

International Society of the Learning Sciences



Newsletter #4 June 2006

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A message from the ISLS president, Claire O' Malley

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Upcoming conferences:

- ICLS 2006, June 27-July 1, Indiana, Bloomington.
- CSCL 2007, Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Welcome to the new look of the ISLS newsletter! I would like to thank the new editor, Elena Kyza, for agreeing to take on this role and for doing such a great job with both the style and the content of this issue.

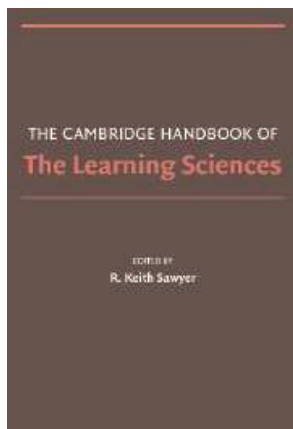
This has been a significant year for the Society. Our membership has continued to expand internationally - this year numbers have increased dramatically, to nearly 500 worldwide. The international dimension was reflected in the highly successful CSCL conference in Taiwan. The theme of that

conference also reflected the growth of the Learning Sciences intellectually, with keynote papers addressing substantial theoretical and methodological challenges for the field over the next ten years. The impact of Learning Sciences research has also been demonstrated this year in the publication of the Cambridge Handbook of the Learning Sciences, the new International Journal of CSCL and the significant achievement of a top ranking journal for the Journal of the Learning Sciences. It has

also been a significant year, sadly, with the passing of Giyoo Hatano and Jim Kaput - two leading figures in our field. However, they leave us with great legacies in the work they began and which others are carrying forward in each of their fields.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming ICLS conference in Indiana and to welcoming Yasmin Kafai as the new ISLS President.

The Cambridge Handbook of the Learning Sciences



The Cambridge Handbook of the Learning Sciences is now available.

The Cambridge Handbook of the Learning Sciences has been officially launched, as of April 2006. Edited by Prof. Keith Sawyer, it includes 34 chapters from leading Learning Science researchers. The Handbook's advisory board is Allan Collins, Jere Confrey, Janet Kolodner, and Marlene Scardamalia.

The following is the text from the Handbook's back cover: "Learning sciences is an interdisciplinary field that studies

teaching and learning. The sciences of learning include cognitive science, educational psychology, computer science, anthropology, sociology, neuroscience, and other fields. The Cambridge Handbook of the Learning Sciences shows how educators can use the learning sciences to design more effective learning environments - including school classrooms and also informal settings such as science centers or after-school clubs, on-line

distance learning, and computer-based tutoring software. The chapters in this handbook each describe exciting new classroom environments, based on the latest science about how children learn. CHLS is a true handbook in that readers can use it to design the schools of the future - schools that will prepare graduates to participate in a global society that is increasingly based on knowledge and innovation."



Giyoo Hatano (1934-2006)

Giyoo Hatano – By Naomi Miyake.

Giyoo Hatano, a professor of psychology and Learning Sciences at the University of the Air, died on January 13th, 2006, at age 70. His research area was unusually wide, covering topics on conceptual development in biology, expertise, literacy and numeracy acquisition, intrinsic and social motivation, and the mechanisms of collaborative learning. He was proud of his most recent book, "Young children's naive thinking about the biological world" (Inagaki & Hatano, 2002), in which he successfully showed how children's inter-mental and intra-mental processes interact to help develop

their senses of understanding on their own and other lives, and on how things grow. Giyoo Hatano was unique in his ability to bridge different perspectives and cultures. He could balance socio-historical perspectives and cognitive information processing approaches, and was adept at moving between tightly designed laboratory experiments and grand theory building. He was an editorial board member of more than ten journals and was elected as a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Education.

At CSCL2005, Giyoo gave his last invited talk, without knowing it would be his last. In this

talk, he urged us to take a new look at Vygotskian theory, asking us to analyze both "inter-mental" and "intra-mental" processes and to view collaborative learning both as a socio-cultural event and as motivated cognitive action of individuals. I wish we could have many more chances to discuss these views with him. We cannot do that any more, but I know he would like us to move on further beyond this proposal. Losing Giyoo slows us down, but his heritage, I hope, will live on in the research of others and will help make learning better for us all.

Many of us will miss him very much.

In Memoriam

In the last year, the ISLS community lost two of its most dear friends and colleagues: Jim Kaput and Giyoo Hatano. Naomi Miyake and Jeremy Roschelle provided us with a few words in memoriam of their passing.

James J. Kaput – By Jeremy Roschelle.

Jim Kaput lived life more fully than most of us. He took more in, he worked harder, and he gave more to others. "Democratizing access to the mathematics of change" was the mission I shared with him for twelve years. Jim's personal mission was to bring much more powerful and meaningful mathematics to many more people. It's the flag that those who loved him will carry onwards. In his view, access to concepts was a function of representation and pedagogy. By transforming the way concepts were represented and methods of instruction, many more people would be able to gain access to difficult but important ideas. He believed it was the

responsibility of an advanced civilization to make powerful mathematics learnable, meaningful, and useful. When Jim was with students, he would coax thinking out of them. He celebrated each little step a student made as a major advance. "Ordinary kids can do extraordinary things," was one of his core beliefs.

