Australasian Association for Institutional Research

From the President's Desk

Well that was a week that was – in some ways I am very sad that the Forum is over, and in other ways I am glad the week is gone as it started off with a "bang" for me.

The reason I am glad is that the aftershocks have subsided and the work of recovery has started after the earthquake here in the early hours of Monday morning. I am still amazed that after the earthquake at 12:02am on the 14th November, I was still able to get on the plane to Sydney at 6:40am and make it to the Forum. While damage down south is extensive, we have been relatively lucky here in Wellington, and although there is clean-up still going on life is pretty much back to normal for most.

But back to the more important activity of last week – the 2016 AAIR Forum in Coogee Beach. I thought it was a resounding success and I am sorry that those of you

who weren't able to be there couldn't take advantage of the high quality presentations and social events. The organising committee did a fantastic job organising the Forum, and in particular for arranging for the supermoon to be so spectacular and visible from the Surf Lifesaving Club on the night of the Forum dinner. I also would like to thank our sponsors and exhibitors, eXplorance, The Social Science Research Centre (QILT) and Altis, Victoria and Tobie from Leishman Associates and Liesha from AAIR for all their hard work to make the Forum happen.

We took the opportunity at the dinner to formally recognise the achievements and service of our outgoing President, Dave Marr. Many of you know Dave and have seen his accomplishments over the years from 2012 to 2016 while President, but also during his long involvement with AAIR. While he has stepped down from the President's role, we haven't lost his expertise as an association, as he will still serve on the Committee as Immediate Past President.

Mentioning the Committee, I thought it important to reiterate the others on the Committee and their affiliations. If you wish to contact any of us, our contact details can be found on the website at http://www.aair.org.au/pages/aair-executive-members.

- Dave Marr, Immediate Past President
- Don Johnston, Southern Cross University, Vice President
- David de Bellis, Flinders University, Treasurer
- Andrea Jeffries, La Trobe University, Secretary
- Alison Byrne, The University of Sydney
- Louise Hargreaves, Bond University
- Greg Jakob, Federation University
- Kerry Martin, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Malcom Rees, Massey University
- Stuart Terry, Otago Polytechnic

For those of you who don't know me, I am currently at Victoria University of Wellington. Please do contact us at any time and raise any issues or items for us to consider.

Kathie Rabel
AAIR President

Higher Education@home

November Notes

November news has been principally dominated by the US election and the Donald Trump victory with several commentaries discussing the effect of his Presidency on both local and international Higher Education. A few worth noting: Trump Victory Jolts Higher Ed; The Ivory Trump Tower and Trump victory sends shock waves through universities. As well, concerns amongst education agents in the US, while Australian experts believe the election outcome could mean a boom for Australia in terms of increasing international student numbers. And finally, Richard Dawkins and Other Prominent Scientists React to Trump's Win and what the election results mean for science, in gut responses from *Scientific American*'s Board of Advisers

In addition to the 2016 AAIR Forum, The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency's (TEQSA) inaugural conference also took place in November. The theme this year was *Sharing Excellence: Assuring Quality*, and attracted over 400 delegates from 95 institutions attending the conference.

Professor Eeva Leinonen, Vice-Chancellor, Murdoch University gave the opening keynote speech. Professor Leinonen highlighted the importance of not simply seeing students as partners, but more critically, as change agents in the future of higher education.

Australia's Chief scientist Dr. Alan Finkel AO also gave his keynote address, titled: *Red Tape or Gift Wrap: Regulation for exceptional tertiary institutions*. In his closing, Dr. Finkel summarised what good regulations mean and what they can do, which are:

1. Good regulations will set the bar high, with incentives for constant improvement.
2. Good regulations protects the fair expectations of consumers.
3. Good regulations insist on truth in advertising.
4. Good regulations facilitate collaboration as well as competition.

The 2017 TEQSA Conference will be held in Melbourne on 29 and 30 November 2017.

Higher Education Reform

1. La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor John Dewar addressed the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) on October 28 with a new trajectory for universities and an apt historical summary of the Australian context. Professor Dewar called for the tertiary sector to gear towards University 4.0 in which four attributes are required that will change the current model: On-demand course delivery, in-person, on-line and a blend of both; A move towards offering shorter cycle qualifications and credentials; Stronger focus on career management for students (including Alumni) that offers post degree courses to "top up their skills", and finally; Universities engaging with industry and brokering relationships between students and entrepreneurs, researchers, funders and potential mentors.

2. In his first push for policy change as incoming chair of the Regional Universities Network, Professor Greg Hill has called for sub-degree loans to be included in the demand-driven system.

3. Expansion has brought the benefits of education to millions, it has also created new problems, and left old ones unresolved. Expansion is no longer the answer to improving the Australian education system.

Policy & Regulation Watch

4. Education minister releases agent code of ethics. Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham announced a code of ethics for international education agents, at the Australian International Education Conference in Melbourne. The agent code of ethics, which Birmingham announced last year would receive government backing, has been designed to strengthen the sector as well as maintain quality, and establish more support in relation to how international education agents work, he said.

