u!magine news

OUR MISSION

The mission of uImagine is to promote and sustain high quality online teaching and learning through innovative digital practice, scholarship and incubation.

COMING EVENTS

Conversations About Online Learning

Learning Technology Innovation Workshop

Learning Technology Forum

Welcome to u!magine

We are delighted to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the uImagine newsletter. uImagine was created as the catalyst for driving the incubation of new ideas and approaches that lead to innovative digital practice, online quality and student success. Can uImagine a vibrant and dynamic 'community for innovation' that taps the creative talents and ideas of CSU's diverse learning community – staff, students, alumni, leadership, partners and more? We can and we do and we invite you to join us! uImagine is committed to building collaborative partnerships that create value-added synergies and strengthen CSU's high quality teaching and learning enterprise. We hope you will join us on this journey towards becoming a national and global leader in 21st century online learning. Welcome aboard and enjoy the news.

Professor Barney Dalgarno
Co-Director
Institutional Engagement

Professor Don Olcott, Jr.
Co-Director
Partnerships & Outreach

The u!magine Team from left: Tim Klapdor, Barney Dalgarno, Wendy Hogan, Don Olcott, Lindy Croft-Piggin & James Purkis.

Meet the Team

The u!magine team is lead by Co-Directors Professor Don Olcott and Professor Barney Dalgarno. Doctor Lindy Croft-Piggin is the Learning Design Leader and Tim Klapdor the Learning Technology Leader. James Purkis provides Research Assistance and Wendy Hogan supports the team with administrative assistance.

Professor Barney Dalgarno

Co-Director, Institutional Engagement

Barney has been at CSU since 1998 lecturing in the Faculties of IT and Education. Professor Dalgarno's research contributions have been in three broad areas: the relationship between learning technology and learning theory; learning in polysynchronous learning environments, including 3D virtual environments; and university teacher and student attitudes towards and use of learning technologies.

He has obtained numerous grants and consultancies for research into learning and teaching including 5 OLT and ARC grants and has authored over 70 refereed publications. Professor Dalgarno has received recognition for his teaching in the Education and Information Technology disciplines including ALTC Citations in 2007 and 2011 and a 2013 Ascilite Fellow Award for outstanding contributions in the exemplary use of and research into technologies for teaching and learning in tertiary education. He is also a lead editor of the Australasian Journal of Educational Technology.

Dr Lindy Croft-Piggin

Lindy brings to uImagine many years of experience in the art and science of education. For the past 14 years she has been lecturing in teacher education in CSU's School of Education, Wagga and Ontario campuses, teaching classroom practice, literacy and Creative Arts curriculum methods to teachers of high school, primary school and early childhood. In that time she was responsible for many subjects that were moved from face to face to online offerings and is acutely aware of the challenges and opportunities this has presented. Prior to this she worked with teachers across NSW in Department of Education schools as a Professional Development Officer. She was responsible for implementing new HSC and K- 12 creative arts curriculum and facilitating the development of state wide dance, drama, visual arts and music festivals and camps. This role built on many years experience as a high school teacher in Sydney and rural NSW. Her research interests have included first year experience in higher education, rural youth culture, the use of sound to make meaning and the role of place and space in healthy societies.

Professor Don Olcott Jr.

Co-Director, Outreach and Partnerships

Dr. Don Olcott, Jr., FRSA, is Professor of Educational Leadership and Open and Distance Learning; and Co-Director, Partnerships and Outreach. Dr. Olcott is former Chief Executive of The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education (OBHE) in the UK (2007-2010), former Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) and is a 2010 EDEN Fellow bestowed by the European Distance and eLearning Network (EDEN) for his leadership and contributions to European open and distance learning. During 2014, he has also worked on major projects with Microsoft Worldwide Education, the African Virtual University (AVU) and with the British Council in the UK and Columbia. Dr. Olcott was the 2013 recipient of the International Council of Distance Education (ICDE) Individual Prize of Excellence for his leadership and contributions to global open and distance education. Don holds dual Canadian-U.S. citizenship. Dr. Olcott was inducted in to the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Hall of Fame in May 2014. Dr. Olcott's research interests include leadership and innovation in open and distance learning, language and culture in cross-border/online higher education, sustainable ODL and OER business models, innovative learning design models for ODL, and open educational resources (OER).

