ASSTA NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the ASSTA Newsletter for 2008, a special edition, reminding you of an important event for speech and language researchers at a venue close to home. It is *Interspeech 2008 incorporating SST 2008*, to be held in Brisbane from 22nd to 26th September 2008. Read in the President's report of this issue for more details. Also, you will find several conference reports from ASSTA travel awardees and information about upcoming conferences.

Thanks to those members who have sent me conference reports 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

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ASSTA INFORMATION

Australian Speech Science and Technology Association Inc.
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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, Michael Tyler and Shunichi Ishihara.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Interspeech is upon us - here in Australia! Go to http://www.interspeech2008.org/ and see for yourself. *Interspeech 2008 incorporating SST 2008* will be held from September 22 to 26 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Bank, Brisbane.

As Interspeech 2008 occurs in a *Speech Science and Technology* conference year, SST 2008 is incorporated into Interspeech 2008. As part of this incorporation there will be Special Sessions on both PANZE (the Phonetics and Phonology of Australian and New Zealand English) and OzPhon (the Phonetics and Phonology of Australian Aboriginal Languages) and New Zealand English). In addition there are special sessions on a range of issues from a 'Visual Speech Synthesis Challenge' to 'Cross-Linguistic Perception and Production of Lexical Tone'. There will also be a range of Tutorials on the first day of the conference (Monday September 22) given by fine scholars from Australia and internationally. Finally, there are four Keynote speakers: Abeer Alwan from UCLA will speak on Automatic Speech Recognition; Joaquin Gonzalez-Rodriguez from the University Autonoma de Madrid will speak on Forensic Automatic Speaker Recognition; and Justine Cassell from Northwestern University will talk on Embodied Conversational Agents; and the newly announced ISCA Medallist, Hiroya Fujisaki, will give the opening keynote on a topic yet to be determined (watch this space, or more immediately the website).

An innovation this year is that we have two submission types - Full (4-page) or Short (1 page) papers. Both are reviewed in the same way using the same criteria, and both appear in the Conference

Proceedings as either a 4- or a 1-page paper. This is so that a range of needs can be catered for. In the case where the conference may be the final destination of a paper, then the full 4-page paper format should be used; in the case where later submission to a journal is a goal, then the short 1-page paper is appropriate.

This then means that people can submit their *best* work to Interspeech 2008, no matter what the later destination of that work may be. And this is a wonderful opportunity for speech researchers, staff and students alike, to present their best work to an international audience. I'll see you there.

Denis Burnham

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Michael Tyler
University of Western Sydney
New Sounds 2007

The Fifth International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech (New Sounds 2007) was held in sunny Florianopolis, Brazil, last December. This brought together researchers from 19 countries for a stimulating set of sessions investigating how humans learn to perceive and produce speech events in a language other than their native one. My own paper was received well, and the feedback was very helpful, and I saw many stimulating talks from researchers in psychology, linguistics, and education. Being a reasonably small conference, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to talk with two eminent keynote speakers, Ocke-Schwen Bohn and Paul Iverson, and catch up and socialise with my contemporaries.

Brazil is a massive country and it would have been impossible to see anything but a small portion of what it has to offer. The highlight of my trip was seeing the Iguaçu Falls, featured in the 1986 film "The Mission", which are thought to be second in the world to Victoria Falls. Rio was unkind with its weather – a clear view of the statue of Christ at the bottom was covered with cloud by the time we got to the top! Luckily the clouds

parted for a moment and I got to see the statue in its glory for a brief moment.

I was even interviewed in the street by Brazilian TV, huddled under an umbrella, asking if I was disappointed about the uncharacteristic weather! It all turned out well in the end, though. On the very last day the sun came out and I was able to see architect Oscar Niemeyer's fantastic Contemporary Art Museum in Nitteroi before sipping caipirinhas and watching it set over Rio from Sugerloaf Mountain (…featured in the 1979 film "Moonraker").

Shunichi Ishihara
Australian National University
Odyssey 2008

2008 Odyssey-Speaker and Language Recognition Workshop was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa. This year's workshop was co-hosted by Spescom DataVoice and the Digital Signal Processing Group of Stellenbosch University.

This was the very first series of Odyssey held in the southern hemisphere. Stellenbosch is a scenic university town, situated in the winelands of the Western Cape. About 30 papers were presented at the workshop. Apparently the number of papers was not as many as previous workshops, but this was apparently due to the fact that only 1.5 years had passed since the last workshop (usually there is a two year gap between workshops). Some papers were presented from the University of Canberra, the Australian National University and Queensland University of Technology. It is always good to see some familiar faces at conferences.

It was a small workshop yet very focused in a relaxed atmosphere, and provided me with an excellent opportunity to come to know other young researchers like myself and talk to some experts in this area. One of the trends I noticed at the workshop is that the support vector machine is used as a discriminant classifier in many of the presented papers. I would like to thank ASSTA for providing financial assistance for me to attend this workshop.