5. Unis regain autonomy for funding indigenous students and staff. Changes to federal legislation have reversed a much-maligned Abbott government decision to centralise indigenous support funding pools into a single pot, returning autonomy to universities to how they prioritise and spend the money.

6. DFAT's Global Alumni Engagement Strategy covers only unis. A campaign to mobilise Australia's international alumni has ruffled feathers back home by limiting its target audience to university graduates. The Australia Global Alumni Engagement Strategy, spearheaded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was launched alongside the National Strategy for International Education and Austrade's 2025 market development roadmap.

7. TEQSA Annual Report 2015-16 TEQSA's Annual Report for 2015-16 was tabled in Parliament on 26 October 2016.

8. An accessibility-optimised PDF and a html version of the 2015-16 Department of Education and Training Annual report 2015-16 is now available.

9. Thousands of security workers in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria are set to have their licenses cancelled after the national training regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) deemed their qualifications invalid. ASQA chief commissioner Chris Robinson said the cancellations would not take effect automatically. Graduates had four weeks to submit written evidence why their qualifications should stand before full cancellation took place.

10. TEQSA has released three additional guidance notes, which are open for a three-month consultation period until 21 January 2017:

    1. Diversity and Equity
    2. Financial Assessment
    3. Research and Research Training

11. Improving the transparency of Higher Education Admissions. The Higher Education Standards Panel report indicates that universities must make the entry requirements for each course clear and unambiguous. It notes current arrangements make it difficult for students to make genuine comparisons about what is required to get ¬accepted into the same course across different institutions in the same city. The report proposes that the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) work with institutions to meet reporting requirements. Universities Australia has welcomed the recommendations.

Higher Education Funding

12. The LH Martin Institute (The University of Melbourne) released an extensive report proposing an independent authority monitor university and VET fees and has recommended a tiered student loans scheme in which borrowing limits and repayment arrangements are governed by the costs of running courses and students' capacity to repay. Resourcing Australia's tertiary education sector author Mark Warburton asserts the report responds to two separate discussion papers *Redesigning VET FEE-HELP* and *Driving Innovation, Fairness and Excellence in Australian Higher Education.*

Sector News and Views

13. Department of Education and Training Secretary appointed PISA Chair. The Minister, Senator Simon Birmingham, congratulates Dr. Michele Bruniges AM, Secretary of the Department of Education and Training, for her appointment to a significant OECD role that measures the performance of students and education systems around the world. From April next year Dr. Bruniges will chair the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Governing Board.

14. Go8 opens China jobs portal. The Group of Eight has now released an online Chinese-based jobs portal to help returning graduates get a job. The portal, which has been launched in partnership with the China-Australia Chamber of Commerce, allows graduates to upload their CV and other relevant information giving them access to a number of major Australian employers with footprints in China,

including the Commonwealth Bank, Telstra, Colliers International, Swisse, KPMG global and Macquarie Bank.

15. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) released findings from their latest survey: Charitable Giving to Universities in Australia and New Zealand Survey. Data was collected from 24 universities (23 Australian and 1 New Zealand institution) and covered 2013-2015. Key findings from the survey indicate a 25 per cent increase in philanthropic gifts, an increase in smaller and regional universities seeing large donations and an increased focus on strengthening engagement with alumni and other supporters.

16. UTS ups ante on new degrees. The University of Technology Sydney will introduce a new degree from next year which it says turns the traditional notion of what constitutes a bachelors qualification on its head. The new bachelor of technology and innovation will, uniquely, start with a capstone program before students move into a raft of transdisciplinary programs that are rooted in the real world.

17. Finalists announced in the 2016 AFR Higher Education Awards. Thirty-two finalists have been named in the 2016 Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards which recognise excellence in the higher education sector. Announced on November 16, the nine winners were: Community Engagement - Queensland University of Technology – National Exceptional Teaching for Disadvantaged Schools (NETDS) program; Employability - The University of Queensland - Student Employability Team: getting students SET for their future; Equity and Opportunity - Charles Sturt University – Outreach Team; Facilities Innovation - Flinders University – New Plaza and Student Hub; Emerging Leader Award - Professor Emma Johnston FRSN, UNSW Australia; Industry Engagement - The University of Sydney – Australian Centre for Field Robotics (ACFR); International Education - Monash University – The Monash Warwick Alliance; Learning Experience - Western Sydney University – The Academy. Previously announced was The Lifetime Achievement Award which went to Professor Denise Bradley AC.

18. In early October, Science Minister Greg Hunt implied that universities have an integral role to play in our national innovation and employment future. But

is that role understood by the wider community? It's a challenge many universities have been grappling with: how do established institutions explain their direct impact on the wider innovation agenda?

19. The University of NSW is facing criticism over its proposal to introduce trimesters, with staff saying concerns over workload are being dismissed by management. The proposed trimester model plus optional summer school, being dubbed UNSW 3+, is one element in an ambitious $3 billion, 10-year strategy.