One pervasive character of Jim's work was a drive to scale. Once he accomplished something, he always raised the stakes. He wanted to take it to the next level on the path to massive impact. And so SimCalc went from studying a few students, to studying a few teachers, to studying teachers in a few regions of the country,

to state-wide studies scale up among many teachers in Texas.

Jim was committed to his family. He would always get home from his busy travel schedule by Friday night or early Saturday morning, to spend the weekend with his family and to read aloud to his disabled son.

Jim was an engaged visionary, a compassionate intellect, an inspirational poet of mathematics education reform. Although he will be missed by many, I believe his dreams will some day be realized: new curriculum coupled with new technology will someday enable many more ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things through mathematics.



James Kaput (1942-2005)

A report from “CSCL 2005: The Next Ten Years”

By Tak-Wai Chan, Ben Chang, Tim Koschmann, and Dan Suthers.

The 10th anniversary of the Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL) Conference was successfully organized for the first time in Asia, in Taipei, Taiwan, from May 30-June 4, 2005. The conference theme was focused on future research directions and practical implications of a growing international community of CSCL researchers, while at the same time celebrating CSCL's 10th anniversary.

The conference was one of the most geographically diverse CSCL meetings, with over 260 delegates participating from Asia, Australia, North and South America, Europe, and Africa. Participants reported that they enjoyed Taipei as the venue site and had fun participating in social events.

The Conference was chaired by Tak-Wai Chan, while the Program was co-chaired by Dan Suthers and Timothy Koschmann. Ben Chang chaired the local organizing committee. The program chairs strove for and achieved international balance in the program committee and the assignment of reviewers to papers, resulting in as many as 4-5 reviewers per paper! Ben Chang and his team implemented a series of features to support the review process: for instance, reviewers were able to see each other's reviews, could contact each other, and modify their reviews. Collaborative reviewing was intended to help build an international community and de-

velop shared standards, and was especially encouraged when reviewers differed in their ratings of a paper. The program chairs provided meta-reviews, which summarized important points from the reviews and indicated how the reviews were weighted.

The conference included a diverse range of events, both traditional and non-traditional ones. Three keynotes were given by the late Giyoo Hatano, Hiroshi Ishii, and Graham Button, reflecting psychological, technical and social traditions in CSCL. The conference organizers introduced several innovative features, including:

- The submission system, now being used regularly by the International Conference on Computers in Education series.
- The “Ask the Author” system, which was intended for both session participants and authors as a way to extend beyond the traditional space and time confines of academic presentations. For instance, when the final versions of the papers were made available online, prospective participants were able to ask questions of the authors as early as a week before the conference. There were also support for wireless and mobile communication during the Conference, as well as post-conference web-based discussion, which can be found at <http://CSS.cscsl2005.org/>.
- The interactive paper sessions, in which authors gave a five-

minute overview of their paper, and then interacted with participants at stations where they could give a more detailed presentation supported by posters and demonstrations, or simply converse with delegates. In a related innovation, the presentation format was separated from the publication format: some long papers were presented interactively, and some short papers were presented in lecture format, as best fit the content.

Other highlights from the conference:

- Delegates were provided with Tablet PCs to use at the venue.
- The possibility for posing questions to presenters during plenary sessions, using a computerized system, specially implemented for CSCL2005.
- A highly-interactive visit to a local school, sponsored by the Taipei City Government. The visitors had the opportunity to attend a demonstration of students using several one-to-one learning devices.
- The new ijCSCL journal (<http://ijcscsl.org/>) was launched at the meeting and its first issue contains several articles from the CSCL 2005 conference.

The proceedings and CD-ROM are sold through Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

The CSCL 2007 conference will be hosted by Rutgers University, in New Jersey, and will be co-chaired by Cindy Hmelo-Silver and Angela O'Donnell. See you there!



The CSCL 2005 attendants had the opportunity to visit one of the local schools to watch a highly interactive lesson with students using one-to-one learning systems. Photos of this tour can be found at

<http://css.cscsl2005.org/album/default.aspx?d=20050531>

The CSCL 2005 photo album is available at <http://cscsl2005.org/pics.htm>



ijCSCL: New ISLS journal –By Gerry Stahl.



The international journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (ijCSCL) is now available at <http://www.springer.com/journal/11412>

