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.
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 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
### Thursday, May 28, 2014

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Conference Registration &amp; Poster Set-up</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Mini-Course 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Introduction to Peer-Led Team Learning through Case Studies of Campus Programs: Solving Organizational Issues&lt;br&gt;Facilitators: Jose Alberete, A.E. Dreyfuss</td>
<td>Galaxy B</td>
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<td>12:00 – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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<td>1:00 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Mini-Course 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Writing Workshop for Program Sustainability: A Continuation of group work on developing PLTL Workbooks (Started 5/27) &lt;br&gt;<strong>Mini-Course 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Community Colleges and PLTL: Issues of Implementation and Sustainability&lt;br&gt;Facilitators: Monica Minchala, Jose Cabrera, William Carlson, Karen Hurst&lt;br&gt;<strong>Mini-Course 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;Writing Workshop for Program Sustainability: A Continuation of group work on developing PLTL Workbooks (Started 5/27)</td>
<td>Galaxy B&lt;br&gt;Galaxy C&lt;br&gt;Galaxy B</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 - 8:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Poster Presentations I</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reception</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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**FRIDAY • MAY 29, 2015 •**

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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Conference Registration</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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| 9:00 - 9:15 AM | Welcoming Remarks: *Crossing Borders, Building Bridges, Transforming Education*  
Dr. Andrew Blanchard, Asst. Vice Provost & Dean of Undergraduate Education | 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 | Faculty/Staff Dining |
| 10:15 - 10:30 AM | Break                                                                  | Faculty/Staff Dining |
| 10:30 - 12:30 PM | Oral Presentations I                                                | Galaxy Rooms   |
| 12:30 - 2:00 PM | Lunch                                                                 | Faculty/Staff Dining |
| 12:30 - 2:00 PM | The UK Educational Landscape and the Potential for Establishing PLTLIS Partnerships  
Speaker: Andrew Pye, University of Exeter, UK | Faculty/Staff Dining |
<p>| 2:00 - 3:30 PM | Oral Presentations II                                                | Galaxy Rooms   |
| 3:30 - 3:45 PM | Break                                                                  | Faculty/Staff Dining |
| 3:45 - 5:00 PM | Mini-Presentations                                                    | Faculty/Staff Dining |
| 5:00 PM     | Adjournment – Day 2                                                  | Faculty/Staff Dining |</p>
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<td>9:00 - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Oral Presentations III</td>
<td>Galaxy Rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:15 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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<td>10:15 - 11:15 AM</td>
<td>Panel Discussion: Champions – The Cornerstone of PLTL Programs</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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<td>Facilitators: A.E. Dreyfuss &amp; Janet Liou-Mark</td>
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<td>11:15 - 12:15 PM</td>
<td>Annual Meeting of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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<td>12:15 - 2:15 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Faculty/Staff Dining</td>
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<td>Strategic Planning Session: What have we learned? Where do we want to go?</td>
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<td>Meeting of Practitioners: Peer Leaders, Faculty, &amp; Learning Specialists</td>
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<td>2:30 - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Board Meeting of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society</td>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Adjournment – Day 3</td>
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## ORAL PRESENTATIONS I

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Room: Galaxy A</th>
<th>Room: Galaxy C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Research and Assessment: Redefining the Role of the Peer Leader</td>
<td>• Florida International University</td>
<td>Implementation of Surveys to Guide Strategic Improvement of Student Workshop Experience via Effective Peer-Leader Training Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 AM</td>
<td>Establishing Objective Indicators of FIU PLTL Program Effectiveness in Biology</td>
<td>• Florida International University</td>
<td>Gender Differences in Mathematics Attitudes and Achievement in College Courses with a Peer-Led Workshop Component</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td>Creating a Laboratory Component to Align with PLTL Workshops in Civil Engineering Technology</td>
<td>• New York City College of Technology, CUNY</td>
<td>Stacking The Deck: Improving Peer Leader Hiring &amp; Training Through Mentoring</td>
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## ORAL PRESENTATIONS II

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Examining Attitudes towards Mathematics in Foundational Courses with Peer-Led Workshops</td>
<td>• New York City College of Technology, CUNY</td>
<td>The Evolution of a PLTL Model</td>
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<td>• University of Texas at El Paso</td>
<td>• Miami-Dade College</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Objective-Based Team Learning</td>
<td>• University of Texas at El Paso</td>
<td>Evolution of PLTL Supervision: A Restructuring of Peer Leader Supervisor Training</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Super PLTL Leader Impact on the Program</td>
<td>• University of Texas at Dallas</td>
<td>Peer-Leaders as Science-Culture Brokers</td>
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## ORAL PRESENTATIONS III

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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Population Biology, Conservation Ecology, and Whooping Cranes: A Lower Division Biology Exercise</td>
<td>• New Mexico State University</td>
<td>Peer Leaders as Role Models for Freshmen to Develop Right Mindset</td>
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<td>• University of Houston-Downtown</td>
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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.
Introduction to Peer-Led Team Learning through Case Studies of Campus Programs: Organizational Challenges

Facilitators: Jose Alberete & 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 Alberete, 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.
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

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AE Dreyfuss, PLTIS 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
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University of Texas at Dallas

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Michael Saenz, Assistant Director, PLTL, Math Lab, CommLab
Abbey Bollinger, Program Specialist
Lynn Butler, Administrative Services Officer
Monica Franco, Administrative Assistant

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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

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Ellen West