Australasian Association for Institutional Research

From the President's Desk

by Dave Marr

The AAIR Executive Committee met on 4 August. As usual we had a full agenda. These meetings are a great time to discuss those issues affecting the organisation, redefining our procedures and celebrating the achievements of AAIR and its members.

An on-going aspect that has been unnecessary but sadly neglected is the process for the election of office bearers. And as this is an election year it was felt important that we have clear procedures as to how we manage this process. To this end, Andrea Jeffreys, AAIR Secretary and Liesha Northover, AAIR Executive Officer, have put together a timeline for the administration of the election process. This includes a call for nominations from 12 September, closing on 26 September. An email will go out to all members in about four weeks calling for nominations. A nomination form will be attached to that email so keep an eye out for that and please consider standing for the Committee.

We also discussed a process for managing the AAIR prizes. AAIR offers a number of prizes as part of the forums including Best Presenter, Best New Presenter, and Best Paper. Best Presenter and Best New Presenter are decided by a vote of the delegates attending the session at which the presentation was made. The prize for the best presentations is a free registration to the following year's Annual or SIG Forum.
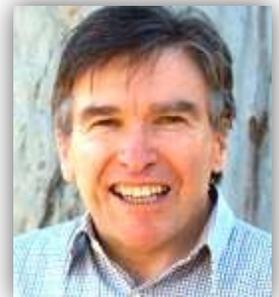
For the Best Paper prize, all papers received are blind peer reviewed by a nominated group of relevant reviewers with the paper receiving the highest score determined to be the award winner. The Best Paper recipient receives AUD$1,000 from AAIR plus a further US$1,000 AIR Affiliated Organisation Travel Grant if they choose to present their paper at the AIR Forum in the US.

One major change for 2017 will be that a Best Presenter and Best New Presenter prize will be awarded at the SIG Forum. Previously prizes were awarded at the SIG Forum for best presentations in the particular streams e.g. Data Warehouse and BI and another for Load Management. As the SIG Forum now includes Surveys and Evaluation it has become difficult to continue offering prizes in that manner. The Best Paper prize won't be offered to SIG Forum participants.

We are still looking for a new newsletter editor to commence in January 2017 for a 2 year period. If you may be interested and only wish to do it for 12 months then we're open to that idea. We'd also consider two people doing alternate monthly newsletters so each person would only do a newsletter every two months. Another option would be for someone to simply compile the material for the newsletter with final formatting and publication being undertaken by Liesha. As you can see we're open to a range of options so please get in touch and we can discuss.

I'm always pleased to hear your views so feel free to drop me a line at president@aair.org.au, or via our Secretary, Andrea, at secretary@aair.org.au.

Dave Marr

President

When:

14-16 November, 2016

Where:

Crowne Plaza Coogee, NSW

Registration is now open

Preliminary Program Announced

Take a moment to view the concurrent sessions confirmed for this year's AAIR Forum. With thirty concurrent sessions and speakers from leading institutions from across Australia and New Zealand, the program aims to promote engagement, knowledge sharing and innovation. Please keep an eye out for further program announcements in the coming weeks.

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2016 Annual AAIR Forum which is being held in beautiful beachside Coogee, NSW, Australia. The 2016 Forum: Bridging Data and Decisions, is being held over two days on the 15th and 16th of November, with a welcome reception, pre-forum workshops and special interest groups to be run on Monday, 14th November 2016. Only 20 minutes from the Sydney CBD and Sydney airport, Crowne Plaza Coogee is a convenient and ideal location for this year's event where AAIR guests will enjoy a beautiful beach side setting away from the hustle of the city.

We will hear from specialists across Australasia who will focus on the various topics that fall under the banner of

institutional research including: business intelligence and analytics; compliance and government reporting; informing learning and teaching through evaluation and surveys; planning, policy and positioning plus many more sub themes.

This year's special interest groups will be run on the day prior to the forum, in addition to workshops so that those with a particular interest in these topics can elect to attend an extra day.

We look forward to welcoming our valued sponsors who continue to support the event, many of whom continue to participate in sessions and really are part of the fabric of the AAIR Fora. Over many years, these sponsors have been assisting IR staff to develop their services through technological solutions or other forms of assistance. Take the opportunity to speak with these vendors as often they're working closely with many of your colleagues in other institutions. Now in its 27th year, the Forum is the leading event for those working in institutional research and we anticipate a fantastic program which will be supported by the many institutions across Australasia. Join us in Coogee where we'll be Bridging Data and Decisions at the AAIR Annual Forum!

Dave Marr
President, AAIR.

Themes

• Benchmarking for Continuous Quality Improvement

• Informing Learning and Teaching through Evaluation and Surveys

• Closing the Loop – Putting Evidence into Practice

• Influencing Change through Information and Evaluation

• Modelling the Implications of Change

• Looking forward, looking back, new horizons

• Compliance and Government Reporting

• Planning, Policy and Positioning

• Business Intelligence and Analytics

Our Sponsors:

Higher Education@home

by Louise Hargreaves

Higher Education Reform

1. [Grattan Institute's Andrew Norton backs changes in HELP loans](#). The Coalition government should move quickly on making fundamental changes to the student loans system to capitalise on recent bipartisan support, the Grattan Institute has said. In its submission to the federal government's higher education options paper, Grattan Institute higher education experts Andrew Norton and Ittima Cherastidtham also say that a universal 5 per cent loan fee on student loans recommended in the options paper would "leave the government worse off". "On our estimates, it needs to be around 8 per cent to be budget neutral," Mr. Norton said.

2. [Turnbull's plans for university reform in trouble as vice chancellors unite against 'flagship courses'.](#) The Turnbull government faces blanket opposition among vice-chancellors to its proposal to create a new tier of courses with deregulated fees, with even the nation's most prestigious universities rejecting the idea. In its submission to the government on higher education reform, the Go8 says flagship courses would add a "significant layer of complexity" to higher education and would be unlikely to solve the sector's funding problems.

3. [Sub-degree higher education programs need closer scrutiny](#). Widespread calls for the demand-driven system to be extended to sub-bachelor and enabling programs need to be moderated, with more analysis of their effectiveness necessary before dramatic changes to policy are incurred. Tim Pitman, lead author of a major study into non-degree programs, says there are huge variations in the courses on offer, and consequently great variations in retention and success rates of students.

4. [Most unis oppose flagship courses](#). Most universities across the country don't see how a proposal for "flagship" courses is workable without devaluing existing degrees or creating a two-tier system. Universities Australia's submission to the federal government's higher education review makes no recommendations on the fate of flagship courses, but notes the sector is split.

5. [Ideas from abroad: reforming the Australian university admissions system.](#) Following the government's decision to [undertake consultations](#) on how best to reform Australian higher education, one of the key areas up for debate is about how to create an effective university admissions system. The [value of the ATAR](#) – where high school students receive an overall ranking that is often, although not solely, used as a way to select students for higher education courses – has been called into question.

6. [Moody's says universities are duxes on debt.](#) AUSTRALIA'S top universities are well-placed to combat an expected pullback in government grants in coming years by diving into debt markets, a report has found. The tertiary education sector can also expect to scoop up increasing revenue from international students and leverage the brands of its more acclaimed institutions, spelling more growth for the nation's third biggest export. The healthy prognosis is outlined in a report from the research arm of global credit ratings agency Moody's.