Tim Klapdor

Tim brings a wealth of experience in working with the latest and greatest Educational Technologies. Tim is well known within CSU and in broader social networks for his perspectives on technology architectures and on open scholarly practices. He has also led major initiatives in applications of mobile devices for learning and in mobile friendly publishing platforms. His combination of design expertise, deep knowledge of media tools and strong grasp of online learning pedagogy make him a key member of the u!magine team.
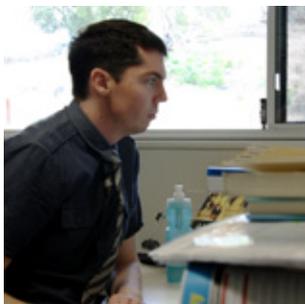
James Purkis

James is a research assistant at u!magine, who is also completing his doctoral studies through the School of Education. His area of study relates to the use of digital technologies by students in home and school environments. He has previously worked as a high school teacher and ESL teacher both in Australia and overseas.

Wendy Hogan

Wendy came to CSU in 2007 as an Administrative Assistant in the Learning Materials Centre after five years as a Classification specialist at Junee Correctional Centre. With a wealth of organisational knowledge and experience Wendy is the "go-to" person for a huge variety of important tasks – from organising events to managing the logistics of international guests.

Our Vision

u!magine aspires to be a global leader for fostering innovative practice and scholarship in online learning.

u!magine brings together diverse internal and external partners to build 'communities for innovation' that transform the use of digital technologies for quality teaching practice and research in online learning.

u!magine personifies innovation and excellence to contribute to CSU's national leadership in online and distance learning.

