Launch of NAIRTL's 2009 Conference proceedings

Dr O'Connor extolled the usefulness of the publication in terms of supporting professional practice and noted: "Many of the papers in this volume are like bite-size modules of professional development, nuggets of insight and, at times, inspiration".

The publication includes papers from seventeen presenters including keynote speakers Professor Jon Butler, Yale University, Dr Anne Lee, University of Surrey, speakers Professor Jon Butler, Yale University, Dr Anne Lee, University of Surrey, Professor Carolin Kreber, University of Edinburgh and Brad Wueetherick, University of Alberta. Thirty-nine posters are included on an accompanying CD together with a video recording of the panel discussion from the event entitled "How can funding organisations shape teaching and research in Higher Education."

The award winners come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds including business, mathematics, English literature, marine biology and science education, but they share a passion for teaching, a commitment to research and an innovative approach to both.

Speaking at the awards, Tom Boland, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority, said "I think that the recognition of excellence on occasions such as this is not just an acknowledgement of past achievement, but also it is a signal of our confidence in our future as a country and as a society". Furthermore he acknowledged how the event "illustrates the renewed commitment to quality and innovation that exists in Irish Higher Education".

The winners of the five Awards were nominated by their institutions and selected by a committee which included international representatives as well as representatives of the Irish University Association, the Institutes of Technology Ireland and the Union of Students in Ireland. The 2011 Awards programme is due to be launched in January when nominations for exceptional teachers will be invited from all 38 participating higher education institutions. Keep an eye on the National Academy’s website for the launch of this initiative.

Supporting Supervisors

The Proceedings of NAIRTL’s 3rd Annual conference “Research-Teaching Linkages: PRACTICE AND POLICY” were launched at the 2010 Annual Conference by Dr Muiris O’Connor, HEA.

The workshop deal with issues spanning the lifecycle of student supervision and are tailored to local practices and needs.

This project is now nearing its final stages and discussions are underway on how the curriculum will be rolled out nationally. Further information and updates on the project are available on the Graduate Studies working group page of the NAIRTL website.

Inspirational teachers honoured at National Awards

The National Academy’s Annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching honoured five exceptional individuals at a ceremony in Dublin Castle in early November. The Awards were presented by the H.E. Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness who noted the outstanding contribution of the award recipients to both teaching and research in Higher Education.

Flexible Learning at NAIRTL’s 4th Annual Conference

Flexible Learning Conference

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland played host to NAIRTL’s 4th annual conference on Flexible Learning.

The event attracted an audience of more than 300 delegates and ran from 6-7 October. The focus of the conference was on highlighting ways in which Higher Education staff can become more flexible in curriculum design and course implementation to give learners increased choice of where, when and how they learn.

The programme included a multitude of oral presentations, webinars, and workshops, as well as a dedicated poster session. Delegates also availed of complimentary training in the use of particular software packages to facilitate flexible learning.

Recommended Reading

- Making Connections: Intentional Teaching for Integrative Learning (2010), Betty Higgs, Shane Kilcimmnin & Tony Ryan.

Diary dates 2011

4 February

IASSÉE’s 30th Annual conference on the theme of “Learning for the 21st century: From Research to Practice” will be held at St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra. This conference brings together researchers and educationalists to reflect on history, geography and science. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.spd.dcu.ie/IASSÉE30

7-8 April

An international conference on Early Support for Young Children.

Register online at

9-10 June

IASSEE

www.spd.dcu.ie/IASSEE10

28-30 June

LASSEE

www.spd.dcu.ie/LASSEE10

International group enjoy NAIRTL Summer School

Lively discussion and sharing of national experiences were the hallmarks of the week-long NAIRTL Summer School on Implementing Bologna which was held in University College Cork. The 75 delegates featured in the photograph below were gathered from a worldwide community: from Armenia to Chile, from Denmark to Hong Kong.

The Summer School ended with an invitation to all delegates to join an international network coordinated by the National Academy on Bologna to enable the sharing of best practice and exchange of knowledge across national boundaries.

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The award winners come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds including business, mathematics, English literature, marine biology and science education, but they share a passion for teaching, a commitment to research and an innovative approach to both.

