PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Welcome to the September issue of APSCE’s newsletter. I am pleased to report the latest progress on membership-related issues. After numerous extended discussions among the EXECO members, we have agreed on some major revisions of the society’s Constitution. The changes will have to be formally endorsed in the coming EXECO meeting with the consent of the EXECO members. However, due to time constraints, the following measures will be put into effect during the ICCE 2007.

The current two-category membership structure will be replaced by a three-category one, which comprises student members, non-voting members and voting members. As in the past, a student member is one who is registered as an undergraduate or graduate student in an institution of higher education; all new members of the Society will be non-voting members. All non-voting members, after joining the Society for three consecutive years, can then apply to be voting members. The difference between non-voting and voting members is just that only voting members are entitled to vote for Executive Committee representatives of the Society.

The purpose of such amendment is to ensure that the Society will be managed by a group of genuine and enthusiastic members who have been acquainted with the Society for at least three years. With this to be effective in the coming year, there is also a change affecting the ICCE conference participants. Starting from the ICCE 2007, all non-member participants will automatically become non-voting members and enjoy the member benefits, including reduction of conference registration fee, in the year after.

Apart from these changes, we are extremely pleased that we will be providing financial aid to five deserving individuals to attend and participate in this year’s ICCE. If the financial aid programme is found to be successful and our financial situation allows, I hope this can be a permanent feature of future ICCEs.

See you all in Hiroshima!

Fong-Lok Lee

UPDATES ON ICCE2007

The 15th International Conference on Computers in Education (ICCE2007) will take place on November 5-9, 2007 in Hiroshima, Japan. As of September 10, more than 250 participants from 25 countries have registered successfully. Listed below are the latest news pertaining to each of the different tracks of ICCE2007.

Keynote Speeches (November 7-9)

- Bridging Research to Practice in Technology-Mediated Learning: Innovations and Challenges in Singapore
  
  Chee-Kit Looi (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
Decentralization, Autonomy, and Participation in Multi-User/Agent Environments
Julita Vassileva (University of Saskatchewan, Canada)

Current Status of e-Learning in Japan and Networking for Sharing Learning Objects for Quality Enhancement
Yasutaka Shimizu (National Institute of Multimedia Education, Japan)

Design and Use of Technology Enhanced Learning Environments
Babara Wasson (University of Bergen, Norway)

Doctoral Student Consortium (November 6)

Eight proposals are accepted and two page abstracts are to be published in the conference proceedings.

Workshop (November 5-6)

Nine workshops are accepted for ICCE2007. All accepted papers will be published in workshop proceedings with ISBN.

W1: Learning And Fun: Should Educational Games And Toys Be Serious?
W2: MULE2007: "Design And Experiments Of Mobile And Ubiquitous Learning Environments"
W3: Intelligent And Adaptive Web-Based Educational Systems
W4: Knowledge Building Research In Asia Pacific
W5: Workshop On Semantic Technology For Learning
W6: Modeling, Management And Generation Of Problems/Questions In E-Learning
W7: International Workshop On Social Intelligence And Learning Environments
W8: The Trends And The Future Of Open Source Software And Standardization
W9: Distributed Learning And Collaboration International Networks Devoted To Research On Future Learning Environments

Tutorial (November 5-6)

One full-day tutorial and two half-day tutorials are scheduled.

Tutorial #1: Cognitive Tutors In A Box: From Theory To Authoring

Subtopic 1: Making The Transition From Research To Commercial Implementation--Disseminating Cognitive Tutor, A Research-Based Technology, Into Real-World Classrooms

Speaker: Steve Ritter (Founder and Chief Product Architect, Carnegie Learning)

Subtopic 2: Building Intelligent Tutors With CTAT And SimStudent

Speakers: Vincent Aleven and Noboru Matsuda (Human-Computer Interaction Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, USA)

Tutorial #2: Design Principles Of Educational Web Pages

Speaker: Woochun Jun (Seoul National University of Education, Korea)

Tutorial #3: Learning Innovations With Agent Augmented New Media

Speakers: Chunyan Miao (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) and Beaumie Kim (National Institute of Education, Singapore)


