

Welcome to the September 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)

Summer School makes a positive environmental impact

Teaching & Learning Conference update

Food Security Workshop

Graduate Research Conference – more details online!

Sustainable City Waterfront Adaptation to Climate Change

Quality Assurance Review at Lund – call for assistance

Busy October

Innovation in Mind

Making ends meet – innovative ways of funding international students

Correction!

Summer School makes a positive environmental impact

The 2009 Summer School took place at the University of Queensland from 13-24 July, with the theme *Climate Change Adaptation*. 107 students and faculty from 17 U21 universities took part, the highest participation rate since the Summer School began in 2004. The activities over the fortnight were many and varied, ranging from presentations and panel sessions, to workshops and group project work. Participants also had the opportunity to take part in field trips to the Gold Coast and Tangalooma Island Resort to study the effects of climate change on site. The Summer School ended with a UN-style assembly, in which the delegates formed 17 small groups, representing various world regions or special interests. Each of these groups identified the major climate changes issues affecting their region or special interest and proposed a series of policy solutions. Delegates then voted on the most important and a designated secretariat (also made up of student delegates) formed these views into a formal 'Charter' setting out a set of national and international level actions which had collective endorsement. The Charter was presented to the Queensland Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, The Hon Kate Jones, and to Senior Executives from the University of Queensland.

Students were also called on to think about their own contributions to addressing climate change and one student, a participant from the University of Birmingham, made online news with his pledge not to travel by air again, despite his parents living in New Zealand.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/2702372/Flying-visit-to-Taranaki-will-be-Michaels-last>

A fuller report from the Summer School will be published in the U21 newsletter, due out next month, as well as on the U21 website.

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

Teaching & Learning Conference update

Registration numbers are steadily rising 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 from 12 to 13 November.

Two of the three guest speakers have now been confirmed, with Richard Brown, former CEO of the Council for Industry and Higher Education in the UK speaking on '*Global Horizons: A Business Perspective*', looking at the ways in which universities and businesses can help more students develop the global awareness that businesses increasingly seek, while Deborah Terry of the University of Queensland will be looking at things from an Australian Perspective.

Papers to be presented cover a broad range of interlinked subjects, including '*Employability: Graduate Training for an International Environment*', '*Development of research type graduate attributes: a sectoral approach*', '*E-portfolios for engagement, empowerment and employability?*' and case studies from Birmingham, Nottingham and Lund.

The registration deadline is 30 October, although delegates are encouraged to register early to be sure of obtaining visas in time to attend!

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

Food Security Workshop

Don't forget to register 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 support 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 and a registration form can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/091104FSW.html>.

U21 Graduate Research Conference

Plans for the 2nd U21 GRC, taking place in Australia from 29 November to 6 December, are continuing apace and further details are now available via the U21 website at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/GRC2009.html>. The conference will be an exciting opportunity for young researchers to visit Australia, discuss their research, network and sample two quite different cities (temperate and sub-tropical).

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 provides an inclusive, multi-disciplinary context to examine the topics listed above. Participants will have the opportunity to present and discuss their own research through oral and poster presentations. Graduate research students from all disciplines are invited to apply.

Registration closes on 30 September 2009. <http://www.universitas21.com/event/GRC2009.html>

Sustainable City Waterfront Adaptation to Climate Change

If you have specialist expertise relevant to Sustainable City Waterfront Adaptation to Climate Change then the Water Futures for Sustainable Cities project team invites you to express an interest in participating in a workshop to develop a co-ordinated, international research programme on this theme. Specialists in water, biodiversity, economics, and policy and decision makers are all very welcome.

