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> The countdown continues...



Welcome back colleagues!

Not long now until the FACE crowd head to Plymouth University for what is promising to be a fantastic [FACE 2013 Annual Conference](#)! Pleased to confirm that the 'Early Bird' Fees offer has been extended all the way to **Friday 28 June**. But that shouldn't stop you booking your place now - there are limited places, you know!

There is also still time for early career Access / WP practitioners and researchers to also apply for the sponsored place - Deadline extended to **Friday 14 June** and full details [online](#).

In this issue we thought we would look back at some highlights of previous FACE Conferences just to whet your appetite and build the momentum for Plymouth! Of course for some of you 2013 might be your first FACE Conference - so all the more reason to find out what you will be getting yourself into!

Enjoy and see you again in June.

Jamie

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> Professor Hugh Lauder confirmed for FACE 2013!



Professor Hugh Lauder - Professor of Education and Political Economy at the University of Bath - will be giving the opening keynote address to the FACE 2013 Annual Conference. Professor Lauder is co-author of a book called [The Global Auction](#) - a radical rethinking of the ideas that stand at the heart of the American dream. It offers a timely exposé of the realities of the global struggle for middle class jobs, a competition that threatens the livelihoods of millions of American and European workers and their families.

We very much look forward to hearing from Professor Lauder. [[Online profile](#)]

> A look back at three previous FACE Conferences



FACE 2012 Annual Conference | University of Ulster

July 2012 saw FACE colleagues travel to the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland for a fantastic three days. Indeed one delegate commented that the, "*Magee campus in Derry did not disappoint in terms of content, venue and participation.*" Keynotes from the likes of Professor Martin Hall (Salford University), Dr Kerry Hudson (University of Western Sydney) and Dr Duncan Morrow (University of Ulster)

offered truly international insights into widening participation in higher education at a time when financial challenges were very prominent. But it wasn't all about the presentations and keynotes - there were also plenty of social (networking) activities to maintain the interest and hydrate the throat. Who could forget the Mayor's Drinks Reception preceded by a truly fascinating if somewhat emotional tour of the historic city walls of Derry? Memorable for so many reasons! More photos on [Facebook](#) plus highlights on the FACE [website](#).

FACE 2011 Annual Conference | University of Glasgow

In July 2011, we moved to Scotland to the wonderful city of Glasgow. Keynotes were presented by Professor Keith Popple (London South Bank University), Professor Andy Furlong (University of Glasgow) and Paul Manners (National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement). Social highlights included the Civic Drinks Reception at the City Chambers plus the obligatory Ceilidh! One FACE delegate was also treated to a pint of strawberry beer by the FACE Chair, in exchange for purchasing a copy of the new FACE publication...! Happy days. Reports and presentations available on the FACE [website](#).



FACE 2010 Annual Conference | Southampton Solent University

In July 2010, FACE returned to Southampton for the second time (the University hosted the Conference previously but as Southampton Institute). The Vice-Chancellor commented that the Conference provided an excellent opportunity to take stock of five years of excellent work and research in widening participation and collaboration - Aimhigher Hampshire & Isle of Wight were significant partners for this conference. As well as enjoying keynotes from Pat Bacon (Association of Colleges), Sarah Howls (HEFCE), Bev Thomas (DBIS) and Jane Neuburger (NADE), delegates also enjoyed a welcome from the Mayor of Southampton plus a mouth-watering Gala Dinner with unbelievable entertainment from a magician. Artefacts from the Conference available on the FACE [website](#).

> Final Call for Applications from Early Career Access / WP Practitioners or Researchers!



As mentioned previously, FACE is delighted to be able once again to sponsor a full fees paid place at this year's [FACE 2013 Annual Conference](#). This includes all Conference fees and access to the fantastic social programme. Please note that accommodation and travel expenses are not included.

So, if you have been working in the areas of access or widening participation for less than two years you are eligible to apply for this special sponsored place at the [FACE 2013 Annual Conference](#) which takes place at Plymouth University 3 -5 July 2013.

Applicants should submit a title and abstract (250 words maximum) for a conference paper which will be reviewed by a special panel of the FACE Executive. The successful author will be invited to attend the full conference, give a full conference presentation and submit a paper for publication in the conference publication (subject to peer review).

Application forms can now be downloaded from <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/> and should be returned to Jamie Mackay via email: Jamie.Mackay@solent.ac.uk by **5pm, Friday 14 June 2013**. Please pass this great offer on to other colleagues. Check the [website](#) for full Conference information.

> Notice of events (June - August 2013)



Buttle UK Annual Best Practice Conference: Working with Students to achieve Excellence, Woburn House, London, 4 June 2013 | This year's best practice conference will be putting the student voice at its heart. Delegates will hear from

care-experienced young people: students studying at college and university, a Student Union representative and a care leaver involved in working with foster carers and in a panel session will be able to discuss with the speakers their experiences. Representatives from local authorities will provide their perspective on partnership working with colleges and universities. Workshops will be looking at: transition support into college; applying the model for provision for care leavers to other disadvantaged cohorts in FE; collaboration between HE and FE to improve pathways into HE; supporting care leaver students in recruiting versus selecting universities and departments; personal development for care leaver ambassadors; and working with foster carers. Student involvement will continue throughout the workshops as all will be run with a student representative.

Further details: <http://www.buttleuk.org/>

The NADP Annual Conference 2013: 'The Road Ahead', Crewe Hall Hotel, Cheshire, 27-28 June 2013

| 'The road ahead' for both disabled students and the staff who work with them is potentially a rocky one. Increased tuition fees, students being customers, Government savings, the recession, re-organisations and debates about ensuring quality provision funded by DSA, amongst other matters, mean that we all have to work hard to deliver professional, high quality and cost effective services. The NADP annual conference will concentrate on these issues and highlight the challenges and opportunities facing us all. It will bring together practitioners and other staff to share ideas, learn from each other and help plan innovative ways to support staff and students on the journey ahead.