20. Australian universities in row over student freedoms. Two Australian universities with branches in Malaysia - Monash University Malaysia and Curtin University Sarawak - have become embroiled in a row over written warnings to students of disciplinary action if they are found attending "illegal gatherings" – a reference to major anti-government rallies in different parts of the country at the weekend.

Big Data, Analytics & Technology

21. Indian software services giant Tata Consulting Services has secured an alliance with University of NSW in which the two organisations will collaborate on areas of common interest such as machine learning, virtual reality, robotics, data analytics and cloud computing.

Graduate Outcomes

22. A comparative case study by Caroll Graham and Julie-Anne Regan explores the contributions of professional staff to student outcomes between two higher education institutions: one in Australia and the other in the United Kingdom.

23. The number of maths graduates from Australian universities has fallen to its lowest level since 2001 and the push for girls to take advanced maths courses in high school are not working, a new report has found. The report, from the Australian Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AMSI), found the proportion of students entering maths degrees is half the OECD average and the proportion of year 12 school students doing advanced maths continues to fall.

International Education

24. International education trumps itself. Education Minister Simon Birmingham told the Australian International Education Conference in October that data from August would show last year's record of about 640,000 foreign enrolments had been eclipsed in the first eight months of this year. The data released by ABS in late November indicated education of international students generated a record **$20.3 billion** in export income for Australia in 2015/16 – up 8 per cent from the previous 12 months. Universities Australia noted that Australia continues to be a destination of choice for international students.

BOOMING OVERSEAS ENROLMENTS 2015

University	%	Number
Federation	42.5	5874
Bond	41.3	2328
Melbourne	31.2	18,384
ANU	28	6284
Sydney	27	15,753
UNSW	26.6	14,367
Monash	26.4	15,719
UTS	26.3	15,753
RMIT	25.2	11,155
UQ	24.9	12,664

Source: Education Department

25. Foreign students: Indian agents want poaching curbs to stay. Indian agents say Australia should not water down requirements for international students to persevere with their enrolments, warning it could trigger a fresh round of onshore poaching. Under current arrangements, students must stick with their principal colleges or universities for at least six months before jumping ship. But the rule is being reconsidered as part of a review of the national code attached to the recently amended Education Services for Overseas Students Act.

26. International students finding more to like about study in Australia. International students are happy as well as plentiful, with new figures showing their satisfaction rates at an all-time high. But the data hides a mixed picture, with Australia not considered up to scratch on several measures — including areas of national pride, such as sport. The International Student Survey has gauged foreign students' views of their experiences every two years since 2010.

27. University and student groups are at odds over a move to allow more online teaching of international students. Under the current rules, the proportion of onshore international students' course that can be provided via online or distance learning is capped at 25 per cent. Universities Australia has attached the online cap as an "anachronistic excess" that reduces flexibility.

28. Queensland will invest $6 million in an industry partnership fund to boost the state's profile as an international education destination, under plans announced by Deputy Premier and Trade Minister Jackie Trad. The funds will be available to consortia of at least two parties including education providers, local governments and regional study clusters. "If you have innovative ideas that align to the strategy, we want to hear from you," Ms Trad said in a prepared speech.

Learning & Teaching

29. A new study commissioned by Rural Health Australia has called for universities to increase the number of places in their nursing and allied health programs for rural and remote students to help tackle the shortage of health professionals outside metropolitan Australia.

30. Robots are increasingly being used to teach students in the classroom for a number of subjects across science, maths and language. But research shows that while students enjoy learning with robots, teachers are slightly reluctant to use them in the classroom.

31. The Office of the Chief Scientist has published the 13th paper in the Occasional Paper Series, *Busting myths about Women in STEM*. The paper dispels four damaging and persistent myths facing women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and highlights the need for ongoing action to encourage and support women to pursue careers in these areas.

32. Business leaders told a forum that industry still needs humanities graduates. Business Council of Australia chief executive Jennifer Westacott said many people in Western countries are anxious, disengaged and frustrated, and now "question globalisation, migration, innovation and the value and virtues of technology". But Westacott also said society needs business and government, and business and government need humanities graduates.

Online Learning

33. Adam Brimo, CEO of OpenLearning predicts that, students would embrace an 'outcomes-based' fees model after the debacle of VET-FEE Help scheme. "There is so much competition and scrutiny in education now that all of the providers, including the universities, would benefit from showing students what they are going to be teaching. You will have less students feeling ripped-off and much higher completion rates." says Adam Brimo.

Rankings and Ratings & Benchmarking

34. Melbourne tops another ranking. The University of Melbourne has once again topped the Australian list of an international league table, rising four places to 36. With Sydney University at 45, Australia cracked two institutions in the top 50 for the first time. The 2017 US News Best Global Universities rankings lists seven local universities in the top 100 and 31 in its list of 1000 universities. Six universities made the list for the first time with Australia placed eighth overall.