APSCE HQs has set up a public mailing list ([http://mail.apsce.net/mailman/listinfo/bulletin/](http://mail.apsce.net/mailman/listinfo/bulletin/))
Members who have news that are of high interests to members of the Society can take advantage of this newly added feature on APSCE's website.
NEWS ON RPTEL

Volume 2, Issue 2 (July 2007), Research and Practice in Technology Enhanced Learning (RPTEL) is now available online at:
http://www.worldscinet.com/rptel/02/0202/S17932068070202.html

In this issue, the following papers are included:

- Empowering Teachers To Evolve Media Enriched Classroom Scenarios
  Andreas Lingnau, Andreas Harrer, Markus Kuhn and H. Ulrich Hoppe

- An Activity System Analysis Of A Tripartite Technology-Supported Partnership For School Reform
  Daniel D. Suthers, Joyce Yukawa and Violet H. Harada

- The Role Of Expert And Novice Tutors In Computer Mediated And Face-To-Face Problem-Based Learning
  Joerg Zumbach and Peter Spraul

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL AID PROVIDED BY APSCE

To assist in fulfilling part of the goals of the Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education (APSCE)—fostering and sustaining a vibrant community of young researchers within the region, a financial aid program has been set up this year to support up to a maximum of five recipients, for the amount of US$ 600 each, by the Society. Qualifications and selection criteria are listed below.

Qualifications

- Graduate students who are in need of financial support—an email from his/her advisor indicating that no or very limited financial support is available from the affiliated institution for the student to attend ICCE2007;
- First-authors or presenters of accepted papers of ICCE2007 (i.e., main conference papers, workshop papers or DSC papers);
- Applicants whose average overall ratings of their accepted papers fall in the “inclined to accept” or “definitely accept” category (average score above 4).

Selection Criteria

If more than 5 applications are received before the submission deadline, the top 5 papers with the highest average ratings, or papers that have been recommended by the paper review panel for Best Student Paper Award/Best Paper Award will be awarded the financial aid. In addition to the aforementioned criteria, priority will be given to self-supporting doctoral students (those who did not manage to secure a scholarship at the respective universities and are self-financing their own studies), whose papers are accepted for presentation at ICCE2007 followed by other doctoral students, and master students who meet the aforementioned criteria.

Submission and queries

Any queries about the financial aid program and complete applications should be emailed to:

- Fu-Yun Yu, Institute of Education, National Cheng Kung University (fuyun@mail.ncku.edu.tw)

Submission deadline: September 30, 2007

NEWS ABOUT APSCE MEMBERS—MICHAEL J. STRAIT

After spending the 2006-2007 academic year as a Visiting Researcher at Universidad Iberoamericana in Tijuana, MEXICO, I have just accepted a new position as Director of Academic Assessment at the University of Missouri – Kansas City in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, and, at the invitation of Mr. Steve Frankland at Hong Kong PolyU, I have begun organizing for a Second International Conference on Enhancing Teaching and Learning through Assessment to be held in the USA.

Volunteers for Second International Conference on Enhancing Teaching and Learning through Assessment

I would very much appreciate any APSCE members who are interested in helping to organize this international conference to contact me at straitmj@umkc.edu, Thank you. Michael J. Strait, Ph.D., Director, Academic Assessment, University of Missouri – Kansas City, USA.
SHOWCASE ON ICCE2006 BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

As a special recognition of our researchers’ achievement, an ICCE2006 best student paper award is showcased in this issue of APSCE newsletter.

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARDS—
Computer-Supported Content Analysis for Collaborative Knowledge Building in CSCL.

BY Jian Liao, Yanyan Li, Ying Zhou, Ronghuai Huang and Jingjing Wang

This write-up was contributed by Jian Liao.

Hi, everybody, my name is Jian Liao. I am a graduate student currently pursuing my studies at the School of Educational Technology in Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China. It is a great honour to win the Best Paper Award in ICCE2006.