Policy & Regulation Watch

7. [Sector consultation on TEQSA's proposed reporting program](#). TEQSA is currently seeking your feedback, via a consultation paper, on the proposed release of information gathered and analysed by TEQSA as part of its regulatory activities. The consultation focuses on the proposed release of information relating to the outcomes of assessment processes, and the suitability of other areas of information that would be of greatest value to students, providers and the general public (such risk analysis, reporting on compliance activities, or issue-specific reporting and research). The consultation paper is available to download from the consultation page on the TEQSA website. Submissions close at 5pm AEDT **Wednesday 31 August 2016**.

8. [The National Research Infrastructure Capability Issues Paper](#) has been released to encourage consultation to support development of the 2016 Roadmap. The paper presents a range of issues relating to national research infrastructure capability areas and is the first step in working towards a shared view of the capabilities that require national research infrastructure to support current, new and emerging areas of research and innovation. Submissions using the [template](#) provided should be sent to[RoadmapSubmissions@education.gov.au](#). The submissions process will close on **Friday 9 September 2016**.

Higher Education Funding

9. [Taxpayers carry cost of universities' $2.8bn windfall](#). Universities enjoyed a $2.8 billion taxpayer-funded bonanza in just five years after the uncapping of undergraduate places by the Rudd government in 2009, with 11 institutions increasing their revenues by more than $100 million each. Yet booming enrolments have been associated with falling entry standards and increasing attrition rates.

10. [Universities that constantly demand funding 'petulant toddlers',](#) Education Minister says. [In a speech to a higher education summit](#) in Melbourne, Senator Birmingham said some

consultation of changes to the higher education sector had seen universities simply asking for more money. "There are some, perhaps, who seem to have adopted all the subtlety of a five-year-old pleading for more chocolate, who don't appear to realise that budgets may have reached their limits already," Senator Birmingham said.

11. Universities Australia says quality system not possible with cuts. The peak group for universities says the government's ambition to create a policy environment that would ensure a stable, affordable, equitable and high-quality higher education system cannot be achieved if it goes ahead with $3.2 billion in planned funding cuts.

12. Explainer: how student fees are set for different university courses. The issue of how universities are funded across their different courses has been an ongoing but unresolved debate over the past decade. It has again come to the fore as the Commonwealth government considers responses to its consultation paper for ideas about how best to reform higher education in Australia. *Peter Noonan, Mitchell Professorial Fellow, Victoria University.*

13. Should students pay different fees for university courses? Vice-chancellors in Australia are calling for the government to reform how student fees and funding rates are set for different courses. University heads say the current system is outdated, too complicated and filled with anomalies. Students currently pay higher fees for courses that lead to jobs with typically higher wages. But not all students find, or want, a job that's within the same area in which they studied. So is this fair? Should all students instead pay the same amount for their university degree? Two education experts debate. *Andrew Norton, Program Director, Higher Education, Grattan Institute and Conor King, Executive Director, IRU, La Trobe University.*

14. Are university flagship courses actually workable? And will they be a disaster for equity? Many universities have reportedly come out against the idea of introducing flagship courses, as have some of the peak education groups, including the Group of Eight, Australian Technology Network and Regional Universities Network. One concern is that partial deregulation could create a two-tiered system – between flagship courses and other courses – that locks out disadvantaged students. There is

also concern about the unknowns of this proposal.

15. Activity-based costing could solve university funding conundrum. Greater use of activity-based costing in universities could help to resolve the longstanding debate over whether government subsidies are adequate to meet the cost of delivering courses, experts say. Greater transparency on the cost of courses is needed given the government has flagged changes to the level of subsidies attached to students in different disciplines, they argue. Last week Education Minister Simon Birmingham signalled changes to funding, saying universities were enrolling too many graduates in courses that were cheap to teach to cross-subsidise expensive disciplines and research.

Sector News and Views

16. Universities welcome ministerial line-up. Universities Australia congratulates Senator Simon Birmingham on his re-appointment as Minister for Education and Training and Greg Hunt on his new role as Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science.
We also welcome Karen Andrews as Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills and Craig Laundy as the new Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science.

17. Universities welcome shadow ministerial team. Universities Australia congratulates Tanya Plibersek on her appointment as the new Shadow Minister for Education, and thanks outgoing Opposition higher education spokesman Senator Kim Carr.
We also welcome the appointment of Terri Butler as Assistant Minister for Universities and thank Amanda Rishworth for her work in that portfolio during the last term.

18. Big debts and broken dreams: students without degrees branded as 'failures'. Allowing universities to enrol as many students as they want has harmed the economy, diminished the value of higher education, and created the false view that anyone without a degree is a "failure", according to the nation's most prestigious universities. In a provocative speech to business and university leaders, Vicki Thomson, executive director of the Group of Eight (Go8) universities, argues the surge of

enrolments over recent years has left too many graduates with "broken dreams and a large student debt".

19. Political inertia on higher education and questions for a public inquiry. This study reviews the media discussion of tertiary education during and after the 2016 federal election. It identifies a series of key questions which went largely unanswered by politicians. Supported by comments from fellow Research Associates of the TJ Ryan Foundation, Scott argues that there is a role for a wide-ranging public inquiry as a basis for establishing an ongoing independent authority to safeguard the wider public interest. This needs to be broader in scope than the current federal government review of funding options.

20. Why in this new world the old ways of highered just won't cut it: HECG Trendwatch. A new report by the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) declares that a formal education "no longer provides a sufficient skills basis for the rest of a person's working life". What individuals and organisations need, says the report, Skills and Capabilities For Australian Enterprise Innovation are continual skills development – while universities and other teaching institutions should "teach more broadly across disciplines, covering transferable skills alongside specialist knowledge".

21. Recognition of higher education qualifications in Asia and the Pacific. The recognition of education qualifications across borders was the focus of recent discussions with Australia and UNESCO co-hosting a meeting of senior education officials from the Asia-Pacific region. Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills Karen Andrews MP said positive qualifications recognition "supports educational systems and partnerships and is the cornerstone to successful global job mobility and employability". Delegates from 36 countries will attend the 14th session of the UNESCO Regional Committee on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education, working towards fairer recognition of higher education qualifications across the region.

22. More refugee engagement needed in Australia HE, report argues. More nuanced and culturally specific ways to engage with diverse refugee background communities are needed in Australia's university system, according to a study on higher education

engagement with refugees in the country.

23. Why do students enrol in massively oversupplied university degrees? *The Australian Financial Review* had a terrific piece this week on the oversupply of university law graduates. The author, Frank Carrigan, blasted universities for producing nearly 15,000 law graduates each year in a market of 66,000 solicitors. Graduate oversupply is rampant in other fields: journalism, marketing, teaching, pharmacy, dentistry and medicine, to name a few. Universities that resemble overpriced degree factories are exploiting their social licence – and Australia's youth.

24. Watchdog chasing up university 'cartel' allegations. Australia's competition watchdog is to investigate the practices of two state-based tertiary admissions centres after a complaint from the Australian National University that alleges cartel-like behaviour. Following a preliminary investigation, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission confirmed yesterday it would investigate the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre and Western Australia's Tertiary Institutions Service Centre after they refused to list ANU courses alongside their state-based ¬universities.

25. How can universities design assessment and credentials to produce work-ready graduates? Establishing credentials for students has emerged as a critical way to ensure graduates are work-ready once they finish university. But it's far easier said than done, especially in light of major changes in pedagogy and student expectations. How can universities align the approach to building credentials with students' needs and ensuring employability at the same time? Ahead of Innovation in Assessment & Credentials 2016, James Arvanitakis, Dean, Graduate Research School Western Sydney University, discusses what factors need to be addressed to establish credentials that are effective and have real value in the student experience.

