



Learning and Teaching Developments

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

Welcome to Issue 13 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. 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 lta@uhi.ac.uk and request to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

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University Learning and Teaching Symposium 2021

The university's Learning and Teaching Symposium 2021, entitled *Back to the Future: New horizons for learning, teaching and student support* was held online on Thursday 17 June 2021. The event was hosted by the Learning and Teaching Academy, and featured a rich range of presentations, networking and discussion sessions.

A number of colleagues from across the university presented during the event, alongside external presentations from staff at the University of Nottingham and the Sheiling project. Keynote addresses were provided by Professor Todd Walker (*Where next for tertiary education? Can the COVID-19 crisis be the trigger for a stronger sector?*) and Dr Su Bryan (*Zooming in and zooming out. Viewing the changes of the past two years with a ten year lens. Are we changing direction or just changing faster?*)

Other highlights from the event included a series of Gasta! Sessions, facilitated by Tom Farrelly, in which a number of colleagues offered quick fire presentations amid Gaelic countdowns and audience participation. The event was closed by a 'Student Voice' section featuring students from Applied Music and Music and the Environment reflecting on a collaborative composition project that they undertook entirely online during lockdown.

Further information, including presentation slides and recordings, can be found on the event page below.

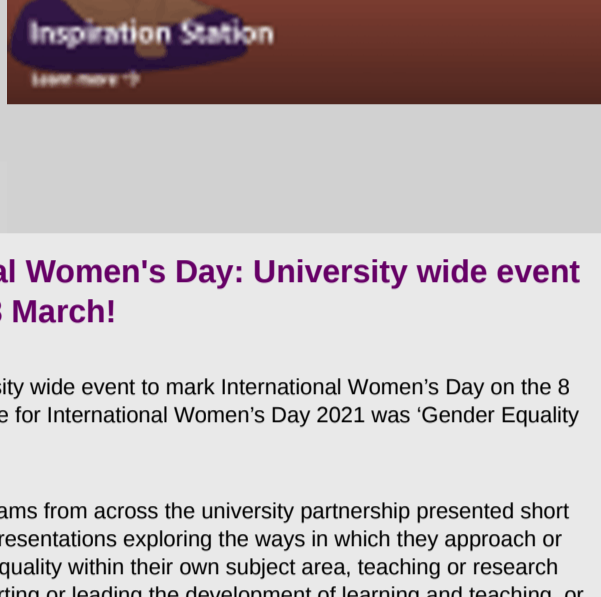
[More information](#)

Spring into Summer with the Educational Development Unit (EDU)

The Educational Development Unit are delighted to announce the launch of our Spring into Summer support campaign and encourage you to visit our new [website](#). Whether you are working in further, higher education or research, we hope you will be inspired by our projects and get in touch to find out more. We will listen to your aspirations and suggest ways we can support you, whether through advice, training, or specialist design and technical expertise, to bring your brilliant ideas to life. Please get in touch via the EDU@uhi.ac.uk and we'll be more than happy to help.

Follow us on [Yammer](#) where we will share examples of ways we can help every Thursday.

[More Information](#)



International Women's Day: University wide event marks the 8 March!

The fourth university wide event to mark International Women's Day on the 8 March. The theme for International Women's Day 2021 was 'Gender Equality in Education'.

Individuals and teams from across the university partnership presented short workshops, and presentations exploring the ways in which they approach or promote gender equality within their own subject area, teaching or research practice, in supporting or leading the development of learning and teaching, or in the design of the curriculum. Dr Natalie Jester, Lecturer at Gloucester University, presented a keynote exploring the urgency of designing a balanced curriculum and the ways that we can, as individuals and institutions do more to promote gender balance and equality in the curriculum.

