September 2017 pepnet newsletter

Dear pepnetters,

We hope you had a good summer and start with the usual enthusiasm into the next academic year. Campus has filled up recently with students and while I was not offered a free pizza voucher walking across Union square I was pleased I got some free Maoams yesterday. Celebrate the small successes!

Bigger successes:

We have heard from Iona McCleery (History) that she has been able successfully to apply for promotion to Grade 9 based mainly on her impact and public engagement activities, along with evidence of being research active with an international reputation through a series of articles and other esteem indicators.

Our congratulations to Iona! If you have used PE/outreach as part of your successful promotion, please let us know.

Completion of the third round of the Engagement Excellence Scheme: four Fellows graduated on 20 September with some pretty impressive projects (see below). The fourth round is starting with six Fellows in October.

PE Award winners 2017 were announced on 20 September by DVC Professor Lisa Roberts (see below)

Symplectic is the system to collate all your PE activity in time for the annual HESA HE BCI return. I’m pleased to tell you that people are using it – one of the questions I get asked a lot! Please join the growing club! There are benefits for you too.

Light Night 2017 on 6 October is coming up www.leeds.ac.uk/lightnight and you may have heard that application is open for Be Curious 2018.

Pepnet meetings for 2017-18 have been scheduled, the first one is coming up on 18 October on Evaluation – watch this space.

And two years of RCUK funding for the PE team have come to an end, in which we have reached 1378 people face-to-face at the University, have trained 279 people through 36 training sessions, received 130 enquiries and were involved in 46 research proposals with a combined bid value of over £43 Million. Together with you we have also developed a vision and a strategic plan for PE, have succeeded to get PE and outreach activities included in promotion criteria, have launched a network of Engagement champions, have established a highly successful research open day (Be Curious), have established an award for PE, have supported national ENGAGE 2016 finalists and winners, have introduced PE into the UG curriculum as a discovery module and have launched a Museum University PE programme.

We feel we have made some progress with embedding PE at the University and we are confident that the future looks bright. We have noticed a trend across campus that the University is opening up more, people go out and include, people connect and engage.

Be proud of the work you do, we are here to support you.
Best wishes,
Alexa

For latest PE news at UoL: https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/latest-news/

On Campus

Submissions open for Be Curious 2018

Be Curious 2018 will take place on Saturday 17 March 2018 from 10 to 4pm. The theme is ‘We are international’. We would like to showcase the impact of our research on challenges that affect us all, the reach of our research on a global scale and the diversity of nationalities who are working together here at Leeds.

Research groups or individuals from all disciplines who are interested to contribute to Be Curious should complete a form (https://goo.gl/forms/aWSS7OqYoH8vVBBA3) to be part of this event by 13th October 2017. We welcome a variety of forms of engagement, as long as they can happen on the day. If in doubt – please ask us.

If you would like to discuss your idea before submitting, there is a drop-in session on Wednesday 4th October 12-2pm in G40 Baines Wing (no booking required).

Applications will be assessed by a small panel of academics from across the University and applicants will be informed w/c 6th November 2017, when further information about the proposed activity will be collected.

If you have any questions please contact us (peteam@leeds.ac.uk)

Symplectic: Record PE activity 2016-17 for HE BCI-return

It’s here again, the HE BCI survey capturing details of all "social, community and cultural engagement" events put on by staff in 2016/17.

Please update your Symplectic record (https://publications.leeds.ac.uk) under the Professional activities tab with all engagement activities you have undertaken in the academic year 2016-17 by Friday 20th October.

This can form a useful repository for your academic review, promotion application and also REF case studies as the information in Symplectic feeds through to IRIS, the REF supporting software.

Read the Symplectic PE tab help file

Please note that this system is now the University’s way to collect data to fulfil its obligation for part of the HESA-HE-BCI return.
PEWR Award Ceremony 2017

On Wednesday 20 September the winners of this year's PE awards were announced after the judges' panel had assessed applications. The judges' panel included three external and four internal PE experts. DVC Professor Lisa Roberts as Senior Champion for PE presented the prizes. Each of the winners receives £400 for further PE/PPIE work.

