

Acadamaidh Ionnsachaidh agus Teagaisg

# Learning and Teaching Developments

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

Welcome to Issue 17 of Learning and Teaching Developments - the quarterly newsletter from the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) and Educational Development Unit (EDU) at the University of the Highlands and Islands. This newsletter provides updates across areas including educational practice, scholarship and research, and current and forthcoming events, projects and initiatives from the EDU, LTA and other parts of the university.

# In this issue...

Farewell to the LTA's Ann Tilbury Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy Staff Development Fund review of the year Student Accessibility Forum Aurora Advance HE's women only Leadership Development Programme ALPINE: Registration Open! **ALPINE Successes** Newsletter 'How To' style guide The University of Aberdeen's Learning and Teaching Symposium UK Professional Standards (UKPSF) Mentoring Circles Mentoring Development Workshops Mentoring survey Accessibility Minimum Standards Spotlight on the Brightspace Champions Summary of Programme of Events **Upcoming Events** 

# **Farewell to the LTA's Ann Tilbury**

After twelve years of excellent, impactful and collegiate work across the university, we are very sorry to be sharing the news that our friend and colleague Ann Tilbury is leaving the Learning and Teaching Academy and the university in the coming weeks. In Ann's time at UHI, she has been a staff developer within the LEARN team, an integral part of the Educational Development Unit, and since 2018 a key member of the LTA in her role as Organisational Learning and Development Lead. Ann has led the university's engagement with Aurora, the development and implementation of the UHI Graduate Attributes, the Staff Development Fund, and the LTA's work in educational leadership development. Latterly Ann has been seconded to the Organisational Development team, taking forward the review and restructure of EO, and has been at the forefront of developing the new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy.

Whilst sad to see Ann depart, we are delighted to say that Ann will moving to a brilliant new post at Glasgow Caledonian University. Ann's new role will be as Organisational Development Specialist, in the Directorate of People team at GCU, where she will be responsible for the development, delivery, and leadership of local and institutional wide programmes of organisational development activity, to facilitate implementation of the GCU Strategy 2030.

Ann's last day at UHI will be Friday 24th June, and following a well-earned break she'll join GCU in mid-July. Thank you for everything Ann, you will be much missed!





# Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy

The LTA has been leading on the development of a new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy. Wide consultation with staff and students was undertaken between January and March 2022 and the new strategy was co-authored by the LTES Development Group; a group of colleagues which included representation from six Academic Partners, the LTA and the EDU. We are delighted to say that the Strategy was approved by Academic Council on 09 June 2022, and we are preparing to formally launch the Strategy in August. This will include an online interactive version of the Strategy, and a bank of case studies demonstrating how the Strategy values can be put into practice. Colleagues are encouraged to submit their own examples using this

More information

# Staff Development Fund review of the year

The Staff Development Fund Review panel has met four times during 2021-22 and has contributed funding to twenty-nine accredited programmes of study including five PhDs or EdDs, sixteen postgraduate level awards, one HNC and seven awards for UHI's MEd Tertiary and Higher Education or MEd Digital Pedagogy. The subject areas range from marketing, information and library Studies, archaeology, art, and engineering. The final meeting of the year (26th May) will consider an additional eight submissions and outcomes will be communicated to applicants.

The fund seeks feedback from applicants at the end of their programme of study through the submission of an evaluation form (SD3) and one has commented that:

"The opportunity to be supported to complete my MEd in Digital Pedagogy has enabled me to have a greater knowledge of the discourse surrounding pedagogy and teaching practices. Building upon my years of experience as a learning consultant, this course has improved my capabilities as a trainer by providing me with opportunities to engage in critical research and learning. I apply my knowledge and understanding when supporting staff, providing a more enhanced learning experience during the delivery of digital skills training.'

The Staff Development Fund continues to rely on the engagement and contribution from colleagues across the partnership. Thanks, as ever, go to Ann Tilbury, UHI; Andy Brown, UHI; Fiona Gunn, UHI Inverness; Gordon Dickson, UHI West Highland; Jane MacIntosh, UHI North Highland; and new members Dr Anne Frater, UHI Outer Hebrides, and Susannah Wilson, UHI Argyll. Without their support the panel, and fund, could not function effectively.