Odyssey 2008, Stellenbosch, South Africa

CONFERENCE LOG

6-9 May 2008. Speech Prosody 2008. Campinas, Brazil. (12/06) http://www.sp2008.org/

30 June - 2 July 2008. 11th Laboratory Phonology Conference. Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. http://www.victoria.ac.nz/labphon11

08 - 10 March 2008, Dresden, Germany. 34th Meeting of the German Association for Acoustics (DAGA2008). http://2008daga-tagung.de

30 March - 01 April 2008, Florianopolis, SC, Brazil. SAE-Brasil Noise and Vibration Conference-NVH. http://www.saebrasil.org.br/eventos/secao_parana_sc/nvh2008/site/

31 March - 04 April, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (IEEE ICASSP 2008). http://www.icassp2008.org

08 - 11 April 2008, Kobe, Japan. Oceans'08. http://www.oceans08mtsieeekobetechnoocean08.org/index.cfm

10 - 11 April 2008,Reading, UK. Institute of Acoustics (UK) Spring Conference. http://www.ioa.org.uk/viewupcoming.asp

17 - 18 April 2008, Bellinzona (Tessin), Switzerland. Swiss Acoustical Society Spring Meeting. http://www.sga-ssa.ch

12 - 15 May 2008, Sopot, Poland. 10th Spring School on Acousto-optics and Applications. http://univ.gda.pl/~school

29 June - 04 July 2008, Paris, France. "Acoustis'08 Paris" = 155th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America http://www.acoustics08-paris.org

06 - 10 July 2008, Daejeon, Korea. 15th International Congress on Sound and Vibration. http://www.icsv15.org

21 - 25 July 2008, Mashantucket, CT, USA. 9th International

Congress on Noise as a Public Health Problem.
http://www.icben.org

25 - 28 August 2008, Lyngby, Denmark. 1st International Conference on Waterside Security.
http://www.wss2008.org

25 - 29 August 2008, Sapporo, Japan. 10th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition. http://icmpc10.typepad.jp

08 - 12 September 2008, Lerici, Italy. International Symposium on Underwater Reverberation and Clutter. http://isurc2008.org

10 - 12 September 2008, Fukuoka, Japan. Autumn Meeting of the Acoustical Society of Japan. http://www.asj.gr.jp/indexen.html

15 - 17 September 2008, Leuven, Belgium. International Conference on Noise and Vibration Engineering (ISMA2008).
http://www.isma-isaac.be

23 - 25 September 2008, Southampton, U.K. Underwater Noise Measurement. http://www.ioa.org.uk/viewupcoming.asp

22 - 26 September 2008, Brisbane, Australia. INTERSPEECH 2008 incorporating SST 2008 - http://www.interspeech2008.org

21 - 23 October 2008, Tokyo, Japan. 13th Conference on Low Frequency Noise and Vibration.
http://www.lowfrequency2008.org

24 - 26 November 2008, Geelong, Victoria, Australia. Australian Acoustical Society National Conference.
http://www.acoustics.asn.au

interspeech
2008

interspeech 2008 is the ninth conference in the annual series of interspeech events. It will be held in Brisbane, Australia, under the sponsorship of the Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association (ASSTA) and the International Speech Communication Association (ISCA).

Topic Areas

HUMAN SPEECH PRODUCTION, PERCEPTION AND COMMUNICATION
- Human speech production
- Human speech perception
- Phonology and phonetics
- Discourse and dialogue
- Prosody (production, perception, prosodic structure)
- Paralinguistic and nonlinguistic cues (e.g. emotion and expression)
- Physiology and pathology
- Spoken language acquisition, development and learning

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY
- Speech analysis and representation
- Speech segmentation
- Audio segmentation and classification
- Speaker turn detection
- Speech enhancement
- Speech coding and transmission
- Speech synthesis and spoken language generation
- Automatic speech recognition
- Spoken language understanding
- Accent and language identification
- Cross-lingual and multi-lingual processing
- Multimodal/multimedia signal processing
- Speaker characterization and recognition

SPOKEN LANGUAGE SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS
- Dialogue systems
- Systems for information retrieval
- Systems for translation
- Applications for aged and handicapped persons
- Applications for learning and education
- Other applications

RESOURCES, STANDARDIZATION AND EVALUATION
- Spoken language resources and annotation
- Evaluation and standardization

Organising Committee

Conference Chair:
Denis Burnham, University of Western Sydney

Financial Chair:
David Grayden, University of Melbourne

Technical Program Chair:
Michael Wagner, University of Canberra

Publications Chair:
Janet Fletcher, University of Melbourne

Satellite Workshops, SIGs, and Tutorials Chair:
Andy Butcher, Flinders University

Local Issues and Social Chair:
John Ingram, University of Queensland

Important Dates

PROPOSALS FOR TUTORIALS AND SATELLITES
Wednesday 12 December 2007

FULL PAPER SUBMISSION
Monday 7 April 2008

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION
Monday 16 June 2008

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Monday 7 July 2008

Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, is a modern, dynamic, sophisticated and cosmopolitan city with a friendly and relaxed lifestyle. Australia's only sub-tropical capital city, Brisbane is located on the doorstep of the nation's premier tourist region, and within an hour of some of the world's most famous beaches, the legendary Australian Outback, the late Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo, and the Barrier Reef Islands, making it an ideal base for pre- and post-conference touring.

22 - 26 September 2008
Brisbane, Australia

www.interspeech2008.org