This paper would not have been possible without the help and encouragement from my mentors and friends. I would like to thank everyone, especially my advisor, Professor Ronghuai Huang, for his supervision and support during my two-year research period with him. He has profound knowledge in the field of Computer Science and Education. I am also very grateful to my team leader, Dr. Yanyan Li, for her assistance and useful suggestions throughout my postgraduate studies.

My research interest is Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL). Its core task is to explore how to improve the performance of collaborative learning, which divides the students into several teams and each member in a team has a common learning objective. This is done with the assistance of the computer. As more and more researches are engaged in the CSCL domain, this field is promising and there is a vast research space to explore from theory to practice.

In this field, my laboratory mainly focuses on interaction analysis during the collaborative process. Firstly, we adopted some popular qualitative methods such as observation, interview and content analysis to analyze the whole collaborative learning process. Some results are obtained for the teachers to learn more about the students’ collaborative learning. But these methods are laborious in nature, time-consuming and subjective, and therefore they are not able to cope with large-scale data in the online communicative system such as BBS or Knowledge Forum. This problem sparked our interest to began to explore the possibility of analyzing the vast data with the support of computer technology. We hope that we can innovate on the analytic methods from a computational viewpoint and we believe these methods will greatly lessen the laborious work that researchers currently face and bring forward the relatively objective results.

As for the analytic dimensions, there may be many viewpoints. Inspired by the research questions “what are students talking about?”, “who is talking to whom?”, and “how are students talking?”, we put forward an interaction analysis model, TSP model, based on activity theory. The model is a combination of Topic Space, Social Network and Process Pattern, which focuses on the studying of discussion topics, relations between team members, and collaborative process. My current work is to use computational technology to automatically discover the discussion topics and related evaluation criteria, including topic relevance, topic extension, etc. I adopted several computer technologies, such as Semantic Similarity Computation, Concept Map, and Keywords Extraction to calculate some features or indices in the interaction. Additionally, we are exploring more technologies (e.g. Classification, Clustering and Frequent Pattern Mining).

With the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, our CSCL team members in KSEI, BNU, are devoted to the CSCL collaborative process research, including interaction analysis, collaborative knowledge building, and related fields.

REPORT ON MULE 2007 HONG KONG WORKSHOP

Prepared by Hiroaki Ogata, BaoHui Zhang, Yanjie Song, and Chen-Chung Liu

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Mobile and Ubiquitous Learning Environment (MULE) Workshop 2007 was successfully held from August 15 to 17 at the Centre for Information Technology in Education (CITE), Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong, sponsored by APSCE with US$100.00.
This workshop was initiated by the steering committee consisting of Prof. Hiroaki Ogata, Prof. Masanori Sugimoto, Prof. Chen-Chung Liu and Prof. Tai-Wai Chan, and co-organized by CITE local organizers: Prof. Nancy Law, Prof. Daniel Churchill, and Ms Yanjie Song. Hiroaki organized the program. CITE provided facilities and places for free utilization, and helped prepare and arrange the registration and daily events of the workshop. PhD students Ms Carol Chu and Mr. Moushir EL-Bishouty also contributed to the preparation work. Fourteen professors and 9 graduate students in total were invited and participated in the interactive and fruitful workshop.

Major events

I. Individual paper presentations by graduate students and professors (downloadable from the workshop website: http://cello.is.tokushima-u.ac.jp/ogata/MULE2007H K/venue.html).

II. Professors’ presentations and discussion forums about the future directions of MULE and possible international collaboration based on each country/region’s research interests, strengths, and weaknesses.

III. Graduate student presentations based on small group discussion focusing on issues in relation to MULE.

IV. Team-building efforts through lunches, tea-breaks, dinners, campus tour, and site-seeing.

Outcomes in regard to the major events

I. All student presenters gave wonderful presentations. Ms. Carol Chu and Mr. Peter Seow were voted by professors to receive the best graduate student presentation awards.

II. Rich information and interesting ideas were shared during the professors’ presentation session. Major points from the professors’ presentations will be collected by the workshop organizers. Below are some topics discussed and decisions made during a lunch meeting.