26. Unis bad for entrepreneurship culture: Steve Baxter, Mark Carnegie.   Two of Australia's leading venture capital experts have slammed the government's chief innovation advisor, Bill Ferris, saying the suggestion that business had dropped the ball when it came to collaborating with universities was "insulting". Speaking at The Australian Financial Review Innovation Summit, Shark Tank judge and managing director of Brisbane's River City Labs, Steve Baxter, joined M H Carnegie & Co founding partner Mark Carnegie in lambasting the idea that universities were more willing to work with industry than vice versa.

27. Law students get ready for Hunger Games-style clerkship season. Odds of getting a clerkship are against law students' favour this year in Sydney as they have as little as two per cent chance of getting an offer from a firm.

28. Chinese MBA program spruiks for business. Welcome to Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business, which styles itself as China's first independent, faculty-governed business school along the lines of France's INSEAD and Switzerland's IMD. It's an example of an emerging threat to Australian international education, capable of diverting enrolments not only from China but also Europeans and Americans who presently are attracted by Australia's business ties with the East Asian giant.

29. Brian Schmidt urges better China links. Australian National University vice-chancellor Brian Schmidt has thrown his weight behind a proposal to establish an Australian-Chinese version of the Fulbright Commission, an Australia-US collaboration. "While there are a number of serious organisations and individuals dedicated to improving Australia-China ties, there is no entity that is both binational and comprehensive in the way proposed," Professor Schmidt told a gathering in Melbourne

30. Universities sidestep NSW teacher training reforms. Universities are beginning to enrol teaching students in double degrees and more exotic programs to circumvent tough new standards in NSW, a move that comes as the federal government reviews the transparency of admission practices.

31. Unis warn of teacher shortages under tougher entry hurdle push. A proposal to bar students with low ATARs from education courses will lead to teacher shortages and lock out poorer students, according to university vice-chancellors. In a bid to attract more talented teachers to the classroom, Victorian Education Minister James Merlino has unveiled a discussion paper which proposes an ATAR threshold or minimum VCE study scores for teaching courses.

32. University of Adelaide to pull out of Singapore venture. The University of Adelaide which recently announced restructuring plans that caused uproar among its academic staff in its home campus is closing down the private school it runs in Singapore with the philanthropic organisation Ngee Ann Kongsi. Adelaide University and Ngee Ann Kongsi, which announced the closure of the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre yesterday in a joint press release, said the university will teach out the 700 students currently enrolled in its degree programmes.

33. Uni of Melbourne entrepreneur course intake triples. One of the nation's most respected academics has urged the Turnbull government not to pull back on its innovation agenda as he prepares to triple the size of the intake for a masters degree that taps into the experience of the ¬nation's top entrepreneurs.

34. Thousands more international students expected to flock to Gold Coast after shift to trimesters at Griffith University. Gfiffith University will offer degrees that take just two years to complete in a shake-up expected boost the number of international students by 10-20 per cent. Deputy Vice Chancellor Debra Henley said the Gold Coast university would adopt "trimesters" from 2017 for students who wanted to power through traditional three-year degrees in two years.

35. Deakin University deal with Bendigo Bank to boost scholarships. Deakin University has stuck a deal with Bendigo Bank to take a profit share from banking services used by the university's students, staff and alumni. Deakin University vice-chancellor Jane den Hollander said the university initially intended to put money it received from the banking deal towards scholarships.

36. Navitas group revenue exceeds $1bn in FY16. Navitas's group revenue exceeded $1bn in the past financial year, up 3%, the company has announced in its FY16 results. It also reported a 1% growth in EBITDA, totalling $164.6m, while net profits overall rose above $90m after tax – a growth of 25%. This is despite a 2% decline in EBITDA to $137.2m from the university partnerships division due to the ending of the group's contract with Macquarie University, which was completed in February this year, and the teach-out of Curtin Sydney.

37. [Macquarie Uni joins big business to launch Macquarie Park Innovation District](#). Macquarie University is joining forces with major companies including Optus and the National Australia Bank to put Sydney's Macquarie Park on the map as a destination for startups, investing millions of dollars to develop it as an innovation precinct.

38. [Flinders University to help all of its 26,000 students become entrepreneurs.](#) In a bid to boost South Australia's lagging economy, Flinders University will offer courses in innovation and enterprise to all of its 26,000 students to help stimulate their entrepreneurial thinking. Flinders vice-chancellor Colin Stirling last week signed a three-year deal with the well-known Fox School of Business – part of Temple University in Philadelphia – to provide the material for the courses. "Flinders students will gain the core skills to enhance creativity, embrace innovation and think like an entrepreneur on a global scale," Professor Stirling said.

39. [How an Aussie teaching innovation was backed by Bill Gates and swept US universities.](#) A new US-pioneered way of teaching science online, which inspires students by asking the big questions, has been adopted by Deakin University and brings back to Australia a technology which was developed here. Deakin's deputy vice-chancellor (education) Beverley Oliver said the [Inspark Science Network](#), which teaches science in a multi-disciplinary way and is backed by Bill Gates, is a leap forward in digital education.

Big Data, Analytics & Technology

40. [2016 CAUDIT Top Ten Released](#). As with many other organisations, each year the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) survey its membership to identify the top ten issues related to the strategic utilisation of technology within their university or research institution. The result is collated and published on the CAUDIT website – Download the [CAUDIT Top Ten Report](#). The report brings together the views of 39 of the Australian and New Zealand higher education CIOs along with those of one research member of CAUDIT. In it you will see how priorities have changed over the last three years along with a short explanation of each of the top ten issues. Also included is a list of the five 'on the fringe' issues.

41. [Australian university launches digital card app](#). The University of Sydney Union (USU) is launching a new app that consolidates a number of student services, including select campus card utilities, in the form of a digital card. According to The University of Sydney Union, the new free to download USU ACCESS app will feature a customized events calendar, a live newsfeed with updates from campus media outlets, and display information regarding ACCESS — USU's campus card — discounts both on and off campus.

42. [University of Melbourne defends Wi-Fi tracking of students as planning move amid privacy concerns](#). The University of Melbourne has moved to allay privacy concerns amid revelations it is tracking students through their wi-fi usage. The university said the practice, which looked at where people were moving around campus, helped institutions improve retention rates and the experience of students. Privacy groups expressed concern about the practice, which is also in place at some institutions around the country.

Corporatisation/Corporate Partnerships

43. [Navitas joins with universities to back start-ups in educational technology](#). Four universities and Australia's largest education company Navitas are offering backing to new tech start-ups to help them carve out a space in the rapidly growing area of education technology. They are backing EduGrowth, a new company that is an accelerator network for edtech, bringing in mentors and offering financial backing to start-ups with promising ideas. Austrade is also supporting EduGrowth, which it sees as a plank to support its ambitious strategy for Australia to reach [100 million students worldwide by 2025](#) through online education.

Graduate Outcomes

44. [New data: almost nine out of ten university graduates in full-time employment.](#) The majority of university graduates find full-time employment within four months of finishing their degree and almost nine out of ten have full-time jobs after three years, according to new statistics published today. [The Australia Graduate Survey](#) (AGS) shows that the three-year outlook for graduates finding fulltime jobs has risen from 76.2 per cent in 2012 to 88.5 per cent in 2015.