The award for outstanding PE/PPIE doing research in partnership went to Sue Pavitt (Dentistry) and team.

The award for outstanding PE/PPIE disseminating research went to Lou Harvey (Education).

Graduation of Engagement Excellence Fellows 2016-17

Four Engagement Excellence Fellows graduated as well: Cat Scott (Earth & Environment), Liz Gaston (Design), Lou Harvey (Education) and Mary Madden (Healthcare) (from left to right with Sue Pavitt as academic lead on the far right and Alexa Ruppertsberg from the PE team on the far left).
Online STEM outreach opportunities with ‘I'm a Scientist & I'm an Engineer’

The next I'm a Scientist [https://imascientist.org.uk/] and I'm an Engineer [https://imanengineer.org.uk/] online events are running 6th-17th November.

The online events allow you to answer questions from school students all over the country without leaving the office or lab and also the chance to win £500 to fund more outreach.

Any post-graduate is eligible to apply, and the **deadline is currently 2nd October**. There are specific places available for people related to Microbiology, Gravity, Cells and Stress in *I'm a Scientist*, and Transport, Health and Artificial Intelligence in *I'm an Engineer*. There are also lots of places in the general zones for any kind of researcher.

Science and Media Museum, ‘Lates’: researchers wanted

The Science and Media Museum, Bradford, is hosting an adults-only event on the **9th November 2017**. This ‘Lates’ will be looking at *Gaming* (not just video games) in a broad way.

To coincide with the Yorkshire Games Festival, the event will be a fun, vibrant and interactive opportunity for students and contributors to network, share ideas and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. They are **looking for expressions of interest from researchers** who would be able to showcase their work related to this field. Please contact the PE team if you are interested in finding out more.

Eureka! The Childrens’ museum, ‘Lates’: audience wanted

On the **12th October 2017** Eureka! will be launching Lates - a chance to experience the museum in a whole new light.

This is an adult-only event with music, bar, catering and workshops with a grown up spin from 6.30pm to 9.30pm in Halifax. [https://www.eureka.org.uk/event/lates/](https://www.eureka.org.uk/event/lates/)

300 tickets are available on Eventbrite for just £8 each [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eureka-lates-tickets-37876541756](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eureka-lates-tickets-37876541756)

Training courses

Royal Society - Introduction to public engagement

This course (fee) is for scientists with little or no experience in public engagement and is designed to give you the confidence and skills required to get started. The next course date is **Thursday 19 October**, 10am – 5pm, University of **Birmingham**.
The fee is £150 + VAT. The course fee and travel expenses are covered for Royal Society grant holders.

**Royal Society - Public engagement in practice**

This course (fee) is for scientists with prior experience in public engagement. The course aims to enhance your public engagement knowledge, practice and skills, and help you create more relevant, meaningful and effective engagement activities. The next course date is Tuesday **14 November**, 10am – 5pm, **Manchester**.

The fee for each course is £150 + VAT. The course fee and travel expenses are covered for Royal Society grant holders.

**Good Practice Stakeholder Participation Training**...with a focus on the environment and takes place from 5th to 7th December, Wye, Kent.

This course will help you:

- Recognise the benefits and challenges of involving stakeholders in decisions about the environment
- Understand the principles and concepts of stakeholder participation
- Learn and practice practical facilitation skills
- Learn how to design a participation process

Course fee is £597 + VAT and Accommodation and meals are £416 + VAT.

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**Funding opportunities**

**The Spark Awards 2017B**

The call is now open for applications until 4.00pm on Thursday 26th October.


Proposed engagement programmes must focus around the remit of the STFC science programme (comprising astronomy, solar and planetary science, particle physics, particle astrophysics, cosmology, nuclear physics and accelerator science).

Applicants may choose which audiences to engage with and the methods of engagement. However, applications that propose engagement with audiences considered to have a low ‘science capital’ are encouraged. In addition, applications that highlight the social, ethical, and economic benefits of research are welcomed.

Please let us know if you are planning to apply for this award.