

BULLETIN

May 2015

FROM THE GUEST EDITOR, *Jenny Roberts*,

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA (UNISA)

**THE PALACE OF THE LOST CITY**

Welcome to the 2nd bulletin of 2015 of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA). ODLAA, although predominantly an association representing Australian interests in Distance Education, has members from all over the world. I am privileged as a South African committee member to once again edit this month's edition, particularly in the light of South Africa hosting the 26th ICDE conference in October at the beautiful resort of Sun City. There is something for everyone at Sun City – the opulence of the palace of the Lost City, the Valley of the Waves waterpark, sporting facilities and home to the Big 5 wild animals.

In my personal capacity, as a member of the Institute for Open and Distance Learning (IODL) at the University of South Africa (Unisa) who are hosting the conference, I would like to extend an invitation to you to visit our beautiful country and take part in this conference. All information is provided on the conference website www.unisa.ac.za/icde2015 and if I can personally assist you with any queries the please feel free to contact me at buckjj@unisa.ac.za or phone +27 832522500.

ICDE 2015 CONFERENCE UPDATE

Please note that the date for submitting your proposal for presenting at the conference has been extended to 29 May 2015. This gives you time to still prepare and submit your full proposal, abstract for the *Pecha Kucha* or poster presentation. This conference has already attracted proposals from scholars all over the world and promises to be an unforgettable event.

Proposals are invited for three of presentations:

- Papers (Time allocated: 15 minutes, plus 5 minutes for questions)
- Pecha Kucha or lightning style presentations (Time allocated: 20 slides, 20 seconds per slide, ± 8 minutes, plus 2 minutes for questions).
- Poster presentations. Posters can depict research or evaluation findings, outline a research process or describe a programme.

Several keynote speakers have confirmed their attendance and these include amongst others: Tressie Cottom, Audrey Watters, Laura Czerniewicz, Joyce Seitzinger, Aziza Ellozy, Wayne Mackintosh, Asha Kanwar, and Harold Jarche.



CFP: IEEE TLT SPECIAL ISSUE ON WEARABLE TECH AND THE INTERNET OF THINGS IN EDUCATION/TRAINING

Manuscript proposals are being solicited for a special issue of IEEE transactions on learning technologies (impact factor: 1.22) on "wearable technologies and the internet of things in education and training".

The deadline for the submission of proposals (500-word extended abstracts plus 8-10 key references in IEEE format) is June 15, 2015. The authors of shortlisted proposals will have until the end of September 2015 to submit their full manuscripts.

The call for papers is available at the following url: <http://goo.gl/r9l9yo> .

Kindly share this with others at your institutions and within your networks who you think might be interested. Queries may be directed to tlt.wearablesiot@gmail.com, but note that proposals and full manuscripts are not to be sent to this address (see the CFP for submission instructions).

NEW ODLAA WEBSITE

The brand new, revamped ODLAA website was launched recently and exhibits many new features. Please take some time to browse through the website which can be found at www.odlaa.org. We welcome comments and suggestions regarding the new site, particularly with regard to any additional features that you think should be added. If you have any administration problems with the website (e.g. password issues) please contact Joanne Scott at executive@odlaa.org. Your comments and suggestion regarding the content and usability of the website can be sent to Diane Hockridge at diane.hockridge@gmail.com.

ODLAA WEBINARS

The ODLAA series of professional development webinars has run very successfully for the past three years and the next ODLAA webinar: “Research i-Bytes” will be held on **Thursday 28th May, 12–1pm (Australian EST)**

We will be presenting a sample of some current research going on ‘out there’ from practitioners in open and distance education. Watch their presentations, join in discussion ... and maybe form collaboration for your own future research.

Speakers and Topics:

1. **Dr Colleen Halupa** (Texas, USA) Director of Curriculum Design & Technology, LeTourneau University;
Associate Professor; Doctor of Health Education Program, A.T.Still University

Topic: Integrity – the problem of Self-Plagiarism

2. **Sharon Kerr** (Sydney, Australia) CEO of the Global Access Project (GAP), Higher Education Consulting Group;
Researcher through Sydney University

Topic: Inclusivity and universal design

3. **Tracy Douglas & Susan Salter** (Tasmania, Australia) Lecturers in the School of Health Sciences, University of Tasmania

Topic: Interactivity – Perspectives of online discussion boards through different lenses: lecturers, facilitators and students

4. **Diane Hockridge** (Sydney, Australia) Online Educational Designer, Ridley Melbourne, Macquarie University

Topic: *Implicit to explicit—Challenges in researching learning design for distance education*

Further topic details can now be found on the ODLAA website: www.odlaa.org/webinars

Registration

The webinar is offered free of charge and open to members and non-members as well, so please distribute this information to any colleagues who may be interested. If you wish to attend the webinar, please register by emailing jo.osborne@utas.edu.au by 5pm Tuesday 26th May (Australian EST) at the latest. Details will be sent to you before the event about how to access and join in the webinar.

For any comments and suggestions relating to the ODLAA Webinar program, please contact Jo.Osborne@utas.edu.au on forthcoming events that may be of interest to ODLAA members.

REPORT ON SPECIAL THEMED ISSUE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION VOL 36(2). MAY 2015.

