Terry ‘Didge’ Lane

Terry Lane is a professional didjeridu player, musician and Aboriginal artist whose heritage is from the Wonnarua Nation, which is now known as the Upper Hunter Valley region. He is presently living in the Dharawal Nation, better known as the Sutherland Shire. Terry regularly plays didjeridu for the Uniting Church and has played in the Sydney Town Hall to 1500 people, Mosman Art Gallery, NAIDOC events around Sydney, Reconciliation events around Sydney and seminars at schools. He has taught men from Canada, Brazil, Nepal as well as men and boys from all around Australia to play the didjeridu. He also has some of his artwork and Aboriginal artefacts in England and Croatia as well as here in Australia. He is also the Social Support co-ordinator for the Aboriginal Men’s group at Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation in Jannali.

Andrew Vann

Professor Vann was born in the UK, trained as a civil engineer and worked in engineering consultancy before completing a PhD in the Civil Engineering Systems Group at University of Bristol in 1994. He lectured in structural engineering at University of Bristol prior to moving to Australia in 1996 where he took up a similar post in the Faculty of Engineering at Central Queensland University in Rockhampton. During this time he pursued research interests in structural monitoring and artificial intelligence, as well as leading pedagogical change in moving the Bachelor of Engineering at CQU to a project-based format. He held various senior academic and administrative roles at CQU before joining James Cook University in North Queensland in 2004 as Pro-Vice Chancellor Information Services and Technologies and, from 2008 was Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for the Faculties and Teaching and Learning. Professor Vann joined Charles Sturt University as Vice-Chancellor in December 2011. He has held board and committee leadership roles in the Arts, school and VET education and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of Engineers Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

Gard Titlestad

Gard Titlestad joined ICDE in August 2011 after six years at the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen, Denmark where he was Head of the Department for Knowledge and Welfare. He managed the secretariat for various configurations of ministers; the ministers for education and research, the ministers for health and social affairs, and before that also the ministers for labour affairs and ministers for IT. Gard’s focus was on Nordic cooperation in education, research and innovation and the so called knowledge triangle, and in particular the role of universities. Under his guidance, major initiatives were taken within research and design including a top level research initiative targeted towards climate change and the sustainable economy, and within education the new Nordic licence, and programme Nordic eScience, and development of cooperation on high capacity networks and supercomputing in the Baltic Sea area. Gard was also active in facilitating policy initiatives for new welfare models and in cooperation within health. Before joining the Nordic Council of Ministers, Gard served as Research Counsellor for Norway in Brussels, Belgium, facilitating Norwegian participation in European cooperation, including on Information Society initiatives. He participated in the executive team of the Norwegian delegation to the European Union. His experience of international cooperation in research and development and IT spans many areas from concrete cooperation within cancer research, major developments on the oceans, to broad Information Society initiatives.

Mandla Stanley Makhanya

Professor Mandla Stanley Makhanya was appointed Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa on 1 January 2011 and is prominent in higher education leadership and advocacy. Prof Makhanya is also Treasurer of the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE) and has recently been appointed as President of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE). Professor Makhanya is also the Vice President of the Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association (HETL) – International Body. Professor Makhanya holds a BA and a BA (Hons) in Sociology from the University of Fort Hare, a Masters Degree in Industrial Sociology from the University of Natal (now the University of KwaZulu Natal), and a DPhil from the University of Pretoria and a DTE from Unisa. In 2007 the University of Athabasca in Canada conferred upon him a PhD (Honoris Causa) in recognition of his outstanding leadership at Unisa and his contribution as a distinguished scholar in distance education. Thomas Edison State University presented him with the University’s honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, on the 24th September 2016. He maintains active scholarship through regular publications. Professor Makhanya is a Deputy Chairperson of the South African National Commission for UNESCO and Chairperson of the Culture Sector of the South African National Commission for UNESCO. He has also been a member of the National Committee of the Memory of the World (MoW). Professor Makhanya is also an Executive Committee Member of the Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association (HETL) – International Body (2012). In the 1990s he served in various leadership roles in the South African Sociological Association, including Deputy President in 1998, for a period of two years. He continues to be a member of the South African Sociological Association (SASA) and the International Association of Sociology (ISA). Prof Makhanya is on the advisory board of JRODel (Journal of Research in Open, Distance and e-Learning).
David Barnett

David is the Managing Director at Pearson Australia. He has worked in the education industry for the past twenty-eight years. He has worked in a variety of senior roles, and was appointed as Managing Director of Pearson Australia in 2002. He is a graduate of Macquarie University, MGSM and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. David is a Director of the Copyrught Agency and is Chairman of Robert Menzies College.

Kam Cheong Li

Dr. Kam Cheong Li is the Director of Research at the Open University of Hong Kong. He oversees research and has recently founded the Institute for Research in Open and Innovative Education. Dr. Li currently serves as the Secretary-General of the Asian Association of Open Universities. He is also Honorary Chair Professor and Visiting Professor of a number of tertiary institutions in China and the United Kingdom. He has obtained three bachelor’s degrees, four master’s degrees and a doctoral degree from the University of Hong Kong, the University of London and Peking University. Dr. Li has been actively involved in distance, open and innovative education for more than 20 years. His current research interests lie in innovative pedagogy, open and distance learning, and modes of university education, with more than a hundred publications including journal articles, academic papers, monographs, and edited books. He has successfully obtained funding for a large number of research and development projects. For years, Dr. Li has organized many international conferences in areas relevant to open and innovative education. He is a popular speaker in relevant conferences, seminars and professional development functions to deliver keynotes and invited speeches.

