

Program Chair's Report

The AAEE 2007 Program

This CD contains the papers presented at the *18th Conference of the Australasian Association for Engineering Education*, AAEE 2007, held in Melbourne, Australia, 9–13 December 2007. The conference web site is <http://www.csse.unimelb.edu.au/aaee2007/>. Associated with the event was the National Symposium on Mathematics for 21st Century Engineering Students, held on 7 December 2007 at RMIT University.

The AAEE conferences aim to stimulate discussion and research in the area of engineering education. One major objective this year has been to bring together academic and industry views on engineering education for the 21st century, and to improve the conversation about the needs of industry, graduates, and engineering university departments. Sustainability has been another prominent theme.

The AAEE 2007 program was put together with the aim of opening up conversation and discussion. Authors have been asked to make brief presentations, leaving ample time for interaction with audiences. An impressive suite of workshops has been on offer, covering topics such as industry linkage, learning styles, remote laboratories, graduate attributes, strategies for inclusiveness in the curriculum, technical book writing, educational research methods, education for sustainable development, and problem-based learning. A forum was devoted to the CDIO initiative, another to the Carrick Institute's grants scheme. Keynote addresses were given by Dan Budny and Teresa Larkin, Ian Cameron, Robin King, Anette Kolmos, David Radcliffe, and Lizzie Webb. The conference also hosted the final presentations of the Engineers without Borders Challenge.

Paper Selection

A total of 84 paper submissions and 6 workshop proposals were received in response to the call for papers. One paper was withdrawn.

The EasyChair conference management system was used for the handling of electronic submissions, allocation of reviewing duties, filing of reviews, and calculation of scores to support the electronically conducted program committee meeting. The system supports program committee accountability measures very well, by insisting on conflict-of-interest declarations by each program committee member, against each submitted paper. A reviewer was deemed to have a conflict of interest in the case of a paper where some author

1. was the reviewer, or
2. worked for the same organisation/university as the reviewer, or
3. was a current or former student or supervisor of the reviewer, or
4. had co-authored a paper with the reviewer within the last 5 years, or
5. currently shared a grant with the reviewer, or
6. was a close friend or relative.

A program committee member was then automatically excluded from access to any information related to a paper with which he or she had a conflict of interest.

Each paper and each workshop proposal was reviewed by two or three referees, and all reviews were communicated to the authors. As a result of the reviewing process, 72 papers were selected, together with all 6 workshop proposals. For the contributed papers, this gives an acceptance rate of 87%.

In addition to the regular paper presentations, the program has included three papers by invitation. Simi Henderson and Philip Broadbridge were invited to report on the Carrick project “Mathematics for 21st Century Engineering Students”. A national team led from the University of Queensland (Christine Norton *et al.*) were asked to report on their Carrick supported project to develop “virtual” process plants that can be explored as part of instruction, both in industry and in engineering schools. Dave Smith and Roger Hadgraft were asked to explain the “Melbourne Model” and how it will impact on engineering programs at the University of Melbourne.

Finally, short work-in-progress papers had been solicited in the call for papers, to be presented separately, without refereeing. However, only two such papers were received (Kestell/Missingham and Chartier/Gibson) and these have been included in the most relevant paper sessions.

I wish to thank all those who submitted a paper for their interest in AAEE 2007. I also thank the program committee and additional referees (listed below) for their careful work.

Harald Søndergaard
AAEE 2007 Program Chair
December 2007

Additional Referees

Peter Ashman	Andrew Kilpatrick
Kanagaratnam Baskaran	John Long
Jonathan Black	Martin Murray
Lyn Brodie	Brian Ng
Duncan Campbell	Andrew Ooi
Ben Cazzolato	Kaya Prpic
Clive Ferguson	Santhi Santhikumar
Wayne Hall	Janet Taylor
Ramasamy-Iyer Mahalinga-Iyer	David Thorpe
Colin Kestell	David Walker