



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY IT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY IT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JUNE, 2010

OBJECTIVES OF USITAA

The objectives of the University of Sydney IT Alumni Association are:

- to encourage Alumni to maintain contact with the University, the School of Information Technologies and with each other;
- to develop programs and activities to engage alumni in the life of the University and the School of Information Technologies;
- to support and promote the interests of the University, the School of Information Technologies and its Alumni
- to collaborate where appropriate and possible with the Foundation for Information Technology of the University of Sydney;
- other activities as may be incidental or auxillary to the attainment of those objectives.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICE BEARERS

President

Mark Webb, MBA Latrobe, BSc (94), BEng (96)
Director, Public Sector Workforce Office, e-Recruitment
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

Vice-President

Franc Carter, BSc Hons (95)
Systems Architect, SIRCA Ltd

Secretary & Treasurer

Josephine Spongberg
Administrative Officer, School of IT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Kay, BSc Hons (74), MSc (78), PhD (99)
Associate Professor, School of IT

Phillip Wu, BSc (79)
NSW Department of Lands

ACTIVITIES

Discussion Forum

In the first half of 2010 USITAA held two very successful discussion forums, on start-up companies and the Australian internet content filtering scheme. Both events were very well attended, and the depth and quality of discussion was impressive.

The first forum on start-up companies had a very strong alumni focus as the panel of experts were all IT alumni of the University of Sydney. Matt Barrie, (CEO of Freelancer.com), Jan Bartel and Greg Wilkins (co-founders of Mort Bay Consulting and Webtide) and Benjamin Ranck (CEO and founder of All Over Geo) shared their vast entrepreneurial experience with the audience, covering a variety of topics. Discussing everything from venture capital, legal issues, culture shock when working internationally, their career highlights and most important lessons learned, the evening was enlightening for anyone interested in starting or investing in an IT business.

In May, the controversial internet content filtering scheme proposed by the federal government came under the spotlight. Associate Professor Bjorn Landfeldt headed the panel of experts which included Iarla Flynn (Head of Policy, Google Australia), Louise Collins (Project Manager and main author of the report to government on the Feasibility of ISP Level Content Filtering), Jonathan Nicholas (Acting CEO, Inspire Foundation) and David Vaile (Executive Director of the Cyberspace Law and Policy Centre, UNSW). The event attracted quite a lot of media attention, and reinforced the importance of this issue to Australia.

End Of year Function

The School of IT / USITAA / SUITS End of Year Function (EOyF) was held on Tuesday 3 November 2009. The event was very successful with approximately 90 staff, students and alumni in attendance.

Graduation Dinner

Philip Wu represented USITAA at the annual graduation dinner in May, welcoming the newest members of alumni to the association.

OTHER INITIATIVES

- Facebook – the USITAA Facebook group now has over 160 members
- LinkedIn – the USITAA LinkedIn group now has over 350 members
- SoIT's News – there have been some changes to SoIT's News. As the Sydney Alumni Magazine (SAM) is now being distributed three times a year SoIT's News will also be distributed three times a year, however, the newsletter has been expanded to a six page format.
- Videos – there is now a videos page on the USITAA website with links to seminars and the discussion forums.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

USITAA was represented at the following School/Faculty events, assisting and supporting the school for their major events and initiatives.

- High School Career Counsellors and Principals' Breakfast
- Sydney Uni Live
- ACS Accreditation
- National Computer Science School

ALUMNI COUNCIL

The President of USITAA, Mark Webb was elected to the University's Alumni Council, representing the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next annual general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14 July, 2010.