

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD 2008 SPONSORED BY TRIBAL

Winners announced at Association for Learning Technology conference

The foremost practitioners in learning technology this month received recognition of their endeavours via the UK's [Association for Learning Technology](http://www.alt.ac.uk) Learning Technologist of the Year Awards, sponsored by [Tribal](http://www.tribalgroup.co.uk).

Bob Banks, senior consultant at Tribal, said, "The pioneering awards are now in their second year. They help to establish the profession of learning technologist at the forefront of educational transformation, across all sectors from schools to work based learning. The awards celebrate the very best in learning technology and the winners' work is inspirational."

Tribal (www.tribalgroup.co.uk) has been a key innovator in the field of learning technology since the early days. It develops bespoke cutting edge technology for learning in projects such as those for McDonalds online work-based learning, MoLeNet – the Mobile Learning Network for further education and developing the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM).

Bob Banks added, "At Tribal we strive to develop exciting and innovative ways to use technology in the pursuit of effective learning. We're constantly researching new approaches, and are proud to sponsor the awards which are a showcase for the very best of UK talent in learning technology."

Seb Schmoller, chief executive of the Association for Learning Technology (<http://www.alt.ac.uk>), added, "This year's award has highlighted a wide spread of talent and achievement in the learning technology community. Our prize winners are making a real difference to teaching and learning for millions of learners in the UK and more widely. Success of this kind deserves to be celebrated, and our Learning Technologist of the Year Award does just that."

The annual Learning Technologist of the Year Awards were presented at the Association's prestigious annual conference. (www.alt.ac.uk/altc2008). The awards were presented by David Cavallo, chief learning architect for One Laptop per Child, at an event attended by Ian Pearson, Minister of State for Science and Innovation.



This is the second year that the Association for Learning Technology has run the awards, which celebrate and reward excellent practice and outstanding achievement in the learning technology field - the broad range of communication, information and related technologies that can be used to support learning, teaching, and assessment.

The 2 winning and 3 commended entries shared prizes totalling £3,800. (Details on winners are below.)

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Geoff Stead and Bob Banks are available for interview/comment on any area of e-learning.

Bob Banks, senior consultant, Tribal



Bob has played a prominent role in the UK e-learning community for twelve years. He has a strong understanding of learning and teaching, and of the potential of digital technologies to support this. He combines this with extensive experience of successful software systems design, and with strong process and inter-personal skills in workshop facilitation and in working with customers to drive forward solutions.

Areas of expertise: e-learning, mobile learning, learning platforms and portals, web 2.0, how technology should support learning and teaching, learning objects

Geoff Stead, technology director, Tribal



Geoff is the technology director of Tribal's Learning and Publishing businesses. He leads the development of technology resources that seek to deliver Tribal's mission: to make learning work for everyone. They make learning resources enabled by technology but driven by pedagogy. Tribal has been involved in mobile learning since 2001 and support over 2,000 mobile learners and teachers across the UK in all areas of educational provision, with all manner of devices.

Areas of expertise: m-learning, mobile learning, constructivism, learners as creators, SMS, new technologies, assessment, learner voice, empowerment, emerging technology, NEET learners, Web 2.0, learning technologies, emerging technology

Geoff will be speaking at Generation M, a workshop on m-learning on 7 October in Telford.
www.mlearn2008.org

The awards were presented on 10 September.

Winner, Individual Award

Josie Fraser is empowering learners and letting learners' voices be heard through the new world of social networking. She won the Individual Award for her wide-ranging, influential, and sustained contribution in the learning technology field. Josie said, "Winning the Individual Award for the 2008 Learning Technologist of the Year is a huge honour. It represents a fantastic opportunity for me to raise not only my own professional profile as an edtech, and even more importantly to celebrate the amazing organisations, teams and individuals I've been fortunate enough to work with to produce some world class projects. My work for Childnet, producing the DCSF's Cyberbullying Guidance, and research on Young People and Social Networking Services for Becta, the continuing development of the Emerge community for JISC, and the International Edublog Awards programme are all initiatives which I am hugely proud of and have involved working with teams of people who are amazing. I feel incredibly lucky to work in such a dynamic, vibrant and above all community focused international sector."

Winner – Team Award

The Learning Technology Group at Lancaster University was awarded the Team Award for successfully providing and integrated learning technology service that has had a major and beneficial impact on students and staff across the whole university. The project shows how every single student at the university can benefit from technology.

Accepting the award, Dr. Richard A. Ranker said, "Winning this award will bring some well-deserved recognition to the team. They have been providing world-class business-essential tools for use in teaching and learning, but too often receive no recognition of it. This external validation and selection as the best learning technology team in the UK will let them -- and our staff and students -- know they are appreciated. I believe their introduction of two new applications this past September while still updating and improving our other three main applications is a major

accomplishment for this team of seven FTE, most of whom are on fixed-term contracts.”

Commended - Individual Award

Stuart Hepplestone from Sheffield Hallam University for leading the development, implementation, and roll-out of an assignment handler and feedback wizard now used on a large scale at the university.

Commended – Team Award

The Learning Technology Team at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for developing online courses for use in less developed countries: an MSc in clinical trials and a PGDip/MSc in infectious diseases; and for enhancing the School’s capacity to produce further online courses of this kind.

The Technology Directorate at Ufi learndirect for successfully in-sourcing the production of and transition to a new learning platform that supports over two million learners.

Shortlisted

Barry Nicholls, from Liverpool John Moores University, for creating and maintaining a timesaving and quality enhancing software application to support laboratory experiments in analytical chemistry.

The judging panel for the 2008 award comprised individuals at the cutting edge of elearning:

- Angela Sanders, NIACE
- Bob Banks, Tribal Group, and member of the ALT Research Committee
- Hannah Whaley, Dundee University, and joint winner of the 2007 Award
- Margaret Bennett, QIA
- Stephen Heppell, (Chair of the judging panel), CEO of Heppel.Net Ltd, and Professor of New Media Environments at Bournemouth University (Chair)
- Steve Ryan, London School of Economics and Chair of ALT

To download the PDF brochure with more information about the 2008 awards and the winners, visit

http://www.alt.ac.uk/docs/learning_technologist_of_the_year_award_2008.pdf.

To register for an entry form for the 2009 awards, visit <http://www.alt.ac.uk/> from January 2009.

Notes to editors:

About Tribal Group

Tribal Group offers a range of professional consulting, support and delivery services focused on improving the delivery of public services.

We work in partnership with over 2,500 public service organisations, including schools, colleges and universities; the NHS and primary care trusts; local authorities and housing associations; central government departments and government agencies; and third sector organisations. We also work with private companies, especially in the area of employee skills and training.

Our work influences and improves how essential services are run and delivered every day. Services which are central to everyone's well-being and quality of life: attractive and affordable housing, 21st-century hospital treatment, care for the sick and elderly, clean and safe neighbourhoods, quality education for the young and lifelong opportunities for learning and self-improvement.

www.tribalgroup.co.uk

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22 September 2008