45. [Graduate salary peak is higher, later than non-tertiary educated.](#) University graduates have a longer and more substantial income arc before their annual earnings plateau than their less educated peers. But degree-holding women, at their highest income level, earn $500 a week less than university-educated men, putting them on a par with trade-qualified males

International Education

46. [Early results point to continued growth for Australia in 2016.](#) The latest round of Australian enrolment data shows that the notable growth trend of the last two years has continued into 2016. Department of Education and Training (DET) numbers through year-to-date (YTD) April 2016 reveal that international student enrolment is up 11.6% this year, compared to YTD April 2015. Commencements, meanwhile, grew by 11.8%.

47. [CISA calls for more collaboration to improve graduate jobs](#). Delegates at the Council of International Students Australia's National Conference have called on all education stakeholders, including institutions, industry leaders and domestic students, to actively engage with international students to address the key issues facing Australia's student population. Graduate employability continues to be the core concern for international as well as domestic students, CISA said, and called on institutions to also include Australian students in the national level discussions.

Online Learning

48. [Distance students still far from engaged.](#) Online courses have become big business for Australian universities, but one in three distance students continue to drop out after their first year, government figures show. The attrition rate among external students reached 35 per cent in 2013, putting them at greater risk of leaving early than those from low socio-economic backgrounds (23 per cent) and indigenous students (29 per cent),

Department of Education and Training data shows.

49. How MOOCs are enabling exploration of credentials and assessment at University of Adelaide. For some time now, online learning has long been accepted as a tool for enrichment and exploration in higher education, and the emergence of online resources such as virtual discussion boards, wikis and course management systems has paved the way for MOOCs, ultimately changing the way students interact and engage when learning. In recent years, universities around the world – including Australia – have been rolling out MOOC portfolios.

Rankings and Ratings & Benchmarking

50. ARWU 2016 results.
With Harvard number one, as usual in the 2016 Academic Ranking of World Universities, released yesterday, the big news is the rapid rise of the University of Queensland which has moved up from 85th place in 2014 to 74th last year and 55th in this morning's list. UoQ is now barely ten spots behind the Australian leader, the University of Melbourne, which moved up from 44 to 40th in the world. Monash has also ascended into the stars, moving from the 101-150 band to 79th. ANU (equal 77th with Pennsylvania State), is unchanged from last year, while the University of Sydney at 82nd is back in the top 100 after two years out and well ahead of its 97th place in 2013. The University of Western Australia is 96th in the world, reversing three years of spots in the high 80s.

Research

51. Additional funding for vital research. The Turnbull Government has announced an additional $16 million for 10 critical research projects that will generate meaningful social and economic benefits for all Australians in areas including urban infrastructure, bioscience, telecommunications and health. Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said the investment from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Agility Fund would help unlock Australia's potential as an innovation nation by "backing work that

offers real and tangible benefits for Australians from all walks of life".

52. Tom Calma urges quarantining of indigenous research funding. One of the country's most senior indigenous figures, Tom Calma, has called on the Australian Research Council to quarantine a proportion of its funding for research into indigenous matters. Professor Calma said the ARC should match the proportion of designated funding for indigenous research as the National Health and Medical Research Council does.

53. CoolCite is a CV based academic portal. It aims to support researchers and allow the sharing of ideas while supporting collaborations with peers. Users can access updated and relevant information for conducting innovative research. The portal supplies links to scientific associations, departments, disciplines and various forms of publications. The portal allows scholars to update their CV online; to manage forums with invited peers; to run public blogs – and to respond to posts of other scholars. Users can "follow" scholars whose work interests them and get a notice once they update their CV. CoolCite is the academic portal for the future. Be there. Join. Enjoy!

Student Recruitment & Mobility

54. China rises as the international market of choice for Australian students. There are more Australians studying in China than ever before, as the tide of the one-way student exchange turns back towards the booming Asian business market. A decade ago China was not even in the top 10 destinations for Australians studying abroad; Now student numbers have surged 37 per cent in the past year, or 83 per cent since 2011, with up to 5000 Australians studying in Chinese universities, according to China's Ministry of Education.

55. DIBP stats reveal impact of working holiday visas on education exports. Figures released exclusively to The PIE News reveal the conversion rate of working holidaymakers to international student visa holders in Australia after they had returned home. Statistical information released by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection shows 4,642 former working holidaymakers were granted a student visa while outside Australia. Combined with onshore visa

conversions, some 13,000 people whose last held visa was under the Working Holiday Maker Program – either a subclass Working Holiday visa (subclass 417) or Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462) – were granted a student visa in 2014/15.

56. Government to Send 5,000 Indonesians to Australia to Obtain Doctorate Degrees, With a Focus on Islamic Studies. The directorate general of Islamic education at the Ministry of Religious Affairs signed a cooperation agreement with the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) to send 5,000 Indonesian students to Australia for their PhD studies, at the Embassy of Australia in Jakarta on Wednesday (10/08). The director general, Kamaruddin Amin said that the agreement will help university lecturers further their education, especially in the field of Islamic studies.

57. ANU to look beyond ATARs. The Australian National University is set to walk away from school results as the sole basis for entry to undergraduate programs, saying it will take into account co-curricular activities and financial status of students when designating places. ANU vice-chancellor Brian Schmidt said students would be encouraged to submit evidence of additional study, sporting, work and artistic activities that would be considered alongside their Australian Tertiary Academic Rank.

58. UWA upfront on ATARs. The University of Western Australia has become the second institution nationally to disclose the real ATARs necessary for entry into its courses. A new website reveals average ATAR, along with the upper and lower quartiles of the ATARs of students accepted into its courses at the beginning of the year. Vice-chancellor Paul Johnson said it was important for universities to provide true and transparent information to make better choices.

Who's on the Move (or not)?

59. New UQ chancellor Peter Varghese at home in his old playground. When Peter Varghese left the federal bureaucracy after a stellar 38-year career, he reflected on his fortunate public life. How, as a graduate of the University of Queensland, he became an "accidental public servant" and how he could not have imagined a more rewarding or stimulating career.

Tips and Tricks

60. From our AIR colleagues - Data reshaping Techniques using Stata. This tip provides an overview of data reshaping techniques in multiple-response sets using Stata, a general purpose statistical software package, as applied to multiple-response variables. See the Basic Introduction to Stata for more information.

Institutional Researcher's Corner

61. Mapping Australian higher education 2016. This year's edition of Mapping Australian higher education, Grattan Institute's regular overview of key trends in higher education, focuses on STEM graduate employment. Despite poor employment outcomes, demand for science courses continues to grow. Prospective students thinking about studying science need to know that a bachelor science degree is high risk for finding a job. Often students need to do another degree to improve their employment prospects.

62. An Analytics Readiness Checklist for Higher Education. These days it seems everyone is ready to jump into the ocean of predictive analytics whether they know how to swim or not. Institutions are recognizing that data analytics is a powerful tool to address today's higher education challenges, but few are willing to invest in analytics correctly. To help you determine your institution's readiness for predictive analytics — and to help focus your institution's investments toward efficiency and productivity — I've developed a checklist that anyone can complete in less than two minutes.

63. Higher Education: The New Normal. For the opening keynote of the 2016 AIR Forum, David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), shared his reflections on higher education in the new normal of the 21st century, calling it an era of evidence-based change. He focused his presentation on changes he has noted during his successful career in higher education.

64. Course-Level Activity-Based Costing as an Academic and Financial Tool. This paper, written by William Massy, former Vice President for Business and Finance (among other senior positions) and emeritus professor at Stanford University, offers an in-depth description of an enhanced Activity-Based Costing (ABC) tool by way of a case study of its implementation at the University of California – Riverside.

