



President's Report, Nov 2012

AAEE (a technical society of EA) represents a vibrant community passionate about transforming engineering education across Australasia by promoting best practice in scholarly teaching, application of research results into improving educational outcomes and forming collaborative links with high quality engineering education communities across the world.

1 Initiatives

There were a number of key initiatives across 2012 aimed at continuously improving AAEE value to ACED, Engineers Australia and the engineering education community locally, nationally and internationally. They are summarized below.

1. Increased AAEE identity and communication both within our membership and within our member institutions
2. The continued delivery of a number of professional development workshops at several key locations in both Australia and New Zealand and increasing our relationships and exposure in South East Asian region;
3. Strategies to increase the impact and recognition of engineering education research and scholarly publication within Australia and New Zealand.

2 Increased Identity and Communication

AAEE has continued to increase engagement of its membership across 2012 and to deliver relevant professional development programs including a number of workshops including 2012 AAEE Winter School, EA/AAEE

Accreditation and Curriculum Design workshops and Closing the Loop (good practice to good research to good practice) workshops (a special ACED sponsored project).

AAEE Communications and Newsletter

AAEE contributed to ACED's submission to the Senate Inquiry on Engineering Skills Shortages and has developed closer links with Australian Council of Deans (ICT) through the Discipline Support Networks. Many of AAEE executive and members are leading Office of Learning and Teaching (formerly Australian Learning and Teaching Council) National grants aimed at improving engineering education research and practice. A searchable database of ALTC projects in Engineering and ICT is available at Academic Resource Network for Engineering and ICT Australia (ARNEIA). See <http://www.arneia.edu.au/projects>

The AAEE website will also be migrated to the EA platform in the near future which will enable better communication and visibility.

3 Professional Development Events

In 2012, AAEE delivered and co-delivered a number of themed workshops at several key locations across Australia. I am pleased to report on progress in each of these areas.

2nd AAEE Winter School for Research in Engineering Education

This workshop took place between Monday 2 July and Friday 6 July 2012. The event was planned and facilitated by Dr Lesley Jolly, Dr Llew Mann, Dr Lyn Brodie and Dr Matt Eliot

and 19 participants from 3 countries (Australia, NZ and the USA) attended. Participants included Engineering and IT disciplines and the cost is supported by participants and the ICT and Engineering Discipline Network. Evaluation responses were positive with many attendees telling us that they gained an overview of the research process that they had never had before and a new appreciation of research design and methodology. They also praised the sense of community and support from everyone in attendance. One new agenda item which will be included in next year's program is a workshop on grant writing.

Closing the loop: good practice to good research to good practice project

The purpose of this project (funded by ACED) is to make practitioners more aware of what research already exists in engineering education, how to present their own work as research in order to contribute to the universities' research quality measures and will be recognised by DIISR metrics. Another project focus is on how to apply the results of engineering education research to teaching which lead to real (measurable) improvements in educational outcomes and high quality publication. Two single day workshops (including engineering and ICT faculty) occurred at each site, the first whole day to identify local issues and interests and needs and the second shorter one to follow up on actions resulting from the first workshop.

Two sets of workshops have been held at the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Southern Queensland (total of 4 workshops). There were 12 attendees at both the UTS and USQ workshops. A third workshop is planned to be held at Swinburne early in 2013 and invitations will be issued to all of the relevant Victorian universities. Participant interest has been very strongly in research design and data gathering methods so as to meet DIISR requirements. At UTS there was also interest in forming a community of practice around educational issues in the disciplines and this was addressed in the second workshop. At USQ there was a measure of interest in how to embed research findings in practice and this was discussed in the second workshop.

Engineers Australia Mega-Conference 2014

EA is planning to hold a large, multi-strand Conference at the end of 2014. Date is set for the fourth week of November in Melbourne. At the recent EA Council meeting, the suggestion was made that it would be good to have AAEE as part of the "mega-Conference" as it represents all areas of engineering and also covers the academics. Thus it is quite distinct from other groups which are largely concerned with practitioners.

4 Impact and Recognition

Increase our relationships and AAEE exposure in South East Asia

A number of Australian universities have good links with SE Asian universities through individual academics or offshore campuses and a number of these Deans attend the AAEE Conference. AAEE is developing strategies to form closer links with select communities and invite them to participate in professional development workshops and the AAEE Annual Conference. As a result AAEE have been approached by Asia-Pacific Conference on Engineering and Technology Education to co-host 2014 Conference and an expression of interest has been tabled for future Conference in Malaysia.

2012 Annual Conference

2012 Australasian Association for Engineering Education (AAEE) Annual Conference will be held at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. 3rd – 5th December 2012 with Theme: Re-positioning Engineering Education: The Profession and the Practice. All papers have been double-blind reviewed. See

<http://www.aee.com.au/conferences/2012/>.

A series of Master Classes to provide professional development opportunities will run throughout the conference.

The 2013 Conference will be held on Gold Coast in December, 2013 convened by Griffith University.

New Submission Process for Refereed Papers for AAEE Annual Conference

In 2012, the submission process for the AAEE Annual Conference has changed with the introduction of Structured Abstracts. We received a total of 195 Structured Abstract

submissions. The revised process is designed to support the AAEE community in producing and sharing high quality papers, and to ensure that delegates meet the external research requirements as defined by Australian federal government departments (DEEWR and DIISR).

ADTL meeting, Thursday December 6th at AAEE Conference

At last meeting ACED approved AAEE taking over responsibility for convening ADTL's annual meeting as part of the annual AAEE Conference and in partnership with AAEE develop the agenda for this meeting. The main objective is to ensure is that we have effective engagement between the ADTLs to disseminate and strategise around future actions for engineering education improvement. The 2012 ADTL meeting has been scheduled for Thursday immediately after the Conference.

