



ASSTA
NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the ASSTA Newsletter for 2009. I hope you have had a nice break and are now geared up for submitting your research for the upcoming Interspeech'09 conference to be held in Brighton, UK from 8 –11 September 2009. Read in the President's report of this issue for more details on the recently held very successful Interspeech'08 conference incorporating SST'08 in Brisbane, Australia, the announcement of a new executive team and a revamped grants program.

Also, you will find information about upcoming conferences, and conference reports from successful ASSTA travel grant awardees. Thanks to those members who have sent me the submissions for this issue. If you have received an ASSTA travel award, please be sure to send along your conference report. Remember, this newsletter is a forum for you to share information about your travels, research and labs. We look forward to your contributions in the next issue.

Girija Chetty, PhD

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ASSTA INFORMATION

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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).

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ASSTA Corporate Members

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

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

CRC for Cochlear Implant and Hearing Aid Innovation
<http://www.bionicear.org/crc>

Spectral Dynamics Pty. Ltd.
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Visit ASSTA on the Web:
<http://www.assta.org/>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The ASSTA Executive has changed membership slightly this year. We thank Roland Göcke for his four years of service on the ASSTA Executive, especially his work on the ASSTA Grants Program and with the ASSTA website which, leading up to and during Interspeech'08 in Brisbane merged into Roland's excellent care of the Interspeech website. And we welcome Roberto Togneri back onto the Executive, for he was with us some time ago. This year Shunichi Ishihara and David Grayden continue on their fine work as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, Catherine Watson steps up to take over the ASSTA

grants program, and Roberto Togneri is Executive member at large, with special responsibility as a sub-editor of the ASSTA Newsletter.

Last year was a busy one for us all - the Executive, the membership, and especially the Interspeech Committee - with the staging of Interspeech 2008 in Brisbane, September 22-26. While the conference did not make us a lot of money, it did earn us a lot of recognition - ours students and members got to strut their stuff, and their were comments from the ISCA Board about Interspeech'08 being the best Interspeech yet!

Now it is back to business as usual, and the first job the committee has tackled is to revamp the ASSTA Grants Program. We thank Catherine Watson for leading the charge on this. The first of two guiding principles for this revamp is that we should support students as much as possible to write up their work and present it at conferences - both in the SST series, and in other speech and speech-related international conferences. This is a vital step towards further journal publications



and building a good CV to allow SST students to be internationally competitive on the job market and in future grant applications. Thus we have continued conference travel grants for higher degree students and increased the number of student grants for SST conferences. The second of the two guiding principles is that we want to support SST academics in their role as research leaders in the speech science and technology research community. To that end we are looking at ways in which the previously-named 'Research Events' might better meet the needs of ASSTA members, e.g., by bringing ASSTA members together to facilitate collaborative grant applications, or by supporting grant applications or research projects in other ways. Indeed with respect to the latter, ASSTA has already pledged funds to assist with two different ARC Linkage grants this year. Details of the revamped ASSTA Grants Program will be released soon, so stay tuned.

I wish you all a happy and productive year.

Denis Burnham

CONFERENCE REPORT

Simone Graetzer

University of Melbourne

Acoustics '08 Paris was held at the Palais des Congrès, Paris, France, from the twenty-ninth of June to the fourth of July, 2008. It was the second joint conference of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) and the European Acoustics Association (EAA), and was organised by these organisations in conjunction with the Société Française d'Acoustique (SFA), which here celebrated its 60th anniversary. Two major European conferences were integrated into the event: the European Conference on Underwater Acoustics (ECUA) and the European Conference on Noise Control (Euronoise).

The conference comprised more than 3500 presentations in numerous fields of Acoustics, and also a large multimedia exhibition concerned with these fields. More than 4000 participants were registered for the event. In fact, the conference was a remarkable opportunity to meet other Acousticians specialising in the area of Speech. The area was

addressed in a number of sessions, including those on Psychological and Physiological Acoustics, Musical Acoustics, and, of course, Speech Communication. There were a number of specialised sessions, such as “How do Physical and Motor Knowledge Matter to Speech Perception?”, co-chaired by Carol Fowler (New Haven, U.S.A.) and Mikko Sams (Helsinki, Finland), and “Measurement of Sociophonetic Variation in Speech”, co-chaired by Ewa Jacewicz (Ohio, U.S.A.) and Jonathan Harrington (Munich, Germany). In the latter session, Jonathan Harrington presented a paper with Felicitas Kleber and Ulrich Reubold (also of Munich, Germany) on the acoustic and perceptual bases of diachronic “u:”-fronting in Standard Southern British. Harrington et al. showed that the retracting of the “u:” category perceptual boundary in older listeners (in compensation for vowel-fronting associated with the preceding consonant, e.g., a palatal consonant, in the word “used”) was related to these speakers’ productions of words containing a “u:” nucleus in fronting and non-fronting contexts. Specifically, these speakers produced retracted “u:” vowels, and displayed a greater influence of the preceding consonant than did younger speakers. In a general poster session on Speech

Communication, Christine Mooshammer (New Haven, U.S.A.), Pascal Perrier and Felix Viallet (Grenoble, France), and Susanne Fuchs (Berlin, Germany) presented a paper on an articulatory and acoustic study of speaker-specific patterns of token-to-token variability in German. They found that various factors affected lingual variability patterns for vowels, including palate shape and degree of lingual-palatal contact. The relative importance of these factors was seen to be speaker-specific.

