



NEWSLETTER

16 March 2010

Welcome from the New President - Euan Lindsay

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Association for electing me as its President. Elizabeth Godfrey has left me with some big shoes to fill, and I hope that I can do the position justice. The Association is in a very good position at the moment, and it is my challenge for the next twelve months to keep up the momentum.

2010 sees AAEE in the middle of a growth spurt. Attendance at our annual conference has increased dramatically over the last couple of years, with over 250 delegates attending last year's event in Adelaide. As well as a membership growth, we are also seeing an increase in activities organised by the Association for its members. The "Engineering Education Research and Your Career" workshop series will continue to make its way around Australia and New Zealand. Plans are underway to establish local chapters to support closer ties between academics at nearby institutions. Many of our Special Interest Groups are also reaching critical mass, with significant work being done in their areas of expertise.

A key goal for me this year is to ensure that these activities become part of the regular activities of the association. The initial enthusiasm of volunteers ensures that things get done, even if they have to be done the hard way. Sadly, however, this has often led to us re-inventing the wheel next year when a new team takes over the same activity. I would like to see our institutional memory grow stronger, so that the passion of our volunteers sees our activities expand, rather than just keeping to the status quo.

This principle of doing things differently goes to my theme for the year - "Groundhog Day". Many of you will be familiar with the Bill Murray movie where a weatherman lives the same day over and over again, and many of you will be familiar with this kind of déjà vu in some aspects of your professional lives. It is easy to get caught up in the enthusiasm of new ideas and innovations while surrounded by passionate colleagues at our annual conference; it is much harder to take this enthusiasm back to your everyday working life, where other demands and priorities clamour for your attention.

I'm asking everyone to do something different this year - make it a priority to implement just one innovation, so that 2010 isn't just a rerun of 2009. And then come to the annual conference in Sydney in December and tell me how it went.

I look forward to the challenge of leading AAEE for 2010, and I look forward to seeing your participation at an AAEE activity throughout the year.

Euan Lindsay



2010 President Euan Lindsay with 2009 President Elizabeth Godfrey

ARC Journal and Conference ranking lists for Research in Engineering Education

Ever since the announcement that the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative would assess research quality within Australia's higher education institutions, it has become evident that the career progression of all academic staff will be vitally affected by the value placed on their research publications. The opportunity to ensure that the journals and conferences valued by our community were included in the lists was much appreciated. All those individuals who responded to the website sponsored by the ARC, and all our members who contributed to the AAEE data gathering exercise will be gratified with the results. Almost all of our recommendations were adopted without question. The ERA Journal and conference ranking lists have now been published on the Australian research Council website http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_journal_list.htm.

Elizabeth Godfrey

Congratulations must go to past AaeE presidents Elizabeth Godfrey and Rodger Hadcraft who wrote the guest editorial for the October 2009 edition of the Journal of Engineering Education. The editorial was entitled 'Engineering Education Research: Coming of Age in Australia and New Zealand'. Elizabeth and Rodger are the first Australians to write the editorial for this prestigious international publication, so this is a tremendous achievement.

You are invited to participate in the 2010 AaeE Annual Conference from the 5th to the 8th of December. The 2010 conference will be the Association's 21st conference.

We see this as an opportune time for the community to reflect on how engineering education has changed in the last 21 years and to look ahead to where we want to be in the future.

The themes for the conference are therefore: 'Past, Present, Future – the 'keys' to engineering education research and practice'.

IFEES Nominations Due

This is a last reminder for nominations for the 2010 IFEES Global Award for Excellence in Engineering Education. The deadline for completed nomination packages is **31 March 2010**. For nomination guidelines and award information, please visit: <http://www.ifees.net/activities/IFEESGlobalAward.cfm>. Completed nomination packages should be emailed to award@ifees.net.

The Award will be presented to the winner during the 2010 World Engineering Education Forum on Tuesday, 19 October 2010, at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. The 2010 Award committee looks forward to reviewing your nominations!

Euan Lindsay

We are also pleased that the 'Fall' CDIO Collaborators meeting is scheduled for the same time in Sydney so that both the AaeE & CDIO communities can interact, learn from each other, and identify areas for future collaboration.

Call for contributions:

Proposed contributions will be submitted in the form of an abstract by late May 2010. Full papers will then be due by the end of July 2010. Full papers will be double-blind peer reviewed.