Following the event, and capturing the topics presented, an e-book will be authored by the event presenters and published in June. The e-book will be free to download shared at the university and beyond on the ways in which the University of Highlands and Islands experiences, promotes and supports gender equality and balance in education. If you would like to be involved in the organising of International Women's Day 2022 please contact alex.walker@uhi.ac.uk

[More Information](#)

Staff Development Fund review of the year

During this year the university staff development fund has contributed to over forty applications, including five applications for PhD studies, twenty-four masters' programmes and eleven Post graduate programmes. A significant number of applications support colleagues to undertake the University's Tertiary and Higher Education programmes with others supporting subject specialism accreditation including fitness, engineering, art and healthcare law and ethics.

Feedback on the impact of the funding contributions highlights the positive aspects of the funding: one applicant stated:

"The support I received to undertake the PG Cert Tertiary and Higher Education has allowed me to develop a much deeper understanding of my teaching practice and the theory which underpins it. This has had a huge impact on my professional development and supplied me with a depth of new knowledge."

The Staff Development Fund relies on the contribution made by the review panel members. The panel Chair, Ann Tilbury, thanks Andy Brown, Executive Office, UHI; Fiona Gunn, Inverness College, UHI; Gareth Davies, Lews Castle College, UHI; Gordon Dickson, West Highland College, UHI., Jane MacIntosh, North Highland College UHI for their valuable contribution to the panel. A special thanks goes to Gareth Davies as he leaves the panel after many years.

[More Information](#)



UHI Advance HE Aurora Leadership Programme

Lorna Walker, Director of Strategic Organisational and Human Resources Development takes over as Advance HE Institutional Aurora Champions, following the retirement of Fiona Larg. Aurora champions work directly with Advance HE Aurora team, taking part in networking events; sharing expertise across the sector and working to embed engagement and enhance participation in Aurora within the University and the wider sector. Existing Aurora Institutional Champion, Ann Tilbury, is delighted that Lorna accepted her invitation: "Lorna will bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the role of UHI's Aurora Institutional Champion - I'm sure she will support the continued development of Aurora within the university".

Ann Tilbury had the opportunity to present, alongside Melanie Armstrong, Organisational Development Specialist, Glasgow Caledonian University at a recent Advance HE Aurora Champions Network event for Scottish universities. Focusing on building a sustainable UHI Aurora community and highlighted the small, incremental steps taken to build momentum since 2018. Key themes were the design of collaborative approaches to developing leadership practice; increasing visibility through celebrating the UHI Aurora story and using evaluation and research to inform wider institutional agendas.

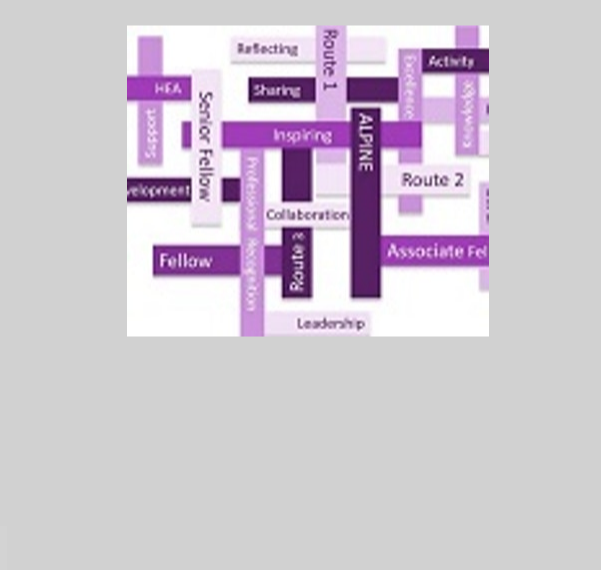
[More Information](#)

ALPINE Registration open for November/December recognition panels

ALPINE (Accredited Learning, Professional development and Innovation in Education) is the university's framework for the recognition of good practice in learning and teaching, which is accredited by Advance HE and allows the university to recognise colleagues working in HE Learning and Teaching, including in supporting roles, with fellowships of the UK Higher Education Academy (HEA).

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 November 2021 (for Associate and Fellow applications) and December 2021 (for Senior Fellow applications) by downloading and completing the ALPINE Registration Form and returning it to ALPINE no later than 20th August 2021. Colleagues who register will begin the ALPINE application process in August with the support of WORKSHOPS, an ALPINE mentor and the ALPINE team.

