

odlaa

Open and Distance Learning Association
of Australia

education across
space and time

BULLETIN

July 2015

FROM THE EDITOR, *Jenny Roberts*,

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA (UNISA)



THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF CAPE TOWN

Welcome to the 3rd 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 once again privileged as a South African committee member to 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. Many international delegates to the conference are including a visit to other parts of Southern Africa as well and no doubt the beautiful city of Cape Town (ranked 9th in the world by a recent CNN programme) will be included in their itineraries. With its imposing Table Mountain, which has recently been inaugurated as one of the world's new seven wonders of nature, and breathtaking beaches and scenery, Cape Town is a must if you have the time to visit.

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 please feel free to contact me at buckij@unisa.ac.za or phone +27 832522500.

ICDE 2015 CONFERENCE UPDATE – SUN CITY, SOUTH AFRICA

Close to 500 submissions have been accepted for the conference and all authors have been informed. Presentations will take the form of full papers, Pecha Kucha and poster presentations.

ODLAA will be well represented at the ICDE conference – four of our members, Som Naidu, Diane Hockridge, Mututota Khigoto and Jenny Roberts will all be presenting papers and workshops and publicizing ODLAA.

Registrations for the conference close on 1 September 2015 and early bird registrations close on 31 July. The conference starts in less than 90 days' time.

The conference has a specific stream designated as the doctoral consortium. The consortium will provide a supportive space where doctoral students can receive constructive feedback from prominent scholars, and serve to build a cohort of young researchers in the identified fields.

Please note that applications to participate in the doctoral consortium are open until 20 July.



2ND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEMFEST) 2015

The International STEMfest is a festival of 13 international conferences and a range of community events, all aimed at addressing topics of smart economic development and skilling a nation's future.

The 2nd International Festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is organised by the not for profit Association, STEM States Incorporated, will be undertaken in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from 25th-30th September 2015. ODLAA and the following STEM partners will participate:

- Innovation Saskatchewan
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - Discovery Education
 - Murdoch University, Australia
 - Laboratory Safety Institute
 - International Association for Hydrogen Energy
 - Clean Energy Research Institute, University of Miami
 - Asia Pacific Society for Solar and Hybrid Technologies
 - Pesticide Manufacturers and Formulators Association of India
 - International Journal on Energy Optimisation
 - **Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia**
 - Science on Stage Canada
 - Discovery Education
- For further information: <http://stemstates.org/stemfest-2015.html>

ODLAA SUMMIT 2016

Perth, 31 October – 3 November, 2016

We are pleased to announce that ODLAA is joining with STEM States Incorporated to host an education conference focused on open, flexible, distance education and elearning, as part of the 3rd International STEMfest in Perth, Western Australia to be held from Monday 31 October – Thursday 3 November 2016.

STEMFest is a festival of conferences run over a two-week period in a different country each year. In 2013 the event was held in Malaysia and involved 1200 educators from 55 countries with a varied range of backgrounds from K-12, Tertiary and TAFE sectors, with a focus on skills development.

The 2015 STEMfest (reported on above) will be held from 27th September and 3rd October 2015 in Saskatoon, Canada, with an estimated 1200 delegates from around the world. The president of ODLAA, Som Naidu will be attending this conference as the ODLAA representative.

A planning team has been set up for the 2016 Summit: watch this space for more details as they become available.

REPORT ON RECENT EDEN CONFERENCE

The recent EDEN conference was held in Barcelona, Spain from 9-12 June 2015. The following is a summary of the conference which was sent to delegates from the organisers:

This year earmarked again a great get-together of the European professional community of ICT supported open and distance learning with significant global participation.

The Conference gathered 380 delegates from 42 countries with over 200 presentations. It was rich in content and networking opportunities. The event was highly interactive both on site and online. The live stream of the plenary sessions was followed by 380 viewers and an online discussion unfolded with over 4000 tweets and over 2800 readers on Facebook.

Presentation slides on Slideshare had over 1000 views over the three days and are available for download.

Among the many themes addressed have been networked learning in open practices, open education in all its forms, leadership, change management and strategic thinking. To follow up the event, we gathered here the most interesting resources that you can find useful.