DISTANCE EDUCATION AND TIME: INSTRUCTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGING TIME, WORKLOAD, AND COSTS

Drs Elena Barberà, Thomas Hülsmann and Jennifer Roberts (Guest Editors) invited contributions to the special themed issue of “Distance Education”, Volume 36/2, which will be published in May 2015. The editors are certain that this very important topic of time and workload in Distance Education will make a significant and necessary contribution to our field.

The special edition of Distance Education Vol. 36(2) is almost ready for publication. You can look forward to an edition with articles from a diverse range of international authors each providing a different perspective on the issue of time allocation and workload demands in a distance education environment.

The development of optimal instructional and organizational models, appropriate for the context, serving the goals of the learners, making most appropriate use of the affordances of technologies would require first and foremost a clear understanding how time, the main cost driver in academia, is most effectively allocated. This is the main goal of compiling the subsequent papers in this special issue in the hope of contributing to build a more comprehensive explanation of time and workload issues in open and distance education.

NEWS FROM THE ODLAA E-AGM

The ODLAA Annual General Meeting was held electronically from Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th April 2015 and chaired by the President, Dr Som Naidu. The President opened with his Report which stated that, the next two years (2015/2016) look very eventful and extremely exciting for ODLAA. The organization is led by a vibrant and enthusiastic Executive which is genuinely interested in the field and the community that ODLAA serves. And the organization is in a fairly healthy financial state to ensure that it is able to prosecute a rich and wide variety of activities that it has planned.

Foremost among these activities is the next ODLAA Conference which is going to be held in Perth, WA at the Perth Convention Centre in November 2016. However that is not the only thing to look forward to. ODLAA continues to publish the very successful journal *Distance Education* which grows from strength to strength and is currently attracting increasingly more articles of very high quality each year. Members of the ODLAA executive are also engaged in producing the ODLAA Bulletin and in organizing and coordinating a range of continuous professional development activities including a very successful webinar series on topics of current interest to the ODLAA community.

The following motions were put forward and accepted:

- Motion 1: That the minutes of the e-AGM held from 7th to 11th April, 2014, be accepted as a true and correct record of proceedings.
- Motion 2: That the ODLAA President's Report is accepted.
- Motion 3: That the DE Journal Editor's Report is accepted.
- Motion 4: That the Auditor's Report on the statement of income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Association for the last financial year be accepted.
- Motion 5: That Anthony J Pollard of Amable Management Services Pty Ltd, be reappointed as the auditor for ODLAA.

Nominations were called for a member to fill the vacant Executive position. Five members nominated, and Sharon Kerr who is with the Higher Education Consulting Group, being elected to the Executive. The current ODLAA Executive comprises:

1. Som Naidu (President)
2. Mutuota Kigotho (Vice President)
3. Sherrill Whittington (Secretary)
4. Shane Moore (Treasurer)
5. Jenny Roberts (Publications Officer)
6. Diane Hockridge (Member Representative)
7. Jo Osborne (Member Representative)
8. Barrie Todhunter (Member Representative)
9. Sharon Kerr (Member Representative)

Thanks were given to members of Executive Committee who stepped down from their roles since the last eAGM. These include Stephen Relf (Treasurer) and Antonina Petrolito (Publications Officer).

Note from ODLAA President – Som Naidu

Welcome to the new Executive. It is a privilege to be serving on the Executive Committee of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA) which is the premier organization in this part of the world for professionals who are engaged in all forms of open educational practice including all forms of online, distance and flexible learning arrangements. ODLAA has a new website now and I encourage you all to own it and help develop it into a venue that you want it to be.

The next 18 months look very eventful and extremely exciting for ODLAA, leading up to the 2016 ODLAA Conference which is going to be held in Perth, WA at the Perth Convention Centre in late October and early November 2016. This event will be held in conjunction with the 3rd International STEMfest which is a festival of conferences around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education held over a two-week period each year.

I invite you to stay engaged with ODLAA and make this event work for you and your interests.

Som Naidu (ODLAA President)

FEATURED MEMBERS OF ODLAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In each bulletin we will be highlighting one or more members of the executive committee and/or an ODLAA member. In this second issue of 2015, we are sharing information with you about our Vice-President Mutuota Kigotho.



Mutuota has been involved in the area of distance education in Australia for over six years. This involvement started when he took up a position as Lecturer at the University of New England (UNE) in January 2009. At UNE over eighty per cent of the students study online and by distance learning.

Mutuota's expertise lies in digital literacy where his focus has been the intersection between broadband and analogue investigating the literacies that users need to make sense of their learning environment. He has published in the Journal of Distance Education and in Literacy Learning- the Middle Years. He has also presented papers at the International Council of Distance Education (ICDE) conferences in Sydney and in Bali – Indonesia.

Within ODLAA, Mutuota has served as a committee member, first as secretary and currently the Vice – President of the association. He believes that access continues to be one of the biggest challenges of our time and is strongly persuaded in sharing content at minimal cost.

In the forthcoming bulletins we would like to highlight different ODLAA members from all over the world. Please can you send your short bio (\pm 400 words) plus a recent photo to Jenny Roberts email: buckjj@unisa.ac.za .

Jenny Roberts

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