[More Information](#)

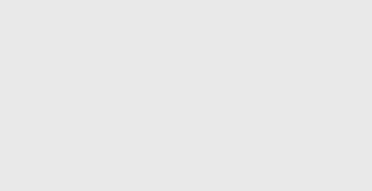


ALPINE successes

A number of colleagues were recognised with fellowships of the Higher Educational Academy (HEA) from Advance HE through ALPINE, at the recognition panel held in May and June.

- Allane Hay SFHEA Moray College UHI
- Myla Darrell-Hewins AFHEA Centre for Island Creativity/Shetland College UHI
- Rhona Morrison FHEA Inverness College UHI
- Scott Timpany SFHEA Orkney College UHI
- Shari Kane SFHEA Perth College UHI
- Sheena Fraser FHEA Inverness College UHI
- Stephanie Holden SFHEA Dept of Nursing and Midwifery UHI
- Stephen Gertsen FHEA Moray College UHI
- Tracy Kennedy FHEA Inverness College UHI
- Simon Bradley SFHEA Lews Castle College UHI
- Sinead Brydon FHEA Inverness College UHI
- Susannah Wilson SFHEA Argyll College UHI

[More Information](#)



Spotlight on mentoring month #UHMentoring

April 2021 saw the LTA focus on mentoring in a spotlight month that shared news, resources, and reflections on how the mentoring scheme has supported colleagues across the academic partnership since 2017. We shared blog posts, mentoring interviews, a good practice case study, an eBook and showcased the UHI Mentoring Code of Practice and the five university mentoring values therein, through the LTA twitter group @LTA_UHI and the university mentoring [yammer group](#). The month-long activities have been captured in a [mentoring spotlight month infographic](#).



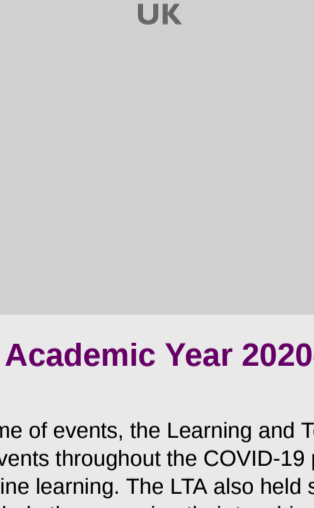
[More Information](#)

LTA presenting at the SOLSTICE and CLT Conference

Professor Keith Smyth and Alex Walker from the LTA presented at the SOLSTICE and CLT 2021 Conference which ran across 2nd and 3rd June. The conference, a popular one hosted by Edge Hill University each year, featured a packed and interesting fully online programme. Keith and Alex facilitated a guest speaker workshop on the topic of 'Professional development post-pandemic: rethinking staff engagement for enhancing digital education practice'. The session engaged participants' own experiences of the move to online learning and teaching in response to COVID-19, with a specific focus on the professional development approaches implemented to support staff. Keith and Alex also provided an overview of UHI's own response, before exploring with participants the implications of the pandemic for how we should seek to enhance learning and teaching in the sector going forward.

Editathon: Celebrating our Alumni and 10 years as a university

The 2nd June saw the university host its first Wikimedia Editathon, delivered by Wikimedia UK's [Dr Sara Thomas](#) and Madeleine Goodall from Humanists UK and supported by the LTA and the university's engaging half-day event formed part of the university's 10th Anniversary celebrations with participants receiving guidance before going on to create Wikipedia articles about UHI Alumni. At the end of the event 3 articles were published with a few more in the pipeline. To find out more about how you can engage with Wikimedia, the University of Edinburgh have created a free booklet, [Wikimedia in Education](#), that provides case studies from around the UK.



