

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

This month's headlines

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Report of Delhi series of meetings

The Annual Network Meeting took place on 30 April in Delhi and members looked at refining further our strategic direction. Particular emphasis was placed on issues of teaching and learning in a research intensive environment, enhancing the student experience to promote 'global citizenship' and sharing/developing best practices through benchmarking and other activities.

During the same series of meetings, the University of Delhi also organised a thought-provoking symposium, a report of which will appear in a future edition of the newsletter.

Change of leadership

At the AGM of *Universitas 21*, also held in Delhi on 30 April, John Casteen stepped down as Chair after 3 years in the post. Professor Casteen retires as President of the University of Virginia at the end of July 2010. His successor as network Chair is Professor Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. The newly elected Deputy Chair is Professor Yuliang Yang, President of Fudan University, who will be the first person from Asia to take a major leadership role in the network.

Two new members admitted to the network

Two new members were admitted to the network at the Delhi network meeting: the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the University of Connecticut (UConn). UvA is a member of the League of European Research Universities and is welcomed as a good strategic fit with the network. The admission of UConn strengthens the North American membership of the network, and brings their expertise in strategically important areas such as food security, water and sustainability.

More information about these two universities will be added to the U21 website in the near future. For more information about UvA visit www.english.uva.nl/. For more information about UConn visit www.uconn.edu/.

Delhi Accord on student mobility signed

The network has adopted a new agreement to further foster student mobility. The Delhi Accord builds on the developments of the Shanghai Declaration on Student Mobility of 2005, and supersedes it. The Accord re-affirms the network's commitment to student mobility and builds on the successes achieved since 2005. It recognises the continued support from the

network and each member university to those who enhance the quality of the university experience through student mobility programmes and activities and who foster innovative approaches to traditional mobility initiatives and develop additional mobility initiatives.

The Delhi Accord was signed by representatives of the 23 members of *Universitas 21* on 30 April 2010. The full document may be viewed at <http://www.universitas21.com/Delhi%20Accord%20signed.pdf>

U21 Digital Humanities Conference – call for abstracts and registrations

We are pleased to announce the second *Universitas 21* Digital Humanities conference to be held at the University of Birmingham from 15th to 17th September 2010. Culture and Heritage is a core research theme for many U21 institutions and the application of technology within the Arts is a strategic issue for the group and central to the development of our disciplines. To support initiatives associated with digital heritage U21 sponsored, initially, a workshop in Virginia aimed at defining shared interests and mutual development opportunities for U21 partners. The meeting on "Digital Humanities" at Virginia was extremely successful, demonstrating that our institutions were enthusiastic for collaboration, and break-out groups at Virginia identified a need to establish a formal U21 grouping related to Culture, Heritage and Technology.

The University of Birmingham invites U21 members to travel to Birmingham and participate in a conference on the theme of "Cultural Heritage and Technology". The conference will be organised around the general themes of Objects, Environment, Text and Behaviour. The Birmingham meeting aims to create a step change in links between U21 Arts groups, and representatives will also be invited to discuss and develop the actions identified in Virginia. These include;

- Formalisation of a U21 Network for "Cultural Heritage And Technology" (CHAT).
- Opportunities provided by a U21 Digital Heritage educational network and shared resources and teaching activities.
- The potential for collaborative U21 research projects on Digital Heritage themes and the opportunities for joint research funding.

Colleagues are invited to Birmingham to present papers or to attend the conference as a delegate and explore the opportunities for collaboration with U21 partners. The conference will have a full social itinerary including field trips to sites of interest in the region.

Registration is now open. Please go to the conference website for more information, including a provisional programme, at:
http://www.international.bham.ac.uk/partnerships/u21/Heritage_Conference.shtml.

Those wishing to present a paper associated with the Digital Heritage theme should send an abstract of up to 250 words by July 16, 2010 to: u21registration@contacts.bham.ac.uk. Please include a title and the author/s name, email contact and affiliation. Please also nominate the themes your paper most closely addresses.

U21 Marketing and PR Forum

The next U21 Marketing & PR Forum will take place on the afternoon of 21 June at Swire Lounge of the Robert Black College, The University of Hong Kong. This has been timed to coincide with the World 100 conference in Hong Kong.

Nine institutions have already confirmed their attendance, but it is not too late for others to join. They should drop an email to the organiser, John Cavani, Head of Marketing at the

University of Edinburgh via shireen.jawas@ed.ac.uk .

Research Leaders to meet in Nottingham

June 1st will see those responsible for developing institutional research strategies meeting in Nottingham for three days of collaboration. These leaders have many titles, including PVC, DVC or Vice Principal, but all are responsible for overseeing research management matters at institutional level. Colleagues who are interested in attending this meeting and discussing league table development and the support of Early Career Researchers further are more than welcome – details of the meeting are available on our website at www.universitas21.com/event/100601PVCres.html or from Professor Bob Webb at the University of Nottingham (via Marilyn.Prentice@nottingham.ac.uk or Sheila.Northover@nottingham.ac.uk).

Birmingham U21 Masters scholarship

The University of Birmingham is offering a scholarship of £10,000 for graduates of U21 institutions wishing to come to Birmingham to study on a one-year taught Masters programme. Applicants must be registered as overseas for fees purposes and be in their final year of a bachelors degree programme at a U21 institution or have graduated from such a programme within the last five years. Scholarships are awarded in recognition of academic excellence. Closing date for applications is 28th May 2010.

Further information and application forms can be found at <http://www.international.bham.ac.uk/partnerships/u21/fundingstudents.shtml#qe2>

U21 student awarded top medal

Jiangyu Zou, a double-degree student in the Fudan-Birmingham programme has been awarded the Sir William Siemens Medal. Siemens UK awards the medal – named after its founder - and a cheque for £300 to the top science and technology students from 18 leading UK universities each year, to encourage the study of science and technology among today's young people.

During his first two years of university, Jiangyu studied at Fudan University. He joined the University of Birmingham as a direct entry final year student to the Computer Systems Engineering degree programme in September, 2009. Since Jiangyu joined Birmingham University, he has been very active with extra-curriculum work, where he has further developed his academic and business entrepreneurial skills. He participated in the Enterprise Skill Series Programme and got a certificate for excellent performance in that programme. Currently he continues his excellent academic work for the final year of the degree at Birmingham and his tutors expect him to achieve a first class degree.