35. Melbourne outmuscles Sydney in Nature science ranking. Melbourne has pipped Sydney as Australia's top science city, with more of the southern capital's research institutions publishing their work in the world's top journals. A new analysis of the Nature Index, which ranks institutions and regions according to their research output, has found that Melbourne's prowess in medical science trumps Sydney's expertise in physics-based disciplines like quantum mechanics and nanoscience.

36. ANU tops local schools in 'THE' employability ranking, again. In terms of Australian institutions ANU again topped the 2016 THE Global University Employability ranking, coming in at 22 (up ten places from 2015). ANU was followed by the University of Melbourne, University of Sydney and Monash who all dropped in rankings.

Research

37. Government invests a further $190 million in health and medical research including $10.6 million to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research. The Turnbull Government has announced a further $190 million in health and medical research including a $10.6 million investment supporting Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander health research. Minister for Health Sussan Ley said these new grants—awarded through the National Health and Medical Research Council—would help Australia's research community to make discoveries that improve the diagnosis, treatment and cure of illnesses that can affect Indigenous Australians.

38. Announced November 1, the Australian Research Council has funded a total of 989 projects amounting to $416m. Discovery Projects accounted for more than half of the funding. The rest went to Future Fellowships ($77m), Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards ($71m), Linkage, Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grants ($28m) and Discovery indigenous grants ($4.6m). The Go8s pick up most of the funding taking $286m.   The full list of 2016 grants is available here. Universities Australia welcomed the announcement noting the amount is $59m more than 2015.

39. Research spending outweighs revenue. Analysis on research income and expenditure suggests that research should be "fully and transparently" funded, given the "compelling evidence" of cross-subsidisation from teaching revenues. In 2014, Australian universities spent more than $380 million on research and activities associated with it out of a total expenditure of $635m.

40. And following on from this previous analysis - How much does research cost? An attempt to understand and calculate the costs of research for publications has found that the average cost of each one in 2014 was $45,000. At the bottom end the University of Notre Dame came in at around $13,000 while Monash University topped the charts at around $82,000.

41. Tick for ACOLA's research training reform proposals. The Federal Government has formally accepted all six recommendations from a 2015 review by the Australian Council of Learned Academies. These included a National Innovation and Science Agenda program; recently announced reforms to research block grants; the expansion of the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute's internship program; and recent improvements to the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching data collection.

42. The Group of Eight will take over as host organisation for the Global Council of Research Universities group with communicating the value of basic research to politicians across the group's nine countries and regions covered by the alliance.

Student Recruitment & Mobility

43. Longitudinal Research on Perceptions of Student Mobility. Mobility programs have been a feature of the Higher Education landscape for many years. However, participation in mobility programs has escalated in recent years due to a number of factors, including shifting generational characteristics, new and alternative mobility options and access to student loans

44. Applications are now open for a pilot activity to trial a new assessment system intended to guide the allocation of research funding. The media release from Senator Simon Birmingham indicates the pilot will "… test the robustness of a wide range of indicators and methods of assessment for both research engagement and impact". The activity is in line with the National Innovation and Science Agenda.

Who's on the Move (or not)?

The Council of Private Higher Education (COPHE) has announced that **Simon Finn** will replace founder and long-time CEO Adrian McComb, who is set to retire. Currently an executive officer at Professionals Australia, Mr Finn has worked in senior levels of government and the public sector, including serving as an MP and Minister in the Queensland government.

Professor **Greg Hill** will move into the role as Chair of the Regional Universities Network (RUN) on 17 November 2016, more than a year of schedule, after current chairwoman Professor Jan Thomas was appointed to lead Massey University in New Zealand from January 2017.

Tips and Tricks

45. Exploring Google Sheets. Sometimes you miss things. Apparently Google released this feature over a year ago, but only recently did I notice the "Explore" button in Google Sheets — likely because, for whatever reason, Google decided to call it to my attention by splashing a notice over the lower right quadrant of my browser window. I'm glad it did. There are times when I'd like to analyse information I

have in a spreadsheet, but I'm only moderately good at formulas, and positively lousy at creating charts. Clicking on the "Explore" button goes a long way toward helping me out.

46. Using VBA in Excel to work with slicers. Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) is a programming language available in all Microsoft Office applications, including Excel. This tip provides a quick look at a process for using VBA in Excel to work with pivot tables with associated slicers. Tip provided by Marlene Clapp, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

47. A Devil's Dictionary of Educational Technology: In the dark spirit of Ambrose Bierce, let us consider new definitions of familiar terms. Specifically, let's see what happens when we give educational technology the *Devil's Dictionary* (1906) treatment.

Institutional Researcher's Corner

48. Pros and cons of predictive analytics. A report from New America reveals the potential gains and losses from institutions using predictive analytics as a support tool for low-income students. The Promise and Peril of Predictive Analytics in Higher Education: A Landscape Analysis examines the possibility of discriminatory approaches to students' degree and career goals, based upon analytical data.

49. Universities are spending millions of dollars a year on programs to enrol more young people from low socio-economic backgrounds, but research shows parents also must be engaged as they can sway decisions about further study. The study by academics at Murdoch University found parents have a unique influence on young people's attitudes to university, particularly among those from low SES backgrounds.