65. US: Data from the 2016 Almanac. Explore 120 tables on faculty and presidential salaries, fastest-growing colleges, major gifts to higher education, cumulative student-loan debt, starting salaries for recent graduates, college enrollment by state, and more. Choose your state and compare its data on higher education with national figures.

Frivolous Favourites

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.

INORMS 2016

International Network of Research Management Societies 2016 Congress

11-15 September 2016

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

The Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) welcomes you to the International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) congress in September 2016 in Melbourne Australia.

The theme of the congress is **Research Management in a Connected World**. It is aimed at those involved in research management and administration in all its guises from senior management through to those new to the profession. Attendees from universities, research institutes, government agencies and the private and not for profit sectors will share best practice and learnings. The congress will facilitate connections on a personal, collegial and institutional level.

TEQSA Conference 2016

9 November 2016

Park Royal Hotel, Melbourne Airport

Theme: Sharing Excellence: Strengthening Quality Assurance.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) is pleased to announce its collaboration with Higher Ed Services (HES) for the first TEQSA sector conference.

Registrations for the conference and the forum at the Park Royal Hotel at Melbourne Airport are now open

Enjoy Reading?

Here are a few recent releases:

Data Science in Higher Education: A Step-by-Step Introduction to Machine Learning for Institutional Researchers. Author Jesse Lawson. September 6, 2015

Data Science in higher education is the process of turning raw institutional data into actionable intelligence. With this introduction to foundational topics in machine learning and predictive analytics, ambitious leaders in research can develop and employ sophisticated predictive models to better inform their institution's decision-making process.

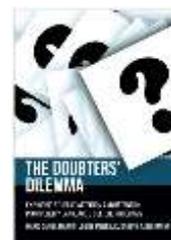**Reengineering the University: How to be Mission Smart and Margin Conscious**. Author William F Massey, 2016 Johns Hopkins Press.

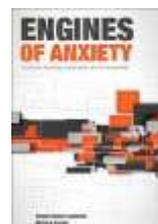Higher education expert William F. Massy's decades as a professor, senior university officer, and consultant have left him with a passionate belief in the need for reform in America's traditional universities. In Reengineering the University, he addresses widespread concerns that higher education's costs are too high, learning falls short of objectives, disruptive technology and education models are mounting serious challenges to traditional institutions, and administrators and faculty are too often unwilling or unable to change.

The Doubters' Dilemma: Exploring student attrition and retention in university language and culture programs. Authors: Mario Daniel Martín, Louise Jansen and Elizabeth Beckmann.

This book explores the extent and causes of attrition and retention in university Language & Culture (L&C) programs through a detailed analysis of an institutional case study at The Australian National University (ANU). Using extensive data collected through student surveys, coupled with data mining of university-wide enrolment data, the authors explore the enrolment and progress of students in all ANU L&C programs [free download].

Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation and Accountability. Author Wendy Nelsonn Espeland and Michael Sauder.

Students and the public routinely consult various published college rankings to assess the quality of colleges and universities and easily compare different schools. However, many institutions have responded to the rankings in ways that benefit neither the schools nor their students. In Engines of Anxiety, sociologists Wendy Espeland and Michael Sauder delve deep into the mechanisms of law school rankings, which have become a top priority within legal education.

Higher Education Abroad

by Louise Hargreaves

Global News & Views

1. Above the Noise: The Higher Education Highway (Part 1). In previous edition of Above the Noise, published by Eduventures, I presented an overview of the many internal and external factors impacting higher education today, and offered institutional leaders a series of metrics (or a "score card") for self-assessing the overall health of their institution.

2. The Role of IEPs in Supporting International Enrolment Growth at Resource-Constrained Institutions. Intensive English Programs (IEPs) are often viewed as the centrepiece of internationalization on campus and within the local community. This article examines the role of Intensive English Programs (IEPs) in supporting international enrolment growth at institutions operating in resource-constrained environments.

3. Corruption in higher education: a wake-up call. Those of us working in online learning are often berated by academic colleagues about the possible lack of integrity in online learning due to issues such as plagiarism, diploma mills, or 'easy' qualifications lacking rigorous academic process. Such cases do occur, but having read this document, it seems that the more traditional areas of higher education are prone to far more egregious forms of corruption.

4. Coming to You Soon: Uber U. Over the past two decades, and across the nation, the university has been undergoing profound changes. These structural changes underpin an emergent philosophy of the new university today -- one that should give pause to anyone concerned about the direction of higher education.

5. US: Executive Compensation at Private and Public Colleges. The Chronicle's executive-compensation package includes data on more than 1,200 chief executives at nearly 600 private colleges from 2008-13 and 250 public universities and systems from 2010-15. Updated in July, 2016, with 2014-15 public college data.

6. Universities must enter the digital age or risk facing irrelevance. If there is one institution due for innovation, it's the university. It's time for a deep debate on how universities function in a networked society. The centuries-old model of learning still offered by many big universities doesn't work anymore, especially for students who have grown up digital.

7. US: The real crisis in higher education is about a lot more than debt. Earning a college degree can be a pathway to higher wages and better employment opportunities, but for those who fail to graduate, those prospects quickly fade. And at a time when a majority of students finance their education with loans, dropping out of school comes with greater risks. Yet a series of studies by Third Way, a think tank, show that many colleges and universities are leaving students with no better than a 50/50 chance of graduating or finding work that pays more than what someone with a high-school diploma can expect to earn.

8. The Failures of American Universities in China. Over the last three years, Chinese President Xi Jinping has intensified his campaign to crack down on every segment of Chinese society, including academia. From teaching to research, the repression has left its mark across a wide range of collegiate activities. Chinese professors have censored classroom lectures to avoid touching upon prohibited Western themes, while well-known scholars—such as Xia Yeliang, an economist and signatory of the human rights document Charter 08, who was fired by Beijing University—have paid a high price for their unorthodox views. These changes are certainly troubling for Chinese campuses, but so is the silence from the leaders of U.S. colleges and universities who have shown no signs of rethinking their growing ties to China.

9. 3 reasons why higher education regulation is failing America. Higher education regulation is failing America, and the costs may well be no less than those paid for the regulatory errors that led up to the financial crisis, an era that holds lessons for higher education. Seven million Americans are now in default on their student loans—a number comparable with the five to 10 million Americans who lost their homes during the subprime mortgage crisis

10. MIT's self-disruption: an update. In The future of MIT undergraduate education: a case study of disruption, I described two reports from MIT that laid out a stunning vision for the future of MIT undergraduate education. Among the suggestions of the reports are that education of the future will be unbundled and disaggregated, with online components enabling flexible time scales and location-independent participation.

11. UK: May takes office, moves HE to Dept for Education. The UK's new prime minister, Theresa May, has moved oversight of the higher education sector to the Department for Education in a sweeping cabinet reshuffle that was completed at the end of last week. The universities minister, Jo Johnson, will stay in place, but the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which previously had responsibility for universities, has been replaced by a new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and its briefs split between other departments.

12. UK: no let-up for student migrants, says May. Theresa May, is reportedly planning a further crackdown on international student visas, as she strives to reduce net migration figures and prevent visa overstaying. May is expected to instruct officials at the Home Office and newly beefed-up Department for Education to examine

student visa regulations to restrict access to poor quality 'Mickey Mouse' courses, according to the Telegraph.

13. UK: Top universities planning to charge students record-breaking tuition fees next year. Britain's most prestigious universities are planning to charge students record-breaking tuition fees of £9,250 next year. From 2017, universities providing the highest quality teaching are expected to be given new powers to increase the maximum fees they can charge by inflation; in what will be the first rise for five years. This is despite the fact that the law allowing universities to increase their undergraduate fees has not yet been agreed by MPs.