The new International Journal of CSCL (ijCSCL) is now online and in print. The first issue premiered at the AERA conference in San Francisco in early April. Issue 2 is due out around the time of ICLS 2006. This is a high-quality, peer-reviewed, global journal of research on CSCL. Founded in response to the needs of the CSCL community, sponsored by ISLS and published by Springer, ijCSCL has already attracted a large number of papers of innovative research from around the world. ijCSCL is now available at <http://www.springer.com/journal/11412>. For Volume 1, Issue 1, Springer is providing free access to the complete is-

sue. Thousands of universities worldwide already have access to ijCSCL through Springer's educational journals packages – make sure that your university subscribes. For additional information about ijCSCL, please visit ijcscl.org. It has detailed information about submitting papers, lists forthcoming articles and special issue topics. ISLS members can subscribe for free to ijCSCL. The membership fee includes subscription to either ijCSCL or JLS for free. The cost of ISLS membership is deducted from the registration fees of ISLS and CSCL international conferences – so if you plan to attend these, ISLS membership and ijCSCL subscription are essen-

tially free. Members of ISLS who subscribe to ijCSCL will have full electronic access to ijCSCL via SpringerLink, as well as receiving printed issues in the mail. The new CSCL journal will make a major contribution to the growth of the CSCL field, along with the Springer CSCL book series. Please subscribe and encourage others to subscribe. If you would like to be a reviewer for ijCSCL, go to <http://www.editorialmanager.com/ijcscl> and click on the REGISTER link.

Executive Editors: Friedrich Hesse & Gerry Stahl. Associate Editors: Tak-Wai Chan, Naomi Miyake, Claire O'Malley, Dan Suthers, Barbara Wasson.

News from the Journal of the Learning Sciences –By Janet Kolodner.



The Journal of the Learning Sciences now accepts manuscripts on line at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jls/>

A big hooray: JLS is now listed as the education journal with the highest impact factor. A very big thank you to all of the authors, reviewers, and editors who have helped make the journal so successful. Success breeds success, and the journal is receiving many more manuscripts now. We therefore need additional reviewers. If you would like to review, please send email to jls@cc.gatech.edu. Include your name, position, institution, areas of expertise, and methodologies you know well. Student reviewers are welcome. Be sure to let us know if you are a student, and we have you practice reviewing as a 4th reviewer on manuscripts.

JLS now accepts manuscripts on

line at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jls>. No paper required! No wondering if your package arrived! On the other hand, there are still a few glitches; please bear with us. If you are submitting a revision of an article submitted before November, 2005, please send a note to jls@cc.gatech.edu a week or two before submitting letting us know. We will put the old version on the website, and you will be able to submit your new one as a revision. The review process is also done completely on-line now. This is making the process much shorter.

With issue 4 of Volume 15 (Nov. 2006), the journal will have introduced all three of its strands:

design research methodology, learning about complex systems, and reconsidering transfer. If you are writing a manuscript reporting on research that fits a strand, please read and refer to earlier strand articles, and designate which strand your manuscript belongs in when you submit it.

JLS will begin publishing special issues again in 2007 -- at most once a year. Special issues proposals should be submitted through the on-line system. Calls for papers will be emailed to the ISLS membership and posted on the ISLS website. The review process for special issue submissions is the same as for regular submissions.

International Society of the Learning Sciences

Seventh Biennial International Conference for the Learning Sciences

June 27-July 1, 2006: Bloomington, Indiana.

Make your plans now to attend the Seventh Biennial International Conference for the Learning Sciences in Bloomington Indiana June 27-July 1. Hosted by Indiana University's Learning Sciences Program, the conference will include 25 paper sessions, 13 symposia, and seventy posters. Prior to the conference are seven exciting pre-conference workshops, many of which still have seats available. The conference's opening reception is being hosted at the Indiana University Art Museum. The museum was designed by world-renowned architect I.M. Pei and

houses a truly impressive 30,000 pieces from ancient gold jewelry and African masks to paintings by Monet and Picasso.

The program features two invited symposia *Projects that Made a Difference* and *Science of Learning Centers*, and plenary presentations by James Spillane, Angela Calabrese Barton, and John Hedberg. New for 2006 are the "firehose" sessions in which presenters get five minutes to spark conversations. The full schedule and other information is available at the conference website at <http://www.isls.org/icls2006/>

Although the conference will be action-packed with stimulating presentations and plentiful social gatherings, there is much to do while in Bloomington. Joshua Bell, a Grammy Award-winning violinist and one of IU School of Music's distinguished alumni, will be performing at the Indiana University Musical Arts Center on June 29th. Other entertainment opportunities include comedy shows, independent film series, bars restaurants, antique shopping and other musical/theatrical performances.



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Join ISLS now!

Join ISLS or renew your membership now with our membership application and be eligible for the following and more:

- **Conference discounts**—Conference fees for members will always be less than for non-members at [ICLS](#), [CSCL](#), and other conferences that ISLS might sponsor.
- **Individual subscriptions (print and online)**. In 2006, members can choose to receive either the [Journal of the Learning Sciences](#) or the [International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning](#) (or both journals at a discounted rate).
- **Discount on CSCL series books from Springer.**
- **Discount on MIT Press books.**
- [Jobs listing](#) in the learning sciences.
- **The new ISLS Newsletter**
- In the future, free or discounted on-line access to papers from previous CSCL and ICLS proceedings and JLS volumes.
- **ISLS membership fees** are just \$109 US (\$60 US for students).

To join or renew your membership, please use our [membership application](#) at <http://www.isls.org/membership.html>. You can join online and pay by check or PayPal. For registration or payment questions, please contact treas@isls.org. For other questions, please contact info@isls.org.

Newsletter #4

The ISLS newsletter is published twice a year (Spring, Winter).

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter to
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