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

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U21 AGM & Symposium

Later this month, U21 Presidents, Vice-Chancellors and other senior staff from around member universities will be meeting at Korea University for U21's Annual Network Meeting, AGM and Symposium. These meetings give Presidents around the network the opportunity to discuss key issues for U21, plan ahead for the coming year and look at areas for growth and development. Alongside the necessary business meetings, the fourth U21 Symposium will take place on 21 May 2009 under the heading *The Role of the University in Influencing Public Policy*. Among the speakers are U21 Chair and President of the University of Virginia, Professor John Casteen; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Glyn Davis; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Professor David Eastwood; Dr Kazuo Kuroda of Waseda University and invited guests Dr Andrew Rich from City University of New York and Dr John Haldane from St Andrew's University. Proceedings and outcomes will be widely reported on in future ebulletins and U21 newsletters.

Further details can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/symposium2009.html>

Graduate Research Conference details online

The preliminary details for the second U21 Graduate Research Conference (GRC) are now online. This year's conference will take place in Australia, split between the University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland, and focusing on the theme of Sustainable Cities.

The papers from last year's inaugural GRC, which took place at the University of Birmingham, are now online as well.

Details of the 2009 GRC and the papers from the 2008 GRC can all be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/GradResearch.htm>

2nd U21 HR group virtual meeting

Following a successful and useful inaugural teleconference for the U21 HR group members, a second teleconference is provisionally set for Tuesday 2 June 2009 at 8:00pm (BST). The group's web pages can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/HRgroup.html> and new members are welcome. Contact Maureen Hickey at University College Dublin for further information (maureen@ucd.ie)

Successful Heads of Administration Meeting

The fifth U21 Heads of Administration meeting took place at Fudan University last month. Representatives of ten U21 universities gathered to discuss key themes including planning in times of uncertainty; sustainability in our universities (with particular reference to student support); staffing issues; developments and trends in institutional governance; and increasing the efficiency of support services.

Details of the meeting's proceedings can be found on the Heads of Administration web pages at <http://www.universitas21.com/AdminHeads/Reports.html>

Professor John Casteen named Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Three University of Virginia faculty members and President John Casteen are among 229 new fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, one of the USA's most prestigious honorary societies and a centre for independent policy research. Alongside Professor Casteen, the faculty members are Kenneth Abraham, David and Mary Harrison Distinguished Professor of Law; Judy S. DeLoache, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Psychology; and Timothy Wilson, Sherrell J. Aston Professor of Psychology.

The academy was established in 1780 by some of America's founders, including John Adams and John Hancock. Since then, it has elected as members some of the most prestigious and influential leaders of their day, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the 19th century, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the 20th century. The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners.

The full press release can be read at <http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=8397>

New Graduate School Dean at Queensland

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland has recently announced that Professor Zlatko Skrbis has been appointed Dean of the UQ Graduate School. Professor Skrbis is currently Deputy Head of the School of Social Science. He joined UQ in 2001 from the Queensland University of Technology, having gained his PhD from Flinders University as an IPRS scholar.

Professor Skrbis is a sociologist with an international reputation in the fields of migration, nationalism and social theory. He has been Vice-President of The Australian Sociological Association and is currently Vice-President of the ISA Research Committee on Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations.

We look forward to welcoming him to the U21 Deans & Directors of Graduate Studies group.

<http://www.universitas21.com/DDOGS.html>

Birmingham offers scholarships for life sciences graduate researchers

The University of Birmingham College of Life and Environmental Sciences is offering up to twenty-five £12,000 PhD scholarships exclusively for alumni of *Universitas 21* universities. Scholarships at Doctoral level will commence in October 2009 and will be available for twenty-five international students in a wide range of research disciplines in Biosciences; Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences; Psychology and Sport & Exercise Sciences,

Awards will be paid as a £12,000 maintenance grant (£4,000 per year for 3 years). Applications are open to graduates of U21 universities who are classified as 'international' for UK fee purposes. Students who have already secured full fee and maintenance support from other sources will still be eligible to apply. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, and are tenable for three years only.

<http://www.postgraduate.bham.ac.uk/scholarships/les/u21.shtml>

BMEplanet – networking opportunity for bioengineers

BMEplanet is a consortium of nearly 200 worldwide universities, corporations, non-profit societies, and government organizations with bioengineering interests and U21 members are very welcome to join!

