

IACAP Newsletter

The Newsletter for the **International Association for Computing and Philosophy**

Vol.1, No.2, December, 2006

IACAP Editors

Ron Barnette, Luciano Floridi

IACAP Executive Committee

Luciano Floridi (President), Marvin Croy (Vice-President), Ron Barnette (Information Secretary), Robert Cavalier (President Ex-Officio) Susan Stuart (Regional Director of European CAP, E-CAP), Charles Ess (Organizational Secretary), Soraj Hongladarom (Director of Asian-Pacific CAP, AP-CAP), Selmer Bringsjord (Regional Director of North-America CAP, NA-CAP).

Welcome to *IACAP*, the electronic Newsletter for the International Association for Computing and Philosophy (www.ia-cap.org).

In this issue of *IACAP Newsletter*:

- President's Message
- President's note on newly-approved IACAP membership fees
- Fee Invoice
- IACAP Constitution modifications
- News about members' publications
- IACAP website
- Upcoming conferences and calls for presentation
- Report on the ECAP 06 conference
- Special memorial note on Preston Covey
- The newly-named Covey Award

Please send all relevant announcements that you wish to have included in future issues of *IACAP Newsletter* to Ron Barnette, at rbarnett@valdosta.edu. Note that we reserve the right to edit all materials received. Back issues of the *IACAP Newsletter* are available at the IACAP Website: www.ia-cap.org

President's Message

Dear Members of IACAP,

Here is the second issue of our Newsletter and an opportunity to inform you about future innovations.

The Association is undergoing a significant evolution. In the following pages, you will read that some modifications in our membership rules have been elaborated and approved by the Executive Committee. We also enclose a series of important changes in the Constitution for your feedback. These are signs of vitality of a growing Association, signs which I hope will soon be followed by a possible enlargement of our meetings to regions that, so far, have not been much involved. For this too, your help will be essential. If you have suggestions, projects, or criticisms regarding the way in which we could improve the management of the Association, please let me know. Just send an email to president@ia-cap.org And if you think you can help IACAP to reach out to institutions and people who might be interested in computing and philosophy topics, I do hope to hear from you.

Luciano Floridi
President, IACAP

IACAP Membership Fees

IACAP – Why join?

The Executive Committee of the Association recently approved a change in its membership rules. IACAP will implement a system of membership dues, to be managed through the Association's bank account at Drury University (Springfield, Missouri, USA). Further details are available in this issue of the Newsletter and on the web site (<http://www.ia-cap.org>). Since this is a significant evolution in the history of the Association, allow me to spend a few words to explain why we hope you will join the association.

IACAP is a member-supported organization, whose activities are based on volunteers' efforts and members' dues. By joining the Association, a member will actively support the field, as focused on the interactions between philosophy and computational and informational issues.

Membership is also the simplest and most obvious way of supporting the Association and its initiatives. It is an effective means to channel shared interests and concerns and thus build up a representative community, which can make its voice heard within the broader philosophical and intellectual context, internationally. IACAP is a truly interdisciplinary association, which helps put members from a variety of fields and professions in touch with one another. Finally, IACAP is a thriving and growing association – one that began in the United States but now includes active affiliates (each with its own Regional Director and conference) in Europe (ECAP) and the Asian-Pacific region (AP-CAP). IACAP thus fosters a genuinely global interchange of research, scholarship, and publication on all dimensions of "the computational/informational turn". It is an exchange that encourages not only diversity of disciplines (philosophy, computer science, informatics, legal studies, information studies, etc.) but also of cultures and regions. Especially as an international organization, IACAP is uniquely suited to facilitate and encourage the sorts of global dialogues that become increasingly important as our world becomes ever more interconnected through computing and network technologies.

So membership is the right choice for anyone who wishes to participate and contribute to the life of our community and make sure that CAP-related topics can be systemically highlighted to the relevant audiences throughout the world.

Some further incentives for individuals to join the Association are: the right of nominating and being nominated as candidates for IACAP offices; a 10% discount at all CAP conferences (which largely offsets the low annual subscription rates); and the possibility of being nominated for the Covey Award and the Goldberg Award.

Becoming a member is simple. Anyone (students included) interested in IACAP-related topics, teaching activities and research areas can apply for ordinary or supporting membership. Part-time and fulltime undergraduate and graduate students qualify for the (discounted) student fees.

Supporting members differ from ordinary members only insofar as their contribution will be listed on the website.

We hope you will join us. You will find all the necessary information in this Newsletter or by clicking on <http://www.ia-cap.org>.

Luciano Floridi

President, IACAP

Membership Fee Invoice

Invoice for IACAP Membership

IACAP Membership Dues

Name and Surname: _____

Academic affiliation (if any): _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Options (check one):

- students = \$ 10
- ordinary members = \$ 30
- supporting members = at least \$ 50.

Please note that

- anyone (students included) interested in CAP-related topics, teaching activities and research areas can apply for ordinary or supporting membership;
- only part-time and fulltime undergraduate and graduate students qualify for the student fees;
- supporting members differ from ordinary members only insofar as their contribution will be listed on the website (unless they choose otherwise).

Ordinary and supporting members (but not members paying student fees) will enjoy the following advantages:

- they can vote for, and be elected to IACAP offices;
 - they get a 10% discount at all CAP conferences, by showing proof of their regular membership (copy of invoice, printed email etc.) when they register;
 - they can be nominated for the Covey Award.
-

Methods of payment

All payments must be in US dollars.

At a CAP conference

members can pay their dues together with their CAP conference fees and receive a 10% discount in the conference fee.

By Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Discover) or PayPal

please visit <http://www.ia-cap.org/membership.php>

By Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

please contact Charles Ess at cmess@drury.edu
or tel. (+1)417-873-7230 for the necessary account information.

By check

Checks should be made payable to: IACAP / Drury University
and mailed to: Charles Ess
Interdisciplinary Studies Center
Drury University
900 N. Benton Ave.
Springfield, Missouri 65802 USA

Please return this form with your payment

- by mailing it to
Charles Ess
Interdisciplinary Studies Center
Drury University
900 N. Benton Ave.
Springfield, Missouri 65802 USA
- or
- by faxing it to (+1) 417-873-7435 (attn: Charles Ess)

IACAP Constitution Modifications

IACAP Executive Committee has voted in favour of the following modifications in the Constitution. Following the Constitution, Section VIII.a, we are submitting them to all members for feedback.

List of proposed constitutional changes

- 1) Procedure for succession of Regional Directors;
- 2) Establishment and functioning of regional steering committees;
- 3) Procedure for succession of regional steering committee members;
- 4) Composition of the Executive Committee (inclusion of past president, committee size, etc.);
- 5) Dividing the position of executive secretary into two positions and specifying the duties of each position;
- 6) Status of Cohorts;
- 7) Election procedures (dependent upon changes in the Executive Committee composition).

1) Procedure for succession and initial appointment of Regional Directors

Current:

None

Proposed:

III. J. At the outset of a Regional Director's third and final year of service, he/she nominates an associate Regional Director. This nomination must be approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee. An associate Regional Director serves in that capacity for one year prior to assuming the position of Regional Director. In the case of a newly established region, a Regional Director is named by the Executive Committee.

Rationale:

No procedure for this necessary process is currently defined in the constitution.

2) Establishment and functioning of regional steering committees

Current:

None

Proposed:

III. J. (continued) Each Regional Director may establish a steering committee to support the planning and execution of IACAP regional activities. The size of this committee is at the discretion of the Regional Director.

Rationale:

Each region currently has steering committees in operation, as listed on the IACAP website. These committees provide helpful counsel to Regional Directors and facilitate active involvement by the membership.

3) Procedure for succession of regional steering committee members

Current:

None

Proposed:

III. J. (continued) A new Regional Director nominates his or her steering committee members. Nominations are accompanied by a list of candidate credentials and supporting rationale and may include indications of support from current regional steering committee members. Nominations require approval by majority vote of the Executive Committee. Unapproved nominations may be replaced by the Regional Director. Steering committee members serve for three years and can be nominated for additional non-consecutive terms.

Rationale:

No procedure for this necessary process is currently defined in the constitution.

4) Composition of the Executive Committee (inclusion of past president, committee size, etc.)

Current:

III. b. The Executive Committee shall consist of twelve members of IACAP plus ex officio. Ten Regular Members of the Executive Committee, the President of the Association, and the Vice-President of the Association shall be elected to staggered three-year terms, forming four cohorts of three persons. The Vice-President shall serve as the chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall serve ex-officio on the Executive Committee.

Proposed:

III. b. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Immediate Past-President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary of Information and Communication, Executive Secretary of Organization, and the Regional Directors. The Vice-President shall serve as the chair of the Executive Committee.

Rationale:

The proposed statement indicates the composition of the Executive Committee via the positions mentioned without stating a numeric limit. This would allow for additional Regional Directors as

new regions emerge, which allows for slow growth in step with the growth of the association. So, there would be eight Executive Committee members for the present, but this number could grow as and if expansion occurs. (It should be noted that no limit has been set for size of regional steering committees.)

5) Division of the position of executive secretary into two positions and specification of the duties of each position

Current:

III.l. Every five years, by August 15, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Executive Secretary who will serve in that capacity for a once-renewable term of five years or until a successor is appointed.

III.m. Nominations for Executive Secretary shall be announced to the full membership by May 1 of the fifth year of the current Executive Secretarial term. Any IACAP member may submit a nomination, including self nomination, for Executive Secretary. Nominations must be received by the Vice President on or before June 1. All nominations must be provided by the Vice President to the full Executive Committee by June 10. Executive Committee members may discuss and investigate nominees as deemed necessary. At the closest meeting preceding August 15 of the fifth year of the current Executive Secretarial term, the President will present appointments.

III.n. It is the duty of the President to present the appointment of the Executive Secretary. It is the duty of the Executive Committee to confirm or disconfirm the President's appointment. Confirmation shall require a majority of the quorum in favor. If the Executive Committee fails to make a confirmation, a meeting of the full Executive Committee will be convened within thirty days (to be scheduled by the Vice President) to vote on the President's appointment. This process will continue until a nomination is confirmed by a majority of the quorum

Proposed:

III.l. Every five years, by August 15, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Executive Secretary of Information and Communication and an Executive Secretary of Organization who will each serve in that capacity for a once-renewable term of five years or until a successor is appointed. The Executive Secretary for Information and Communication is responsible for providing timely information to IACAP members on behalf of the Executive Committee; for receiving and sharing membership concerns with the Executive Committee; for co-editing the IACAP Newsletter; for assisting with the ongoing development of the IACAP website; and for providing information to interested parties on the ongoing progress of IACAP, including conferences, news and events. The Executive Secretary of Organization is responsible for: insuring that IACAP elections occur according to the timetables and requirements established in the IACAP constitution; these duties include organizing and distributing ballots; overseeing vote collection and counting; and announcing the results (in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of Communication and Information); assisting the Executive Secretary of Communication and Information as needed - e.g., in managing the IACAP website, mailing list, and funds received electronically through the website.