To promote excellence the following recognitions were awarded

The EDEN Executive Committee awarded the title of EDEN Senior Fellow to:

- Alan Bruce, Universal Learning Systems, Ireland
- Terry Anderson, Athabasca University, Canada
- Albert Sangra, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain
- Roberto Carneiro, Portugal

The EDEN Executive Committee awarded the title of EDEN Fellow to:

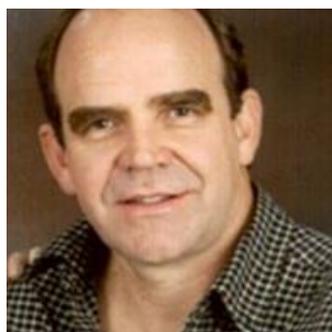
- Helga Dorner, Central European University, Hungary
- Timothy Read, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain
- Ene Koitla, Estonian e-Learning Development Centre, Information Technology Foundation for Education, Estonia, EDEN EC member until 1 June 2015
- Yacoov Katz, Professor Emeritus, President, Bar-Ilan University, Israel
- Irina Smirnova, Moscow State University of Economics Statistics and Informatics, Russia
- Margarida Carmo, Head of International Relations, Universidade Aberta, Portugal

The EDEN 2015 Best Research Paper Award and Best Practice Paper Award were granted to:

Hanne Voldborg Andersen and Elsebeth Korsgaard Sorensen, Aalborg University, Denmark for the paper on Technology as a Vehicle for Inclusion of Learners with Attention Deficits in Mainstream Schools.

Based on the votes received from the conference delegates the Best Poster Prize is awarded to:

- Ignatius Gous, University of South Africa (an ODLAA member) for the poster on “Effective Learning Strategies: Making Sense of and with Learning by Means of B²R²SDL³ and S2S”



The EDEN Young Researchers Task Force appointed the following two applicants for the Young Scholar Award:

- Daniel Puntis, Newcastle University, United Kingdom for the paper on “Making It Mobile: Changing Approaches to Clinical Learning Environments
- Lina Xue, KU Leuven, Belgium for the paper on “Applying Biggs Constructive Alignment to Online Interdisciplinary Education “

THE NEW ODLAA WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit the new ODLAA website which can be found at www.odlaa.org. We welcome suggestions and comments from all ODLAA members. Please send any information that you would like to be included on the website to ODLAA executive committee member Diane Hockridge at diane.hockridge@gmail.com.

ODLAA IS NOW ON TWITTER

This month ODLAA launched a new twitter account @ODLAAorg which has already gained over 270 followers!

Tweets and trends from @ODLAAorg

#Teacherbots in learning and teaching
#Badges and the future of #MOOCS have been hot topics this month.

@ODLAAorg has also been tweeting key findings from the
#UNESCO_ICDE2015
#GoingGlobal2015
#EduTECHAU and
#edtech15 conferences.

@ODLAAorg is keen to retweet its membership and help promote research.

Looking forward to seeing you on the twitter sphere!

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

Vol 36 (2) of Distance Education has been finalized and will be available at the end of July. This was a special themed edition on the topic of time and workload management and implications for distance education. Some of the articles are already available online and can also be found on the ODLAA website www.odlaa.org.

BOLDE RESEARCH BANK

We would like to draw your attention to BOLDE (Blended, Online and Distance Education) which is a research bank with a collection of research articles on distance and online education. All the info is available on their webpage <http://opac.acer.edu.au/drde/index.html> and it contains details of books, articles, conference papers and reports on various aspects of distance and online education, from publishers in Australia and overseas. Material is drawn from the Australian Education Index, produced by Cunningham Library, with additional material sourced from a variety of international organisations and publishers. There are currently 11,482 records in the research bank.

NEWS FROM THE ODLAA PRESIDENT – SOM NAIDU

Postcards from Jakarta and Beijing....

For a few days in May this year (May 20-22nd), on the invitation of *Universitas Terbuka* (UT), I coordinated a workshop for a selection of UT academics on getting them published in high impact journals. The picture below taken at the end of the three-day workshop offers a window into the energy and enthusiasm of the group and the synergy it generated.



