



## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to the second ASSTA Newsletter for 2013.

The President's report from Denis touches on the progress of some ASSTA funded projects, disbandment of the IAB, an open invitation for news items, and the very sensitive issue of fees.

The "News" section of newsletter reports on the many successes of ASSTA members. It is great to share so please send to us any of your good news items.

The news section in this newsletter also highlights a serious and concerning issue of the closing of Language Departments.

ASSTA is supporting the 15th ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction, which for the first time comes to Australia, with student travel grants. Congratulations to Julien Epps (UNSW, General Chair for ICMI2013) and his team on successfully bringing this conference to Australia, and I hope many students take advantage of this opportunity.

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.

**Trent Lewis**

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# ASSTA Information

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## Contributions

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

## ASSTA Corporate Members

Appen Pty. Ltd.  
<http://www.appen.com.au/>

Cochlear Ltd  
<http://www.cochlear.com.au/>

The HEARing  
Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)  
<http://www.hearingcrc.org/>

Spectral Dynamics Pty. Ltd.  
<http://home.iprimus.com.au/elvoice/>

Visit ASSTA on the Web:  
<http://www.assta.org/>

# President's Report

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Greetings ASSTA bods; I wish to address 4 issues: ASSTA-supported projects, ASSTA membership fee rise, the International Advisory Board, and ASSTA News.

## **ASSTA-Supported projects**

ASSTA has increasingly over the last few years provided support funds to augment externally funded speech science and technology projects. Three current projects are an ARC Linkage Project headed up by Geoff Morrison entitled 'Making demonstrably reliable forensic voice comparison a practical everyday reality in Australia', and two multi-investigator multi-discipline multi-institution projects – the ARC AusTalk project and the NeCTAR virtual Lab project. Geoff Morrison's project is progressing well, the AusTalk project is nearing completion, and the NeCTAR project, begun just this year is moving along nicely. All three of these involve ASSTA members as Chief Investigators, and are projects that will be of great benefit to ASSTA members.

Providing ASSTA funds for such projects works in two ways: they provide added credence to the grant applications and thus increase the chance of success, and also then assist the project if the grant is successful. This is an important function that ASSTA can serve in its role as the peak body in Australasia for speech science and technology, and we hope that more ASSTA members will use ASSTA as an industry partner to help secure funds for projects with outcomes of use to ASSTA members and to speech science and technology research and practice in Australasia.

## **ASSTA Membership Fee Rise**

Following some lengthy discussion at the Executive level and flagging of this change at the last AGM, the ASSTA annual membership fees are about to rise. This is not entirely unrelated to the above funding, but by the same token, it is not directly related to the above; funds have been dwindling slowly ever since the injection of funds due to profits from the 1998 ICSLP hosted in Sydney, and fees have not increased since then (!). On the basis of that profit, various grant schemes have been introduced, so we now have the New Researcher Award Scheme, Research Event Awards, ASSTA Travel Awards, and Special Initiative Awards (see <http://www.assta.org/?q=assta-grants-program>). In order to maintain these special awards and the funding of grants and our support for SST conferences far into the future there will be a modest rise in (the still very low) ASSTA fees as per the table set out below:



# President's Report

	Old	New
Student	\$11	\$22
Associate	\$22	\$44
Ordinary	\$44	\$66
Cooperate	\$165	\$220

Old and new ASSTA membership fees in Australian dollar, including GST.

## International Advisory Board

The ASSTA International Advisory Board (IAB) was originally set up to comprise all keynote speakers from all SST (Speech Science and Technology) conferences for the purpose of advising on the running of the SST conferences. As (i) the IAB was set up to consist of all past and future SSTs (so the number of IAB members has grown quite large), (ii) ASSTA has matured somewhat since the original SST conferences with expert national and international input at a number of levels, including SST conferences, (iii) IAB has not been called upon for a number of years (and most IAB members would not even know they are on the IAB), and (iv) the IAB is mentioned only in the SST guidelines and not the ASSTA constitution, ASSTA executive has decided to disband the IAB.

## ASSTA News

In this newsletter we include a section on news about ASSTA people and labs. We encourage ASSTA members to send in news of awards, grants, new appointments, etc. for the ASSTA newsletter so that our community is kept up to date on ASSTA achievements.

