

current & ongoing activities

CETL – MSOR Conference 2009: Call for Abstracts

On the 7th and 8th September 2009, the Maths, Stats & OR Network will be running its fourth annual learning and teaching conference in conjunction with the related Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs). The 2009 Conference will be hosted by the Centre for Open Learning of Mathematics, Science, Computing and Technology (COLMSCT), and will take place at the Open University in Milton Keynes.

The call for abstracts is now open and full details appear on the back cover of this issue of MSOR Connections.

Workshop: Resources for Teaching Statistics

28th May, 2009

Department of Statistics, University of Glasgow

The Maths, Stats & OR Network will be running a free one-day workshop, based around four plenary sessions which will discuss a variety of different resources for teaching statistics, including animated graphics, the use of quizzes, individualised assessment and marking, and the benefits of students collecting their own data. The workshop will be interactive and will provide opportunities for participants to experiment in an open access lab setting with the material being discussed. Participants are welcome to bring resources of their own, for informal discussion. For further details, please visit www.mathstore.ac.uk/workshops

sigma Prize for Outstanding Contribution 2009

Nominations are being sought for the award of two personal prizes to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the fields of mathematics and statistics support. The personal prizes of £1,000 will be awarded by a specially convened Panel. One prize will be to a person from a UK higher education institution and one to a person based in a higher education institution based outside the UK. The prize will be awarded at the 2009 CETL-MSOR Conference. The closing date for nominations is the 23 May 2009. For further details, please visit: <http://www.sigma-cetl.ac.uk/>

sigma Call for Mini-projects

In the summer of 2009, *sigma* – the centre for excellence in university-wide mathematics and statistics support - wishes to award several mini-projects to individuals or groups who are interested in developing and sharing their interest in the use of the specific technologies listed below for the teaching or support of mathematics/statistics.

Areas of interest

Sigma is particularly interested in supporting mini-projects which use

- tablet PC's
- audience response systems (electronic voting systems)
- Lego® robotics (e.g. Mindstorm NXTs)
- Elluminate collaborative communications system

in the teaching or support of mathematics/statistics, at any level or in any subject area, in further or higher education. Applicants must already have some experience/expertise and a wish to develop this further. The mini-project scheme offers funding of up to £2000 per project which can be used to purchase equipment, software, support etc.

Outcomes

Successful applicants will be expected, as a minimum, to

- contribute to a small number of workshops/events to disseminate their work
- share resources/expertise with others in the community
- produce a brief project report
- submit a related article to MSOR Connections

To apply

Please download the application template from <http://www.sigma-cetl.ac.uk/> and complete and return to Moira Petrie, sigma, Mathematics Education Centre, Loughborough University, LE11 3TU, UK by June 30th 2009. Decisions will be made in July and projects should complete by March 2010.

MSOR Connections: Minitab Special Issue

The August 2009 edition of MSOR Connections will be special issues focussing upon the use of the statistical package Minitab within teaching and learning in Higher Education. For further details, including how to submit an article for potential inclusion, please visit: www.mathstore.ac.uk/newsletter