Som Naidu

May 27 · Edited · 🌐 · 👤 ▼

With workshop participants ("Getting Published in High Impact Journals" May 20-22, 2015) — at Universitas Terbuka (UT-Jakarta).



By the end of this three day workshop, we had the makings of nineteen research projects that could be completed and written up for publication consideration in high impact

journals. Articles from two of these articles (which were already underway) are being considered for publication in the “Distance Education” journal.

And then in June I spent three weeks (1-22nd) as a Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing on the invitation of colleagues at the Institute of Education there. Tsinghua University is consistently ranked as the number one university in China and in the top 100 in the World and often touted as the equivalent of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in China.

Tsinghua University sits on a massive sprawling campus (one of the most beautiful campuses I have visited). As such no one single shot of it will do justice to its expanse and beauty. I have in the collage below put together a selection of shots I took of parts of the Tsinghua University campus on my daily rounds around this beautiful campus, and on my way to and from its magnificent University gym.



During my three weeks at Tsinghua University, among other things...

- I gave a public lecture at the University and worked with colleagues at the Institute of Education on developing research proposals and articles for publication consideration in high impact (Western journals).
- The topic of my public lecture was “*Mainstreaming Distance Education: Opportunities and Challenges*”, in which I took a critical look at the key attributes of open, flexible and distance learning and reviewed its opportunities and challenges for contemporary society and systems. And including issues to do with accreditation and credit transfer and drawing on the lessons learned from the Bologna Process, the European Credit Transfer Framework, the Melbourne Model, and the Australian Qualifications Framework.

- I worked on developing a research project on *“The Costs of Open Educational Resources: Who pays for it?”*. With increasing availability of open educational resources (OER) there is increasing interest and concern with ascertaining who pays for it, and specifically -- Who pays for what, to whom, how and when? Are OERs really free? And if so then how free are they? This project seeks to develop a comprehensive approach for ascertaining the costs of OER for learning and teaching and organizations.

After three weeks at Tsinghua University, I spent a week at the Open University of China (OUC--formerly the Radio and Television University of China) as well as Beijing Normal University.

- At the OUC I gave a lecture on *“Developments, priorities and trends in contemporary open and distance learning”*.
- Ran a workshop with a group of researchers at OUC on researching and getting published in high impacts DE journals.
- And got interviewed on a wide of issues to do with *open, flexible, distance and online learning*.
- At Beijing Normal University, I met with colleagues on topics and subjects of mutual interest.

And oh yes of course, the *Forbidden City, The Great Wall of China* and *Beijing’s Hutong’s* (see below) were all also part of the itinerary. If you didn’t know (like I didn’t) Hutong’s are quaint little homes in Beijing much like the heritage listed Victorian buildings we see in inner Melbourne.



Som Naidu

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 newest member, Sharon Kerr.



Sharon, is CEO of Global Access Project, — a HECG initiative working closely with major technology players including IBM and NUANCE in association with major universities in the US, EU and Canada with the Liberated Learning Consortium. Their focus is to provide information and solutions so that students with a disability can access the full learning experience and achieve their full potential.

In 1992 after a successful career as a Japanese Language teacher, with friends Susan and Tony Bruck Sharon published “Japanese Tutor” through Ashton Scholastic. With this being one of the first multimedia teaching packages in the world, its publication led to a career at Macquarie University in areas relating to technology enhanced learning. Her roles included Lecturer in Education, Educational Developer, Manager Online Education, Assistant Director Centre for Flexible Learning and Manager Macquarie University Accessibility Services.

In 2004 Sharon was responsible for building and managing the team that delivered the first online degree from Macquarie University through Open Universities Australia (OUA). This had a profound impact on the strategic direction of Distance Learning at Macquarie University. Pedagogy and design principles adopted in this online degree were subsequently adopted across Australia by other OUA providers.

In addition to her expertise in online education and management, Sharon brings to the executive of ODLAA a passion for equity of access to education and extensive experience in designing online courses to meet the needs of international students, students with a disability and Indigenous students. She has a Masters of Indigenous Education and in addition to her role with Global Access Project is working towards a PhD with Sydney University.

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

Institute of Open and Distance Learning
University of South Africa
buckjj@unisa.ac.za

