

UNIVERSITY LEARNING & TEACHING AWARD HOLDERS PROFILE

Robert Consoli,
**Digital Media, School of Arts & New Media, Faculty of Arts and
Social Sciences**

With the support of the Innovations in Student Learning (ISL) fund, Robert Consoli has focussed on bringing learning and teaching materials to a wider audience through the use of new technologies. As a new lecturer coming to Higher Education from the private sector, he soon realised that the ISL fund could provide the perfect solution to a problem that had arisen in his teaching practice. Robert teaches Digital Media in the School of Arts and New Media on the University's Scarborough Campus, and student interviews had identified a weakness in one of his Design modules. The module combined instruction in design theory with tutorials in complex design software. The result was simply too much content for a single module. In May 2007, Consoli submitted a proposal to the ISL fund in an effort to solve the problem. The Fund agreed to subsidise the production of a series of video software tutorials that allowed the movement of module content out of the classroom and onto a Web 2.0 social networking site. As a result, students had more time to focus on the module's more important design content in class. Current module participants interact with other site users from all over the world, and 180,000 viewers have watched the tutorials to date.

A second ISL grant sponsored the 'New Media Workshop' event held on the Scarborough Campus in June 2008. Robert proposed the event along with his Digital Media colleague, Dr Darren Mundy, and together they disseminated their initial findings from their individual ISL fund projects. Nationally recognised keynote speakers were invited along with other practitioners, and the event was attended by over 60 participants from across the UK.

Robert Consoli is currently executing his third ISL fund project entitled the '5 Minute Lecture Series'. This new series of videos builds upon the success of the previous ISL fund projects, and features colleagues from across the digital media subject area as they deliver learning and teaching content in their own individual styles. The current project is due for release in Summer 2009.

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