Caroline Seelig

Dr. Caroline Seelig has 25 years experience as a senior manager in New Zealand’s tertiary education sector, specialising in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and vocational education. Caroline joined Open Polytechnic of New Zealand as Chief Executive in 2009. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning and a Woolf Fisher Scholar. Caroline holds a BSc (Hons), a postgraduate Certificate in Education, a Master of Educational Administration, and a PhD. Dr. Caroline Seelig joined the Open Polytechnic as Chief Executive on 26 January 2009. Formerly Deputy Chief Executive of Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) from 2000–2009, Caroline has more than 20 years experience as a senior manager in New Zealand’s institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITP) sector. Caroline has extensive knowledge of the ITP sector, having previously held senior positions in Tai Poutini, Eastern Institute of Technology, and Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. She has led institutional strategic and investment planning, along with oversight of flexible learning, teaching and delivery units, academic portfolio development, quality management and student support. She has also been involved in a wide range of successful collaborative initiatives and projects to drive change and innovation. She is a board member of New Zealand Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics and also an honorary adviser to the Commonwealth of Learning. A Woolf Fisher Scholar in 2004, Caroline holds a PhD in Biology from University College of Swansea and a Master of Educational Administration from Massey University.

Hazel Rymer

Professor Hazel Rymer is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching Innovation) at the Open University. Hazel contributes to the strategic vision and mission of the University and has a focus on supporting student success by providing executive leadership in the areas of innovation, strategy and policy development, course production, informal learning and research and scholarship in technology enhanced learning. Hazel is Professor of Environmental Volcanology. Her research interest focuses on the identification of subsurface processes related to precursors to eruptive activity at persistently active volcanoes and calderas. She has developed and championed the use of microgravity as a tool for monitoring active volcanoes and calderas. The technique she pioneered is now the standard method for gravity monitoring on volcanoes.
Janet Bulumaris Rangouj

Ms. Janet Bulumaris Rangouj is the Acting Associate Director-Programs and Productions at the University of Papua New Guinea’s Open College. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Education from the University of Papua New Guinea, a Masters Degree in Learning Sciences and Technology and soon to be awarded a PhD from the University of Sydney. Her PhD study investigated how QA is sustained amidst ‘quality failures’ practices. The research identifies challenges and opportunities of workable QA frameworks, policies and procedures that may be harnessed in the PNG context.

An anticipated research outcome is building a sustainable PNG based QA culture in FODEL within the Higher Education sector. Ms. Rangouj began her career as a Secondary School teacher prior to becoming an Instructional Designer at the University of Papua New Guinea’s Open College for over 10 years. For the past four years, she pursued her PhD research topic into Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Flexible Open Distance Education in Papua New Guinea. Janet has been a recipient of three scholarships from the Japanese International Corporation Award and two Australian Awards one of which is called the Australian Leadership Awards. She has presented and attended COL and ICDE conferences in Jamaica, Bali-Indonesia, Tianjin-China and Sun City- South Africa. She co-authored a chapter with Haihui.S, A. Mannan & J. Rangouj (2009) A chapter Titled Capacity Building in Distance Education A PNG Open College Experience in Kinuthia, W and Marshall, S, (Eds). Cases’ Places: Global Cases in Educational and Performance Technology in Practice: Research and practice Case Studies from the field, Information Age. As an emerging leader, Janet hopes to be an agent of change for quality enhancement in the area of FODEL in PNG. In doing so, she aims to create a robust discourse for ‘quality enhancement’ through practice, publications and professional advocacy. Such a dream entails being sensitive to current practices of FODEL and forming positive coalition with PNG FODEL networks widely. A personal outcome for her is the creation of a harmonious acceptance of FODEL as an alternative but robust quality approach to inclusive education for all in Papua New Guinea. Ms. Rangou has been a promoter of Open Distance Learning in Papua New Guinea through PNG Association of Distance Education where she was the secretary for a number of years.

Divya Singh

Divya Singh is the Vice Principal of Advisory and Assurance Services, Johannesburg, South Africa. She is responsible for management and leadership in the space of governance and assurance, dealing with internal audit, risk and compliance, ethics strategies for institutions, legal services and employee relations. Divya has wide ranging experience in the areas of academic training and development, research, academic programs, formal and non-formal training programs and is a trained advocate in a legal practice. She has served on several boards, and audit committees, commissions of inquiry, law commissions, and presided at disciplinary hearings and arbitration matters. She is also the Regional Director for Globethics.net.

