



CENTRE FOR

bioscience



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Welcome!

Centre for Bioscience update July 2008

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Centre News

Congratulations! ...

To the two bioscience recipients of National Teaching Fellowships: Annette Cashmore (University of Leicester) and Julian Park (University of Reading and part-time with the Centre for Bioscience). They join a growing list of bioscientists who have been recognised for their learning and teaching: www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/recognition/ntf.aspx

Details of the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme and a complete list of this year's recipients are available from

www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/professional/ntfs/individual/2008

Volume 11 of the new look Bioscience Education

We are pleased to announce the formal publication of Volume 11 of Bioscience Education. Regular readers will notice a new look to the journal from today. The format of individual articles remains largely unchanged but the journal now includes 'Why Publish in Bioscience Education', and information on article types, the review process and instructions for authors has been updated and rewritten. We have incorporated a more prominent search facility and additional features such as 'email a friend' and 'bookmark and share'. We hope readers will find navigation around the site easier and more intuitive, and prospective authors and reviewers will find it easier to identify the information they require. We would love to hear what you think about the journal and our new look; please send your comments to beej@leeds.ac.uk

Articles in this issue include:

- Student Learning Networks on Residential Field Courses: Does Size Matter?
- The Student View of 1st year Laboratory Work in the Biosciences – Score Gamma?
- Students' attitudes to and usage of academic feedback provided via audio files
- Computer-Assisted and Peer Assessment: A Combined Approach to Assessing First Year Laboratory Practical Classes for Large Numbers of Students
- Investigating the Impact on Skill Development of an Undergraduate Scientific Research Skills Course
- Molecular Biology Masterclasses – Developing Practical Skills and Building Links with Higher Education in Years 12/13
- Web 2.0: Unlearned Lessons from Previous Virtual Learning Environments
- Using Peer Teaching to Support Co-operative Learning in Undergraduate Pharmacology

- Student Perceptions of Social Learning Space: Designing and Implementing a Co-operative Assessment Task in Pharmacology

All articles, short communications and reviews for Volume 11 and previous Volumes are freely available online:

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/journal/vol11/

To receive email notification of publication of articles why not sign up via the journal website for our eTOC updates or subscribe to our RSS feed.

Bulletin Number 24 out now

Articles in this issue include:

- Turning students into bioscientists: teaching the scientific method
- The industrial placement year: a student perspective
- No cost technologies to support learning and teaching
- Is there value in reflecting?

Feedback on any of the articles or the Bulletin in general? Please get in touch!

Bulletins are disseminated to all Centre contacts and also via the Reps network. If you have a colleague you think would be interested in receiving a regular copy of the Bulletin (and indeed these electronic updates) please encourage them to join the Centre for Bioscience network. It's free! www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/network/joinreg.aspx

We're recruiting Bioscience Reps

Bioscience Representatives are members of the bioscience Higher Education community who have agreed to act as a contact point and a representative for their department or school with the Centre for Bioscience. As part of their role Reps:

- Let us know what is important to them and their colleagues in learning and teaching
- Encourage their colleagues to interact with the Centre
- Disseminate information about Centre activities, such as events and funding

If your department doesn't already have a Rep, perhaps you would be interested in volunteering? For more information on what the role involves or to view our current list of Reps, please go to www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/network/repabout.aspx

Normal service is resumed

Our apologies to anyone who tried and was unable to access our website late Friday afternoon or over the weekend. The problem was caused by a power surge in Leeds. Normal energy levels (and website service) have now resumed!

Centre Events

Opportunities to discuss aspects of learning and teaching with like-minded colleagues from across the UK.

Student research in the biosciences

Wednesday 22nd October, Nottingham

In autumn 2008 the Centre for Bioscience will publish a learning and teaching practice guide on final year projects in the biosciences; the third in our Teaching Bioscience: Enhancing Learning series. During the morning delegates will have the opportunity to hear from its author, Martin Luck (University of Nottingham) and several bioscience case study contributors. The afternoon will cover broader aspects of final year projects and student research. Attendees are encouraged to offer contributions for the practice 'swapshop'. There

is no charge for attendance but anyone wishing to attend needs to register in advance. Please register online at: www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/bioevents.aspx

Call for papers for Science Learning and Teaching Conference 2009

The 3rd Science Learning and Teaching Conference will take place on the 16th and 17th June 2009 at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

Offers of contributions are invited for presentations (15 mins), interactive presentations (30 mins), workshops (90 mins) and posters. For more information please visit the new Science Learning and Teaching Conference website at www.slhc.info

Online abstract submission will be available soon. If you have any questions please contact the conference team on slhc@leeds.ac.uk

Details of additional events for autumn 2008 and spring 2009 will be available shortly.

[News from the HE Learning and Teaching Community](#)

TechDis HEAT 3 – applications invited

The HEAT (Higher Education Assistive Technology) scheme from TechDis offers funding to investigate innovative learning approaches using technology to assist student learning. HEAT aims to raise awareness of the potential of assistive technologies to enhance the student learning experience and explore good or innovative practice that can be achieved with a small amount of technology provision. The success rate for bioscience applications in previous rounds is 100% ! HEAT3 is now open and funding of up to £2150 is available per project. For further details and an application form please see:

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/disability/heat3.aspx

Deadline for applications: 15 July 2008

2008 HE in FE Teaching Award Scheme: Nominations Now Open

The STEM Subject Centre HE in FE Teaching Award provides an opportunity for lecturers in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics delivering Higher Nationals, Foundation Degrees and other undergraduate programmes in further education colleges to receive national recognition for their outstanding learning and teaching practices, or work in some other way that enhances the student learning experience.

This award, and winner's cheque of £500, is open to both full and part-time staff and is intended to showcase commitment, imagination and innovative ways to inspire students and make their learning relevant. www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/HEinFE/teachingAwards.htm

Jorum to move to open access

Jorum, the UK national repository for learning and teaching materials, funded by JISC, is to offer open educational resources. This will make it easier for lecturers and teaching staff to share and re-use each other's teaching resources. JorumOpen will also provide a showcase for UK universities and colleges on the international stage. Through the development of JorumOpen, lecturers and teachers will be able to share materials under the Creative Commons licence framework: this makes sharing easier, granting users greater rights for use and re-use of online content and easier to understand. Importantly, it does not require prior registration. As a result availability is global as well as across UK universities and FE colleges. JorumOpen will run alongside a 'members only' facility, JorumEducationUK, which will support sharing of material within the UK educational sector only amongst registered users and contributors, as is currently the case. For further information, please go to:

www.jorum.ac.uk/getstarted/index.html

New assessment tool

The Centre for Excellence in Media Practice has been developing an online tool for self and peer assessment, focussed on providing formative feedback for students, and moderation tools for staff, all in a stylish interface with extensive features. This tool is called CASPAR

(Computer Assisted Self and Peer Assessment Ratings). Following a period of testing in house at Bournemouth University, it is now available for other institutions to use. For more information about CASPAR, including registering for either a free trial or an institutional site licence, please visit www.cemp.ac.uk/caspar

Other Items

Call for Contributions from your students

Reinvention: a Journal of Undergraduate Research, is a new, online, peer-reviewed journal, dedicated to the publication of high-quality undergraduate student research from all disciplines and all students. An academic journal for the publication of undergraduate research welcomes submissions from ALL subject areas and ALL undergraduate students. Launch issue and Volume 1, Issue 1 available at

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/reinventionjournal. Please bring the journal to the attention of your students. For further information, please contact Caroline Gibson, Reinvention Journal Manager, at reinventionjournal@warwick.ac.uk

With best wishes from all at the Centre for Bioscience,
heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk