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# Issue 3

## From the Editor

Firstly, a big thank you to all our contributors. We are delighted with your enthusiasm to share practice, and I hope this will encourage others. We are beginning to 'unpeel' the practice of Universal Design in higher education and we hope you will find this helpful in your day-to-day work.

Ann Heelan has drawn attention to the opportunities for disabled graduates in the STEM subject areas, and we have some great examples in this Journal. Once again we have some illustrations from student work and a poem, part of the exhibition curated by AHEAD at their March conference. If you didn't see it you can read more about it below.

Many thanks to Nicole Ofiesh for presenting her thorough research related to making exams more accessible and understanding the underpinning cognitive processes. We are publishing her work in two installments, the first part in this Journal and the second part in the next Journal, autumn 2016.

Lisa Padden shares her work on supporting colleagues in putting the principles of Universal Design into practice in classrooms and lecture theatres.

A conference in June 2016 marks the final phase of the Universal Design in Higher Education – License to Learn, Erasmus + project, <http://udll.eu/>, in which AHEAD has been a partner. The conference will highlight the range of helpful outputs, including in print and multimedia. Find out more about the conference at the end of June in Ghent, Belgium here <http://howest.be/udll/>

Do keep sending in your ideas for articles. No need to wait, we are happy to hear from you at any time, and to offer help and advice. The initial contact is Lorraine Gallagher - [lorraine.gallagher@ahead.ie](mailto:lorraine.gallagher@ahead.ie) I hope you enjoy a good read.

Barbara Waters, Editor, April, 2016

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## **Barbara Waters**

Journal Editor, AHEAD

Barbara Waters is the Project Lead on the Reasonable Accommodations, Professional Placements (RAPP) Project, Barbara was Chief Executive of Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, UK. 1996- 2010. Barbara represented Skill nationally on policy issues in education and disability related to post 16 education, training and employment. Since 2010 Barbara has worked as a researcher on further and higher education and disability. She was part of the LINK European network concerned with disabled students in higher education and has undertaken research on competence standards and learning outcomes in higher education for the Equality Challenge Unit, UK, published in 2015, looking particularly at Nursing, Teaching, Foreign Languages and STEM subjects. She was the evaluator of the Erasmus + programme on Universal Design for Learning completed in October 2016, and rapporteur for AHEAD Ireland in the MappED access programme with the Erasmus Student Network in 2017. Currently, she is the editor of the peer to peer Journal for AHEAD Ireland. She has an MA in Business and Public Sector Strategy and received an honorary doctorate from the Open University, UK.

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