ASIS&T Changes Its Name, Enhances Its Global Mission

With nearly 90% of all ballots cast voting in favor of a name change, the American Society for Information Science and Technology will soon become the Association for Information Science and Technology.

While the ASIS&T acronym stays the same, the name change recognizes the growing influence of ASIS&T in the international arena. The opportunities and challenges with respect to the science and technology of information are increasingly international in focus and scope. ASIS&T supports members around the globe in addressing these opportunities and challenges.

When 2012 ASIS&T president Diane H. Sonnenwald, in collaboration with 2012 immediate past president Linda C. Smith and president-elect Andrew Dillon, called for a membership vote on the name change issue, she said, “The word American in our name often makes it difficult for individuals outside the United States to receive recognition for belonging to and participating in ASIS&T. It also fails to recognize the important contributions members outside the United States make to our association and to our discipline.”

In addition, Sonnenwald noted that increasing international participation in ASIS&T will provide additional opportunities for all members to learn from and share expertise and knowledge with colleagues who have different expertise and knowledge.

Currently 18% of ASIS&T members reside outside the United States in 52 different countries. At the recent 75th Anniversary ASIS&T Annual Meeting, attendees came from 25 countries, with 22% coming from countries other than the United States. In addition, ASIS&T runs successful international conferences, notably the annual European Information Architecture Summit, and will hold its 2013 Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

The new name reflects the commitment of our members to international cooperation and global efforts to increase the influence of information science in education, research and applications to ensure the best access, management and use of information in an increasingly interconnected world.
In the December/January issue of the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, we provided a brief news report of our 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting and the impact hurricane Sandy had on attendance and activities. But the timing of both the meeting and this publication’s deadlines kept us from providing full photographic and text coverage of the fun, the substantive, the social and the ridiculous at the successful anniversary confab of ASIS&T.

So join us throughout this issue of the Bulletin for a look at some of the work and fun that members and guests enjoyed in Baltimore at the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting. Following a photo montage from the meeting, you’ll find coverage of the ASIS&T Annual Awards presented at the conference and news about the winners of the ASIS&T Student Design Competition. Also in this issue, other Annual Meeting coverage includes reports from many of the pre-conference workshops and seminars; the plenary session headlined by Edward Chang; the Award of Merit acceptance speech delivered by former ASIS&T president Michael Buckland; and an article by our 2012 Research Award recipient Kalervo Järvelin.
One of the highlights of each year’s ASIS&T Annual Meeting is the presentation of the prestigious ASIS&T Annual Awards. This year’s winners are featured in this section. Because of travel difficulties associated with hurricane Sandy, many winners were unable to attend the meeting, but their awards were noted nonetheless.

**Award of Merit**

Michael K. Buckland, professor emeritus in the School of Information at the University of California, Berkeley, is the 2012 recipient of the ASIS&T Award of Merit, the highest honor presented by ASIS&T. The award goes to an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to the field of information science, including the expression of new ideas, the creation of new devices, the development of better techniques and outstanding service to the profession.

Professor Buckland has been an active member and leader of the American Society for Information Science and Technology since 1975, serving as president in 1998 and winner of the Watson Davis Award in 2005. The Award of Merit recognizes his exemplary career as information scientist, educator, mentor, dean and leader of professional societies. His work has had lasting influence due to its historical and conceptual richness, its acknowledgement of real needs and real problems and its willingness to reconcile tradition with new thought and practice. His project-based research seeks to bring information to people in new, qualitatively rich ways, by rethinking traditional forms and practices through new digital tools. In this 75th anniversary year, as ASIS&T reflects on its history and looks to the future, it is especially fitting that we recognize Michael K. Buckland with the Award of Merit.

**Watson Davis Award**

ASIS&T’s Watson Davis Award recognizes the contributions of someone who has shown continuous dedicated service to ASIS&T. In 2012, the person who most effectively lives up to that ideal is KT Vaughan, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. KT is an outstanding information science professional who has provided exceptional service to the ASIS&T organization. She has done an incredible job of demonstrating her impressive commitment to the profession of information science. KT brings a high level of dedication and quality not only to her career position that includes sharing her wealth of knowledge with students, faculty and colleagues, but also to the overall profession by working and leading multiple groups and committees from SIG/STI to the ASIS&T Constitution and Bylaws and Leadership Development Committees. She has previously served on the ASIS&T Board of Directors as SIG Cabinet Director. KT’s generosity in sharing her leadership talents for the good of ASIS&T, while demonstrating her continuous dedication as a driven member and leader makes her highly deserving of this award.

**2012 ASIS&T Research Award**

Kalervo Järvelin, Tampere University, Finland, is the recipient of the 2012 ASIS&T Research Award. During the last
decade his rich research has contributed to bridging naturalistic information-seeking behavior and classic information retrieval theory and experiment. His contributions to IR evaluation alone would warrant this award. His theoretical foundation and strive for methodological rigor are always present in his publications and presentations. He integrates cognitive and other theoretical approaches and advanced mathematical models in his often longitudinal and laborious information studies. In addition, his pioneering work on task complexity, his research work on how to bridge the gap between user needs and information systems in context as well as his contribution in natural language IR and cross-lingual IR are also of long-standing value to the LIS community.

Kalervo Järvelin is an exceptional scholar: he has a rare talent to solve problems by joining together apparently incompatible ideas. He is very creative and the most inspirational supervisor. He has formed several long-term influential research teams that have pushed the boundaries of traditional IR research and produced innovative and well-tested methodological breakthroughs, e.g., the generalized measures for non-binary (scaled) relevance assessments. He is an internationally recognized scholar and his work has had a huge impact as evidenced by his 1600 citations in Scopus and 1200 citations in Web of Science.

