

## **'EYE' on IADT**

### **IADT MISSION STATEMENT**

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology IADT has a vision to be at the forefront of teaching, research and innovation at the convergence of the arts, technology and enterprise and to contribute to Ireland's development as a creative knowledge economy. Our mission is to sustain and enhance our reputation as the college of preferred choice in our areas of specialisation. This is achieved by providing professional and industry relevant programmes, innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment and by engaging in research, enterprise development and innovation.

IADT has three schools – the School of Business and Humanities, the School of Creative Arts and the School of Creative Technologies. The School of Business and Humanities has programmes in enterprise and entrepreneurship, business and arts management and English, media and cultural studies. The School runs the Institute's foundation programme. The School of Creative Arts has programmes in animation, film photography, model-making, design for stage and screen, visual arts practices, and visual communications. The School of Creative Technologies has programmes in applied psychology, multimedia programming and audio visual media technology. At postgraduate level there are programmes in broadcast production for radio and television, cultural event management, cyberpsychology, digital media, public culture studies, screenwriting and visual arts practices.

### **IADT STRATEGIC PLAN**

*Creating Futures* IADT Strategic Plan 2008-2012 has a range of objectives on teaching learning and assessment including:

- To deliver a quality reflective curriculum that readily engages with the changing opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- To prepare students to meet and exceed the needs of enterprise, community and public service,
- To use educational media to support learning,
- To continually develop and test learning and teaching strategies which meet the needs and opportunities presented by diverse learning groups, emergent technologies and evolving cultures
- To offer our curriculum to a range of learners on and off campus via flexible delivery modes
- To equip students with the tools to become self-directed and reflective lifelong learners
- To benchmark our provision against best practice nationally and internationally
- To enhance and strengthen the quality assurance systems with extended participation from academia and industry

## **IADT AND LIN**

IADT is represented by Marion Palmer, at meetings of the LIN Steering Group and on the LIN Academic Professional Development (APD) Sub Group.

This year IADT has had two LIN workshops. *Community based learning/Service learning and the curriculum* was led by Dr Josephine Boland of NUIG. *Communicate with Conviction, Commitment and Control: Learn to use your voice effectively for teaching purpose* was led by Dr Carmel O'Sullivan of TCD. Both workshops were well attended by staff from across the Institute.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING AT IADT**

IADT is committed in principle and practice to the achievement of equity of access, to increased participation and improved retention and progression rates for all our learners.

The Institute aims to help students to reach their potential through the provision of a supportive, vibrant and challenging learning environment. All staffs are involved in the construction of this learning environment. All students are valued equally during their learning journey with IADT. Accordingly the curriculum, teaching and learning and assessment at IADT are centred on the student. Policies are pursued in the area of learning and teaching which promote the increasingly international and culturally diverse nature of IADT.

The Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy enables IADT to review and enhance learning, teaching and assessment across the Institute. It considers IADT's mission and places it in the context of higher education. It embodies the values that are fundamental to IADT and reflects the three pillars of enterprise, creativity and technology. The strategy outlines the philosophy of learning, teaching and assessment at IADT. The Learning Teaching and Assessment strategy was developed by the Teaching and Learning Committee, sub-committee of Academic Council. The IADT Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy was adopted by Governing Body in September 2008 for a period of two years. Implementation has taken place during the year.

Celebrating student work is a key feature of learning and teaching at IADT. The School of Creative Arts holds an annual exhibition each June. This year the graduates exhibit their work from 4 June and the exhibition is open to the public from 5 to 11 June. For more information see <http://www.iadt.ie/en/InformationAbout/NewsEvents/Title,1647,en.html>. The School of Creative Technologies holds an annual showcase of student work each May. An overview of the graduates' work can be seen at <http://www.iadtprojects.com/>.

Learning and teaching at IADT is supported in a range of ways. Two committees of Academic Council focus on student learning and staff development in different ways. The Teaching and Learning Committee is chaired by Marion Palmer Head of Department of Learning Sciences. The Quality Enhancement Committee is chaired by Dr Paula Gilligan Head of Department of Humanities. Both committees have membership from across the Institute.

The eLearning Steering Group supports the implementation of Blackboard in the Institute and advises the Teaching and Learning Committee on issues such as first Year ICT proficiency and learning resources.

The Access Office and the Access Working Group have developed the Institute Equal Access and Participation Strategy and work with students and Institute staff to achieve these important aims and objectives. As part of the strategy a Teaching in a cross-cultural environment seminar was held in May. Assistive Technology is available through the Access Office for students and is supported by the Assistive Technology Officer.

