Short Courses in the Sun

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CSE Short Courses

Warm and sunny Tampa, Florida, promises to be a welcome venue for the 2006 CSE annual meeting, and there’s no better way to start the meeting than to attend one of the CSE short courses.

The short course for journal editors, organized by Iain E P Taylor and presented on 19-20 May, will address issues of authorship, the roles and responsibilities of editors, establishing a review process and the selection and nurture of reviewers, editorial decision-making, obtaining and improving manuscripts, journal office operations, electronic publication, and ethical and financial issues.

The short course on journal management, organized by this year by Patricia Baskin, will be presented on 20 May and will include information on managing change, managing communication and people, managing interactions with paper and online publishers and vendors, managing journal financial operations, and problem-solving.

The short course for manuscript editors, organized by Margaret Perkins, will be presented on 20 May and will cover levels of editing, including suggestions and techniques for determining the most appropriate level of editing for a particular manuscript; statistics for manuscript editors; grammar and usage; freelance editing; and formatting and editing tables and figures.

The short course on editorial issues in digital publishing (formerly the short course on electronic publishing solutions), organized by Kevin Pirkey, will be presented on 20 May and will address such issues as digital art and author-supplied files, electronic formats in publishing, content management and archiving, choosing the right electronic publishing model for your organization, the impact of supplemental data, excess electronic content and the importance of branding, expanding revenue streams through online content, and the dollars and cents of electronic publishing.

Returning in 2005, now as a permanent component of the short-course lineup, is the short course on statistics for editors. Organized by Jessica Ancker, the course will cover such topics as basic descriptive statistics, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing and P values, and measures of association, such as relative risk and odds ratios. Faculty will give demonstrations and provide examples from scientific publications and the lay press, and group exercises will allow attendees to practice interpreting, presenting, and editing statistical information.

Each short course combines didactic lectures and group discussion, and attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own problems and questions for discussion. In addition, each attendee receives a binder of resource information and notes to take home for future reference.

For more information about the short courses, see the CSE preliminary program or go to the CSE Web site at www.CouncilScienceEditors.org.

Highlights of the CSE Board Meeting

The CSE Board of Directors met by conference call on 9 November 2005. Highlights of the meeting follow.

1. The Board of Directors approved the proposed 2006 budget, which includes a 5% increase in member dues for 2006. The registration fee for the annual meeting and fees for short courses will not be changed.

2. In response to the success of the scholarship program, which enables members in underdeveloped countries to attend the CSE annual meeting, the Education Council has formalized the procedures for submitting and awarding scholarships, and the board approved the procedures.

3. The board also approved financial support for the AuthorAID project, as proposed by the CSE Task Force on Science Journals, Poverty, and Human Development. AuthorAID is a proposed system that would match authors from the developing world with volunteer editors; the editors would serve as mentors and would do developmental editing on the authors’ papers before submission with the intent of helping the authors’ chances of having their papers accepted.