Lego Academics @LegoAcademics   Following

Dr Black questions the efficiency of the committee to evaluate the efficiency of department evaluation committees.

https://twitter.com/LegoAcademics/status/726124651336863744/photo/1

Positions Vacant

Seeking another opportunity in Institutional Research in Australia? Try our Higher Education Jobs webpage for current vacancies in the profession. If you are seeking an international career change see our American colleagues AIR Careers page.

Looking for some training and development?

See our **Training and Development** webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.

Looking for higher education conferences and events?

Here is a selection of upcoming events (or past events) that may be of interest. See our **Events/Fora** webpage for more national and international events.

Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) Conference

November 27- December 1 2016, Melbourne

The AARE conference brings together researchers from across the world who work in diverse educational fields. The theme of this year's conference is 'Transforming Education Research' with a focus on the importance of educational research and its ability to effect positive change both in Australia and internationally.

Brexit and UK Higher Education

2 December 2016, Parkville, Melbourne

For those interested in the implications of Brexit and the effect on academia, Professor Simon Marginson will discuss the likely impacts of the 23 June 2016 referendum on the UK's universities, particularly the future of the 33,000 EU academics and the 125,000 EU students presently in the country. The event is

hosted by the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education.

Indigenous university students' sense of place/belonging and its effects on retention

1 December 2016, Melbourne

This workshop presents the findings of an Office of Learning and Teaching-funded project titled *The 'university place': How and why place influences the engagement and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students,* conducted by Indigenous and non-Indigenous academics at two universities, and aims to encourage discussion on similarities and differences between small, regional Queensland universities and The University of Melbourne.

The 27th Australasian Conference on Information Systems – Occupying the sweet spot: IS at the intersection

5 December – 7 December 2016, Wollongong

Information systems (IS) have become an unrecognised commodity – everybody uses them, yet as IS researchers and practitioners we seem to need to explain time and again what we do, what value we provide, and keep justifying our existence.

Universities UK: Enhancing the Student Experience

7 December 2016, London

The third annual conference on enhancing the student experience is for those with strategic responsibility for student experience in institutions and the wider sector. This conference will examine institutional approaches to improving the student experience, in the context of the current policy landscape, increased demand for services, and greater expectations from students and parents. Registrations now open.

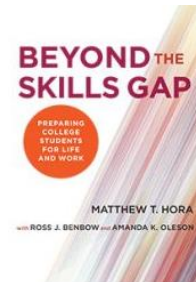**Universities Australia Higher Education Conference**

1-3 March 2017, Canberra

The theme of the 2017 conference is **Higher Education: Gen Next.** The conference will focus on the future shape of higher education against a backdrop of profound economic, industrial and technological change. The expectations of the next generation of students, the implications for university education and research, and the next generation of technology are topics expected to be explored throughout the two-day conference.
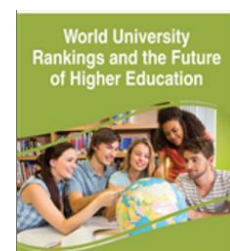
Enjoy Reading?

Here are a few recent releases:

Beyond the Skills Gap

Matthew T. Hora with Ross J. Benbow and Amanda K. Oleson.

How can educators ensure that young people who attain a postsecondary credential are adequately prepared for the future? *Beyond the Skills Gap* challenges this conception of the "skills gap," highlighting instead the value of broader twenty-first-century skills in postsecondary education. They advocate for a system in which employers share responsibility along with the education sector to serve the collective needs of the economy, society, and students.

World University Rankings and the Future of Higher Education.

Kevin Downing and Fraide A Ganotice, Jr.

World University Rankings and the Future of Higher Education is a pivotal reference source for the latest scholarly research on the implementation of a ranking system for higher education institutions, providing a thorough overview of the impacts of these rankings on educational quality.

Higher Education Abroad

Global News & Views

1. Could Siri be the next teaching assistant? The Chronicle of Higher Education profiles a number of professors using and advocating for artificial intelligence devices to serve as low-level teaching assistants, a prospect that could revolutionize distance learning and the industry of graduate student support.

2. IBM's Watson geared to serve as a tutor in basics and helping students struggling with their assignments. The virtual super-tutor, currently being piloted in the US, will be able to handle not just quantitative questions, but qualitative, language-based ones for subjects such as biology, sociology and psychology.

3. University opens without any teachers. A university without any teachers has opened in California this month. It's called 42 - the name taken from the answer to the meaning of life, from the science fiction series The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. The US College, a branch of an institution in France with the same name, will train about a thousand students a year in coding and software development by getting them to help each other with projects, then mark one another's work.

4. Why the University of the Future will have no classrooms, no lectures, and lots of tech. Imagine a university without classrooms, lectures, disciplinary departments, or majors. Such is the goal of Dr. Christine Ortiz, former dean for graduate education at MIT, who is using technology to build a new kind of residential research institution from the ground up. At IdeaFestival 2016, Ortiz explained that universities are not keeping up with technology advances, or adequately preparing students for life in the 21st century. She is laying out a plan to change that.

