The 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, held in October in New Orleans, was judged by its attendees an “overwhelming success” and a great beginning for ASIS&T’s yearlong celebration culminating next fall with the 75th anniversary meeting (see additional information about the 75th Annual Meeting elsewhere in Inside ASIS&T).

For the 74th meeting, planners designed a meeting with broad appeal for the diverse interests represented by the fields of information science and technology. According to early evaluations, both practicing professionals and educators were out in force, joined by a large number of students at both the master’s and Ph.D. levels. Of those reporting, 82% declared the meeting “good” or “excellent.”

Join us throughout this issue of the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology for a look at some of the work and fun that members and guests enjoyed at the 2011 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Following a photo montage from the meeting, you’ll find full coverage of the ASIS&T Annual Awards presented at the conference. Elsewhere in this issue, other Annual Meeting coverage includes the inaugural address of new ASIS&T president Diane Sonnenwald and the Award of Merit acceptance speech delivered by former ASIS&T president Gary Marchionini.

Enjoy the look back at the 2011 Annual Meeting and make your plans for next year’s celebration. As one new student member attending the New Orleans conference said, the meeting was “phenomenal….everything was awesome – the sessions, posters, talks, New Members Brunch, student competition…meeting people from all over the world – it was incredible fun.”

When President Barack Obama honored the recipients of the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation – the highest honors bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists, engineers and inventors – the White House invited the American Society for Information Science and Technology to be among the guests. Executive director Richard Hill answered the call and was front and center for the ceremony on October 21.

In introducing the dozen recipients, the President reminded the audience that “America has always been a place where good ideas can thrive and dreams can become real – where innovation is encouraged and the greatest minds in the world are free to push the very limits of science and technology.”

The President then spoke directly to the interests of ASIS&T when he spoke of the global economy in which we live and compete which resulted in part from the technologies of the information age. “The key to our success has always been and always will be our unparalleled ability to think up new ideas, create new industries and lead the way in discovery and innovation.”