This collaborative network aims to provide real-life education of new talent for the bioengineering workforce and enhanced translation of new bioengineering knowledge to products and services through two primary focus areas: upstream innovation and globally distributed design with multiple university-based hubs. Essentially, BMEplanet will be a social networking web site offering interactive tools to bioengineers around the world, including ways to post/search corporate internships; create “collaborative project workspaces” for file-sharing/blogging student design or other multi-institutional projects; and facilitate tech transfer by sharing discoveries and design challenges. The person-to-person links that will emerge through this “one-stop-shop” for bioengineering will raise the fabric of our field, giving rise to increased productivity and improved human health.

Please contact Dr Erwin Gianchandani, Director of Innovation Networking, in the University of Virginia's Office of the Vice President for Research for further information or to sign up your university/BME department today: erwin@virginia.edu or +1 (434) 243-0890.

U21 in ACA handbook

A new publication by the Academic Co-operation Association, the Handbook of International Associations in Higher Education, presents one hundred higher education associations from various continents as well as their global counterparts, including *Universitas 21*.

A visible sign of the growing co-operation in higher education world-wide is the increasing number of associations, consortia and networks in the field. Their aims, history and activities, however, are less tangible for outsiders. Why were they founded? Who and where are their members? How can they be contacted? What do they do? The publication seeks to showcase the interrelation among the various networks and, by doing so, to provide information for future co-operation, partnerships and true networking.

The publication is supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation through the ASEM Education Hub (AEH). The book can only be ordered through the ACA Secretariat at info@aca-secretariat.be

Summer School sets up participant for further international work

A student who attended last year's U21 Summer School enjoyed his taste of international collaboration and is now looking forward to a second global experience. Max Harris from the University of Auckland has been selected to participate in the 39th St Gallen Symposium in Switzerland this month. Max, a fourth-year BA/LLB(Hons) student, will join Zoe Wilson, another Auckland student, who is studying for a PhD in organic chemistry, at the exclusive annual event.

Held at the University of St Gallen, the symposium brings together entrepreneurs, top managers, politicians, academics, decision-makers and students. They discuss key issues in management, the entrepreneurial environment, and the interfaces between business, politics and civil society with *Revival of political and economic boundaries* as their theme this year. “*I shall be doing my best to offer a legal perspective,*” says Max, “*as well as a perspective grounded in political studies, my major in my Arts degree.*”

We wish him well in this exciting opportunity.

U21 Global online conference

U21Global invites academics, researchers, practitioners and students to submit original contributions on the theme *Organizations and the interactive Web* for its First Virtual conference on Business and Management – 2009 (VCOBAM 2009).

The conference will take place from 22-23 September 2009 and the deadline for full papers submissions 29 May 2009. Registration for the conference is free.

Submissions may focus on, but are not limited to the following topics: Changing forms of organizations; Business applications of web x.0; Managing various functional aspects of web based business such as finance, human behaviour, information, marketing, operations, quality and strategy; Managing virtual teams; Social Networking as a management tool; Use of blogs, wikis and vodcasts as effective training and development tools; Economics of the interactive web; Quality Management in online learning and business management; Risk Management and business continuity planning.

The complete call for papers is available at http://www.u21global.edu.sg/vcobam/vcobam_cfp.pdf. For individual queries, please contact vcobam@u21global.edu.sg

First U21G/Mastercard scholarship graduates

Mastercard Worldwide and U21Global recently announced that six pioneering Filipinas from the inaugural list of recipients of the MasterCard-U21Global Scholarship Programme for Women in Travel and Tourism have successfully completed their post graduate study. The programme aims to empower women professionals to realize their full potential. In its launch in 2006, women from the Philippines made a mark by receiving the highest proportion of the 20 full scholarships awarded by MasterCard Worldwide and U21Global. Regarded as part of the next wave of leaders in the country's travel and tourism industry, the women were selected from numerous accomplished applicants across the Asia Pacific region. Now in its fourth year, the MasterCard Worldwide and U21Global scholarship programme is a continuing endeavor that advocates female empowerment through education and the development of the travel and tourism landscape.

Any more news?

Issue 15 of the *Universitas 21* newsletter will be published in June. If you have any news, stories, fellowship/scholarship travel reports or photos from events around the network which may be of interest to other U21 colleagues, please send them to Clare Noakes at the U21 Secretariat (c.e.noakes@bham.ac.uk). The deadline for any submissions is Wednesday 10 June. Previous editions of the newsletter can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/newsletters.html>

Swine Flu

We would like to send our best wishes to all those who are suffering the effects of the outbreak of Swine Flu around the world. In particular, we send our support to colleagues at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico, who have been most severely hit through preventative closures of campuses and buildings and who are battling to keep the spread of the virus under control.