

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

Headlines

(scroll down to read the full story)

Graduate Research Conference registration open

Teaching & Learning Conference registration open

Food Security Workshop

First U21 e-boook published this month

Marty Kreiswirth of McGill appointed President of NAGS

Peter Brooks leaves UQ

Historical Crossroads Conference at Auckland

UCD wins funding to tackle challenges in global sustainable development

U21G graduations

U21 Newsletter, Issue 15, now online

Graduate Research Conference registration open

Registration for the 2009 Graduate Research Conference is now open.

The conference builds on the highly successful inaugural GRC held in Birmingham in July 2008. Globally, economies are facing challenges to future sustainability and are investing in strategies to mitigate and adapt to the potential of new climatic realities. People are increasingly moving into urban areas, placing stress on transport and other basic infrastructure. Australia provides an excellent 'laboratory' to review the future sustainability of cities, with climate scientists suggesting it will be one of the first countries to be impacted by climate change. The conference will explore issues of sustainability of cities including: energy; water; the built environment; cultural, historical and social issues; human health; transport and the natural environment.

The conference begins in Melbourne on Sunday 29 November and delegates will be flown to Brisbane on Wednesday 2 December. The conference concludes with dinner in Brisbane on 5 December 2009. All U21 graduate students with an academic/research interest in the sustainability of cities and associated themes are welcome, although the number of participants will be limited to 60 graduate students. The conference fee is AUD\$1,000, which includes the cost of accommodation, local travel (including airfares between the Melbourne and Brisbane venues), and meals.

U21 universities will have their own ways of selection for this conference, so interested students should contact their Deans of Graduate Studies (or equivalent) or International Office.

Further details can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/GRC2009.html>

Teaching & Learning Conference registration open

Registration is now open for the U21 Teaching & Learning Conference entitled *Teaching and Learning for Employability in a Global Economy* to be held at the University of Nottingham's Ningbo Campus in China on 12-13 November.

The primary aims of this second conference are:

- To bring together the institutional leaders in teaching, learning and academic development across the U21 network

- To discuss issues of common interest, focusing both on employability (the main theme) as well as providing an opportunity for follow-up discussions on issues raised during the first conference
- To highlight opportunities for collaboration in teaching and research
- To encourage the development of peer networks across the U21 institutions, thus providing engagement opportunities for networks relating to teaching and learning and careers.

The conference will offer an opportunity for colleagues in U21 institutions to share issues, experiences and solutions in relation to enhancing the student experience, with a particular focus on employability and the engagement of students in becoming part of an academic learning community. It will help to identify strategies that enhance employability with a particular focus on the international dimension of the student experience. Finally, it seeks to build on the Glasgow conference outcomes by identifying opportunities for collaboration and the sharing of best practice in relation to curriculum development and the student experience in internationally oriented research intensive universities.

Due to popular demand, the deadline for papers for this conference has been extended to 12 July 2009.

Further details and the registration form can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/091112TandLConference2.html>

Food Security Workshop

Plans are well under way for U21's Food Security Workshop, to be held at the University of Edinburgh from 4 to 5 November 2009.

The aim of the workshop is to provide a platform for a meaningful and focused discussion between Food Security experts in the U21 network and those in U21's key partner institutions in the Global South. The workshop will set the agenda for collaboration in teaching and research between U21 institutions and the Global South around Food Security themes for the next five years. Most significantly, the workshop will allow U21's developing world partner institutions to define the collaborative mechanisms which work best for them and which address their specific needs. By involving national and international aid agencies as well as NGOs, the workshop will facilitate a four-way discussion which will lead to greater efficiency, faster outcomes and more focused collaboration.

As part of their endorsement of the U21 Food Security proposal at the Annual Network Meeting, the U21 Presidents agreed to sponsor the participation in the workshop of a minimum of two researchers, one of whom should ideally be an established Principal Investigator and the other an early-career researcher, from each of their institutions. In addition, each U21 member institution has agreed to sponsor the participation of one researcher from a partner university in the developing world. U21 members who wish to do so are of course welcome to send additional representatives to the workshop. Invitations to attend the workshop will also be extended to the national development agencies of the countries represented in the U21 network, NGOs and international research funding agencies.

Further details can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/091104FSW.html> and registration will open in the coming weeks.

First U21 e-book published this month

On 15 July the first in a series of innovative U21 e-books on global themes and issues at <http://www.u21onlinebooks.com/> will be published by Melbourne University Press.

The first e-book, *Global Cities/Local Sites*, edited by Will Straw (McGill) and Douglas Tallack (Leicester and formerly Nottingham) is a multi-media collection of essays on seven world cities in which key global issues - flows of information, images, people and products - are explored through the analysis of local sites. These issues include new forms of social and cultural mix, new urban projects (often re-workings of historical locations), new forms of urban practice in public space, and new or stubbornly traditional but subtly re-configured discursive formations.

