

Welcome to the February ebulletin with the latest news and items of interest to staff and students across the Universitas 21 network!

Headlines

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Firstly, a very happy Chinese New Year of the Ox and best wishes for 2009!

New President for Fudan University

On 14 January 2009, Professor Yang Yuliang was appointed President of Fudan University by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council. Professor Yang received his BSc degree in 1977 and PhD in 1984 from Fudan University. He worked on macromolecular compounds at the Max Planck Institute from 1986 to 1988 and in 2003 Professor Yang was elected a Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences. He was a faculty member of Fudan University before he was appointed Vice President for Research of Fudan in 1999. In 2006, he was appointed Director General of the Department of Degree and Postgraduate Education, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. Professor Yang also serves as a senior advisor to the Shanghai Municipal Government.

Professor Yang's academic interest is in condensed matter physics and polymerisation. He owns a number of domestic and international patents and serves on the boards of several academic journals including the *Chinese Journal of Chemistry and Science* in China. Professor Yang has been awarded many titles and awards from home and abroad, including *Cheung Kong Scholar* and *National Scientific and Technological Progress Award*.

We welcome him to the network and look forward to continued work with colleagues from Fudan University.

Major General Maurie McNarn appointed CEO at the University of Queensland

The chief of Australia's Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO) will be the University of Queensland's new Executive Director (Operations). Major General Maurie McNarn, AO, will take up the position on 16 March. The UQ position of Executive Director (Operations) is new and was created to cover some of the duties of recently retired Secretary and Registrar, Douglas Porter, who was also UQ's U21 Manager.

In his current role, since January 2005, Major General McNarn completed implementation of the recommendations of the Flood Inquiry into Australia's intelligence services, which included findings on intelligence agencies' accountability, co-ordination, division of labour and communications. Before heading DIO he was Commander of Training Command, Australia's largest registered training organisation. As National Commander of Australian Forces in the Middle East Area of Operations from July 2002 to June 2003, he led 2300 personnel in air, maritime and land forces across Iraq, the Gulf and Afghanistan.

Major General McNarn also has extensive experience in strategic level corporate planning, leadership appointments, communications, IT, HR, media and financial management. He has lived and worked extensively in Asia and the Middle East. His academic qualifications include a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Defence (Strategic) Studies, a Graduate Diploma of Telecommunications Systems Management and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said he was delighted General McNarn had accepted the appointment. *"I look forward to welcoming Maurie to the executive team, where he will co-ordinate the management of UQ's financial, physical, human, management information and information technology services"* he said.

<http://www.uq.edu.au/news/?article=17178>

Eva Akesson named PVC at Lund

On 1 January 2009, Eva Akesson, know to many around the network, was appointed Vice-Rector at Lund University, with special responsibility for education in the first and second cycle.

Water Futures for Sustainable Cities workshop a success

The U21 *Water Futures for Sustainable Cities* group met at the University of Virginia in early January for a workshop about chemicals contained in pharmaceuticals and consumer products and the levels in which they have been found in many metropolitan water supplies. Workshop participants will produce a position paper to present at the International Water Association meeting in July and plan to begin collaborations through the National Science Foundation, NATO and UNESCO. Ultimately, the group hopes to establish pilot studies funded by U21 institutions to explore research ideas.

"It was a very effective group that gathered here," UVa's Winston Lung, who organised the workshop, said. *"Plans we put together will carry this research forward in ways that we hope will have a real impact on the world's aquatic ecosystems."*

A full report can be read at <http://www.universitas21.com/pastevent/EDCWorkshop2009.html>

U21 HR Collaborative Group launched

A new Collaborative Group for Human Resources practitioners has been established within the U21 network. This group represents an open forum for HR professionals to share information and experiences in all HR practices with members of the group around the globe. In its first year, Rory Carey, Director, HR Strategy and Development, University College Dublin will be convener of the group.

The group's web address is: <http://www.universitas21.com/HRgroup.html> and members from any U21 university that is not yet represented would be very welcome!

D/PVC Research meeting 2009

The 2009 D/PVC Research meeting will take place at the University of Queensland from 29 to 31 March 2009. It is open to all D/PVCs Research (or equivalent) at U21 institutions and is hosted by the recently-appointed group convener, Professor David Siddle, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at UQ.

Further details can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/090329PVCResearch.html>

Three U21 scientists honoured

Dr Richard L Guerrant, an international infectious disease expert at the University of Virginia Health System, has been awarded the highest honour from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Dr Guerrant, director of UVa's Center for Global Health, received the Walter Reed Medal in recognition of his distinguished accomplishments in the field of tropical medicine at the society's annual meeting in New Orleans. *"I am honoured and humbled to join the hallowed company of the winners of this award. As a group they have accomplished so much in tropical medicine and saved millions of lives; I hope I can live up to the standards set by my predecessors."* he said. Dr Guerrant is a member of U21's working party on the Millennium Development Goals and an active member of the U21 Health Sciences group.