Mansoor Al Awar

Dr. Al Awar has significant achievements throughout his professional life, he was the founder of the first TQM Department (Total Quality Management Department at Dubai Police) when he was appointed as a Director, and held that position from 1998 till 2006. He was the first Director of quality in the public sector in the Emirate of Dubai and UAE. Dr. Al Awar founded the Emirates Business Women Award at Dubai Quality Group in 2002, and he was the first elected Chairman of Dubai Quality Group of the Government Sector in 2001. He also founded Public Opinion Survey Center at Dubai Police in 2001. And last but not least, he was the founder of Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University which was known as e-TQM College since its first inception in 2002 and then Hamdan Bin Mohammed e-University in 2009. At Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, Dr. Al Awar has several initiatives including being the first founder of the Excellence in Leadership Award in the Arab world in April 2005. The Award holds the name of (Feigenbaum) the Quality Management Scholar. Furthermore, he has established Juran Chair at HBMSU for the first time in the history of the region in 2004. It is also worth mention that Dr. Mansoor has established the Virtual Executive Club in 2003 in addition to the Media Quality Award for the Arab World in 2004. His membership at committees and affiliation worldwide are included in being Honorary Visiting Fellow in Organization and Information Management at University of Bradford, a member of International Academy for Quality (IAQ) as Academician, a part-time professor in graduate studies at the University Of Salford in UK, and supervisor for PhD dissertations and a Certified International Assessor for European Foundation of Total Quality Management (EFQM).

Maxim Jean-Louis

Maxim Jean-Louis is President - Chief Executive Officer of Contact North-Contact Nord, Ontario’s Distance Education & Training Network, headquartered in Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada. Contact North | Contact Nord is Ontario’s network hub for online and flexible learning. Based in Ontario’s north, 600 small, rural, remote, Indigenous and Francophone communities spanning a geographical area of 1 million people and 1 million square kilometers. It helps Ontario’s 24 public colleges and 22 public universities reach and connect to these communities. It also provides support to some 250+ essential skills providers throughout the Province. Strongly supported by the Government of Ontario, Contact North | Contact Nord, the organization promotes over 900 fully online programs, over 20,000 online courses and some 7,637 essential skills development activities. Maxim is the Chair of the 2017 World Conference Online Learning to be held in Toronto Canada on October 17-19, 2016 http://onlinelearning2017.ca He is a current member of the International Council for Open and distance Education (ICDE) Executive Committee and serves on a variety of boards including the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Renewed computer Technology, People for Education and the Sudbury Art Gallery.
Kamal B Gunaherath

Prof Kamal B Gunaherath is the Senior Professor of Chemistry (Chair) at the Open University of Sri Lanka. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon and member of Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science (SLAAS). He earned his B. Sc. in Chemistry and Ph. D in Organic Chemistry from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and has carried out post-doctoral research in Organic Chemistry at University of Münster, Germany (with late Prof Dr. Dr.(med) J. Reisch) and University of Arizona (with Prof. Leslie Gunatilaka) and was a visiting Scientist at the University of Queensland, Australia (with Prof R. J. Capon). Prof Gunaherath pioneered Natural Product Chemistry research at the Department of Chemistry, the Open University of Sri Lanka and has a number of peer-reviewed publications, book chapters and communications to his credit. He is the recipient of Kandiah memorial award for the best piece of post-graduate research in Chemistry in Sri Lanka, 1982 and Chandrasena Memorial award for outstanding contribution of an original nature in the field of Organic Chemistry, 2001, both from the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon. He has been trained at OUUK in development of Distance Educational course material and audio and video production and has pioneered the production of distance education course material in Organic Chemistry. He has written self-instructional materials in many areas in Organic Chemistry for distance education students. He has also offered some supplementary material online for his course units. He has been the Head of the Department of Chemistry on several occasions and presently he holds the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's position of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Tian Belawati

Professor Tian Belawati has served lifetime professional contributions to open and distance learning (ODL). She has had extensive experience in research, teaching, and administration of a large scale open university system, which include various positions within Universitas Terbuka (UT), an ODL institution that serves diverse groups of students with differing needs and circumstances in Indonesia. She started her career in academic life in 1985 as an editor before furthering her study in Canada. Upon her return to UT, she was appointed as Head of the Center for Indonesian Studies in 1996, and as the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs from 2001 to 2009. As Vice Rector she introduced innovations and good practices in the use of new technology for the delivery of ODL which have taken UT into a new ODL platform in a developing country context through utilization of new and appropriate technology, such as online tutorials, open educational resources (OERs), online examination, digital library, integrated information system for learning materials development, and other ICT-based initiatives in teaching, learning and academic administration. Professor Belawati is currently serving her second term of office as the Rector of UT. As Rector, she has taken decisive actions to mobilize effort in partnerships with stakeholders to improve the quality of ODL, develop greater public confidence in ODL, and establish collaborative effort with international as well as regional ODL institutions and associations. She is extensively involved in various joint initiatives with other ODL players and organizations in her capacity as both ODL researcher and top administrator. Her professional achievements have led her appointments as Secretary General (2007-2009) and then President (2009-2010) of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU). Her leadership was further acknowledged at the global level through her appointment as a member of the Election Committee, the Executive Committee, and as the President of the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) from 2012 until 2015. Professor Belawati holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Adult Education (University of British Columbia, Canada, and a Master of Education in Management of Distance Education (Simon Fraser University, Canada.). Her academic reputation in ODL has been recognized through various awards, namely GTP-Bappenas Awards for independent research; World Bank Awards, the Young Academic Program of Indonesian, the Directorate General for Higher Education, Indonesia (YAP-DGHE) for independent research; YAP-DGHE Awards for international publication; IDRC-PanAsia Organization Award for both independent and collaborative research; and Fullbright Award for senior independent research. The latest awards she received were for her life time contributions in the field of education, the AAOU Meritorious Service Award in 2012 and the Distinguished Individual Promoter of the ODL from the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE) in June 2014.

