



# Learning Innovation Network *Newsletter*

## WHAT IS LIN?

The Learning Innovation Network (LIN) project is a three year collaborative project between the 13 Irish IoTs and DIT. Funded by the Strategic Innovation Fund (cycle 1) LIN is one of five stands within the project “*The Institutes of Technology Sector Learning Network – Delivering Systemic Change*”.

The goals of the LIN project are;

- o To scope the parameters of an agreed Academic Development Programme
- o To provide a centrally coordinated repository service and portal
- o To develop a model for a National Excellence in Learning and Teaching Awards system

In subsequent issues, we will keep you updated on the ongoing progress in each of these three project goals.

LIN is led by joint strand leaders, Marion Coy and Frank McMahon.



**Marion Coy**  
President of GMIT



**Dr. Frank Mc Mahon**  
Director of Academic Affairs,  
DIT

LIN has been established to enhance the delivery of core educational activities through collaboration and reform and to support innovation and quality

improvements in learning and teaching. Go to <http://www.lin-ireland.com> for more information.

## LIN CONFERENCE

**“Fostering a Student Centred Learning Environment”**

The first annual LIN conference will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> October in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

This conference will provide a unique opportunity for learning and teaching experts, researchers, educational practitioners and developers and other stakeholders to come together, share experiences, reflect on informed practice and explore sectoral innovations, all within the context of learning and teaching.

We encourage participation across the HE sector and we hope that you will find our programme (<http://www.lin-ireland.com/index.php?title=Programme>) inspiring. It is our intention that the annual LIN conference will become a permanent feature of the learning and teaching calendar.

Registration is now open. Whilst there is no attendance charge, it is vital to register your place.

To do so, please e-mail [attracta.brennan@gmit.ie](mailto:attracta.brennan@gmit.ie)

### Inside this issue .....

What is LIN?	Page 1
LIN Conference	Page 1
Keynote Speakers	Page 2
Conference Themes	Page 2
For your diary	Page 3
LIN Picks	Page 3
LIN Blogspot	Page 3
Quotable Quotes	Page 3
Contact us	Page 3

**KEY NOTE SPEAKERS**

**Professor Ray Land**



Professor Land is Professor of Higher Education and Director of the Centre for Academic Practice and Learning Enhancement at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow UK. His research interests include educational development, threshold concepts, research-teaching linkages, and theoretical aspects of digital learning.

**Dr. Richard Thorn**



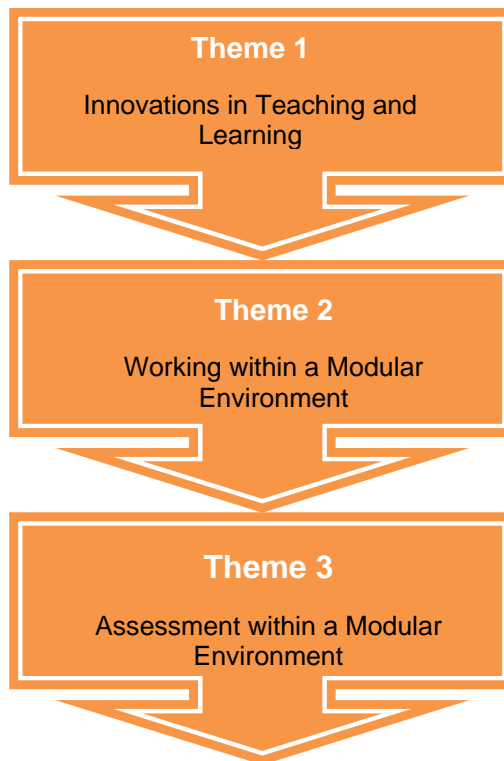
Dr. Thorn is currently Director of Flexible Learning and Research at the Institute of Technology, Ireland. He was chairperson of the Council of Directors of Institutes of technology, Ireland (2007). He is currently a council member of the national executive of IBEC (the Irish Business and Employers Confederation).

**Prof. Sarah Moore**



Prof. Moore is Dean of Teaching and Learning at the University of Limerick. Her recent publications include an undergraduate textbook on organisational behavior, a study skills handbook for higher educational students and a range of papers focusing on the impact of classroom innovations in university settings.