**Topic 1: ICCE 2007**

Hiroaki introduced ICCE07 Workshop in Japan. All MULE Hong Kong participants are welcome to the workshop. Tak-Wai suggested that each country/region has to have at least one representative (G1:1 Panel).

II. Taiwan—Yao-Ting Sung
II. Hong Kong—Daniel
II. Japan—Hiroaki Ogata
II. China—Ronghuai Huang
II. Singapore—Chee Kit
II. South Korea—Hiroaki will try to contact some persons

**Topic 2: G1:1 Workshops (WMUTE) in Beijing Normal University in March 2008**

Prof. Huang invited MULE participants to participate in IEEE WMUTE2008 in Beijing. The following G1:1 Workshops are proposed (Possible date: March 23, 2008):

- PhD consortium
- Industrial workshop on G1:1
- G1:1 researcher workshop (Symposium panel), Chair: Prof. Gwo-Jen Hwang
- Handheld gaming for learning or Mobile Web 2.0 for learning, Chair: Prof. Daniel Churchill

**Topic 3: A joint conference with DIGTEL, Nov. 2008 (G1:1)**

**Topic 4: Future MULE research group**

It is suggested that the group might use the G1:1 web site as a platform for communication. Tak-Wai also suggested that we might want to use the following conferences as a platform for face-to-face meetings in order to sustain the MULE research group: ICCE, IEEE WMUTE, MLearn, AIED, ITS, CSCL, ICLS, IEEE DIGITEL, and other professional meetings. The MULE workshop has emphasized technology integration into subject teaching and learning, assessment, and teacher professional development in addition to technology advancement and development.

**Topic 5: Journal publication**

It is aimed that a special issue on mobile learning be published in RPTEL. Papers from this theme of the ICCE 2007 will be chosen for possible publication. The proposed publication date is sometime in 2009. The issue of English proficiency among Asian authors was also discussed. This may be overcome by appointing English native speakers to edit the papers written by non-native speakers.

**Topic 6: Changing the name of MULE group**

The MULE group is now known as: Classroom, Ubiquitous, and Mobile Technologies Enhanced Learning (CUMTEL), which means “Mobile technology enhanced learning, ubiquitous
technology enhanced learning, and classroom technology enhanced learning”. The intention is to extend the research scope in order to attract more educational researchers, besides computer science researchers. This also helps to incorporate a range of expertise that is necessary for promoting CUMTEL in schools globally.

III. Student-centered discussion groups

This activity was considered an immense success in this workshop. In addition to paper presentation, the workshop tried a new interactive program that brought PhD students and professors together to discuss the future directions of MULE. Participants were divided into four groups. Each group comprised PhD students and professors from different countries in the Asia Pacific region. PhD students were expected to be the presenters and leaders of the group discussion. Students and their advisors, thus, were purposely assigned to different groups so that students could actively contribute in the group discussion. Before the discussion, the organizers invited one professor from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan, respectively to present ideas of future MULE research, which largely stimulated the discussion of each group. The group discussion was joyful without any pressures. The topic of discussion was left open by the organizers. All participants, especially the PhD students, demonstrated active and lively discussion and proposed their ideas about future MULE directions in the six-hour group interactive session. The presentations of PhD students from the four discussion groups will be posted at the MULE Hong Kong 2007 website.

IV. All the participants felt that this was a very productive workshop to push the MULE or CUMTEL movement forward. There were many wonderful photos as a testimonial of this event. Participants have expressed strong desire to continue the conversation and to seek further collaborations with one another. The website of the Global 1:1 web site will serve as a platform for communication and collaboration and can be accessed at: http://www.g1on1.org.

Future directions

The following are some of the questions that this community needs to address:

- Who are supposed to be involved in the MULE (CUMTEL) community?
- What are the most challenging problems in CUMTEL?
- How to sustain and expand the community?
- Who are the target learners for CUMTEL research?
- How are CUMTEL approaches different from conventional learning approaches?
- How to align CUMTEL ideas with learning objectives?
- How do teachers integrate mobile learning in their teaching?
- What are the design issues for technologies and learning environments?
- How to assess the learning outcomes with this innovative approach?
- How to foster international collaboration in order to move the CUMTEL forward?