5. EDUCAUSE: The top 10 IT issues in 2017. "EDUCAUSE's annual IT issues report is published in January, but this session provides a great preview of what's to come," said Michele Norin, senior vice president and chief information officer at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Attendees were granted an exclusive preview of

'2017's Top 10 IT Issues,' and panel members discussed the issues and their importance. According to Susan Grajek, vice president of data, research, and analytics for EDUCAUSE, there were three new issues mentioned by Higher Ed Panellists this year: strategic leadership, higher education affordability, and next-generation enterprise IT.

6. Some perspectives on the student experience and customer service mentality from Bea Gonzalez, Dean of University College at Syracuse University are shared in Students as Customers: The New Normal in Higher Education. Gonzalez reminds us of the impact of millennials their expectations in relation to their experiences of mobility and instructional technology and how that might be reflected in their education experience.

7. Disturbing: Being Watched. A new website launched this month is asking students and others to "expose and document" professors who "discriminate against conservative students, promote anti-American values and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom." The site is called *Professor Watchlist* and has attracted much mirth on Twitter #trollprofwatchlist

8. Alert: Ransomware plaguing higher education. A recent report found that Higher Education Institutions have now become the number one target for ransomware and other malware attacks. The report revealed that that one in 10 education organizations have found that ransomware has infected their networks.

9. UK: We are competing with universities worldwide – and we may well lose. The evidence is very clear. The reputations of Asian universities and Chinese universities in particular, are on the rise. China's World Class 2.0 project, announced in August 2015, aims to strengthen the research performance of China's nine top-ranked universities, with the goal of having six of those institutions ranked within the world's top 15 universities by 2030.

10. How many students from India, China and Korea study in the US for business and management programs? One out of every five international students in the U.S. is enrolled in Business/Management programs. The number of international students in undergraduate (associate's and bachelor's) and graduate (master's and doctoral) programs increased by 36% from 145,514 in 2009/10 to 197,258 in 2014/15, according to IIE Open Doors data.

11. Singapore introduces regulation overhaul for private providers. Singapore, a hub for international branch campuses, has released a string of rules for private education providers including mandatory participation in a graduate employment survey and obtaining a four-year quality assurance certificate. The regulations are aimed at private education providers offering external degree programmes as well as those that articulate into foreign degree courses, including pathway and foundation programmes.

12. Sweden: Minister in storm after overriding university autonomy. Thirty-five university rectors, including the rectors of the major universities – Lund, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Uppsala, Chalmers University of Technology and the Karolinska Institute – as well as the Swedish National Union of Students have criticised the government for a decision which sets aside the principle of autonomy for universities.

Big Data, Analytics &Technology

13. EUA supports new survey on how universities use learning analytics. Current discussions on learning and teaching innovation often refer to

learning analytics as a game-changer in the field, as methods of online student data analysis hold great potential in addressing challenges faced by European higher education institutions. A new survey, supported by EUA and conducted in the framework of the SHEILA project (Supporting Higher Education to Integrate Learning Analytics), aims to provide clarity about this potential by asking universities to what extent they use and/or they are considering to use learning analytics and what their experiences have been.

14. From the US, Digital Literacy: An NMC Horizon Project Strategic Brief has been released detailing three models of digital literacy: Universal Literacy; Creative Literacy, and; Literacy across Disciplines - and includes best practice exemplars from US colleges and universities.

15. 5 things to know about blockchain technology. As more organizations contemplate blockchain technology's place in higher education, discussions around its potential are growing, especially as colleges and universities increasingly rely on data and analytics for success. In its most basic terms, blockchain technology is a database in which each "block" serves as a kind of ledger for transactions or accomplishments. Each block is secured and time-stamped. As research around the technology grows, many higher education stakeholders are seeing direct applications in the education realm.

16. Colleges are looking in the mirror to examine how they might do more for students who have the talent to make it but ultimately don't. At a growing number of schools in states like Maryland and Tennessee, the results of this soul-searching are starting to take shape as a series of digital columns and rows in spreadsheets. This reform practice even has a flashy name: predictive analytics.

17. Doubts about Data: 2016 Survey of Faculty Attitudes to Technology. Most faculty members say data-driven assessments and accountability efforts aren't helping them improve the quality of teaching and learning at their colleges and universities, according to the 2016 *Inside Higher Ed* Survey of Faculty Attitudes on Technology.

18. Dropbox and Blackboard partner to empower campus-wide cloud collaboration. Dropbox and Blackboard Inc. today announced a strategic

partnership designed to make it easier for students and instructors to upload, share and collaborate on documents — increasing the productivity, security, and collaboration at universities around the world. The new partnership, the first of its kind for both companies, makes Dropbox Blackboard's Premier Partner for collaboration, workflows, and storage.

19. A blog post from Kate Metzer (SAGE Publishing) on academic researchers and the emerging skills gap in both big data analysis and access to commercial and proprietary data: "The Big Data rich and the Big Data poor": the new digital divide raises questions about future academic research

20. The technologies that exist in classrooms today won't necessarily be the same ones that are around in 10 years. In particular, the days of desktop computers and laptops are numbered, according to educators in Campus Technology's 2016 Teaching with Technology survey.