Sandra Wills

Prof Sandra Wills has worked in Australian universities for a quarter of a century, and is currently PVC Student Learning at Charles Sturt University. She has over forty years international experience in the fields of both education and technology across the full spectrum of education including school, TAFE, business, government and university, in roles ranging from teacher, sessional lecturer, academic, courseware developer, technology entrepreneur, industry analyst, quality auditor, public speaker, senior manager and board director in public and private educational enterprises. As a pioneer of multimedia, distance education and e-learning, Sandra’s initiatives have been recognised through national and international awards including an ALTC Citation for strategic leadership in global e-learning; Fellow of both the Australian Computer Society and Australian Council for Computers in Education; IFIP Silver Core; and ONet Fellow at the UK Open University. Prof Wills is an international researcher and author in educational innovation and has delivered over 120 invited and keynote addresses in 22 countries. Her latest book, The power of role-based e-learning, caps more than ten years of research on learning designs and online role play funded by Australian learning & teaching grants. A recent grant from the UK Higher Education Academy set out international benchmarking standards on recognition of teaching in academic promotion. Her latest grant completed, for the Australian equivalent of HEA, the Office for Learning & Teaching, was OpenEdOz, a national roadmap for open education in Australia.
Mansor Fadzil

Prof Mansor joined OUM in August 2000 as vice president (Academic) and was later made vice president (Technology) in May 2003. In August 2007, he became the senior vice president of the university, a position that he held prior to his appointment as president and vice-chancellor. He was part of the pioneering group of individuals that founded OUM back in 1999 and has served under both the founding president and vice-chancellor the late Tan Sri Dr Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad and Prof Anuwar. Formally trained as an engineer, he joined Universiti Malaya as a lecturer after graduating from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, in 1985. It was during his time at UM that he began to realise a personal interest in online learning; where he played an instrumental role in introducing the approach to lecturers in 1998. In his new role, Prof Mansor hopes to succeed in steering OUM and its sister institutions, the Institute of Professional Development and International Open College to greater heights.

Robin Shreeve

Robin Shreeve is responsible for the strategic direction of TAFE Western Sydney. With around 150,000 enrolments in 2016 the Institute, which includes the distance education provider, Open Training and Education Network (OTEN), is recognised as one of Australia's largest registered training organisations conducting its business at regional, national and international levels. Robin has over thirty years experience in vocational education and training holding senior positions such as the CEO of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency, an independent body advising the Australian Government on workforce skill needs and the Deputy Director-General, TAFE NSW and Community Education. Mr Shreeve holds degrees from the Universities of York and Sheffield. He is an adjunct Professor of Education at both Western Sydney University and Federation University, in addition to being an Honorary Senior Fellow at the L H Martin Institute of the University of Melbourne.

Belinda Tynan

As of May 9th, 2016 Professor Tynan assumed the role of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education) and Vice President at RMIT. Prior to joining RMIT Belinda was the Pro Vice Chancellor of Learning and Teaching Innovation at the Open University, UK. In that role she provided executive leadership in the areas of learning and teaching innovation. Her previous roles have included Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and Quality at the University of Southern Queensland, and Director of the research centre DEHub at the University of New England. Professor Tynan holds an EdD from the University of Western Australia, a MEd in online learning from the University of Southern Queensland, three Post Graduate Diploma's one in Secondary Education (ACU); Curriculum (UniMelb) and Higher Education (UNSW). Her Bachelor of Arts was completed at the University of Melbourne in history, music and drama. Professor Tynan's research interests are concentrated in the field of educational technologies, academic workload, student voices and academic professional development. She has 70+ refereed publications and is a frequently invited guest and keynote-speaker and facilitator. You can find her work on www.researchgate.net. Belinda has more than thirty years of experience in the education sector in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the UK. She is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Fellow of the European Distance Education Network. Belinda has also held a number of International and National Leadership roles. She is on the editorial board of two major journals, until recently a non-executive director of the Executive Committee of the European Distance Education Network (EDEN) and FutureLearn (UK); on the board of the Open Learnings College, London. She additionally holds a two year appointment as a member of the Polytechnic Quality Assurance Framework (PQAF) External Review Panel for the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

