

Message from the Secretary General

As I write this, a CD, *The Great South African Trip*, is playing. Before the music starts, there is an excerpt from Nelson Mandela's 1994 speech delivered at his inauguration as the first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa. He acknowledged the privilege of being the first President of a united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa, to lead the country out of the valley of darkness.

We had many opportunities during our ISTE Seminar in Stellenbosch to reach a clearer understanding of what this means in practice and the commitment of our colleagues to the success of the Republic as well as the human costs to reach this stage. Appropriately we opened our deliberations with Nkosi Sikeleli i' Africa, the most moving of all national anthems. And the rest of the Seminar was great too.

Fanie Pretorius, Anna Hugo and their team organised an efficient work programme and excellent cultural experiences for ISTE participants. On behalf of our Society I thank them all for their diligence and grace in making our 26th Seminar an unforgettable experience.

Some important ISTE decisions were made in April. Members elected **Lotte Rahbek Schou** from Denmark as our next Secretary-General to take over at the 2007 Seminar in Scotland. Many congratulations to Lotte. This year she is getting in training and helping me out.

Our JISTE editor, **Catherine Sinclair** (Australia) and her Associate Editor, **Joyce Castle** (Canada) both resigned after their long stint in which they made so many improvements to our Journal. Many thanks to them and **Johan Borup** (Denmark) who stepped in to publish and distribute the last two issues in a rather smart new format. I am sure we all wish every success to our new editor, **Sybil Wilson** (Canada) who will be aided by **Anna Hugo** with one or two others standing by to help out where necessary as Sybil takes over our vibrant Journal.

The other major decision made by the ISTE Steering Committee was to appoint the convenor for 2009. We had two excellent proposals from the USA: one from a team from Park University and the other from **Forrest Crawford** on behalf of Weber State University. The Steering Committee is grateful to both groups for their substantial preparation and after considerable deliberation appointed Forrest Crawford and his institution to host our 29th ISTE Seminar in Salt Lake City, Utah. We look forward to it after the seminars in Scotland in 2007 and Australia in 2008.

Among other tasks taken on by members I should mention that **Craig Kissock** and **Yiping Wan** are going to consider ways of marketing ISTE as we need to attract new ISTE colleagues to share our mission to improve teacher education throughout the world

Best wishes to all
Janet Powney

PS. Mandela finishes his inaugural address: *For each the mind and soul have been freed to fulfil themselves. Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one for another.*

Future Seminars

ISTE 2007 – Stirling, Scotland

ISTE's 27th Annual International Seminar will be hosted by the Institute of Education at the University of Stirling, in Scotland, from 23-30 June, 2007, the year in which the university will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. Set on the estate of the 18th century Airthrey Castle, in the shadow of the Ochil Hills, the 310acre campus centres around a loch, forming an attractive environment for the conference. The University is situated two miles from the Royal Burgh of Stirling, a historic city with a thriving centre and a growing population of around 40,000. Stirling is well connected to the UK road and rail networks and is only 45 minutes from both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The theme of the seminar is *The future of teacher education and professional development*, and papers are invited on the following issues:

1. New directions in teacher education
2. New pedagogies
3. Early professional development
4. Teacher education for pre-school education
5. Teacher education for post-school and vocational education
6. Educational leadership
7. Continuous professional development (CPD): making a difference to practice
8. Collegiate working
9. Social worlds
10. Teachers as researchers

Keynote sessions will include a focus on early professional learning and on educational leadership, while stimulating discussions in group sessions will remain the heart of the ISTE seminar. In addition, participants will visit the Educational Institute of Scotland, Scotland's largest teaching union; sightseeing in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland; an excursion to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park; and a Scottish ceilidh, an informal celebration of traditional Scottish music and dancing.

We look forward to meeting old ISTE friends and newcomers alike: please encourage colleagues who have not yet experienced an ISTE seminar to take the plunge next year. For further information, please see the conference website: www.ioe.stir.ac.uk/ISTE/
Peter Cope, Janet Powney, Joanna McPake (ISTE 2007 Convenors)

Distance Paper Group in 2007

ISTE Members living in developing countries are invited to submit a paper for the ISTE Seminar in Stirling, Scotland if they are unable to attend. This special opportunity is available to members in developing countries in order to help them to continue their scholarly activity in teacher education. Warren will contact the Seminar Conveners for approval of the abstract and arrange for readers at the seminar and necessary communications. Send your abstract (50 – 100 words) to DPG Leader, **Warren Halloway**, at School of Education, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia, whallowa@une.edu.au