Kalervo Järvelin is one of those few visionary scientists who can not only reflect upon their own ground-breaking work, but also pin it down experimentally using state-of-the-art computational and advanced mathematical models. This has continuously placed him at the forefront of international information science research. Furthermore, his scientific integrity combined with his energetic and wonderful attitude make him a great role model to many younger researchers and a living inspiration to all.

**THOMSON REUTERS OUTSTANDING INFORMATION SCIENCE TEACHER**

The 2012 Thomson Reuters Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award goes to Dietmar Wolfram, who has been teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies for 22 years. Over the course of his career he has held a variety of positions including professor, acting associate dean, coordinator of the BS program, director of PhD studies and interim dean.

Dr. Wolfram is responsible for many initiatives aimed toward the advancement of information science in higher education. He was instrumental in developing the bachelor’s degree program in information science and technology, was a pioneer in the school’s online MLIS program and most recently was awarded $815,000 in IMLS funding to support the school’s doctoral program in information studies – a program he worked for years to establish and which began admitting students in 2008.

As an instructor, he has taught at all three levels of study. He teaches courses in library and information science research methods, foundations and information retrieval where his course evaluations are consistently rated as second to none and reflect an extraordinary ability to inspire and foster true love for the field. He has published widely with his students in national and international journals in the areas of informetrics and information retrieval and has presented his research on six continents.

He is a committed and active member of several information science organizations at varying levels. In ASIS&T, he has held numerous board, chapter and SIG positions since 1988.

Professor Wolfram stands as a role model for students and staff alike. His multiple decades’ worth of service and experience combined with his vast knowledge of the field, personal sacrifice and utmost integrity have resulted in significant benefits to his peers, his school, his associations and especially his students to whom he exemplifies exactly what constitutes an outstanding information science teacher.

**BEST JASIST PAPER**

The 2012 Best JASIST Paper Award goes to Sukomal Pal, Mandar Mitra and Jaap Kamps for their article, “Evaluation Effort, Reliability and Reusability in XML Retrieval,” *JASIST* 62(2): 375-394 (2011). The awards jury calls this a “very satisfying” paper, which is very readable, logically presented, does an excellent job of situating itself with respect to prior work and provides a thorough and
comprehensive analysis. A solid IR piece, it is a large-scale investigation that contributes to an understanding of how XML retrieval differs from standard ad hoc evaluation and whether it is better to spend resources judging a few queries deeply or many queries using shallow pools. It also focuses the community’s attention on methods to evaluation passage-retrieval, which is an important extension of the document-centric model that has been the primary target of research in IR and information science for so long. Committee members commented favorably on the paper’s utility: it has clear implications for IR evaluation and for the operation of INEX-type evaluations, giving it the potential for long term impact.

**PRATT SEVERN BEST STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER AWARD**

The 2012 Pratt Severn Best Student Research Paper goes to April Lynne Earle, St John’s University, for her paper entitled, *Design of an Application Profile for the St. John’s University Oral History Collection*.

Completed as a semester project for a metadata course at St. John’s University, the paper describes the creation of an application profile that uses both MARC and Dublin Core. As her nominator stated in his submission papers, the project “represents a significant contribution towards getting the project catalogued and ultimately accessible online.” Jurors cited the paper for its original topic, demonstration of “superior technical competence in information science” and provision of interesting implications for practice.

**JAMES CRETOS LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Naresh Agarwal, assistant professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, is the recipient of the 2012 James Cretsos Leadership Award, honoring a new ASIS&T member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in professional ASIS&T activities. Naresh joined ASIS&T as a student member in 2008 and, as a result of an interview at his first ASIS&T Annual Meeting that year, landed the job he currently holds. Naresh also launched his ASIS&T career during that conference when he took the initiative to ask various members how he could get involved. By the next year, Naresh was the vice chair of SIG/SI, chair-elect/vice chair of SIG/HLTH, an alternative representative to the Chapter Assembly and a co-faculty advisor to a student chapter. His pattern of activity has continued throughout the years as he has added positions in other SIGs, as well as the Chapter Assembly and other ASIS&T units. Along the way, Naresh participated in a variety of ASIS&T panels and paper/poster presentations, while contributing to ASIS&T publications as author and reviewer.

Naresh works hard to promote ASIS&T and its special interest groups and student chapters. One of his goals is to encourage new members, which he accomplishes through such diverse activities as hosting the traditional secret student party at the Annual Meeting, promoting ASIS&T membership among his students and facilitating SIG membership drives.

Naresh envisions ASIS&T as a dynamic, thriving Society, and he lends his leadership skills to the realization of that vision. Unquestionably, Naresh exemplifies the ASIS&T future leader honored by the James M. Cretsos Leadership Award.
**BEST INFORMATION SCIENCE BOOK AWARD**


The jury members offered numerous supportive comments about the book. One juror noted that this book is “obviously of high importance and relevance to information science. It is the definitive text on information retrieval, much improved over the earlier edition.”

Another juror noted this is “a textbook by some of the most expert authors in the field… cohesive and well-written… a classic, rewritten and restructured.”

Finally, one notation was that this book “… expands what was already a good work… an important resource both for current and new members of our profession…. It lives up to the interdisciplinary nature of IR and LIS.”

