

7 December 2009

Welcome to the December 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)

[Two successful U21 conferences](#)

[U21 makes Academic Impact](#)

[Research Universities in the Region - call for collaboration](#)

[Second U21 Digital Humanities Conference](#)

[Edinburgh wins award for Outstanding International Achievement](#)

[Proposal for a U21 Health Services Research Network](#)

[FINE newsletter](#)

[U21 Conference on Wellbeing reaps rewards](#)

[New DVC International at Queensland](#)

[Festive Greetings from the Secretariat!](#)

[Two successful U21 conferences](#)

November saw two very successful conferences for *Universitas 21*. The month started with the U21 Food Security Workshop, gathering academics and practitioners in the field of food security from U21 institutions, funding bodies and, importantly, representatives from universities in the Global South. A diverse mix of universities and disciplines were represented, leading to some lively and fruitful discussion. As a result of this collaboration, a number of funding bids will be submitted to take work in this area forward. A full report from the conference will appear on the website shortly.

The following week, the U21 Teaching & Learning Conference *Employability in a Global Economy* took place at the University of Nottingham's Ningbo campus in China. Twelve U21 universities participated, with a range of delegates from Registrars and PVC T&L to Student Union representatives, which led to a number of interesting and thought-provoking discussions. There were some excellent presentations and papers, and the three keynote speakers gave delegates some new perspectives to consider. Slides from all the presentations can be found on the U21 website. A Teaching & Learning collaborative group is currently being formed to enable the group to investigate a number of themes that arose at the conference and details on this group's plans and activities will be online in the coming months.

<http://www.universitas21.com/pastevent/tandlconference09.html>

[U21 makes Academic Impact](#)

Universitas 21 has recently announced its commitment to and participation in the United Nations' Academic Impact initiative, which has been developed this year. Academic Impact is a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution.

Following previous collaboration with the UN on matters relating to the Millennium Development Goals, *Universitas 21* was invited to become a partner in this initiative, showing recognition by the UN of the important work a network like U21 can achieve on a global scale. U21 is the first trans-continental organisation to join this UN initiative and fully supports the key tenants of the initiative, in particular the commitment to use education as an engine for addressing global problems.

A full press release can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/AcademicImpact.html>

Research Universities in the Region - call for collaboration

The Universities of Auckland, Glasgow and Melbourne are working together to establish a U21 collaborative group of academics within the fields of Lifelong Learning, Regional Development and cognate disciplines to share strategic vision, best practice and engage in benchmarking activities.

The focus will be on effective knowledge transfer, 3rd mission activities, and other engagements that contribute to regional development and to the success of our institutions. This work will build on the work of PASCAL Observatory, a consortium with regional government and university members and strong links with the OECD (<http://www.obs-pascal.com>).

In addition to the proposing universities, interest in involvement has already been expressed by UBC and Lund and the groups wishes to establish contact with counterparts in other U21 universities. In order to establish the grouping there will be an international meeting in Melbourne from 11 to 12 March 2010 for both the initiating core group and other interested U21 institutions to undertake preliminary talks and agree a work plan. We provisionally envisage organising two further virtual seminars, guidance on mapping and benchmarking tools, and an analysis of the regional role for U21 institutions.

Further information and a registration form can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/event/100311UniRegions.html> .

Second U21 Digital Humanities Conference

We are delighted to announce the second U21 conference on Digital Humanities - Cultural Heritage and Technology, to be held at the University of Birmingham during 2010. The meeting follows the extremely successful Digital Humanities conference hosted at Virginia during 2008. During that meeting the participants proposed the creation of a U21 network for Cultural Heritage and Technology (CHAT) which would provide a platform for the development of Culture and Heritage as a core research and teaching area for the U21 group. The group will promote the application of technology within these areas and the 2010 meeting will aim to define the potential for cross-institutional culture and heritage development including formal structures supporting shared teaching, educational resources and the opportunities for externally-funded research projects.

Participants will have the opportunity to present and discuss their own work in a multi-disciplinary context through oral and poster presentations. Coinciding with the conference, the city of Birmingham will be hosting the high-profile annual British Science Festival, with hundreds of events taking place at a variety of venues across the city and the region, from libraries and museums to shopping centres and bars. Events will include debates, talks, workshops, exhibitions and field trips, many of which with direct relevance to the conference topic.