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### More Information

### **Student Accessibility forum**



The UHI accessibility project helps staffenhance the learning experience for students by ensuring their learning content is accessible to all. As part of this project, we are in the process of establishing a Student Accessibility Forum. The Forum will consider and feedback about accessibility issues within the UHI digital environment including the accessibility of technologies and software in use within the university, especially Ally and Brightspace.

The Forum will meet by VC once or twice a semester, facilitated by the Educational Development Unit. Feedback from this Forum will go to the UHI Accessibility Champions and the Inclusive Practitioners' Network for further discussion, action or consideration by UHI management.

More Information

# Aurora Advance HE's women only **Leadership Development** Programme

The 2021-22 cohort of UHI Aurorans has now completed the programme and have joined an ever-expanding network and the LTA continues to support participants to embed their leadership skills through a range of professional development opportunities. Aurorans and UHI's Aurora Champions facilitated a

workshop at the recent International Women's Day on Supporting Leadership aspirations through the lens of the Aurora Leadership Programme. The workshop included the launch of the 2021-22 Auroran's video memento.

Aurora Alumnae has recently been established by AdvanceHE in recognition of their ongoing commitment to programme participants. As part of the launch the Aurora Alumnae have been issued digital badges.



Figure 2 Aurora Digital Badges

Our very own Ann Tilbury, Organisational Learning and Development Lead, has been successful in being appointed to the new UK-wide Aurora Champions Advisory Group! The purpose of the Group is to have a small cohort of Aurora Champions and key stakeholders provide critical thinking, feedback and input on all aspects of Aurora both current and planned. There are sixteen members of the Group, with three members from



Scottish universities, and they are aiming to meet threefour times per year. Congratulations to Ann!

Figure 1 Map to the right showing number of UHI Aurorans across UHI.

### **ALPINE: Registration Open!**



The Learning and Teaching Academy are pleased to announce that colleagues can now register for ALPINE Route 3, (submission of an e-portfolio of professional practice) for Recognition Panel being held in December 2022 (for Associate and Fellow applications) and January 2023 (for Senior Fellow applications) by downloading and completing the ALPINE Registration Form and returning it to ALPINE no later than Friday 22nd July, and by booking an introduction session (dates below). Colleagues who register will begin the ALPINE application process in August with the support of workshops, an ALPINE mentor and the ALPINE team.

ALPINE (Accredited Learning, Professional development and Innovation in Education) is open to all colleagues in the university who are in a learning and teaching role, learning and teaching related role, or leadership role that is Higher Education focused. This includes academic staff with a teaching responsibility for provision at SCQF level 7 upwards, staff who support learning and teaching at SCQF level 7 and above, postgraduate students who have teaching and student support related responsibilities, and employed student officers of HISA (Highlands and Islands Students Association) who are engaged in relevant activities.

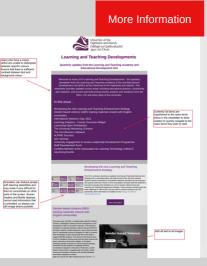
More Information

### Alpine Successes

Several colleagues were awarded fellowships of the HEA from Advance HE at the recognition panel held in May 2022, including Debbie and Jane from the LTA !:

- Jane Steele, LTA UHI, Associate Fellow HEA
- Debbie Wartnaby, LTA UHI, Fellow HEA
- Sam Tweedlie, UHI Argyll, Fellow HEA
- Jonathan Gray, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Fellow HEA
- Rahul Kumar, UHI Perth, Fellow HEA
- Rosie Blake, UHI Outetr Hebrides, Fellow HEA
- Amber Crowley, UHI Argyll, Senior Fellow HEA





# Newsletter 'How To' style guide

As above, Jane Steele from the LTA was awarded fellowships of the HEA from Advance HE at the recognition panel held in May 2022. A key requirement of recognition through ALPINE is to produce a 'Digital Artefact' that relates to one of your Case Studies. Jane decided to produce a 'How To' style guide on producing accessible newsletters. This guid could be repurposed by different colleagues and departments around UHI, to share areas of work and encourage colleagues to engage in continuing professional development in other areas, and/or to share good practice. You can view the guide below.

