



Peer-Led Team Learning International Society

Fourth Annual Conference

Richardson, Texas, USA

PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING:

CROSSING BORDERS,
BUILDING BRIDGES, AND
TRANSFORMING
EDUCATION

May 28 – 30, 2015





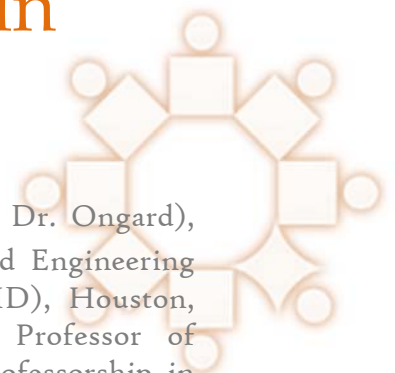
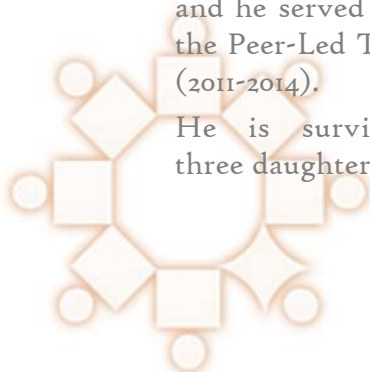
The Fourth Annual
Peer-Led Team Learning International Society Conference
is dedicated in memory of

Ongard Sirisaengtaksin

(1955-2014)

Ongard Sirisaengtaksin, Ph.D. (affectionately known as Dr. Ongard), was a Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology at the University of Houston Downtown (UHD), Houston, Texas. Dr. Ongard first joined UHD as an Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences in 1986, and was promoted to full professorship in 2000. He was named a Professor of Computer Science in 2013 for his many years of scholarship and leadership at UHD. His accomplishments include, but are not limited to, serving as a Principal Investigator (PI) on the National Science Foundation (NSF) CNS award, *Paving The Road to Professorship*; as a Co-PI on the NSF S-STEM award, *Undergraduate/Graduate Student Immersion in Computer Science, Technology and Mathematics*; and as a PI on the NSF BPC-AE, *Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions (CAHSI)*. He was also the first Computer Science faculty member to develop the materials and implement Peer-Led Team Learning workshops in Computer Science courses at UHD and he served as a founder and Board Director of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society (2011-2014).

He is survived by his wife, Noemi and three daughters, Natalie, Amanda, and Katrina.





PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

CONFERENCE THEME

Crossing Borders

We recognize there is a critical need for a new generation of individuals and future leaders who understand the major challenges to cross-cultural conflicts and who have the capabilities, commitment and grit to address them. Crossing Borders is committed to providing programs and intercultural tools that have the potential to empower students to see the world from a different perspective and to realize their opportunities and responsibilities for global concerns.

Building Bridges

Building Bridges involves educators and students working together, increasing communication, building relationships, and providing an environment to gain a deeper understanding of how PLTL can be used effectively to maximize student success both on campus and beyond into the cyber learning environment.

Transforming Education

PLTL sets out to transform education, effectively and sustainably, at local, national and global levels. It allows for education systems that empower every learner with the skills, expertise and knowledge to thrive in the 21st century.

PLTL practitioners act as a community of thoughtful leaders and visionaries from around the world, collaborating in a global community with teams of educators and leaders who are seriously committed both to transforming education in practice and to developing the personal skills they need to lead the changes required.





WELCOME

Welcome to the International Peer Led Team Learning 4th Annual Conference held in Richardson, TX, at the University of Texas at Dallas. We invite you to take advantage of the many pedagogical and learning opportunities, as well as the networking events that have been planned just for you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any specific questions regarding the annual conference, and check our website often for updates regarding our plans as we continue mapping out your educational events of the year! I'm looking forward to meeting many of you and joining you as we work in partnership to share our knowledge and experiences on learning and teaching. We expect participation from across the US and overseas and I am sure we will all have many opportunities to learn from each other.

This year's conference theme is Crossing Borders, Building Bridges, Transforming Education. We will build on last year's successful conference, which examined how Peer Leaders could be the agents of change, by exploring the increasing use of partnerships to address the challenges presented by change. Partnerships, both within the US and internationally, will help us to develop new avenues and potentials, drawing on the vibrancy and unique strengths of each partner. This conference will develop our understanding of how such partnerships affect the student experience and educational outcome, and also benefit society as a whole.