This series of multi-media books is written and designed specifically for electronic delivery. *Global Cities/Local Sites* goes well beyond the simple digitizing of text to maximise the potential of permeable boundaries to the book, thereby bringing together argument and archive, and encouraging greater collaborative research. And, of course, an electronic medium also permits inclusion of video, still-images and audio, with the aim of integrating image and analysis more effectively.

The subsequent books in the series are scheduled for publication in 2010.

Marty Kreiswirth of McGill appointed President of NAGS

Marty Kreiswirth, Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at McGill and active member of the U21 Deans & Directors of Graduate Studies group has been appointed President of the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS), one of four regional affiliates of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in North America. Founded in 1975, NAGS draws institutional membership from the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, D.C., and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. There are approximately 140 member institutions.

Peter Brooks leaves UQ

Professor Peter Brooks, Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Dean at the University of Queensland and key player in the U21 Health Sciences group stepped down from the role at the end of June. Under his leadership at UQ, the Health Sciences Faculty has developed a vibrant network of young researchers and academics focused on key and emerging fields. *"He has advocated strongly for research development in important areas like telehealth, preventive health, veterans health, Indigenous health, and clinical research to help bring laboratory discoveries more quickly to the patient bedside as treatments,"* Professor Greenfield, Vice-Chancellor of UQ said.

Professor Brooks was instrumental in setting up the link between *Universitas 21* and the Swinfen Charitable Trust, enabling U21's Health Sciences group to work closely with the Trust to develop telemedicine initiatives in developing and war-torn nations.

We wish him well in his future endeavours.

Historical Crossroads Conference at Auckland

The University of Auckland is hosting an interdisciplinary conference from 18 to 20 February 2010, which proposes to offer a framework for the ongoing debate concerning Spain's political, moral and cultural legacy, with particular reference to the historical intersections that have defined the country's trajectory from the Second Republic through to becoming a leading European nation.

Scholars and graduate students are invited to submit proposals for papers and panels engaging with the Second Republic, the Spanish Civil War, the Francoist Régime and Spain's Republican Exile, the Transition to a fully-fledged democracy, and Spain as a European nation in the 21st century through the broad areas of Cultural Studies, Film Studies, Fine Arts, History, Literature, Philosophy, Politics and Sociology.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 October 2009, with official notification of acceptance by 1 December 2009.

Log on to <http://www.historicalcrossroads.auckland.ac.nz> for further information.

UCD wins funding to tackle challenges in global sustainable development

University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin, in partnership with the University of Rwanda, Trócaire, the Ethical Globalisation Initiative, and Kimmage Development Centre, have been awarded US\$900,000 by the

MacArthur Foundation, one of the largest independent foundations in the United States, to establish Ireland as the European Hub for the provision of Development Practice Education and Training.

The award is part of an \$8 million worldwide initiative by the MacArthur Foundation to tackle the challenges in global sustainable development. The joint Irish entry was selected from more than 70 proposals worldwide. The award will be used to create a joint UCD - TCD Masters Degree in Development Practice which will train the next generation of development experts and provide them with the knowledge and skills required to tackle the challenges of global poverty and environmental sustainability.

Professor Paul Walsh, UCD School of Politics & International Relations, an expert in International Development Studies and chair of the new initiative commended "*Being chosen to receive this award allows Ireland to play a critical role in training the next generation of development practitioners in a global classroom.*"

Professor Walsh played a significant role in developing the 2008 U21 Symposium and is also working with colleagues around the network on the Food Sustainability Workshop mentioned earlier.

The full press release about the award of this funding can be read at http://www.ucd.ie/news/2009/07JUL09/010709_macarthur.html

U21G graduations

U21Global announced its third cohort of graduates at the end of June. A ceremony was held in Singapore on 20 June and in Bangalore on 26 June to mark the graduation of 243 students. The graduating class consists of working executives from 29 countries including Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates and United States.

In a congratulatory message to the graduates, Professor Sir Colin Campbell, Chairman of the U21Global Board said, "*It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on gaining your U21Global degree. I know that the education that has been provided towards this degree will stand you in good stead in your future career. Successfully completing a degree is, in itself, worthy of celebration, considering the enormous amount of time and effort that you have spent in studying hard, often late into the night.*"

This year, four students were chosen from the graduating class to receive the Academic Excellence Award, an award that recognises Master degree graduates who not only achieved academic excellence but demonstrated high standards of social responsibility and ethics throughout their degree.

U21 Newsletter, Issue 15, now online

Issue 15 of the Universitas 21 newsletter is now online at <http://www.universitas21.com/newsletters.html>

This edition features articles about the U21 Symposium and Annual Network meeting held in May, reports from various U21 Collaborative Groups, news from around the network and a Back Page Interview with Professor Heung-Suk Choi of Korea University.

Issue 16 will be published in October – if you have any news, articles or photos you would like to be considered for inclusion, please send them to Clare Noakes (c.e.noakes@bham.ac.uk) in the U21 Secretariat by Wednesday 30 September.