TOP 10 EDUCATION TECHNOLOGIES THAT WILL BE DEAD AND GONE IN THE NEXT DECADE
1) Desktop computers and laptops
2) Clickers
3) Non-interactive projectors and whiteboards
4) Document cameras/overhead projectors
5) Traditional presentation software
6) Interactive whiteboards
7) CDs and DVDs and their players
8) Printed anything
9) Current learning management systems
10) Computer labs and dedicated workstations

Brexit

21. After the BREXIT Referendum: Possible outcomes for Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ On 23 June 2016, 51.9% of the British electorate voting in the referendum chose to leave the European Union (EU) after the United Kingdom (UK) had joined in 1973. EUA shares the disappointment over the result with its member Universities UK (UUK) and the British university community. EUA is very concerned about the insecurity this causes, notably with regard to the participation of British universities in the EU funding programmes as well as the long - term consequences for European cooperation in research and education.

22. Broke Irish universities are slipping down the rankings and missing Brexit opportunities. On paper, it is a golden opportunity for the State's universities. The Republic's soon to materialise status as the biggest English-speaking member of the European Union could result in a surge in students and world-

class academics seeking an Irish home. It could also open the door to eye-watering amounts of EU research funding.

23. University applications from EU countries fall by 9% Applications from European Union (EU) countries for places on medicine, dentistry and veterinary degrees in the United Kingdom and for all courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge have fallen by 9% in a year, ending a trend of annual increases over recent years. The University and College Union (UCU) has urged ministers to reconsider their rhetoric and the language used to avoid sending negative messages that could discourage future students and staff from studying and working in the UK.

Credentialing

24. Schools like Clark Atlanta University and others are working to make stackable credentials a centrepiece of the academic experience, but there has been little research or analysis on the kind of credentials which can be earned outside of the technical and service fields like nursing, electrical work and other labour fields.

Graduate Outcomes

25. The Top Skills Employers Need in 2016, According to LinkedIn. Recent college grads seeking employment and professionals looking for a new gig would do well to include Hadoop and Hive on their resumes, according to research from LinkedIn. Today the network unveiled the top 10 skills employers need in 2016.

26. Next: The Innovation Issue. Providing career services for college students has become a hot business — even if many colleges themselves haven't yet figured that out. Students, parents, and employers have made it clear that they expect colleges to do more to prepare students for a job market that's rapidly evolving.

27. [Rethinking university career services.](#) How can universities deliver on their employability promise in times of rapid change in the workforce and workplace? The [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#) is poised to disrupt every single sector of the economy and that will fundamentally reshape the workforce and the workplace as we know it today. The [latest World Economic Forum or WEF report](#) predicts that, by 2020, over one third (35%) of the skills that are considered important in today's workforce will have changed considerably.

Online Learning

28. [XuetangX: A Look at China's First and Biggest MOOC Platform.](#)   Can western MOOC providers learn something from their Chinese counterparts? With over five million registered students, [XuetangX](#) is one of the world's top five MOOC providers. If you take a quick look at its homepage, you will realize that it doesn't look like any other MOOC platform out there.

29. [Online 'Micro-Master's' Programs Extend Their Reach](#). The "micro-master's" online degree is gaining momentum, and the biggest challenge to colleges in running the programs may be preventing cheating and fraud. More than a dozen colleges announced plans on Tuesday to offer an alternative credential by that name — roughly equivalent to between a quarter and a half of the course material from a typical master's degree — that students can finish by taking a series of short online courses without first going through any admissions process.

30. No one owns the term "master's degree." But upstart education providers dream of getting a lock on the words for [the next generation of online graduate certifications](#). Their strategy says a lot about how today's online programs differ from those in the past.

31. [Georgia Institute of Technology](#) has partnered with edX and McGraw-Hill Education to offer an online introductory coding course as a MOOC that will equate to a college credit. Georgia Tech is not the first institution to consider a future where students spend less time on campus. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which co-founded edX, is also exploring if freshman and senior years could be delivered through online education. The program will be piloted in the northern spring and will include the provision of a digital textbook or 'SmartBook' development in conjunction with McGraw-Hill.

32. A US survey of over 100,000 university students has indicated students on blended learning courses are generally less engaged with the teaching at their institution than their counterparts taking purely online or purely face-to-face degrees. The [Times Higher Education](#) survey also noted when it comes to interacting with staff, opportunities for collaborative learning and social engagement, students on entirely or mostly face-to-face courses were more satisfied than those on entirely or mostly online courses.

Rankings, Ratings and Benchmarking

33. [US top, China rising in extended global ranking.](#) United States universities again dominate the *US News & World Report* Rankings, claiming the five top spots for the first time and taking 210 places out of 1,000 research universities evaluated, expanded from 750 last year – from 65 countries. Harvard University came top, followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, the University of California-Berkeley and California Institute of Technology.

