

26 February 2021

Another Self-Directed Learning researcher added to the EASA awards list



The Research Unit Self-Directed Learning (SDL) is proud to announce that Prof Christo van der Westhuizen has been awarded the EASA research medal for 2020. This award is given to established researchers who have shown to have contributed significantly to educational research in their field within the past 10 years.

During the past 10 years, Prof Van der Westhuizen extensively published articles in peer-reviewed national and international journals and chapters in research books. He also delivered several papers and keynote addresses in the research field of ICTs in blended-learning environments to foster self-directed learning, while balancing it with a full teaching load in geography education.

Prof Van der Westhuizen will receive his medal at the 2022 EASA conference and has been asked to present a paper on his research focus as part of the medal award presentation.

Previous SDL members who have also received EASA awards include Prof Elsa Mentz, Prof Josef de Beer and Prof Jako Olivier.

We are proud of these accomplishments and are grateful to have such esteemed researchers in the research unit.

Nog 'n navorser by Selfgerigte Leer by die OVSA-toekenningslys gevoeg

Die Navorsingseenheid Selfgerigte Leer (SGL) is trots om aan te kondig dat die OVSA-navorsingsmedalje vir 2020 aan prof Christo van der Westhuizen toegeken is. Hierdie toekenning word gegee aan gevestigde navorsers wat getoon het dat hulle oor die bestek van die afgelope 10 jaar aansienlik tot opvoedkundige navorsing in hulle veld bygedra het.

Prof Van der Westhuizen het oor die afgelope 10 jaar deurlopend artikels in nasionale en internasionale portuurbeoordeelde vaktydskrifte en hoofstukke in navorsingsboeke gepubliseer. Hy het verskeie konferensiereferate en hoofredes gelewer in die navorsingsveld van IKT's in vervlegdeleeromgewings om selfgerigte leer te bevorder, terwyl dit met 'n vol onderriglading in geografie-onderwys balanseer word. Prof Van der Westhuizen sal tydens die 2022 OVSA-konferensie sy medalje ontvang en is gevra om as deel van die geleentheid met die oorhandiging van die medalje 'n referaat oor sy navorsingsfokus te lewer.

Vorige SGL-lede wat ook OVSA-toekennings ontvang het, sluit in prof Elsa Mentz, prof Josef de Beer en prof Jako Olivier.

Ons is trots op hierdie prestasies en is dankbaar om sulke gesogte navorsers in die navorsingseenheid te hê.

Scholarship and praxis for self-directed learning

Prof Charene du Toit-Brits
Dr Anita Lubbe



“Self-Directed Learning (SDL) for a Changing World” was the main theme of this year’s virtual International Society of Self-Directed Learning (ISSDL) Summit, which took place from 3 to 5 February 2021. The aim of the ISSDL is to promote self-directed lifelong learning. It further aims to encourage and disseminate continued research on SDL, both within and outside institutional, informal, and non-formal contexts.

The summit particularly focused on the ways in which SDL can be implemented to enhance online learning. The theme for each day was set by various thought-provoking SDL-related keynotes. These included topics such as “SDL: Why and What”, “SDL Around the World, Across Disciplines, and in all Educational Contexts”, and lastly “Preparing Facilitators and Learners for SDL”.



Various researchers from across the world, including widely-recognised SDL researchers such as Lucy Guglielmino, Ralph Brockett and Roger Hiemstra, attended the summit. They shared their research and experiences and created a space for engaging discussions and networking opportunities.



It was wonderful to be part of a virtual audience where several of the North-West University’s own SDL members presented. Prof Elsa Mentz was one of the virtual summit’s keynote speakers. She presented “The path to SDL as a strategic initiative in teaching, learning and research at the North-West University”. Other members of the NWU’s SDL Research Unit, including Prof Josef de Beer, Mr Tswakae Sebosta, Prof Maryna Reyneke, Ms Marike Annandale and Dr Corné Kruger, presented during the poster sessions. The SDL community of practice at the NWU was the envy of many attendees.



Vakkundigheid en praktyk vir selfgerigte leer

Prof Charene du Toit-Brits

Dr Anita Lubbe

Selfgerigte leer (SGL) vir 'n veranderende wêreld was vanjaar die hooftema van die virtuele beraad van die internasionale vereniging vir selfgerigte leer (ISSDL) wat van 3 tot 5 Februarie 2021 plaasgevind het.

Die beraad het spesifiek gefokus op die maniere waarop SGL geïmplementeer kan word ten einde aanlyn leer te verbeter. Die tema vir elke dag is deur verskillende insiggewende SGL-verwante programredes onderskryf. Dit het onderwerpe soos “SDL: Why and What”, “SDL Around the World, Across Disciplines, and in all Educational Contexts” en laastens “Preparing Facilitators and Learners for SDL” ingesluit.

Verskeie navorsers van regoor die wêreld (insluitende erkende navorsers van SGL soos Lucy Guglielmino, Ralph Brockett en Roger Hiemstra) het die beraad bygewoon. Hierdie navorsers het hulle ervarings en bevindinge gedeel en 'n ruimte vir waardevolle besprekings en netwerkgeleenthede geskep.

Dit was wonderlik om deel te wees van 'n virtuele gehoor waar talle van die Noordwes-Universiteit se eie SGL-lede aanbiedings gedoen het. Prof Elsa Mentz was een van die hoofsprekers tydens die beraad. Haar aanbieding se onderwerp was “The path to SDL as a strategic initiative in teaching, learning and research at the North-West University”. Prof Josef de Beer, mnr Tswakae Sebotsa, prof Maryna Reyneke, mev Marike Annandale en dr Corné Kruger was van die navorsers van Selfgerigte Leer wat plakkate aangebied het. Die NWU se SGL-praktykgemeenskap word deur baie deelnemers beny.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to everyone
celebrating their
birthday this month.

FEBRUARY 2021

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GUIDELINES

- Snippets should be sent as an attachment in a **Word document**.
- Snippets should be approximately **50-200** words (per language).
- Snippets must be in both **English and Afrikaans** – we all use different abbreviations and names, so the correct terminology must be provided in both languages.
- Please **include a title** for your snippet.
- Related **photo/s must be provided** along with each snippet:
 - **Sent as an attachment**
 - **In .png or .jpeg format**
 - **Minimum one** photo and a **maximum of eight** photos
- Submit snippets before 12:00 every Wednesday.
- Email snippets to **Aloreece.Johnson@nwu.ac.za**.

For more information, contact Aloreece Johnson on X285 2722.

RIGLYNE

- Brokkies moet as 'n **aanhangsel in 'n Word-dokument** gestuur word.
- Brokkies moet ongeveer **50-200** woorde (per taal) bevat.
- Brokkies moet in beide **Engels en Afrikaans** wees – ons gebruik almal verskillende afkortings en benamings, dus moet die korrekte terminologie in albei tale verskaf word.
- **Sluit 'n titel** vir u brokkie in.
- Gepaste **foto's moet saam met elke brokkie voorsien** word:
 - **Gestuur as 'n aanhangsel**
 - **In png- of jpeg-formaat**
 - **Minimum van een** foto en 'n **maksimum van agt** foto's
- Dien brokkies elke Woensdag voor 12:00 in.
- E-pos brokkies aan **Aloreece.Johnson@nwu.ac.za**.

Vir meer inligting, kontak Aloreece Johnson by X285 2722.