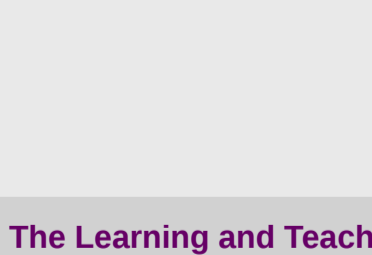
- Articles Created**
- Calum Maclean (broadcaster)
 - James Elmsmoor (entrepreneur)
 - Megan McDonald (musician)

For any further information, contact lta@uhi.ac.uk

[More Information](#)

Summary of Events - Academic Year 2020-21

Alongside our standard programme of events, the Learning and Teaching Academy have held a series of events throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to support staff with the move to online learning. The LTA also held several one hour focused drop-in sessions to help those moving their teaching and learning activities online. The LTA have continued to hold a series of LTA Connect sessions covering a range of topics, alongside larger events such as an Educational Leadership Symposium, Assessment and Feedback Symposium and International Women's Day. Spotlight on some of our recent events:



- LTA Connect:** Post-normal learning and teaching: what lessons have we learned? - Louise Drumm, Edinburgh Napier University
- LTA Connect:** Preparing for uncertainty? Investigating the development of criticality among master's students – Cameron Graham, Edinburgh Napier University
- Wikimedia in Education** – Sara Thomas, Wikimedia UK

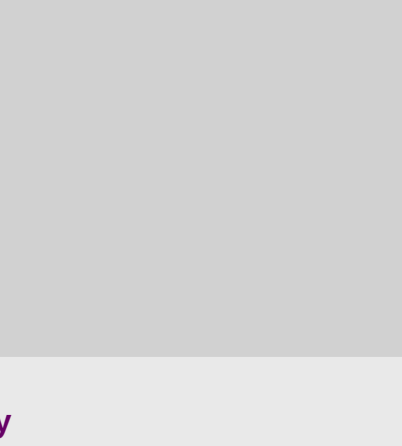
A full list of our past events, including recordings and resources can be found below.

[More Information](#)

The Learning and Teaching (LTA) Professional Development Programme: Invitation to share your practice in 2021-22

The programme of events coordinated through the LTA is open to all colleagues in Further and Higher Education across the university partnership and is designed to share good practice in learning and teaching and educational research and scholarship.

Planning of the 2021 – 2022 programme of professional development events and webinars is currently underway and we are inviting colleagues to present and share their practice with others. In particular we are looking for presentations that align to the [Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy Values](#) and/or specific areas of learning and teaching practice outlined here.



If you would like to present in Academic Year 2021/22 please complete the [LTA presentation form](#) here and send it to lta@uhi.ac.uk We accept registration forms at any point in the academic year, but if possible please return before the end of August. This will allow the LTA to design next the 2021/22 programme. Whether you are an experienced presenter or considering your first presentation, the LTA team can support you in preparing and presenting your session.

[More Information](#)

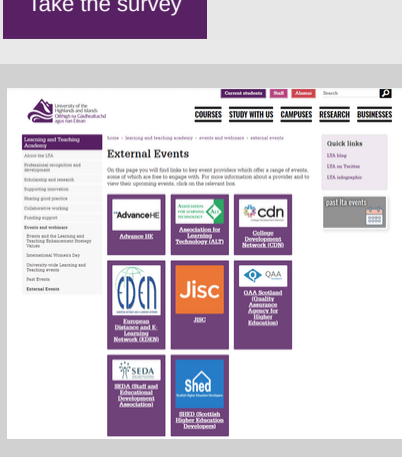
LTA Events Survey

The LTA are currently in the process of planning our programme of events for Semester 1 Academic Year 2021/22. We are looking to collect feedback from anyone who has attended one of many of the events which the LTA have held over the past Academic Year. The following survey will ask you for your thoughts around the LTA's programme of events and any feedback you might have on the frequency and content of the events. We would be extremely grateful for any response and this will help us to shape our future programme of events.

[Take the survey](#)

Spotlight on external Professional Development Events - New webpage

The LTA have created a new webpage where you can find links to key event providers which offer a range of events, some of which are free to engage with. For more information about a provider and to view their upcoming events, click on the relevant box. Visit the [new webpage](#).



[More Information](#)