

### **Welcome to CETLview, the newsletter updating you on what's going on with the CETLS.**

It's been a busy period for all involved in SHU's CETLs. The end of the academic year celebrates their achievements which have included involvement from colleagues across the university. Read about some of the exciting CETL developments in Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) here.

### **Celebrating Excellence**

Sheffield Hallam has 3 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Each has their distinct objectives to meet within a 5 year time frame.

**CPLA** (Centre for Promoting Learner Autonomy)  
**E<sup>3</sup>I** (Embedding, Enhancing and Integrating Employability)  
**CIPeL** (Centre for Inter-Professional e-Learning)

The vision for all CETLs is to recognise, celebrate and promote excellence by rewarding teachers who have made a demonstrable impact on student learning and who can enthuse, motivate and influence others to do the same. They are equally about the impact on student learning.

### **JUST ASK - Student's Union By Collina Wright**

Hallam Student's Union has a strong history in seeking to provide extra-curricular skills development opportunities to students that can both compliment their course of study and provide 'value added' experience to enhance employability. We have recently received funding for the post of Student Development Co-ordinator as a result of the SHU's CETLs to enable us to develop a number of new projects and initiatives which relate to the employability and learner autonomy themes. One of these projects has been initiated in response to discussions around the first year undergraduate experience and transition into Higher Education.

The **JUST ASK** scheme is a student-led peer mentoring project co-ordinated by Hallam Union which aims to provide first year social science students with additional support and guidance at a crucial time in their academic life.

The mentors themselves will direct the project supported by Collina Wright, the Student Development Co-ordinator. They will decide how the mentoring relationship develops, they will be responsible for recruiting potential 'mentees' and for any publicity and other aspects that will enable the project to be a success. They will also have an opportunity to identify their own training and development needs.

Collina said "It is hoped that the mentoring relationships will identify any concerns that the undergraduate first years are experiencing and consequently be able to

address these before they become an issue and possibly having a positive impact on retention".

### **Student Placements - a great experience!**

**By Katharine Westwood and Peter Capener**

The two institutional CETLs here at SHU have created innovative opportunities for student involvement including the employment of three placement students. Katharine Westwood and Peter Capener are two of the placement students working full time to support various activities and initiatives within the CPLA CETL. Over the last eleven months they have been involved in numerous activities including the development of the CETL marketing materials, the creation and maintenance of the CPLA website, planning and facilitating focus groups, organising and attending events, supporting CETL staff with their projects and working with some of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Peter has done a lot of work for the Blackboard Nuggets project through the New Technologies SIG. This has involved him working with staff, developing their skills in how to use editing software and providing them with on-going support. Their placement time is nearly up, so what's the past year really been like for them:

Peter: *"The work I have done for the Blackboard Nuggets project has been an enjoyable and valuable experience. I have really enjoyed working with staff, creating nuggets. I have found working on the project very rewarding. I have now developed a blackboard site to support staff and I'll be working with students much more closely in the near future through the Students Union."*

Katharine: *"I have really enjoyed being involved in so many activities and as a student I feel that my views and knowledge have been deeply valued by CETL staff and management. I have had numerous opportunities to get involved in things that I both have an interest in and would like to gain experience in. I have particularly enjoyed planning and facilitating focus groups and helping to produce the marketing materials and website for the CETL."*

## Showcasing Learning Objects (CIPeL)

By Karen Booth

The CIPeL team and other Faculty staff have been making progress on designing and producing learning objects. To celebrate and publicise our achievements so far, the team and Faculty secondees are all going to Coventry University early in September to join our colleagues there. We will share ideas and experiences and showcase the learning objects for the Special Interest Group (SIG). Members of this group are invited guests who have previously shown an interest in interprofessional learning (IPL) through attendance at discussion forums for previous IPL projects. The SIG will provide a means of sharing best practice and experience in interprofessional e-learning and for disseminating our work through HE institutions and practice.