14. UK providers increasing focus on transnational education. New data from the UK provides a stark contrast between onshore and offshore enrolment trends, and indicates a growing emphasis on transnational education (TNE) among Britain's higher education institutions.

15. UK: Ministers shut down more than 30 fake universities but most can't be prosecuted. More than 30 fake universities have been shut down by the Government following a crackdown on worthless degrees, it has emerged. However, the UK is powerless to act against roughly 80 per cent of offenders because they are based outside the country and cannot be prosecuted, according to Prospects, the graduate careers expert. Last year, Prospects Higher Education Degree Datacheck (HEDD) was commissioned to reduce the number of unaccredited institutions by increasing prosecutions after a website in China was selling degree certificates from dozens of UK universities for £500 each.

16. International alumni network set to reach 100,000. An international alumni network has been established in Asia, helping to connect graduates from the region who have studied overseas with employers. Since its inception just two months ago, the International Alumni Job Network already has 10,000 alumni engaged and it is on track to reach 100,000 by the end of the year.

17. New Zealand Government plans to attract world-class researchers. New Zealand's government has launched a NZ$70 million (US$49 million) plan to attract top researchers to the nation's universities over the next four years. Tertiary Education Minister Steven Joyce said the 'Entrepreneurial

Universities' scheme would persuade leading academics to bring their research teams to New Zealand.

18. Turkey purge: why the government is clamping down on universities. Turkey experienced an unsuccessful coup attempt on 15 July. Although the attempt was defeated, more than 200 civilians were killed and hundreds of people were injured. After this bloody coup attempt, the Turkish government immediately took several measures to deal with the junta, and announced a nation-wide state of emergency for a period of three months. In the meantime, Turkey's Council of Higher Education (YÖK) has also taken several decisions related to academia. All university deans were asked to resign from their positions, and four rectors were dismissed by YÖK. Some international media outlets have argued that these measures are an attempt to purge dissenting academics from universities.

19. Internationalisation of Chinese education entering a new phase. China's higher education system continues to expand at an incredible pace. This has already had profound effects within China but also across Asia and around the world. Also of note is the rapid expansion of links between Chinese universities and institutions and other partners abroad. These international links will now receive a further boost via a massive foreign investment and development scheme launched by the Chinese government.

20. China: what are the lessons of expansion? Has the "massification" of higher education in China led to more or less inequality? That is the central question asked by Ka Ho Mok and Jin Jiang, who work in the department of sociology and social policy at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, in a new working paper, "Massification of higher education: challenges for admissions and graduate employment in China".

21. Study Finds Chinese Students Excel in Critical Thinking. Until College. Chinese primary and secondary schools are often derided as gruelling, test-driven institutions that churn out students who can recite basic facts but have little capacity for deep reasoning. A new study, though, suggests that China is producing students with some of the strongest critical thinking skills in the world. The unexpected finding could recast the debate over whether Chinese schools are doing a better job than American ones, complementing

previous studies showing Chinese students outperforming their global peers in reading, math and science.

22. Japan's 2018 problem: its universities are a ticking time bomb. Japan is approaching what some are calling "the 2018 problem" — in two years, the number of college-bound 18-year-olds will hit an all-time low and continue to shrink thereafter, according to data from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Which means Japanese universities may not be able to rely much longer on a regular customer base.

Big Data, Analytics &Technology

23. Messaging apps: Why international students prefer to use one over the other. Whatsapp, Telegram, KakaoTalk, Viber... With so many messenger apps flooding the market these days, keeping track of conversations has never been easier. Yet with the amount of free-to-use messaging apps available for download, why is there no one ubiquitously used communication app? Unlike Facebook, Twitter or Instagram which have, for the most part, monopolised the social media landscape on a global scale, messenger apps like those mentioned above don't always travel beyond borders.

24. How 3 colleges are embracing Pokémon Go for campus engagement. Pokémon Go–the popular augmented reality game from Nintendo that's sweeping the U.S. has caught the eye of several creative professionals at colleges using the CampusBird Interactive Map and Virtual Tour platform. Pokémon Go Guilford. The team first got wind of the Pokémon Go + CampusBird activity from the following Tweet from Guilford College. And (as map/tech geeks do), we had to explore further.

25. Blockchain Misconceptions and the Future of Education. Blockchain technology may seem magical, but it is not magic. For every advantage it may offer over traditional approaches to 'big iron' centralized, proprietary IT systems, it imposes new requirements on its users. And, while it is reasonable to expect that some technological hurdles will be addressed in the future, the magnitude of some of these hurdles is so great that one is left wondering if

some blockchain for learning advocates even understand the underlying technology of which they are so enamoured.

26. Growing Trend: Internet of Things expands into college and university curricula. Higher education leaders and policymakers are urging institutions to take steps to prepare for the IoT's expansion. The Internet of Things (IoT) is coming (well, actually, it's here), and with it, a demand for skilled graduates who know the ins and outs of connected devices. As colleges and universities work to address the challenges the IoT presents from an IT perspective, they also are addressing the needs of their students who will pursue IoT-related careers.

27. Making Virtual Classrooms More Interactive. Harvard and UC Berkeley share two different approaches to helping online business school students feel like they're attending class in person. You know you have a truly collaborative online instructional platform when students take selfies of themselves posing on a display with their remote instructors. That has actually transpired with people who experience Harvard Business School's HBX Live virtual classroom.

28. Gamification Champions Create Big Wins on Campus. In organizational change theory, "champions" are individuals who push an organization past its comfort zone into new, rewarding territory. These are the people with a knack for gently bringing along the doubters and the naysayers, accomplishing this feat with diplomacy, positivity and skilful problem-solving.

Brexit

29. UK HE rallies to remain resilient post-Brexit. As the UK's international education sector braces itself for a period of uncertainty created by the EU referendum, higher education institutions were urged to be decisive about working to safeguard the UK's reputation as a high quality and welcoming study destination at the British Universities' International Liaison Association's conference last week.

30. After Brexit, will UK universities set up EU branch campuses? When British universities have set up branch campuses overseas, they have usually looked to far-flung destinations. But in the wake of the UK's vote to leave the European Union, might institutions place their overseas outposts closer to home: Paris, Brussels or Bucharest, perhaps?

31. Brexit: Survey finds almost a third of international students less likely to come to the UK to study. The UK's higher education sector faces "a period of uncertainty" as almost a third of international students say they are less likely to study in Britain in the wake of the Brexit result because the country feels "less welcoming." According to a survey from a student recruitment consultancy, Hobsons, 30 per cent said they were not likely to come to the UK, while six per cent said they would definitely not choose Britain as a study destination as a result of the EU referendum.

32. Jo Johnson urged to guarantee Horizon 2020 funding post-Brexit. The Guild of European Research Intensive Universities has called on Jo Johnson to guarantee Horizon 2020 funding for all UK scientists, even after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).

Credentialing

33. 3 innovative ways to help unify higher education around the world as demand grows. Last week, I wrote about the need for stackable global credentials in order to meet the quickly growing international demand for higher education. Globally, the lack of interoperability standards between alternative and traditional educational systems may be the single most significant barrier to making education accessible to the poor, particularly in the developing world.

34. US: Separating Education from Credentialing. A prominent technology think tank wants the federal government to encourage the use of standardized assessments to measure postsecondary knowledge and skills, with an approach that would separate learning from credentialing and challenge the dominance of traditional college degrees. In a new report, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation called for the "radical step" of "breaking the ironclad link between education and certification."