Denis Burnham,  
ASSTA President,  
July, 2013



# News

## In the News

Congratulations to **Roland Goecke** (University of Canberra) on making the front pages of The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald on Wednesday 27th February, for his work on automatic recognition of symptoms of depression using face and voice technology

## Fellowships

**“Neural and behavioural evidence for children's learning of grammatical morphology”**

*Professor Katherine Demuth (Macquarie)*

Macquarie University's Department of Linguistics and the Centre for Cognition and its Disorders (CCD) are proud to announce that Professor Katherine Demuth has been awarded one of only seventeen prestigious ARC Laureate Fellowships for her project 'Neural and behavioural evidence for children's learning of grammatical morphology'.

Children with various types of language delay have problems learning grammatical structure, leading to communicative breakdown. Katherine’s project will use brain imaging and behavioural methods to better understand the nature of these problems, leading to more effective intervention and better child health, wellbeing, and educational outcomes.

## Appointments

Congratulations to **Janet Fletcher** on becoming Associate Dean Research in the Arts Faculty of the University of Melbourne.

Congratulations to **Roberto Togneri** (University of Western Australia) on his promotion to Professor.

Macquarie is excited to announce that Dr **Michael Proctor** will be joining the Linguistics Department in July to take up an appointment as Lecturer in Speech and Hearing. Michael's expertise in a wide range of areas but particularly in articulatory analysis will greatly enhance our research and teaching programs.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr **Susan Lin** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor in Phonetics at the Department of Linguistics, UC Berkeley. Susan has been an invaluable member of our team and we’re very sad to see her leave Macquarie. Watch this space for future Pan-Pacific collaborations

## Australian Hearing Hub

In January, researchers from the Linguistics Department along with colleagues from Psychology, Philosophy, Cognitive Science and the CCD were relocated to Macquarie University’s Australian Hearing Hub. The Australian Hearing Hub is a state-of-the-art facility designed to unite researchers, educators, clinicians and innovators with expertise in audiology, speech pathology, cognitive and language sciences, psychology, nanofabrication and engineering sciences.

The Australian Hearing Hub has formed partnerships with number of industry-leaders including Australian Hearing Services, The National Acoustic Laboratories, Cochlear Limited, Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, The Shepherd Centre, and Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre.

Macquarie University is renowned for teaching and research excellence in speech and hearing sciences and psychology. The Australian Hearing Hub gives Macquarie students the unique opportunity to work alongside experts in the industry providing an unrivalled learning experience.





## Language Departments Closing

ASSTA is very concerned about the recent announcement that the University of Canberra plans to close down its 3 language departments (Japanese, Chinese and Spanish). This follows on from language closures at the University of Western Sydney (Arabic, Italian and Spanish).

The loss of language programs has negative consequences for Australia's wellbeing, its students but also directly for our own members, both present and future, who often arrive from and/or are employed in language programs.

Our own member Yuko Kinoshita is in the Japanese department at the University of Canberra at this time. At UWS a number of linguists lost their jobs.

ASSTA members are strongly encouraged to express their concern and to ask for the decision to be reversed by writing to the vice-chancellor of the University of Canberra, Prof Stephen Parker ([stephen.parker@canberra.edu.au](mailto:stephen.parker@canberra.edu.au)) with cc to the Dean, Professor Lyndon Anderson ([lyndon.anderson@canberra.edu.au](mailto:lyndon.anderson@canberra.edu.au))

And by adding your voice to the online petition below, organized by UC's own language students:

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-language-studies-at-uc.html>

## ASSTA Research Event Award

Congratulations to Roland Goecke and Michael Wagner for securing an ASSTA research event award of \$5000 to assist in the successful organisation of the Emotion Recognition in the Wild Challenge and Workshop (EmotiW) 2013 Grand Challenge to be held in conjunction with ICMI2013.

ASSTA members are welcome to participate in this event through: <http://cs.anu.edu.au/few>.