Within the Faculty a Service User Group has been established to support a range of activities, including the work of the CIPeL. The lay participants of this group will:

- provide advice and guidance for a range of interprofessional activities
- be involved in the production of learning objects and the associated activities and assessments
- collaborate in research and evaluation activities
- help to disseminate and publicise the range of interprofessional developments

The first meeting of this group took place in June with six lay members, some of whom had previously participated in the 'Forging Ahead' and 'CUILU' projects. During their involvement with these two projects, they had provided an active and valuable role in informing developments and in disseminating outcomes. Their current and future involvement in CIPeL will bring a service user perspective which should ensure that the learning objects and activities are relevant to their needs and aspirations for good standards of care.

Previously developed good practice guidelines will govern their involvement in all aspects of education and ensure an appropriate ethical approach.

## Employability - can the SHU approach transfer to Malaysia? By Dr Simon Brown

As many will know, it takes a long time for westerners to build up trust and respect in South East Asia. We appear to have reached that point as earlier in the year the British Council and Malaysian Ministry for Education invited SHU to run a seminar for senior university managers on our innovative approach to graduate employability. It would appear that the many years of involvement with educational establishments in Malaysia, the significant investment in these relationships and the quality of our provision had shown that we were an institution that they could listen to and hopefully do business with.

Timed to coincide with the annual graduation ceremony for the Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TARC) students a small party (Professor Philip Garrahan, Professor John Parkinson and Dr Simon Brown) supported by the staff from the registry and the rest of the SHU team in Malaysia for the annual recruitment and graduation events, hosted a one day seminar on our approach to graduate employability.

Delegates had been invited by the Ministry for Education and on the day a "who's who" of Malaysian higher education gradually began to fill the venue. The key note speeches and generous welcomes only heightened the sense of anticipation; would our approach to graduate employability be appreciated outside of the UK? To help our guests understand a little about our background and how we had arrived at our distinctive approach, Prof Parkinson talked briefly about the University, its size, history and ambitions.

Dr Brown then set about introducing the employability framework; how it had come to be and how our approach had been recognised as outstanding by the awarding of the E3I CETL in employability.

Simon said *"Following the formal presentations the delegates were invited to "play" the employability card sort game. Our fears that the 60-70 senior university managers who had decided to accept the Ministry's invitation may not wish to engage with a "game" were unfounded. They threw themselves into the activity with such enthusiasm that we had to work hard to gather the group back and complete the formal proceeding with the expected plenary and Q&A session"*.

Subsequent analysis of the card sort showed that while there were significant levels of agreement in the responses between the Malaysian and SHU based academics to the card sort, there were however some interesting differences that would need to be explored further should the Malaysian authorities decide that SHU's approach should be considered as a solution to their growing graduate unemployment figures.

Since March there have been a number of additional discussions with individual universities and colleges and it is hoped that these may result in at least one strategic alliance between SHU and a Malaysian university to support their staff as they develop their own versions of the "employability framework".

## CETL Associate Announcement 2006/2007

Finally, congratulations to all staff joining as CETL associates for the forthcoming academic year. A total of 16 staff from across the university will officially commence their secondments in September, joining the existing associates and the new placement students. We wish them all the best in supporting innovative learning and teaching developments. Here is a quick run down of the successors:

**E<sup>3</sup>I** - Ian Jones (D&S), Julia Myers (D&S), Rihana Ishaq (ACES), Sarah Wenham (HWB), Katherine Gardiner (O&M), Christine Gilligan and Chris Wroe (O&M) and Sheila Quairney (Enterprise Centre),

**CPLA** - Christine O'Leary (O&M), David Owen (D&S), Liz Austin (D&S), John Reidy (D&S), Will Reader (D&S), Paul Cormack (D&S), Anne-Florence Dujardin (ACES) and Steve Naylor (ACES).

## Want to find out more?

For further information, news, developments and a user friendly list of CETL FAQs please visit our website at [www.shu.ac.uk/cetl](http://www.shu.ac.uk/cetl). Look out for our next issue of CETLview in the new academic year.