Meanwhile, two University of Queensland scientists have been awarded National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australia Fellowships valued at a total of AUS\$8 million. The Fellowships will focus on improving drug treatments, and the ethical issues raised by genetic research on addiction and new forms of drug treatment that help people with addictions to become and remain abstinent.

Professor Rob Parton from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) will use his Fellowship to investigate a microscopic vehicle with the potential to deliver treatments directly into cells. *"A serious problem with many treatments today, especially for cancer, is that they kill healthy cells as well as diseased cells,"* Professor Parton said. *"Targeted drug delivery systems, in which the drugs are enclosed in a vehicle that is targeted towards specific sites in the body, can avoid this problem."*

Professor Wayne Hall, of UQ's School of Population Health, will use his funding to establish a world-class research programme that will focus on the ethical implications of new treatments for drug use and addiction that are emerging from cutting edge genetics and neuroscience. Professor Hall, an internationally renowned social science researcher, said there was a need for the community and policy makers to understand the implications of new treatments arising from these discoveries. The programme will involve collaboration with researchers, treatment practitioners, drug users, people with addictions and their families and carers, as well as government policy makers.

<http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=7305>
<http://www.uq.edu.au/news/index.html?article=17278>

Confucius Institute meeting and awards

On 7 December a U21 Workshop on Sustainable Development of Confucius Institute (CI) was held at Fudan University. Twenty-two delegates from U21 members and Fudan CI partner universities attended the meeting. By the end of the workshop, the attendees agreed that a number of aspects were essential in sustainable development of CIs, which can be read in full at <http://www.universitas21.com/pastevent/ConfuciusInstitutes08.html>

Immediately after the workshop, delegates attended the third Confucius Institute Conference held by Hanban, at which "Model Institute" awards were presented to twenty of the 249 institutes worldwide. Two Fudan Confucius Institutes, those at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Auckland, were given awards – another example of successful collaboration between U21 member institutions.

UVa named best value public college in USA

The University of Virginia has been named the Best Value Public College in *The Princeton Review's* 100 "Best Value Colleges" for 2009.

Each year The Princeton Review uses surveys and analyses of costs, charges to students, and other factors to identify 50 public and 50 private colleges and universities as best value. Selection criteria include more than 30 factors in three areas: academics, costs of attendance, and financial aid. Speaking about this achievement, UVa's President, John Casteen, said *"We have earned this reputation for affordable excellence by employing expert fiscal managers to handle our resources wisely, by attracting and retaining top faculty members, students, and staff, and by a commitment from our Rector and Visitors and women and men who work throughout the University to ensure access for qualified students from all backgrounds."*

Our goal has been to provide a superior education at a fair price and to budget appropriate sums for financial aid for students from various economic circumstances. Through AccessUVa, the University's financial aid programme, we aim to level the playing field for our state's and nation's young people. The current economic crisis poses special, often daunting, challenges to families who are increasingly hard pressed to pay education costs. This fall, 882 AccessUVa students enrolled in the first-year class, bringing the total number of AccessUVa students currently enrolled to 3,781. Without this programme, which we hope will find imitators elsewhere, these students might not have been able to come here. We plan to continue to build this programme in the years ahead."

<http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=7421>

U21Global Virtual Conference

U21Global is holding a virtual conference on *Organisations and the Interactive Web* on 22/23 September 2009.

The conference aims to provide a stimulating meeting of minds for students, researchers, practitioners and thought leaders in the field of business and management. As the conference is being organized online, delegates will save on travel time and expenses related to conference meals, boarding and lodging – while still getting an opportunity to network with others, share the work and listen to others on a truly global scale.

A call for papers has been issued, details of which can be found at http://www.u21global.edu.sg/vcobam/vcobam_cfp.pdf. The deadline for paper submission is 29 May.

Pascal Conference at UBC

The next PASCAL conference, *Community Engagement and Service: The Third Mission of Universities*, is to be held from 18 to 20 May at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Organised jointly by the University of Glasgow and UBC, it looks at an issue which is of increasing importance to universities around the world and although not a specific U21 event, has support from universities around the network.

The call for abstracts has a deadline of 15 February, and the early bird registration at \$350 ends on 31 March - please note discounts for groups of 3 people from one organisation and lower rates for NGOs.

<http://www.chet.educ.ubc.ca/Conferences1.html>

U21 2007/08 Annual Review now online

The U21 Annual Review, reporting on events and activities around the network from November 2007 to October 2008 is now online!

<http://www.universitas21.com/AnnualReview/AnnualReview07-08.pdf>