Dragan Gasevic

Dragan Gasevic is a Professor and Chair in Learning Analytics and Informatics in the Moray House School of Education and the School of Informatics at the University of Edinburgh since February 2015. Before the current post, he was the Canada Research Chair in Semantic and Learning Technologies and a Professor in the School of Computing and Information Systems at Athabasca University since 2007. Presently, he is the President of the Society for Learning Analytics Research, an Adjunct Professor in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology at Simon Fraser University, Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at the University of South Australia, and a Research Scientist in the LINK Research Lab at the University of Texas, Arlington. A computer scientist by training and skills, Dragan considers himself a learning and information scientist developing computational methods that can shape next-generation learning and software technologies and advance our understanding of information seeking, sense-making, and self-regulated and social learning. Funded by granting agencies and industry in Canada and Europe, Dragan is a recipient of several best paper awards at the major international conferences in learning and software technology. The award-winning work of his team on the LOCO-Analytics software is considered one of the pioneering contributions in the growing area of learning analytics. Recently, he has founded ProSolo Technologies Inc that develops a software solution for tracking, evaluating, and recognizing competences gained through self-directed learning and social interactions. Committed to the development of international research community, Dragan served as a founding program co-chair of the International Conference on Learning Analytics & Knowledge in 2011 and 2012 and the general chair in 2016 as well as a founding program co-chair of the Learning Analytics Summer Institute in 2013 and 2014. Currently serving as a founding editor of the Journal of Learning Analytics, Dragan is a (co-)author of numerous research papers and books and a frequent keynote speaker.
Anne Boyer is a Professor of Computer Science at Université de Lorraine, France. She heads a research team called KIWI (Knowledge, Information and Web Intelligence) at the LORIA laboratory. Her teaching and research interests include recommender systems, user modeling, learning analytics as well as interdisciplinary approaches to personalization of e-services. She is President of the UNIT foundation since January 2016.

Sarah Stein is the Director, Distance Learning at the University of Otago in New Zealand. In this role, Sarah works in collaboration with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Pro-Vice Chancellors, Heads of Departments and others to facilitate change and development in distance education. Sarah’s past work experience includes primary school teaching, curriculum advising in primary and secondary schools, and academic staff development in Australian universities, including the University of New England and the University of Queensland. Sarah is currently the president of FLANZ, the Flexible Learning Association New Zealand. She undertakes research projects and supervises postgraduate students. Sarah’s research is in teaching, learning, curriculum and evaluation in higher education settings, with a specific focus on distance education, student evaluations, teacher professional development, and technology and science education.

Professor Cheong Hee Kiat is Founding President of SIM University. He joined academia in Nanyang Technological University in 1986, and held various academic and administrative appointments including Dean of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Deputy President. Professor Cheong has served on the boards of several tertiary education institutions, the Public Utilities Board and Building and Construction Authority (BCA), and public committees. He chairs the BCA Academy Advisory Panel and the Polytechnic Quality Assurance External Review Panel. He has been active in university accreditation and academic audits in Singapore and internationally, and is a Member of the Singapore Engineering Accreditation Board. Professor Cheong graduated from the University of Adelaide and the Imperial College, London. He is a registered Professional Engineer (Civil) and Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Singapore and the Singapore Academy of Engineers.

Jennalyn G. Raviz has been dedicated to teaching in secondary and higher education since early 2004, shortly after finishing her undergraduate bachelor degree in Computer Science in AMA University. She obtained her professional teaching license on 2005 for Mathematics in secondary schools and since then, she had significant experience in providing lectures for college entrance exam reviews for Math, Sciences and English. She is currently the dean of AMA University Online Education and simultaneously finishing her dissertation writing for her doctorate degree.

Professor Yoichi Okabe is currently the President of the Open University of Japan (OUJ). He has made professional contributions to OUJ for the last ten years. Prior to his inauguration as President, he was the Executive Director of National Institute of Multimedia (NIME), a research institution of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology in Japan (MEXT), the later Center for Open and Distance Education, the Open University of Japan (OUJ-CODE). He played a significant role in promoting the use of ICT in higher education in Japan. After serving at NIME, he was appointed vice president of OUJ and became a major force behind all ICT deployment within the university in its administrative operations as well as teaching and learning, such as offering online lectures and implementing online discussion boards. Currently, as OUJ President since 2011, he is one of the most influential academics in our country, by exploiting the power of SNS (Twitter and Facebook) to facilitate public communication. In addition to playing a leading role in ICT in higher education in Japan, he was an early promoter of Japanese MOOC by providing his own course, ‘How Computers Work’ in the form of MOOC. Before coming to OUJ, Professor Okabe worked for the University of Tokyo, the most prestigious university in Japan, where he obtained his doctorate in engineering. He has dedicated his life to research and education in electronics engineering for 34 years. His specialty includes digital application of superconductive electronics, brain computing, inverse problem solving through magneto-encephalography, and information science. He has completed many notable initiatives while he was Director of the Research Center for Advanced Technology (RCAST), and Director of the Information Technology Center, during his tenure at the University of Tokyo.
Primrose Kurasha

Dr Primrose Kurasha, the first woman Vice Chancellor in Zimbabwe, heads Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) SINCE 2003. She is the chairperson of Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA), Executive Board member on the Council for Distance Education (ACDE) and sits on the SADC-ODL Project Steering Committee. Long Business Description: Professor Primrose Kurasha, the first woman Vice Chancellor in Zimbabwe, heads Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) SINCE 2003. She is the chairperson of Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA), Executive Board member on the Council for Distance Education (ACDE) and sits on the SADC-ODL Project Steering Committee. She holds a PhD, MBA and BBS Hons Degrees. She has several Publications and is consultant for financial management, manufacturing, educational and other organizations. She has been chairperson of the UNESCO- funded UNITWIN Project , ZBC Boards Finance and Audit Committee, founding and board member of the Scientific Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC), Board member of Baobab Reinsurance P/L , the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. Under her leadership ZOU has won the International Star for Leadership in Quality Award (ISLQ) and the Open University of Tanzania Excellence Award. Her awards include the Businesswoman of the year 2008; the Sally Mugabe Award for Managerial Excellence (2005); the Empretec Woman Leader of the Year (2004); the Bridgeport Innovation Centre Fellowship award (1986) and the Van Leer Foundation Award (1979). A strong exponent of ODL she has created linkages with institutions in Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Namibia, Malawi, Israel, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China.