FORTHCOMING ICT-RELATED CONFERENCES

First Workshop on Semantic Web and Education (WSWED 2007)

Organizing Committee

Ig Bittencourt (UFCG, Brazil)
Evandro Costa (UFAL, Brazil)
Fernanda Lima (UCB, Brazil)
Edilson Ferneda (UCB, Brazil)
Seiji Isotani (University of Osaka, Japan)
Daniel Krause (University of Hannover, Germany)

WSWED’07, held from 28-30 November 2007 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, is the first workshop on Semantic Web and Education. Paper submission will close on the 7th of October 2007. The idea is to provide to participants an opportunity i) to get to know and discuss innovative educational environments by exploring different contributions through the use of semantic web technologies; ii) to investigate the construction of educational environments under the perspective of the semantic web; and iii) to bring together researchers and graduate students in the area of the semantic web and education. Topics of Interest include: educational applications of the semantic web, ontologies, semantic web-based educational standard, semantic web architectures, and related issues. More information can be obtained from: http://www.lia.dsc.ufcg.edu.br/ lia/doku.php?id=first_workshop_on_semantic_web_and_education
The 2007 Conference on Information Technology (CIT)

This conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on 11-14 November 2007. The League for Innovation's annual Conference on Information Technology (CIT) 2007 offers participants the exceptional opportunity to participate in a variety of sessions such as forum, hands-on alley labs, learning centre courses, poster sessions and roundtable discussion. More information on 2007 CIT can be accessed from http://www.league.org/2007cit/CFP/form/cfp_page1.cfm.

The International Symposium on Open, Distance and E-Learning 2007 (ISODEL)

Conference Chair
Ir. Dodi Nandika

Conference Vice Chair
Fasli Jalal

Advisors
Bambang Sudibyo (Minister of National Education, The Republic of Indonesia)
Muhammad Nuh (Minister of Communication and Information, The Republic of Indonesia)

This symposium aims to share and distribute knowledge on implementation practices on information and communication technology for open, distance and e-learning discipline. This symposium will be held in Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel, Bali, Indonesia from 13-15 November 2007. More information can be obtained from http://www.e-dukasi.net/symposium/.

The Fourth International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-based Society 2007

Conference Chairs
Srisakdi Charmonman

Deputy Chairperson
Maneerat Plipat

The eLearningAP 2007 conference, officially supported by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand, will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18-19 November 2007. This conference aims to facilitate knowledge sharing in eLearning technology, courseware design and production, eLearning management system, and eLearning principles and practices. Details of this conference can be obtained from http://www.elearning07.com/.

The 4th International Conference in Open and Distance Learning

Conference Chair
Antonis Lionarakis (Hellenic Open University)

Theme: Forms of Democracy in Education: Open Access and Distance Education

The ICODL 2007 will be held in Athens, Greece from 23-25 November 2007. Papers of the following topics are encouraged: applications of democratic management in alternative educational schemes; open access, open learning, open education; national, international and cross-cultural networks; transformation of conventional institutions to polymorphic institutions; forms of democracy in distance education; open universities and open schools: new educational and pedagogical
challenges; research in distance learning; technologies of Information and Communication in the service of education; new pedagogical applications in distance learning; the Learning quality: strategies, policies, implementation; evaluation in distance Education; teacher or tutor–counsellor?; lesson or Tutorial?; manual or multidimensional and polymorphic teaching material?. Visit this website http://artemis.eap.gr/icodl2007/icodl2007en/index.htm to obtain more information.

The IADIS International Conference on Cognition and Exploratory Learning in Digital Age 2007

Conference Chair
Pedro Isaias (Universidade Aberta-Portuguese Open University, Portugal)

Program Co-Chairs
Kinshuk (Athabasca University, Canada)
Demetrios G. Sampson (University of Piraeus and CERTH, Greece)
J. Michael Spector (Florida State University, USA)

This conference is hosted by the International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS), a non-profit organization that centers on research and dissemination of knowledge related to the Information Society. This conference will be held in Algarve, Portugal on 7-9 December 2007. The IADIS is also associated with the IADIS Journal on WWW/Internet (online version) and IADIS Press. Proceedings are published in a book (with ISBN). More information on this conference can be obtained from http://www.celda-conf.org/cfp.asp.