Further details will follow soon.

Edinburgh wins award for Outstanding International Achievement

The University of Edinburgh has won the 2009 Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) Award for 'Outstanding International Achievement in Scotland's Universities'. The award is presented to a Scottish University which has demonstrated a strong international focus with emphasis on transnational projects, overseas links, student recruitment and international student support.

Edinburgh's submission was based on their new Internationalisation Strategy and highlighted its strong track record on international student support, recruitment and student exchange. The award was presented to Professor Hillier, Vice Principal (International) by the Chairman of Scottish Enterprise at the SCDI annual dinner in late November. The SCDI annual awards are acknowledged as the national benchmark for international achievement, enterprise and innovation across the Scottish economy.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/about/edinburgh-global/news-features/2009/int-award-111109>

Proposal for a U21 Health Services Research Network

The University of Birmingham is hosting the 7th Biennial International Conference in Organisational Behaviour in Health Care from 11th-14th April 2010. At this event we will be welcoming a number of international delegates who have an interest not only in organisational behaviour in health care research, but also in health services management and health services research more widely. We are interested in using this event to test whether a U21 health services research network would be a helpful addition to the U21 health sciences group which already exists. Such a health services research network would bring together individuals from U21 partners with an interest in the delivery of health care, management of health services, impact of health policies and regulation, evaluation of different modes of health service organisation, allocation of health care resources and other such topics.

We would be interested in hearing from U21 partners about whether this is a proposal that they would be interested in and if so, we would seek to launch this group at the conference over a lunch event. Further details of the conference can be found at (<http://www.hsmc.bham.ac.uk/events/OBHC.shtml>). Please contact Helen Dickinson h.e.dickinson@bham.ac.uk to discuss this or for more information.

FINE newsletter

The Forum for International Networking in Education (FINE) is a student group that seeks to provide education doctoral students opportunities for social and professional networking globally. All education doctoral students and recent graduates from *Universitas 21* universities are automatically members of the group. The November issue of the FINE newsletter is now online, with information about the FINE group, as well as recent FINE activities at two European conferences (EARLI in August and ECER in September), post-doctoral transition advice, lists of upcoming education research conferences and job opportunities, and more.

www.universitas21.com/education/FINE/FINEnews.html

U21 Conference on Wellbeing reaps rewards

In September 2007, Universitas 21 co-hosted a conference with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) entitled Practical tools for making your university a great place to work. As a result of this event, a number of universities came together to discuss opportunities for improving employee wellbeing in higher education. (A report on the conference can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/pastevent/OECDreport.html>)

A proposal by a number of universities, including the University of Birmingham, was made to the UK's Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) Leadership, Governance and Management Fund. This was to carry out a one-year pilot project from October 2008 - 09 to explore the links between staff wellbeing and enhanced organisational performance.

Over the past year, this project aimed to:

- * understand what is being done across the sector in the UK to support staff wellbeing
- * create opportunities for institutions to learn from the experiences of others
- * identify gaps in practice
- * find out how institutions are measuring the success of their wellbeing at work
- * prove that staff wellbeing made a difference.

A report on the project's findings has been published and a full press release and further information can be found at <http://www.universitas21.com/WellbeingProject.html>

New DVC International at Queensland

Dr Anna Ciccarelli has been appointed to the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) at the University of Queensland from 8 March 2010. Dr Ciccarelli is currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International &

Development) at the University of South Australia, a position she has held since 2004. Previously, she was Director, UniSA International. At UniSA, Dr Ciccarelli led and implemented an integrated model of internationalisation at the whole of institution level across eight key result areas including internationalisation of the curriculum and campus and student experience, transnational education and international students onshore, internationalisation of research and research education, student and staff mobility and international alumni. She has also been responsible for the university's marketing and development functions as well as the Art Museum.

We look forward to welcoming her to the U21 network next year.

Festive Greetings from the Secretariat!

This will be our last ebulletin of 2009, so we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy, successful and prosperous 2010!