Model

Showcase

Exchange

u!magine

Scholarship

Incubate
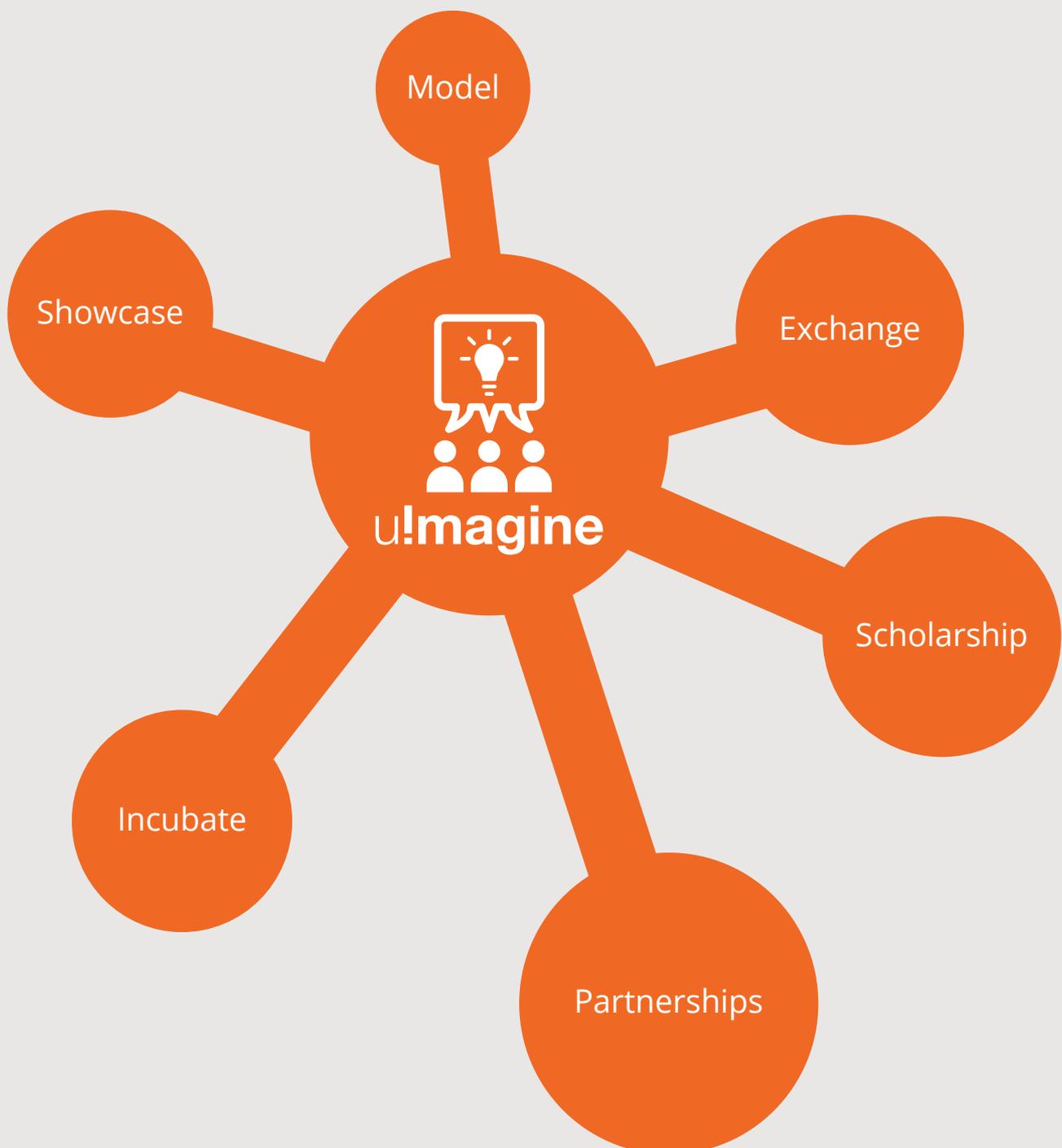
Partnerships

Partnerships & Outreach

uImagine, consistent with its mission to promote and sustain high quality CSU online teaching and learning through innovative digital practice, scholarship and incubation, is engaged in a variety of internal and external partnerships designed to fulfill its mission and create opportunities for CSU units, staff and students.

As part of its outreach mission, uImagine carries CSU institutional memberships with the International Council for Open and Distance Learning (ICDE), the European Distance and eLearning Network (EDEN), and the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA). These networks of professionals and institutions provide uImagine access to current best practices, research, and quality benchmarks for sharing state-of-the-art practices with the CSU academic community for online teaching and learning. ICDE and EDEN also publish open journals that provide alternative outlets for academic staff to submit their research and publications for consideration.

» International Council of Open and Distance Education (ICDE) www.icde.org
» European Distance and eLearning Network (EDEN) www.eden-online.org
» United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) www.usdla.org

For more information about the range of resources available via these organizations please contact Dr. Don Olcott, Jr., Co-Director, uImagine Partnerships and Outreach at dolcott@csu.edu.au or at (02) 6933 2275 or Mobile 0437 849 157

Upcoming Events

Conversations About Online Learning

The Conversations About Online Learning Workshop will be a traveling roadshow around CSU's campuses. Events will be held face-to-face but will also be conducted online. The workshops are a chance for academic staff across the disciplines to provide input and insight into the challenges they face and the practices they employ. Each faculty and discipline has it's own diverse requirements that need to be captured and understood in order to ensure good practice across the institution. Find out more: http://uimag.in/CAOLW

Learning Technology Innovation Workshop

In partnership with the Division of Information Technology and the Learning Technology Unit in the Division of Student Learning, uImagine will be hosting a workshop exploring learning technology architectures to support innovative applications of technologies for learning. The workshop, targeted at technology specialists or advanced users of learning technologies, will also provide a forum to discuss issues and experiences relating to innovation at CSU and alternative support mechanisms designed to foster innovation. The workshops will be held on the Wagga Wagga campus on **26th and 27th May** and more information including registration details can be found at http://uimag.in/LTIworkshop.

Learning Technology Forum

In collaboration with the DSL Learning Technology Unit, uImagine is hosting a series of Learning Technology Forums on topics related to the use of technologies to support Online, On Campus or Blended Learning. The next Learning Technology Forum will be on **Wednesday 20th May 3.30pm to 5.00pm** on the topic of *Co-creation of Student Resources in an Online Environment* via video conference. The forum will focus on alternative approaches to the creation of learning resources. Find out more: : http://uimag.in/LTforum

The Online Learning Model

One of the key components of the CSU Distance Education Strategy is the articulation of an Online Learning and Teaching Model consisting of a set of elements which are known to result in increased student engagement. Increasing student engagement and connectedness is an important goal because of its link to measures of teaching quality, retention and overall satisfaction. Increased consistency in learning and teaching approaches across courses at CSU will also support more consistent marketing of CSU distance courses and ultimately improvements in applications and enrollments.

