Report on the 2009 University of Sydney IT Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

The 2009 annual general meeting for the University of Sydney IT Alumni Association was held on Thursday 16th July 2009 at 6pm in the SIT Lecture Theatre.

The meeting began with a report on the activities of the past year from USITAA President Mark Webb.

Alumni activities

Engineering Sydney Young Alumni of the Year Award

In October USITAA members Simon Ratner and Ryan Junee were named Engineering Sydney Young Alumni of the Year. USITAA executive member Judy Kay nominated Simon and Ryan for the award which recognises engineering alumni who have shown outstanding creativity, dedication or leadership in their professional endeavours.

End Of Year Function

Around 100 staff students and alumni attended the School of IT / USITAA / SUITS End of Year Function (EOyF) in November 2008. The event was kindly sponsored by Optiver.

Spring Back to Sydney

USITAA took part in the Spring Back to Sydney Alumni Reunion. Executive committee members met with alumni who graduated in a year ending in ‘8.

2009 Graduation Dinner

On the evening before graduations, alumni, staff and students joined guest speaker and alumnus Anna Cicognani in congratulating graduands. The formal dinner was held in the Winter Garden and was kindly sponsored by Optiver.

For the first time, School of IT prizes and scholarships were awarded as part of the Faculty of Engineering and IT Prizes and Scholarships Presentation Ceremony at the Seymour Centre.

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Other initiatives

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Social Networking sites

There are Facebook and LinkedIn social networking group sites for USITAA. Currently, the Facebook site has 131 members, and LinkedIn, 239 members.

Other business

Prize draw

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to continue exploring the potential of those channels.
Well done to all the prize winner’s listed in this month’s edition. It is inspiring to see the talent of those coming through the School of IT. I’d also like to welcome those that have recently graduated to the ranks of full alumni membership. I hope you will all stay in contact with the university and the School and will take your place as a vibrant part of the alumni community.

That’s all for this month. I look forward to meeting many of you as the year progresses.

Mark Webb
President, The University of Sydney IT Alumni Association (USITAA)

SIT goes green with Sun Microsystems

Sun Microsystems and the University of Sydney are collaborating to improve computing education in multi-core technology.

School of IT Senior Lecturer Dr Bernhard Scholz says that multi-core technology is the future of computing; “The clock-speed of single-core CPUs has reached its physical limits. With the omnipresence of multi-core processors, multi-core technology education is essential and will form a base requirement in our curriculum to educate the next generation of computer engineers.”

With this in mind, Sun Microsystems recently donated a SPARC Enterprise T5120 computer server to the School. The server has two UltraSPARC T2 processors with 8 cores and 64 threads. “Building on fruitful research collaborations between the two institutions, Sun Microsystems was encouraged to extend our university involvement to student education – the researchers of the future” said Dr Cristina Cifuentes of Sun Microsystems.

Multi-core technology is consistent with reducing greenhouse gas emissions in IT. By implementing efficient parallel software for multi-core computers the energy consumption of computers can be reduced. Academic staff at the School of Information Technologies are excited to be able to utilise this new technology in teaching.