35. Digital, Verified and Less Open. Digital badges aren't replacing the bachelor's degree any time soon. But a growing number of colleges are working with vendors to use badges as an add-on to degrees, to help students display skills and accomplishments that transcripts fail to capture.

36. 5 must-have's for viable credentials. What will it take to make credentialing an easier process for students? How can education stakeholders validate credentials? What do employers need from today's credentials? How can minority learners better take advantage of these viable credentials? Those are just some of the issues addressed in a report from Lumina Foundation concerning the Connecting Credentials partnership, which aims to address problems that hamper students' efforts to attain high-quality, viable credentials in the current higher education system.

37. From micromasters to nanodegrees. Over the last few years, higher education in the United States has seen countless pronouncements that the degree is dead and that "alternative credentials" are ready to supplant the core product of colleges and universities. While the traditional degree market remains solid in the US – particularly at the bachelor level and beyond – and is seeing even stronger growth in other nations due to a rising middle class, there should be no doubt that the future of higher education here and worldwide is likely to be more 'unbundled' and technology-mediated and that it will include many new forms of educational credentials.

Competency Based Education

38. Two Reports Show Untapped Potential of Competency-Based Education. More than 500 colleges and universities are offering competency-based education (CBE) programs, which measure students' progress in terms of skill mastery regardless of how long or where they study. These tracks in fields like business administration and criminal justice are largely only available to students who are "college-ready." A new report from Jobs for the Future suggests CBE could be a viable option for adult learners who need remedial education in math and/or literacy before they can begin college-level work.

39. Competency-Based Education: The Importance of Metrics and Data Collection. By understanding what metrics to track (and why) right from the get-go, competency-based

programs can do a better job of showing their quality while allowing for rapid growth and improvement through data-driven decision making.

40. Is Competency-Based Education Worth the Investment? Over the past year or two, as the manic buzz about MOOCs settled down to a steady hum, many predicted that competency-based education (CBE) would follow as the next big thing in higher education.

Corporatisation/Corporate Partnerships

41. Amazon does it for the kids with student loan push. Those heading to university for the first time often turn to Amazon for a new backpack and some bedsheets. This September's freshmen can add a student loan to their virtual baskets. Last week, the e-commerce titan announced a partnership with Wells Fargo, the third-biggest bank in the US by assets. Students will be offered a 50 basis point reduction in interest rates on loans if they are members of Amazon Student Prime, a discounted version of its free shipping programme.

Graduate Outcomes

42. 10 jobs graduates will be applying for from 2026. 'Virtual Habitat Designers, 'Freelance Biohackers and even space tour guides will all become realistic job options for graduates from less than ten years' time, experts say.

43. Startup connects universities and employers to boost graduate employment. Fidelis Education, an online learning platform used by over 100,000 students at 50 colleges and universities, has launched a new feature that allows colleges and universities to "friend" companies that might hire their graduates. "Friends" have benefits including sharing content, mentorship, and work opportunities. With the support of employer-mentors, students on the Fidelis platform can access real-time guidance to inform their path from coursework to career.

44. Netherlands: 38% of students remain five years after graduation. Over a third of all international students who graduated from Dutch universities have remained in the Netherlands five years later, according to a report from EP-Nuffic on the rate of retention of foreign students. 'Welcome, to work', produced in collaboration with Bureau

Blaauwberg, found that the five-year stay rate of international students from the 2008/09 graduating cohort was 38%, higher than the global average of 25% recorded by the OECD.

Higher Education Funding

45. Are bonds the right way for your university to fund investment? As with clothes, holiday destinations and cars, corporate finance is subject to fashions and fads. The latest one in the higher education sector is for bonds to fund investment. But one size doesn't fit all, and an ill-fitting finance product is far harder to fix than an ill-fitting suit.

Online Learning

46. More online degrees on the horizon? Participants at a recent education technology conference heard that the next phase of development for online learning may well include full undergraduate degrees offered by leading institutions.

47. The top 20 accredited online colleges in the US. OnlineSchoolsCenter.com has recently released their list of the Top Accredited Online Colleges; a comprehensive index including what the web publication lists as "the very best, accredited, online schools in the country." View the list, along with a description of the benefits of each institution here.

48. 5 myths to debunk about online education. A new myth-busting report found that online education has expanded higher education access to students who previously might not have enrolled in it due to time and financial issues. In fact, 50 percent of online college students said they "would not," "probably would not," or were "unsure" if they would have pursued higher education had their program not been offered online. Online College Students 2016: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences, from The Learning House, Inc. and Aslanian Market Research, debunks some of the major myths surrounding online education trends and reveals surprising facts about online students and their preferences.

49. Why Today's MOOCs Are Not Innovative. For years, the higher education sector has been talking about the need to innovate. Or has it? Are the various calls for new methods of delivering educational content truly advocating reform; or are they just new ways of approaching old topics?

50. What Grad Schools Think of Your Online Bachelor's Degree. Many competitive law and medical schools may be more hesitant to accept fully online degrees, especially as these fields have been slower to adapt to online learning, experts say. Some highly competitive on-ground MBA programs might also view them with closer scrutiny than traditional applicants, though this varies.

51. US Department of Education proposes new rules for schools providing online courses. The Department of Education has proposed new rules for schools providing distance education, such as online courses, in order to get the state authorization needed to qualify for federal financial aid dollars. The proposal will help ensure students get a quality education and that taxpayer dollars aren't wasted on schools that fail to deliver, according to Consumers Union, the policy and advocacy division of Consumer Reports.

52. MOOCS can transform education – but not yet. Whether or not Moocs live up to the hype, technology's impact on universities is real and growing, Stanford University's John Hennessy tells Ellie Bothwell. As a board member of Google and Cisco, you'd expect John Hennessy to know a thing or two about future digital trends. But the Stanford University president's prediction to The New Yorker four years ago that a "tsunami was coming" in relation to technology's impact on higher education appears to have been wide of the mark.

Rankings, Ratings and Benchmarking

53. Overseas students put subject rankings above university prestige. Overseas-bound students choose universities for perceived quality in their chosen field of study rather than overall prestige, a new report suggests. A study by higher education analysts Quacquarelli Symonds has found that globetrotting students are twice as likely to consult subject-specific rankings as overall league tables, as they seek out "more

granular comparisons" to filter through the multitude of international study possibilities.

54. THE to partner with Wall Street Journal on new US college ranking. *Times Higher Education*'s new US college ranking will be launched in partnership with *The Wall Street Journal*. The inaugural *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* College Ranking will be released in September 2016 and will include more than 1,000 colleges and universities in the US. The US ranking will focus on student experience and outcomes.

55. One size fits all? A different perspective on university rankings. When my research team received the invitation to a summit on the prospects of rankings in education, we thought long and hard about what we could say about rankings that was new. Luckily, our placement within the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC), which hosts institutions that work in very diverse fields, provided an inspiration. Using the context of cross-fertilization around us, we decided to discuss university rankings from the perspective of the diverse needs of their intended recipients.

56. New diversity index helps find multinational campuses. An aid to international students who want to find the most culturally diverse student campuses across some of the main destination nations was launched last week by Hotcourses, the global course search website. The Hotcourses Diversity Index uses official government data to demonstrate the mix of student nationalities at universities across the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

57. College Choice releases comprehensive resource and ranking for women in college. College Choice has published a comprehensive resource and a ranking aimed to aid women in discerning where to attend college: "College Resources for Women: The Ultimate Guide" and "Best Colleges and Universities for Women." College Resources for Women: The Ultimate Guide is an exhaustive collection of information on resources and factors that women need to know to thrive in college.

