LATEST NEWS

**MyLO motors on...**

This is a busy time for the MyLO project: Semester 1 is moving along, Semester 4 isn’t far away, and Semester 2 will kick off shortly afterward.

It’s a time when some staff will be new to MyLO, some will be moving units from the old MyLO to the new, and some may be renewing a MyLO unit created earlier this year.

Our aim is to support staff and assist in unit planning and building, using the 8-week timetable established as part of the late 2012/early 2013 ‘Make the Move’ campaign. The timeline has been refined and now can be used as a standard template for building units at any time, for any semester.

The MyLO support program is now fully equipped with an array of resources available within MyLO itself, the Teaching & Learning website and through workshops.

If you would like to talk to someone about how MyLO can be used to improve your students’ study experience or even how you can deliver a fully online unit, you can talk to a member of the Educational Development Team in TILT, or an Educational Developer from your Faculty or Department.

**Are you teaching in Semester 4?**

If you haven’t already begun, it’s time to start planning your Semester 4 MyLO units now.

During this stage, there are important decisions to be made about the way you build your MyLO unit. It is time now to request your unit through MyLO Manager and to start developing the materials and resources you plan to use.

- **If you’re creating a brand new MyLO unit**, all the resources you need are available on the MyLO website, where online training modules, help sheets, workshop dates and contacts for assistance are available;

**Mastering MyLO**

**Tip 15: Publishing news items**

News items appear on a Unit Page and are a useful place to post general class announcements. They are an excellent way to draw attention to other resources such as links to unit content, external websites, updates, assignments that are due, and more. You can also insert pictures, videos and audio.

For more information see the Desktop Guide – Publishing News.

**Update files and links**

It is important to check that your unit materials contain up-to-date and working links and files. These may have changed, may be out of date or may need to be re-established. The top 5 things to check are:

- Dates for assessments and assignments;
- Links to MyMedia resources;
- Links to content;
- Latest content outlines; and
- Group settings, restrictions and controls.

Don’t forget! Bookable support

Bookable MyLO support is available via TILT in Launceston and Hobart, in dedicated spaces for support sessions with an Educational Developer. To book a personal or small group session, contact:

Hobart: www.utasmlyoworkshops.clickbook.net
Launceston: Jo Osborne (x5006)

Workshops coming soon

Centralised workshops will commence in May. The full timetable will be available soon.
• If you’re moving a unit from the old MyLO into the new MyLO, an ideal way to get going is to investigate the Unpack MyLO page, which revisits the ‘Make the Move’ documents that compared the old and new MyLO and showed how to get started in structuring new units. This page also outlines the resources available to help you learn about MyLO; and

• If you want to renew the content of an existing new MyLO unit, check out the online resources for new ideas around teaching tasks.

To discuss your unit and how to achieve the desired pedagogical aspirations, you can talk to a member of the Educational Development Team in TILT.

**Feature profile: Intelligent Agents**

Intelligent agents are devices that monitor and respond to student activity and progress in a specific unit. Based on criteria/conditions that you specify (eg, performance above or below a nominated score on a particular quiz, login inactivity for X days), the agent releases a pre-prepared email to students who meet your specified criteria.

Criteria can cover student log-in activity for the unit as well as more specific performance and activity conditions. The majority relate to students meeting milestones or hurdle requirements (‘achievement’ criteria); the remainder relate to students not meeting specified requirements (‘non-achievement’ criteria). You can also set the agent to run automatically according to a schedule (eg, once a week) or you can manually trigger the agent.

For more detailed information on intelligent agents, see the Information Sheet – Using intelligent agents to help manage students.

**Other News**

**THETA wrap up**

UTAS and the MYLO team put their best foot forward at the bi-annual international Higher Education Technology Agenda (THETA) conference in Hobart last week.

With the aim of advancing higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology, the conference attracted a comprehensive range of practitioners and senior decision makers across the whole spectrum of Information Technology, Teaching and Learning, Library and Knowledge Management.

Bess Swinton (MyLO, pictured above): “The THETA conference attendees proved to be a varied and engaged audience seeking discussion on a range of educational and technological topics.

My ‘Communication is Key’ poster was well received and drew the attention of those currently in the process of implementing new technology and others interested in the communication methods within the project.”
"Rebecca Foweraker (MyLO, pictured left): I really enjoyed the mix of people at the conference- it was great to see so many librarians, academics and IT support people all together, and looking at the topics from everyone’s point of view. There were some amazing keynote speakers - I especially enjoyed Marnie Hughes-Warrington* talking about MOOCs and navigating the edge of the world and Claire Macken presented from the future - in the year 2020 from a student’s perspective of what a University could look like - very inspiring in the use of technology. And Alec Couros’s presentation made me laugh and cry with some very open and poignant stories told through the use of technology! I also enjoyed Luke Padgett and Derek Whitehead’s presentation on "The Myth of MOOCs” which looked at whether MOOCs should in fact be called MOCs – as they are not truly open- and examined the issues within Australia with MOOCs due to copyright laws.”

*Note: Marnie Hughes-Warrington is a UTAS Alumni (history, philosophy and education) and is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at ANU.

MyLO at THETA

- MyLO Project Leader Bronwyn Davies delivered ‘A risk worth taking – Leading a diverse and disparate team to achieve significant change’ featuring the MyLO project and chaired the session ‘Virtual Learning Spaces.’
- MyLO Learning Systems Support Officer Rebecca Foweraker delivered ‘How to engage your students with Online Learning.’
- MyLO Learning Systems Support Officer Bess Swinton presented a poster titled ‘Communication is Key.’

Profile: Stephen Linquist – MyLO Educational Developer

Before joining the team at UTAS, Steve spent five years working predominantly as a design and multimedia teacher in secondary schools and tertiary environments. This work was augmented by freelance multimedia design work and primary relief teaching. Since 2007, he has worked in a range of educational development roles at Victoria University and later at the University of Ballarat.

Stephen says he enjoys the challenge of simplifying problems first, before applying solutions so that resolutions are demand-driven, not technology-push. “I’m most happy when I can hear what someone wants to do and I can simplify the problem before we set about creating a solution in MyLO,” he says.

“It often creates a far simpler solution in the end and these are the most pleasing for all. For example, someone may assume that they need to use the Grades tool and feel anxious that they are about to be put through another time-consuming steep learning curve.”

“A quick discussion can establish that they don’t need to worry about learning the Grades tool at this point and can do what they originally intended using the Dropbox, a tool they are already comfortable with.”