



Happy New Year!

This is the **January 2008** E-Bulletin from FACE (Forum for Access and Continuing Education), offered to practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and others with an interest in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. This message is sent to colleagues in the sector, members and non-members alike.

FACE on the Web www.f-a-c-e.org.uk *This e-bulletin will be sent to you each month. If you would prefer not to receive it please contact Jim Tate at James.Tate@uwe.ac.uk and your details will be removed immediately.*

This Month's Contents

- ➔ FACE Research Funding 2008 – Deadline for Applications has now passed.
- ➔ Call for Papers – Proposals for the FACE Annual Conference 2008.
- ➔ The FACE 2008–2011 Development Plan – Briefing Points.
- ➔ FACE Networking and Members Profiles – put yourself online.
- ➔ “Speakers Corner” – one colleague offers a personal point of view.

. our hard-working, indispensable FACE Administrator, Jackie Leach, is currently in the process of sending out 2008 FACE calendars to members. They're on their way, guys

FACE Research Funding

Following the success of the first FACE Research and Development Fund in 2007, FACE is repeating the process in 2008 and has made further funds available to support research into access and continuing education, up to £1500 per piece of research. Research must be completed by 30th April 2008.

The deadline for applications for 2008 funding has now passed.

For further information on the FACE R&D Fund go to www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/research.html or contact Graeme Atherton, Aimhigher Central London Partnership Manager, athertg@wmin.ac.uk.

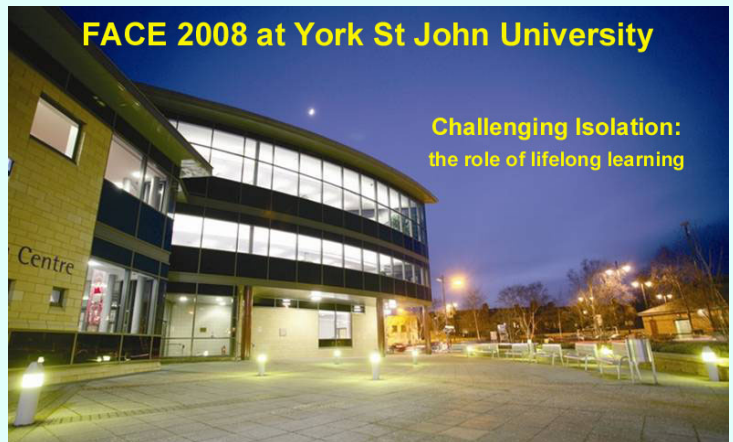
CALL FOR PROPOSALS - FACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

The FACE annual conference 2008 "Challenging Isolation: the role of lifelong learning" will be hosted by York St John University. www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/conferences.html

To facilitate the maximum opportunity to share evidence, ideas and experiences relating to the conference theme, there are two types of workshop / paper sessions: themed workshop sessions and cross-cutting thematic papers that examine issues across academic boundaries.

Workshop sessions will be grouped according to indicative broad themes: Mental Health and Lifelong Learning, Rural & Coastal Areas/Regions, Care leavers, Work-Based Learning, Hard to Reach Groups.

These are indicative themes only. As is routine with the FACE Annual Conference, there will be a book published of selected conference papers.



Call for Proposals Do you want to facilitate a workshop / present a paper at FACE 2008? Download an Abstract submission form www2.yorks.ac.uk/default.asp?Page_ID=4982

The first submission deadline is 25th January 2008

The final submission deadline is 30th March 2008

Online booking will be available in the New Year

For further information please email face2008@yorks.ac.uk



More Information is Available Online

Residential Package and Conference Fees
www2.yorks.ac.uk/default.asp?Page_ID=5035

Non-residential Package and Conference Fees
www2.yorks.ac.uk/default.asp?Page_ID=5036

About York and York St John University
www2.yorks.ac.uk/default.asp?Page_ID=5047

The FACE 2008–2011 Development Plan

FACE plans ahead for the next three years The FACE Executive met in December for a planning day as part of the process of putting the network's new three year development plan together. Member feedback forms an important part of the information that is drawn upon, as are the various reports and evaluations undertaken on, for example, the annual conference, research and development fund, seminars, bulletins, website and other services provided through FACE.