58. Google releases 2016 Scholar Metrics. Scholar Metrics provide an easy way for authors to quickly gauge the visibility and influence of recent articles in scholarly publications. This release of the 2016 version of Scholar Metrics covers articles published in 2011–2015 and includes citations from all articles that were indexed in Google Scholar as of June 2016.

Student Recruitment and Mobility

59. Rising players in higher education: the countries to watch out for. The US and UK dominate the international education market in Asia, hosting 19% and 10% of the global share of international students. More recently, however, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia have become more attractive destinations for Asian and non-Asian students, including those from the Middle East.

60. Junior language travel market continues to develop. The junior market – that is, students under the age of 18 – has been a growth segment in language travel in recent years. Demand is being driven by a greater emphasis on foreign language learning in markets abroad, and by an increasing interest on the part of parents in boosting their children's language proficiency. However, the junior segment is also susceptible to economic conditions and other market disruptions and some destinations – notably Canada and the UK – saw a decline in junior numbers in 2015.

61. Use Your Location -- Any Location! -- to Recruit International Students. Aside from creating offshore campuses or online offerings, one thing you can't change about your university is its location. There's no doubt that it's easier for programs in well-known and attractive destinations to recruit international students, but changing the way you talk about your location for international audiences can also have a real impact on your recruitment results.

62. NZ: less than half of Indian student visa applications approved this year. More than half of New Zealand student visa applications made by Indian nationals this year have been declined, figures from Immigration New Zealand reveal. Fraud was given as one of the reasons for the high refusal rate. Just 44% of Indian student visa applications assessed since January have been granted, a fall from 2015's overall acceptance rate of 49% according to the statistics published by INZ's Mumbai Area Office. In contrast, the latest comparable statistics from DIBP show that in Australia, 87% of Indian student visa applications assessed in the latter half of 2015 were accepted.

63. How US universities decide who gets in. How do the admissions decision makers in US Higher Education institutions decide which international graduate students get in? Is the process fair? How do the metrics used to assess Chinese applicants differ than those used to assess American students?

64. US: scepticism remains as Coalition Application set to roll out. A new online platform for applying to universities in the US will roll out this autumn with the aim of improving access to higher education. However, college counsellors around the world are unconvinced that it will make the application process easier or higher education more accessible to international students.

65. How online tools are helping colleges recruit international students. How can colleges better connect with prospective international students? While online and social platforms provide an obvious bridge, "There is an inherent shortcoming in the current communications process to address student priorities," said Sumant Mauskar, president of CollegeWeekLive, an online college platform.

66. Clinton pledges green cards for STEM grads. Presidential hopeful, Hillary Clinton, has pledged to "staple" green cards to student visas for international students completing STEM courses at master's or PhD level. The proposal, which is part of Clinton's initiative on technology and innovation, is expected to benefit Indian students, with a large majority coming to the US to study STEM subjects.

67. US confirms visa policy for conditional admissions. The US government has released its final policy guidance on conditional admissions for international students. Under the now-official policy, universities may only issue I-20s for academic programmes when students have met all admissions requirements. This means that those students pursuing English studies, or any other preparatory programmes, offered by a university will require a separate I-20 for those courses, and then a further I-20 for their degree studies.

68. US: media fuels concerns over agency fraud. Around 70% of US education institutions expressed concern about fraudulent practice among education agencies, according to a recent report, with over half of the report's survey respondents saying they find out about bad practice through the media. *The pace of adoption of international student recruitment agencies by US institutions*, produced by Bridge Education Group and StudentMarketing, found that 54% of respondents are aware of a negative experience when working with agencies through press coverage, with 39% saying they are aware from another US HE institution.

69. Canadian ELT institutions adapt to new KASP reality. The dialling-down of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Scholarship Programme has been a source of great concern to education institutions in Canada, which have seen their numbers fall in recent years, as they have in other study destinations. After a new requirement for KASP students to complete their ESL courses in 12 months wiped several providers off the approved list to receive students, institutions are adapting to a 'new normal'.

70. UK: Home Office eases visa rules at four selective universities. The Home Office has liberalised student visa rules at just four highly selective English universities in a pilot for master's students, prompting claims that it is creating a "two-tier system". The two-year pilot scheme, which launched on 25 July, eases visa rules for those applying to master's courses at the University of Bath, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford and Imperial College London in what is described as a test of a "differentiated approach" on student visas.

71. UK Universities offer 'buy-one-get-one-free' degrees. Elite universities are offering 'buy-one-get-one-free' degrees to lure in A-grade students; it has emerged, as they ramp up their efforts to attract top-flight students. Universities hope that by offering a free master's degree on top of a £9,000-a-year- undergraduate courses they will be able to attract the brightest students.

72. Germany: international students up 7%, Chinese students top 30,000. International students at higher education institutions in Germany grew once again last year, increasing by 7% on top of 2014's gains. The number of international students in the country now totals 321,569, making up 12% of the country's student body, according to the latest annual Wissenschaft weltoffen, by DAAD and DZHW. The number of Chinese international students has topped 30,000 for the first time, with India overtaking Russia as the second highest source country.

73. Keys to the market: Turkey. Turkey often features in any discussion of important emerging markets for international education, in part because the number of outbound Turkish students has grown significantly over the past decade. Precise numbers are elusive as, by some estimates, roughly half pursue summer school studies or other short courses abroad. But some reports put the number as high as 100,000 students, and demand is likely to continue to build going forward.

74. US: Violence in Turkey, Europe halts some study abroad programs. As conflict and terrorist attacks around the world prompt fears over student safety, universities in the US are constantly reassessing the viability of study abroad programmes in high-risk regions. In recent months, some have suspended programmes in Turkey and elsewhere in Europe.

75. New HE partnership rules in India could boost outbound mobility. A new policy has been announced in India which will allow Indian educational institutions to collaborate with those outside the country for the first time, with the Indian authorities acknowledging time spent abroad on students' degree certificates. The move, which was announced in June by the University Grants Commission, will enable Indian universities to initiate partnerships with educational institutions abroad.

76. Recruitment beyond China: Lower-Middle-Income Countries Show Promise. As U.S. educational institutions, colleges, and universities scour the globe for sources of qualified international students, India ranks high on many strategic recruitment plans. But a close review of data points to other lower-middle-income countries' potential as well – particularly for U.S. institutions beyond the top tier.

77. Vietnam removes agency certification requirements. The Vietnamese government has removed certification requirements for education agents. The move aims to reduce government bureaucracy in the Vietnamese industry and open up greater consumer choice.

However, the change to a more open marketplace for education agents will likely also place a greater burden on both students and foreign institutions in terms of identifying credible and qualified agents.

78. From the field: An agent's view of recruiting in Pakistan. Pakistan sent nearly 40,000 students abroad for higher education in 2013, mainly to the UK, Australia, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Canada, Germany, and Malaysia. The college-aged population in the country is large and growing, and income levels continue to grow as well. These are some of the factors that have led the British Council to forecast Pakistan to be one of the fastest-growing markets for outbound mobility through 2024

79. Tanzania: Two Universities Barred From Enrolling Students. The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) has banned two universities from admitting new students in the 2016/17 academic year for violation of regulations. The affected institutes are St Joseph University of Science and Technology and International Medical and Technological University (IMTU).

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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 September. Please send your contributions to the editor@aair.org.au by Wednesday September 15.

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