Michael Sankey

Michael is currently the Director of the Learning Technologies Leadership Institute (LTLI) run by the Australasian Council on Online Distance and e-Learning (ACODE). He also, just recently has taken up a new post at RMIT University as an Associate Professor, Digital Learning Transformation. Prior to this he was the Director of Learning Environments and Media at the University Southern Queensland (USQ). Michael specialises in the areas of e-learning pedagogies, leadership in technology enhanced learning and teaching, benchmarking and quality measures for technology enhanced learning, multimodal design, the use of social media in teaching and learning, and how the use of blended learning environments can enhance student learning opportunities, particularly for those studying online. He has worked in Higher Education for over 26 years and is an active member of the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE), the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA), a life member of the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA) and is currently the Vice-President of ACODE.

Glen Jacobs

As Vice Provost and Chairman of the Department of Educational Services at St. Georges University, he is responsible for educational services such as academic student support and faculty development in a university-wide capacity. He teaches principles and theories of learning, leadership and management. Prof. Jacobs created and was the Executive Director of the international center for supplemental instruction at the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC), expanding this academic student support program nationally and internationally. Prof. Jacobs did doctoral research through a Fulbright Scholarship under the guidance of the founder of supplemental instruction (SI) in the United States. Throughout his 25 year career in education, he has been involved in all aspects of academic support services, learning and leadership. Being an international educator, Prof Jacobs has lived in multiple countries and has been exposed to various cultures and leadership styles. He has presented at more than 120 conferences, including conducting formal presentations on distance learning, student retention, educational initiatives, learning and success at institutions throughout Europe, the United States, South Africa, Australia, Canada, China, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Additionally, he has received numerous international awards and recognition in the area of leadership and student support.

Anthony McClaran

Anthony McClaran took up the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) on 12 October 2015. Before joining TEQSA, Anthony was the Chief Executive of the UK’s Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for six years and prior to that the Chief Executive of the UK’s national agency for higher education admissions, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). A graduate in English and American Literature from the University of Kent, Anthony began his career at the University of Warwick where, among other posts, he was Admissions Officer. In 1992 he moved to the University of Hull to take up the post of Academic Registrar, with responsibility for an office which included recruitment, admissions, student records, international affairs and academic resource allocation. In 1995 he was appointed Acting Registrar and Secretary. Anthony was a member of the Board of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and is now a co-opted member of the Board of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). He has held a number of governance roles at all levels of education and was Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire from 2007 to 2009.
Remus Pricopie

Remus Pricopie is professor and Rector of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, since March 2012. From December 2012 to December 2014 he was part of the Romanian Cabinet of Ministers serving as Minister of National Education. His activity within the Romanian Ministry of National Education began in 1996, and includes positions such as Spokesperson, Secretary General and Deputy Minister – (Secretary of State) for Higher Education, International Relations and Teacher Training. Professor Pricopie holds a PhD in Political Science at the SNSPA and he is a Millennium Fulbright alumnus. His educational background includes a rich international experience especially in the United States of America and European Union. Dr. Remus Pricopie has been Chair of the Task Force on Fostering and Building Human Capital (FBHC) of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and President of the Board of Directors of the Romanian-US Fulbright Commission, to name just a few of the significant activities of representation he carried out during his professional career. The activity of Remus Pricopie encompasses trans-disciplinary research in the areas of higher education management, internationalization of higher education, public communication, public participation and collaborative public management. As a result of his research, professor Pricopie has published several books, book chapters and over 40 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, in his areas of interest.

