

Hello Everyone,

It has been several months since my last email, and there has been a lot happen in the meantime.

Summary of items:

1. ACSW 2018
2. Professors' and Heads' Meeting
3. ACSW 2019
4. ACSW 2020
5. CORE Awards Nominations
6. Rankings
7. Spam a Friend

1. ACSW 2018

ACSW 2018 was held at the University of Queensland between January 30 and February 2, under the leadership of David Abramson. Having taken the decision to discontinue the Australasian Computer Science Conference in 2017, and to extend ACSW to include a broad range of professional development activities, it was very pleasing to see the strong support that the new-look schedule received.

Some 175 people registered for event, which in 2018 included both research paper presentations in a range of focused areas as federated conferences (see the proceedings listings at <http://dblp.uni-trier.de/db/conf/acsw/acsw2018.html> and <http://dblp.uni-trier.de/db/conf/ace/ace2018.html> for a list of topic areas and papers, and links through to the papers in the ACM Digital Library), and also a series of panels and discussion sessions.

The latter included advice on preparing DECRA applications, on academic promotion expectations and processes, on the code of conduct for research, on preparing for EA and ACS accreditation visits, and on establishing and nurturing industry collaborations.

A further feature of the new ACSW format was a sequence of 29 lightning talks, with brief oral presentation of the works' highlights, and an opportunity to discuss the work with the author at a poster display later the same day. These presentations were not accompanied by a paper in the proceedings, and represented a mix of work already published at other venues, work that is currently under review elsewhere, and work that is still in the formative stages. Many of these were presented by people attending the conference as part of what might be called "community knowledge transfer", and we hope to make this aspect of the program a permanent feature that allows research and projects to be show-cased by senior academics, and not just postgraduate students.

ACSW 2018 also included keynote presentations from the three CORE Award winners: Antonette Mendoza, Lexing Xie, and Dr Junhao Gan; and a keynote presentation from Ann Nicholson.

A photo album (thanks to Dr Nick Hamilton) is available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/100739735@N06/sets/72157663192819817/>, please take a look if you are interested.

And a big thanks to David and his team for taking on, and rising to, the challenge.

2. Professors' and Heads' Meeting

This event is held annually in conjunction with ACSW. In January around

40 participants from across the two countries discussed a range of issues, including:

- Enrolment growth and student load, and associated staff recruiting activities.
- An update on rankings activities, and discussion of further tools that might be developed to expedite the ongoing task of maintaining the conference and journal rankings.
- A CORE Diversity Statement, now in draft form and which will be the subject of a separate communication in the future
- Discussion of ARC DP, DECRA, and FT funding outcomes, and the relative flow of funds to Engineering versus IT disciplines.
- A session led by two ARC staff, who presented a summary of the ERA 2018 process and who then focused on the processes being used for assessing engagement and impact. The slides from this presentation are available at <http://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/filedepot/Public/Media%20&%20Resources%20Centre/Presentations/StandardSlides/ARC-ERA-EI-2018.pdf>

The Profs/HoDs Meeting also elects the CORE Executive Committee; and I can report that (for better or worse) the 2017 Committee was re-elected unopposed -- Gill Dobbie as Secretary, David Abramson as Treasurer, myself as President, and (hence) with Lin Padgham continuing as Past President. John Grundy will also continue to serve on the EC, as a co-opted member.

3. ACSW 2019

The 2019 ACSW event (if I have counted correctly, the 42nd in the sequence, that has to be the answer to something) will be held at Macquarie University in the last week of January 2019, under the stewardship of Len Hamey. Len was taking careful notes right through ACSW 2018, and will no doubt find ways to fine-tune the new arrangements. If you have suggestions for activities or themed sessions, please contact Len <len.hamey@mq.edu.au> or a member of the Executive Committee. The EC is also currently thinking through the schedule of the whole week, as part of our review of ACSW 2018; if you have thoughts in that regard, please drop me a line.

4. ACSW 2020

It probably seems a long way off, but now is the time to raise your hand if you are interested in hosting ACSW 2020. We'll be doing some shoulder tapping over the next couple of months to solicit offers to host it, but would also welcome preliminary expressions of interest. Please contact a member of the Executive Committee if you would like to know more about this opportunity to build your University's profile, and to contribute back in to the Australasian computing community.

5. CORE Awards Nominations

And while we are looking to the future, you could start thinking now of people that might be worthy recipients of the 2019 CORE Awards:

- the CORE Teaching Award.
- the John Makepeace Bennett award for the Australasian Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation.
- the Chris Wallace award for outstanding Research Contribution.
- the John Hughes Distinguished Service Award.

There will be a detailed call for nominations in another month or so and a closing date mid-year, see <http://www.core.edu.au/awards>.

6. Rankings

A Conference Rankings round was held in the second half of 2017, and has led to the issuing of the "CORE 2018 Conference Rankings". As a brief summary:

- 72 submissions, data for 133 conferences
- 28 academics on 5 different committees based on FoR code
- 15 increased rank
- 6 decreased rank
- 1 unranked to C
- 35 A/A* reviewed with no rank change
- 12 B reviewed with no rank change
- 10 C reviewed with no rank change
- 43 conferences added:
 - 2x A; 6x C; 1x New; 5x National/Regional; 29x Unranked;
- 15 miscellaneous "other" changes.

Full details of these updates are provided at <http://www.core.edu.au/conference-portal/2018-conference-rankings-1>.

If you wish to be informed of future rankings activities as they are scheduled, join the "rankings" mailing list following the instructions at <http://www.core.edu.au/mailling-lists>.

Thanks to Lin for her careful management of this onerous and complex activity.

7. Spam a Friend

And while speaking of mailing lists, there has been a lot of new recruiting around Australasia over the last twelve months (and a lot more underway at present), and the only way we capture new names into our lists is via organic word-of-mouth, and if people stumble across <http://www.core.edu.au> by chance.

If you have read this far (thank you!) please take a look now at your internal departmental or school phone directory. If the person who comes alphabetically after you (cycling round to A after Z) has joined your university within the last year or so, consider forwarding a copy of this email to them, so that they know that they can also join our email lists via the instructions at <http://www.core.edu.au/mailling-lists>. And ditto if you are supervising a newish appointment -- please draw CORE to their attention as part of their local orientation, so that they can subscribe to the lists if they wish to.

And, if you received this email as a forward from a colleague or your supervisor (and you also read this far, what are the odds of two people in a row doing that!), please add your name to the appropriate subset of our email lists. CORE memberships are paid for at the departmental level, so there is no fee that individuals have to pay. Moreover, message traffic is relatively low, and overall community benefit (even if I say so myself) relatively high.

Then, once you have signed up... recurse!

Ok, this is probably now long enough -- if you are like me, you have a mid-semester test to prepare (and then get marked); an Assignment 1 specification and sample solution to prepare; multiple student emails to respond to; a stack of overdue refereeing that you feel (increasingly)

guilty about; several pending requests from your HR system about on-line compliance training courses with titles like "Appropriate Workplace Behaviour" that require urgent completion; two internal surveys that have to be filled out about quality of services (supposedly optional and supposedly anonymous, but they also seem to be able to send reminder emails to the people who haven't done them yet, which is a worry); and a pressing need to lodge your appraisal documentation for 2017, which means remembering what you actually did last year (apart from compliance training and internal quality of service surveys).

Plus, of course, you have a stack of 2017-dated research papers that you printed in December and were going to read during the summer, but somehow just never found the time for.

Good luck with it all...

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