

ALT's Learning Technologist of the Year Award celebrates and rewards excellent practice and outstanding achievement in the learning technology field.

In 2010, the Award included an additional stream open to those employed in Department for Education funded schools in England. This stream was supported by Vital, a professional development programme that aims to revitalise the teaching of IT and the use of ICT across the broader curriculum.

The Award was presented at the ALT conference in Nottingham in September 2010 by Sugata Mitra, Professor of Educational Technology at the University of Newcastle.

2010
winners

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Individual award

Winners

Cristina Costa from the Research and Graduate College at the University of Salford

Kevin McLaughlin from St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Whetstone, Leicestershire

Runner up

Mike Wald from the School of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton

Highly commended

Terese Bird from the Beyond Distance Research Alliance at the University of Leicester

Team

Winner

The TALL team from the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford

Runner up

The Digital Learning Team at the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)

Highly commended

The Bloomsbury Learning Environment Technical Team from Birkbeck, the Institute of Education, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Royal Veterinary College, and the School of Oriental and African Studies.

THE SUCCESSFUL ENTRIES

WITH COMMENTS FROM THE JUDGES

Individual awards

Winners



Kevin McLaughlin from St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Whetstone, Leicestershire wins the

schools' stream individual award because of his sustained development of the use of technology in the classroom over 13 years and the effects he has had on learning overall and of the practices of those around him.

Judges' comments

"As a result of Kevin's actions, children have gained confidence in their use of technology as a learning tool that can be picked up easily. He has led colleagues by example and encouragement in two establishments with substantial quality uptake."

The judges were impressed by:

- the enthusiasm and drive involved throughout the process;
- the number of good examples of deployment that have resulted;
- the strong learner focus behind all of the initiatives taken.



Cristina Costa from the Research and Graduate College at the University of Salford wins the open individual award

because of her work with postgraduate research students and their supervisors.

Judges' comments

"Cristina has developed a set of resources, activities and events that help staff and students to learn to make effective use of social media. She models in her own activities the behaviours that she wishes to encourage. She combines her own research with her overall role to considerable effect."

The judges were impressed by:

- the self criticality that she has developed in herself and in others;
- the strong understanding of the issues involved and the methodologies and pedagogies that were required to address them;
- the good mix of research and practice involved in her role with both benefiting from the other.

Runner up



Mike Wald from the School of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton is the runner up for the open award because of his work with the Synote annotation system.

Judges' comments

"Mike led the development of the Synote system. This is a free web application used to transform learning from recorded teaching materials for all students including disabled, dyslexic and second language students. This builds on 10 years of work on speech recognition and is in use in a number of universities in the UK, Europe, and worldwide."

The judges were impressed by:

- the wide applicability of the Synote product;
- the extensive tagging facilities provided for users of the product;
- the openness of the processes and the resulting product.

Highly commended

Terese Bird from the Beyond Distance Research Alliance at the University of Leicester is highly commended in the open award because of her work leading a number of successful and important learning technology projects.

Judges' comments

"Terese has managed in a year to spearhead and implement three projects. The Learning Futures Festival was a fully online week long international academic conference. The Duckling project established effective methods of converting course notes for display on Sony ebook readers. The Graduate Media Zoo provided postgraduate students across the university with training on how to integrate technology into their research."

The judges were impressed by:

- the breadth of her work in the use of learning technology;
- the value for money that her work represents;
- the openness and self criticality that her work displays.

Photograph © Sam Easterby-Smith



From left to right: Nicola Warren, Marion Manton, Sean Faughnan, Sara Tindall, David White, Tom Box, Mike Taylor, David Balch and Ian Gloster (*not in picture*: Sue Dale and Bridget Lewis).
Full team listing (in alphabetical order): David Balch, Tom Box, Sue Dale, Sean Faughnan, Ian Gloster, Bridget Lewis, Marion Manton, Mike Taylor, Sara Tindall, Nicola Warren, David White

Team awards

Winners

The Technology-Assisted Lifelong Learning (TALL) team is a small team working within the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford.

Judges' comments

"The TALL team has succeeded in developing a flexible model for production of material which is efficient and effective in the Oxford environment. It now delivers in a way that reflects the Oxford tutorial model with emphasis on frequent interaction between learner and academic and on regular updating."

The judges were impressed with:

- the way in which the change of direction in the model and the

production process necessary had been managed in a short time to support a project;

- the balance in the team between production and delivery of online material and an active and strong research and development programme;
- the speed at which learner numbers had built up along with the range of courses and projects being delivered in a difficult market.

Runner up

The Digital Learning Team at the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) ensures that appropriate technologies are deployed well so that adult learners can have fulfilling and successful learning experiences.

Judges' comments

"The NIACE Digital Learning Team's approach to ensuring that methods, hardware and software adopted are based on sound pedagogy is exemplary. Advocacy work for the treatment of offender learners has substantially influenced thinking and current successful implementations. The team's approach to diversity and inclusiveness has been a key factor in its success."

The judges were impressed by:

- the balance between working directly with those with responsibility for delivery, relevant research and development and the production of widely used eGuidelines and other publications;
- the ability to influence considerably practice throughout their sector and maintain a full programme of activity with comparatively modest resources;
- the partnership models that have been developed for working with others not funded by government for the benefit of learners.



Front row: Patsy Quinn, Eta De Cicco, Sarah Perry, Back row: Ian Pettit, Simon Sheldrake, Alastair Clark, Barbara Nance
Team members missing from the photo: Sally Betts, Mary Moss, Stephen Walker, Angela Sanders, Ewa Luger, Ali Close, Susan Easton

Team award, continued

Highly commended

The Bloomsbury Learning Environment Technical Team comprises the e-learning teams from five institutions of the University of London (Birkbeck, the Institute of Education, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Royal Veterinary College, and the School of Oriental and African Studies.) The teams collaborate as a group to provide services across all five organisations.

Judges' comments

"The way in which the services collaborate, negotiate together and share services and their support is exemplary. It is likely to be a model that will occur more in the future. The saving on acquisition maintenance and support costs for products is substantial. The flexibility of those within the team and the technological approach taken make for a quality of service across the five institutions that would not otherwise be achieved."

The judges were impressed by:

- the way in which five somewhat disparate organisations had been able to work together and agree on products to be acquired and their ongoing support arrangements;
- the programme of joint events and workshops;
- the balance between development and involvement with the community.

A note about the 2011 Learning Technologist of the Year Award

Details of the 2011 Award will be published in early 2011. Organisations interested in sponsoring the 2011 Award should contact Seb Schmoller, Chief Executive of ALT – seb.schmoller@alt.ac.uk.

The judging panel for 2010

- Mark Berthelemy, Solutions Architect at Capita Learning & Development
- James Clay, ILT and Learning Resources Manager at Gloucestershire College and joint winner of the 2009 individual award
- Jenny Ellwood, Deputy Manager of Birmingham East City Learning Centre
- Fawei Geng, Learning Technologist, Learning Technologies Group, Oxford University Computing Services¹
- Steve Ryan, ALT President, 2009–2010, and Director of the Centre for Learning Technology at LSE

¹ Fawei Geng took no part in judging the entry from the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford.

The Trustees of ALT gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship of the 2010 Learning Technologist of the Year Award by Desire2Learn Incorporated and by Vital. For more information about Vital go to <http://www.vital.ac.uk/>. For more information about Desire2Learn go to <http://www.desire2learn.com/>.



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