III.m. A call for nominations for Executive Secretary positions shall be announced to the full membership by May 1 of the fifth year of the current Executive Secretarial term. Any IACAP

member may submit a nomination, including self nomination, for one or both of the Executive Secretary positions. Nominations must be received by the Vice President on or before June 1. All nominations must be delivered by the Vice President to the full Executive Committee by June 10. Executive Committee members may discuss and investigate nominees as deemed necessary. At the closest meeting preceding August 15 of the fifth year of the current Executive Secretarial term, the President will present an appointment.

III.n. It is the duty of the President to present the appointments of the Executive Secretaries. It is the duty of the Executive Committee to confirm or disconfirm the President's appointments. Confirmation shall require a majority of the quorum in favor. If the Executive Committee fails to make a confirmation, a meeting of the full Executive Committee will be convened within thirty days (to be scheduled by the Vice President) to vote on the President's appointments. This process will continue until nominations are confirmed by a majority of the quorum.

Rationale:

Growth of the organization has produced additional tasks best carried out by two executive secretaries.

6) Status of Cohorts

Current:

III.j. For each regional conference, an Executive Committee cohort (2 - 4 members) will be designated to assist the Regional Director and Program Chair. The cohort will be responsible for assisting the Regional Director and Program Chair in attaining the highest standards of IACAP meetings and for providing support to the regional conferences where appropriate.

V.b. For each IACAP region (e.g. Europe, North America, Asia, etc.) there shall be a Regional Director and a Program Chair. The Regional Director shall serve for three years (starting June 1 of the year that they become Regional Director). The Regional Director shall work with the designated cohort from the Executive Committee.

Proposed:

Delete the current constitutional item III.j.

V.b. For each IACAP region (e.g. Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific, etc.) there shall be a Regional Director who annually names a Program Chair. The Regional Director shall serve for three years (starting June 1 of the year that she/he becomes Regional Director).

Rationale:

The success of conferences in all regions has emerged smoothly without the need for cohorts as specified in III.j. Nothing prevents the president from assigning Executive Committee members the task of assisting in the support of conference activities, but the constitutional necessity for doing so is not evident.

7) Election procedures (dependent upon changes in the Executive Committee composition)

Current:

IV. Election

- a. There shall be an annual election of at least three persons to serve on the Executive Committee of the Association.
- b. In April of each year the Executive Secretary will circulate to all members of the Association a Call for Nominations to the Executive Committee, allowing at least thirty days for members to return nominations by post or via electronic media. Any member nominated by at least two other members, and who, when asked by the Executive Secretary, agrees to serve if elected, shall be considered duly nominated.
- c. Every third year the Executive Secretary shall include with the Call for Nominations to the Executive Committee a Call for Nominations for President of the Association and a Call for Nominations for Vice-President of the Association; any member nominated by at least two other members, and who, when asked by the Executive Secretary, agrees to serve, if elected, shall be duly nominated for the position of President or Vice-President.
- d. In June of each year an election of members to the Executive Committee shall be conducted; two to three Regular Members shall be elected, depending upon whether a President is to be elected in the given year. A President shall be elected every third year as part of the Executive Committee elections. No one may stand for election both to the Presidency and to Regular Membership in the Executive Committee in the same election. The names of the nominees in each category will appear on the ballot in alphabetical order, followed by academic affiliation or equivalent information.

Proposed:

IV. Election

- a. Every three years there shall be an election for the positions of President and Vice-President.
- b. In April of each election year, the Executive Secretary of Organization will circulate to all members of the Association a Call for Nominations for President and Vice-President. Any member nominated by at least two other members, and who, when asked by the Executive Secretary of Organization, agrees to serve if elected, shall be duly nominated for the position of President or Vice-President.
- c. In June of each election year, the Executive Committee shall, by majority vote, elect both a President and Vice-President.
- d. No one may be nominated or appointed simultaneously to more than one position on the Executive Committee.

Rationale:

Election procedures must follow the conditions stated in item III. b. which allows for restructuring and continuous growth in the Executive Committee.

End of proposed constitutional changes.

News about Members' Publications

We are pleased to announce a special issue of the publication *TripleC*, dedicated to E-CAP 2005. Congratulations! (<http://triplec.uti.at/articles.php>)

Special Issue: *Selected Papers From ECAP 2005 - European Computing and Philosophy Conference 2005*

Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic* and Susan A. J. Stuart** editors

*The Department of Computer Science and Electronics, Mälardalen University, Västerås, Sweden; gordana.dodig-crnkovic@mdh.se

**Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute, University of Glasgow, s.stuart@philosophy.arts.gla.ac.uk

From the Presentation:

The International Association for Computing and Philosophy (<http://www.ia-cap.org/>) is an umbrella organization for a number of globally distributed associations: North-American Computing and Philosophy (NA-CAP), Asian-Pacific Computing and Philosophy (AP-CAP), and European Computing and Philosophy (E-CAP). The E-CAP conferences began in 2003 with a meeting at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. The 2004 E-CAP took place at the University of Pavia, Italy; the 2005 E-CAP was held at the Mälardalen University, Västerås, Sweden; and the 2006 E-CAP conference was held in Trondheim, Norway.

This special issue contains a selection of articles presented at the 2005 conference in Västerås. The other part of the material will appear in a book Dodig-Crnkovic G. and Stuart S., eds. (2007), *Computation, Information, Cognition – The Nexus and The Liminal*, Cambridge Scholars Press.