Part of the process involves the Executive working in three sub-groups each of which deals with a different area of FACE activity. During the Development Planning Day each of the sub-groups fed in their thinking and proposals which were discussed in the plenary sessions giving a chance for the whole Executive to contribute. Following the Development Planning Day there will be a further period of consultation and refinement of ideas and proposals culminating in a draft plan which will be presented at the next Executive meeting. It was a very productive, creative and enjoyable day and a big thank you to all members who contributed.



Photo: The Development Planning Day at University of Westminster December 2007

Member Services Group

The brief for this group

- Strategies for, and sources of, new members and the retention of existing members
- What services should we be offering?
- Web Services
- Seminar programme: number/costs
- Annual Conference and publication
- Research Support

Contact: John Storan j.storan@uel.ac.uk

Finance Group

The brief for this group

- Forecast income/expenditure
- Identify income sources/expenditure items
- Estimate financial growth
- Provide a financial plan
- Auditing

Contact: Mike Goodwin m.g.goodwin@wlv.ac.uk

Administration and External Group

The brief for this group

- Membership processing
- Membership updating
- Mailings and information
- External links (UK and international)
- Lobbying

Contact: Mike Hill R.Hill@kingston.ac.uk

FACE Networking Online

The Networking web page on the FACE website lists the main areas of experience and expertise of members along with their contact details as a way of putting like-minded colleagues in touch with one another to promote collaboration and information-sharing.

Are you a member of FACE? Why not put yourself on our networking page at www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/networking.html ?

FACE
on the internet
www.f-a-c-e.org.uk

Members Profiles

To highlight individual members of FACE we have started a series of "Members' Profiles" on our website. If you are a member of FACE, how about adding yourself to the Members' Profiles?



Ted Stepp is an Instructor of developmental English at the post-secondary College of the Marshall Islands. The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a small independent island nation, formerly part of the US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Ted has attended the last two FACE conferences and was a panel member in a roundtable forum at FACE 2007. He has made a big impression upon FACE colleagues and has become known affectionately as "our most far-flung member"!

To read Ted's full "Profile" go to www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/members.html



As a member-oriented organisation FACE would like to invite individual colleagues to have their say on any issue of concern in UK education policy and practice. This is a purely personal point of view and should not be thought to represent any institution, organisation, or official body. To have your say, email James.Tate@uwe.ac.uk

Our first contribution is from Graeme Atherton from the University of Westminster, who says:



We often talk in widening access of it being involved in a 'long term' challenge. But how seriously do we take this point? I would like to kick off this series of FACE thinkpieces by asking how we are going to ensure that if it is a long term challenge, we are here long enough to meet it.

There are a lot of conferences in widening access. It is rare to attend one that really resonates with you but that happened to me recently. Just before Christmas I heard Dr. Arnold Mitchem of the Council for Education Opportunities in the USA give his perspective on the challenges facing us in the widening access community in the UK. His organisation has a budget of over \$800m and has managed to sustain widening access work across the USA since the 1960s. He explained how. At heart, Dr. Mitchem argued that widening access is a political issue and that it is only by taking the responsibility ourselves as practitioners and embracing this idea that widening access work can survive. He argued that we need to organise, agitate and campaign if we want what we believe in to happen. I could only think how right he was. Widening access will always be a contested issue and we need to fight for hearts, minds and money to compete in the contest. This is difficult for practitioners. We become bogged down in internecine debates and the seeming constant, often conflicting, edicts from funding councils, institutions and politicians. We are short on resources, job security and time. But it is space that has to be found. Presenting our view, making ourselves heard, putting the politics into what we do is the only way to counteract these pressures.

The question is then whether the widening access community have the capabilities and the will to organise, pool our strength and start to try and define the agenda. What is our voice? Do we have one? If we have, is it loud enough and saying the right things? As this is the first FACE thinkpiece, I would like to use it to start this debate. FACE is your organisation. What role do you think it should have here? What would you like FACE to say and how? If we want to be around in the 2030s we have to act now. I await your ideas.

If you wish to respond to this E-bulletin or contribute to the February issue, please contact Jim Tate at James.Tate@uwe.ac.uk