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eCELT issue 3

Introduction

eCELT, the online newsletter of CELT, brings you the latest update on the development of our center and programs.

In this issue of eCELT, Grace, our Director, will share with you "more innovative IDEAS".

You will also find out more about the development of the various programs, activities and services for our four target groups:

- UST Faculty and Instructors
- UST Teaching Assistants
- UST Students
- Primary and Secondary Schoolteachers

We will also introduce to you some new members to our CELT team since the last issue.

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Director's Report.



More Innovative IDEAS)

It is often a challenge for faculty, who are occupied with teaching and research, to initiate and implement innovative teaching ideas, which they believe will bring positive learning outcomes for students.

Perhaps the biggest mistake that a teaching development unit like CELT can make is to tell an enthusiastic faculty member that they should re-think the basics of their teaching approaches, knowing from past research that they may have a high chance of getting a poor student evaluation result, and then let the faculty walk out empty-handed from a cold and snobbish office. I hope we are not making this mistake.

In the past two years, CELT has been trying hard to design a professional development strategy that will match both the work patterns of our faculty and the teaching culture at UST. Most of our faculty are independent and highly intelligent individuals, who work very hard to succeed in their own field of research. Many, I know, are also dedicated teachers, who make every effort to nourish their students with all the knowledge and experience they possess.

With such an intelligent and self-directed group of customers, the traditional way of providing professional development opportunities through seminars and workshops, in which the effectiveness seems to rely heavily on the speaker's profile, charisma and presentation skills, might not be as appealing as we would like. To meet this challenge, we are experimenting with the development of an eLearning portal called IDEAS (Instructional Development, Experiences, Applications and Solutions), which is designed to provide a flexible and convenient means for our teaching community to learn more about teaching and learning in a self-directed manner.

The portal allows faculty and instructors to access up-to-date and practical information on a range of instructional development themes at their own pace and at their chosen time. It contains a collection of well-presented on-line reading materials, start-up kits, presentations and seminars by internal and external speakers. It also provides a platform for the development of an on-line community dedicated to improving learning and teaching.

In addition, as a means of disseminating good teaching

practices and to encourage collaboration amongst peers, ongoing efforts have been made to build up an on-line archive of instructors' presentations during all experience sharing and roundtable discussion sessions organized by CELT. Instructors are able to review these presentations on the portal, learn about the work of their peers, and discuss and evaluate the quality of students' learning outcomes while constructing their own teaching improvement ideas.

CELT successfully launched the first sub-portal "IDEAS for On-line teaching and learning" in Fall 2000. At the end of May 2001, we launched the second sub-portal "IDEAS for Problem-based Learning", after a series of Problem-based Learning workshops at UST led by Dr David Johnston, Director of the Hong Kong Problem-Based Learning Centre. In Fall 2001, we plan to launch two new sub-portals - one on the "Personal Response System" and another on "Action Research/Action Learning". We plan to include more instructional development themes in the future so that the portal will be expanded into a virtual training, resource and communication center for supporting the professional development of the teaching community at UST.

It is worth noting that we are not attempting to use a Web portal to replace our face-to-face seminars, workshops or individual consultations, but rather to complement these activities by providing a platform for continuous development of faculty and instructors' teaching ideas. I have no doubt that you would agree with me that what brings the portal to life is not the visual design and attractive graphics, but rather the stories we are telling to the audience. Nevertheless, behind every story, there is always a learning journey which may well be composed of many people's hard work, after hours meetings, face-to-face activities, mistakes, disappointments, surprises, discoveries and sleepless nights.

I sincerely hope you will share the ownership of the IDEAS portal with us and join us in building this portal by making CELT your partner in your ongoing quest for teaching and learning improvement.

Grace Au
Director, CELT

P.S. In the next issue, we will tell you more about our plans for enhancing the learning skills, creativity and thinking skills of our students.



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Updates & Highlights for UST Instructors

1. [Call for Papers - Teaching and Learning Symposium](#)
2. [Teaching Innovation Awards](#)
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5. [Web-enhanced Teaching](#)
6. [Developing On-Line Courses](#)
7. [Teaching Evaluation](#)

1. Call for Papers - Teaching and Learning Symposium

Jointly hosted by the Committee on Teaching and Learning Quality (CTLQ) and CELT, the Teaching and Learning Symposium is a biennial event aimed at disseminating good teaching practices and assuring the continuous improvement of the quality of teaching and learning at HKUST. The emphasis is on sharing experiences and innovations among colleagues in the wider University community.

The first symposium will be held on December 12, 2001 at HKUST. The theme is: "Teaching Innovations: Creating a Creative and Collaborative Learning Environment." Prof. Eric Mazur from Harvard University will be the keynote speaker.

For more details, please visit the [Symposium](#) website.

