Post conference report: SACLA ’18

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Dear editor of SACJ and academic colleagues,

The 47th Annual Conference of the Southern African Computer Lecturers’ Association (SACLA 2018), was held from 18 – 20 June 2018 at Krystal Beach Hotel, Harbour Island, Gordon’s Bay and in the spirit of prior SACLA conferences was to share original research and practical experiences in the teaching and learning of computing related subjects, as well as in the use of technology in support of education more broadly.

We had two excellent keynotes. Renowned scholar Richard Baskerville shared his research on how “going digital” can change the goal of cybersecurity and Mark Horner, CEO Siyavula Education shared design features and the impact analysis of Siyavula Practice, a low-cost adaptive learning tool tailored specifically for high school Maths, Physics and Chemistry. The programme included a Head of Department (HOD) meeting, a panel on improving the School to University IT teaching transition, as well as a SACAB and a CCIS workshop.

Papers were selected through a rigorous double-blind peer-review process, with an international programme committee of reviewers. Every paper was peer-reviewed by at least 3 members of the programme committee. Of the 77 papers submitted, 23 papers (30%) were accepted for consideration for publication in the Springer CCIS series and a further 24 papers (31%) were accepted for publication in the SACLA proceedings volume.

Douglas Parry and Daniel Le Roux from Stellenbosch University received the conference’s Best Paper Award for their paper titled “Off-task Media Use in Lectures: Towards a Theory of Determinants”.

Both publications were produced after the conference as post-proceedings to allow for incorporation of feedback from both reviewers and discussions at the conference. One paper was withdrawn after the conference.

Papers accepted for publication in the CCIS series:

*A reflective practice approach for supporting IT skills required by industry through project-based learning. J.T. Janse van Rensburg and Roelien Goede.*

*AgileTL: A Framework for Enhancing Teaching and Learning Practices Using Software Development Principles. Wai Sze Leung.*

*An evaluation of social media use in the classroom at a traditional university. Obrain Murire, Liezel Cilliers and Kim Viljoen.*

*Balancing theory and practice in an introductory operating systems course. Bennett Kankuzi.*

*Contextualisation of Abstract Programming Concepts for First Year IT Students: A Reflective Study. Carin Venter and Tanja Eksteen.*

*Enhancing Object-Oriented Programming Pedagogy with an Adaptive Intelligent Tutoring System. Methembe Dlamini and Wai Sze Leung.*

*Generating SQL Queries from Visual Specifications. George Obaido, Abejide Ade-Ibijola and Hima Vadapalli.*

*Influence of Gamification Elements on an Online Programming Learning Environment. Marisa Venter and Arthur James Swart.*

*Interactive Learning of Factual Contents using a Game-like Quiz. Abejide Ade-Ibijola and Kehinde Aruleba.*

*It seems to have a hold on us: Social media self-regulation of students. Lushan Chokalingam, Machdel Matthee and Marie Hattingh.*

*Lecturers’ perceptions of Virtual Reality (VR) as a teaching and learning platform. Zhane Solomon, Nurudeen Ajayi, Rushil Raghavjee and Patrick Ndayizigamiye.*

*Motivational value of Code.org’s Code Studio tutorials in an undergraduate programming course. Guillaume Nel and Liezel Nel.*

*Off-task Media Use in Lectures: Towards a Theory of Determinants. Douglas Parry and Daniel Le Roux.*

*Qualifications and Skill Levels of Digital Forensics Practitioners in South Africa – An Exploratory Study. Mannis Stenvert and Irwin Brown.*

*Research Barriers Experienced by South African Academics in Information Systems and Computer Science. Dhriven Hamlall and Jean-Paul Van Belle.*

*Robotics – from zero to hero in six weeks. Romeo Botes and Imelda Smit.*

*Syntactic Generation of Practice Novice Programs in Python. Abejide Ade-Ibijola.*

*The Impact of Enterprise Resource Planning Education: A Case study of the University of Zambia. Mampi Lubasi and Lisa Seymour.*

*The last straw: Teaching project team dynamics to third year students. Sunet Eyebers and Marie Hattingh.*

*Top IT Issues for Employers of South African Graduates. Jean-Paul Van Belle, Brenda Scholtz, Kennedy Njenga, Nicholas Barfnecht, Alexander Serenko and Prashant Palvia.*