**THOMSON REUTERS DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PROPOSAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The 2012 Thomson Reuters Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship goes to Lori McCay-Peet for her proposal entitled *At the Intersection: Investigating the Qualities of the Serendipitous Digital Environment and the Serendipity-prone Person*. McCay-Peet proposes an ambitious, multiphase project that will examine the factors involved in, and develop a holistic model of, the process of serendipity within the digital environment.

Further, the study proposes to identify the qualities of serendipitous-prone individuals and the inter-relationships among the qualities of the serendipity-prone person, the content of the system and the facets of the digital environment.

McCay-Peet’s study will add to traditional methods previously used to study serendipity by proposing a novel approach – that of measuring the link between working memory capacity of individuals as an indicator of serendipitous facilitation. Lori’s faculty advisor notes, “Lori has developed a solid research idea, a conceptual model to support it and a preliminary pathway to follow. She has a natural ability to identify a problem, voraciously consume the background research and propose a solution or direction. To every project, she has brought a logical and analytical approach with novel and innovative ideas.”

The award jurors noted that the proposal is “well-written” and the “methods chosen were sound,” the work proposed was “original and creative” and the results have the potential to make important theoretical and practical contributions to information science and related disciplines.

**PROQUEST DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AWARD**

The 2012 ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation Award is presented to Jaime Snyder, Syracuse University, for the dissertation entitled, *Image-Enabled Discourse: Investigating the Creation of Visual Information as Communcative Practice*. Jaime was previously honored in 2010 with the Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship for this topic. This dissertation positions the creation of images during small group interactions as a specific type of information-driven communicative behavior, separate from doodling or artistic practice. This creative and further, the study proposes to identify the qualities of serendipitous-prone individuals and the inter-relationships among the qualities of the serendipity-prone person, the content of the system and the facets of the digital environment.

Jaime Snyder’s study will add to traditional methods previously used to study serendipity by proposing a novel approach – that of measuring the link between working memory capacity of individuals as an indicator of serendipitous facilitation. Jaime’s faculty advisor notes, “Jaime has brought a logical and analytical approach with novel and innovative ideas.”
thoughtful study raises many interesting questions that have not previously been studied within library and information science and brings in research from such fields as linguistics, psychology, sociology and communications theory. The study will likely lead to interdisciplinary research that combines visual communication and interaction studies. The exploratory study achieved the objectives set out in the research and added novel findings in the area of image creation in relation to information behaviors. The methodology and theoretical framework are sound and the literature review is excellent.

CHAPTER AWARDS

Winners of several 2012 ASIS&T chapter awards were not yet announced by press time for this printed program. They will be presented at the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting.

Isabella Peters, left, and Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan, right, accept Chapter-of-the-Year honors on behalf of the European Chapter from Diane Sonnenwald.

CHAPTER-OF-THE-YEAR

The European Chapter of ASIS&T is the worthy recipient of the 2012 ASIS&T Chapter-of-the-Year Award. It can be difficult to operate in such a distributed geographic area, but this chapter continues to excel at its activities while engaging members throughout the area. Chapter members are especially to be commended for their work with European conferences, their excellent collaboration with sister societies and their role in facilitating the development of new chapters in other areas with distributed membership. In addition to these activities, the chapter conducted an oral history project, organized a doctoral forum and re-energized its communication channels using social media tools. Perhaps most notable, however, was the detailed action plan submitted with the chapter’s annual report for the ongoing strength and development of ASIS&T in Europe. In all things, this chapter has demonstrated extraordinary organization, commitment and spirit.

STUDENT CHAPTER-OF-THE-YEAR

The 2012 Student Chapter-of-the-Year Award goes to the San Jose State University (SJSU) Student Chapter, a group that started from scratch and achieved incredible results in less than a year. The Chapter is a virtual chapter connected to a fully online program at SJSU, yet it has excelled as an active and communicative chapter for its members offering a great variety of activities, all of which were well promoted. Among 14 online events in the past year are a Second Life Mixer and academic or professional experience sharing talks on YouTube. The Chapter utilizes many virtual communication tools and creative approaches, including email, web conferencing and social media, as part of its outreach and membership activities. The SJSU Student Chapter is a most worthy recipient of the 2012 Student Chapter-of-the-Year Award.

Naresh Agarwal presents Student Chapter-of-the-Year honors to Melissa Hunt-Glickman and her colleagues at San Jose State University.

SIG AWARDS

SIG-OF-THE-YEAR

The ASIS&T 2012 SIG-of-the-Year Award is presented jointly to SIG/Education for Information Science (SIG/ED) and SIG/Metrics (SIG/MET).

SIG/ED is recognized for its excellence in organizational infrastructure and use of social media to facilitate planning and development; its outreach to its members through a re-designed website and new quarterly newsletter; outreach to the information science community through a successful series of webinars; for proposing
and hosting an online meeting of student chapter officers and advisers; and for instituting a new graduate student travel award. In addition to its many activities throughout the year SIG/ED was successful in having two panels and a workshop accepted for the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting and has already conducted elections to select its leadership for 2012-2013.

SIG/MET is recognized for its transformation into an active and productive traditional SIG from a virtual SIG only two years ago. In the past year it has been successful in growing its membership, expanding its outreach through a wide variety of electronic and social media; offered a successful and well-attended webinar on information visualization from the perspective of researchers interested in incorporating visualizations into a research project within the fields of bibliometrics, scientometrics, informetrics and webometrics; was the a co-sponsor of Doctoral Forum 2012 “Quantitative Research in Information Science” held at the University of Wolverhampton, UK; held a successful student paper contest for original research, with the prize winners presenting at a workshop at the ASIS&T 2012 Annual Meeting; had two panels accepted for inclusion at the ASIS&T 2012 Annual Meeting; sponsored a panel at the iConference; and, in honor of the 75th anniversary of ASIS&T’s founding, produced a special section on metrics for the August/September 2012 issue of the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology.

