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AIS President's Report: 2000-2001

Michael Vitale

University of New South Wales, michaelv@agsm.edu.au

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Communications of the
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AIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000-2001

Michael Vitale
President, AIS 2000-2001
Australian Graduate School of Management
michaelv@agsm.edu.au

AIS

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the work of AIS from January 1, 2000 to April 30, 2001. It summarizes the highlights during the author's term as president.

THE MERGER OF AIS AND ICIS

Much of the focus of the officers of the AIS in the first half of 2000 was on the amalgamation of AIS and the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS). ICIS is the premiere research conference in information systems, so the amalgamation made sense in terms of shared philosophy and goals as well as in terms of shared operations. AIS and ICIS already shared an office and staff in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and share a Treasurer (Dick Elnicki) and a Secretary (Iris Vessey) as well. Meeting in New Orleans in early June, the Council of AIS and the Executive Committee of ICIS each voted unanimously to accept new by-laws for the merged organisation, and to instruct our attorneys to draw up the paperwork to finalise the merger. Many members of both organisations contributed to bringing about this excellent result, but thanks are due in particular to ICIS Executive Committee Chair Carol Saunders, AIS Executive Director Eph McLean, and AIS/ICIS Treasurer Dick Elnicki. The unenviable task of bringing together many comments on the by-laws fell to President-Elect Blake Ives and Americas Council representative Michael Ginzberg.

ICIS 2000 IN BRISBANE

ICIS 2000 in Brisbane, Australia, was a professional and financial success, with more than 750 participants enjoying the formal program, the informal networking, and the constant sunshine. Congratulations to Co-chairs Bernie Glasson and Ron Weber, to the Program Committee, and particularly to the Treasurer, Jon Heales, the Local Arrangements Chair, Peter Green, and the many volunteers who kept the conference moving so smoothly. The delegation from ICIS 2001 in New Orleans put on an impressive presentation, complete with a jazz band, Mardi Gras beads, and the decision to continue the "no suits" policy pioneered in Brisbane. I'm looking forward to ICIS 2001!
(<http://isds.bus.lsu.edu/icis2001/>)

2000 MEMBERS IN 2000

I'm delighted to report that AIS has achieved the ambitious "2000 members in 2000" goal proposed by VP Communications Rick Watson. The growth of the AIS means additional resources to pursue the Association's mission of advancing knowledge of how information systems can improve social well-being, organizational performance, and individual quality of work life. It indicates that the AIS is meeting the needs of more and more IS professionals.

INITIATIVES

Given the additional resources available, the AIS Council agreed to undertake the following initiatives:

1. Offering membership to individuals and institutions in many countries at greatly reduced rates. The countries involved are all those NOT on the "rich list" of the World Bank

(www.worldbank.org/data/databytopic/class.htm#High_income).

Memberships for individuals and institutions in those "not rich" countries will be available at just 10% of standard rates. The goal is to increase our services and influence into countries whose economies can make membership difficult.

2. Libraries in these same countries will be offered free subscriptions to CAIS and JAIS. This offer has been very enthusiastically taken up, and both Rick and I have received messages from colleagues around the world whose are happy to have these journals available to their libraries.
3. Each of the three world regions was offered an "initiative fund" of up to US\$25,000 to be used for activities that will encourage participation by other countries in that region.
4. US\$5,000 allocated to update the ISWorld Directory of IS academics at <http://webfoot.csom.umn.edu/isworld/facdir/body3.asp>.
5. Up to US\$30,000 will be allocated to support additional technology initiatives.

JOURNALS

You've probably been as impressed as I have been with the quality of our two official journals, JAIS and CAIS. Phillip Ein-Dor and Paul Gray are doing excellent jobs as editors of these on-line journals, provided free to all members as a service of the AIS.

FINANCES

Treasurer Dick Elnicki has posted the audited 1999 financial reports of the AIS on the Internet. You are welcome to view them at:

<http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~icis/aisfs99.htm>.

Please direct any questions to Dick: dicke@ufl.edu

ELECTIONS

I know I speak for all members in saying thanks to all the candidates who stood for election in late 2000 and the once more in early 2001, when the "annual" election had to be held again due to a technicality in the merger arrangements. The new officers for 2001-2002 are:

President-Elect (Europe, Middle East, Africa)	Philip Ein-Dor
VP Chapter and Affiliated Organizations	Jane Fedorowicz
VP Communications	Rick Watson
VP Development	Reagan Ramsower
Council Region 1 Americas	Cynthia Beath
Council Region 2 (Europe, Middle East, Africa)	Claudia Loebbecke
Council Region 3 Asia/Pacific	Kwok-Kei Wei

The newly elected officers will work with incoming President Blake Ives and the continuing members of Council.

AIS OFFICE

If you haven't seen the [AIS home page](#) lately, it's worth a visit to see the changes initiated by Blake Ives. The page has a new look and new links, and is a great base for further development of AIS services to members. The AIS Atlanta office has a new leader, Samantha Spears, who has taken on the role of office manager. The Atlanta office is the focal point of much AIS activity, and it is great to have Sam's organisational and technical skills as part of the office team.

CONCLUSION

Due to the change in AIS's fiscal year, I've had the privilege of serving as AIS President for longer than usual. I appreciate the feedback and comments from members throughout this period. I look forward to my term as Past President, and to continued involvement with the AIS.

Editor's Note: This article was received on October 10, 2001 and was published on October 15, 2001

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Michael Vitale, President of AIS from 1 January 2000 to April 30, 2000 and Past President 2001-2002, is the Dean and Director of the Australian Graduate School of Management in Sydney. He was formerly a Professor in the Centre for Management of IT at the Melbourne Business School, and the Foundation Professor of Information Systems and Head of the Information Systems Department at the University of Melbourne. Prior to coming to Australia, he was a Fellow at the Ernst & Young Center for Business Innovation in Boston, USA. Dr Vitale was also an Associate Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, where he wrote more than 50 case studies on the use of information technology in organisations. His industry experience includes four years as Vice President of Technology and Corporate Services at the Prudential Insurance Company of America.

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