EDITORIAL

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I'm delighted to welcome you to this latest edition of MSOR Connections. This edition includes Case Studies related to classroom practice in a range of MSOR subjects, a Research Report that brings together LaTeX and R to create quizzes in Moodle, and a Resource Overview of Pingo.

This particular edition kicks off with three excellent articles with classroom practice very much the focus, which includes some very helpful ideas and examples of good practice. The first, by Corner and Cornock, presents a case study using problems based on applications or physical objects in a first year pure mathematics module. This is followed by another case study by Lennerstad which considers design of an undergraduate calculus course, with the aim of facilitating higher student activity, teacher-student exchange, continuous teacher learning about students' mathematics knowledge and immediate feedback to improve the course as it progresses. This first group of three articles is then completed by Evans who presents a resource review of Pingo, a free, web-based system that provides an excellent way of introducing interaction in large group teaching.

These are followed by two engaging articles related to e-assessment. Firstly we have a research article by Jach, which describes how several free, open-source and popular tools can be combined to produce data-driven, up-to-date quizzes for Moodle, using examples from economics. These free tools include LaTeX and a new associated package called `moodle`, together with R the statistical computing software. This is followed by a case study by Erskune and Metsel, which describes the implementation of e-assessment in *STACK M820 Calculus of Variations and Advanced Calculus*, which is part of the Open University's Masters Programme in Mathematics.

A significant element of the motivation for these first five articles relates to improving student retention. It is fitting therefore, that we round of this edition with a case study by Khan, which addresses the very interesting related question of whether various factors affect attendance rates at university lectures in mathematics, and whether there is any relationship between attendance and exam performance?

I thoroughly enjoyed reading all of the articles in this edition and I hope you do to. If you would like to submit an article for publication in a future edition of MSOR Connections, we always welcome contributions and details of how to submit can be found at https://journals.gre.ac.uk/index.php/msor/about/submissions. Submissions could include case studies, opinion pieces, research articles, student-authored or co-authored articles, resource reviews (technology, books, etc.), short updates (project, policy, etc.) or workshop reports. Please consider contributing and encourage others you know to contribute also. We are always looking for willing volunteers to review articles for MSOR Connections, so please get in touch with us if you are interested in this role.

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