For these excellent reasons both SIG/ED and SIG/MET are recognized as ASIS&T SIGs-of-the-Year.

SIG Publication-of-the-Year

The 2012 SIG Publication-of-the-Year Award is awarded jointly to SIG/Arts and Humanities (SIG/AH) and SIG/Visualization, Images and Sound (SIG/VIS) for their collaboration in co-editing the April/May 2012 special issue of the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. The issue, dedicated to current developments in the fields of digital humanities and information visualization, highlighted innovative areas of research and practice not previously covered in such breadth, and its availability was broadly tweeted and publicized. In addition to bringing research issues to the attention of the Bulletin readership, the publication also communicated the value of participating in SIG/AH and SIG/VIS and is an outstanding exemplar of how SIGs can collaborate to produce quality work that embraces multiple approaches.

SIG Member-of-the-Year

Karen Miller of SIG/Education for Information Science (SIG/ED) is the worthy recipient of the 2012 SIG Member-of-the-Year Award. Karen joined ASIS&T and SIG/ED at the 2011 Annual Meeting and immediately assumed an active role. Her nomination letter states “She was instrumental in transforming SIG/ED into the vibrant, active organization it has become over the past year. This transformation simply would not have happened without Karen’s energy, dedication and hard work as the SIG’s program coordinator.” Karen exhibited leadership in developing a successful series of webinars for SIG/ED, including a virtual meeting for student chapter leaders and advisers. She was also instrumental in instituting the student travel award being offered by SIG/ED and in shepherding SIG/ED’s contributions to the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Quoting again from the nomination letter, “Karen is a shining example of willingness to do things ‘for the good of the order’ rather than for personal credit.” And thus, we are pleased to honor Karen Miller as the 2012 ASIS&T SIG Member-of-the-Year.
Third ASIS&T Student Design Competition: The “Truthiness” Challenge
by Candy Schwartz

EDITOR’S SUMMARY
For the third year, students attending the ASIS&T Annual Meeting were invited to compete in a design challenge, this time focusing on “truthiness.” The task was to devise a user opinion site that would distinguish fake reviews from valid and trustworthy ones. Students settled into four teams, based partly on the similarity of their shoes, and chose topics for their sites. Over two days, grabbing time between conference sessions, the teams gathered to plot out aspects of their site including system architecture, input and output features and user interaction. Teams then described the hypothetical sites to a panel of four judges, who considered creativity, impact on the problem, feasibility, contribution to humanity and quality of the presentation. As members of the winning team of Pratt + S. Carolina + Mizzou, Matt Miller, Jeff Mixer, Ben Richardson, Dinara Saparova, Andy Steinitz and Yao Zhang will receive free registration for the 2013 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Montreal.

KEYWORDS
web sites credibility
information architecture competition
sentiment analysis graduate students

Despite any number of difficulties imposed by the arrival of hurricane Sandy, the annual Student Design Competition (co-chaired by Stephanie Haas, Candy Schwartz and Katie Shilton) enjoyed its third successful year at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

At the opening session, held on Sunday evening, the design topic was introduced. It was characterized as the “Truthiness” challenge:

Assessing veracity and trustworthiness, whether of people, organizations or documents, are difficult challenges in technologically mediated settings. Fake online product reviews, book reviews, restaurant and vacation reviews, Twitter followers, etc., are a growing problem [1]. The gaming of reputation has consequences for a range of online interactions, including commerce, social networks, political discussion and debate, and crisis management. How do we separate the wheat from the chaff? Develop a preliminary design for a review site or crowd sourced information aggregator for the setting of your choice that makes trustworthiness and reputation primary design criteria.

The designs were slated for presentation to a distinguished panel of judges only two days later. Between Sunday and Tuesday students had to develop their ideas to solve the design challenge (considering system architecture, input/output and interaction) and prepare a presentation for the panel. Students were also strongly encouraged to participate in the rest of the conference and not spend all of their time working on the challenge.

The last step on Sunday night was to form groups. The rules require that no group contain more than two people from the same program. To get to know each other, students formed groups first by a numbered count-off and then by shoe similarity (which led to some amusement). The ice having been broken, they then formed final groups and started exchanging contact information and picking a team name. Following some late arrivals and early departures, four teams emerged: iTruth (Jase Alston, Sean Burns, April Earle and Hassan Zamir), Multiple Choice (Sara Chizari, Houda El Mimouni, Glen Farrelly, Christopher

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Throughout the next two days, small clumps of competitors could be seen huddled in corners in hallways and bars, working on the challenge. On Tuesday morning they gathered together to present their design to the panel of judges: Nick Belkin, Rutgers; Pnina Fichman, Indiana; Ken Fleischmann, Texas; and Soo Young Rieh, Michigan. Teams were allowed seven minutes for their presentations and five minutes for questions from judges.

Points were allocated for creativity of design (30), impact on solving the problem (20), feasibility of solution (20), contribution to humanity (20) and quality of presentation, including answering judges’ questions (10). All the entries were creative and thought-provoking, and the winning spot was closely contested as judges scribbled and erased notes on their score sheets and asked tough questions. Finally a winner emerged: Pratt + S. Carolina + Mizzou. Each member of the team receives free registration for the 2013 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Montreal.

