For full versions of all the articles here go to the ALT Online Newsletter at http://newsletter.alt.ac.uk

Editorial

Julie Voce

Welcome to the first ALT News issue of 2009! In this edition:

- Richard Everett discusses the design of intelligent buildings using Oaklands College in Hertfordshire as an example.

- Diana Laurillard reports on the third International LAMS and Learning Design Conference held in December 2008 and Sarah Sherman and Frank Steiner report on the first Future of Technology in Education (FOTE) conference, held in October 2008

- John Conway reviews the eBeam system, which can convert any flat surface into an interactive whiteboard and Vivien Sieber provides an overview of the eXe e-learning XML editor.

- Kevin Donovan reports on ALT's first ever Research Committee symposium and how HE and FE can be transformed for 21st Century learning.

- Richard Noss and Neil Selwyn describe the first commentary launched from the Technology Enhanced Learning phase of the Teaching and Learning Research Programme.

- David Jennings reports on the ALT workshop "Sitting on a gold mine" for the TILE project.

- Sarah Malone, Dave O'Hare and Sarah Darley introduce the POCKET project which looks at the potential of migrating open content approaches in a range of disciplines.

- Dominic Savage OBE, reflects on the development of ICT and education in the 75th year of the trade association BESA.

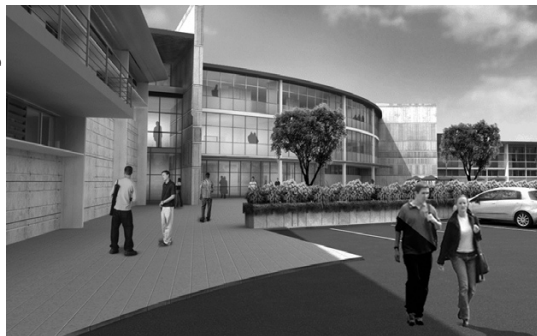- Mike Keppell and Dominique Parrish provide an update on ascilite's conferences and activities.

Would you like to contribute to ALT News?
The newsletter team welcomes articles that relate to Learning Technology, including policy focused articles, case-studies demonstrating good practice, reviews of software, book reviews and conference reviews. ALT News is published quarterly online and a print edition containing summaries of the online articles is distributed via postal mail. For further information and guidelines contact the Editor, Morag Munro: **morag.munro@dcu.ie**

Building a better future – planning and designing innovative, intelligent educational buildings

Richard Everett

Views of the new college building

Images courtesy of Bond Bryan Architects

Oaklands College is in the process of reinventing its approach to teaching and learning with a new fully-integrated campus planned for occupation in 2011. Former college Director of e-learning Richard Everett worked on the design team. In this article, he describes the vision for the building and how it will transform the learner experience. He also examines some of the challenges in the design process, advises on possible solutions and directs readers to some helpful support.

Perspectives on learning design – a report on the 3rd International LAMS and Learning Design Conference

Diana Laurillard

LAMS and Learning Design Conference

© James Dalziel

The 3rd International LAMS and Learning Design Conference took place in December 2008 at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. In this article, Diana Laurillard, one of the keynote speakers, reviews the conference and highlights sessions on the use of LAMS in a variety of disciplines, research into the field of learning design and the new features in LAMS 2.2.

Chief Executive's Report

Dame Professor Wendy Hall
Wendy Hall, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton, is one of the three ALT Ambassadors, and is a founder member of ALT. We congratulate Wendy on being made a Dame in the 2009 New Year Honours List for services to science and technology. Wendy has a particular interest in Web Science, which she describes with Kieron O'Hara in the May 2008 issue of ALT News at **http://newsletter.alt. ac.uk/e_article001068553.cfm.**

Staffing changes
John Slater, who has been closely involved in ALT for many years, and who stood down as Honorary Treasurer last September, is working for ALT as a consultant pending the filling of the Director of Development post.

A note of thanks to Julie Voce
Julie stepped in as Editor of this issue of ALT News during Morag Munro's current leave of absence. As you can see from the newsletter, Julie, with support from Kevin Donovan and Graham McElearney has produced a particularly wide-ranging and hopefully interesting issue.