Som Naidu

Dr. Som Naidu has spent most of his professional life in the higher education sector in a variety of roles to do with enhancing learning and teaching practices in distance education, online learning and elearning, as well as education more generally, in various jurisdictions and geographical locations. Currently at Monash University, most recently Dr. Naidu served as Associate Professor (Learning Transformations) at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne. From October 2008 to April 2013, he served as Associate Professor and Director of Teaching and Learning Quality Enhancement and Evaluation of Learning and Teaching at Charles Sturt University, NSW Australia, and prior to that he was, for eleven years, Associate Professor of Educational Technology and Multimedia Education as well as Head of Research and Evaluation in the field at the University of Melbourne. Dr. Naidu moved to Melbourne University after five years as Senior Lecturer in Instructional Design and Technology (1992-1997) at the University of Southern Queensland, and a year as Assistant Professor of Educational Technology (1991-1992) at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. Dr. Naidu possesses undergraduate qualifications in Education (curriculum and instruction) from the University of Waikato in New Zealand and graduate qualifications in Distance Education and in Educational Technology from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. He has undertaken sabbaticals in the Institute for Learning Sciences in the Graduate School of Computer Sciences at Northwestern University, Illinois, USA (1997), in the Learning and Teaching Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University, and the Learning and Development Directorate at the University of London, United Kingdom (2003/2004), and in the Centre for Research, Innovation and Training in eLearning, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain (2012). His publications in the areas of his expertise include several books, book chapters, and more than a hundred peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers. A frequently invited keynote speaker at national and international conferences, Dr. Naidu possesses an extensive record of research and scholarship in the broad field of open, flexible and distance education, and especially in designing and implementing capacity building workshops in the areas of open educational practices, online learning and elearning. His leadership and consultancies in the field include capacity building projects in course and curriculum design and development, online learning and elearning in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Belize, Namibia, Western Samoa, Maldives and the Solomon Islands. Dr. Naidu is the current president of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia, executive editor of its journal Distance Education, assistant editor of the journal Interactive Learning Environments, a co-editor of the Routledge book series on Open, Flexible and Distance Learning, and a member of the inaugural Routledge Education Arena Panel of Editors. In May 2014 the Open University of Sri Lanka awarded Dr. Naidu a D.Litt. (Honoris Causa), in recognition of his extensive contribution to the field of open, flexible, distance and e-learning both regionally and internationally.

Wayne Mackintosh

Wayne Mackintosh is the founding director of the OER Foundation headquartered at Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand. He is coordinating the establishment of the OER universities (OERu), an international innovation partnership which aims to widen access to more affordable education for all. Wayne holds the UNESCO / ICDE Chair in OER and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the OER Foundation. He is a strategy innovator with a passion for open sourcing education to achieve more sustainable alternatives for higher education provision.

Rory McGreal

Prof. Rory McGreal is the UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning/International Council for Open and Distance Education Chair in Open Educational Resources (OER); and Director of the Technology Enhanced Knowledge Research Institute (TEKRI) at Athabasca University. He is also co-Editor of IRRODL (International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning). He is the founder of the OER Knowledge Cloud, a repository of research articles on OER. Previous positions include Assoc. VP Research, Executive Director of TeleEducation NB, a Canadian province-wide elearning network. He is also the recipient of several national and international awards for open and distance learning.
Don Olcott, Jr.

Dr. Don Olcott, Jr., FRSA, is Head of Campus – Virtual, Professor of Educational Leadership and Open and Distance Learning; and Co-Director of the ulimage Digital Innovation Laboratory at Charles Sturt University in Australia. He holds dual appointments as Professor of Educational Leadership and ODL with the University of Maryland University College and Oldenburg University in Germany. 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 and was inducted into the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Hall of Fame in May 2014. Don is a Fellow of the European Distance and eLearning Network (EDEN) for his leadership and contributions to European open and distance learning. 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 previously held visiting professorships with the University of New England (Australia) and the Higher Colleges of Technology (United Arab Emirates).

Bill Pepicello

Bill Pepicello has been a leader in higher education for 40 years. He holds the M.A. and Ph.D. in linguistics from Brown University. He served as an assistant professor of English at University of Delaware, Department Chair for Classics at Temple University, and Southern California Regional Dean for National University. As the President of the University of Sarasota, he led the team that transformed that institution into what is today Argosy University and secured regional accreditation for the newly formed university. Bill served University of Phoenix for almost two decades and helped guide the University through the transition from a degree completion institution to a comprehensive university, serving students from associate through doctoral levels. He was the founding dean of both the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Advanced Studies at the University. He led the physical expansion of the University into more than 40 states and oversaw the development of what would become the largest online presence in North America. In 2006 Bill became the sixth President of the University of Phoenix, and as such was responsible for the leadership of the largest private university in the United States. He retired in 2014. Bill has written and lectured widely on the topics of online education, for-profit higher education, leadership, and the changing landscape of American higher education. He has also served as a peer reviewer for a regional accrediting body and sat on the Arizona Private Postsecondary Education Commission. For six years he sat on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity under the U.S. Department of education.

Barney Dalgarino

Professor Barney Dalgarino is Co-Director of ulimage, Charles Sturt University’s Digital Learning Innovation Laboratory, delivering strategic innovation in online learning including development and university wide implementation of a new online learning model. He has had national and international influence in technology and learning over many years through editorship of the Australasian Journal of Educational Technology (AJet), membership of numerous journal editorial boards and conference program committees, executive committee membership of the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE), and assessing of teaching awards and research grants for numerous national and international bodies. Professor Dalgarino’s research contributions have been in three broad areas: the relationship between learning technology and learning; learning in polyynchronous 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 Australian national competitive grants (OLT, ALTC, ARC) and has authored over 75 refereed publications. Professor Dalgarino 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.

