Newsletter of the Australasian Association for Engineering Education

March 2004

2004 Conference Paper Deadline!

The deadline for the submission of papers for the annual conference is fast approaching - 2nd April 2004. Do not miss this opportunity to publish a fully refereed paper.

The Australasian Association for Engineering Education and the University of Southern Queensland are pleased to invite you to Toowoomba for the 15th Annual Conference for the Australasian Association for Engineering Education and the 10th Australasian Women in Engineering Forum.



conference themes

The central theme for this year's conference is the need to create flexible learning environments that empower the learner as they progress through their lifelong educational journey. The increasing emphasis on flexible learning presents new challenges for students, educators and practitioners that will be explored during the conference. The three days of the conference will focus on:

- Creating Flexible Entry Paths
- Creating Flexible Learning Environments
- Creating Flexible Curricula

Linkages of special interest include:

- Flexible learning
- Lifelong learning
- Learner centric education
- Articulation and advanced standing
- Engineering education for sustainability
- Women in engineering
- Project and problem based learning
- Teaching innovations
- The student experience

keynote speakers

- Professor Helen Garnett, Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University
- Ms Catherine O'Sullivan
  Executive Director, District Office, Education Queensland
- Dr Gary Miller
  Associa te Vice President for Distance Education and Executive Director, World Campus, Pennsylvania State University

expressions of interest

Prospective attendees, authors and presenters are encouraged to indicate their interest in attending the conference, submitting a paper or conducting a workshop via the form available on the conference website. This

information will be used by the conference committee for planning purposes and will ensure that you are kept up to date with developments in the conference program.

submission of workshop proposals

Proposals are invited for workshops suitable for small and/or large groups. Prospective presenters are requested to submit details of the proposed workshop by Friday 2nd April 2004. The proposal should be no more than an A4 page in length and should indicate:

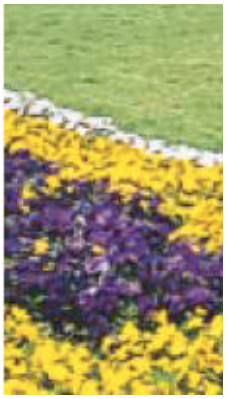
- Workshop objective
- Target audience
- Method of conducting workshop
- References
- Name of workshop presenter(s)

submission of papers

Prospective authors are invited to submit full papers for consideration by 2nd April 2004. Document preparation guidelines will be available on the conference website. Full papers will be reviewed anonymously by at least two peer reviewers. The process of reviewing papers is designed to meet the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) criteria for published papers.

important dates

Expressions of interest: 5 Jan 2004
Workshop proposals: 2 April 2004
Full paper submission: 2 April 2004
Acceptance Notification: 14 May 2004
Final paper submission: 25 June 2004
Late entries may not be considered.



conference website

For the latest information, visit: http://www.usq.edu.au/aaee.
This site is also easily accessible from the AaeE website: http://www.aaee.com.au.

Future Conferences

Expressions of interest are invited for hosting the conferences in 2006 and 2007. A copy of the guidelines for prospective hosts may be obtained from the President, Gunilla Burrowes at gunilla@ecemail.newcastle.edu.au.

Annual awards

At the conference we expect to be making at least four awards for excellence in Engineering Education. Details of these awards will be made known in the June newsletter.

Peer Support Network for New Academics in Engineering

A new special interest group within AAEE, organised by Euan Lindsay from Curtin University.

What is the PSN?

The New Academic Peer Support Network (PSN) is an informal network of academics new to engineering. It is aimed at providing those of us new to university teaching with an opportunity to share experiences – both good and bad – with others in the same position, and facing similar challenges.
In addition to the informal exchange of ideas, the Network also intends to provide access to mentors at institutions throughout the country, and also to provide advice from gurus in the field about what works for them in their teaching.

Why Was It Started?
There are a number of valuable resources available on how to succeed as a new academic, but there is one thing that most of them have in common – they are written by people who are many years removed from their own experiences as a new academic. We felt it important to have a source of first-hand experience that is relevant to the challenges being faced by new academics now, in the Australasian University Context.

Who Should Join?
The PSN is aimed primarily at people who:
- Are employed as academics in an Engineering capacity (regardless of discipline)
- Have been in this employment for less than two years.
- Are looking for support in their transition to Academia

Why Should I Join?
There are a number of good reasons why you should join the PSN:
- Because there are others that are facing the same challenges as you
- Because someone else has the solution to your problem – a solution relevant to today's University Engineering situation
- Because you have to solution to other people's problems
- Because it will provide access to resources specific to your needs
- Because it will help establish your professional networks within your field
- Because it's easy to do.

How Do I Join?
Contact one (or both) of the two organisers:
- Euan Lindsay (e.lindsay@curtin.edu.au) or
- Marcin Ziemski (m.ziemski@minmet.uq.edu.au)

and they'll get you connected.

What Do I Get For Joining?
We already have a mailing list up and a website (www.aaee.com.au/networks/psn) up and running. We're also in contact with a couple of gurus in the field, and are arranging to extract their expertise for your benefit. We also have plans for a monthly (bi-monthly?) newsletter, as well as a few other ideas that we still need to work out.

Other Networks
This is a good opportunity to remind all members that there are three other networks:
- Problem-based learning
- Mathematics and Engineering
- Librarians

Visit the AAEE website to find out some more (http://www.aaee.com.au).

Contributions
Don't forget to share your good ideas, conference announcements, book reviews, great websites, etc with other members. Send them to Roger.Hadgraft@RMIT.edu.au