A large number of papers were presented on the subject of coarticulation (broadly speaking, the overlapping of articulatory gestures in speech). Also in the Speech Communication poster session, Fredericka Bell-Berti (New York, U.S.A.) presented a poster on an experiment conducted with Carole Gelfer (New Jersey, U.S.A.) on coarticulation in American English fricatives. This experiment showed the effect of vowel environment on coarticulation in fricatives both when the fricative constriction is formed with the tongue and when it is not, to identify the extent to which the tongue contributes to this coarticulation. Bell-Berti and Gelfer provided evidence that in the condition involving no lingual

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CONFERENCE LOG

2009 Summer School in Sound and Music Computing & SID Training School on Interactions with Environmental Sounds Porto, Portugal
Due date: 24 Apr 2009
URL: <http://www.smcnetwork.org/summerschool/porto2009>

10th Meeting of the SIG on Discourse and Dialogue, London, United Kingdom
Due date: 24 Apr 2009
URL: <http://www.sigdial.org/workshops/workshop10/>

IDP 09 The 3rd Round of the Conference on Discourse & Prosody Interface, Paris, France
Due date: 26 Apr 2009
URL: <http://idp09.linguist.univ-paris-diderot.fr>

Emotions & Machines Conference, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Due date: 30 Apr 2009
URL: <http://mailman.emotion-research.net/listinfo/announce>

ICCA10 International Conference on Conversation Analysis 2010, Mannheim, Germany
Due date: 30 Apr 2009
URL: http://www.icca10.org/index_1.html

Melody vs. Structure in Phonological Representations, Gniezno, Germany
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://ifa.amu.edu.pl/plm>

2nd Workshop on Building and Using Comparable Corpora: from parallel to non-parallel corpora, Suntec, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009

URL: <http://comparable2009.ust.hk/>

The People's Web meets NLP: Collaboratively Constructed Semantic Resources, Singapore, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www.ukp.tu-darmstadt.de/acl-ijcnlp-2009-workshop/>

UCNLG+Sum Language Generation and Summarisation, Singapore, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <https://www.softconf.com/acl-ijcnlp09/UCNLGSum/>

EMNLP 2009 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, Singapore, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://conferences.inf.ed.ac.uk/emnlp09/>

Geaf 2009 Workshop on Grammar Engineering Across Frameworks, Singapore, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www-csli.stanford.edu/~thking/GEAF09/>

Attitudes Towards Sociophonetic Variation, Gniezno, Poland
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: http://ifa.amu.edu.pl/plm/Accent_attitudes

GESPIN 2009 Gesture and Speech in Interaction, Poznan, Poland
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www.ifa.amu.edu.pl/~gespin/>

CONFERENCE LOG

Academy of Aphasia Annual Meeting
Boston, MA, United States
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: http://academyofaphasia.angularis.org/Annual_Meeting/2009/index.html

ICAD 2009 International Conference on Auditory Display 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www.icad09.dk/>

10th Science of Aphasia conference, Antalya, Turkey
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www.soa-online.com>

Named Entities Workshop: Shared Task on Transliteration, Suntec, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www.acl-ijcnlp-2009.org/workshops/NEWS2009/>

TextGraphs-4: Graph-based Methods for Natural Language Processing, Suntec, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www.textgraphs.org/ws09/index.html>

UCNLG+Sum Language Generation and Summarisation Singapore, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <https://www.softconf.com/acl-ijcnlp09/UCNLGSum/>

SPIRE String Processing and Information Retrieval 2009, Saariseikä, Finland
Due date: 1 May 2009

URL: <http://www.cs.uta.fi/spire09/>

MWE 2009 Multiword Expressions: Identification, Interpretation, Disambiguation and Applications, Suntec, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: http://multiword.sourceforge.net/PHITE.php?sitesig=CONF&page=CONF_40_MWE_2009_lb_ACL_rb

Collaboratively Constructed Semantic Resources, Singapore, Singapore
Due date: 1 May 2009
URL: <http://www.ukp.tu-darmstadt.de/acl-ijcnlp-2009-workshop/>

CLASP Conference Conference on Culture, Language and Social Practice, Boulder, CO, United States
Due date: 7 May 2009
URL: <http://www.colorado.edu/clasp/conf>

ACNCN 5th Australian Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuropsychiatry (ACNCN) Research Forum 2009, Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science (MACCS), Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
Due date: 8 May 2009
URL: neuropsychology

SBM2009 Social Behavior in Music Vancouver, Canada
Due date: 10 May 2009
URL: www.infomus.org/SBM2009

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constraint, the vowel context had a greater effect on the spectrum of the fricative. This result indicates the importance of considering the effect of tongue constraint on the magnitude of anticipatory coarticulation.

A number of meetings of acoustical societies took place during the conference, one of which was the meeting of the Student Network of the EAA. A new board was elected, and plans were discussed for the coming year. The changes have resulted in a great increase in members, and the further development of the Student Network website. The board members, of which I am one, can be contacted at student-network@european-acoustics.net.