

**Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
Distance Learning and the Internet Conference 2003
@ the National University of Singapore**

Conference website: <http://www.cit.nus.edu.sg>

Presenter: Professor Thomas J. O'Malia

Biography

Tom O'Malia is the Director of the Center for Distance Learning at the University of Southern California. He assumes this position with a love of Distance Learning dating back 20 years to when he joined a team pioneering a computer based interactive learning system that predated the personal PC. From this initial experience, O'Malia has championed the concept of Learner Based education.

Professor O'Malia's teaching activities and interest are extensive. He recently wrote and hosted the distance learning series, *Introduction to Entrepreneurship: Building the Dream*. The course is a 12-segment video that was awarded first place for "Excellence in Distance Learning – Higher Education" from the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA). The course is currently being televised nationally on PBS University.

Prior to his appointment to lead USC's interest in Distance Learning, O'Malia served as the Director of the nationally ranked Lloyd Greif Center for Entrepreneur Studies at USC from 1995 to 2002 where he held the Kinko's Director's Chair in Entrepreneurship and was a Professor of Clinical Entrepreneurship. In 1998, Success Magazine named the Greif Center the #1 Entrepreneur Program in America. It has been ranked in the top 4 as a graduate and undergraduate program since its inception in 1971.

Prior to returning to USC in 1995, O'Malia served as CEO of ShopTrac, a firm he co-founded. ShopTrac was a producer of manufacturing software in the Automatic ID barcode industry.