*Towards a knowledge conversion model enabling programme design in higher education for shaping industry-ready graduates. Hanlie Smuts and Marie Hattingh.*

*Towards a Semantic-Aware Adaptive e-Learning Model. George Musumba and Ruth Wario.*

*Using machine learning and Bayesian Networks to Predict Computer Science Success. Zach Nudelman, Deshendran Moodley and Sonia Berman.*

Papers published in the SACLA proceedings:

*A blend of jigsaw and peer-to-peer approach to teaching programming in a systems development course. Stephen Akandwanaho and Irene Govender.*

*Alumni Advice on Post-Graduate Studies. Andre Calitz and Sue Petratos.*

*An Exploration of Levels of Learning and Levels of Reflection in a South African Higher Education Experiential Learning Assignment. Malcolm Garbutt and Lisa Seymour.*

*An investigation of the benefits of a learning community in a B.Tech Information Technology qualification. Marisa Venter and Arthur James Swart.*

*Are the Teaching-Research Links Linking with Young Researchers? Imelda Smit.*

*Computer Lecturers’ Community Engagement: Inspired towards Science, Engineering and Technology. Leila Goosen and Patricia Gouws.*

*Cultural Diversity and the Performance of Student Software Engineering Teams. Vreda Pieterse and Marko Van Eekelen.*

*Guidelines for using Bloom’s Taxonomy Table as Alignment Tool between Goals and Assessment. Alta Van der Merwe and Aurona Gerber.*

*High school learner’s adoption and use of mobile devices outside the classroom: Case of Cape Town, South Africa. Samwel Mwapwele and Sumarie Roodt.*

*Introducing Research in the Undergraduate Information Systems Curriculum. Walter Ferreira Uys and Wallace Chigona.*

*Mobile Usage at Universities for Academic Purposes. Should Lecturers Change Teaching Approaches? Nobert Jere, Katrina Shikongo and Obert Matarirano.*

*Motivating Factors and Expectations of Postgraduate Information Systems Students. Azhar Aboobaker and Jean-Paul Van Belle.*

*Overcoming the Corporate University and its Effect on Computing Education. Wynand van Staden and Colin Pilkington.*

*Redesigning of an Open Online Community of Practice for sharing Course Information for Educators. Nobert Jere, Andrew Gororo and Leena Kloppers.*

*Regular Self-Assessments in a Learning Management System Negates the Ebbinghaus ‘forgetting curve’. Arthur James Swart and Marisa Venter.*

*South African Scholar ICT Career Inclinations. Andre Calitz, Jean Greyling and Margaret Cullen.*

*Student Competition Teams: Combining Research and Teaching. Stephan Opfer, Marie Ossenkopf and Kurt Geihs.*

*Student perceptions on the use of Technology for Learning to promote student engagement. Arthur James Swart.*

*Students’ Access to an ICT4D MOOC. Leila Goosen.*

*Tackling Teamwork in Higher Education. Estelle Taylor and Henry Foulds.*

*The E-Classroom Forum: Bridging the Public and Private School Socio-Economic Education Factors in Rural Areas. Nothando Julia Dhlamini, Edmore Chindenga, Mfundo Shakes Scott, Siyabulela Dyakalashe and Nobert Jere.*

*The Effects of Study Buddies and Study Hours in a First-Year Course on Operating Systems. Stefan Gruner and Christoph Stallmann.*

*The Impact of Educational Technologies on the Learning Experiences of Students. Janet Liebenberg and Trudie Benade.*

I would like to express my gratitude to all SACLA members who shared their research and contributed to the richness of discussions; to the local organising team including Salah Kabanda and Hussein Suleman (programme chairs), Stephan Jamieson (SACLA publications chair), Aslam Safla and Pitso Tsibolane; to the programme committee; to the executive committee; to Stefan Gruner (CCIS publications chair); and to the sponsors Oracle, IITPSA and SAP.

The SACLA executive committee now comprises André Calitz (president), Linda Marshall (secretary), Susan Campher (treasurer), Mac van der Merwe (current chair), Stephen Flowerday (future chair) and myself as past chair. The SACLA 2019 conference will be hosted by UNISA.

Lisa Seymour

SACLA 2018 Conference Chair

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