

University of Chester hosts national Deans of Science conference

THEY came to learn the latest news and hear the most up-to-date thinking relating to their chosen field. But dozens of Deans of Science from universities across the UK also had a serious history lesson when they attended an event at the University.

The UK Deans of Science (UKDS), an organisation that promotes science among higher education institutions, held its annual conference and AGM in the city, hosted by the University at the Riverside Innovation Centre.

Opened by UKDS Chair Professor Helen Griffiths, Dean of Life and Health Sciences at Aston University, the two-day event was attended by around 30 Deans of Science, who met to discuss current issues facing science departments and scientists, and share experiences and information.

And while presentations and talks by science professors were the order of the day, by night delegates took a guided tour of the Chester's famed Roman architecture and enjoyed a dinner at the historical Chester Racecourse. The dinner featured a talk - *The Secret History of a College/University* - by committed Cestrian, [Professor] Graeme White, Emeritus Professor of Local History at the University of Chester.

Professor Sarah Andrew, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, said: "This is an important event in the science education calendar and the University of Chester was delighted to host colleagues from all over the UK.

"It's always interesting and useful to meet up with similar people to discuss science education issues and catch-up on the latest thinking.

"We were also very proud to be able to show-off our city and I know our guests thoroughly enjoyed learning about Chester's rich history."

Key speakers at the conference included Paul Vernon,



Paul Vernon.



Professor Sarah Andrew.

formerly Head of Campus Development for the National Science and Innovation Campuses (STFC) and Manager of UK Technologies Transfer for the European Space Agency, who talked about *Technology Transfer: From International Large Science to the Practicalities of the University Environment*.

Professor George Feiger, Executive Dean at Aston University spoke about *Entrepreneurship and sustainability in the UK HE and the role of Science Faculties*. Professor Paul Hooper, Head of Enterprise Development in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Manchester Metropolitan University talked about Degree level *Apprenticeships: An Opportunity or Threat to HE*, and former MP Andrew Miller gave an insight into *How to influence science policy in the new Parliament*.

Professor Robert Slater, Principal Accreditation Assessor of the Society of Biology, talked on accreditation of degrees by the Society.

The UKDS works to promote science and science education in universities, colleges and schools, raise public awareness of the importance of science and science education and encourage links at senior level with government departments and agencies, funding and research councils and other professional bodies, learned societies and industrial organisations with major interests in science and science education.



Delegates at the conference.



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