We have over 50 sessions this year including papers, discussions, workshops and panels, and use of "cyber" PLTL. We expect a rich and diverse perspectives on our conference theme. Our first keynote presentation will be given by Wayne Johnson, Director of Innovation Partnerships for Mass Insight Global Partnerships, entitled Peer Leading: Skills for the Global Economy. Our second keynote presenter is Dr. Andrew Pye, Senior Lecturer, University of Exeter, entitled, The UK Educational Landscape and the Potential for Establishing PLTLIS Partnerships.

We are honored to dedicate this year's conference and proceedings to Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin. Ongard was a valuable member of the PLTL community for many years at University of Houston Downtown. His support for peer education resulted in a greater understanding of the role of PLTL in computer science.

I would like to thank all at the Student Success Center and Undergraduate Education at University of Texas, Dallas for their sponsorship. Please extend our thanks to the conference committee (thank you Jose Alberte, Kimshi Hickman, AE Dreyfuss), UT: Dallas, and all the speakers and participants of this year's conference. I wish this organization the best of all possible outcomes for the long-term future.



Thank you.

Thomas Pitzer



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

THURSDAY MAY 28, 2014

8:30 - 7:00 PM

Conference Registration & Poster Set-up

Room: Faculty/Staff Dining

9:00 - 12:00 PM

Mini-Course 1
**Introduction to Peer-Led Team Learning through Case Studies of Campus Programs:
Solving Organizational Issues**
Facilitators: Jose Alberte, A.E. Dreyfuss

Room: Galaxy B

Mini-Course 2
Writing Workshop for Program Sustainability: A Continuation of group work on developing PLTL Workbooks (Started 5/27)

Room: Galaxy C

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Lunch

Room: Faculty/Staff Dining

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Mini-Course 3
**Community Colleges and PLTL:
Issues of Implementation and Sustainability**
Facilitators: Monica Minchala, Jose Cabrera, William Carlson, Karen Hurst

Room: Galaxy B

Mini-Course 4
Writing Workshop for Program Sustainability: A Continuation of group work on developing PLTL Workbooks (Started 5/27)

Room: Galaxy C

Mini-Course 5
Leading Workshop: Hints, Techniques, and Questions
Session A: 1:00 - 2:30 PM
Session B: 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Facilitators: Jose Alberte, Nataly Rodriguez, Aida Ramon

Room: Faculty/Staff Dining

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Poster Presentations I
Reception

Room: Faculty/Staff Dining



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

▪ FRIDAY ▪ MAY 29, 2015 ▪

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast & Conference Registration	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Welcoming Remarks: <i>Crossing Borders, Building Bridges, Transforming Education</i> Dr. Andrew Blanchard, Asst. Vice Provost & Dean of Undergraduate Education	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
9:15 - 10:15 PM	Peer Leading: Skills for the Global Economy Speaker: Wayne Johnson, Innovation Partnerships for Mass Insight Global Partnerships	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
10:30 - 12:30 PM	Oral Presentations I	Galaxy Rooms
12:30 - 2:00 PM	Lunch	
12:30 - 2:00 PM	The UK Educational Landscape and the Potential for Establishing PTLIS Partnerships Speaker: Andrew Pye, University of Exeter, UK	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Oral Presentations II	Galaxy Rooms
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Break	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
3:45 - 5:00 PM	Mini-Presentations	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
5:00 PM	Adjournment – Day 2	



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

▪ SATURDAY ▪ MAY 30, 2015 ▪

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast & Conference Registration	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Oral Presentations III	Galaxy Rooms
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Break	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
10:15 - 11:15 AM	Panel Discussion: Champions – The Cornerstone of PLTL Programs Facilitators: A.E. Dreyfuss & Janet Liou-Mark	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
11:15 - 12:15 PM	Annual Meeting of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
	Lunch	
12:15 - 2:15 PM	Strategic Planning Session: What have we learned? Where do we want to go? Meeting of Practitioners: Peer Leaders, Faculty, & Learning Specialists	Room: Faculty/Staff Dining
2:30 - 6:00 PM	Board Meeting of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society	MC 3.610
6:00 PM	Adjournment – Day 3	



