Previous issues of Education Matters can be found on the Education Matters intranet page

In this issue:

- Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning Seminar Series
- Teaching Journal: Education in Practice
- Teaching Awards and Fellowships
- Teaching and Learning Conference
- Educational Enhancement Network Events
- UUK’s response to Secretary of State’s funding letter
- Journal Special Issue - Curriculum and Student Understanding in Higher Education
- Driving improvements through research: A summary of QAA’s research activity and findings

At the University

Launch of Technology Enhanced Teaching & Learning:
Seminar Series 26 March 2014: 1300 - 1400

The development of new technologies has led to changes in the way in which universities deliver teaching and has impacted upon how students learn, their skills and their expectations of higher education study. However, teaching with technology is not only about being familiar with the latest approaches, it is about understanding how the most appropriate tools can be naturally incorporated within your teaching when and where it makes sense to do so.

Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning is a new seminar series launched by the University of Birmingham as part of the ‘Transforming Teaching Delivery’ strand of Curriculum Review, and invites those using educational technologies and software (for example Canvas) to discuss how it is shaping and impacting upon teaching and learning within higher education. Seminars focus upon the pedagogical practices and approaches and provide an opportunity for participants to not only explore best practices for using technology to enhance higher education teaching and learning, but also to explore their impact upon student learning and course design and delivery.

Participation is welcomed from anyone using technology within teaching or to support student learning, and more details on the Technology Enhanced Teaching & Learning Seminar Series can be found on the Education Matters intranet page. If
you are interested in offering a seminar, please contact one of the seminar organisers.

**Education in Practice: Launch of a University of Birmingham Learning and Teaching Journal**

In support of sharing effective practice in learning and teaching and educational enhancement Jon Green and Michael Grove, supported by Jeff Bale as Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education, have established a new educational journal ‘Education in Practice’ at the University of Birmingham. Education in Practice has been designed for all University staff working in support of enhancing the student learning experience, be they academic members of staff or staff from professional or support services. It provides an accessible publication route for those looking to disseminate learning and teaching practices, ideas and developments or outcomes from projects in an accessible, evidence informed and practical manner; further, contributions are welcomed from both undergraduate and postgraduate students discussing learning, teaching and educational matters.

Supported by an Editorial Board comprising of members from across the entire University, Education in Practice is currently seeking a range of contributions (including full papers, articles, case studies, and short ‘How to...’ guides) for its first edition which will be published in early July 2014. Further details on the range of contribution types being sought, along with guidance on preparing a submission, are available on the [Education Matters intranet page](#); alternatively you are welcome to contact the Journal Editors [Jon Green](#) and [Michael Grove](#) to discuss your ideas.

**Teaching Awards and Fellowships**

Calls are now open for the University’s 2014 Teaching Fellowships and Awards for Excellence in Teaching or Supporting Student Learning:

Awards for Excellence in Teaching or Supporting Student Learning are awarded by Heads of School and Heads of College, and are based on nominations from staff and students.

If you know someone who deserves to win a prize for their teaching or work in supporting students’ learning, please submit a nomination - check with your School or College for details (typical deadline end of March). Further information is also available on the [University intranet](#).

Birmingham Teaching Fellowships (BTFs) are designed to:
* recognise, reward and celebrate individuals whose expertise makes an outstanding contribution to the student learning experience;
* encourage excellence and raise the profile of teaching and learning at the University;
* provide an opportunity for Fellows to undertake learning and teaching related projects or professional development activity; and
* disseminate good practice to, and build a shared commitment to teaching excellence with, colleagues across and beyond the University.

Two BTF awards of £5,000 each plus a permanent salary increment (for those not already at the top of their scale) are on offer again this year. The deadline for applications is noon on Friday 25 April.

To find out more please visit the [BTF website](#).

**Teaching and Learning Conference 2014**

We invite all staff and students to participate in the 11th University Teaching and Learning Conference, to be held on Friday 4 July 2014. This is the University’s annual event to celebrate, showcase and disseminate the wealth of good practices in teaching and learning across the University.

The conference theme is Educational Innovation, and the day will feature invited contributions from pioneering academics both within and beyond the University on
topics including The Virtual Laboratory, International and Distance Learning, and Student-Owned Learning. There will also be open presentation and poster sessions for colleagues to share their own educational innovations in any field, as well as plenty of opportunities for discussion and debate about the issues raised.

The Call for Proposals is now available on the conference website; the deadline for submissions is 9am on Monday 14 April.

Further details of the speakers, conference programme and registration information will be published shortly.

To find out more please visit the conference website.

Education Enhancement Network Events

The annual Teaching and Learning Conference is just one of the many opportunities to discuss and disseminate learning and teaching issues at the University - the Educational Enhancement Network (EEN) also runs a series of events such as workshops, talks and discussions throughout the academic year.

Forthcoming events include:
* 7 March: Students as partners and the question of authority
* 11 March: Making your teaching more inclusive
* 18 March: Supporting students with specific learning difficulties and disabilities
* 25 March: Narrowing the ethnic attainment gap
* 2 April: Supporting students with emotional and mental health difficulties
* 13 May: Getting published - talking about teaching
* 15 May: Wikis, Web 2.0 and pedagogical underpinnings

EEN also convenes a number of special interest groups that meet throughout the year.

Please visit the website for the latest event listings and details of how to participate.

External news

Universities UK response to Secretary of State’s funding letter

Responding to the publication of the government’s annual grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Professor Sir Christopher Snowden, President of Universities UK, said: "Universities are good for the economy, society and individuals. They drive economic growth and innovation, support social mobility and are finding solutions to the major challenges facing our society.

"Other major economies are investing in their universities, and the UK should be investing to support research and teaching if we want to increase growth and stay globally competitive. At a time when the government has lifted the cap on student numbers, increased participation in higher education will require additional funding to ensure high quality provision and support for students."

For source and more information see the UUK Website.

Special Issue of the Journal of Higher Education on Knowledge, Curriculum and Student Understanding in Higher Education

This Journal examines educational developments throughout the world in universities, polytechnics, colleges, and vocational and education institutions. It reports on developments in both public and private higher education sectors, and
this [Special Issue](#) "offers a starting point for beginning to address the gap in research into knowledge and curriculum in higher education whilst also problematising the relations between knowledge-as-research, knowledge-as-curriculum, and knowledge-as-student understanding."

**Driving improvements through research: A summary of QAA's research activity and findings.**

The QAA publish this analysis for those with an interest in UK higher education. The report summarises the research QAA has recently undertaken and commissioned. These projects responded to a need and demand within the higher education community. Some were led by UK university research teams; others were collaborative or conducted in-house at QAA.

See the source information and a link to the report on the [QAA website](#).

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**Education Matters**

[www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/educationmatters](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/educationmatters)

Please contact [Dr C Teeling](#) for information.