We are very pleased to have been able to work in this dynamic area with such a distinguished group of people, each one of whom has provided us with some fresh way of framing some of the most significant problems of our time. This special issue is thus the result of the collective effort of a large number of people. We would like to thank everyone who attended the Västerås conference and who contributed to its being a singular success, and to all the ECAP05 referees who helped us make final decisions about publication:

Staffan Larsson, Department of Linguistics Göteborg University, Sweden

Tom Ziemke, University of Skövde, Sweden

Pedro C. Marijuán, University of Zaragoza, Spain

Luciano Floridi, University of Bari, Italy and University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Lars-Göran Johansson, Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, Sweden

Göran Collste, Linköping University (LiU), Sweden

May Thorseth, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway

Kaj Börje Hansen, Uppsala University, Sweden

Charles Ess, Drury University Springfield, Missouri, USA and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway

Rikard Bonner, Mälardalen University, Sweden
Søren Brier, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark
Joakim Nivre, Växjö University, Sweden
Torbjörn Lager, Department of Linguistics, Göteborg University, Sweden
Gustaf Arrhenius, Stockholm University
Peter Århem, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
Bertil Rolf, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden
Jan Österberg, Uppsala University, Sweden
Birgitta Bergsten, Mälardalen University, Sweden
Christina Mörtberg, Oslo University, Norway
Chris Dobbyn, Open University, United Kingdom

It has been a true joy to work together. Thank you!

November 2006

Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic and Susan A. J. Stuart

Soraj Hongladarom (ed.), *Computing and Philosophy in Asia* (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007).

From the presentation of the book:

This volume is a collection of selected papers presented at the Second Asia-Pacific Computing and Philosophy Conference, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand in January 2005. The conference was organized by the Center for Ethics of Science and Technology, Chulalongkorn University on behalf of the International Association of Computing and Philosophy (www.ia-cap.org). Computing have had a long relationship with philosophy, starting from the problem of how symbols being manipulated in computing bear a relation to the outside world, to those of artificial intelligence, robotics, computer simulation, and so on. Moreover, as computer technologies have become thoroughly pervasive in today's environment, there are also issues concerning social and ethical impacts brought about by them.

The papers in the volume represent a wide variety of concerns and various dimensions within which computing and philosophy are related. Furthermore, it also represents some of the first attempts to highlight cultural dimensions of computing and philosophy, which became prominent when the conference was held for the first time within the milieu of an Asian culture. (The First Asia-Pacific Computing and Philosophy was held in Canberra, Australia.) Hence, many of the papers in the volume address this added dimension. Apart from the usual problems of how computers and human lives are interconnected, the papers here also discuss how computers are related to human lives as lived in a specific culture. Thus the book breaks a new ground and should be of interest to a wide range of scholars and students who are interested, not only on computing and philosophy generally construed, but also on this exciting new dimension of how the cultures of Asia, the West, and others bear upon the traditional issues in computing and philosophy, and on how this dimension raises some new concerns and agenda.

Among the topics discussed in this volume are: political online forums in Saudi Arabia, e-democracy and structural transformation of public sphere, the Buddhist informational person, a glance into the lives of computerized generation in Thailand, technology and journalism in the market, local approaches and global potential (?) of information ethics, computer-enhanced good life, computer teaching ethics, and many others.

IACAP Website

I am very pleased to announce that the Association has bought a new service to improve its website. In view of future developments Johnny Søraker has been appointed webmaster and Matteo Turilli has been appointed system designer. A very warm welcome to both!

One of the first steps will be the organization of the new mailing list of the Association.

Luciano Floridi
President, IACAP

Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Presentation

ECAP-2007

All are welcome to the **European Computing and Philosophy Conference**

June 21-23, 2007
University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands

Program Chair: Philip Brey
Local organization: Katinka Waelbers, ECAP07@gw.utwente.nl
<mailto:ECAP07@gw.utwente.nl>

Submission of extended abstracts: January 29, 2007

More information: www.utwente.nl/ecap07

PHILOSOPHY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

<http://pcs.essex.ac.uk/ecap07/cfp.html>

Track in: European conference on Computing And Philosophy – ECAP'07 21-23 June 2007, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands

Submissions to the track will also be considered for revision and publication in: *The Journal of Applied Logic*, a special issue devoted to the philosophy of computer science

Important dates and submission

Extended abstracts (1000 words): January 29, 2007

The philosophy of computer science (PCS) track is part of ECAP'07.

For submission instructions, format, and deadline extensions please refer to the conference page at <http://www.utwente.nl/ecap07/>

TOPICS

What is the philosophy of computer science (PCS)? We take the PCS to be that branch of philosophy which is concerned with the investigation of philosophical problems that arise from within computer science. By analogy, the PCS stands to computer science as does the philosophy of mathematics to mathematics and the philosophy of physics to physics. We solicit papers investigating philosophical questions including, but not limited to, the following:

Metaphysics. What is the subject matter of computer science? Are computer programs mathematical entities, human artifacts, or 'natural kinds'? Alternatively, is computer science indeed a science, is it a branch of mathematics, or perhaps an engineering discipline? Is there a realism/antirealism issue in computer science as there is in mathematics?

Ontology. What is the (top-level) taxonomy of computer programs? What is the relation between meta-software, software, and hardware? Which ontological commitments are made in programs ("source code"): are they committed to objects in the real world, to objects in the programming paradigm's vocabulary (such as mathematical functions in functional programming and objects and classes in object-oriented programming), or perhaps to the types defined in the program? Is this ontology shaped by the programming language, possibly in the same way that general ontology is shaped by natural language? How exactly do programming paradigms carve the universe of programs?

