction**

Alex Walker, Professional Recognition and Development Coordinator will provide an overview of the three routes to professional recognition of the HEA, timescales for submitting an application and the support available for participants on ALPINE.

### **An Introduction to the University Mentoring Scheme**

This webinar will provide an overview of the three difference strands on the University Mentoring Scheme and explain the mentoring relationship process and the support available and expectations of mentors who sign up to the mentoring scheme.

### **Introducing the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy**

Keith Smyth, Professor of Pedagogy will introduce the university's new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy 2017-2021. Keith will explore the twelve learning and teaching enhancement values that provide the basis for the strategy, along with evidence-based exemplars that illustrate how these values can be embedded in practice.

[For more information and to book.](#)

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## Looking Ahead!

We are planning our LTA webinars and events to support and enhance Learning and Teaching across the university for Academic Year 2018-2019. We have had a number of webinars this Academic Year, most recently Dr Vasilis Louca from The University of Aberdeen presented on Gamification in Teaching and Professor Neil Simco presented on the REF Exercise – REF 2021. We have also organised a number of larger events exploring [synchronous technologies](#) in teaching and [assessment and feedback](#).



[More information on past events, including recordings.](#)

Going forward we would welcome any suggestions on the types of topics you would like to see covered through LTA Connect Webinars and events. Please send any suggestions to [lta@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lta@uhi.ac.uk).

We also invite anyone who has good practice in learning and teaching that they would like to share across the university to consider presenting one of our LTA Connect webinars. A webinar proposal form can be downloaded and returned to [lta@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lta@uhi.ac.uk) As well as providing shared knowledge across the university, this is good opportunity to establish working networks, gain experience of presenting and also gather evidence for HEA fellowship by providing the presenter with a 'digital artefact' to use as part of their application.

[More information and the webinar proposal form](#)



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## EDU new team members

The Education Develop Unit (EDU) has welcomed six new members of staff to the team. Along with long standing EDU colleagues Elaine Dalloway and Mark Wilkie, they will work on European funded projects as part of the Scottish Governments 'Developing Scotland's Workforce' initiative in the areas of Computing, Engineering, Health, Leisure & Tourism and Creative

Industries. Terri Smith, Liz Hudson and Elaine Dalloway will lead the new curriculum projects, supported by Instructional Designers - Mark Wilkie, Llewelyn Bailey and Daniel Falconer and Educational and Development Associates - John Buchan and Angus MacDonald.

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## Beyond the university

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The **Higher Education Academy, Leadership Foundation** and **Equality Challenge Unit** have merged to create **Advance HE**. The Advance HE mission is to champion enhancement of teaching and learning, equality and diversity, and leadership and governance in higher education.

The HEA Fellowship scheme, aligned to the Professional Standards Framework (PSF), will be retained. HEA Fellowship post-nominals, will also be unaffected by the merger. Institutions with HEA Accredited programmes will continue to confer HEA Fellowship on successful participants on those programmes.

OER textbooks: Are you looking for Open textbooks to recommend to students for your courses? <http://ukopentextbooks.org/resources/> is a useful website that lists many available resources including the UK site <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/> with over 100 available Open textbooks.

A Learning objectives generator - Handy generator to assist the writing of clear learning objectives - who, what and how - based on Blooms revised taxonomy with a reminder of appropriate action verbs listed under each of the level headings: <https://learning-objectives.easygenerator.com/>

EDEN 10th Research Workshop: Personalized Guidance and Support for Learning - 24 - 26 October 2018, Barcelona. EDEN's 2018 Workshop "Personalized Guidance and Support for Learning" focuses on the crucial and changing roles of teachers in supporting student learning in the digital world. [More information](#)

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

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