



AŚVATTHA

The TLC Newsletter

"Nurturing Lifelong Learning"

Volume 1 | Issue 1 | July 2013

We welcome you to the First Issue of Aśvattha
The Newsletter from Teaching Learning Centre (TLC), IIT Madras! Enjoy reading!

ABOUT TLC...



Prof. V.G. Idichandy
(Director -Officiating, IITM) inaugurating
TLC on 23rd Aug, 2011

The Teaching Learning Centre of IIT Madras was inaugurated on 23rd August, 2011 and is the first of its kind among all the IITs. TLC's Vision is to be a Centre of Excellence for the study, research, development and implementation of innovative methods in the teaching-learning processes (TLP) of the Institute, in the pursuit of quality enhancement for higher technical education through a continuous and seamless interaction among teachers, students and experts, and to provide world-class educators at the service of the nation.

One of the core activities of TLC is the dissemination of knowledge and the Newsletter is a humble attempt to ensure that you find value reading this. The contents would include TLC news, featured articles from our own faculty and external sources, faculty responses through anecdotes and exchange of best practices related to teaching and learning. Look forward to your contributions in the coming editions.



Prof. M.S. Ananth (former Director, IITM),
and the team from Centre for Teaching
Excellence,
Texas A&M University - Prof. Jeff Froyd
(Director),
Dr. Chandrika Rajagopal (former
Program Coordinator) and
Debra Fowler (Associate Director) in a
discussion

TLC offers its gratitude to Prof. M.S. Ananth (former Director, IITM) for his vision and approval of the unique concept of TLC. We thank Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi (Director, IITM) for his continued strong support for the TLC activities. We owe our gratitude to Prof. K. Ramamurthy (Dean, Academic Courses) who has supported the idea of TLC right from the beginning and continues to be enthusiastic about it. We thank Prof. V.G. Idichandy for extending his support and inaugurating TLC. We are grateful to Prof. Jeff Froyd (Texas A&M) and Dr. Chandrika Rajagopal for playing an instrumental role in starting the FDP activities with great passion, which has now blossomed into the full fledged TLC. We thank WIPRO Mission 10X, especially Dr. Rajendra Joshi and Dr. Sujath Jagannath for their wholehearted cooperation and participation in TLC activities. TLC would not have been made possible without their contributions.

“Teaching and Learning and the Five Elements: knowledge is fire; the teacher is water; the student is the earth; means of communication is air; and the environment is ether” – Sri Aurobindo

TLC NEWS



Participants of the
Faculty Development Programme 2013
(11-13 July, 2013)

Faculty Development Programme 2013

FDP 2013, was conducted between 11-13 July, 2013 under the aegis of TLC. This offered tremendous opportunities for faculty members to discover and adopt new practices based on scientific research and helped the teaching fraternity to keep abreast of the nuances of the philosophy, art, science and technology. Some of the topics 'uncovered' were Motivation, Learner Diversity, Learning Outcome, Active and Cooperative Learning, Designing an Assessment Plan, Technology Enabled Learning, Feedback and Reflective Teaching, and Microteaching. The Resource Persons were TLC faculty of IIT Madras, education experts from Wipro (Mission 10 X), and Prof A K Ray, IIT Kharagpur. [read on...](#)

TA Orientation (TAO) Programme



FDP 2013 participants during
a session in TLC Hall

Teaching Assistants (TAs) at IIT Madras, help faculty in conducting tutorials, conducting UG and PG laboratory sessions, departmental library supervision, laboratory equipment maintenance, and assistance to faculty in teaching and research. It is generally observed that their performance in their allotted assignments is considerably enhanced if they receive training/orientation properly at the beginning of the semester, when they are about to start their duty. In this context TLC has started organizing orientation programs for TAs of the Institute. Various models for TA orientation were developed. The recent TAO program for Electrical and Ocean Engineering Departments was carried out by TLC on July 26th. The resource persons were Prof. Pramod Mehta (ME), Prof. Karmalkar.S (EE), Dr. Edamana Prasad (CY) and Dr. Deepa Venkitesh (EE). For more details [click here...](#)

FEATURED ARTICLES

THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

"The Most Important Day: Starting Well" by Delivee L. Wright, TLC, University of Nebraska.

The first day of class is a very important time for faculty to establish a tone for what will happen the rest of the term. It is appropriate that a teacher reflect on just what climate and first impression she/he would like to establish. This article offers some ideas about that all important day. [read on...](#)

THE REAL WORK

"The Real Work of Engineering and Science Faculty Members" by Jeff Froyd, Texas A & M.

Professors profess. Their very title conveys that the crucial role of faculty members is to thoughtfully and carefully craft explanations that are received unmodified in their entirety by students. Research on learning has definitively shown that each learner crafts their own explanation using, in large part, their own prior knowledge, as well as the pieces that the learner receives from lectures, from peers, and from textbooks. [read on...](#)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The new semester is about to begin. One of the first tasks is preparing the Learning Outcomes for the course. This article is by our own faculty Nandita Madhavan, Smita Srivastava and Edamana Prasad.

Learning outcomes describe the teacher's expectations regarding the learner's performance in a course through observable action verbs. Recent research has shown that designing learning outcomes for a course and providing them to the learner group a priori would result in significant enhancement of the learning process. [read on...](#)

UPCOMING TLC ACTIVITIES



Prof. Jeff Froyd during
FDP 2012, IITM

- TA Orientation (TAO) Programme will be held for TAs of Engineering Design, Physics and Mathematics departments on 31st July, 2013.
- 23rd Aug is TLC's Second Anniversary Celebrations.
- Sept 6th will be YFRA Awardees Felicitation.
- A 3-day TA training programme for volunteer TAs by WIPRO Mission 10X team in mid-September.
- 11th Nov is National Education Day.
- Prof Jeff Froyd from Texas A&M University will conduct the popular FDP for IITM faculty from 11th to 13th Dec.
- A 1-day programme on Advanced Topics of TLP for TLC Core Team-coming soon.
- A 1-day Refresher course for the Faculty who have attended the last 4 FDPs-coming soon.
- TLC can support in funding research in classroom interaction; for one project assistant for one semester.

TLC CORE TEAM

Ajit Kumar Kolar (ME; Chairman, CCE), Pramod S Mehta (ME), Vijayan C (Phy), Karmalkar S (EE), Edamana Prasad (CY), Sujatha Srinivasan (ME), Smita Srivastava (BT), Parag Ravindran (ME), Gandham Phanikumar (MME), Nandita M (CY), Nirmala R (Phy), Arun Menon (CE), Deepa Venkitesh (EE), Rahul Marathe (MS), Vijayalakshmi V(MS)

For suggestions/feedback, please mail to iitmtlc@gmail.com. We would be happy to feature your articles, suggestions, ideas related to the Teaching Learning Process. Looking forward to your support!

Please visit www.cce.iitm.ac.in for interesting reads on TLP under our Faculty Reachout Initiative.

See you in 2 months!

V.Vijayalakshmi and Edamana Prasad

“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel” –Socrates