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS I		Friday, May 29, 2015
10:30 AM	Room: Galaxy A Research and Assessment: Redefining the Role of the Peer Leader ▪Florida International University	Room: Galaxy C Implementation of Surveys to Guide Strategic Improvement of Student Workshop Experience via Effective Peer-Leader Training Strategies ▪San Jose City College
11:15 AM	Establishing Objective Indicators of FIU PLTL Program Effectiveness in Biology ▪Florida International University	Gender Differences in Mathematics Attitudes and Achievement in College Courses with a Peer-Led Workshop Component ▪New York City College of Technology, CUNY
11:45 AM	Creating a Laboratory Component to Align with PLTL Workshops in Civil Engineering Technology ▪New York City College of Technology, CUNY	Stacking The Deck: Improving Peer Leader Hiring & Training Through Mentoring ▪University of Texas at Dallas



ORAL PRESENTATIONS II		Friday, May 29, 2015
2:00 PM	Room: Galaxy A Examining Attitudes towards Mathematics in Foundational Courses with Peer-Led Workshops ▪New York City College of Technology, CUNY	Room: Galaxy C The Evolution of a PLTL Model ▪Miami-Dade College
2:30 PM	Objective-Based Team Learning ▪University of Texas at El Paso	Evolution of PLTL Supervision: A Restructuring of Peer Leader Supervisor Training ▪Florida International University
3:00 PM	Super PLTL Leader Impact on the Program ▪University of Texas at Dallas	Peer-Leaders as Science-Culture Brokers ▪University of West Indies, Mona



ORAL PRESENTATIONS III		Saturday, May 30, 2015
9:00 AM	Room: Galaxy A Population Biology, Conservation Ecology, and Whooping Cranes: A Lower Division Biology Exercise ▪New Mexico State University	Room: Galaxy C Peer Leaders as Role Models for Freshmen to Develop Right Mindset ▪University of Houston-Downtown



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

SPEAKERS

Peer Leading: Skills for the Global Economy

Wayne Johnson

Wayne Johnson is recognized as an expert in domestic and international innovation ecosystems, in creating complex partnerships between government, academia, industry and foundations. He is Director, Innovation Partnerships for Mass Insight Global Partnerships, and previously was Executive Director of the Innovation Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and for the California Institute of Technology Office of Corporate Relations, responsible for exploring, establishing, and extending strategic corporate partnerships. Mr. Johnson served as Vice President of University Relations Worldwide for Hewlett-Packard Company for eight years, and oversaw University Relations for Microsoft Research. Prior to that, Johnson contributed for thirty years in management and operations roles at Raytheon Company, including National Sales Manager of Wireless Solutions and Manager of Administration for Research.

Mr. Johnson served as an adjunct professor of management at Boston University from 1977 to 1999. He received his BA from Colgate University and an MBA from Boston College's Carroll School of Management. He is a member of several boards including the Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America, the Wentworth Institute of Technology, Olin College and the Kauffman Foundation iBridgeSM Network.



The UK Educational Landscape and the Potential for Establishing PLTLIS Partnerships

Andrew Pye

Andrew Pye is Senior Lecturer at the University of Exeter (UK). Globally the University of Exeter is ranked in the top 1% and is “top 10” in the UK. Dr. Pye teaches in Zoology, Evolutionary Biology and Biology programmes and is the lead academic responsible for pastoral and welfare support in the department (1000 students). As part of this, Dr. Pye has set up a peer scheme called “Peer Support” in the Biosciences department. The scheme is now in its fourth year and over 600 students have volunteered to be part of the scheme. The scheme focuses on developing “key transferable skills” (essay writing, referencing, and employability) as well as allowing students to make friends and develop a support network. First year students meet weekly in small groups facilitated by second years. The scheme was initially funded by the Higher Education Academy and receives continued funding from the University of Exeter



Alumni Fund.



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

MINI-COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING THROUGH CASE STUDIES OF CAMPUS PROGRAMS: ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGES

Facilitators: Jose Alberte & AE Dreyfuss, Ed.D.