Speaking at the awards, Tom Boland, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority, said “I think that the recognition of excellence on occasions such as this is not just an acknowledgement of past achievement, but also it is a signal of our confidence in our future as a country and as a society”. Furthermore he acknowledged how the event “illustrates the renewed commitment to quality and innovation that exists in Irish Higher Education”.

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Supporting Supervisors

Research supervisors in six Higher Education Institutions have availed of workshops developed as part of a six partner collaborative project funded and coordinated by NAIRTL.

The workshops deal with issues spanning the lifecycle of student supervision and are tailored to local practices and needs.

This project is now nearing its final stages and discussions are underway on how the curriculum will be rolled out nationally. Further information and updates on the project are available on the Graduate Studies working group page of the NAIRTL website.

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Videos of the keynote presentations and of papers presented under the sub-theme of Technology Enhanced Learning are now available to view on the NAIRTL website at www.nairtl.ie/conference

The conference was a joint initiative by the National Academy and the IOTI’s Learning Innovation Network (LIN).
Launch of NAIRTL's 2009 Conference proceedings

The Proceedings of NAIRTL's 3rd Annual conference “Research-Teaching Linkages: Practice and Policy” were launched at the 2010 Annual Conference by Dr. Morris O'Connor, HEA.

Dr. O'Connor extolled the usefulness of the publication in terms of supporting professional practice and noted: “Many of the papers in this volume are like bite-size modules of professional development, nuggets of insight and, at times, inspiration”.

The publication includes papers from seventeen presenters including keynote speakers Professor Jon Butler, Yale University, Dr. Anne Lee, University of Surrey, Professor Carolin Kreber, University of Edinburgh and Brad Wuertherich, University of Alberta. Thirty-nine posters are included on an accompanying CD together with a video recording of the panel discussion from the event entitled “How can research funding organisations shape teaching and research in Higher Education.”

The publication is available to download from the NAIRTL website and from Google Books.

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Diary dates 2011

4 February

IASEE’s 30th Annual conference on the theme of “Learning for the 21st Century: From Research to Practice” will be held at St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra. This conference brings together those working in teacher education and educational research in the fields of history, geography and science. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.spd.dcu.ie/IASEE30

7-8 April

An international conference on Early Childhoods in Developing World Contexts will be held in University College Cork in 2011. The conference aims to challenge the Euro-centric perspective on childhood which informs current research and practice. The National Academy supported the development of learning materials on childhood and global diversity for the conference organisers via the 2009 Grants Initiative. Register online at www.ucc.ie/en/ecocf/2011/

9-10 June

The National Academy’s 5th Annual Conference will be held in conjunction with the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching in NUI Galway. Details relating to the conference will be made available on the NAIRTL website in due course.

28-30 June

The goals of DIVERSE 2011 are to enhance the use of visual media in teaching, learning and creative enquiry. The conference at Dublin City University is a showcase and a critical forum on all aspects of visual resources in education through plenary and themed sessions. Further details are available at http://diverse2011.dcu.ie

International group enjoy NAIRTL Summer School

The Bologna process seeks to make degrees comparable and compatible across the European Higher Education Area. While many countries have successfully implemented aspects of the Bologna action lines, such as the implementation of quality assurance and quality improvement structures, there is much work yet to be done.

Indeed, despite Irish success in Bologna implementation, it’s clear that there remains a need to engage the ‘hearts and minds’ of staff within Higher Education in Ireland.

The Summer School ended with an invitation to all delegates to join an international network coordinated by the National Academy on Bologna to enable the sharing of best practice and exchange of knowledge across national boundaries.

NAIRTL at the Shanghai Expo

Ireland-China relations were enhanced and educational links strengthened during a recent visit to Shanghai by Professor Grace Neville, Director of NAIRTL and Vice President for Teaching and Learning at UCC and Jennifer Murphy, Project Manager of the National Academy.

Representatives from institutional and national centres for education research attended UCC organised meetings and displayed a keen interest in NAIRTL’s activities as well as a desire for future collaboration.

Recommended Reading


About NAIRTL

For details regarding any of our events or activities, please refer to our website www.nairtl.ie or contact us: NAIRTL, Distillery House, North Mall, Cork T: 021 4966484 E: nairtl@ucc.ie NAIRTL is on facebook and twitter too.