

LEARNING MATTERS at LINGNAN

For internal circulation only



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From the Editor:

Learning Matters at Lingnan are short papers that aim to promote a dialogue on teaching and learning. I encourage all staff to consider this as a vehicle for sharing thoughts on educational issues as they might affect us at the University. If you feel you have something which might be appropriate for inclusion in an issue of this publication, then please forward it to the TLC. I would be delighted if staff (and not only academic staff) from outside the Teaching and Learning Centre were to be prominent or even occasional contributors.



Great News about Teaching Development at Lingnan

The spirit of celebration in the University has also reached this publication. To add to your rejoicing over our recent attainment of University status, the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) has some great news to offer. In the latest round of competitive bidding for UGC Teaching Development Grants for the triennium 1999-2001, Lingnan's performance has been record-breaking. Lingnan submitted a total number of four applications and three got highly commended and funded. (*Note: the success rate is 75% which is the highest among all tertiary institutions.*) A total grant amounting to more than HK\$6.6 million was obtained for Lingnan to develop and lead in the area of teaching development.

The three projects are, namely, *The Consortium for the Promotion of Teaching Skills and Technology: Integrating Information Technology and Teaching Development (T&T3)*; *Building a Web-based Learning Community in a Liberal Arts University*; and *Hong Kong Cooperative Learning Centre — Building Student Achievement, Communication and Team Skills, and Self-confidence*. The first two projects are TLC projects, while the Cooperative Learning Project is led by Professor Dean Tjosvold of the Management Department, who plans to build a Hong Kong Cooperative Learning Centre for teachers in local universities.

All three projects will commence work in the new academic year 1999/2000 and will need your participation. To give you some preliminary ideas of what the projects are about, in particular the two TLC projects, the following is a summary of the aims and tasks to be achieved by the T&T3 and Web-based Teaching and Learning projects respectively.

T&T3 Project Aim

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The overall aim is threefold:

- 1) To complement work undertaken in individual institutions to facilitate colleagues' acquisition of teaching skills and integration of information technology (IT) into the curriculum;
- 2) To promote a culture that values and rewards excellent teaching; and
- 3) To foster the development of mutual support among colleagues within and across institutions.

To achieve the above aim the following four interrelated tasks will be implemented:

- ∞ mounting IT training and development workshops at 3 successive levels over two academic years;
- ∞ running a professional development programme organized under six streams and conducted in three modes;
- ∞ launching a teaching enhancement and documentation programme focussed on the appraisal and documentation of teaching;
- ∞ producing self-instructional professional development packages in IT-format and databases to be placed on the Web for open access.

Web-based Project Aim

The aim is to build a learning community at Lingnan by capitalizing on the benefits presented by the latest advances in technology, in particular the Web, for teaching and learning.

To achieve this aim, the project is organized in four interrelated components:

- 1) To provide Lingnan academics with an easy-to-use web-based teaching and learning interface by developing and maintaining a Generic Course Web Site System (GCS);
- 2) To introduce the GCS to Lingnan community and its potential to promote better teaching and learning; and to provide workshops to train teachers to use the system to deliver materials and encourage interaction with and between students;
- 3) To empower students through training workshops and hands-on web-based development projects so that they can provide technical assistance to teachers during the development of online teaching and learning materials using the GCS;
- 4) To build and maintain an online resource library of materials such as graphics, video clips, photographs, songs and other visual and audio effects for colleagues to put on their course web sites.

We will keep you informed of our progress with these two projects and will let you have more details as we go along.

Maureen Tam
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Teaching & Learning Centre

N.B. Attached please find an updated TLC Handbook for information about our services, activities and programmes.