One of the greatest challenges facing educational systems is the implementation of changes to make learning internationally relevant and successful. The resistance to change, the possibilities of change, and the roles the many various stakeholders play in leading change have been noted by scholars on the topic of change in education. This interactive workshop will familiarize participants with details of various PLTL campus programs through case studies, and will focus on how PLTL programs are structured and maintained at various campuses so that practitioners can share best practices for organizational stability and growth.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND PLTL: ISSUES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Facilitators: Ms. Monica Minchala, Dr. Jose Cabrera, Professor William Carlson, & Dr. Karen Hurst

In this workshop we will explore the challenges unique to developing and sustaining a PLTL program at a two-year institution. Using a case studies approach, issues will be addressed to structure solutions adaptable to unique situations at community colleges.

LEADING WORKSHOP: HINTS, TECHNIQUES, AND QUESTIONS

Facilitators: Jose Alberte, Nataly Rodriguez, Aida van Mossel

Peer Leaders and other participants will share and record their strategies for leading a workshop group, focusing on the process of engagement. The workshop aims to produce a guide for Peer Leaders to use during their Peer-Led sessions.



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS: DALLAS

PLENARY SESSION

Why does a faculty member readily adopt the PLTL model? What is so attractive about it? What problems are eradicated? What are the challenges in implementing and continuing PLTL? Faculty at New York City College of Technology who are leading practitioners in various STEM disciplines were interviewed. Panel members will respond to the results from this study, and contribute to understanding how faculty can influence an institution to adopt a model that is focused on student learning, team building, and leadership development.



Facilitators:
AE Dreyfuss & Janet Liou-Mark
New York City College of Technology, CUNY



CHAMPIONS:

THE CORNERSTONE OF PLTL PROGRAMS



James Becvar, University of Texas at El Paso
Kimshi Hickman, University of Texas at Dallas
Mitsue Nakamura, University of Houston-Downtown
Andrew Pye, University of Exeter
Thomas Pitzer, Florida International University
Melanie Villatoro, New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Acknowledgments

2015 Conference Planning Committee

Jose Luis Alberte, Chair and PLTLIS Board Member

Kimshi Hickman, Co-Chair and PLTLIS Board Member
2015 Host Institution

James Becvar, PLTLIS Treasurer
Alberto Cruz, PLTLIS Secretary
AE Dreyfuss, PLTLIS Past President
Janet Liou-Mark, PLTLIS Board Member
Mitsue Nakamura, PLTLIS Board Member
Thomas Pitzer, PLTLIS President

Aida Ramon, Peer Leader & PLTL Program Coordinator, Florida International University

Nataly Rodriguez, PLTL Program Assistant Director, Florida International University

Novelette Sadler-McKnight, PLTLIS Board Member

Geoffrey Saupe, PLTLIS Board Member

University of Texas at Dallas

Dr. David E. Daniel, President

Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, Executive Vice President and Provost

Dr. Andrew Blanchard, Dean, Undergraduate Education

Michael Saenz, Assistant Director, PLTL, Math Lab, CommLab

Abbey Bollinger, Program Specialist

Lynn Butler, Administrative Services Officer

Monica Franco, Administrative Assistant

Support

New York City College of Technology, CUNY:

Coordinated Undergraduate Education Program (CUE)

City Tech Student Government Association

Honors and Emerging Scholars Program

Perkins Black Male Initiative, City Tech

Department of Construction Management and Civil Engineering (CMCE)

Dr. Timothy Collins, Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University

Dr. Douglas Robertson, Dean Undergraduate Education, Florida International University

Lead For America Corporation

Dodson Fund at University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

UTEP College of Science

UTEP College of Engineering

NSF I-CORPS L – 226100893A



Peer-Led Team Learning International Society
Board of Directors Members
2014-2015

Jose Alberte
James Becvar, Treasurer
Mohsen Beheshti
Alberto Cruz, Secretary
A.E. Dreyfuss, Past President
Lucille Garmon
Kimshi Hickman, President-Elect
Chris Keenan
Janet Liou-Mark
Stephanie Marshall
Mitsue Nakamura
Thomas Pitzer, President
Andrew Pye
Novelette Sadler-McKnight
Geoffrey Saupe
Ongard Sirisaengtaksin
Ellen West