SACLA 2014 Chairman's Report: 25 June 2014

SACLA started in 1971 and was sponsored by IBM. I have been attending SACLA conferences since 1984. Further, I have assisted in organising three SACLA conferences and attended more than a third of the 43 SACLA conferences to date. I have seen the focus of SACLA change, specifically sponsorship, academic focus and governmental support of publications.

SACLA 2014 required extra-ordinary organisational skills. SACLA 2013 did not take place in Botswana. However SACLA 2012 seed funding was transferred to Botswana. NMMU Dept of Computing Sciences agreed to host SACLA 2014 at a VERY late stage in 2013. We only received SACLA seed funding in 2014 from University of Botswana and obtaining sponsorship in a short time is very difficult. Choosing and securing conference venues timeously is important, since a 50% deposit is required. The organising committee managed the finances very well and have budgeted for seed money for SACLA 2015.

The publication of SACLA papers in an accredited publication is of utmost importance. The NMMU SACLA organising committee tried very hard to get the proceedings published in the ACM Digital Library. ACM have informed us that their publication policy has changed and that SACLA organisers must apply to co-organise the conference with ACM. One possibility is to create a South African ACM SIGCSE Chapter.

The first HOD Colloquium was a great success and this will be an annual event at future SACLA conferences. We have also secured the hosting of the following SACLA conferences: 2015 (Wits IS), 2016 (UP) and 2017 (NWU). We have further reported on the establishment of the South African Computer Accreditation Board (SACAB) and the importance of this S.A. ICT body in S.A.

Establishing a competent organising committee early in the conference organising process is important, as well as securing adequate sponsorship. I would like to thank our sponsors, specifically Microsoft, SAP, Oracle, NMMU Dept of Computing Sciences and Imbizo Events. Finally I would like to thank the organising committee for their hard work and organisation and specifically Desma van der Walt, our administrative manager we appointed. Remember all documentation and photos taken the past days will be on the official SACLA website.

Andre Calitz
SACLA 2014 Chair
Dept of Computing Sciences
NMMU