

# AUSJAL *al día*

Executive Secretary Newsletter. Latin American Universities Entrusted to the Society of Jesus

## Environment and Sustainability



The second edition of «AUSJAL Environment and Sustainability» Inter-university Course will be offered starting on February 12<sup>th</sup> until May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This course is offered as part of the activities carried out by the AUSJAL Network of Peers on Engineering.

Last year, the course was offered as an elective seminar for the last semester-engineering students. The universities that participated were: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana- PUJ (Bogota, Colombia), Universidad Católica Andrés Bello- UCAB (Caracas, Venezuela), Universidad Centroamericana (Nicaragua), Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala) and Universidad Iberoamericana- UIA (Puebla, Mexico). The course had excellent results. The number of students coming from the different universities who took the course highly outnumbered the expectations.

The objective of this course is to help students to analyze social-environmental problems from a Latin-American point of view, and their relationship with globalization and sustainable development.

The students have the guidance of an assistant professor and they use a virtual platform that supports the planning of activities, materials, evaluations and case studies, and includes different inter-universities activities such as Chats and discussion groups .

Specialists from the participant universities contributed to the design of the course, which is divided into six thematic areas: 1) Interdisciplinary Management of Social-Environmental Problems, 2) Models of Development and Civilization, 3) Sustainable Development, 4) Environmental Management, 5) Environmental Laws and; 6) Social Participation for Sustainable Development. The «AUSJAL Environment and Sustainability» Inter-university Course is open for students from all departments. Any of the AUSJAL's universities interested on getting more information may contact the course Academic Coordinator, Professor Maria Elena Febres-Cordero: [mfebres@ucab.edu.ve](mailto:mfebres@ucab.edu.ve) or visit the Website: <http://www.ausjal.org/sitios/ambiente>.

## Values and Ethic

From March to June, 2007, the AUSJAL's faculty will have the opportunity to attend the Course «Values and Ethics: Challenges and Tools. This is an initiative of the Network of Peers on Education under the leadership of Universidad Católica del Uruguay-UCU. The course will be offered as a hybrid learning program and will supported by a Blackboard platform. This course was designed by UCAB (Caracas, Venezuela), PUJ (Bogota, Colombia), UCU (Uruguay) and UIA-D.F. (Mexico City) it and is structured in six different modules:

**Module 1:** Introduction to the use of the platform and presentation of the course (2 hours). **Module 2:** Educational challenges from an ethical perspective today (6 hours). **Module 3:** Philosophic foundations of an education on values; Theories of values; Axiological pluralism (6 hours). **Module 4:** Psychological foundation of an education on values; Cognitive psychology; Concepts of person, Autonomous moral-conscience; Development of the moral sense (6 hours). **Module 5:** pedagogical foundations of an education on values. Curricular and methodological aspects; Implications of the different pedagogical models; Ignatian pedagogy; Can ethical values be taught? Presentation of different working strategies at the classroom (16 hours). **Module 6:** Analysis and discussion of ethical problems from different academic disciplines.

All professors interested on applying or finding more information please contact Professor Adriana Aristimuño, [aaristim@ucu.edu.uy](mailto:aaristim@ucu.edu.uy) or Professor Monica Costa, Coordinator, [mocosta@ucu.edu.uy](mailto:mocosta@ucu.edu.uy). **Limited places available.**

## AUSJAL briefs

**In three languages.** Since December 2006, AUSJAL Newsletter is available in Portuguese, English, as well as Spanish each version of the newsletter will be distributed according to the language of our audiences and all of the versions will be available at <http://www.ausjal.com/periodicas.php>. The English version of AUSJAL Newsletter will be delivered along with the AJCU Newsletter, *Connections*.

**Teachers planning.** The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AUSJAL network of Peers on Education will be held at the UIA in Puebla, Mexico, during March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This event is expected to promote, in AUSJAL's Universities, the AUSJAL Course on Values for university professors, as well as the study on the cultural traits of AUSJAL's students. The network will also design its plan of activities for the following two years.

**Tutors of the future.** The Diploma on *Information and Communication Technologies ICT* started in October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and it is now coming to its end. The participant professors are expected to develop different abilities such as management of the Blackboard platform for virtual-courses ; designing their own pedagogical model; performing an on-line course facilitator; and basic knowledge on the on-line tutor responsibilities.

**University leaders.** The AUSJAL Training Program for Jesuit University Leaders in Latin America, will be implemented, as a pilot project, during the next 8 months in the following universities: Universidad Católica del Táchira (San Cristóbal, Venezuela), IUA-Leon (Leon, Mexico), Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala), PUJ (Colombia) and UCAB (Caracas, Venezuela). This Program will be open to other AUSJAL universities once the pilot experience is finished and evaluated. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, Elkin Arango S.J organized an audio conference with the coordinators of the Program.

**RedLEIDH Meeting.** The AUSJAL Executive Secretary, Susana Di Trolío, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Latin-American Network for Education and Research in Human Rights (RedLEIDH) in order to analyze the progress of this project which is financed by the Canadian Agency for International Cooperation and York University. This event took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from December 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006.