The concept of engaged learning that underpins this teaching-learning model builds on Moore's (1989) highly cited model of Distance Education engagement, which incorporates learner-teacher, learner-learner and learner-content interaction. The CSU model adds learner-community engagement as a key element of professional courses as well as institutional engagement as a key additional element of the student's overall connected experience. This then leads to five key interactive elements within this broad notion of student engagement:

> » learner-teacher engagement
>
> » learner-learner engagement
>
> » learner-content engagement
>
> » learner-community-workplace engagement and
>
> » learner-institution engagement.

Most importantly these features need to be conceptualised as integrated elements of a cohesive student learning experience that aligns with professional graduate outcomes, authentic learning experiences, and real-world assessment activities. It is intended that the application of the model will vary across disciplines, schools and faculties and the model is not intended to be all inclusive. The goal is a dynamic teaching and learning model that in all its guises improves teaching, learning, and connectedness across the learning community.

For uImagine the Online Learning and Teaching model is important because it will underpin our support for innovation across the university. It will provide a framework for the development of an online learning innovation showcase and will provide a focus for professional development for Educational Designers and course design teams. Funding has been provided to support the pilot implementation of each element of the model during 2015 and 2016. During uImagine's Conversations about Online Learning workshops potential pilot implementation teams within Faculties will be sought.

The key elements of the CSU Online Learning and Teaching Model include:

SMALL GROUP SUPPORT

Learning support through online study groups created at the course and subject cohort level. These small groups (communities of learners) will be supported synchronously and asynchronously by trained and supported facilitators/tutors operating online or in metropolitan outreach centres to foster intellectual rigour and deep engagement (addressing the need for enhanced learner-teacher engagement)

PERSONALISED SUPPORT

Personalised and inclusive learning through flexible (and open) degree pathways and inclusive pedagogies underpinned by adaptive learning, learning analytics and responsive customer relationship management systems supporting coherent whole of university interaction with each student on an individual basis (addressing the need for enhanced learner-content and learner-institution engagement).

TEACHER PRESENCE

Enhanced teacher presence utilising strategies which bolster the relationship between online teachers and students, emphasise the role of teachers as designers and curators of learning content and strengthen the students' sense in which their learning is being facilitated by a caring and skilled content and online learning specialist (addressing the need for enhanced learner-teacher engagement).

INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS

Student learning through designed cooperative and collaborative synchronous and asynchronous interactive learning activities in the context of inquiry-based or problem-based learning designs aligned to assessment tasks including the co-creation of authentic learning products (addressing the need for enhanced learner-learner engagement).

INTERACTION WITH WORKPLACES

Situational learning which harnesses the affordances of online and mobile learning technologies to bridge the gap between diverse sites of learning and sites of professional practice and to enhance the experience of students during CSU's signature workplace learning placements giving learners the confidence to pursue successful and rewarding careers promoting alumni lifelong learning and professional development with CSU (addressing the need for enhanced learner-community engagement).

INTERACTIVE RESOURCES

Interactive learning resources providing experiential engagement with content and ideas through interactive multimedia and immersive simulations including CSU developed resources and resources developed world-wide such as Open Educational Resources and MOOCs, provided within the context of learning designs incorporating authentic collaboration, critical inquiry or explicit teaching (addressing the needs for enhanced learner-content, learner-teacher and learner-learner engagement).

E-ASSESSMENT

Authentic online assessment aligned to professional and practice-based learning outcomes, incorporating a range of assessment strategies, contemporary computer-based exam options and remote exam invigilation (identifying assessment design and delivery as a key aspect of enhanced learner-content engagement).

The u!magine Grants

*After a rigorous process we are proud to announce the successful projects for the first round of the u!magine **Distance Education Innovation Grant Scheme**.*

Online Problem-Based Learning

This project will evaluate the impact of using key elements of a problem based learning (PBL) approach, in a scaffolded and supportive online environment, across four core subjects offered in a suite of nine SAWS courses. It is envisaged that scaffolded online interaction with peers, and assessment tasks that align with a PBL approach will reduce attrition & enhance student engagement.