Consultation responses
We contributed extensively to JISC's internal consultation on the contents of Sir Ron Cooke's (outgoing Chair of JISC) response to an invitation from John Denham (Secretary of State for Education) to provide written advice on "how we can become a world leader in HE e-learning over the next 10–15 years". Sir Ron's paper is available on the DIUS website at **http://www.dius.gov. uk/policy/world_leader_e-learning.html**.

Earlier this month we submitted a detailed response to the Communities and Local Government Department's consultation on digital inclusion. The response is available on the ALT website at **http://www.alt.ac.uk/ documents.html**.

ALT Research Symposium
In November we ran the first part of our first Research Symposium under the auspices of the ALT Research Committee. (The second part will take place in February.) Kevin Donovan's report from the symposium is elsewhere in the newsletter, and we are grateful to Becta for financial support for the event.

ALT Conference 2009: "*In dreams begins responsibility*"– choice, evidence, and change
The calls for papers and abstracts for inclusion in the 2009 conference programme was issued before Christmas and closes on 16 February. You can access the calls from **http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2009/**.

2009 Learning Technologist of the Year Award
Blackboard Inc. has kindly agreed to sponsor the 2009 Learning Technologist of the Year Award. The call for entries will be issued in February and announced widely. We will continue with the practice already established of making the award in team and individual categories.

Membership survey
Thanks to all readers who completed our membership survey, which closed on 16/1/2009, with our target of 200 responses easily exceeded. Our Membership Services Manager Maren Deepwell is analysing the data collected, and we expect to make significant changes to our membership services overall in the light of our findings. Highlights from the survey will be published in due course.

LSIS eCPD programme
Last year we were asked to be a partner in the delivery of a major learning technology related staff and organisational development programme for the learning and skills sector, provided by BDP Learning and a consortium of sector partners, for the newly formed Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS). The launch conference for the eCPD programme, in which Events Manager Hayley Willis and Director of Operations Marion Samler are playing a major role, and which will have ten parallel workshop streams, and keynote speeches from Toni Fazaeli (Chief Executive of the Institute for Learning) and Roger McLure (Chief Executive of LSIS), will take place in London on 5 February. Print and video assets from the event will be available via the ALT website in due course.

Seb Schmoller
seb.schmoller@alt.ac.uk 14/1/2009

FOTE – Future of Technology in Education

Sarah Sherman and Frank Steiner

The role of IT in academia is now more important than ever in this competitive market where students demand leading edge IT services. The Facebook Generation's high expectations are putting demands on infrastructure and challenging the way that learning is delivered. With this in mind, ULCC (University of London Computer Centre) organised an event to examine the future of technology in education, held in October 2008 at Imperial College London. Some of the leading technology organisations, including Google, Yahoo, Apple and Huddle came together with institutional IT and learning technology staff for a day of discussion and deliberation. This report summarises the event and highlights the most provoking parts of the day.

NEWS AND REVIEWS

The eBeam – interactive whiteboard and capture system

John Conway

The eBeam is a device which can convert any flat surface into an interactive whiteboard or smartboard. It can also be used to capture content digitally from a normal whiteboard in real time for later review or for publishing online. This article describes the system in more detail.

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The eBeam interactive whiteboard and capture system

eXe – e-learning XML editor

Vivien Sieber

eXe is a simple programme that lets authors create sequences of interactive learning activities without having to learn HTML or XML. eXe is open-source, free, and easy to use. It offers a choice of learning activities (tools) that teachers can select, populate and sequence to create a learning session. Resources authored in eXe can be exported as IMS Content Package, SCORM 1.2, IMS Common Cartridge, iPod Notes or as simple self-contained web pages.

ALT research news – transformed for 21st century learning

Kevin Donovan

ALT held its first ever Research Committee symposium in November 2008 as part of a partnership project, funded by Becta, in which ALT is a partner with Sero Consulting and the Learning Science Research Institute at Nottingham University. The 35 invitees were drawn from the project partners as well as HE institutions, the FE sector, the NHS and the IT industry. They discussed "How can HE and FE be transformed for 21st century learning?" matching the project's purpose to carry out research into the future of learning with technology; including trends, disruptions and new modes of learning.

Commentary launched: Education 2.0? Designing the web for teaching and learning

Richard Noss and Neil Selwyn

Despite valuable early contributions to Web 2.0, much of the discussion within the education community has been speculative. This commentary sets out to challenge the confident portrayal of Web 2.0 by many educationalists in terms of an imminent transformation of learning and teaching. Careful thought has therefore been given to how technologists, educators and learners can best shape the fast-changing Internet in the near future. It aims to explore how education can change the web, as well as how the web can change education.