IFEES (International Federation of Engineering Education Societies)

In October, the annual IFEES Forum was held. AAEE being a member of IFEES will be represented by Euan Lindsay (CQU) who is part of the IFEES Executive.

Journal (AJEE)

Since the abolition of the ERA Rankings of journals and conference proceedings, AAEE is now looking at other impact metrics, such as Impact Factor by which to further improve the quality of the Australasian Journal of Engineering Education (AJEE). AJEE is a ranked journal and is currently listed on SCOPUS and applying for inclusion in Thompson ISI. There are a number of Australian Engineering Educators (from the AAEE community) on Editorial Boards of IJEE, EJEE and JEE and the quality of engineering education research in Australia is highlighted by Borego et al., 2011 (Mapping Global Trends in Engineering Education Research in IJEE, 27, 1) along with the development of a cohesive and well-connected regional community of engineering education researchers.

5 Closing Comments

AAEE is in a unique position and is highly valued by many colleagues around the world.

Being a technical society of Engineers Australia (EA), a Technical Interest Group of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ), having formal representation on the Australian Council of Engineering Deans (ACED), and creating greater ties with the New Zealand Council of Engineering Deans (NZCED), AAEE and its members benefit greatly from the financial support, input to decision making and collaboration in special projects. This is truly a unique and highly valued position and relationship, and one which we should value, nurture and promote. Our relationships with EA, IPENZ, ACED and NZCED benefit our members and the engineering education community and providing an avenue to publish best practice research outcomes in an ERA ranked journal (Australasian Journal of Engineering Education). I firmly believe that, driven by the passion, energy and dedication of the AAEE Executive, and the continued support of ACED and Engineers Australia, we will set a very solid platform for the future of engineering education in Australasia.

Next year, we welcome Lyn Brodie from USQ to the Presidency of AAEE. I know she will represent AAEE well and continue to lead our engineering education community from strength to strength. I would like to personally convey my thanks and appreciation for the support and goodwill of the Executive and the engineering education community as a whole.

*Les Dawes
President AAEE 2012*



Les Dawes
2012 President



2012 AAEE Conference



23rd Annual AAEE Conference 3rd – 5th December 2012

<http://www.aaee.com.au/conferences/2012/>

UPDATE

2012 AAEE Conference almost here!

With the final details worked out, the program & papers online, and conference bags packed, we are ready to welcome delegates to Melbourne!

This year's conference promises to be one of the biggest in AAEE history, with 150 papers, 16 workshops & symposia, 7 Master Classes, engaging Keynotes and a packed social calendar. Added to this, the pre-conference symposium on Education for Sustainable Engineering Leadership and the post-conference workshop on Conducting High Quality Research in Engineering Education both offer participants a chance to engage in important discussions and develop their own practice in engineering education. Also this year there will be an ongoing conversation about the future directions of AAEE, and an opportunity for delegates to have their say.

ACED

Representatives from the Australian Council of Engineering Deans (ACED) will also be conducting a Q&A session about their activities and their vision of the changing engineering education context. They welcome your questions. If you have questions you'd like to ask click here <https://www.research.net/s/ZPYW998>

Conference Papers Online

The full program is available online, as are all the papers! You are welcome to look through the conference papers ahead of the conference, especially for sessions you are interested in attending. Please check it out at

<http://www.aaee.com.au/conferences/2012/?page=program>

Master Classes

It's also not too late to register for Master Classes, a great chance to learn at the conference. Master Classes are short (90 minute) and concentrated opportunities to advance your engineering education scholarship. Participants will receive certificates of attendance.

<http://www.aaee.com.au/conferences/2012/?page=master>

Twitter!

We're also encouraging people at the conference and who can't make it to follow us on Twitter #aaee12

Conference Registration

Finally, it's not too late to register! If you can make it to the conference and haven't registered yet, please click

<http://www.aaee.com.au/conferences/2012/?page=registration>

See you in a week!

Llew Mann
General Chair
2012 AAEE Conference
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AAEE Winter School 2013: Engaging with Evidence-Based Practice



AAEE Winter School 2013
30 June – 5 July, 2013
Noosa North Shore Retreat
Noosaville, QLD

As engineering educators we are often called upon to recognise and implement “best practice” whether as instructors, researchers, postgrad students or managers. Similarly, we are asked to provide evidence of the quality of our efforts. But anything labelled “best practice” can be contested. Similarly, quality can be framed (and judged) in multiple ways. In a world of conflicting advice, how do we determine the best way forward for our specific situations? How can we gather and evaluate rigorous evidence to support our claims?

The focus for the AAEE Winter School 2013 is the development of evidence-based practice, a scholarly approach that includes engagement with the literature, direct investigation of our current conditions, and collegial dialogue. This residential retreat is designed to foster participants’

development of evidence-based practices while in a challenging but supportive environment.

Intended Audience

- Doctoral students will gain knowledge and skills in rigorous research design and implementation, with an eye towards quality.
- Academic staff will develop key practices in engineering education scholarship, with support toward concrete goals and outcomes.

Dates: 30 June – 5 July, 2013
Location: Noosa North Shore Resort,
Noosa, QLD
Fee \$500 (includes tuition,
accommodation, and meals)

For more information and for registration materials, please contact Dr. Matt Eliot at m.eliot@cqu.edu.au

Contributions for the AAEE Newsletter

Do you have something of interest to the Engineering Education community? We welcome contributions from members! If you have something to share, please email the newsletter editor Matthew Joordens at matthew.joordens@deakin.edu.au

Matthew Joordens