Having proven that nothing can stop the Student Design Competition, the organizers are already looking forward to the 2013 competition, and who knows what the challenge will be? Stay tuned!

Resource Mentioned in the Article

ASIS&T Online Education Initiatives: Driving the Future
by Diane M. Rasmussen and Linda C. Smith

EDITOR’S SUMMARY
SIG/ED sponsored a panel at the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting to review the Society’s web educational efforts and explore promising future options. By late 2012 ASIS&T had presented nearly 40 webinars. A Webinar Task Force studied using web conferencing to raise the association’s visibility and found the format to be popular and worth expanding. Considering other modalities, the Online Education Task Force concluded that ASIS&T should develop a unified online platform to support a variety of web-based events and communication forums. During the panel session, trends in online education were discussed, including the use of Learning Management Systems that support webinars as well as blogs, social networks, discussion boards and other interaction channels for an online learning community. Panel attendees offered numerous additional suggestions including member preference surveys, collaborating with other organizations and repackaging webinar content. A follow-up task force will take a holistic look at the association’s web presence, and members are invited to submit their ideas.

KEYWORDS
e-learning web conferencing computer mediated communications information reuse collaboration marketing
devlopment goals and assume leadership roles in the Society and in the information community” (www.asis.org/about.html). Linda believed that webinars, defined as “live online educational presentations during which participating viewers can submit questions and comments,” (from web+seminar) (www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/webinar), were one way to further develop this purpose of the Society.

Speakers present ASIS&T’s webinars using software called GoToWebinar. The Headquarters office has a contract with the vendor, Citrix Online, LLC, and the software is free for members’ use. Headquarters also supports the promotion, registration and technical aspects of the webinar program. Webinars are presented live, but archives of all past presentations are available for members to access anytime at www.asis.org/conferences/webinars.

At the ASIS&T 2012 Annual Meeting, SIG/Education for Information Science (SIG/ED) sponsored a panel session entitled “ASIS&T Online Education Initiatives: Driving the Future.” The panelists included Diane M. Rasmussen, Linda C. Smith, Jacob A. Ratliff and Julia Khanova. They updated panel attendees on the activities of the Webinar Task Force (2011) as well as the Online Education Task Force (2011-2012) and led discussion about the future of ASIS&T’s online education offerings. Unfortunately, Diane and Jacob could not attend the panel session due to hurricane Sandy, but Linda and Julia graciously presented on their behalf. This article presents a summary of the panel and related discussion.

Background and Context
One of Linda Smith’s goals during her term as ASIS&T president in 2010-2011 was to develop a program of online education offerings in order to further the roles of SIGs and chapters as well as to reach a broader scope of members. ASIS&T “encourages and supports personal and professional growth through opportunities for members to extend their knowledge and skills, develop and use professional networks, pursue career development goals and assume leadership roles in the Society and in the information community” (www.asis.org/about.html). Linda believed that webinars, defined as “live online educational presentations during which participating viewers can submit questions and comments,” (from web+seminar) (www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/webinar), were one way to further develop this purpose of the Society.

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Diane M. Rasmussen (formerly Neal) is an assistant professor at the University of Western Ontario and ASIS&T director-at-large. She can be reached at info@99<at>gmail.com or dneal2<at>uwo.ca.

Linda C. Smith is professor and associate dean at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a past president of ASIS&T. She can be reached at lcsmith<at>illinois.edu.
Are Webinars a Good Idea?
In early 2011 Linda appointed Diane Rasmussen, then co-chair of the Information Science Education Committee, to serve as chair of the Webinar Task Force. Other task force members included Education Committee co-chair June Abbas, SIG representative Daniel Alemneh, Chapter Assembly deputy director Remlee Green and New Leaders Award winner Alex Garnett.
Linda charged the group with exploring how to develop a beneficial webinar program that would raise ASIS&T’s profile.

The task force utilized a number of data sources, including web statistics, competitive intelligence scans and surveys distributed to ASIS&T members as well as to members of other organizations. The group found that webinars in their current form (short, one-time presentations) are a preferred format of online education, their main audience is practitioners and that the developing ASIS&T webinar program was generally well received. At the 2011 Annual Meeting the task force recommended to the Board of Directors that the webinar program continue to develop in current and additional directions. The Webinar Task Force’s final report can be viewed at www.asis.org/Conferences/webinars/TaskForceOnWebinars.pdf.

Since the Webinar Task Force determined that many SIG and chapter leaders were interested in presenting their own webinars but hesitated due to unfamiliarity with the organizing process and the technology, Diane presented a meta-webinar called “The ASIS&T Webinar on Webinars: How to Propose, Organize and Present a Webinar” in January 2012. It is available at www.asis.org/Conferences/webinars/2012/webinar-on-webinars.php.

Webinars Are a Good Idea, But What’s Next?
Also at the 2011 Annual Meeting, incoming president Diane Sonnenwald formed the Online Education Task Force. This task force was charged with making additional policy and implementation recommendations, as well as with exploring other potential modalities for presenting online education and membership networking offerings.
Members included chair Diane Rasmussen, immediate past president Linda Smith, Education Committee co-chair Kathleen Burnett, New Leaders Award winner Jacob Ratliff, immediate past SIG/Cabinet director KT Vaughan and student member Ian Burke.