34. [Here's a new college ranking, based entirely on other college rankings.](#) Higher education leaders often call college rankings misleading. The rankers, they say, insert questionable data on schools into a subjective formula and produce numbered listings of "top colleges" that have only a veneer of validity and objectivity. And yet people read, and often heed, the rankings anyways, giving them a surprising measure of influence and authority. In theory, the rankings deal with questions that people want answered.

35. [How Much Graduates Earn Drives More College Rankings](#). PayScale introduced its first college salary report in 2008, and the College Scorecard from the federal government followed last year, ushering an elephant into the hallowed halls of college admissions: What do the schools' graduates actually earn?

36. A [new ranking of international universities](#) is set to be launched in 2017 – Three Missions of Universities. The rankings, to be headquartered in Russia, are expected to garner global recognition and international experts will be involved in the work over time. The rankings will consider Russian as well as foreign universities, specifically educational institutions in Japan, China, Brazil, India, Iran, Turkey and the Commonwealth of Independent States countries. The ranking was initiated by the Russian Union of Rectors and the Russian Academy of Sciences in response to a request from President Vladimir Putin

37. [Times Higher Education (THE)](#) released its sixth annual list of institutions that produce graduates most sought-after by employers. In forming its rankings, *THE* used results from an online survey of 2,500 recruitment managers in 20 countries and a second panel of 3,500 international managers around the world. [US institutions](#) dominated the top ten.

38. [What direction next for university rankings?](#) Trends in university rankings: #1: Including a larger number; #2 Rankings by subject; #3 Regional rankings; #4 National rankings, and finally; #5 including missions other than research.

Research

39. In NZ, [The Royal Society of New Zealand](#) has announced NZ$65m for 117 STEM and HASS research grants. Administered via the [Marsden Fund](#), the main institutions benefiting from the funding are the University of Auckland (38 grants), Victoria University of Wellington (26 grants) and the University of Waikato (22 grants).

Student Recruitment and Mobility

40. [US Demand Trends for Higher Education.](#) Since July 2015, the Number of students considering on-campus academic programs has dropped more than 25%.

41. [3 Ways to Evaluate a Global University without Visiting.](#) Not all prospective international students have the luxury of visiting university campuses abroad. They have visa issues to contend with, as well as time constraints and travel costs. But there are other ways to adequately assess a university without visiting. Here are some options students should consider to evaluate a global university from afar.

42. [UK university applications from EU down by 9%, says Ucas](#). The number of

EU students applying for places on some of the most sought-after courses in the UK's leading universities has dropped by 9%, according to Ucas, which administers university entry. The data applies to a limited number of courses with an earlier application deadline of 15 October but the marked decline in interest from EU students will lead to fears about the damaging impact of the Brexit vote on the UK's universities.

43. Overseas student crackdown could hit LSE, King's College London and Soas. Elite universities fear a low 'silver or bronze' ranking and restrictions on recruiting students from abroad. Some of Britain's world-renowned universities could lose their right to recruit as many international students as they want under new Home Office plans, vice-chancellors fear. Among those at risk are the London School of Economics, King's College London and Bristol University.

44. As China enrols more overseas students to build soft power, locals find the process unfair. For Chinese students, getting through the ultra-competitive application process to gain admission to top schools like Beijing's prestigious Tsinghua University is more than just difficult. It requires students to not only achieve top scores in their high school curriculums but also to have a healthy dose of luck when taking the annual college entrance exam, the feared gaokao.

45. Taiwan announces plans to woo 30,000 more international students by 2019. Taiwan's Ministry of Education has revealed its plans to boost the number of foreign students coming in to further their studies at its universities by 30,000 in three years. Currently, the number of students from overseas studying in Taiwan is 28,000.

46. Malaysia: Budget heralds another year of brutal higher education cuts. The coming year will see almost 20% slashed from the combined operating budgets of Malaysia's public universities, according to the 2017 budget. It will be an even bigger cutback than the 16% drop universities suffered from the 2016 budget, which led to a public outcry.

47. Students from Myanmar look to the UK as top education destination. A growing number of students from Myanmar are choosing the UK as an education destination, according to a statement from Abbey DLD Group of Colleges (Abbey DLD) which specialises in preparing international students for admissions to the UK's most prestigious universities.

48. The ICEF Monitor (a resource for the international education industry) released the results of its annual Agent Barometer survey. Key findings note a significant shift in student concerns, with less concern about financial issues in 2016 and more with respect to study visas and personal safety. Canada and the US topped the table as the most-attractive destinations among responding agents with Australia in third place and NZ in fifth place. Of note in the findings a continued emphasis on quick response times for inquiries and applications, and a growing focus on online services and expanded training and support in order to support agents' marketing of institutions abroad

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A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The next AAIR Newsletter will be published in late January. Please send your contributions to the editor@aair.org.au by Wednesday January 18.

Louise Hargreaves, Outgoing AAIR eNewletter Editor

Monica Chen and Tracy Creagh Incoming AAIR eNewsletter Editors