For more information:

<http://www.aee.com.au/conferences>

Anne Gardner

Faculty of Engineering & IT

University of Technology, Sydney

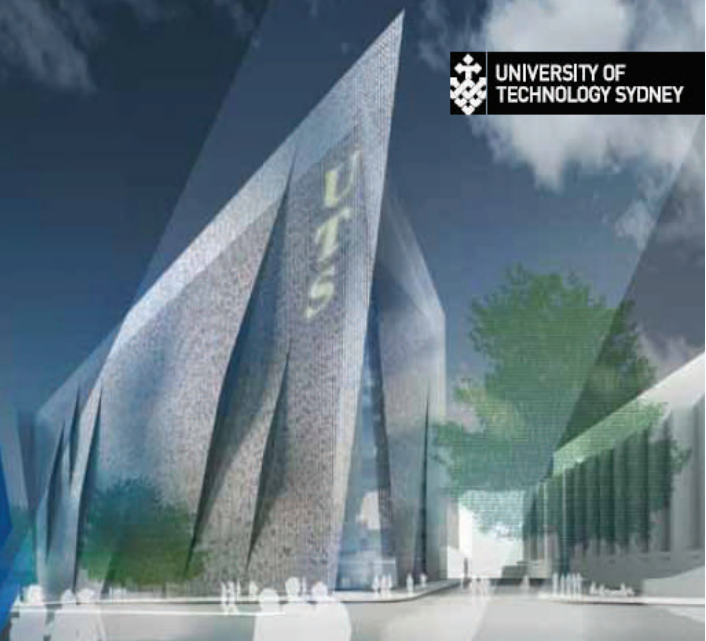
aeeconference2010@uts.edu.au

Anne Gardner

21st Annual AaeE Conference

Past, Present, Future – the 'keys' to engineering education research and practice

5-8 December 2010, Sydney Australia
University of Technology, Sydney



A \$20,000 competition is being conducted in 2010 by the Telecommunications Journal of Australia that is focussed on encouraging projects by later year engineering (as well as CS and IT) students that apply broadband technology in innovative ways to sustain and protect the environment. The \$20,000 in prize money is being sponsored by Alcatel-Lucent Australia.

The details have been posted at <https://www.acs.org.au/acstsa/> (see the News item for 3 March), but are also attached for convenience.

Some excellent examples of previous winning papers, by multi-author teams from both universities and industry, are shown at <http://publications.epress.monash.edu/toc/tja/59/1>

Please address any enquiries to Peter Gerrand (Managing Editor, Telecommunication Journal of Australia).

Peter Dowd

I would like to ask you all the favour of taking ten minutes to fill out the AAEE 2010 member survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/aaeesurvey2010>

We are looking for information such as whether our AAEE resources are proving useful to you, how we can improve our AAEE annual conference, whether you attend other engineering education conferences and so on. The information will help us direct our activities for the next year, and to report back to the Deans' Council on the value that we provide to our membership.

The survey will be available online until Easter; we intend to report back on the results some time in May.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Euan Lindsay

Dili Institute of Technology partnership - Volunteer Opportunities

Dili Institute of Technology (DIT) is a private non-profit, accredited tertiary education institute in Dili, Timor Leste. DIT's mission is to offer education, vocational training, research and service according to international standards, to satisfy the community's requirements for people with knowledge, expertise, and skills appropriate to the national development of Timor Leste and to the socio-economic progress within the region.

DIT is striving to improve the quality of its staff, teaching resources, research, curricula and teaching and evaluation methods. They have requested EWB's assistance in the development of their engineering program, which will involve the development of curricula, syllabi, laboratories, practical components and teacher training. The main focus area is civil engineering, in particular: water and sanitation; roads and construction; and power and energy.

This role will be supported by academics at the University of Western Australia and the International Water Centre. A project team can also be formed to provide additional support. This role would be suited to both experienced engineers and engineering graduates with an interest in teaching and learning approaches and strong communication skills.

Key Activities

- Review and assessment of current engineering programs
 - Work alongside academic staff to improve and develop current engineering curricula
 - Development of laboratory and practical training courses, and teaching resources
- Delivering staff training

Applications

Please complete the [volunteer application form](http://www.ewb.org.au/opportunities/756/10128) (<http://www.ewb.org.au/opportunities/756/10128>) and attach a statement addressing how you meet the selection criteria. We cannot assess applications that do not address the selection criteria.

Applications close on Monday 5th April 2010.

Please complete and return applications to Kim Axworthy, South East Asia Program Coordinator by email: k.axworthy@ewb.org.au

Or to EWB's Perth office:
Engineers Without Borders Australia
c/o Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway, M015
Crawley, Western Australia, 6009