Discussions explored how the future of ASIS&T’s online education program should unfold.
Ultimately, the group’s recommendations to the Board included that ASIS&T develop a unified online platform for all things ASIS&T: webinars and related discussions, Annual Meeting session topics, informal chat spaces for members, links to events and so on. The Online Education Task Force’s final report can be accessed at www.asis.org/Online_...
Offer online education opportunities in collaboration with related organizations.

- Add text-based chat opportunities for Webinar attendees.

- Determine how to maintain the activity level of online spaces.

- Consider what tools ASIS&T members would prefer the most before they are developed.

- Further utilize post-webinar evaluation surveys. Perhaps ASIS&T could ask webinar attendees about their preferred tools for continued communication on the webinar topic.

- Determine the best platform option for ASIS&T’s needs through additional discussion. It is important to remain mindful that technologies evolve, and that online presences require resources to maintain them.

- Explore how to “repackage” the one-hour webinars might increase ASIS&T’s visibility, such as placing “microcontent” from them on YouTube or Vimeo. ASIS&T could consider whether to publish learning objects for information science.

- Continue to consider formats other than webinars to support professional development.

At the Board of Directors meeting that took place after the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Board discussed the Online Education Task Force’s recommendations. Given the discussion that ensued at the panel session as well as the points raised at the Society’s annual business meeting in Baltimore, incoming president Andrew Dillon suggested the need for another task force to explore ASIS&T’s web presence holistically and how it can present content, services and resources in a more centralized manner. Diane will again chair the task force, Linda will continue to serve as a member and other members will be recruited.

Your Thoughts Are Essential to This Project!

As of December 2012, ASIS&T had almost 40 successful and informative webinars archived on its website, but much more content can be offered. The efforts of the task forces discussed in this article as well as the conversations among the membership about the Society’s online future suggest that tremendous potential exists for the creation of a vibrant online community of information science practitioners, researchers, teachers and students. The vision for and realization of this unified presence has complete support from Headquarters and the leadership, but it cannot be accomplished without participation from current and future members. Please send your thoughts and questions on this initiative to Diane at infogirl99<at>gmail.com, and she will incorporate them into the planning of ASIS&T’s online future. The Board looks forward to your contributions.
What ASIS&T Means to Me
by Naresh Agarwal

EDITOR'S SUMMARY

A professor's advice to “find your community” started Naresh Agarwal as a doctoral student on a path to discovering and connecting to others with similar interests and goals. After visiting other conferences, Agarwal felt welcome at ASIS&T's Annual Meeting in 2008 and made the most of the connections he made. He got involved in several SIGs and with other roles and increased his level of participation over the years. His advice to new members includes continually expanding your circle of connections, finding ways to contribute, focusing on one thing at a time and even trying frugal strategies to attend ASIS&T events. Regular communications help reinforce contacts and are essential for SIG and chapter sharing and continuity. Communications and collaboration are key criteria for the SIG/Chapter-of-the-Year Award, which Agarwal helped SIG/ED to win in 2012. Agarwal hopes to see ASIS&T become more open, agile and responsive to members, supporting collaboration and interaction through social media on the association’s website.

KEYWORDS
information associations  social networking  communities  meetings

When I was pursuing my Ph.D. at the Department of Information Systems, School of Computing, National University of Singapore, my professor and mentor Dr. Pan Shan Ling told me, “You need to find your community.” When I inquired further, he explained that I needed to find a group of people across the world that is interested in and working on things that I’m interested in, a group that I could identify with. I, perhaps, didn’t fully understand him at the time; however, I went to a number of conferences and tried to mingle and fit in. Then, in 2008, I got to attend the ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Starting at the New Member and First Conference Brunch and continuing through all the sessions I attended and the meetings I had and noting the way I was made to feel welcome at every step, I instantly knew what Dr. Pan had meant about finding my community. ASIS&T was my community, and I knew it – the way I knew that this person was the one I was going to marry when I first met my wife years before. During that first meeting, I tried to soak in as much as possible about ASIS&T and its primary mission. I haven’t missed any meeting since then; that’s how I’ve come to know many of my favorite people who’ve been involved with ASIS&T for a long time. Like a bee attracted to flowers, I quickly got involved in a number of SIGs and in other roles within ASIS&T, such as being the Student Chapter Representative to the Chapter Assembly, leading to my current role as its Deputy Director. As chair of SIG/ED last year, my biggest sense of joy was to see it win SIG-of-the-Year (along with SIG/MET) in 2012, something that only became possible because I had such a great team. I see myself being involved in ASIS&T for a long time to come.

Naresh Agarwal, immediate past chair of ASIS&T SIG/ED and deputy director of Chapter Assembly, is the recipient of the 2012 James M. Cretsos Leadership Award. He is an assistant professor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, Boston. You can find out more about him at www.nareshagarwal.co.nr. He can be reached at agarwal<at>simmons.edu.
What I wish to share below is my advice for new members, some dos and don’ts, and my thoughts on some of the changes I would like to work toward and see implemented.

If you are a new member, the first thing you want to do is to try and attend the Annual Meeting. There are funding opportunities provided by different universities. Many SIGs (special interest groups) offer travel awards. You can also make use of online communities such as couchsurfing.org to find a local host in the city where the conference is being hosted. Other options include making use of the ASIS&T listservs to find people to share accommodations. The conference organizers could also help facilitate this undertaking — a need I’ve heard some students express.

Once you’re at the meeting, make sure you talk to people about your research and goals, about ASIS&T and about how you could get involved. Almost every person you talk to will be very helpful and will give you invaluable tips that will serve you for a long time to come. In addition to attending technical sessions and other open events, don’t miss the new members brunch, the leadership session and the secret students’ party (yes, there is one!). Say, “Hi” to many people but get to know three to five people well. In each subsequent conference, get to know a few more people, and soon you’ll feel yourself a part of the community.