Methodology. What is the role of mathematics in computer science? Is mathematical modelling there to supplement or replace the engineering enterprise? Is computer science an empirical theory? What would an experiment in computer science look like, and how would it be different (if at all) from an experiment in empirical sciences? Should methods of psychology or physics serve as a model for experiments? Are experiments conducted in evolutionary programming, genetic programming, and robotics methodologically sound? What is the status of knowledge

gained from conducting an experiment in computer science: is it knowledge about the real world or is it something about algorithms? Is a computer program a scientific theory?

Programme co-chairs:

Amnon H Eden, Department of Computer Science, University of Essex and Center For Inquiry, Amherst, NY

Raymond Turner, Department of Computer Science, University of Essex

For enquiries please write us: pcschair@essex.ac.uk

**American Philosophical Association
Eastern Division Meeting
Washington, DC, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Sessions sponsored by IACAP and the APA Philosophy and Computers Committee**

THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 2006
GROUP SESSION III - 11:15 A.M.-1:15 P.M.

Session Arranged by the International Association for Computing and Philosophy
11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Virginia Suite B (Lobby Level)
Topic: Conflicts, Compromises, and Responsibility in Open Source vs. Proprietary Software Development
Chair: Marvin Croy (University of North Carolina-Charlotte)
Speakers: Keith Miller (University of Illinois-Springfield)
John Snapper (Illinois Institute of Technology)
Scott Dexter (CUNY Brooklyn)

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29
SESSION IV - 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Session Arranged by the APA Committee on Philosophy and Computers
9:00-11:00 a.m., Virginia Suite C (Lobby Level)
Topic: Barwise Prize
Session Chair: Bruce Umbaugh (Webster University)
Speaker: James Moor (Dartmouth College)
"The Next Fifty Years of AI: Future Scientific Research vs. Past Philosophical Criticisms"

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 30
SESSION VIII, 1:30-4:30 P.M.

Session Arranged by the APA Committee on Philosophy and Computers
1:30-4:30 p.m., Coolidge (Mezzanine Level)

Topic: Machine Ethics
Chair: Christopher Grau (Florida International University)
Speaker: James Moor (Dartmouth College)
"Is the Intentional Stance a Good Enough Stance for Machine Ethics?"
Commentator: Selmer Bringsjord (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
Speaker: J. Storrs Hall (Institute for Molecular Manufacturing)
"On Machine Ethics"
Commentator: Colin Allen (Indiana University)
Speakers: Michael Anderson (University of Hartford) and Susan Anderson
(University of Connecticut-Stamford)
"Computing Ethics"
Commentator: Andrew Light (University of Washington)

CEPE 2007 – COMPUTER ETHICS PHILOSOPHICAL ENQUIRY

Reminder: Proposals are due by Monday, December 11, 2007 for the upcoming CEPE2007 Conference in San Diego, California, USA on July 12-14, 2007. This will be the seventh international conference on computer and information ethics. Papers and panels in all areas of computer and information technology ethics are welcome.

The recommended length for abstracts is 1200-1400 words.
Submissions may be sent to CEPE2007@sandiego.edu.
For further information, see the CEPE website <http://CEPE2007.sandiego.edu>.

INTERNATIONAL HASTAC CONFERENCE "ELECTRONIC TECHTONICS: THINKING AT THE INTERFACE"

April 19-21, 2007, www.hastac.org

We are now soliciting papers and panel proposals for "Electronic Techtonics: Thinking at the Interface," the first international conference of HASTAC ("haystack" Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory). The interdisciplinary conference will be held April 19-21, 2007, in Durham, North Carolina, co-sponsored by Duke University and RENCI (Renaissance Computing Institute). Details concerning registration fees, hotel accommodations, and the full conference agenda will be posted to www.hastac.org as they become available.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

"Electronic Techtonics: Thinking at the Interface "will be one of the culminating events for the In|Formation Year that began in June 2006 and extends through May of 2007. (See the HASTAC website for a calendar of In|Formation Year events, plus open source archived materials suitable for downloading for courses or campus events.)

The keynote address will be delivered at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke by visionary information scientist John Seely Brown (The Social Life of Information; formerly Chief Scientist of Xerox Corporation and Director of its Palo Alto Research Center/PARC). Other events include a talk by legal theorist James Boyle (co-founder of the Center for the Study of the Public Domain, Creative Commons, and Science Commons), a conversation among leaders of innovative digital humanities projects led by John Unsworth (chair of the ACLS "Cyberinfrastructure and the Humanities and Social Sciences" commission), and a presentation by media artist and research pioneer Rebecca Allen. The conference will also include refereed scholarly and scientific papers, multimedia performances, an exhibit hall of innovative software and hardware, plus tours of art and scientific installations in virtual reality, learning-game, and interactive sensor space environments.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Six sessions will be devoted to panels with refereed papers on aspects of "interface" spanning media arts, engineering, and the human, social, natural, and computational sciences. Panels will be topical and cross-disciplinary; they will be comprised of papers that are themselves interdisciplinary as well as specialized disciplinary papers presented in juxtaposition with one another.

We will consider proposals for full panels (three or four papers), for paired cross-disciplinary papers on a shared topic, or for single papers.

Topics: Panels might address interfaces between humans and computers, mind and brain, real and virtual worlds, science and fiction, consumers and producers, text-archives and multi-media, youth and adults, disciplines, institutions, communities, identities, media, cultures, technologies, theories, and practices.

