

Message from the Conference Chair

Thank you for participating in the 53rd Annual Conference of the South African Computer Lecturers' Association (SACLA 2024). It was both a privilege and an honour to host all conference delegates at our beautiful Boardwalk Hotel in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) during the week of Madiba celebrations. In celebration of Mandela Day, many conference delegates contributed a "Jar of Hope" for those less fortunate. These were very much appreciated!

The theme of SACLA 2024 was "Humanising and Innovative Teaching and Learning". The accepted papers that were presented aligned with this theme by reflecting on current and future trends in teaching and learning in Computer Science, Information Systems and Information Technology. We were impressed with the high academic research standard in the papers accepted for publication.

One of the goals of SACLA conferences is to allow delegates to network, share ideas, and learn from each other. Observing so many stimulating conversations between academics representing 11 universities across South Africa, including one from the University of Botswana was encouraging.

A further extension to the SACLA conference is the HOD meeting where HODs engaged on current challenges, insights and perspectives within various departments across the universities represented. This was well attended and ably chaired by Dr Sue Petratos.

On behalf of the SACLA community, I express our deepest appreciation to our valued sponsors, including WiRK, DSA, Batsamayi, AWS, VSC, AvoChoc, Mercedes Benz SA, Tangible Africa and the IITPSA. We were fortunate to have three guest speakers representing some of these sponsors, including Mr Cinga Nyangintsimbi (MD Batsamayi), Mr Nico Claasen (COO of Wirk/DSA) and Mr Tony Parry (CEO of the IITPSA).

The success of SACLA 2024 was due to the efforts of many individuals. We are grateful to the authors who presented their papers at this conference and the many reviewers who willingly gave up their time to provide valuable feedback to authors, ensuring a high standard of academic research. Well done to all programme committee members for bringing it all together!

I also extend my sincere thanks to all members of the organising committee and congratulate them on a job well done. A special mention of Michelle Brown, for her meticulous planning and organising of the logistics relating to the event.

We trust that all conference delegates left feeling inspired and re-energised from the paper presentations, fruitful conversations and valuable connections made during the conference.

We look forward to staying connected and wish the SACLA 2025 organising committee well at next year's conference.

Prof Lynn Fatcher
SACLA 2024 Conference Chair
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