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## ISLS Newsletter - Spring 2017

by International Society of the Learning Sciences

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### Message from the President

*Contributed by Nikol Rummel, ISLS President 2016-2017*



In my inaugural address as ISLS President for 2016 – 2017, I adapted the title of a recent paper of mine *Growing the learning sciences: Brand or big tent?* (Nathan, Rummel, & Hay, 2016) and took on the goal of working towards ISLS as a brand ON a big tent. In doing so I wanted to emphasize the core values of the Society as an organization dedicated to building and maintaining a welcoming and supportive context for our international membership, committed to scientific endeavor and scholarly exchange conducted with openness and tolerance, and to using our research to promote diverse, just, and equitable learning opportunities throughout the world. Having these ideas stand as brand on the “tent” that we as members of the ISLS form, seems very valuable especially in the face of worldwide events that threaten to erode such values. And we celebrate these values in the CSCL 2017 conference theme “Making a Difference—Prioritizing Equity and Access in CSCL.” This theme truly reflects our brand. I invite and encourage all of you to join us as we “pitch our tent” in Philadelphia for this conference (<https://cscl17.wordpress.com/>)!

ISLS is an organization that depends on close collaboration and mutual support among the people that voluntarily serve the Society. At the closing of the CSCL 2017 meeting, I will step into the role of Past-President as Bill Sandoval assumes the Presidency and Joe Polman moves into the role of President-Elect. Transitioning off as Past-president is Carolyn Rose, our 2015 – 2016 President. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and deep appreciation for her tremendous support of my efforts this year as well as for her decade plus of service for ISLS. Furthermore, I would like to thank both the Secretary/Treasurer Joe Polman, and Executive Officer Susan Goldman for their tireless efforts in the well-functioning of ISLS.

Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge that much of the work of the Society is done by eight standing committees, each of which is typically chaired by a member of the ISLS

#### Board of Directors.

- The Conference committee, chaired by Oskar Lindwall and Bill Sandoval, is responsible for overseeing our yearly conference, beginning with the search for bids, including all aspects of conference organization and wrap-up.
- The Education committee, chaired by Kristine Lund, Marcia Linn, and Frank Fischer, is responsible for the community's educational vision, including three mentoring workshops (the Doctoral Consortium, the Early Career Workshop, and the Mid-Career Workshop) and the NAPLeS network of Learning Sciences programs.
- The Membership committee, chaired by Jan van Aalst, Susan Yoon and Jun Oshima, is responsible for building the diversity of our membership and reaching out to new members to help them get settled in our community.
- The Publications committee, chaired by Kim Gomez, is responsible for publishing and archiving proceedings from the conferences and other society publications, including our journals.
- The Communications committee, chaired by Heisawn Jeong and Victor Lee, produces the society's newsletter and is responsible for other forms of communication with the society at large.
- The Technology committee, chaired by Jim Slotta, is responsible for the society's website and databases.
- The Awards committee, chaired by Marcia Linn, is responsible for administering some new awards, including an Early Career award and a Fellows program.
- The CSCL community committee, co-chaired by Carolyn Rosé and Sadhana Puntambekar, is responsible for maintaining communication and collaboration between the CSCL community and the ISLS.

Our committees are a great way for the membership to get involved in the work of the community. We invite you to consider serving, and to approach the leadership of the committees if you are interested in getting involved. Representatives of all committees will be at CSCL. Check them out.

Come and participate in ISLS by attending this year's conference, CSCL 2017 in Philadelphia, June 18th through 22th, 2017 (<https://cscl17.wordpress.com/>)!

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## Society Governance Updates

### Presidential Election Result



Joseph Polman (University of Colorado Boulder), who has been serving both as a board member and as a Treasurer/Secretary for the society, has been elected by the ISLS Board of directors as the next President-Elect of ISLS. He will serve as President-elect starting in June 2017 following CSCL.

### Remember to Vote for New ISLS Board Members

The ISLS Board of Directors election is in progress. Society members who have paid dues for 2017 can cast votes for up to four candidates. Check your email for a ballot from the Executive Officer, Susan Goldman. Ballots must be cast by April 27. Board members serve 6 year terms. Thanks to all who submitted nominations and those who agreed to run this year.

### ISLS Treasurer/Secretary Position Open

The Board is seeking an individual to take the position of Treasurer/Secretary for the society, effective June 2017. Major roles for this position are to maintain the financial accounts of the society and keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board. Due to location of bank accounts and tax issues, we need to restrict this position to a U.S. resident. If you are interested, or know of someone who is interested, please send an email to [susan.goldman@gmail.com](mailto:susan.goldman@gmail.com) for further information.