The best way to feel at home is to find a way to contribute. Attend the planning meeting of one or more SIGs you’re interested in. I’ve also found it very helpful to attend the SIG Cabinet and Chapter Assembly meetings as well as the Annual Business Meeting. These meetings are very helpful in understanding the governance structure of ASIS&T. It is also helpful to get involved in the student chapter of your university and/or the regional chapter closest to you.

If you are a new officer in a SIG or chapter, it is easy to get lost. Since we are often busy with our studies, research or teaching, finding time to contribute requires discipline. One thing that I’ve learned through experience is it is best not to stretch ourselves too thin. It is best to get involved in one thing at a time. Each year, we can take on something else and gain experience over time.

Also, regular communication among team members is important. Often, a statement I’ve heard is that we come to the Annual Meetings and plan for the year, and then we come again the following year and plan. To avoid this syndrome, I’ve found it helpful to do two things right at the outset: 1) set up an email listserv such as Google Groups to easily email all officers (such sites also help archive all communication among officers for future committees); 2) set up monthly Skype calls to communicate among officers and to plan and carry out ongoing webinars and other activities through the year. Since most team members are dispersed geographically and often in different time zones, having avenues for synchronous communication, either through phone or Skype, is extremely important in helping establish a common context.

Each SIG and chapter should also think about issues of continuity and establish a mechanism whereby outgoing officers fill out a form with two columns to be passed on to new officers: 1) best practices (things that went well and that new officers would benefit from continuing) and 2) lessons learned (things that didn’t go well and that would benefit from change).

If a SIG or chapter aspires to win the SIG- or Chapter-of-the-Year award, it is helpful to go through the award criteria (available at the ASIS&T website) right before the first planning meeting and then plan your activities during the year accordingly. In order to enhance greater collaboration and knowledge sharing within and among chapters, SIGs and other bodies, the Chapter Assembly approved the following three changes at the 2012 Annual Meeting (something that officers of Student and Regional Chapters need to note):

1. Judging criteria for student and regional Chapter-of-the-Year awards will be modified to have 5 points allocated for collaboration with any SIG, chapter or a body within or outside ASIS&T. For the student chapter award, these points would be taken from the 40 points allocated for Chapter Activities.

2. We will create an opt-out (instead of opt-in) to the various lists for leaders. If you are a chapter leader,
you are automatically added to the key lists such as the list for all chapters and any other list.

3. From this point forward, all student and regional chapter annual reports will be made public (instead of them being viewed only by the jury), but only after the jury has decided on the award. A chapter submitting a report will have an opt-out option in the submission form if it doesn’t want the report to be made public.

In order to take on new challenges in an ever-changing world, I’d like to see ASIS&T become more agile and responsive to change, while retaining its core values. One area which I think requires urgent attention is the ASIS&T website. It needs to evolve from Website 1.0 to Website 2.0, making use of Web 2.0 functionalities such as Wikis, social networking, blogs, photos, videos and other collaborative features in the way it is envisioned, built and used. From a platform of information dissemination, it should evolve into a platform of information creation, contribution and shared participation. The various listservs are also largely used for occasional information dissemination by SIG and chapter officers. The members are often not aware of their potential for use for questions such as those related to their research, research methodologies or career advice. Logging on to the ASIS&T website (behind the walls of which lie many of the benefits of membership, including access to the archives of past webinars) requires remembering one’s membership ID, which may be hard for many members to recall easily. Members often don’t fully realize the benefits they gain by joining a SIG related to their research area or they don’t know the breadth of such benefits. By calling for and facilitating increased collaboration and participation, we’ll find ways to provide members with their money’s worth in being a part of ASIS&T, as well as specific SIGs and chapters. I wish to contribute to this process of change and would like to invite all members to participate actively in taking ASIS&T to even greater heights.

I would like to thank all my letter writers and all those from within and outside ASIS&T who’ve inspired me. Thank you for accepting me as a part of this wonderful community and being a part of mine. As I try to pass on some of the kindness that I’ve received, I’d implore new members to do the same. If I can be helpful in any way to you or I can do anything to make your life any easier than it is, I’d be glad to help. Last, but not the least, remember to be happy always.
Special Interest Group/International Information Issues (SIG/III) announces its 13th international paper competition for authors who are citizens and residents of developing countries. Winning papers are submitted for the 2013 Annual Meeting, which will take place in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 1-6, 2013.

Building on the Annual Meeting theme, this year’s paper contest is looking for papers addressing Beyond the Cloud: Rethinking Information Boundaries. Papers may discuss issues, policies and case studies on specific aspects of the theme from a global and/or international perspective. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following core areas:

- **Human Information Interaction**: information retrieval; information behavior; human computer interaction; usability; e-science and distributed collaboration; virtual organizations; user modeling; mobile technologies
- **Information Organization and Representation**: metadata; taxonomies; information visualization; information architecture; digital libraries; indexing and abstracting; classification; social tagging; semantic web and ontology; social media
- **Information Use & Analysis**: information seeking and user studies; strategic, security and competitive intelligence; information and knowledge management; comparative analysis of information practices; information metrics (bibliometrics/informatics/webometrics)
- **Information Preservation & Access**: digital curation; big data; e-book; information quality; copyright, intellectual properties and related issues; information literacy
- **Information Environments & Socio-Cultural Aspects**: organizational and contextual issues; security & privacy; economics of information; social informatics; information policy; foundation of information science; digital humanities; Web 3.0 and related technologies; cloud computing

**Selection Criteria**

Up to three winners who will be selected by a panel of judges that includes Maqsood Shaheen, IRC, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad; Alma Rivera, Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México; and Fatih Oguz, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The judging criteria will be based on the following elements:

- Originality of paper in the developing world and global information ecosystem (originality of the project described, etc.)
- Relevance to the paper contest theme
- Quality of argument, presentation and organization

**Eligibility & Information for authors**

Only papers by a principal author who is a citizen of and resides in a developing country are eligible. Winners in the 2009-2012 contests are not eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished and submitted in English.