# ASSTA Research Event

## Call for Participation in ICMI 2013 Sydney, December 9-13<sup>th</sup>

ICMI is the premier international forum for multidisciplinary research on multimodal human-human and human-computer interaction, interfaces, and system development. It will be held in Australia for the first time this year, in Coogee, Sydney (yes, right on the beach!). ASSTA members are encouraged to attend both the main conference (10-12<sup>th</sup>) and the various satellite events (9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>). The main call for papers has now passed, however it may still be possible to participate in the following:

### Doctoral Consortium Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>

<http://icmi.acm.org/2013/index.php?id=cfdc>

This is a fantastic opportunity, which provides PhD students with a chance to present their work to a group of mentors and peers from a diverse set of academic and industrial institutions, to receive feedback on their doctoral research plan and progress, and to build a cohort of young researchers interested in designing multimodal interfaces. Note: *Topics on unimodal research are very welcome as long as they are novel and interesting.*

### Travel Funding Available

ASSTA has kindly sponsored ICMI through its Research Event Award. This means that ASSTA members will be eligible to apply for travel funding for participation in any of the above. Details will be made available via:  
<http://icmi.acm.org/2013/>

### Multimodal Grand Challenges Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>

<http://icmi.acm.org/2013/index.php?id=challenges>

- 1st International Challenge for Multimodal Mid-Air Gesture Recognition for Close HCI: ChAirGest 2013
- Multimodal Conversational Analytics
- ChaLearn Challenge and Workshop on Multimodal Gesture Recognition
- Emotion Recognition In The Wild Challenge and Workshop (EmotiW)
- Multimodal Learning Analytics (MMLA)

### Demo Papers

during main conference

<http://icmi.acm.org/2013/index.php?id=cfd>

### Workshops

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

<http://icmi.acm.org/2013/index.php?id=workshops>

- Emotion representation and modelling in Human-Computer-Interaction-Systems (ERM4HCI 2013)
- The 6th Workshop on Eye Gaze in Intelligent Human Machine Interaction: Gaze in Multimodal Interaction
- 2nd workshop on Smart Material Interfaces: Another Step to a Material Future



# Conference Listing

**SST 2014: 15th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology**

Date: TBA  
Submission Deadline: TBA  
Location: University of Canterbury, Christchurch  
Website: TBA

**IEEE ICASSP2014: The 39th International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing**

04 May 2014— 09 May 2014  
Submission deadline: Oct 27, 2013  
Location: Florence, Italy  
<http://www.icassp2014.com/>

**IEEE ICASSP2015: The 40th International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing**

19 April 2015 — 24 April 2015  
Submission deadline: TBA  
Location: **South Brisbane, Australia**  
<http://www.icassp2015.com/>

**ACL 2014: The 52th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics**

June 22, 2014 - June 27, 2014  
Submission Deadline: Jan 10, 2014  
Location: Baltimore, USA,  
<http://www.cs.jhu.edu/ACL2014/>

**INTERSPEECH 2014: 15th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association**

September 14-18, 2014  
Submission Deadline: TBA  
Location: Singapore  
<http://interspeech2014.org>

**LabPhon14: The 14th Conference on Laboratory Phonology**

July 25 — July 27, 2014  
Submission deadline: Dec 1, 2013—Jan 31, 2014  
Location: Tokyo, Japan  
<http://www.labphon.org/home/conferences>

**The International Conference on Multimodal Interaction, ICMI 2013**

Dec 9-13, 2013  
Submission Deadline: May 24, 2013  
Location: Sydney, Australia  
<http://www.acm.org/icmi/2013/>

**The 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS2015)**

Date: Aug 10 2015 —Aug 14, 2015  
Submission Deadline: 1 Feb, 2015  
Location: SECC Glasgow, Scotland  
<http://www.icphs2015.info/>

**TSD 2014 : Text, Speech and Dialogue**

Date: Sep 8, 2014 - Sep 12, 2014  
Submission Deadline: TBD  
Location: Brno, Czech Republic  
<http://www.tsdconference.org/tsd2014/>

**LREC 2014 : The 9th edition of the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference**

Date: May 28, 2014 - May 30, 2014  
Submission Deadline: Oct 15, 2013  
Location: Reykjavik (Iceland)  
<http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2014/>

**ALTA Workshop 2013: Australasian Language Technology Association Workshop 2013**

Date: Dec 4, 2013 - Dec 6, 2013  
Submission Deadline: Sep 15, 2013  
Location: Brisbane, Australia  
<http://www.alta.asn.au/events/alta2013/index.html>

**ADCS 2013 : Australasian Document Computing Symposium**

Date: Dec 5, 2013 - Dec 6, 2013  
Submission Deadline: Oct 7, 2013  
Location: Brisbane, QLD, Australia  
<http://www.adcs2013.qut.edu.au/>