Other possible topics: the body as interface, neuroaesthetics and neurocognition, prosthetics, mind-controlled devices, immersion, emergence, presence, telepresence, sensor spaces, virtual reality, social networking, games, experimental learning environments, human/non-human situations and actors, interactive communication and control, access, borders, intellectual property, porosity, race and ethnicity, difference, Afro-Geeks and Afro-Futurism, identity, gender, sexuality, credibility, mapping and trafficking, civic engagement, social activism, cyberactivism, plus all of the other In|Formation Year topics: in|common, interplay, in|community, interaction, injustice, integration, invitation, innovation.

Proposal Submissions: Please send 500-1000 word paper and/or panel proposals to info@hastac.org .

Deadline for Proposals: December 1, 2006.

Full-length papers or power-point presentations will be posted on the HASTAC website prior to the conference. The sessions themselves will be devoted to synopses of the work, followed by a response designed to elicit audience participation. Attendees whose papers are not accepted will be encouraged to display their work at a digital poster session.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration will be limited to 150 people. HASTAC will announce a priority registration period for HASTAC In|Formation Year site leaders, followed by open registration.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Some scholarship funding will be available to graduate students to help defray fees and conference costs.

For additional information as well as copies of the In|Formation Year poster, contact Jonathan Tarr, HASTAC Project Manager (info@hastac.org or call 919 684-8471).

HASTAC uses Creative Commons licenses for all of its endeavors. All conference sessions will be webcast, archived, and made available for non-profit educational purposes.

Harry Halpin
University of Edinburgh

ECAP 2006 Report by the Regional Director

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim was the location for our fourth European Computing and Philosophy conference (ECAP06). The hosts, from the Department of Philosophy, were Charles Ess and May Thorseth, who acted as the conference co-Chairs, Johnny Søraker, the Local Organiser, and Sissel Svenning, an administrative assistant at NTNU, who took care of registration and financial questions. In addition there was an international Programme Committee who assisted in the consideration of conference submissions and the final selection of the many excellent papers with which we engaged over the three days.

The conference opened with words of welcome from May and Charles, and then a more formal welcome was given by the NTNU Rector, Torbjørn Digernes. Torbjørn admitted that he had felt some initial difficulty conceiving of a relationship between philosophy and computing but had been reassured by the richly interdisciplinary nature of the final programme, and then delighted by the truly international gathering which had come from twenty different nations; at least two of these, Australia and Hong Kong, cannot really be thought to be in Europe, though they may well be thought to be European.

The setting was remarkable, on hills to the south-east of the city, with marvelous views of the surrounding wonderfully verdant countryside and out into one of the myriad deep fjords that characterise Norway's dramatic coast and coastal inlet system. The city itself is a very successful amalgam of medieval and contemporary and – redolent of the relationship between philosophy and computing and the computational turn which the former has undergone and through which it is finding regeneration – the medieval has undergone a contemporary turn with a reciprocal relation of complement and enhancement.

The reciprocal influence of the long-established, that is, philosophy, with the modern, computing science, was carried over into the first keynote address which was given by Ray Turner from the University of Essex. His talk was entitled *The Philosophy of Theoretical Computing Science* and in it he attempted to identify the significant questions that might be inspired by theoretical computing science as a discipline, and also to examine how computing scientists handle computational artifacts using models. One of Turner's main points was that the interesting philosophical questions arise from the construction and application of such models; so it is important to understand what models we have developed and why, but even more important to have a thorough understanding of the ontological status of the model and what it is we are modelling. It was a splendid start to the conference, and not least because of the lively realist / anti-realist debates that ensued about the semantics of programs and programming languages.

Over the years, with the innovative intellectual work of Luciano Floridi, the International Association of Computing and Philosophy (IACAP) has brought the Philosophy of Information in the central forum of the academy, with Ray's address and the track that led on from it, with papers from some of the foremost scholars in this field, we have also been able to formally

introduce the Philosophy of Computing Science to the academy. A great deal of credit must be given to Amnon H. Eden (University of Essex) for his efforts and foresight in establishing a very strong track in this now flourishing new field. His hard work brought people together to discuss, first and foremost, what the philosophy of computing science might be (Timothy Colburn; Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic; Tom Maibaum), whether computing science is a science (Shai Ophir; Richard Bornat), the problems of software ontology (Lars-Erik Janlert; Amnon Eden & Ray Turner; Tom Maibaum; Alton Sanders; Konstantine Arkoudas & Selmer Bringsjord), and related questions of representation and teleology (Curtis Brown). The parallel nature of many sessions, alongside chairing commitments, meant that it was possible to attend only some of these sessions but, by all reports, the discussion that was generated was energetic and very exacting. Our great thanks must be extended to Amnon; it is certainly our intention to continue this track in ECAP07.

The ontology theme was carried on in another of the first day parallel sessions, though this time specifically in relation to information, artifacts, and science. There were five papers in this track but I'll mention only two that address fundamental or classic issues. Sándor Soós concentrated on a fundamental difficulty, the Species Problem – the failure to construct a sufficient theoretical definition of species – and the application to it of the toolkit of formal ontology; and Luciano Floridi addressed the classic question of whether the ultimate nature of reality is digital or analogue by presenting a challenging thought experiment to argue that either the original dichotomy is misapplied, or that if it persists, it presents counterintuitive consequences. Thus, the conclusion for Floridi has to be that the most coherent conclusion is to go with Information Structuralism.