More Information

### The University of Aberdeen's Learning and Teaching Symposium

On 05 May Jane Steele and Alex Walker from the LTA attended the annual Learning and Teaching Symposium organised by the University of the Aberdeen (UoA). This year was the first hybrid event and was titled: University of Aberdeen Global Communities: Building Communities and Improving Collaboration. Alex and Jane have produced an LTA blog capturing their reflections and summarises the sessions that they attended. Read it below.

### Mentoring Development Workshops

Over the last semester colleagues engaged in mentoring have come together to discuss and develop mentoring approaches through four interactive and developmental workshops. These workshops will run again in semester one with provisional dates being: \*\*FILL IN and add Idates to webpage. Add llink to webpage below\*\*

- Mentor identity and competencies: Wednesday 21 September, 1300 - 1430
- Defining goals and active listening: Wednesday 26 October, 1000 -1200
- Building rapport and asking questions: Wednesday 23 November, 1000 - 1200
- Giving feedback and sharing experience: Wednesday 7 December, 1200 - 1300

Please email Ita@uhi.ac.uk to book a space, dates are flexible and can be moved to suit the majority of participants.



### Mentoring Survey

The mentoring team have been considering ways to grow the mentoring scheme and develop a community of mentors and mentees across UHI. We have created a short survey to gather information from our mentors and mentees that will help to inform these decisions. Please complete the BOS survey by clicking on the button below, to have your say!



### More Information

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## Accessibility Minimum Standards

UHI must comply with the 2018 regulations on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies and the Equality Act 210. To help staff do this, UHI has the Accessibility minimum standards for digital learning and teaching content.

The UHI Accessibility Standards cover Animations, Audio, Colour and contrast, Images, PDF files, Pictograms, icons and symbols, PowerPoint files, Tables and figures, Table of contents (toc), Videos and Word. These original 2011 approved standards have now been updated to include additional items such as captioning, transcripts and HTML ((compliance with WCAG 2,1 AA) ) and have been incorporated into a Forge learning artefact 'UHI Accessibility Standards in digital content'.

More Information

### Spotlight on the Brightspace Champions

### What are Brightspace Champions?

Brightspace Champions deliver professional development activities within their academic partner colleges and professional services teams, through a cascade approach.

UHI Accessibility Standards

### How do they help staff?

Their role is to support academic and professional staff in their Academic Partner colleges in their use of the Brightspace learning environment and to deliver this support by being on hand to help with Brightspace queries and delivering local professional development activities.

### The Brightspace Champions Forum

The Champions participate in monthly Brightspace Champions forums at which they update the Forum on successes, challenges or queries at their Academic Partner and contribute to broader discussions. The Champions collaborate with the EDU who organises the Forum and informs those present about changes to Brightspace and other relevant technologies.

### More Information



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### Summary of Programme of Events

The LTA and EDU have run a number of events, workshop, conferences and symposia to support the enhancement of practice and share the great work of colleagues at and beyond UHI over this year.

Spotlight on the LTA's events from Academic year 2021/22:

University's Learning and Teaching Symposium 2021 Educational Leadership Symposium 2021 Assessment & Feedback Symposium 2021 International Women's Day 2022

You can access the resources and recordings for both the LTA and EDU's events below:

LTA past events and recordings EDU past events and recordings

### Upcoming LTA Events

The Learning and Teaching Academy Team are currently in the process of planning our programme of events for Semester 1 of academic year 2022/23, including webinars, workshops and larger events. You can view our already confirmed events on the Events Page, and all other events will be added as they are confirmed.

Visit the LTA Events page for more information below.

More Information



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 Ita@uhi.ac.uk and request to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

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