**LIN CONFERENCE THEMES**



**Theme 1 presentations**

- Unfolding Stories: Shifting from Teacher Centered Delivery to Student Centered Learning
- Advanced Learning and Adaptive Problem Solving Techniques: Practical Lessons from Cognitive Science
- Guidelines for Teaching Chinese Students in Irish Classrooms: Perspectives from Chinese Teachers on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

**Theme 2 presentations**

- Learning to Walk in a Modularised World – A Review of Modularised Programme Development in GMIT
- Exploring Teaching in Institutes of Technology
- Mentoring Initiatives, Modules and Tools for Developing NFQ Competences in Modular Environments
- Positive Impact of Personal Development Planning (PDP) for student learners in a modular environment

**Theme 3 presentations**

- A Study of Lecturers’ and Learners’ Perceptions and Experiences of Group Project Assessment
- Generating more Effective Learning using Assessment for Learning Principles
- Experiences of Project Based Learning – An Assessment Strategy for a Discipline Based Module
- Assessing Student Placement - A Study of the Assessment of Placements Amongst Undergraduate Dietetic Students in Ireland

To view the abstracts please go to : <http://www.lin-ireland.com/index.php?title=Programme>

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### LIN

#### 10<sup>th</sup> October

LIN (Fostering a Student Centred Learning Experience),  
Hodson Bay hotel,  
Athlone,

Westmeath

[http://www.lin-ireland.com/index.php?title=LIN\\_Conference](http://www.lin-ireland.com/index.php?title=LIN_Conference)

### OTHER

#### 26<sup>th</sup> September

3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-University Retention Colloquium  
“New Perspectives on Retention in Further and Higher  
Education”,

Absolute Hotel, Limerick City

[http://www.tcd.ie/CAPSL/academic\\_practice/  
worddocs/retention\\_colloquium\\_2008.doc](http://www.tcd.ie/CAPSL/academic_practice/worddocs/retention_colloquium_2008.doc)

## LIN PICKS

LIN picks for this month’s issue include;

#### Teacher Tube

Teacher Tube provides an online community for sharing  
instructional videos [www.teachertube.com](http://www.teachertube.com)

#### Open Courseware

Free open courseware from Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology <http://ocw.mit.edu>

#### Virtual Social Worlds and the Future of Learning

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2jY4UkPbAc>

It describes the seven sensibilities that Differentiate Virtual  
Social Worlds from other interactive media and makes the  
argument that these sensibilities provide us with  
unprecedented freedom to create true experiential learning  
opportunities. These include Flow, Repetition,  
Experimentation, Engagement, Doing, Observing, and  
Motivation.

#### Critical Thinking and Pedagogy

[www.cdtl.nus.edu.sg/ctp/index.htm](http://www.cdtl.nus.edu.sg/ctp/index.htm)

This site provides a description of what critical thinking is, and  
some excellent examples of activities which typically call for the  
use of critical thinking skills. It splits the process into discipline  
specific critical thinking and general purpose critical thinking,  
enabling the reader to distinguish and recognise their own  
critical thinking abilities and opportunities.

## LIN BLOGSPOT

This month’s hot topic concerns the re-introduction of college  
fees. Is it a good or a bad thing? For comments and views and  
a chance to cast your vote, please go to  
[http://www.lin-ireland.com/index.php?title=LIN\\_Blogspot](http://www.lin-ireland.com/index.php?title=LIN_Blogspot)

## QUOTABLE QUOTES



Learning is not attained by chance, it  
must be sought for with ardor and  
attended to with diligence – *Abigail  
Adams*, 1780 (wife of John Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
President of the USA)

Whosoever neglects learning in his  
youth, loses the past and is dead for the  
future – *Euripides, Phrixus, Greek tragic  
dramatist (484 BC - 406 BC)*

If you are interested in receiving the LIN newsletter, please  
email [attracta.brennan@gmit.ie](mailto:attracta.brennan@gmit.ie) , with SUBSCRIBE within the  
subject field.

To unsubscribe to the LIN newsletter, please email  
[attracta.brennan@gmit.ie](mailto:attracta.brennan@gmit.ie), with UNSUBSCRIBE within the  
subject field.

## CONTACT US

Attracta Brennan, LIN Project Coordinator,  
T: 091-742150,  
E: [attracta.brennan@gmit.ie](mailto:attracta.brennan@gmit.ie)

Noel Fitzpatrick, Learning Development Officer,  
T: 01-4027882,  
E: [Noel.Fitzpatrick@dit.ie](mailto:Noel.Fitzpatrick@dit.ie)

Mary Fox, LIN Administrator,  
T: 091-742154,  
E: [mary.fox@gmit.ie](mailto:mary.fox@gmit.ie)