Project Team: Dr Yann Guisard, Dr Peter Mills, Caroline Love, Dr Karl Behrendt, Dr Kathryn Egerton-Warburton, Dr John Harper, Dr Cesidio Parissi, Kerri Hicks, Dr Sarah Hyde

Child Protection Preparation

The aim of the project is to develop a repository for strengths-based online learning materials accessible by a suite of teacher education courses in the Faculty of Education at Charles Sturt University to enhance the child protection preparation of students.

Project Team: Dr Angela Fenton, Kathryn Dalton, Ellen Clarkstone
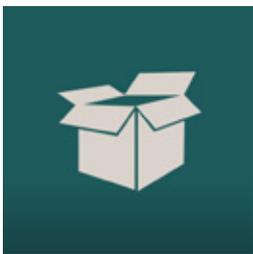
The SkillBox

The SkillBox instrument uses text, video and quizzes to deliver learning materials and formative assessment to students on a specific topic within a discipline area. A SkillBox is modular and students work through it at their own pace – each SkillBox should take less than 10 hours to complete.

Project Team: Dr Rachel Whitsed, Joanne Parker

"Riverina Shore" Simulation

This project aims to evaluate an ongoing collaboration between academics, practitioners, educational designers and media technologists, in the development of online simulated cases for POD404: Complex Cases in Podiatric Practice. To clarify a model of best practice for collaboration, and to progress the development of the learning resource from single cases to a virtual community

Project Team: Caroline Robinson, Jane McCormack

Engagement in Online Lectures

The aim of the project is to research and evaluate a range of technologies aimed at increasing online lecture engagement, both synchronously (in face to face lectures) and asynchronously (during lecture recordings), by providing opportunities for in-lecture interactions.

*Project Team: Dr Nathan Miles, George John, Kerri Hicks*

Stay tuned for an annoucement of additional grant recipients very soon!

u!magine Initiatives

uImagine has also been involved in establishing a range of initiatives to explore new technologies, practices, resources and scholarship in online learning.

eExams Trial

In collaboration with Matthew Evans and Sandra Martin in Student Administration along with the Division of Information Technology and the Learning Technology Unit in the Division of Student Learning, uImagine is coordinating a trial of eExams in a limited range of subjects during 2015. The trial will involve students completing exams on a computer in their own homes or workplaces while being supervised using a remote invigilation service such as ProctorU or BVirtual. Various exam styles will be trialled including the use of the Blackboard Test tool, the use of Word and the use of specialised discipline specific software.
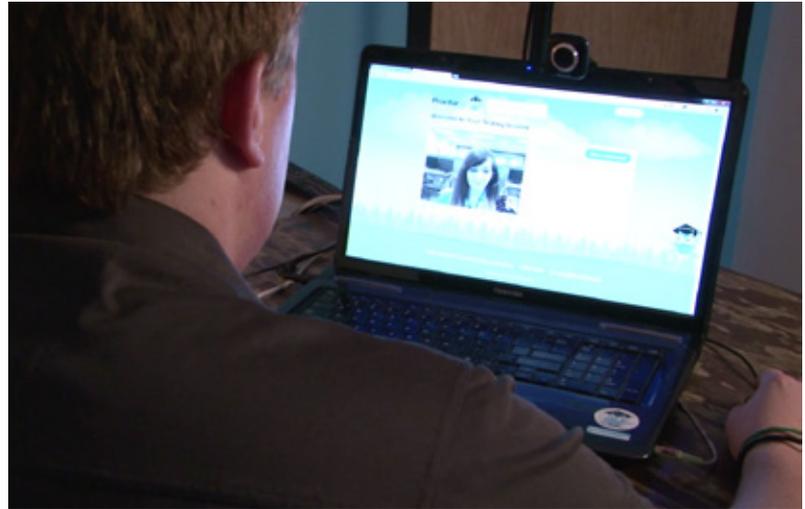

Mobile Assessment in Workplace Learning

In partnership with Franziska Trede and Katelin Sutton of the Education for Practice Institute (EFPI), Tim Klapdor of uImagine is leading a project exploring the affordances of mobile technologies for enhanced assessment of student learning outcomes while on Workplace Learning placement. The project will explore ways of replacing the various paper-based assessment forms with eForms suitable for completion using a mobile device, as well as ways in which students might capture snapshots of their own performance using mobile video for formative or summative assessment.

