ASSTA NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first ASSTA Newsletter for 2011. This issue includes an ICASSP travel report from exotic Prague by travel award recipient Jia Kua, and more on speech science and technology conferences from our president. It really is conference season right now! The conference listing should help you keep up with the main opportunities in our field.

In next issue, Trent Lewis from Flinders Uni (trent.lewis@flinders.edu.au) will take over as newsletter editor. Don't forget, when you have news and information to publicise, this is the place to do it. So keep sending information and updates about your work and upcoming events.

Daniel Taft

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ASSTA INFORMATION

Australian Speech Science and Technology Association Inc.
GPO Box 143, Canberra City ACT 2601

ASSTA Executive

President: Denis Burnham
d.burnham@uws.edu.au
Fax: (02) 9772 6736

Secretary: Catherine Watson
c.watson@auckland.ac.nz

Treasurer: Shunichi Ishihara
Shunichi.Ishihara@anu.edu.au

Member: Marija Tabain
m.tabain@latrobe.edu.au

Member: Roberto Togneri
roberto@ee.uwa.edu.au

ASSTA Newsletter Team

Daniel Taft
daniel.taft@australiahears.com.au

Roberto Togneri
roberto@ee.uwa.edu.au

Catherine Watson
c.watson@auckland.ac.nz

Contributions

Copy should be sent to the newsletter team via email as plain text or as an attachment in Rich Text Format (RTF) or Microsoft Word (DOC).

Contributors: Denis Burnham, Roberto Togneri, Karen Kua

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ASSTA-ites, the conference season is upon us.

The International Congress on Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) is held once every 4 years and this year it is just up the road from us in Hong Kong from Wednesday August 17 to Sunday August 21 – see www.icphs2011.hk. There is a plethora of plenary speakers (Randy Diehl, Sarah Hawkins, Klaus Kohler, Ian Maddieson, Louis Pols, Daniel Recasens and Jacqueline Vaissière); and two satellite workshops – one on 'Coarticulation in New Varieties of English' just before the conference on August 16, and another on the 'Psycholinguistic Representation of Tone' (http://www.psych.lancs.ac.uk/res/

PLRT2011.html) on the two days after ICPhS, August 22-23. The latter is being hosted by one Australian and one Australian expatriate, and as well as a rich program of oral and poster papers, has keynotes by Jack Gandour from Purdue and Yi Xu from University College London.

Then just a week later is Interspeech - www.interspeech2011.org being held in Florence, from August 28 to 31. Again there are a number of keynote speakers (Julia Hirschberg, Tom Mitchell and Sandy Pentland), a range of pre-conference tutorials and at this conference a full planetarium of satellites orbiting the event. These include, for example the 'Workshop on Models and Analysis of Vocal Emissions for Biomedical Applications' before the conference on August 25-27 Florence, and the 'Auditory-visual Speech Processing' workshop after the conference, from August 31 to September 3 in Volterra, about an hour and a half from Florence – see www.avsp2011.org.

I am pleased to say that Higher Degree students and Early Career Researchers (within 5 years of PhD completion) have started to take up ASSTA Conference Travel Awards to assist with funding for these

conferences.

Interspeech and ICPhS (along with ICASSP, held earlier this year) are on the 'automatic' list -- $500 travel funding is automatically available to Higher Degree Students and Early Career Researchers if they have a paper accepted at any of these three conferences.

We always like to fly the ASSTA flag, so Higher Degree students and Early Career Researchers should acknowledge the assistance of the Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association in their written papers and in their oral computer presentations or on their posters. Copies of the ASSTA logo are available from ASSTA Secretary, Dr C a t h e r i n e   W a t s o n , c.watson@auckland.ac.nz.

Acknowledgement of ASSTA is possible beforehand in written submissions (and revisions) as funding is automatic for accepted papers. But you must apply, so go to www.assta.org/?q=assta-grants-program, and do so. Forthwith.

See you there,
Denis Burnham

Travel Report from ICASSP 2011

Jia Min Karen Kua
Ph.D. Candidate
UNSW

The trip to Prague was great! Prague was very charming and the Czech people were welcoming. Apart from enjoying the beautiful places of Prague, I have met many interesting people on the conference. We exchanged thoughts on each other's work, and most importantly, raised fresh ideas!

The same thing in this year's ICASSP is the crowds and the big guys; the different part is the introduction of a new type of event in its technical program, namely "Trends in Signal Processing" and the increasing trend on compressive sensing/ sparse representation. For the "Trends in Signal Processing", 13 sessions were held in total. In each session, a Technical Committee of the Signal Processing Society featured a few experts who summarise the most significant advances and upcoming trends within the area over the past year. These "Trends in Signal Processing" sessions were well attended by enthusiastic audiences and interesting comments were made in the panel discussion moderated by the TC chair.

In speech and language processing technology, we could observe that the past few years have been an exciting time. Speech recognition is now standard in major mobile phone operating systems, and has more users than ever. New computer models such as cloud computing enable models of unprecedented scale and accuracy to be widely deployed. With a wide range of applications ranging from simple search to complex ones involving understanding, dialog interaction, information extraction, translation and speech synthesis, new paradigms have evolved to address their speed and accuracy requirements. Therefore, ASR receive the most number of papers in the speech and language processing technology track this year. In the speaker recognition track (which is in my direct line of research), there is a growing trend of research for applications on detection of synthetics speech, channel-blind speaker verification system and speaker verification/ identification for gaming systems. The use of i-vectors and joint factor analysis (JFA) have seem to be the standard configuration for most researchers in speaker verification.

Overall, it has been a great opportunity to attend such a top-level conference. It could not be done without the generous support from ASSTA.

CONFERENCE LISTING

The 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS XVII)
17 August 2011 - 21 August 2011
Submission deadline: 6 March 2011
Location: Hong Kong
http://www.icphs2011.hk/

INTERSPEECH 2011: 12th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association
28 August 2011—31 August 2011
Submission deadline: 31 March 2011
Location: Florence, Italy
http://www.interspeech2011.org/

AVSP2011: International Conference on Auditory-Visual Speech Processing
31 August 2011—3 September 2011
Submission deadline: Closed
Location: Volterra, Italy
http://www.avsp2011.org/cms/

WASPAA'11: 2011 IEEE Workshop on Applications of Signal Processing to Audio and Acoustics
16 October 2011 - 19 October 2011
Submission deadline: 13 May 2011
Location: New Paltz, New York, USA
http://www.waspaa.com/

2nd International Conference on Medical Bionics
20 November 2011 - 23 November 2011
Submission deadline: 28 July 2011
Location: Phillip Island, VIC, Australia
http://www.iceaustralia.com/medicalbionics2011/

Canberra Language Fest 2011
27 November 2011—9 December 2011
Location: Canberra Australia
http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/langfest/joint_day.htm
http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/langfest/conference.htm
http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/langfest/als.htm
http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/langfest/alaa_alanz.htm

IEEE ASRU 2001: Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding
11 December 2011—15 December 2011
Submission deadline: 1 July 2011
Location: Hawaii, USA
http://www.asru2011.org/

IEEE ICASSP2012: The 37th International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing
25 March 2011— 30 March 2011
Submission deadline: 27 September 2011
Location: Kyoto, Japan
http://www.icassp2012.com/