



Post conference Chairman's report: SACLA 2019

The 48th Annual Conference of the Southern African Computer Lecturers' Association (SACLA 2018) was held from 15 – 17 July 2019 at the Alpine Heath Resort in the northern Drakensberg, South Africa. The objective of SACLA is to promote co-operation among South African and southern Africa Universities, specifically in order to further the method and contents of university education in the field of computing. The annual conference brings together lecturers, researchers, students, industry and society interested in the field of computing education, and for this reason it provides an opportunity to network and learn from one another.

The theme of the conference was “Computing matters of course”. In line with this theme national and international submissions that focus on practical experiences and successes in computing education at tertiary level were invited in three topic areas (1) classroom innovation and assessment of the impact thereof (2) novel tools developed, or novel use of existing tools, for learning and/or assessment; and (3) research undertaken to investigate aspects of computing education. The intention was to help others become better computing lecturers - this ideal being reflected in the conference logo, which depicts the role SACLA 2019 will play in getting lecturers' minds and heads in gear.

The deadline for paper submission was set for 28 February but extended to 14 March 2019. A total of 56 submission were received. Papers for inclusion were selected through a rigorous double-blind peer-review process by an international programme committee (PC). Every paper was peer-reviewed by at least 3 members of the programme committee. Of the 56 papers submitted, 16 papers were accepted for the Springer CCIS series issue and 9 as full papers for the SACLA conference proceedings volume, for a total acceptance rate of 44.6%. Six papers were accepted as short papers (2 presented at the conference), and 12 as extended abstracts (4 presented at the conference). A total of 14 papers were turned down. Before publication, all accepted papers were subjected to the incorporation of conference inputs after presentation and further feedback from reviewers.

Papers accepted for publication in the Springer CCIS issue:

1. Estelle Taylor and Andre Calitz. *The Use of Industry Advisory Boards at Higher Education Institutions in Southern Africa.*
2. Leah Mutanu and Philip Machoka. *Enhancing Computer Students Academic Performance through Explanatory Modelling.*
3. Judy van Biljon, Colin Pilkington and Ronell Van der Merwe. *Cohort Supervision: Towards a Sustainable Model for Distance Learning?*

4. Roshan Harneker and Adrie Stander. *Developing a Digital Forensics Curriculum: Exploring Trends from 2007 to 2017.*
5. Chris Upfold and Kayleigh Bell. *The Influence of Learning Style Theory Within a Blended Learning Environment: A Systematic Review.*
6. Walter Uys. *Hackathons as a Formal Teaching Approach in Capstone Courses*
7. Alta Van der Merwe, Aurona Gerber and Hanlie Smuts. *Guidelines for Conducting Design Science Research in Information Systems.*
8. Adriana Steyn, Carina de Villiers, Joyce Jordaan and Tshegofatso Pitso. *Connecting generation Z to technology through the task-technology fit theory.*
9. Sunet Eybers and Marie Hatting. *Making Sense of Unstructured Data: An Experiential Learning Approach.*
10. Pakiso J. Khomokhoana and Liezel Nel. *Decoding Source Code Comprehension: Bottlenecks Experienced by Senior Computer Science Students.*
11. Violet Kafa, Marcellus Siegburg and Janis Voigtländer. *Exercise Task Generation for UML Class/Object Diagrams, via Alloy Model Instance Finding.*
12. Colin Pilkington and Laurette Pretorius. *A Connectivist View of a Research Methodology Semantic Wiki.*
13. Vongai Chindeka and Karen Bradshaw. *Detecting similarity in student multi-procedure programs using program structure.*
14. Sandile Ngwenya and Lynn Fatcher. *Integrating Secure Coding Principles into Undergraduate Programming Modules.*
15. Morné Botha and Lizette Weilbach. *Design guidelines to develop e-textbook readers: A task-technology fit approach.*
16. Sifiso Bangani, Lynn Fatcher and Johan Van Niekerk. *An Approach Towards Secure Programming in Undergraduate Computing Curricula.*

Papers published in the SACLA proceedings:

1. George Musumba and Ruth Wario. *A Decision-Making Approach to Evaluation of Learning Components in Adaptive Educational Systems.*
2. Leila Goosen and James K. Ngugi. *Innovation for Computing Students Matter, of Course!*
3. Abuong Molotsi and Leila Goosen. *e-Tutors' Perspectives on the Collaborative Learning Approach as a Means of Computing Student Support Matters of Course!*
4. Pariksha Singh and Tania Prinsloo. *The Application of Teaching Interventions in a Ffirst-year Fundamental IT course in Improving Throughput Using the PAC Framework: 2013 to 2018.*
5. Marisa Venter. *Student Perceptions of Gamification Mechanics and Dynamics in a Gamified Learning Environment.*
6. Hanlie Smuts and Martina Jordaan. *A Knowledge-based Service-learning Framework for Large-scale Community Projects in Higher Education.*
7. Brenda Scholtz and Lynn Fatcher. *Investigation into Best Practice Approaches for Computing Research Programmes in South Africa.*
8. Marko Schütz-Schmuck. *Modernizing the Introduction to Software Engineering Course.*
9. Sonny Kabaso and Abejide Ade-Ibijola. *Synthesis of Social Media Messages and Tweets as Feedback Medium in Introductory Programming.*

Pakiso Khomokoane and Liezel Nel from the University of the Free State received the conference's Best Paper Award for their paper titled "Decoding Source Comprehension: Bottlenecks Experienced by Senior Computer Science Students". For this first time at a SACL A conference, and because of unforeseen circumstances, a paper was digitally presented.

Three workshops were offered before the main conference started: Academic Writing for Junior Informaticians / Computer Scientists, an overview of the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Educate and Academy Programs, and an update on documentation requirements for SACAB. Professional engagements included the SACL A AGM, a southern Africa HOD meeting, and the SACL A Executive Committee meeting. Two open discussion sessions took place during the conference: the 1st a conversation about the corporatisation of universities, and the 2nd a debate on the establishment of Didactics of Informatics Chairs at South African universities. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Dolf Steyn, who endeavoured to answer the question "Is big data a DNA or diet problem?".

Accommodation, registration, budgeting and coordination was managed by Wy-Go, an events company. Formal conference material included a Book of Abstracts and the conference program. Delegate gifts included carry bags, Safe-Travels Mobile Mates, Travel Smart Multi Chargers and shopper bags. Social events included a welcome reception, a trail hike to a waterfall and a gala dinner. Winners of a lucky draw during the AGM and a crossword puzzle received a free weekend for six people at the resort.

I would like to express my gratitude to SACL A members who shared their research and knowledge with us; other delegates for supporting the conference; the organising committee consisting of Bobby Tait (Co-programme Chair, CS) Jan Kroeze (Co-programme Chair IS), Stefan Gruner (Springer CCIS Publication), Mathias Mujinga (Coordinator short papers, panels and workshops), Hanifah Abdullah (Treasurer), Bester Chimbo (Secretary) and Colin Pilkington (Sponsorship, Marketing and Publicity); to the programme committee, to the executive committee; to the main sponsors (Oracle, IITPSA and AWS Educate) and the exhibitors (Cambridge University Press, Smart Swot and Cengage Learning). Last, but not least, to Marle du Raan from Wy-Go events management, for all her organising skills.

The SACL A executive committee now comprises André Calitz (president), Linda Marshall (secretary), treasurer – vacant, Lisa Seymour (2018 conference chair), myself as past chair, and Stephen Flowerday from Rhodes University who will host SACL A 2020.

Mac van der Merwe
SACL A 2019 Conference Chair

Department of Information Systems, School of Computing, University of South Africa.