

CPHC News in Brief – January 2010

The purpose of this brief newsletter is to keep members informed about the work the committee has been undertaking on your behalf. It is expected that these brief news reports will be delivered via an RSS feed in future, which all members can sign up to, while a copy will also appear on the website.

ACM-BCS Visions of Computer Science 2010 Conference 13-16 April 2010, Edinburgh University.

CPHC has been working with the BCS and the ACM to finalise the conference schedule. CPHC is subsidising its part of the conference (13th lunchtime to 14th lunchtime) this year so attendance including the dinner is only £50 see http://www.cphc.ac.uk/annual_conf10.php for more details. Thanks to sponsorship by the BCS and the ACM, the rest of the conference is only £90 to members. See <http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=nav.11980> for details.

BCS Academy of Computing

As a founder member of the Academy along with UKCRC and BCS, CPHC has been helped develop the terms of reference for the Academy Board and its three new sub-committees, which cover Research, Education (which it leads on) and Science & Engineering Engagement. It is now seeking to populate the membership of these committees with a view to holding the first Academy Board meeting in late Jan / early Feb 2010. The Academy has already identified two strategic partners, HEA and CAS (Computing and Schools Group), which it is now working with closely on a number of agendas. It is also discussing the services which will be offered to members. For more information see: <http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=nav.12715>.

You may recall considerable discussion at the last CPHC conference about the Locate IT project which was essentially a website designed to broker partnerships between industry and academia for any type of useful link from research bids, to finding a guest lecture from industry on a particular topic. The services it planned to offer will now be available through the Academy.

EURIM

CPHC has been working with EURIM (The European Information Society Group who are an independent UK based Parliament-Industry group funded by its members) to support their competition to create a 3 minute video to education MPs on the topic of Information Governance. It is hoped that many University students will participate, the deadline is March 1st. More details can be found at: http://www.eurim.org.uk/whats_new/events/bpcomp/bpcomp.php.

CPHC vision

The document which outlines the vision and action plan for CPHC over the next year or so has now been finalised and put on the web at: <http://www.cphc.ac.uk/docs/cphc-vision.pdf>. This is a living document, which is updated occasionally to reflect changes as appropriate, and further information and comments from members to help develop the vision are always encouraged.

QAA Masters Benchmark

CPHC has been part of the team contributing to the Computing Masters benchmark, which has now been submitted to QAA for approval. We will keep you posted on the outcome.

Campaign to revise the GSCE ICT Curriculum

CPHC has been working with the BCS and e-skills UK on the agenda to revise the GCSE ICT curriculum. We are attending a meeting on Feb 4th, hosted by the Royal Society, to bring together interested parties to discuss a way forward.

Computing at Schools

We are working with CAS and the BCS Academy to help organise a number of regional conferences for sixth form students (+ Year 11) next term. The number of conferences planned to-date is well into double figures. Where possible and appropriate, these will be timed, and associated with the National Science and Engineering Week in March, see <http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/nsew/> and the European e-skills Week, see <http://eskills.eun.org/web/guest/about-eskills-week>.

Meeting with e-skills UK

CPHC representatives met with e-skills UK on 10th Sept 2009 to discuss mutual interests. This was an extremely positive meeting and CPHC is looking forward to working with them on a number of agendas including their National Skills Academy for IT which is due to launch in the autumn of 2010 and has the remit of brokering and providing information on CPD for people already employed in the IT industry. See <http://www.e-skills.com/e-skills-UK-in-work/2468> for further details.

Responses to Consultations

CPHC has developed responses to consultations on STEM and Postgraduate Study, and these can be found on the CPHC website at www.cphc.ac.uk/publications

We have also been working closely with BCS and UKCRC, and they have supported our responses to the consultations above, and we have offered support to UKCRC in responses on the REF, which can also be found on the CPHC website at www.cphc.ac.uk/publications

Liz Bacon