The ASIS&T 2012 Annual Meeting – the 75th anniversary meeting of the group – in Baltimore is the focus of this issue. Coverage includes an expanded Inside ASIS&T, as well as a special section reporting on many of the meeting’s pre-conference workshops and seminars, a report on the plenary session and articles by winners of two of the Society’s most prestigious awards. Our three regular columns, the President’s Page, the IA Column and the RDAP Review also appear.

As reported in the last issue, the meeting events and attendance seem not to have taken a big hit from Sandy. As the meeting itself has been shortened in recent years, pre-conference activity has become increasingly important. Many pre-conferences are now established annual events, and some have extensive presentations, awards, associated publications and other activities. This year, the pre-conference on the history of ASIS&T and the field was particularly anticipated as it celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Society. In addition to that event, we report on pre-conferences sponsored by SIG/CR, SIG/SL and SIG/USE. We also cover the ongoing Society task force promoting the recognition of information professionals, whose activities were reported at a session on the emerging information professional.

Inside ASIS&T includes photos, coverage of 2012 award winners and extended reports on the ASIS&T Online Education and the Third ASIS&T Student Design Competition as well as the insights of Naresh Agarwal, winner of the 2012 James M. Cretsos Leadership Award, who shares his views on how new members can get more value from their ASIS&T experience and how ASIS&T might offer more value to members.

This year’s ASIS&T president, Andrew Dillon reports on the President’s Page on progress toward implementing the Society’s name change and on his attendance at the annual meeting of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, in which ASIS&T, given many interests in common with other societies, might play a greater role.

Our plenary speaker this year was Edward Chang, who spoke about mobile opportunities, while Michael Buckland reflected on the purpose of information science and librarianship and the role they have played in his life in his acceptance speech for ASIS&T’s highest honor, the ASIST Award of Merit. We also asked this year’s Research Award honoree, Kalervo Järvelin, to tell us about his research career and findings, which he does in the article “A Career in Information Retrieval.”

In his IA Column Thom Haller challenges information architects to extend their work with another example of the dangers of poor design and the remedial insights offered by the principles of user affordance, while Katherine Goold Akers, this month’s RDAP columnist, urges librarians to pay attention to “small data,” which is often important and which will most likely be preserved only if local institutions undertake that responsibility.

Finally, I’d like to thank the many contributors whose reports and reflections have made this issue possible.