ISTE 2008 – Armidale, NSW, Australia

G'day mates! Your Conveners for the 2008 ISTE Seminar are John Maurer and Warren Halloway. They promise a great ISTE gathering at the University of New England in Armidale April 20 – 26. That's autumn in their part of the world and Armidale will be a riot of colours. Armidale is half way between Sydney and Brisbane and just one hour by plane north of Sydney. Big efforts are being made to support participants from Asia and the Pacific regions. Plan now and why not include a visit before or after the seminar to the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef, Uluru (Ayer's Rock), Kakadu National Park or Sydney, the 2000 Olympic City built on the "finest harbour in the world" (Governor Phillip 1788). Contact **John Maurer** or **Warren Halloway**, addresses elsewhere in Newsletter.

ISTE 2009 – Ogden, Utah, USA

How about a North American late spring (May or early June) rendezvous in Ogden, Utah, USA. Weber State University at Ogden, Utah will host the 29th Annual ISTE Seminar with Forest Crawford the Convenor assisted by his faculty colleagues. Ogden is about 35 minutes from Salt Lake City, the site of the 2002 Winter Olympics. You will hear more about ISTE 2009 as preparations are made. Forest says, “Plan now to enjoy a healthy dose of good-old USA Western Hospitality---Yee Haaa!” Contact: **Forest Crawford**, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah, USA. fcrawford@weber.edu

ISTE 2010 – Prepare your bid!

The Steering Committee will consider bids for the ISTE Seminar in 2010 when it meets in Stirling, Scotland next June. The Committee wants to know briefly who is offering to be the Convenor/s, the venue and if you have institutional support. More advice is available from the Secretary General, including the ISTE Guideline for Conveners.

Election of new Secretary General

Elections for the next Secretary General of ISTE were held at the 26th annual meeting of the society, held in April in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The elections process was coordinated by **Jim Greenberg** (USA) and **Kitty Kao** (Taiwan), and procedures followed those implemented in the previous election held in Denmark.

We had four wonderful candidates – all long-time and significant members of ISTE and important contributors to the Society. They were **Johan Borup** of Denmark, **Vic Cicci** of Canada, **Forest Crawford** of the U.S., and **Lotte Rahbek Schou** of Denmark. Members were able to vote by postal ballot or email if they were not able to attend, and all former and new members in attendance at the Seminar were invited to participate in the election. The candidates submitted brief narrative statements, which were emailed to all current members on the ISTE email list. At the Seminar, the candidates gave brief personal presentations to colleagues who attended the elections session.



Voting followed the preferential voting procedures used in our previous elections and used in major political elections in Australia and other countries. (See below for an explanation by Warren Holloway.) All candidates received support, but the candidate chosen by voters was **Lotte Rahbek**

Schou of Denmark. She will succeed our current Secretary General, Janet Powney, who will complete her outstanding period of leadership next year at the ISTE Seminar in Scotland.

Thanks to all the candidates for their valued interest and service to the Society and congratulations to Lotte. She will need all our support and help as ISTE enters the next phase of our work.

Voting for the ISTE secretary general is as follows. The Steering Committee appoints an Election Committee in order to conduct an election for the ISTE Secretary General. The Chair of the Election Committee is the Returning Officer who has discretionary powers to determine the validity of all votes cast.

The Election Committee invites nominations from all members and conducts an election using a secret, preferential ballot. All members are given the opportunity to vote either by postal voting or when attending an annual seminar.

The preferential system of voting requires voters to indicate their preference among the candidates by placing a number one (1) beside their first preference, a number two (2) beside their second preference and so on for all candidates.

Counting of votes begins with the simple allocation of votes according to candidates receiving first preferences, i.e. number one (1). If one candidate receives 50% + 1 of the total votes cast, that candidate is elected (as they have an absolute majority). If no candidate has an absolute majority (50% + 1), the candidate receiving the least number of votes is eliminated and that candidate's second preferences indicated by their votes [shown by the number two (2)] are allocated to the remaining candidates. This process of elimination and distribution of preferences is repeated until one candidate receives an absolute majority (i.e. 50% + 1 or more).

The preferential system of voting is similar to a series of 'run off' elections that also eliminates minor candidates, leaving major candidates for a second round of voting. Such systems are expensive and difficult to hold with postal voting. The preferential system always results in the election of the most preferred candidate, that is, a majority of the voters prefer the candidate elected.