The Writing and Research Skills Service WRSS work with students and staff to enable students to learn. It provides general support through weekly seminars on study skills and individual support to students as needed.

The Library and ICT are key areas for learning and teaching and play a full role in enabling students to learn. The Library focuses on information skills and supporting learners to be critical users of information for learning. ICT supports and enables Blackboard. Blackboard is IADT's course management system also known as a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It provides online course delivery and e-learning, and it is used by staff and students alike. Lecturers can use the VLE to deliver course material, while students can access course content, communicate with lecturers, and classmates, as well as participating in online assessments and evaluations.

IADT took part in the multi-institution survey on VLEs led by NAIRTL in 2008 and again in 2009. For more information on the survey please see <http://www.nairtl.ie/index.php?pageID=118>.

There are five HEA/SIF projects relevant to teaching and learning in IADT– NDLR, LIN, NAIRTL, DRHEA and IOTI/DIT Flexible Learning. They are supporting the wide range of activities across the Institute. There is a retention project in the School of Creative Technologies.

### *Institute Committees*

The Teaching and Learning Committee provides guidance to Academic Council on learning, teaching and assessment. It aims to enhance the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the Institute by providing academic leadership for the continued development of excellence in academic practice. We aim to ensure that teaching at IADT is research informed.

The Teaching and Learning Committee is committed to:

- Reviewing existing practice in teaching, learning and assessment and draw from all the disciplines in the Institute
- Principles of universal design
- Disseminating best practice within specific fields of enquiry by investigating teaching and learning strategies

- Advising on staff training and development and co-ordinating and leading teaching and learning efforts across the Institute
- Linking to wider teaching, learning and assessment initiatives internally and externally
- Developing the scholarship of teaching at IADT

This year the sub-committee has focused on the implementation of the IADT Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy and it has reviewed the Institute plagiarism and APEL/RPL policies. Further information on the Teaching and Learning Sub-committee is available at <http://www.iadt.ie/en/InformationAbout/TeachingandLearning/>.

The Quality Enhancement Committee aims:

1. To provide guidance to Academic Council on issues of quality
2. To provide a forum for reviewing quality processes and procedures
3. To audit functions of the academic quality systems of the Institute. For example external examiners reports, program board reports, etc, have been reviewed to ensure compliance with standards.
4. To monitor the review cycles within IADT to ensure compliance (DA review, Programmatic Reviews, Quality Manual Reviews etc.
5. To review good practice for third level institutions and other similar organizations.

## **ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

One of the aims of IADT Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy is to encourage all staff to develop their scholarship of teaching by undertaking professional development in the field of education. This is done in a variety of ways. Induction is held annually for new staff in September. Attendance at accredited learning and teaching certificate and diploma programmes is supported for individual staff across the schools, for example the DIT Postgraduate Certificate in Third Level Learning and Teaching.

In addition to the LIN seminars this year there has been a local programme of seminars on topics such as *Assessment, Feedback, Classroom management, Plagiarism, Reading and writing learning outcomes* and *Providing Feedback and Managing Student Grade Expectations*. These seminars are led by IADT staff and open to all staff. The seminars are managed by Mary Anne O'Carroll the Staff Training Learning and Development Officer. There are weekly Blackboard workshops led by Muiris O'Grady the eLearning Projects Officer. There has been a Brown Bag lunch on service learning presented by Hannah Barton.

In April 2009 there was a symposium on film and education *filmsense*; this one day event explored the relationship between film as a technical medium, pedagogy and creativity. It was a joint event of the National Film School, IADT and the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media <http://www.iadt.ie/en/InformationAbout/NewsEvents/Thefile,1628,en.pdf>. IADT staff presented

papers on film and education and chaired sessions as well as attending the symposium. The symposium was organised by Dr Elaine Sisson Gradcam fellow at IADT.

