

## Secretary's Report

The 17<sup>th</sup> biennial conference was held at the University of Auckland in New Zealand in July 2015 and, following that very successful conference, we have been working hard to prepare for the 18<sup>th</sup> biennial event scheduled for July 2-7, 2017 in Salamanca, Spain. The response to the Call for Abstracts has been tremendous and we anticipate another outstanding gathering in Salamanca. To date, we are delighted to report there are more than 318 accepted individual papers, 13 workshops, and 15 symposia (comprising of 61 presentations which is fabulous (and, in case you haven't noticed, the Social Programme promises to be outstanding too). The Chair of ISATT 2017, Dr. Juanjo Mena and all the members of his Organization Team, are to be commended on putting together an exceptional conference for us. Thank you!

Since the 17<sup>th</sup> biennial conference in Auckland, we have welcomed many new members to ISATT across 20 different countries. We instituted a new membership framework in Spring 2016, and have had a very positive response to the new membership structure. 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)

A number of other important processes and procedures within the ISATT organization have been revised and updated during the past year (i.e., applications for regional conferences; applications for student and faculty bursaries; applications for collaborative research grants; etc.) We continue to work through the process of achieving Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) status – initiated by the previous Executive. After two attempts (and countless hours in consultations on this matter by our Administrator, Daniela Hotolean), we have not yet succeeded in achieving CIO status. However, we are currently looking into an alternative option and should have some further news about this soon. Finally, we have a renewed emphasis on recruiting graduate students as members of ISATT and encouraging their active participation in the ISATT community (e.g., the liaison committee and the planning of special events for them (and other Newcomers to ISATT) at the 18<sup>th</sup> biennial (e.g. a pre conference geared to graduate students and early career faculty and a 'New to ISATT?' networking forum).

I should like to extend sincere thanks to members of the Executive with whom I work most closely, Maria Flores, Juanjo Mena and our ISATT administrator, Daniela Hotolean, all of whom continue to support and extend the work of the previous Executive as well as the current one. Special thanks are also extended to each and every one of the members of the Executive Committee who consistently make time in their busy schedules to support the 'business' of ISATT: Issa Ying; Wendy Moran; David Goodwin; Elke Struyf; Martha Prata; Diane Yendel-Hoppey; Samuel Oyoo, and Chris Day (Ex-Officio). All of your support and expertise is very much appreciated. This year we just have one outgoing member of the Executive Committee, Samuel Oyoo, who has completed three terms as the ISATT Outreach Coordinator. On behalf of ISATT, please accept our sincere thanks for your work in this position over the past six years (2011-2017), Samuel. I am pleased to report we have received three (3) nominations for the position of Outreach Coordinator and therefore will be holding an election soon.

This year we allocated a total of £3950 in Travel Bursaries to support eleven (11) ISATT members who applied for a bursary in order to assist them in attending and presenting accepted research papers in Salamanca. Five (5) graduate students and six (6) faculty members 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*" is directly reflected in the allocation of these funds, thus assisting members who may otherwise be unable to attend the biennial conference.

Our current ISATT Chair, Maria Flores, will be continuing for another term as Chair, I will continue as Secretary, and Juanjo Mena has also agreed to stay on as Treasurer. This is terrific news for ISATT and I look forward to continuing to work with both of you for another term, through to 2019. We have two locations bidding for the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in 2019: 1) Kazan, Russia; and 2) Sibiu, Romania. Members can review the presentations on the ISATT website and cast their votes for their preferred location on line until the Members' Meeting at the Conference in Salamanca.

A couple of other important Updates for the membership include the following items: ISATT's most recent regional conference took place December 4-5, 2016 at the University of Haifa, Israel. The theme was *Promising Pedagogies - International Teacher Education*. This event was led by Dr. Cheryl Craig and Dr. Lily Barak and co-sponsored by ISATT and Texas A&M University. ISATT also field-tested a new initiative at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Washington, D.C. in 2016 at the Invisible College Meeting, two days before the AERA Meeting officially began. Eight doctoral students who are members of ISATT attended the

session led by Dr. Maria Flores (University of Minho, Portugal), ISATT Chair and Dr. Cheryl Craig (University of Houston, U.S.A.), Past ISATT Secretary. Each student presented his/her doctoral research study and received feedback from peers and the session organizers. Deep discussions of practical, professional and personal value ensued. Present ISATT Secretary, Dr. Susan Elliott-Johns assisted with organizing the initiative but was unable to attend prior to the official opening of the AERA meeting. A tapas dinner was also organized for the group in Washington and the doctoral seminar group also enjoyed lunch at a dim sum restaurant close to the conference location in downtown Washington DC. It is our intention to continue with this initiative and, at this time, we will promote and support graduate student participation at the Invisible College meeting bi-annually.

I conclude my report 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). She is also someone who manages and deftly coordinates the many aspects of the business of this organization and never overlooks a timeline or essential detail. Thank you, Danni! 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. The privilege of knowing and working with you all is mine.

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