The workshop will be looking at key questions such as 'What are the trade-offs between economic development strategies, biodiversity strategies and the need for adaptation to climate change over the next 50-100 years?' and 'What are the key measures of success in adaptation to climate change?'. It will take place from 12 to 13 January 2010 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Expressions of interest need to be submitted by 3 November 2009 and further details can be found under Theme 6 on the U21 Water Futures for Sustainable Cities web pages. <http://www.universitas21.com/Water/waterprojects.html>

Quality Assurance at Lund University

Colleagues at Lund University are looking at mechanisms for assuring the quality of administrative processes including the following: economy, handling of matters, personnel administration, information and producing annual report. They are interested in making contact with other members who have experience of quality assurance for administrative processes. If anyone is able to help, please contact Maria Wennerström (maria.wennerstrom@rektor.lu.se) in the first instance.

Lund University is also performing an in-depth quality review of undergraduate and postgraduate education. The purpose is to identify markers of quality and success among strong educational programmes and courses in order to improve the overall quality of education at the university. Colleagues at Lund are very interested in finding out about similar projects, performed or planned at other U21 member universities. Please contact the Project Leader, Professor Stefan Lindgren, on Stefan.Lindgren@med.lu.se if you are able to help or want further information.

Busy October for U21

Having seen a relatively quiet July and August, the coming months are increasingly busy around the U21 network, with no fewer than five major events taking place in October and a further three before the end of the year. The third Learning Environment Design Forum takes place at the University of Virginia from 5 to 8 October, looking at ways to transform traditional spaces into innovative learning environments. The following week sees the Annual Meeting of the U21 Health Sciences group, U21's largest Collaborative Group, meeting this year at Korea University from 12 to 16 October. Then the University of Glasgow plays host to three important events – the U21 Undergraduate Research Conference (15-21 October) which has almost 80 undergraduate students attending, followed by the Water Futures for Sustainable Cities steering group meeting (19-20 October) and rounded off by the U21 Managers' Meeting from 22 to 23 October.

Don't forget to check the Events page on our website regularly to keep up-to-date with the forthcoming events around the network, where details of all these meetings and workshops can be found. <http://www.universitas21.com/events.html>

Innovation in Mind

From 15 to 17 September 2009, as part of the European Union's 'Year of Innovation and Creativity', Lund University and partners are hosting one of the year's most important international conferences – INNOVATION IN MIND. By taking new approaches, it aims to illustrate important innovation issues from a global perspective, to create linkages between different areas of knowledge, and to contribute to a better innovation climate. The point of departure is that all innovation begins in human consciousness.

Some of the areas that will come in for special attention are:

- User Driven Innovation – How can users' experiences be effectively implemented in new products and services?
- Open Innovation – Is the R&D Department an antiquated concept? How do companies gain access to the right competence at the right point in the innovation process?
- Social and Financial Innovation – How can we secure the financial resources necessary for innovation, and how can we bring about necessary innovations when we lack the financial resources?

Although not a U21 event, network members are very welcome to take part. Further details can be found at <http://www.innovationinmind.se/index.html>

ACA Seminar: Making ends meet – Innovative ways of funding international students

Across Europe, more countries and their universities are seeking innovative approaches to the financing of international students – a topic intrinsically linked to the funding of higher education per se. Clearly, institutions want to ensure that they can attract high quality students and young researchers in the face of increasing global competition. But are fees and scholarships the only way to do it? Are there other options? What are the legal frameworks? All these questions require higher education professionals to understand both the policy and marketing context.

A European Policy Seminar by the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA), co-organised by the Swedish Institute (SI) and hosted by the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), on 15 October 2009 will provide case studies from countries and universities across Europe so that delegates might:

- Explore the financing of international students, based on case studies from a number of countries and universities;
- Understand the context of setting appropriate fee levels to attract quality international students and young researchers;
- Review the strategic potential to use scholarships at both national and institutional levels;
- Examine innovative and new modes of financing.

Further details can be found at <http://www.aca-secretariat.be/08events/Seminars/Seminars%202009/funding.htm>

Although not a U21 event, we have been asked to bring this to the attention of our members, as international students are an important part of all U21 universities.

Correction!

In our last ebulletin we congratulated Marty Kreiswirth on his appointment as President of the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools. Unfortunately we also unintentionally relocated him in the process – Marty is, of course, Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at McGill University in Montreal, not the University of British Columbia in Vancouver! Apologies.