

2004 has been another busy time for the Society. Among significant activities for the year have been:

- Adopting a new refereed approach to annual ascilite awards;
- Centralising coordination of annual NextEd Grant;
- Continuing improvements to the Community Mentoring Program;
- Completion of audit of accounts and processes.

Membership of ascilite continues to grow at a steady pace and we continue to maintain a sound financial situation. The Executive at their meeting in March decided the adoption of the tag line *'improving learning through technology'* in the marketing of the Society made it clearer as to the broader issues the Society was involved in.

This year we have continued to build on the Community Mentoring Program launched last year and to also find better ways to provide support for the ascilite Campus Representative role. A new initiative this year was changing the process for judging the annual ascilite awards. For the first time an international review panel was involved. The ascilite awards and the NextEd Grant are now coordinated centrally by the Executive. This helps ensure a continuity in the process from conference to conference.

Sincerest thanks go to the Executive and our wonderful Secretariat who have again worked hard to maintain and improve our Society. Thanks also to last year's conference committee for a well run and stimulating conference.

This will be my final year on the Executive after nearly eleven years, so it is with a certain sadness that I compile this report. This however will not be the end of my involvement and it is also reassuring to leave the Executive knowing that the Society is flourishing, maintaining its financial independence, its relevance to membership and its influence beyond.

Helen Carter, President

membership and services

Since the 2003 ascilite conference in Adelaide, South Australia 150 new members have joined, bringing the current membership to 535 as at the 25 November, 2004. The rate of new members joining is approximately double what it has been for the last two years and the overall membership is up by approximately 11.5%. These are both indicators of a healthy Society.

finances

Last year's conference in Adelaide returned a healthy profit of \$42,500 to the Society. For the financial year 2003 to 2004, the Society had an operating surplus of about \$9,900. The Society also has accumulated funds of \$151,275. Our major expenses were running the Secretariat, production of AJET and Electronic Information costs. A complete set of audited accounts will be presented and available at the Annual General Meeting in Perth, and later from the Secretariat in Wollongong. This year a procedural audit was conducted by the Society's auditors Dunn and Keane, which showed we were well organised but gave some advice on better minuting our meetings.

community mentoring program

2004 Community Mentoring Scheme recipients (mentees are listed, followed by their mentor and the executive facilitator for the partnership):

Reem Al-Mahmood *UofMelbourne* - Catherine McLoughlin - Gerry Lefoe

Jenny Bird *SCU* - Kathleen Gray - Helen Carter

Jennifer Evans *CDU* - Rod Sims - Craig Zimitat

Tak Ha *HKUST* - Richard Elliot - Mike Keppell

Angela Ma Kit Fong *HKIE* - Rob Phillips - Mike Fardon

Each recipient receives a \$500 honorarium and mentees also receive free early bird conference registration for the annual ascilite conference. This helps share expertise and cross-fertilisation between institutions in a range of areas. This collaboration has helped contribute to conference outputs.

conferences

The Society is grateful to the committee who have organised this year's conference in Perth, Australia. As at the 1st December 278 delegates have registered. The theme for the conference is *beyond the comfort zone*. This year's conference has 68 full and 51 concise papers, all of which have been double-blind refereed. There are also 12 poster presentations and 8 workshops. The 2005 Annual Conference in Brisbane is already well on the way with planning. Organising a conference isn't easy but it can be a rewarding experience for those involved.

ascilite award winners

2003 ascilite conference Best Paper Winners

3d environments for spatial learning: the importance of learning task design

Barney Dalgarno, Charles Sturt University, Australia
Barry Harper, University of Wollongong, Australia

Online interaction impacts on learning: teaching the teachers to teach online

Gail Wilson, University of Western Sydney, Australia
Elizabeth Stacey, Deakin University, Australia

Iterative analysis and interpretation of audit trail data

Gregor E. Kennedy and Terry S. Judd, The University of Melbourne, Australia

2003 ascilite Award Winners

Best Software Project

HOTcopy®, Deakin University, Australia

Best Web Project

The Toolbox Digital Repository, Edith Cowan University, Australia

Highly Commended

Interactive Djembe, Educational Medica, University of Otago, New Zealand

2003 NextEd ascilite Research Grant (NEARG) Recipients

Topic: An investigation of how instructional designers and tertiary teachers make use of generic learning designs as a framework for incorporating learning objects into online courses in tertiary education

Dr Shirley Agostinho, Dr Sue Bennett and Dr Lori Lockyer all from the Faculty of Education at the University of Wollongong, Australia

Australasian Journal of Educational Technology

Volume 20 saw the change of the Journal name from Australian to Australasian. The first edition of our Journal for 2004 contained 3 articles from those who had received Outstanding Paper Awards at the 2003 Conference.

Three volumes were distributed to our membership this year, with a total of 21 high quality papers published.

newsletter

Newsletters were circulated in April and June, with a third one due out this month. The major articles have been about the ascilite Community Mentoring Program and an article on HOTcopy®, which was one of the ascilite award winners last year.

about ascilite

ascilite is a society for *those involved in higher education, especially computer-facilitated learning and educational interactive multimedia*. It provides a forum to stimulate discussion of relevant issues in *the educational use of technology*, as well as *promoting research and evaluation*. ascilite also promotes *co-operation and liaison* with other groups and organisations, which have complementary aims.

Enquiries about membership may be directed to: ascilite Secretariat, c/- CEDIR, University of Wollongong, WOLLONGONG 2522. Email info@ascilite.org.au or phone +612-4221 4895

communication

- The **annual report** provides a summary of the executive and administrative activities and a financial summary for the calendar year.

- The **Australasian Journal of Educational Technology** is produced three times a year and is available free to financial members of ascilite. It is a refereed journal, which publishes high quality articles in the area of education and technology. It is also available on the web at www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/.

- The **ascilite newsletter** is published electronically three times a year and provides discussion on more topical issues (<http://www.ascilite.org.au/newsletter/>).

- ascilite maintains a number of **listservers**. A general list is moderated and provides information about the society's activities, as well as alerting members to current conferences, positions vacant and similar (ascilite-general@vcs.ascilite.org.au).

executive members

president

Helen Carter
University of Newcastle

secretariat

Robyn Debbes
University of Wollongong

vice-president

Cathy Gunn
University of Auckland

treasurer

Craig Zimitat
Griffith University

committee

Mike Fardon, University of Western Australia
Mike Keppell, Hong Kong Institute of Education
Gerry Lefoe, University of Wollongong
Meg O'Reilly, Southern Cross University
Matthew Riddle, The University of Melbourne
Linda Pannan, RMIT University

seconded

Allan Christie, NetSpot Pty Ltd, South Australia
Bob Corderoy, University of Wollongong

Further information about the Society is available from the ascilite web site: www.ascilite.org.au