Web 2.0-style resource discovery comes to libraries – the TILE project

David Jennings

If we could map the paths that learners take between sets of resources, we would get new ways of viewing and understanding the links between the items that make up a library. By bringing these patterns into the open, we could enable a new level of reflection, judgement and guidance about how to get the most out of a library. The TILE workshop, organised by ALT, explored practical and policy issues around pursuing some aspects of this broader approach.

Developing open content – the POCKET perspective

Sarah Malone, Dave O'Hare and Sarah Darley

The Project on Open Content for Knowledge Exposition and Teaching (POCKET) is an 18-month project due to end in March 2009, funded by the JISC Repositories and Preservation Programme. This project aims to investigate the potential of migrating open content approaches in a range of disciplines across a number of different higher education institutions (HEIs). This article describes the project in more detail, looking at the project's aims, the content development process and the future plans.

Technology and learning – a trade association perspective

Dominic Savage OBE

The British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) is the trade association for the educational supply industry, founded 75 years ago. BESA acts as a conduit between educational suppliers, purchasers and policy makers – particularly in ICT. Over £5 billion has been spent on educational ICT since 1997, so BESA has an important role to play to ensure that educators make maximum use of their investment. The Policy Commission agreed that interoperability of content, software and hardware is key and recommended that Becta should lead the development of such standards.

The Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ascilite) update

Mike Keppell and Dominique Parrish

The update from ascilite takes a look at the ascilite 25th Annual Conference, held in Melbourne, Australia in 2008 and looks forward to the 26th Annual Conference to be held in Auckland, New Zealand in 2009.

This article will provide a précis of the results of the 2008 survey which explored members' expectations and perceptions in relation to the benefits of belonging to the Society, and identified areas in which members feel the Society could improve. It will also include ascilite's proposed response to the findings together with information about other ascilite member initiatives (institutional membership).

EVENTS

Conference

ALT-C 2009: "*In dreams begin responsibility*": choice, evidence, and change

8 – 10 September 2009, Manchester, UK

Proposals can be submitted via **http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2009/**

Submission guidelines for Research Papers and for Abstracts are available from: **http://www.alt.ac.uk/guidelines_papers.html**

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 12.00 midnight, 16 February 2009

Bookings open: May 2009 **Presenters' registration deadline:** 29 June 2009

Earlybird registration deadline: 6 July 2009 **Bookings close:** 14 August 2009

Sponsorship: Organisations considering sponsoring ALT-C 2009 should contact Seb Schmoller, Chief Executive of ALT: s**eb.schmoller@alt.ac.uk**

Exhibiting: Organisations considering exhibiting at ALT-C 2009 should contact Hayley Willis, Events Manager: **hayley.willis@alt.ac.uk**

One-day events and workshops

Supporting and enhancing learning through the effective use of technology

5 February 2009, Central London, UK

A one-day event for all those engaged in the Further Education system to share good practice at the national launch conference for the eCPD Enhancing Learning Programme. BDP Learning, ALT and a consortium of FE partners have been commissioned to deliver the programme on behalf of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS).

eReturn – using ePortfolios to support women returners to employment

24 – 25 February 2009, Aston Business School, Birmingham, UK

Two one-day workshops to disseminate the work of the JISC-funded eReturn project

The eReturn project is led by the Open University, in partnership with the UK Resource Centre for women in SET (UKRC), Cardiff Women's Workshop (CWW), the University of Salford, Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), Centre for Science Education, and ALT.

Costs: there are no fees associated with attending the day event(s).

Second Life in real life: education beyond the hype

(repeat due to popular demand)

12 February 2008, 9.30 – 16.00, Netskills Suite, Newcastle

Presenters: Steven Warburton, King's College, London and Graham Hibbert, Leeds Metropolitan University

Costs: £100 members, £155 for non-members.

Journal

For a summary of the contents of the latest issue of the ALT Journal, which is a Special Issue on Learning and Teaching in Immersive Virtual Worlds (Volume 16, Issue 3), guest-edited by Maggi Savin-Baden and Robert Ward, go to: **http://newsletter.alt.ac.uk**

ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ALT