[Call for Papers](#) - Abstracts due September 10, 2001.

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2. Teaching Innovation Awards

In conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Symposium, the University will offer five [Teaching Innovation Awards](#) to recognize and reward dedicated faculty who have made a sustained effort to improve the quality of their students' learning by innovative means. The call for nominations will begin in August.

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3. IDEAS portal

The IDEAS portal provides the latest information on Instructional Development Experiences, Applications and Solutions.

[Problem-based Learning](#) (PBL) is the theme we have just launched. It provides an overview of PBL and pointers to a rich array of resources for instructors.

The IDEAS [Online Learning and Teaching](#) portal has also been updated. Come [share the experiences](#) of Mr. Sam Chu of the Library, Ms. Martha Lam, Mr. Nick Noakes of the Language Centre and Professor Hohn Hulpke of MGTO. They have all used on-line learning and teaching extensively in the Fall Semester and winter session 2000.

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4. Dissemination of Good Teaching Practices

A new series of [Teaching - Learning Tips](#) is now ready for viewing. Contributions are by the winners of the:

Michael Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching,
Best 10 Lecturers
SBM Franklin Prize for Teaching Excellence

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5. Web-enhanced Learning

The Web-based Teaching (WBT) project is now in its final phase. About 130 courses have already been developed using either WebCT or LearningSpace, both of which have been upgraded to versions 3.1 and 4.0 respectively. Old versions of the systems are still in operation, but will be phased out this summer due to licensing problems.

The last call for proposals for the Web-based Teaching project, which has a focus on innovation, was sent out in Spring 2001. Priority will be given to proposals for developing innovative uses of Web technologies to enhance teaching and learning. Instructors are encouraged to make use of the summer break, when it is much easier to engage temporary staff for development work on their projects.

A session for instructors to share their experiences in using the Web in teaching was held on 22 May 2001 in the form of a round-table discussion. Participants exchanged views about issues that interested them in an informal manner. Over 20 faculty and instructors attended the session.

An effort has also been made to evaluate on-line courses developed by CELT. Preliminary results show that students were moderately positive about their experiences.

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6. Developing On-line Courses

The Instructional Development Team has been working closely with the Teaching Technologies team and the Creative Production team in developing multimedia-rich on-line course materials with faculty and instructors over the last year. Here is the list of on-line courses being developed under the WBT project:

For Winter 2000:

- Lang 306, Language Center

For Spring 2001:

- BISC 314, Department of Biology;
- COMP 102, Department of Computer Science
- BISC 002, Department of Biology
- CAN-Talk, Language Center
- ECON 112, Department of Economics
- MARK 329Y, Department of Marketing

DIY (Do-it-yourself) Workshops -

With the aim of empowering instructors with practical information and hands-on experience on how to use information technology to meet their instructional needs, a series of workshops was organized by the Instructional Development Team in January 2001, namely the "**DIY Series: How to enhance my course with technology?**" The workshops covered the development cycle of on-line teaching and learning materials i.e. getting started, design and development, implementation. The workshops received positive feedback and instructors were inspired to develop on-line materials on their own.

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7. Teaching Evaluation -

[On-line teaching Evaluation Regional Workshop](#)

In a joint effort with the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning of the City University of Hong Kong, CELT successfully hosted a one-day regional workshop on on-line teaching evaluation. There were a total of 99 participants, of whom 16 were from overseas, including China, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

There were two keynote speakers, Professor Olugbemiro Jegede from the Open University of Hong Kong and Dr. Michael Theall from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Local representatives from HKUST, City University, Baptist University and the University of Hong Kong, introduced their Web-based teaching evaluation systems at the workshop.

The workshop ended with a panel discussion with student and instructor representatives from three universities. To allow overseas delegates who could not come to Hong Kong to participate, the workshop was also broadcast on the Web. PowerPoint presentations used by the speakers were put on the Web for on-line participants to download. Use was also made of Netmeeting to post questions and to join in the discussion.

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Updates & Highlights for UST Teaching Assistants

TA Development Program Spring 2001

CELT and the Teaching Assistant Coordinators (TACs) organized the TA Development Program in Spring 2001. The TACs designed the first mass session titled "Presentation Skills & Handling Difficult Situations". Around 240 year-one, new Teaching Assistants (TAs) participated in the training. Fifty eight percent of the participants reported that the course was helpful to them in their work as TAs at UST.

Evaluation Result for the New TA Training Program and the TACs performance (2000-2001)

A new series of TA Training and Development Programs were introduced from Fall 2000 to January 2001. CELT initiated an [evaluation](#) to look into the effectiveness of the various programs and courses. A total of 239 year-one TAs who attended the TA Training responded. Among the respondents, 76.5 % are satisfied with the program.