Biomedical Learning Resources

Lucy Webster of the School of Biomedical Sciences is leading a collaborative project with uImagine in which subjects across three schools within the Faculty of Science will trial the use of the BEST network biomedical image database along with the Smart Sparrow adaptive learning tools. Students will benefit through the ability to access a wide range of microscopic biomedical images in the context of self-paced learning resources helping them to build their conceptual understandings of key anatomical or physiological material.
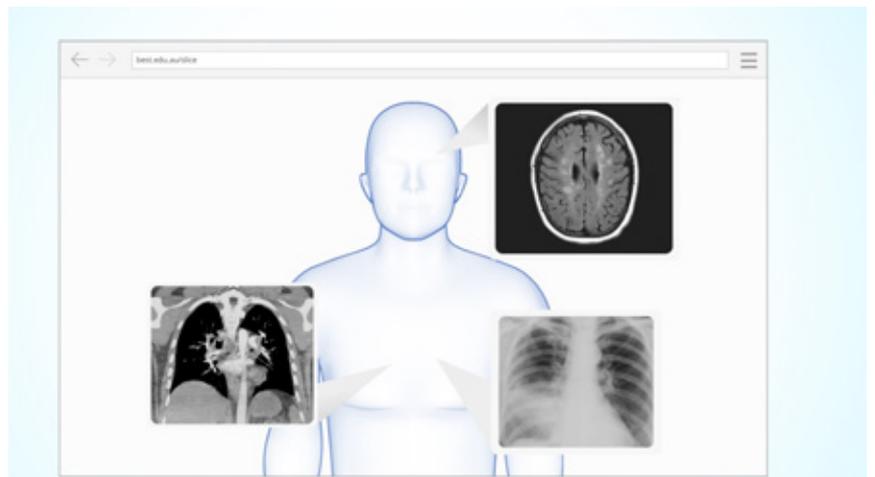
Scholarship in Online Learning Group

uImagine will shortly be establishing a Scholarship in Online Learning group to support the work of academic and educational design and support staff who would like to delve further into the research and scholarship around their online teaching and learning design work. The group, which will meet via Video Conference monthly, will undertake activities including seminars, literature discussions, methodology workshops, and longer symposiums. As well as providing an environment for collective engagement with key research topics in online learning, the group will also help to bring like minded scholars together to discuss future collaborations towards publications and grant applications. CSU staff from across the university will be welcome to attend meetings. The details of the first meeting of the group will be publicised during May on What's New and Yammer.

Indigenous Knowledge Networks

Barbara Hill, Indigenous Curriculum & Pedagogy Co-Ordinator and Lead of Gulaay Indigenous Australian Curriculum and Resources team, with Michelle Evans of the Faculty of Business, is leading an international collaboration with uImagine and the University of Minnesota Learning Technology Media Laboratory, towards the creation of an Indigenous Knowledge Network. The network, which will bring together indigenous stories from around the world through an interactive online portal housing video, audio, graphic media resources and curriculum, builds on earlier work led by Aaron Doering of the University of Minnesota, including the world renowned North of Sixty project (see http://n60.co/).
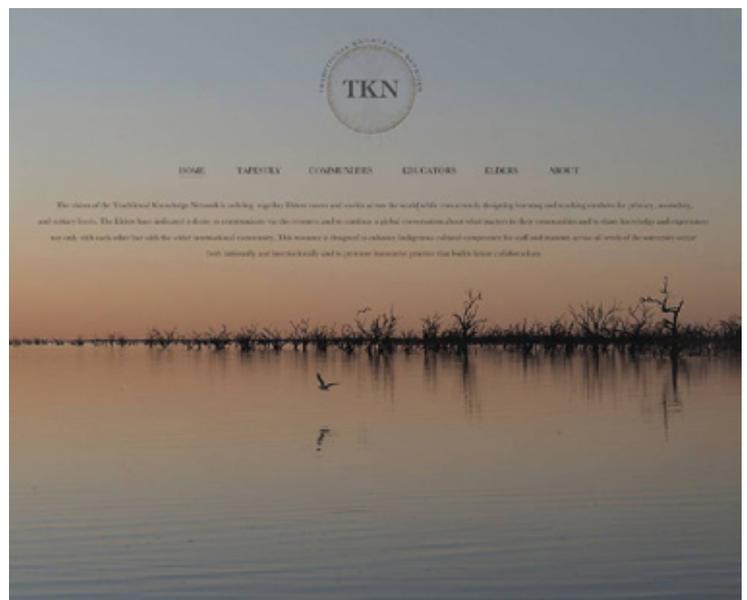
Learning Space Design