Further details: <http://www.nadp-uk.org/>

AoC Shaping College Higher Education, 28 June 2013 | As the Coalition Government's HE policies bed in, how can Colleges maintain their quality, seek expansion and shape the HE system to benefit its learners? How can Colleges improve their student engagement with HE learners, understand the learning journeys of vocational learners, improve internal progression and shape local tertiary systems within tight funding constraints?

Further details: <http://www.aoc-create.co.uk/event/shapinghe>

FACE 2013 Annual Conference, Plymouth University, 3-5 July 2013 | The Forum for Access and Continuing Education's (FACE) 20th Annual Conference in 2013 will be hosted by Plymouth University, Devon, UK and feature a keynote from Professor Les Ebdon, Director of OFFA. The FACE Conference is returning to Plymouth where the inaugural Conference took place. The official website is still taking registrations and poster / paper submissions - Deadline has been extended to 14th June 2013.

Further details: <http://face2013.org>

Learning and Teaching Conference where practice and pedagogy meet, Royal Holloway University, 8 July 2013

| Education has changed dramatically over the past ten years with advances in technology, the changing expectations of students, growing diversity and the increasing variety. This conference aims to disseminate evidence based, effective practice and to examine how this impacts your role as an educator, role model and influencer. The Conference will explore the relationship between pedagogy and practice across the full range of post 16 and university study.

Further details: <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/>

AMOSSHE Annual Conference 2013, Hilton Hotel, Liverpool, 10-12 July 2013 | Imagine... moves from considering our 'Greater Expectations' (the focus of 2012 Conference) to a dialogue about how ambitious we might be for the future quality and excellence of the HE sector and Student Services within it. Further details: <http://www.amoshe.org.uk/>

Competition and Diversity in UK Higher Education - HE in FE, Alternative providers and online learning models, 11 July 2013 | Delegates at this Westminster Higher Education Forum seminar will discuss the implications of the current drive to diversify the provision of higher education in England. It is timed to follow the Government's response to the consultation on Applying Student Number Controls to Alternative Providers with Designated Courses which aims in part to reduce the barriers to the growth of alternative provision.

As Government looks to create a more diverse, competitive HE sector, sessions will focus on the challenges and opportunities afforded to the sector by the increasing provision of Higher Education in alternative forms - with a particular focus on HE being taught in FE colleges as well as the growth of private universities and for-profit degree courses designed by industry. Delegates will also discuss developments in traditional distance learning and the potential of new methods of online learning - with latest thinking on issues such as online assessment, scalability and tackling plagiarism. Further details: <http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/>

HEFCE Training workshops on the DLHE survey for FE colleges, 20 (Manchester) and 30 (London) August 2013 | Two summer workshops in Manchester and London on the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey.

In November 2012, HEFCE outlined planned policy changes to the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. These regional workshops aim to support further education colleges (FECs) through the policy changes. Further details: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/>

Recent online news digest



University admissions: why we all need to play by the UCAS rules | The past year has been a turbulent one for university admissions following the freeing up of places for students with AAB or better at A-level and the recruitment uncertainty caused by the new fees environment. This year is even more volatile with the extension of unlimited recruitment to ABB students and the further reduction in student number controls for leading universities.

Further information: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>

Diversity in the university: how far have we come? - live chat transcript | A recent study commissioned by the Higher Education Academy shows that fewer than 10 graduates from black

Caribbean and Bangladeshi minority groups are making the transition to research degrees each year. HEA chief executive Craig Mahoney says the situation "plainly isn't good enough - the postgraduate population should reflect the full range of talent and diversity in the population as a whole". This interactive online event offered practitioners to have their say.

Further information: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

Early evaluation of the Unistats web-site | Early research into user experiences of the Unistats web-site, published today [9 May 2013], shows that it is one of the most widely used higher education course comparison web-sites, and that universities and colleges rose well to the challenge of providing a new data set.

Further information: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/>

Vocational students do better post-uni than those that take a-levels | University graduates who took only vocational courses at sixth form or college are more likely to find jobs than those who took only academic courses, according to new research from consultancy London Economics who showed that graduates with BTEC qualifications had an average employment rate of 90 per cent, compared with 88 per cent for graduates with A levels.

Further information: <http://www.tes.co.uk/>

Were concerns about consequences of fees for over-24s unfounded? | Fears that the introduction of course fees for over-24s might put off potential students could be unfounded, according to a college principal.

Further information: <http://www.tes.co.uk/>

Student loans: Will it soon be pay-back time? | Heads of universities are lobbying the government to alter student loans as a way to limit cuts. Students may have assumed the arguments about the new fee system were done and dusted. But as the axe looms over government funding for universities, senior academics are lobbying the government for graduates to start paying back their loans earlier...

Further information: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

REMEMBER: You can also follow us [@faceconference](https://twitter.com/faceconference) and on [facebook.com/faceconference](https://www.facebook.com/faceconference) for more regular news updates and items of interest.

This is the May 2013 e-Bulletin from FACE (the Forum for Access and Continuing Education), offered to practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and others with an interest in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. The e-Bulletin is sent to colleagues in the sector; members and non-members alike. If you would prefer not to receive it, please contact Jamie Mackay at Jamie.Mackay@solent.ac.uk and your details will be removed from the circulation list.

If you wish to respond to anything in this e-Bulletin or make a contribution to future issues - particularly news and events - please also contact Jamie Mackay at Jamie.Mackay@solent.ac.uk.