The third track running alongside these sessions, *Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Problem of Consciousness and Cognition*, was opened with an invigorating talk by Mark Bickhard for the claim that representation in complex systems is emergent and going on to present a manner in which the hard problem of qualia can be released from its ontological circle. Splendid stuff, but far too exciting for one short session. Cem Bozsahin followed with, as he said, "yet another paper against Searle's Chinese Room" but this time concentrating on the claim that generative grammars are mediators from phonological and logical form to meaning and that Searle's argument is linguistically inadequate. Computationalism, as a theme, was at the heart of the next three papers with Anna-Mari Rusanen & Otto Lappi who spoke of the inadequacy of the causal model (*explanans*) to explain neural phenomena (*explanandum*) because, even though it may account for implementation, it fails to account for competence and performance; Jonathan Knowles who examined the problems with Fodor's computational theory of mind; and Marcello Guarini's paper, again on Fodor but this time in relation to moral case classifiers – which because of his absence was presented at a furious pace by Selmer Bringsjord.

Such an exceptional first day was rounded off by dinner at the Dickens restaurant followed by a Trondheim walkabout led by Charles Ess to some of the places he and Johnny most enjoy.

Day two began with the second keynote speaker Lucas Introna from the University of Lancaster who spoke on the question of the morality of technology in a paper entitled *Maintaining the Reversibility of Foldings: Making the ethics (politics) of information technology visible*. Echoing the phrase coined by Jim Moor he stated that technology creates 'policy vacuums' and

emphasised that the problems of technology are both subtle and implicit. Drawing on the work of Bruno Latour, in which we fold into technology as it folds in to us, he recommended a policy of disclosive ethics and disclosive practice by attacking the conventional manner of conceptualising the morality of technology; an approach he considers, not simply, inadequate but even dangerous. With his examination of search engines and plagiarism detection systems as examples of contemporary information technology Introna provided a captivating start to the second day.

After a brief break for coffee we moved into the morning parallel sessions with Information & Computing Ethics, Intersections, and Biological Information, Artificial Life, & Biocomputation, alongside the Philosophy of Computer Science. Again, all the big themes were here: information (Keld Stehr Nielsen; Rune Nydal; Kay Mathiesen), computational models (Mark Bedau; Roman Pozarlik), representation (Annamaria Carusi), the ethics of computer games (Miguel Sicart), and, of course, immortality, obesity and abundance (Sarah Stein). The trademark of all CAP conferences was exemplified in these sessions which had a wonderful intellectual richness, an ambience of openness, and were each and all productive of marvellous interdisciplinary dialogue.

A packed and exhausting second day was rounded off with a Reception at the Town Hall where we were greeted by the Deputy Mayor – the Mayor having been asked to greet the Norwegian Royal Family who were also visiting Trondheim – and a fine buffet of white wine and strawberries. From here it was a short walk to the Rica Nidelven Hotel near the Brattørbrua for a delicious conference dinner, a great many toasts, and a wealthy and healthy mix of academic discussion and social chatter.

Our third and final day started at, what seemed to be, an early hour with a very passionate presentation by the third keynote speaker, Vincent Hendricks from Roskilde University, Denmark. With his paper on *Forcing Epistemology and Limiting Skepticism* Hendricks gave us a bright start to our day by asking whether scepticism could outstrip knowledge in the limit. Unless you're a global sceptic, scepticism is a short-run strategy and, using modal operator epistemology – formed by drawing together elements of modal, tense and epistemic logic with rudimentary elements from formal learning theory, Hendricks carried out a vibrant examination of what happens to scepticism in the long term. Hendricks' presentational style is like mainlining caffeine; just the kick-start to the day we all needed.

The final sessions saw Ethical & Political Dimensions of ICTs in Globalization, Information & Computing Ethics, It & Gender Research, and Computer-based Learning and Teaching running in parallel. Federico Gobbo told us of the remarkable influence of Beppe Grillo – formerly a comic actor – on Italian politics through his daily blog, something he began as an 'experiment in direct democracy'; Anke van Gorp spoke of her study of the legitimacy of internet activities of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs); and May Thorseth examined the nature of online deliberation and the public use of reason online. John Hulke explained how he had presented his Business Ethics classes with an online forum for their ethics debates in an effort to get them really involved in the issues, and to move to affective responses from the merely cognitive. In Michele Pasin's work, on the creation of an ontology to describe philosophical resources, he utilizes the Semantic Web and examines its implications for eLearning. In asking

how a philosophical problem is generated he tries to break the problem down so that he can create a representation of its ontology in terms of, for example, the problem area, the problem, the theory, and the school of thought.

It is characteristic of CAP conferences that they provide a forum for the liminal, the innovative and exciting work being done on the borders of disciplines which, often though not always, wish to remain constrained by their disciplinary boundaries. It is also characteristic of CAP that it provides an atmosphere of generosity and inclusiveness. If these things are true, then ECAP 2006 in Trondheim has been the epitome of a CAP conference. There can be no doubt that when we were promised magnificence of setting, presentations and collaboration, they were not false promises.

ECAP07 will take place at the University of Twente, The Netherlands, with Philip Brey as the conference Chair. The dates are the 21-23 June 2007.

Susan A. J. Stuart
Regional Director E-CAP
University of Glasgow

Special Memorial: Preston Covey

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Preston Covey, a longtime friend and colleague at Carnegie Mellon University, and one of the earliest and most incisive supporters of the Association. Here is a message from Robert Cavalier.

Preston was, among many things, a leader and innovator in the area of computing and philosophy. As Director of the Center for the Design of Educational Computing in the 1980s and early 90s, he influenced the development of paradigm examples of what we today call "interactive multimedia." Among the programs that won Best Humanities Software were the videodisc versions of "A Right to Die? The Case of Dax Cowart" and "Art or Forgery? The Strange Case of Han Van Meegeren." But Preston was more than an innovator. He was a mentor to a whole generation of philosophers who participated in what is now the International Association of Computing and Philosophy. And he was a friend to many of us throughout our careers. As the philosopher Unamuno said of Kierkegaard, "Y que hombre!", I can say of Preston: "And what a man!"