**Award**

The award for each winner is a two-year individual membership in ASIS&T. In the case of multiple authors, the principal author will be awarded the ASIS&T membership. In addition, depending on SIG III/fundraising for this competition, the first place winner will be rewarded a minimum of $1,000 toward travel, conference registration and accommodations while attending the ASIS&T Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 1-6, 2013.

**Deadline**

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts, not to exceed 5,000 words, by May 31, 2013, to Maqsood Shaheen at ShaheenMA<at>gmail.com, preferably as Microsoft Word or PDF attachments.

**News about ASIS&T Members**

Chirag Shah, assistant professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at the Rutgers University School of Communication & Information, received a $273,000 grant from the IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Early Careers program. His project, **CIS3**: Collaborative Information-Seeking Support and Services in Libraries, employs a user-focused approach to investigate information seekers’ behaviors while working collaboratively.
**News about ASIS&T Members, cont.**

**Tomas Lipinski**, most recently executive associate dean and professor at Indiana University-Purdue University, is the new director of the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University. Lipinski holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; master of laws degree from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago; and a J.D. from Marquette University Law School. Issues related to copyright, information law and intellectual property are the focus of his ongoing research.

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**In Memoriam**

**Don R. Swanson**

**D**on R. Swanson, three-time dean at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School (GLS) and professor emeritus in the humanities division, died in November of 2012 at the age of 88. Don won the ASIS&T Award of Merit in 2000 for his trailblazing work in the relationship between natural and computer language and his belief that electronic databases held the keys to medical knowledge.

Among many groundbreaking discoveries, Don used his theory of undiscovered public knowledge to identify key relationships between dietary fish oil and Raynaud’s disease and between magnesium deficiency and common migraine headaches. With these findings inspiring his effort, Don and Neil Smallheiser developed Arrowsmith, software that assists in identifying connections between two sets of clinical research; this model has been adapted to study the correlations of genes with diseases and find possible new uses for medications.

Swanson began his career in physics with degrees from California Institute of Technology, Rice University and the University of California at Berkeley. After working for a while as a computer systems analyst and research scientist, Swanson joined the University of Chicago faculty as dean of the now-closed Graduate Library School. His background as a physical scientist led his GLS focus on computer-aided information retrieval which was a new area of study at the time.

Swanson is survived by his wife Patricia, son Richard and daughter Judith. Another son, Douglas, predeceased him.
The continuing development of computing and mobile technology and the ongoing evolution of the web environment provide new ways for accessing, acquiring, retrieving and storing information which constantly defy traditional boundaries. With the growth of digital content, information objects are blurred, and they challenge information organization. As more people interact and exchange knowledge and information on the web and in the cloud, information environments are transformed and human interactions with information are shifting. As information use increases and becomes more complex, the need for meaningful integration and analysis is growing.

The ASIS&T Annual Meeting is the main venue for disseminating research on advances in information science, information technology and related topics. The theme of the 2013 gathering offers an opportunity to reflect on all the changes that impact on human information interaction and their implications for information science and technology. Submissions are solicited for, but not limited to, the five tracks below.

**Tracks**

**TRACK 1: Human Information Interaction** – information retrieval; information behavior; human computer interaction; usability; e-science and distributed collaboration; virtual organizations; user modeling; mobile technologies

**TRACK 2: Information Organization and Representation** – metadata; taxonomies; information visualization; information architecture; digital libraries; indexing and abstracting; classification; social tagging; semantic web and ontology; social media

**TRACK 3: Information Use & Analysis** – information seeking and user studies; strategic, security and competitive intelligence; information and knowledge management; comparative analysis of information practices; information metrics (bibliometrics/informetrics/webometrics)

**TRACK 4: Information Preservation & Access** – digital curation; big data; e-book; information quality; copyright, intellectual properties and related issues; information literacy

**TRACK 5: Information Environments & Socio-Cultural Aspects** – organizational and contextual issues; security and privacy; economics of information; social informatics; information policy; foundation of information science; digital humanities; web 3.0 and related technologies; cloud computing

**Types of Submissions**

As always, Annual Meeting organizers are soliciting contributions of the following types: original papers with unpublished research results; panels on topics either research- or practice-oriented; face-to-face presentations – i.e., posters presenting late-breaking results or work in progress; demonstrations of novel technology; videos presenting research or demonstrating technology – related to the tracks and that lend themselves to interactive discussion and feedback in an evening session; and workshops and tutorials to be offered after the Annual Meeting technical sessions conclude.

For full information on topics and submission process, please visit the ASIS&T website at www.asis.org.

**Conference Chairs**

Chairs of the 2013 ASIS&T Annual Meeting are France Bouthillier, McGill University, who can be reached at france.bouthillier<at>mcgill.ca; and Boryung Ju, Louisiana State University, bju1<at>lsu.edu.