

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING PAPERS

The following two papers have been accepted for publication in CERP, and will be included in the next issue (Vol. 4, No. 3, October 2003). They are not included in this issue because of its themed character.

- Learning science through English: An investigation of the vocabulary skills of native and non-native English speakers in international schools
P.E. Childs & F.J. O'Farrell
- Students' difficulties in understanding of the conservation of matter in open and closed-system chemical reactions
H. Ozmen & A. Ayas

THE CHEMICAL EDUCATOR - WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME!

FROM: **Clifford LeMaster**, - Editor in Chief, *The Chemical Educator*, 7154 West State Street #301, Boise, ID 83714 USA; phone 208-440-1866; fax 208-248-2366; e-mail: tce@chemeducator.org

We are please to announce our new and final Internet resting stop for *The Chemical Educator*. Our new URL <http://chemeducator.org/> (or <http://www.chemeducator.org/>) will be an easy to remember Internet address and is no longer dependant on the physical location of our server. Our institutional users may create a direct link to <http://chemeducator.org/tceinst/> or use the link from the main page. We have also updated our mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email addresses. This new contact information will provide our nonprofit journal a stable and independent environment in which to serve you - our readers, reviewers, and authors.

JOURNAL OF BALTIC SCIENCE EDUCATION (JBSE): 2003, No. 1

Issue No. 1 for 2003 of the *Journal of Baltic Science Education* (JBSE) has been published. The contents of the issue are as follows:

- Research and development work from the perspective of compiling balanced curricula for science education, by *A. Töldsepp & V. Toots*.
- The preconditions of ecological education of school tasks on physics, by *P. Peèiuliauskienė & A. Rimeika*.
- What students understand from entropy?: A review of selected literature, by *M. Sozbilir*.
- Environmental education: Providing a context for a meaningful science education, by *P. Pace*.
- Environment and occupational health course for secondary school as an example for enlarged science teaching, by *J. Porozovs, J. Gedrovics, & D. Porozova*.
- Natural science education in Lithuanian secondary school: Some relevant issues, by *V. Lamanauskas*.

JBSE is an international academic journal, issued by the Scientific Methodological Centre “*Scientia Educologica*”, Lithuania. It emphasises theoretical, experimental, and methodological studies in the field of science education. Editor-in-Chief is Dr. *Vincetas Lamanauskas*, e-mail: <vincentas.la@takas.lt>. For more information see the following Web addresses:

<http://vingis.ktu.lt/~jbse>

<http://www.webspawner.com/users/19671970/>

<http://www.su.lt/lt/centrai/scientia/index.htm>

NEW SITE FOR *ESERA*

The *ESERA* web site has moved to a new domain: <http://www.esera.net/>. Note also that the *ESERA* member list is online again. Information how to access the list can be found at the above site. Finally, PhD students can become *ESERA* members without any charge for the duration of their PhD. The application form has been adjusted accordingly.

CHEMICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP (*CERG*) NEWS

FROM: Dr. **Keith S. TABER** (Chair, *CERG*), University of Cambridge Faculty of Education; kst24@cam.ac.uk

CERG Lecture 2003

The *Chemical Education Research Group* (*CERG*) is a special interest group of the *Royal Society of Chemistry* (*RSC*), the Learned Society for the chemical sciences and the Professional Body for chemical scientists in the UK (see <http://chemistry.rsc.org/lap/rsccom/dab/educ002.htm>).

In recent years *CERG* has contributed an annual lecture to the *Variety in Chemistry Teaching* (‘*Variety*’) meeting organised by the *RSC* Tertiary Education group. This lecture has provided one of the meeting’s plenary sessions. *CERG* has invited lecturers who have made significant contributions to the chemistry education research. Although the ‘*Variety*’ meeting is primarily attended by chemistry teachers at the university level (i.e. university

lecturers), CERG is interested in chemistry education research at all levels, and the CERG lectures tend to be concerned with broad issues that are not specific to the tertiary level.

This year the 'Variety' meeting is being held in Dublin (Eire), in association with the *Irish Variety in Chemistry Teaching*: 31st August to 2 September 2003 at *Dublin City University*, Dublin, Ireland. This year CERG are very pleased that Prof. *John Gilbert* has agreed to give the CERG lecture on 'Broadening Chemical Education':

Prof. John Gilbert

John Gilbert is currently Professor of Education at *The University of Reading* and Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Science Education*. After taking degrees in Chemistry he taught in secondary schools prior to appointments at the Universities of Keele and Surrey, moving to Reading in 1988. His most recent work has been on models and modelling in science education [Gilbert, J. K., Boulter, C. J. (eds.) (2000), *Developing models in science education*. Dordrecht: Kluwer] and on the use of research in chemical education [Gilbert, J. K., De Jong, O., Justi, R., Treagust, D. F., Van Driel, J. H. (eds.) (2002), *Chemical education: Towards research-based practice*. Dordrecht: Kluwer].

Broadening chemical education

The number of people who formally study chemistry in the post-compulsory phase, either for its own sake or as a necessary subsidiary to other science subjects, remains small. This places the onus of bearing witness to the cultural value of chemical ideas onto informal chemical education. This can be taken to include museums and science centres, books, TV, and the Internet. The strengths and weaknesses of current informal chemical education will be evaluated and proposals made on the future development of the field. It will be suggested that formal higher chemical education can make considerable contributions to realising the considerable potential identified.

Anyone interested in attending Prof. Gilbert's lecture, or participating more widely in the 'Variety' meeting can find out more information through the *Physical Sciences Learning and Teaching Support Network* website: www.physsci.ltsn.ac.uk

17TH SYMPOSIUM ON CHEMICAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DORTMUND (3 - 5 JUNE 2004) (First Announcement)

Quality in practice-oriented research in science education

In the 17th Symposium on Chemical Education at the University of Dortmund to be held in June 2004 the discussion which started in the previous symposium (see News & Announcements in CERAPIE, Vol. 3, No. 3, October 2002) about the meaning of research in chemical education - would be continued and extended. The main emphasis shall be laid on research which is closely related to practice as well as on practice change. In this frame aspects shall be central dealing with questions of what quality means in this frame and how quality can be ensured. Questions of main emphasis will be:

- What are criteria for quality in practice-oriented research in science education?

- How can science education research help to improve quality in science education in schools?
- Which role may Action Research and related strategies of research play in this frame?
- What are examples of good practice in this area of research?
- How is the acceptance of respective projects as 'research' in different countries within Europe?

All contributions will be invited lectures. Suggestions for appropriate contributions are welcome up to summer 2003.

Conference dates: 3 - 5 June 2004. Conference language will be English. *Venue:* University of Dortmund, Building of the Department of Chemistry, Otto-Hahn-Str. 6, 44227 Dortmund, Germany. There will be no conference fee, but participants must cover the cost for travelling, accommodation and social events.

Conference chair: Prof. Dr. Bernd RALLE and Dr. Ingo EILKS, Department of Chemistry, Didactics of Chemistry I, University of Dortmund, Otto-Hahn-Str.6, D-44227 Dortmund, Germany, bralle@pop.uni-dortmund.de, eilks@pop.uni-dortmund.de

Further information will be published on the web at www.chemie.uni-dortmund.de/groups/dc1/ from Spring 2003.