TACs are valuable resources in providing individual advice, guidance and support for the new TAs. A recent [Opinion Survey](#) reported that 70% of the new TAs benefited from the TACs system.

For more about the TA Training program, please visit <http://celt.ust.hk/ta/tahome04.htm>.

TA Certificate of Achievement and TAC Award Presentation Ceremony

The presentation ceremony was held on 28 March, 2001. Over 120 TAs, PG Coordinators and faculty members were present to share the joyous moment. Professor Peter Dobson, Jr., Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs, presented the Certificates of Achievements to the TA workshop participants.

CELT initiated two new awards for the TACs - the BEST TAC Awards. The first TAC award went to Mr. Vincent Cheung (ELEC). He was elected by all the TACs. The second TAC award went to Mr. Du Zhiguo (HUMA). He was elected by the TAs who logged onto a dedicated website to cast their "holy" vote and show their appreciation to their departmental TA. Our sincere gratitude goes to our sponsor, Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd., for providing the two Best TACs Award Winners with round-trip tickets to Bangkok

NEW TA Homepage !

The NEW TA Homepage is born! New inputs from TACs include FAQs and a "Grade Publish System", which aims to offer instant help and assistance to fellow TAs. Feel free to visit the [TA Homepage](#) and take a look.



Updates & Highlights for UST Students

In the area of learning enhancement for UST and secondary school students, CELT has several initiatives for the coming year to help students to develop creativity, thinking and leadership and mentoring skills.

1. General Education Courses

CELT's General Education Courses are now running for the second time in this school year! In the Spring 2001 semester, besides GNED002 The Creative Process and GNED004 Multimedia Communication Skills for Internet Applications, a new course has been launched - GNED003 Arts and Technology.

In GNED003, students will participate in appreciation, exploration and creation of multimedia artworks, utilizing different aspects of technology. Moreover, the course focuses specifically on achieving an individual project (a piece of artwork) through exploring the expression of an original idea in different media e.g. sound, photography, installation, video and computer, and combinations of these media. Thinking with an artistic sense is the main concern of this course.

As reflected by many students, we see the importance of fostering students' creativity, communication and presentation skills using multimedia technology. Therefore, CELT is planning to increase the quota of students for the three courses in Fall 2001 semester, so as to meet the increasing demand from students.

2. CELT as ThinkQuest National Partner

CELT, in conjunction with the HK Education City, organized a local Award Presentation Ceremony to recognize the achievements of HK secondary school students in this international Internet-based education program. Deputy Director of Education, Mr. Anthony Tong, JP presented awards certificates to over 20 students with distinctive achievements. One student from Diocesan Girls' School won the Gold Award in the Inter-disciplinary section.

2001-2002 ThinkQuest is calling for applications from students aged 12-19. The deadline for submitting the application is June 15, 2001.



Updates & Highlights for Schoolteachers

[1. Training for Schoolteachers](#)

[2. Certificate Programs](#)

1. Training for Schoolteachers

From December 2000 to May 2001, CELT offered a variety of workshops for schoolteachers.

Two different types of training workshops were offered: IT workshops and school-based training.

The spring IT workshops were completed in March 2001 with courses in Webpage Publishing, Courseware Authoring, and Image Editing.

For school-based training, we offered our service to Lui Cheong Kwong Lutheran College with workshops in Multimedia Course Development: Flash, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and Premiere from December 2000 to April 2001.

In July 2001, CELT will train Pun U Association Wah Yan Primary School teachers in Intermediate Information Technology courses.

Besides IT training for schoolteachers, the Center was asked by the Wanchai District School Development Section of the Education Department to run a "Workshop on Project Supervision for Primary Teachers" in April and May 2001.

Apart from schoolteachers, the Center provided a training service to the Civil Servant Institute of Development and Training for Web-based Course Design in December 2000.

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2. Certificate Programs

CELT, in collaboration with HKUST College of Lifelong Learning, plans to offer 4 certificate courses in assisting schools to incorporate technologies into learning and teaching.

Certificate course will be offered in the following areas:

- E-Learning Strategies
- E-learning Technologies
- Multimedia Courseware Design
- Technology Management

For details about the Certificate Programs, please click [here](#).

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New Faces

Meet these new faces who have recently joined CELT under the following teams:

Programs

Issac Chau , *Demonstrator*

Issac's main role is responsible for developing on-line training modules for the TA Training. Being a TA Coordinators before graduation, he is also the best person to deliver training to the incoming TAs for the coming Fall.

Teaching Technologies

Esther Lee, *Demonstrator*

Esther's main role is in providing training in the use of computer software and system such as WebCT and LearningSpace for instructors. She also provides administrative support for the Web-based teaching project.

