

Secretary's Report

Following the very successful conference held at the University of Salamanca, Spain, in 2017, the 19th biennial conference will be held at the University of Sibiu, in Romania, July 1-5 2019. The conference organizing team in Sibiu have been working very hard to prepare for the 19th biennial event. The response to the Call for Abstracts has been excellent and we anticipate another outstanding gathering in Sibiu. To date, we are delighted to report the Scientific Committee have accepted more than 151 individual Presentations; 13 Symposia (comprising multiple presentations); and 2 Workshops. No doubt the Social Programme planned will offer all delegates rich cultural experiences too. On behalf of the ISATT membership, my sincere thanks go to Daniela Roxana Andron, Ioana Marcu and all their colleagues on the ISATT Conference Team.

We continue to welcome many new members to ISATT 55 different countries. The new membership framework launched in Spring 2016 appears to be working well and (just as a refresher) membership of ISATT now runs for periods of one, two or four years from the month of registration and includes:

- a voting membership for the chosen period of membership
- eight issues per year of the journal TEACHERS AND TEACHING – Theory and Practice
- two ISATT newsletters per year (online)
- access to the membership directory
- a significant reduction on ISATT conference fees
- the opportunity to apply for a travel bursary to the next biennial ISATT Conference (students and members from low-income countries only)

Membership currently stands **202**.

This framework has been further augmented by the updates to and launch of the new ISATT website and many new features related to membership of ISATT and access to information. For this, we have our Administrator, Daniela Hotolean, to thank. Along with her team of digital designers, Danni has overhauled the website which (while still a work in process), I think you'll agree is much improved visually and navigationally. Thank you, Danni.

A number of the other critical processes and procedures within the ISATT organization revised and updated during 2017-2018 (i.e., applications for regional conferences; applications for student and faculty bursaries; applications for collaborative research grants; etc.) are working well. Despite our best efforts to complete the process of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), after four separate attempts at application and countless additional hours in consultations on this matter by our Administrator, Daniela Hotolean, the current EC have

decided to set this endeavor aside. ISATT will therefore retain status as an Unincorporated Association, governed by the Articles (please see the revised, updated, and amended Articles included in these Business Papers). The revised Articles will also be voted on at the Members Meeting in Sibiu. Finally, we have continued our renewed emphasis on recruiting graduate students as members of ISATT and encouraging their active participation in the ISATT community (e.g., collaborative research grants, promoting other opportunities, including the liaison committee). In addition, a pre-conference for graduate students and early career scholars is planned for July 1st at the conference in Sibiu and will present 7 Workshops and 3 Work Meetings. I hope we will see many graduate student members at ISATT in Sibiu. Graduate Students and New Members of ISATT are also encouraged to attend the 25th Anniversary of TTTP - the ISATT journal - July 2nd (h:19-20) and the ISATT Members Meeting – July 3rd, (h:14,30-15,30).

I am pleased to report ISATT was well represented at AERA in Toronto in April this year. In addition to the many individual papers presented (it was wonderful to see so many ISATT colleagues here in Toronto!), ISATT was also recognized, *for the very first time*, with an Invited Symposium (through Division K). This was organized and coordinated to include presenters Cheryl Craig, Juanjo Mena, Maria Flores and myself under the title, *Learning from One Another Internationally: Case Studies from ISATT*. Each presenter spoke to aspects of their leadership role with ISATT and selected specific ‘cases’ promoting the theme of learning from one another internationally - a founding principle of ISATT. The Symposium was very well attended (especially considering the 8 am slot on Saturday morning). Nevertheless, we were delighted to be included as an Invited Speaker Session!

Another accepted Symposium was organized by Juanjo Mena and focused on *The Value of Mentoring to Improve Teaching Practices: International Perspectives*. This international Symposium was also well attended and received at AERA. ISATT members who also presented were: Roza Valeeva (Kazan); Michelle Tonna (Malta); Maria Flores (Portugal); and, of course, Juanjo Mena. Discussants were Susan E. Elliott-Johns (Canada) and Margery McMahon (Scotland).

I was also invited to be a participant leader in the S-STEP Mentoring session that took place on Friday, April 5th from 8:30 am-11:30 am where I saw many ISATT members too. **Congratulations** to all ISATT members who participated in AERA this year – and let’s try to keep promoting the *international* in AERA next year in San Francisco, California (April 17-21, 2020).

As announced in the last ISATT Newsletter, I will be stepping down as Secretary in July. I should therefore like to extend my thanks to all members of the Executive with whom I have worked most closely over the past four years: Maria Flores, Juanjo Mena and our ISATT administrator, Daniela Hotolean, who each continue to support and extend the work of ISATT. Special thanks are also extended to all the members of the Executive Committee who consistently made time in their busy schedules to support the 'business' of ISATT: Issa Ying; Wendy Moran; David Goodwin; Elke Struyf; Martha Prata; Diane Yendol-Hoppey; Ozge Hacifazlioglu; and Chris Day (Ex-Officio). All of your support and expertise has been very much appreciated. Members of the Executive staying on for another two-year term include Elke Struyf; Martha Prata; Diane Yendol-Hoppey, and Juanjo Mena. *Please note: We will be looking for new members to step up and be nominated for the Executive again in 2021. (Note: Ozge Hacifazlioglu's term as Outreach Coordinator will continue until 2023).

This year we allocated a total of £32000 in Travel Bursaries to support nine (9) ISATT members who applied for a bursary in order to assist them in attending and presenting accepted research papers in Sibiu. Five (5) graduate students and three (3) faculty members and (1) practitioner were eligible to receive funds. One of ISATT's key goals "*... to act as a forum to promote, present, discuss and disseminate research findings which contribute to knowledge and the formation of theory in this field*" as well as encouraging more *practitioners* to become members and attend ISATT events, are directly reflected in the allocation of these funds and thus assisted members who may otherwise be unable to attend the biennial conference.

We have two (2) locations bidding for the 20th Biennial Conference in 2021: 1) Ottawa, Canada; and 2) Bari, Italy. Members are strongly encouraged to review both the presentations on the ISATT website and to cast votes for their preferred location on-line. Voting will be open until the day of the Members' Meeting at the Conference in Sibiu.

I conclude my last report as Secretary with sincere praise, gratitude, and a special mention of our colleague Daniela (Danni) Hotolean's tireless work as our ISATT Administrator. Danni is the 'face' of ISATT for so many of our members (new and long-term) and, frankly, serves as the institutional memory in so many ways. She is someone who expertly manages and deftly coordinates the many aspects of the *business* of this organization, and she never overlooks a timeline or essential detail. Thank you, Danni! Once again, to the Executive, Executive Committee members, participants in ISATT and AERA Conference Sessions, contributors to the Newsletter, and the ISATT Membership at large, I also offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation. While stepping down as Secretary, I plan to remain a very active and engaged member of this wonderful Association, and wish the new Executive Team every success. I look forward to seeing many of you again in either Ottawa or Bari in 2021!

Sincerely,
Susan E. Elliott-Johns, Ph.D.
Secretary