



Welcome to the June e-bulletin from the UK Physical Sciences Centre, bringing you key information about forthcoming Centre events, news and developments from the Centre and any other related news, every month.

If you have any problems viewing this bulletin, it is also available on the website:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/publications/ebulletin>

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1. FORTHCOMING CENTRE EVENTS

i) External Examiners workshop, 7th June, University of Birmingham

This one-day workshop is offered by the STEM Group of Subject Centres and is aimed at academic staff who have either recently been appointed, or who aspire to becoming an external examiners. It follows on from the similar event held in March 2010, and aims to provide forum for further discussion in light of the recently published UUK Review of External Examining.

The event is therefore offered both as a practical, activity-based workshop where delegates will have the opportunity to experience several external examining scenarios, and also as the opportunity to consider how the role of external examining is likely to develop in the future. Attendees will learn from the practices of experienced examiners in their discipline in addressing those scenarios, and have the benefit to learn about various routes to becoming appointed as an external examiner both currently and in the future.

Delegates will each receive a copy of the Engineering Subject Centre's Teaching Guide on External Examining, which was written by Prof. John Cowan (formerly of Heriot-Watt University) and who be leading the day's programme. He will be supported by established examiners from across the STEM disciplines, who will share their experiences of, and accumulated expertise in, external examining.

Greg Wade from UUK will present on the recently-published Review of External Examining.

For more details, please see the website: <http://www.engsc.ac.uk/events/external-examiners-workshop>



2. FORTHCOMING CENTRE CONFERENCES

i) Forrest Conference 2011, 29th - 30th June 2011, Nottingham Trent University

The FORREST Conference is aimed at promoting and developing links between Higher Education and forensic science research. The conference will showcase some of the latest developments in forensic research and the teaching of the subject.

The provisional programme is now available and can be viewed on the website:

http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/forrest/day_1

Online registration is now closed. If you are interested in attending the conference, please email the Centre, psc@hull.ac.uk.

ii) Variety in Chemistry Education Conference (ViCE), 1st – 2nd September 2011, University of York

Variety in Chemistry Education is one of the major chemistry education conferences for Higher Education. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas related to the learning of chemistry at degree level, the sharing of good practice and innovation and the dissemination of the outcomes of pedagogic research as they relate to chemistry at university level.

The deadline for offers of workshops and oral presentations has been extended until **Friday 3rd June**. The deadline for registration is **1st July 2011**. Further details and online registration is available on our website:

http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/2011/vice_2011

iii) Physics Higher Education Conference (PHEC), 8th - 9th September 2011, Lancaster University

The Physics Higher Education Conference provides opportunities to share approaches that enhance the student learning experience in physics and support a wide range of student backgrounds. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas related to the learning of physics at degree level, the sharing of good practice and innovation, and the dissemination of the outcomes of pedagogic research as they relate to physics at university level.

The deadline for offers of workshops and oral presentations has been extended until **Friday 3rd June**. The deadline for registration is **1st July 2011**. Further details and online registration is available on our website:

http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/2011/phec_2011

3. OTHER EVENTS

i) Problem Based Learning Summer Workshop: Dynamic PBL, 18 – 20th July 2011, University of Leicester

The PBL Workshop, now in its ninth year, is supported by piCETL, the Physics Innovations Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Leicester. We aim to provide a supportive environment for delegates interested in developing PBL either from scratch as newcomers, or for experienced users wishing to refresh and extend existing programmes. We provide hands-on experience of all aspects of PBL and a forum for the discussion of issues of implementation in a relaxed environment. There is an opportunity for participants to present their experiences of PBL or the new developments they are working on and to receive feedback and advice.

For details of how to register, please see the website:

<http://physics.le.ac.uk/PBLSummerSchool2011/index.html>