Another approach taken is to develop the scholarship of teaching through attending and presenting about learning and teaching at IADT at conferences. Membership of ILTA, AISHE and EDIN is encouraged. Marion Palmer is chair of EDIN the Educational Developers of Ireland network for 2009-2010. This year staffs have attended

- 📅 PBL Summer School, UCD, June 2008
- 📅 AISHE Annual conference\* August 2008
- 📅 NDLR IS COP Launch, DIT September 2008
- 📅 SIF Continue Workshops, ITT Dublin, September 2008
  - Improving Student Retention & Progression
  - Effective Teaching
- 📅 Emerging Pedagogies Conference, Griffith College Dublin, September 2008
- 📅 Learning Innovations Network 1st Annual Conference\*, Athlone, October 2008
- 📅 Challenging Assumptions NAIRTL 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Teaching & Learning in Higher Education, WIT, November 2008
- 📅 NDLR Second Annual Symposium, UCD, December 2008
- 📅 Online Educa conference, Berlin, December 2008
- 📅 HETAC Educating for Entrepreneurship Conference, Dublin Castle, February 2009
- 📅 CLTAD Virtual Worlds in Art Education, London, March 2009
- 📅 AHEAD Round Table Symposium on A Charter for Inclusive Teaching & Learning in Higher Education, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, April 2009
- 📅 The First Year Curriculum - strategies to enhance retention LIN Conference, DIT, may 2009
- 📅 Annual Elearning Conference, TCD, May 2009
- 📅 EdTech 2009, NCI, May 2009

The following presentations have been made:

- |   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| AISHE Conference  | NUI Maynooth   | August 2008   |
| 1. <i>The Entrepreneurial Eco System: - What is it and does it have a role to play in undergraduate entrepreneurship education?</i> | Conor Heagney, Therese Moylan, Orla Byrne  |               |
| 2. <i>IADT and WebCT (Blackboard) Finally Blended?</i>  | Barry McIntyre   |               |
| LIN First Annual Conference   | Athlone  | October 2008  |
| 1. <i>Exploring Teaching in Institutes of Technology</i>  | Marion Palmer  |               |
| 2. <i>Helping Students do the Business</i>  | Orla Byrne, Conor Heagney, Barry McIntyre, John Montayne, Michael Murphy – winner of conference poster prize |               |
| HEAnet National Networking Conference   | Kilkenny   | November 2008 |
| 1. <i>Creating Futures – working at the convergence of arts, technology and enterprise at IADT</i>                                  | Marion Palmer  |               |
| HETAC Educating for Entrepreneurship Conference   | Dublin Castle  | February 2009 |
| 1. <i>Linking Theory &amp; Entrepreneurial Practice: An Irish Case Study</i>  | Catherine Rossiter, Orla Byrne, Catherine Cronin   |               |

EdTech 2009

NCI, Dublin

May 2009

1. *Exploring wikis through an assessment task – reflections and resistance from practice* Marion Palmer, Hannah Barton, Grainne Kirwan
2. *New Learning Spaces: First Year Fine Art site-specific project work using online mapping tools for reflection and critique; and the creation of a visual dynamic archive of project work completed off campus.* Laurence Riddell, Lynda Devenney
3. *Uptake and usage of Virtual Learning Environments: Findings from a multi institutional student usage survey* Robert Cosgrave UCC, Theresa Logan-Phelan TCD, Marion Palmer IADT, Nuala Harding AIT, Margaret Phelan ITT Dublin, Willie Ward LIT, Claire McAvinia NUIM, Angelica Riskey UL, Fiona O’Riordan Griffith College, Noreen Vaughan LIT, Tom Farrelly IT Tralee.
4. *DRHEA eLearning Network of Excellence* Muiris O’Grady (poster and presentation).

There has been a publication on teaching and learning by Institute staff.

Palmer, M. and Heagney, C. (2008) *Reflections on Conversations as a Catalyst for Change 2003-2007*. In Higgs, B. and McCarthy, M., *Emerging Issues II The Changing Roles and Identities of Teachers and Learners in Higher Education*. Cork: NAIRTL.

Research into learning and teaching is encouraged. Marion Palmer has been researching teaching in the Institutes of Technology as part of doctoral research. Barry McIntyre researched the use of Blackboard in IADT as part of his master’s research. Teaching in specific disciplines/practices is the focus of some study. Staff presented papers on the teaching of psychology at the Psychology Learning and Teaching conference in Bath in July 2008.

For further information on learning and teaching at IADT please contact Marion Palmer [marion.palmer@iadt.ie](mailto:marion.palmer@iadt.ie).

IADT (2008a). *Creating Futures IADT Strategic Plan 2008-2012*. Retrieved 27 May 2009 from <http://www.iadt.ie/en/InformationAbout/Corporate/Strategy/>.

IADT (2008b). *Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2008-2010*. Retrieved 27 May 2009 from <http://www.iadt.ie/en/InformationAbout/TeachingandLearning/LearningTeachingandAssessmentStrategy/>.

IADT (2009). *Equal Access and Participation Policy*.