Godehard Ruppert

Godehard Ruppert (ThD PhD) was born on November 6th, 1953 in Beuel near Bonn (Germany). After studies of Theology, Philosophy, Education and Media Sciences at the Universities of Bochum, Münster and Würzburg he was Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor of Education Science at University of Hanover (1979 to 1991) and since 1991 Full-Professor of Religious Education (Chair) at the University of Bamberg. His current positions are: President of the University of Bamberg (since 2000) and simultaneously President of the Virtual University of Bavaria (since 2002). Actual Memberships et al: International Association of Universities (IAU) - Administrative Board; Andrássy University Budapest, Hungary - Member of the Board; German Foundation for University Admissions - Member of the Board of Directors; Confucius Institute Nuremberg - Member of the Advisory Board; Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories Bamberg - Member of the Board of Trustees; Bavarian Broadcasting - Member of the Broadcasting Council.
Stephen Marshall

Dr Stephen Marshall is Senior Lecturer in Educational Technology at the Victoria University of Wellington Centre for Academic Development and President of the Australasian Council on Open and Distance Education. Stephen leads the Victoria University Digital Vision and Strategy for Learning and Teaching initiatives and works to ensure staff and students at Victoria are well-supported in learning and teaching enhanced and enabled through digital technologies. Stephen researches in the areas of organisational change in higher and tertiary education, e-learning benchmarking, plagiarism and academic integrity, intellectual property and the of development of policy and strategy to support and encourage the effective use of technology. His e-learning maturity model (eMM) work has been adopted internationally and is used to guide e-learning initiatives in New Zealand, Australia, the UK and the USA. He actively reviews papers for a wide variety of e-learning and academic development journals and conferences and is an associate editor for the Australasian Journal of Educational Technology, and forthcoming editor for Higher Education Research and Development, the two top ranked Australasian journals in e-learning and higher education respectively. Stephen is a member of the New Zealand Ministry of Education Tertiary E-Learning Reference Group. He is a reviewer for the NZ Treasury Gateway Review process, is listed in the TEQSA register of experts and has worked as an auditor for the Australian Universities Quality Agency, and the New Zealand ITPQ. Stephen is also a faculty member for the biannual ACoDE Learning Technology Leadership Institute.

Alan Tait

Alan is a member of the Executive Committee of ICDE, and Professor Emeritus of Distance Education and Development and former Pro Vice-Chancellor at the Open University. U.K. Alan’s recent publications include ‘The Lifelong Learning University of the Future’, in Cendon, E., Mörh, A. & Pellert, A. (Hrsg.), Theorie und Praxis verzaehnen - Lebenslanges Lernen an Hochschulen; ‘Student Success, putting the learner at the heart of the system’, ICDE, Oslo 2015; ‘Enriching our Students’ Lives’, in Explorations in Adult Higher /Education, Fall, Number 3, Voices that shape our Vision, pp 16-20 2014; Open Universities and innovation in Higher Education, in Bischoff F/Prang B (Hrsg), Weiterbildung und Lebenslanges Lernen an Hochschulen, Internationale Impulse für das deutsche Hochschulwesen; ‘From place to virtual space: reconfiguring student support for distance and e-learning in the digital age’, in Open Praxis, 2014; Distance and E Learning, Social Justice and Development: ‘The relevance of the Capacity Approach to the mission of open universities’, in the International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning, 2013. Alan has given keynote lectures in a range of places, most notably in 2014 the Asa Briggs Commemoration lecture at the Commonwealth of Learning Pan-Commonwealth Forum, Abuja, Nigeria.

Yang Zhijian

Dr. Yang Zhijian has been President of the Open University of China (OUC) since July 2010. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Director-General of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education of China. Dr. Yang obtained his doctorate of education at Peking University in 2003. He was elected the President of China Association of Education Technology (CAET) in April, 2016. He is very experienced in educational management and educational policy-making, which has been well-recognized. His academic interest mainly focuses on research on higher education and mass higher education. He has published many academic papers in leading academic journals of China and his monograph Research on the Objectives of Cultivating Undergraduates in Chinese Higher Education Institutions (HEI) was published in 2005. Since he took over as President of OUC, he has proactively supported OUC’s participation in international activities in the field of the ODL and facilitating the implementation of joint projects. He is chief designer of the ongoing innovation at OUC, aiming to establish a new type of open university in China with increased flexibility and openness. Dr. Yang is now - through his leadership of OUC - exploring the effective operating mechanisms and management model to meet the needs of the lifelong learning society in China.

Mark Brown

Mark is Ireland’s first Chair in Digital Learning and Director of the National Institute for Digital Learning (NIDL) at Dublin City University (DCU). Before taking up this position in 2014, Mark was Director of both the National Centre for Teaching and Learning and Distance Education (NCTL) and Learning Futures Alliance (DLFA) at Massey University, New Zealand. He has more than 20 years experience of working in Higher Education, serves on several international journal editorial boards and has published extensively in the areas of Online, Blended and Digital Learning. Since his arrival at DCU, Mark has led the development of DCU Connected, a major new platform encompassing a suite of online programmes for off-campus students, and is currently leading the design and implementation of the DCU Open Academy. This initiative involves the adoption and piloting of a new international MOOC platform, which comes under the wider European funded OpenUpEd portal. Mark chairs the Teaching and Learning Steering Committee for the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) and serves on the Board of the Irish National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. He is also an Executive Committee member of the European Distance and E-learning Network (EDEN). Mark jointly leads the EMPOWER Online Learning Leadership Academy (EOLLA) and contributes as a faculty member to the US-based Online Learning Consortium’s (OLC) Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning (IELOL). A recipient of a National Award for Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching, Mark has a strong commitment to the Open, Online and Distance Education and remains a member of the New Zealand Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence.