

## Welcome to the ISLS Newsletter!

### Special Interest Articles:

- Pablo Reyes wins ISLS award for best student paper at CSCL2003
- ISLS to participate in NASA's Virtual Design Center

# ISLS

The International Society of the Learning Sciences is a professional society founded to help unite and support scientific and educational work in the study of learning and education. ISLS builds on the traditions developed and solidified by the International Conferences for the Learning Sciences (ICLS), the Computer Support for Collaborative Learning (CSCL) conferences and the Journal of the Learning Sciences (JLS). ISLS was founded in September 2002 at the ICLS conference in Seattle. It is incorporated as a nonprofit organization in the United States and has an elected Board of Directors.

ISLS is an **international society** – we want to engage learning science researchers across all nations and cultures. ISLS is concerned with **learning research**, whether formal or informal, individual or collaborative,

across the life span. ISLS is concerned with **scientific advances** in understanding human learning, from basic research to applications and practice, across all disciplines and methodologies (e.g., psychology, education, sociology, anthropology, computer science)

The aim of this newsletter is to inform members and potential members about upcoming events (e.g., conferences), activities and opportunities (e.g., journals organizations, jobs, graduate programs) relevant to the learning sciences. The newsletter will be mailed out quarterly. Please send items for inclusion to the editor as detailed on the back page – also any suggestions for format, future content, etc. Don't forget to check out our website for updates! And don't forget to renew your membership!

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## Journals for ISLS Members

Good news for ISLS members – from 2005 your membership subscription will include the Journal of the Learning Sciences for free! In the meantime, from 2004, ISLS members can receive JLS for a reduced subscription of only \$44 – another great incentive to renew your membership now!

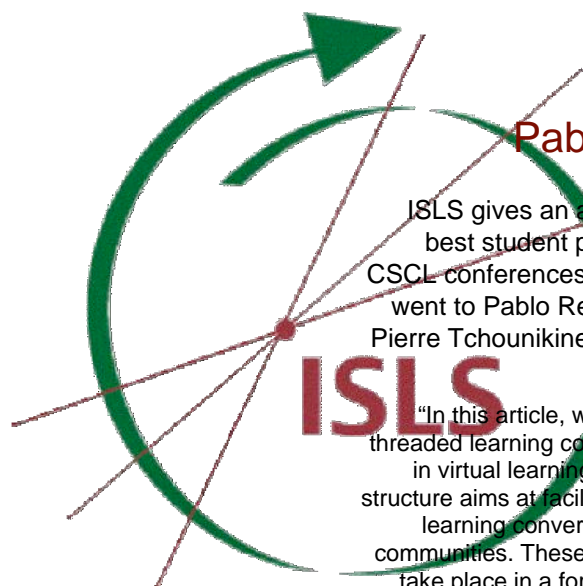
Additional benefits of joining ISLS include discounts on the International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS) and discounts on the Kluwer book series Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL).

Plans are also being made for a new CSCL journal, also to be published by Kluwer, probably to start in 2006.

Visit the following websites for information about JLS subscriptions and the CSCL books:

[www.erlbaum.com](http://www.erlbaum.com)

[www.wkap.nl/prod/s/CULS](http://www.wkap.nl/prod/s/CULS)



## Pablo Reyes wins ISLS award at CSCL 2003!

ISLS gives an award of \$1000 for the best student paper presented at the CSCL conferences. This year the award went to Pablo Reyes for his paper with Pierre Tchounikine. Here is the abstract of that paper:

"In this article, we propose a structure of threaded learning conversations taking place in virtual learning communities. This new structure aims at facilitating the emergence of learning conversations in these learning communities. These threaded conversations take place in a forum-type tool that uses a tree data structure composed of threads to organize group communication. We identify

two situations which discourage the emergence of the learning conversations taking place in threaded based tools. We are interested in, namely 'interactional incoherence' and 'sequential incoherence'. For each of these identified drawbacks, we conceive mechanisms which intend to surmount these incoherencies: first, the localization of topics in a message, based on the 'what you answer is what you link' criteria; and second, a visualization that allows merging in a single view the time order and the thread order of the messages. Finally, we present a tool based on these mechanisms and describe some preliminary results of its use." (For the full paper see [www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-1383-3](http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-1383-3))



Pierre Dillenbourg

*Pierre Dillenbourg is the first elected president of the International Society of the Learning Sciences.*

## ISLS Board and Committees

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## Job Announcements

Indiana University Bloomington, School of Education is seeking a senior professor to join the new Learning Sciences program in August 2004. Area of research is open. Some linkage to math and science education and to the use of technology is desirable. For more information contact the Chair of the Search Committee: Thomas Duffy, [duffy@indiana.edu](mailto:duffy@indiana.edu); 812-856-8459

The San Francisco Exploratorium is seeking a senior researcher in the Center for Learning and Teaching / Center for Informal Learning and Schools. Applicants should have a PhD in science, education, psychology or related field and 7 years experience in evaluation and research, preferably in museum or educational environments.

Further details are available at [www.exploratorium.edu/jobs/SeniorResearcher-CLT-CILS-October2003.htm](http://www.exploratorium.edu/jobs/SeniorResearcher-CLT-CILS-October2003.htm)

The University of Nottingham is seeking to appoint a research chair in Learning Sciences. The post is a key strategic appointment to provide leadership for the Learning Sciences Research Institute, a new interdisciplinary collaboration between the Schools of Psychology, Education and Computer Science. For further details contact the Director of LSRI, David Wood, [djw@psychology.nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:djw@psychology.nottingham.ac.uk), [www.nottingham.ac.uk/lrsi](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/lrsi)

The Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie-Mellon University expects to have two new tenure-track faculty positions, starting in September 2004. Outstanding candidates will be considered in any area of HCI but candidates are sought who have an interest in collaborative environments, social computing or learning technologies. [www.hcii.cmu.edu](http://www.hcii.cmu.edu)



Roy Pea

## Conference Announcements

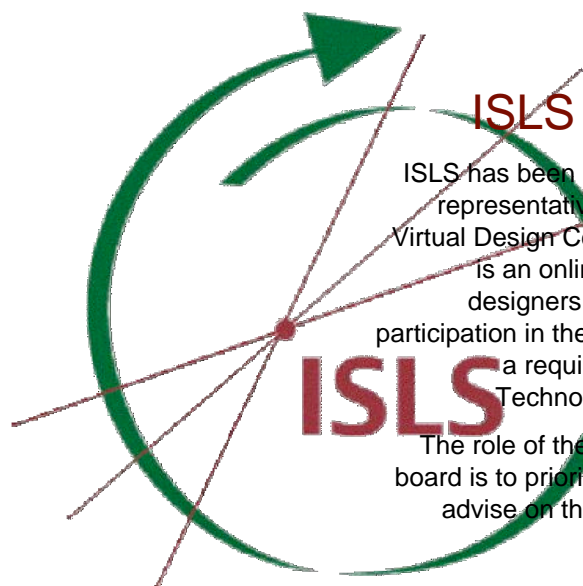
The 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS 2004) will be held June 23-27, 2004. The conference is on the Pacific Ocean Beach outside of Los Angeles and is hosted by UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Science. The deadline for workshop proposals and the doctoral consortium is January 15, 2004. For details of the conference visit [www.isls.org/icls](http://www.isls.org/icls)

The next international conference on Computer Support for Collaborative Learning (CSCCL 2005) will be held June 1-4, 2005, with the theme: *The Next 10 Years!* The conference is in Taiwan and is hosted by the National Central University of Taiwan. The Conference Chair is Tak-Wai Chan. Program co-

Chairs are Tim Koschmann and Dan Suthers. Bookmark and check for more details at: [www.csccl2005.org](http://www.csccl2005.org)

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Literacy and Education Research Network Conference on Learning will be held June 27-30 2004, in Havana, Cuba. The conference is being hosted by the Institute for Pedagogical Sciences, Cuba and the conference venue is a beachside location in Havana City, near Ernest Hemingway's former house. The overall theme of the Learning Conference 2004 will be Learning Today: Communication, Technology, Environment, Society. Visit the following website for details: [www.LearningConference.com](http://www.LearningConference.com)

*Roy Pea has recently been elected as the next President of ISLS. He will take over from Pierre in July 2004.*



## ISLS Participates in Virtual Design Center

ISLS has been asked to nominate two representatives for the board of the Virtual Design Center in the USA. This is an online workshop for NASA designers. NASA has also made participation in the Virtual Design Center a requirement for all Learning Technologies funded projects.

The role of the Virtual Design Center board is to prioritize topics of research, advise on the selection process for

research fellowships and approve new entries into the Virtual Design Center. ISLS is being asked to run a fellowship competition, worth \$25k, for a targeted research project on one of the topics selected by the board.

Details of the Virtual Design Center can be found at

[www.cotf.edu/vdc](http://www.cotf.edu/vdc)

## Special Posting Pages on ISLS Website

In response to a number of requests for postings, Gerry Stahl has set up special posting pages on the [isls.org](http://isls.org) website for the following types of announcements relevant to the Learning Sciences:

- Job openings
- Programs of study
- Research centers
  - Publications
- Web resources

We also want to announce these in future editions of the newsletter so please send us details of your organization, any job openings, programs of study, graduate opportunities etc.

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter to the editor:

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