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Welcome!

Centre for Bioscience update August 2008

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Centre News

Congratulations! ...

To our six shortlisted Centre for Bioscience Teaching Award candidates –

Debra Bevitt, Newcastle University
Momna Hejmadi, University of Bath
Mark Huxham, Napier University
Dave Lewis, University of Leeds
Katherine Linehan, University of Sheffield
Jane Saffell, Imperial College London

For more information regarding the Centre's Teaching Awards, please visit
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/recognition/award.aspx

Bioscience Education - the journal gets a new look

We have recently updated the journal section of the website. Bioscience Education now has a more modern look, improved navigation, additional features and is better aligned with the main Centre site. Visit the latest volume and take a look at
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/journal/vol11/ We would love to hear what you think about the journal and our new look; please send your comments to beej@leeds.ac.uk

New Transition, Induction, and Retention web pages

Have you viewed our recent work around the themes of Induction, Retention, and Transition of students in Higher Education Institutions which can be found at
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/themes/itr.aspx Please send any comments to us at heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk

1st year practicals: their role in developing future bioscientists

This report contains a summary of the main points, a list of recommendations, and a number of practicals, from a workshop, arranged by the Centre for Bioscience (with financial support from AstraZeneca and the BBSRC), to discuss the topic of first year undergraduate work in the biosciences. In the coming months the Centre will be working with individuals and organisations to take forward a number of the recommendations from the report. Copies of the report are available (free of charge) from Dr Jackie Wilson (j.j.wilson@leeds.ac.uk) or can be downloaded at www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/themes/practicals.aspx Also, if you are involved in practical teaching and have experience to share or may be interested in working with us in this area, please contact Jackie.

New Lecturers resource folders

The New Lecturers resource pack is intended to complement the largely-generic information delivered in staff development courses. It is produced as a folder so the information can be supplemented with documents you find useful, with time giving a personalised resource of information. This year we have updated the content, adding new sections and new material, including copies of some of our Short Guides, find out more or information on how to order visit www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/resourcepack.aspx

Centre Events

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

Student research in the biosciences

22nd October, Nottingham University, 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. For more information visit: www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/nottsfyp221008.aspx

BSF Education Colloquium: Biology Outreach in Schools National Science Learning Centre

28th October 2008, National Science Learning Centre, York

The Colloquium will focus on outreach and enrichment provision offered to schools and colleges by the biology community. For learned societies and universities, working with schools offers an important opportunity to engage and enthuse the next generation of bioscientists and can be invaluable in recruitment to bioscience degrees. The Colloquium will bring together all of these stakeholders in a mixture of plenary sessions and interactive workshops with a view to identifying what constitutes effective outreach in biology and what is necessary to achieve this. For programme information and to register online via the National Science Learning Centre portal visit: www.slcs.ac.uk/national/natbc0805.

Teaching Ethics to Bioscience Students

16th December, University of Cambridge, Cambridge

This event will provide a further opportunity for colleagues to get together and discuss how best to prepare students to deal with the ethical issues associated with advances in the biosciences and other ethical dilemmas. The programme for the day will focus partly on assessment and will be aimed at teachers with some experience of the teaching of ethics, although, all individuals with an interest in the event are welcome to attend. The event will include a mix of activities, presentations and opportunities for discussion. There is no cost for attendance but advance registration is required. For more information: www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/ethicscam161208.aspx

Differentiated Learning - Stretching Able Students

14th January 2009, University of Bristol, Bristol

Following on from the Centre's recent Differentiated Learning Forum this event will give everyone with an interest in this area the opportunity to share practice and discuss issues surrounding supporting more able students in the biosciences. For more information please visit www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/bristoldl140109.aspx

Assessment Student Learning in Work Placements

22nd January 2009, Queen's University, Belfast

Following from the Centre's Event on Student Work Placements in December 2007, an event has been organized based on the theme of assessing student learning while on work-based placement. Join us for an examination of current practices in the field of work placement assessments. Additional information and registration can be found at

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/belfast220109.aspx

Call for papers for 3rd Science Learning and Teaching Conference 2009

16th and 17th June 2009, 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.sltc.info

Information and details about submitting abstracts online can be found at

www.sltc.info/abstracts.asp. Any questions? Please contact the conference team on sltc@leeds.ac.uk

News from the HE Learning and Teaching Community

Call for proposals for JISC Learning and Teaching Innovation Grants

Deadline: 24th September 2008 12:00

JISC invites institutions to submit funding proposals (one per assessment point) for one year projects of up to £75,000 to undertake work under the second round of its Learning and Teaching Innovation Grants Programme. Please visit

www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2008/04/circular408.aspx

HEFCE consultation on sustainable development within higher education

Deadline: 5th September 2008

HEFCE have published their sustainable development action plan up to 2010/2011 and are inviting responses. The action plan and details on how to respond are available from

www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_18/

Events from the HE Learning and Teaching Community

Outreach in Collaboration II Event

10th - 11th September 2008, CELS, Nottingham Trent University

A cross disciplinary two-day conference to bring together academics and practitioners is showcasing best practice in science outreach and encouraging those who would like to get involved in outreach in order to develop their own programmes and activities. View the programme at: www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/outreachII_sept08

ReLIVE08 Conference

20th – 21st November 2008, Open University Campus, Milton Keynes

The ReLIVE08 Conference will be of interest to anyone researching learning and teaching in virtual world environments such as Second Life. Registration closes 15 September 2008 to find out more: www.open.ac.uk/relive08

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