Dennis Tong, *Technician (Multimedia)*

Dennis specializes in Web programming and is now mainly responsible for the development of the system, PEAKS (Portfolio of Essential Attributes of Knowledge and Skills)

Fanny Lee, *Instructional Assistant I*

Fanny specializes in Web programming and provide technical assistance to the development of on-line courses for the Web-based Teaching Project.

Instructional Development

Rambo Lai, *Project Assistant*

Rambo is a fresh graduate in Mechanical Engineering of HKUST. He assists the ID team in developing on-line courses, such as providing technical support and visual design.

Winnie Law, *Instructional Assistant II*

Winnie's main responsibility is to support the development of on-line courses for the Web-based Teaching Project.

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Forthcoming Events

Seminars Workshop for UST Teaching Staff

| Date | Event |
|---------------------|---|
| May 21 onwards | Call for Papers - Teaching & Learning Symposium |
| End of August | Call for Nominations: Teaching Innovation Awards |
| September 10 | Deadline for Call for Papers - Teaching & Learning Symposium |
| Week of November 19 | A seminar on "Designing Multidisciplinary Problem-based Science Teaching Materials" by overseas guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Pompea, Principal Consultant, Pompea & Associates, USA. |
| End of November | Experience Sharing Session for "On-line learning and teaching" |
| December 12 | Teaching & Learning Symposium: "Teaching Innovations: Fostering a Creative and Collaborative Learning Environment". Keynote Speaker: Professor Eric Mazur from Harvard University Teaching Innovation Awards Presentation Ceremony |

For more details on forthcoming event, please visit [our website](#).

HKUST College of Lifelong Learning

Diploma/Professional Certificate in eLearning for Schools

About the Program

eLearning, in its broadest sense, refers to the use of any form of technology to support the teaching and learning processes for instructors and students. The Diploma/Professional Certificate in eLearning for Schools aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current development in eLearning strategies, technologies and applications in school settings. The program offers an enriching learning experience that combines online learning, classroom lectures, and synchronous and asynchronous interactions with hands-on experience.

Program Curriculum (120 hours)

Core Courses*

eLearning Strategies
eLearning Technologies

Electives

Multimedia Courseware Development
Technology Management and Security
eLearning Project

Who Should Apply

Schoolteachers, principals, administrators and educators who are interested in acquiring knowledge and skills in eLearning.

Assessment and Award of Diploma/Certificate

Participants are assessed through assignments on the basis of standards established by the Program Committee and course instructors. A Diploma in eLearning will be awarded to participants who successfully completed two core and any two of the elective courses as specified in the program curriculum. Participants who have successfully completed the two core courses may exit the program with the award of a Professional Certificate in eLearning. For those who did not pass the assessment but have attended 80% of class attendance, a Certificate of Attendance will be issued.

Program Structure and Content

Core Courses

eLearning Strategies

6 hrs of online learning and 18 hrs of instructor-led classes

eLearning is a form of instructional authoring that can be delivered through a CD-ROM, over the LAN, or on the Internet. This course is designed to keep participants abreast of the latest development in eLearning and how administrators and teachers can work together to develop strategies to nurture students' eLearning skills in schools. The course will also touch on managerial and human resource issues of incorporating eLearning programs and courses. Impact of eLearning on students and teachers will be discussed.

eLearning Technologies

6 hrs of online learning, 12 hrs of instructor-led classes and 18 hrs of lab

The most recent trend in eLearning is to use the Web to bridge distances and enable individuals to learn at their own pace in their preferred locations supported by on-line collaborative learning functions. This course will examine a variety of technologies and software applications that can be applied in schools to enhance the effectiveness of student learning in schools, with particular focus on the use of Internet to supplement classroom teaching and project work. Participants will learn techniques in developing a course Web site and how to make good use of the resources on the Web and design online learning activities to improve student learning.

Medium of Instruction

English, supplemented by Chinese during discussion and laboratory sessions.

Electives (choose any two)

Multimedia Courseware Development

6 hrs of online learning, 6 hrs of instructor-led classes and 24 hrs of lab

This course is designed for teachers who have vested interests in the developing interactive multimedia courseware to enhance students' self-directive and active learning in schools. Participants will learn how to express and develop their instructional ideas, build a prototype and formulate a production plan to realize their design. Emphasis will be placed on visual and audio communication techniques required for producing effective multimedia courseware.

Technology Management and Security

6 hrs of online learning, 6 hrs of instructor-led classes and 12 hrs of lab

Participants will learn how to design and setup a network infrastructure, develop a good IT plan, manage an IT team, as well as implementing technical support services in schools.

eLearning Project

Participants may opt for an individual or group project assignment related to eLearning or development of multimedia educational materials for schools. Prior approval must be obtained from the instructor by means of a project proposal. Participants may arrange individual consultation meetings or communicate with their supervisors via e-mail.

For enquiry, please call 2358-6813 or email ctgloria@ust.hk.

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong