

Winter 2004

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## Newsletter no2

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### Increasing FE participation

Since the FE community joined LMN, we have been steadily increasing FE participation in the planning of the network and the governance of the company. In May this year, Maggi Knights joined the LMN Board. She is Vice Principal, Information, Learning and Human Resources at Greenwich Community College.



Maggi's main interest in ILT is as a tool to access information and enable learning thereby enhancing the learning experience. At Greenwich Maggi has been responsible for the connectivity between the College centres enabling efficient administration and internet access for learners via the JANET network, for developing the IT open learning centres, for joining up the College information systems, e.g. integrating management information systems and taking forward the VLE, MLE visions. Maggi believes that ILT is the way forward to provide flexible access to learning "anywhere, any time, any place." Maggi has a passionate belief that the revolution in enabling technologies for students with disabilities is fundamental to meeting the inclusiveness agenda.

John Stone, the Principal of Ealing, Hammersmith and West College has been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Board. Other FE representatives are Nick Clark, Director IT Services at Tower Hamlets College on the Business Development Group, Favad Ahmed, IT Manager at Newham Sixth Form College, on the Technical Group and Graeme Hill, Head of ILT Curriculum at Lambeth College, on the Staff Development Group.

LMN is keen to have greater involvement of FE people on its Groups. Please contact Mick Kahn with suggestions for individuals (including yourself) who might be interested.

LMN continues to engage with the FE community through close liaison with the JISC RSC for London.

### Peter White – Operations Manager

Peter White joined LMN in March 2003 as Operations Manager.

Peter was born in London and grew up in the suburbs in Chislehurst, Kent. He gained his degree in Chemical Engineering from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh in 1985 and decided to start his career in the process and controls industry. Peter worked in Stevenage for an American based company on a control system for British steel in Cumbria. He then moved back to London to become the Systems and Engineering Manager at the government owned QEII Conference Centre, where he remained until 2002. Peter was responsible for running the building maintenance contracts and the delivery of IT for over 150 exhibitions, conferences and AGMs a year. The IT systems included a building wide wireless network as well as a hard wired Ethernet and fibre optic infrastructure.

Peter's first task at LMN was to oversee the change of the network operation from ULCC to Logicalis in May 2003. He is responsible for all aspects of the operation of LMN and technical development of the network.

### Backup and restore pilot

LMN have formed a partnership with InTechnology (ITO, <http://www.intechnology.co.uk>) to develop a on-line off site data back and restore service. Currently we are piloting the service with London Business School and Birkbeck College. A steering group has been set up chaired by Russell Altendroff, Director of Information Systems Division at LBS and made of representatives from pilot institutions and LMN Groups.

A 1Gbps connection between LMN and ITO has been installed. The pilot will complete in early spring and if successful, we will be launch a full service. For more information see <http://www.lmn.net/documents/briefing1.pdf>

## Staff development programme

In the 2002-2003 LMN organised two highly successful events on mobile computing technology and disabilities awareness. Both these events were fully booked very shortly after they were advertised. These events have also acted as catalyst to encourage collaboration. For example, the disability event has resulted in the forming of a collaborative team with representatives from six institutions, led by an FE College Principal.

The 2003-2004 programme got off to a strong start with a fully booked project management training for technical staff. Future events will cover disaster recovery, disability and technology awareness day (repeated due to popular demand), a network monitoring, a full day London Networkshop, an E-mail filtering/junk mail solutions, IT helpdesks and halls of residence networking. See <http://www.lmn.net.uk/documents/briefing2.pdf> for more details.

If you have any suggestions for future events or would like to co-ordinate one, let us know.

## HE IT Directors Forum

A number of people commented that there was no longer any London arena for the general exchange of ideas between IT Directors on IT matters while the FE community have NILTA (National Information and Learning Technologies Association) operating at a regional level and also the JISC RSC. To fill this gap, we have organised an initial meeting of London HE IT Directors Forum on 1 December 2003. The meeting was chaired by Roland Rosner from UCL and heard UCISA's views on regional activities. There was lively discussion on a wider range of topics and the group will continue to meet three or four times a year with the support of LMN.

## SuperJANET 5

During the Summer UKERNA launched the requirements phase of the SuperJANET 5 Project, which will deliver the next generation of academic networking in the UK. Whilst new technology and increased bandwidth will be important, other objectives will be for reliable end-to-end service and leading-edge development facilities alongside the production network. Achieving these objectives will require the active involvement of the regional networks and UKERNA has already begun consultation through the UK MANs Group. An update on the requirements phase was given at the JISC/UKERNA Network Strategy Workshop and it expected that SuperJANET 5 will be a dark fibre or wavelength network.

## LMN Knowledge Hub

The LMN Knowledge (KHub) is an online facility for the exchange of information and contacts between HE and FE Institutions. It enables individuals from the LMN community to register their experience and knowledge. This is a self help collaborative initiative which facilitates the sharing of knowledge, information, expertise on information technology projects and products within our community. It enables LMN members to make contact with a hundred institutions, share their knowledge and experience with others, collaborate and enlist help of colleagues and help build a community of expertise.

The concept was piloted with 5 institutions in 2002-2003 and proved very successful. It was launched in April 2003 and has over 140 users registered from 50 institutions. Complete the on-line form if you wish to register at <http://www.lmn.net/knowledge/>

## Dates of meetings

The 2004 LMN Annual General Meeting will be held in central London on Tuesday 20 January at 16:30 p.m.

The Board meetings for the remainder of this academic year will be Tuesday 20 January (before the AGM), Thursday 22 April and Tuesday 6 July. If there are any issues that you would like raised at Board meetings, please contact Mick Kahn.

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