The International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) encourages international development through sharing of advances in science and technology. This conference will be held in Innsbruck, Austria on 17-19 March 2008. WBE 2008 highlights on the web’s influence over traditional educational theories and practices given the transformation and expansion of new innovations, such as virtual colleges, laboratories, universities, hardware and software technology, online testing and assessment, training and teaching applications, and courseware design and development. More information on WBE 2008 can be found at http://www.iasted.org/conferences/home-610.html.

3rd International Conference on Interactive Mobile and Computer Aided Learning (IMCL 2008)

Program Co-Chairs
Michael Auer (Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria)
A. Y Al-Zoubi (Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan)
Goran Karlsson (Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, Sweden)

Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman, Jordan, will host its 3rd international conference on "Interactive Mobile and Computer Aided Learning", IMCL2008, in the period 16-18 April 2008. www.imcl-conference.org. The submission deadline for full paper is October 15, 2007. The conference aims to promote the development of Mobile Learning in the Middle East, provide a forum for education and knowledge transfer, expose students to latest ICT technologies and encourage the study and implementation of mobile applications in teaching and learning. The conference will provide participants with the newest state of the art on portable devices and their role in university education and potential benefits for learning purposes. Examples of the implementation by laptops, palmtops, mobile phones, PDA, smart phones, WAPs, GPS and a navigational system, WWW-access via Bluetooth, WLAN or GPRS will be presented, accompanied by experimentation to demonstrate their coherence and feasibility.
Pervasive 2008

General Chair
Max Ott (NICTA, Australia)

Program Chairs
Jadwiga Indulska (University of Queensland, Australia)
Don Patterson (University of California-Irvine, USA)
Tom Rodden (Nottingham University, UK)

Pervasive 2008 builds on the success of previous conferences in this series held in Zurich (August 2002), in Linz/Vienna (April 2004), in Munich (May 2005), in Dublin (May 2006), and in Toronto (May 2007). Pervasive 2008, the Sixth International Conference on Pervasive Computing, will be held May 19-22, 2008 in Sydney, Australia. Deadline for technical paper submissions is October 15, 2007, and for workshop proposals is October 26, 2007. This premium annual conference provides a forum in which to present research results in all areas related to the design, development, application and evaluation of pervasive computing. For more information, please check the website at http://pervasive2008.org/

International Conference for the Learning Sciences (ICLS 2008)

Conference Chair
Paul A. Kirschner (Research Centre Learning in Interaction, Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

Conference Co-chairs
Jeroen van Merriënboer (Educational Technology Expertise Center, Open University of the Netherlands, The Netherlands)

Theme: International Perspectives in the Learning Sciences

This conference will attempt to broaden the geographical, cultural, and intellectual scope of the learning sciences community, while maintaining its focus on the innovative consideration of learning as it occurs in authentic contexts. Deadline for submission is 19th of November, 2007. The following contributions are welcomed: full papers, symposia, interactive sessions, fire hose sessions, poster, pre/conference workshops, doctoral consortium. The conference will be hosted by the Research Centre Learning in Interaction at Utrecht University, with assistance of the Open University of the Netherlands and the University of Twente and will be held in the city of Utrecht.

Submission of proposals is web based: http://www.isls.org/icls2008

Dissemination of news of its members and news for its members has been one of the goals of APSCE’s newsletters. Personal news about community members (such as job changes, promotions, etc), research developments (e.g., new centers, books, software), and recent academic activities are more than welcome to be emailed directly to Fu-Yun Yu (Chair, Newsletter Subcommittee). For your piece to be included in the next issue, an electronic copy of the file must be emailed to Fu-Yun Yu 10 days prior to the scheduled publication date of next issue (December 10 of 2007) at fuyun@mail.ncku.edu.tw