

In Memoriam of Mark Stiles

Paul Orsmond and Kathryn McFarlane

Corresponding Author: p.orsmond@staffs.ac.uk

Colleagues and friends at Staffordshire University were saddened to hear of the death of Mark Stiles. Mark was generous in sharing his knowledge and experience with colleagues at all levels, encouraging and fostering their development. He was a true pioneer in the development of virtual learning environments. Mark had great insight and was often ahead of the field. While working at Staffordshire University Mark successfully led the JISC Creation of Study Environments (COSE) virtual learning project. COSE was further developed in association with Cambridge Software Publishing. A strong and vocal advocate of technology-based learning, Mark was always aware of the student learner, and how technology could enhance learning, and this was to be a big influence for many of his colleagues. He had (and indeed still has) a high profile in learning technology nationally and internationally. He held many prominent roles, such as Chair of the Centre of Educational Technology and Interoperability Standards (CETIS). Funded by JISC, CETIS is a service for higher and post-16 education in the provision of national research and development.

Mark was involved with the Innovative Practice in Higher Education Journal from the very first meeting of the Editorial Board in 2009, until he sadly passed away in 2020. We were indeed fortunate that he chose to contribute to the Journal and share so much of his knowledge and time with us. As a member of this Board, he had a huge amount to offer. His experience and international reputation and his vast number of contacts were a tremendous asset. He was instrumental in expanding the membership of the Editorial Board to ensure that the Journal was truly independent and inclusive, having representation from many institutions and disciplines. His experience of research and publication was another valuable resource, and his advice on the construction and direction of the journal from its inception has very significantly influenced its current

format. He approached all of his work for the Journal with great enthusiasm, and made valuable contributions both in terms of his ideas and actions.

Mark also contributed his unique personality. As well as his professional accomplishments and accolades, he had a tremendous sense of humour and wide ranging interests outside work. He was great company both in formal meetings and in relaxed social events, and he will be sorely missed.