A report from the ISTE Treasurer

ISTE and JISTE continue to be in a healthy financial situation. ISTE's US accounts have yielded about \$US 1000, and the LeOra Cordis Memorial fund earned \$US 3700 in interest this year. The Steering Committee decided during the Taiwan Seminar in 2005 that income from interest earned should be available for financial support for eligible members from developing countries who cannot afford to participate in an ISTE Seminar. Such applicants for financial support should apply to the conveners of the next seminar in Scotland. The conveners will forward their recommendation from the applications to Bob O' Brien who, together with other members of the Trust, will decide if ISTE will provide financial support to the member.

Many people consider themselves "members" of ISTE but have not attended a seminar where their registration would automatically have included membership fee. The \$US50 membership fee includes \$US25 subscription for the journal (JISTE) and \$US25 for ISTE general fund. For several years the Secretaries General have directed \$US5 of the latter \$US25 to be placed in the LeOra Memorial Trust. It is important to ensure adequate funds remain invested in our general funds both to generate interest and to act as a contingency fund to be used, for example, if a seminar for some reason cannot meet its financial obligations.

Thank you for being a part of the International Society of Teacher Education (ISTE) over the past year. We invite you to renew your membership and continue your commitment to the mission and goals of ISTE. The timely renewal of your membership is essential to our work and to the delivery

of effective services to you.

Please complete the enclosed Membership Form and forward your membership fee if you have overlooked this for the current year.

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I also call for all members to try to get a short announcement of ISTE 2006/2007 in their local or national journal for teacher education or put a note in universities and schools – let's work for getting more members.

Johan R. Borup, Treasurer of ISTE
International Society for Teacher Education
Naestvedvej 2, DK-4760, Denmark
johan.borup@cvusyd.dk

A Word from the Chair of the LeOra Cordis Memorial Trust

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the LeOra Cordis Memorial Trust was held in Stellenbosch on 27 April 2006. A most noteworthy agenda item was the appointment by the Secretary-General of four additional trustees to share the oversight of the business and future policies of the subsidiary of ISTE that came into being in 2001 after a Deed of Trust had been processed during the preceding three years. Some regular participants at the seminars held in Cameroon, Brazil, Canada and England had discussed with approval the concept of creating a component of the Society that would seek ways to foster membership from countries from less affluent parts of the world.

Thus, the LeOra Cordis Memorial Trust fund interest and ISTE dividend money was used for the first time to pay the registration fee of six members from such countries who wished to attend the 2002 Seminar in Denmark. A small number of other members have been supported since then but the low seminar enrolments, the 2003 cancellation, ever-increasing travel costs and more stringent border control measures have meant that more recent seminar conveners have not had many requests to pass on to the trustees for consideration.

It was intended that funds from the trust would be used only to pay all or part of the seminar registration fee. It would not cover transportation to and from the site, room and meals during the meeting, nor the membership fee. These are the responsibilities of the participant. However, the ISTE Steering Committee in 2005 discussed the possibility of introducing more flexibility to the interpretation of the criteria.

This will be one of the challenges facing the trustees: **Anne-Marie Bergh** (South Africa), **Jacalyn Willis** (USA), **Marta Sissons de Castro** (Brazil), **Yiping Wan** (USA), **Hsun-fung Kitty Kao** (Taiwan), **Nasir Mahmood** (Pakistan), **Rajeev Swami** (USA), **Bob O'Brien** (New Zealand), and, ex officio, ISTE Secretary-General **Janet Powney** and ISTE Treasurer **Johan Borup**.

For further information, you may contact **Bob O'Brien**, 2/66 Burnham Street, Seatoun, Wellington

6003, New Zealand. bob.obrien@xtra.co.nz

ISTE Directory: Are you in touch?

Our long serving keeper of the ISTE Directory, **John Maurer**, has a constant and often frustrating job trying to keep track of ISTE members and their postal and email addresses, phone and fax numbers. It is also useful to keep on record institutional associations if this applies. Please let John know if there is a change in your address or numbers. The ISTE Directory is vital for communicating ISTE events and other business among members, and ensuring we maximise the opportunity for members to attend future seminars.

Once a year we distribute the ISTE list of members' emails to all current members via the Newsletter. In order to save costs and effort we also remove postal and email addresses if messages bounce or letters are 'returned to sender'. Please help John to keep an up-to-date ISTE Directory.