### Reminder to Renew Memberships for 2017

It is now time to renew your membership for 2017 if you have not done so already. Log into the ISLS website ([www.isls.org](http://www.isls.org)) for renewal.

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## Conference Updates

### CSCL 2017

*Contributed by Brian Smith*



1. The CSCL 2017 web site (<http://isls.org/cscl/2017>) is now being updated regularly with information about the conference program. People should check in there and watch for announcements on social media and through ISLS for updates.
2. Pre-conference workshops are posted on the web site (<http://wp.me/P7mLxM-6p>) and accepting applications for participation. Contact the workshop organizers for more additional information and to apply.
3. The preliminary program for full papers, short papers, and posters are also posted on the site.
4. Early registration will open by April 10, if not sooner. Announcements will be sent via email and social media when the registration site goes live. That will also include a link to the conference hotel so that accommodations can be booked at the same time.

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## Journal Updates

### Journal of the Learning Sciences

*Contributed by Susan Yoon and Jan van Aalst*

We are happy to have started our term as Co-editors in Chief in January, 2017. We have made some important updates regarding length of manuscripts and manuscript preparation. Please check the journal website (<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/hlns20>). We will hold a series of events on topics related to the mission of JLS. The first one, in conjunction with ijCSCL will be a preconference workshop at CSCL 2017 for authors who are interested in publishing in JLS and ijCSCL. We are particularly interested in working with learning sciences scholars who come from regions in the world that are underrepresented in our journals. The workshop will be held on June 19, 2017. You can find more information and how to apply at <https://cscl17.wordpress.com/publishing-in-the-learning-sciences-a-journal-writers-workshop/>. Several "meet the editors" sessions have been scheduled as well. One will be held at NARST on April 22 from 2:40 pm to 4:10 pm. A second will be held at AERA on April 28 from 10:35 am to 12:05 pm. And a third will be held at CSCL on June 19 during the New Members Session beginning at 1:30 pm. We hope to see many of you in the coming months.

### International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning

*Contributed by Sten Ludvigsen*

In the next issue of IJCSCL, we publish the first in what we hope will be a steady stream of squibs in the journal, which is intended to stimulate discussion and controversy that may advance scientific interdisciplinary work in CSCL. The squib and the four full articles in the issue provide a rich tapestry for us to examine this methodological and epistemic diversity in the CSCL research community and how these may contribute to productive debates and discussions to advance the field.

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## NAPLeS Updates

1. Diana Ouellette, a doctoral candidate in the doctoral school REASON at the University of Munich (LMU), will be joining the NAPLeS coordination team. Diana will

focus on the coordination of webinars as well as on the development and maintenance of the NAPLeS member community.

2. **New expert videos** as well as the recent **webinar with Sheryl Burgstahler** have been added to the NAPLeS website repertoire. You can find these as well as other webinars, video resources, and Learning Sciences syllabi at the NAPLeS website: <http://naples.isls.org>
3. NAPLeS will be holding a meeting at the upcoming **CSCL Conference** in Philadelphia. Further details on the topic and date/time will be later announced.
4. In addition, NAPLeS will be conducting a **pre-conference workshop** on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at the CSCL Conference. The workshop is entitled, "Creating Cutting Edge CSCL Experiences for the Learning Sciences: Reflections and Developments on the NAPLeS Resources". See here for more details: CSCL workshop description, <http://bit.ly/2naxZa9>.
5. The NAPLeS initiative and latest research results about teaching the Learning Sciences will be presented in an invited **ISLS symposium** at the upcoming conference of EARLI in Tampere, Finland. The title of the symposium is "The Learning Sciences: Topics and Trends in Theory, Research and Methods". Presenters will be Susan R. Goldman, Frank Fischer, Peter Reimann, Freydis Vogel, and Daniel Sommerhoff. Kim Gomez will be the discussant. Further details on the topic and date/time will be later announced.

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## Acknowledgments

*The ISLS newsletter is prepared by the Communications Committee. Current members include Victor Lee and Heisawn Jeong (Co-Chairs), Christa Asterhan, Flavio Azevedo, Eleni Kyza, Mariana Levin, Martina Rau, Kshitij Sharma, Janet Walkoe, Christopher Williams, and Jason Yip. To join the committee, contact one of the co-chairs.*