"Preston Covey had an important impact in the development of Carnegie Mellon University as a founder of the Department of Philosophy, as an educational innovator in the field of Applied Ethics, and as a truly devoted teacher and mentor of students."
—John Lehoczky, dean of H&SS

"Even in the early days, when computers were these mammoth desktop machines, he designed an interactive logic component that was teaching students sequential logic in terms of philosophy."
—Jay Devine, director H&SS Academic Advising Center



Preston Covey

University Mourns Death of Professor Preston Covey

Carnegie Mellon is saddened to learn that Preston Covey, an associate professor of philosophy and husband of library faculty member Denise Troll Covey, died at his home on Monday, Sept. 18. He was 64.

Covey, who joined the Carnegie Mellon faculty in 1973, was an innovative scholar and educator who had a distinguished record of service to the university. He was the director of the Philosophy Program from 1982 to 1985 — when it was part of the History and Philosophy Department — and he oversaw its inauguration as a full department in 1986. He also served as the vice provost for university studies from 1987 to 1989.

"Preston Covey had an important impact in the development of Carnegie Mellon University as a founder of the Department of Philosophy, as an educational innovator in the field of Applied Ethics, and as a truly devoted teacher and mentor of students," said John Lehoczky, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS).


Covey was deeply involved in creating the first core curriculum for H&SS, and it was on the basis of that work that in 1983 he received the college's Elliott Dunlap Smith Award for Teaching and Educational Service.

"He was a very popular teacher. He was very animated. He had a great sense of humor," said Jay Devine, director of the H&SS Academic Advisory Center and a longtime friend of Covey.

Covey had a hand in creating the Ethics, History and Public Policy major, a joint program with the Department of History that is the most popular Philosophy Department major. The students who he mentored in that program will miss him sorely, said Richard Scheines, head of the Philosophy Department.

"As an advisor, he was stunning. He put in more time and nurtured these people more intensely than you can possibly imagine," Scheines said.

From 1988 to 2005, Covey was the director of the university's Center for the Advancement of Applied Ethics (CAAE), a research center in the Department of Philosophy that examines bioethics, business ethics, conflict resolution and improving the responsiveness of democratic institutions. He also was at the forefront of computing in philosophy, and he chaired the American Philosophical Association



"Preston was more than an innovator. He was a mentor to a whole generation of philosophers who participated in what is now the International Association of Computing and Philosophy. And he was a friend to many of us throughout our careers."

—Robert Cavalier,
philosophy professor

Committee on Computing in Philosophy from 1986 to 1991.

"Even in the early days, when computers were these mammoth desktop machines, he designed an interactive logic component that was teaching students sequential logic in terms of philosophy," Devine said.

Covey directed Carnegie Mellon's Center for the Design of Educational Computing from 1986 to 1992, and was the center's executive director from 1985 to 1986. He developed interactive, multimedia software to help students weigh complex moral and ethical dilemmas, including "A Right to Die? The Case of Dax Cowart," which Covey created along with Robert Cavalier, teaching professor of philosophy.

"Preston was more than an innovator. He was a mentor to a whole generation of philosophers who participated in what is now the International Association of Computing and Philosophy," Cavalier said. "And he was a friend to many of us throughout our careers."

Covey was also very active in the law enforcement community, and was a deputy sheriff with the Allegheny County Sheriff's Reserve. He trained law enforcement officers in the law, ethics and practical realities of lethal encounters, and he served on several state, national and international law enforcement organizations.

Covey earned a bachelor's degree with distinction in psychology from Stanford University in 1965, and a Ph.D. jointly from the Department of Philosophy and the Humanities Graduate Program at Stanford in 1978.

The Philosophy Department is planning to hold a memorial service for the campus community; the date and location have yet to be determined.

*Jonathan Potts
September 20, 2006*

The IACAP Covey Award

The Covey Award

The IACAP has set up a Covey Award Program (formerly known as the CAP award), in honor of Preston Covey. The purpose of the program is to provide recognition for faculty and graduate students engaged in innovative work in the field of computing and philosophy. Covey Award winners are selected by their home institution on the basis of proposals for CAP conferences. Faculty and graduate students interested in applying for a Covey Award should consult the criteria below.

For faculty, a proposal for a Covey Award should be reviewed and accepted by the Department Chair and approved by the Dean and at least one high level administrator (Provost, President). It is the responsibility of the Department Chair to write a letter of support to accompany the submission (an electronic version of this letter should be included in the candidate's application).

For graduate students, a proposal for a Covey Award should be reviewed and accepted by the Department Chair and approved by the Dean. It is the responsibility of the Department Chair to write a letter of support to accompany the submission (an electronic version of this letter should be included in the candidate's application).

The home institution is expected to fund the travel, lodging and registration expenses of the nominee. Those candidates that are successful in securing the support of their home institution will receive a spot on the CAP program and special recognition of their work. The latter will occur during an awards ceremony at the opening session of a CAP conference.

Covey Award submissions must be made out to the appropriate CAP conference and by that conference's proposal deadline. Candidates should compose an e-mail with the title and abstract of the presentation along with a list of the names of the campus officials who have accepted the candidate's proposal. The message should be sent to the appropriate CAP conference Program Chair and cc'd the Regional Director.

For further information on the Covey Award Program, please contact Luciano Floridi, President of IACAP, at president@ia-cap.org.