Contact: **John Maurer**, School of Education, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia.

bmaurer@une.edu.au

Teacher Education in the Media Around the World

An International Forum on Professional Teaching Standards

From Wirot Sanrattana, Thailand. wirsan@kku.ac.th

UNESCO Member States across the globe are undertaking measures to improve professional teaching standards. They are aimed at making teachers' knowledge and competencies more explicit, as well as providing a powerful mechanism for identifying what constitutes "good teaching". An International Forum which aims to promote teacher professional development as a key factor of improved quality of Education for All through policy dialogue, educational research, innovative practices and capacity building at institutional, national and international levels will take place on 25-27 October 2006, at East China Normal University, Shanghai, P. R. China. See details at

<http://icte.ecnu.edu.cn/cfs/edit/UploadFile/2006327182729501.doc>

Increase in School Leaving Age

From **Vic Cicci**, Canada, vcicci@brocku.ca

The Ontario Government is about to pass a bill that will increase the school leaving age from 16 to 18. By doing this the Ministry of Education hopes to lower the drop out rate of secondary school students and at the same time ask school boards to develop programs that would encourage all students, especially those "at risk" to stay in school longer. School Boards are developing a variety of apprenticeship and co-operative type programs so "at risk" students can get first hand work experiences. This will have implications for Faculties of Education to include in their training programs ways to deal with "at risk" students(students who tend to leave secondary school early because the programs are not meeting their need).

Fighting Childhood Obesity

From Warren Halloway, Armidale NSW, Australia

The NSW Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey of 5500 students found almost a quarter

of 5 to 16 students were overweight and this was increasing by one percent each year. From 2007 the NSW Government has banned the sale in school canteens of sugar-sweetened drinks, energy drinks, flavoured mineral waters and sports drinks. Some educators see this as a token effort and point to the need for parents and teachers to educate for better eating and drinking practices. They also insist that obesity is a problem in the general population and is related to sedentary behaviours such as long hours spent at computers and watching television as well as eating and drinking patterns.

New Teacher Education Model in Denmark

From **Lotte Rahbek Schou**, Denmark, lrs@dpu.dk

In March 2006 the Danish Parliament reached a bipartisan agreement for a new model of teacher education in Denmark. The agreement implies strengthening subject specialisms for example, among other things students have to specialise in two or three subjects compared to four at present. During their studies primary and secondary teacher education students will specialise in Danish, science and mathematics. The new model will particularly reduce the scope of the teacher education program. The debate in the media prior to the agreement revealed both student teachers and teacher educators were satisfied with the new model as is believed that the new model will raise academic standards. It has been emphasised that the reforms do not focus on knowledge alone but will prepare teachers to better teach the subjects in the elementary and middle schools. The new program involves a binding collaboration between pedagogical and theoretical training, while field experience has also been emphasised. The reforms have met with a favourable response in Denmark. There continues to be problems in the teaching profession in Danish schools caused by the general crisis in the schools and the low prestige accorded to teachers.

Studies on Teacher Supply and Demand Underway in Botswana

From **Michael Bamidele Adeyemi & Jimoh Shehu**, Botswana

Two studies to evaluate the pre-service teacher education curriculum and explicitly address teacher supply and demand in Botswana have been commissioned by the Department of Teacher Training and Development (DTT&D). These studies, which are expected to be completed in December, have been necessitated by specialty mal-distributions in teacher training in the country, leading to teacher shortages in certain fields and wasteful surpluses in others. In addition, the quality of teacher education programmes offered in Botswana Colleges of Education is increasingly seen as needing empirical scrutiny, given the critical role of the teaching force in the overall improvement of the public educational system. According to the DTT & D, the outcome of the proposed studies will help in the development of a 10-year Master Plan to guide teacher training in Botswana. Meanwhile, the 2006 enrolment into the six Botswana Colleges of Education have been drastically reduced as an interim measure to address the current oversupply of teachers in some specialties. The increase in the number of teachers produced in Botswana in recent years may be seen partly against the backdrop of rapid expansion in primary and secondary education, and partly as a policy response to the impact of the HIV/AIDS scourge on the nation's teaching force.

Please send any news items to the Newsletter Editors: Bill Driscoll, 17 Reginald Avenue, Armidale NSW, 2350, Australia, Ph/Fax +61 2 6772 1349, Email: bdriscoll@ozemail.com.au OR Warren Halloway, School of Education, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, 2351, Australia, Ph: +61 2 6773 3874, Fax: +61 2 6773 3284, Email: whallowa@une.edu.au

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