The uImagine team has been working with the Divisions of Facilities Management and Information Technology on the design and development of flexible learning spaces. With uImagine being located in Building 29 in Wagga we have an opportunity to redevelop a large open space as a pilot exemplar of contemporary space design including telepresence inspired connectivity to spaces on other campuses. The challenge is to design a space to suite a variety of functions that allows staff and students to work collaboratively, experiment with new technology, disseminate information and practices and share experiences. The project responds to and embodies the principles and priorities of the Campus Learning Space Design developed by the CSU Learning Environments Committee. We'll have some photos up on the website soon!
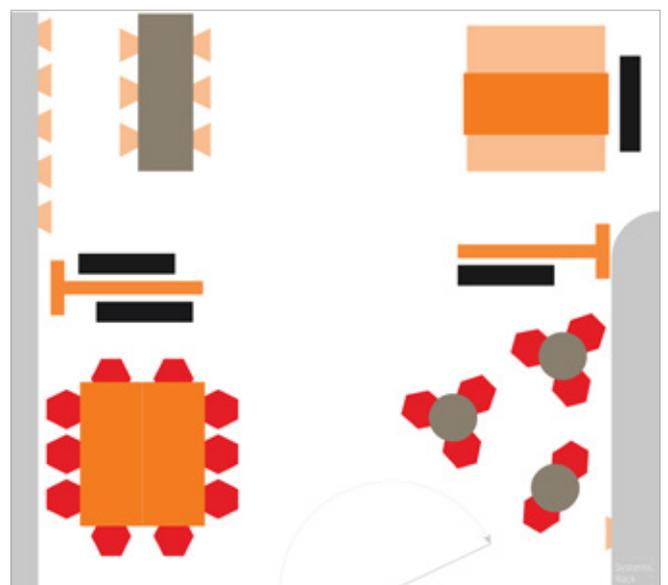
Highlighted Publications & Presentations

As part of the uImagine role as a hub for scholarship and research in online learning across CSU, uImagine staff will be pursuing research, developing scholarly publications and presentations and collaborating with teams to promote online learning scholarship across the university. In this newsletter we'd like to highlight some recent publications and presentations which we hope will be of interest to CSU educators and educational design and support staff. We look forward to highlighting relevant publications and presentations by our broader network of collaborators in future editions. A complete list of uImagine publications will be available on the uImagine website.

Croft-Piggin, L. (2014). Listening to student voices: Completing teacher education in an Australian rural context. *The Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*.

Gregory, S., Lee., M.J.W., Dalgarno, B. & Tynan, B. (Eds.) (2015). *Virtual Worlds for Online Learning: Cases and Applications*. Nova Science Publishers.

Bower, M., Kennedy, G. E., Dalgarno, B., Lee, M. J. W., & Kenney, J. (2015). Design and implementation factors in blended synchronous learning environments: Outcomes from a cross-case analysis. *Computers & Education*, 86, 1–17. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2015.03.006

Dalgarno, B., Reupert, A. & Bishop, A. (2015). Blogging while on professional placement: Explaining the diversity in student attitudes and engagement. *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*, 24 (2), 189-209.

Steffens, K., Bannan, B., Dalgarno, B., Bartolomé, A. R., Esteve-González, V., & Cela-Ranilla, J. M. (2015). Recent Developments in Technology-Enhanced Learning: A Critical Assessment. *RUSC. Universities and Knowledge Society Journal*, 12(2), 1-14. http://dx.doi.org/10.7238/rusc.v12i2.2453

Gill, L., Dalgarno, B. & Carlson, L. (2015). How Does Pre-Service Teacher Preparedness to Use ICTs for Learning and Teaching Develop Through Their Degree Program. *Australian Journal of Teacher Education*, 40(1), 36-59.

