

Report on the 2010 AULRE Conference

Religion, Education and Spiritual Development

The Annual Conference of the UK Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education (AULRE) was held at the Hostry, Norwich Anglican Cathedral, on 1st and 2nd July 2010. It was organised and hosted by UEA's Centre for Spirituality and Religion in Education (CSRE).



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The two keynote lectures came from the disciplines of Theology and Religious Studies. **Dr Marion Bowman from the Open University** (right) opened the conference with a lecture on the challenges and rewards of teaching about the spirituality of Glastonbury. **Emerita Professor Ursula King from Bristol University and SOAS** (left) contributed a lecture on 'Earthing Spirituality' with particular reference to the global issue of earth-consciousness.



There were seminar papers from delegates on topics ranging from international service learning in universities, to spirituality and human rights, inter-faith dialogue and aesthetics, and Professor Julian Stern presented a paper on 'The Spirit of Assessment: The Contribution of Assessment to Spiritual Development' (right).



The venue of the new Cathedral Hostry seemed appropriate for a conference on religion and spirituality in a setting that blended old with new architecture, and which promoted discussions about the symbolic and controversial nature of the conference's theme. As well as the

lectures and seminars, delegates were able to explore the spiritual dimensions, and potential for spiritual education, of the Cathedral - with its Benedictine tradition and history - the Jubilee Labyrinth, and the nearby Shrine of Julian of Norwich.





Delegates were welcomed to the conference dinner by Professor Nigel Norris, Head of UEA's School of Education and Lifelong Learning, and **Emeritus Professor Brian Thorne, Director of the Norwich Centre** (left), gave a thought-provoking after-dinner speech on the topic of religion, spirituality and sexuality.



The **Chair of AULRE, Professor Denise Cush of Bath Spa University** (left) thanked Linda Rudge, Centre Director (above), and Dr Jacqueline Watson (right), for organising the successful event with the help of the Cathedral education team. Articles arising from conference papers will appear in the *Journal of Beliefs and Values*.