Olcott Jr. D., Carrera Farran, X., Gallardo Echenique, E. E., & González Martínez, J. (2015). Ethics and Education in the Digital Age: Global Perspectives and Strategies for Local Transformation in Catalonia. *RUSC. Universities and Knowledge Society Journal*, 12(2). pp. 59-72. doi http://dx.doi. org/10.7238/rusc.v12i2.2455

Olcott, D. J. (2014). Building digital bridges to the future: A primer for ministry leaders for school transformation via public & private educational partnerships. *Microsoft Worldwide Education White Paper Series*. Seattle: Microsoft.

Olcott, D. J. (2014). Making connections: Adaptive learning communities (ALCs). *Microsoft Worldwide Education White Paper Series*. Seattle: Microsoft.

Wurf, G., & Croft-Piggin, L. (2014). Predicting the academic achievement of first year, pre-service teachers: The role of ATAR, student engagement, motivation and emotional intelligence. *Asia Pacific Journal of Higher Education*.

As part of our Outreach and Partnerships work members of the uImagine team are frequently invited to give keynote talks, conference presentations and seminars nationally and internationally. Some of our recent presentations on topics relevant to online learning practice at CSU include:

Croft-Piggin, L. (April 2015). *What is the difference between group work and cooperative learning and how can we apply well accepted cooperative learning principles in an online context?* Paper presented at the Learning Technology Forum.

Dalgarno, B. (2015, April), *Education for professionalism in an online context*, Invited Presentation, Education for Practice Symposium, Sydney.

Dalgarno, B. (2015, March), *Designing and Evaluating Polysynchronous Learning Spaces*, Keynote Presentation, New Generation Learning Spaces Conference, Sydney.

Olcott, D.J. (2015, March). *Leading Change for Technology Initiatives in Education*. Invited facilitator and presenter, Microsoft Asia and the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Klapdor, T., Tari, K., Seitzinger J. (2014, December) *The networked professional: Tribes & Treasure Map*s,

Workshop, Ascilite Conference, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Dalgarno, B. (2014, November), *Different paths to the finish line or running a separate race: Contrasting institution, staff, student and 'expert' perspectives on online learning*, Keynote Presentation, ACODE conference, Melbourne.

Olcott, D. J. (2014, October), *Building Digital Bridges to the Future: Opportunities & Challenges for Distance Learning Universities*. Invited presentation, Charles Sturt University, Australia.

Olcott, D. J. (2014, September), *African Virtual University (AVU) Quality Assurance Framework*. Invited presentation from African Virtual University, Nairobi, Kenya.

Dalgarno, B. (2014, July), *Are there new environments for constructing knowledge?* Invited presentation at FIET forum, University of Taragona, Spain.

Our Website

uImagine has established an online presence at **www.uimagine.edu.au** *which sits on a new Innovations Server that provides a scalable, multipurpose solution with which to explore a variety of learning technologies.*

The website will provide a bold and visual record of the work being carried out as part of the uImagine vision. The website provides an accessible and rich way of documenting the work being done and provides a central point of access to our various projects and initiatives.

One of the key features that we plan to build and extend over time is the **Exchange**. The Exchange will provide a way of accessing our work but also provide a way of engaging and sharing ideas.

Our Values

COLLABORATION

INNOVATION

QUALITY

LEADERSHIP

EMPOWERMENT

Coming Soon

Conversations About Online Learning
May 12 - June 5th
Find out more: http://uimag.in/CAOLW

Learning Technology forum
May 20th 3.30pm
Co-creation of Online Resources, Co-hosted with LTU
Find out more: http://uimag.in/LTforum

Learning Technology Innovation Workshop
May 26th - 27th
Co-hosted with the Learning Technology Unit & DIT
Find out more: http://uimag.in/LTIworkshop.

TWITTER
@uimagine_csu

INSTAGRAM
uimagine_csu

EMAIL
uimagine@csu.edu.au

uImagine is an iniative of

Charles Sturt University