

by Lynn Silipigni Connaway



LYNN SILIPIGNI CONNAWAY
2017 ASIS&T President
Senior Research Scientist
and Director of User
Research
OCLC Research
connawal@oclc.org

EDITOR'S SUMMARY

The 2016 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Copenhagen was the first major event opening Lynn Silipigni Connaway's term as ASIS&T president for 2016-2017. Connaway expressed thanks to the meeting co-chairs for organizing a stimulating program with a variety of new and familiar events, attracting attendees from 37 countries. She recalled the SIG CON dedicated to Dick Hill, retiring as executive director. As Nadia Caidi steps down as Association president, Connaway recognized her leadership with plans to build on her initiatives to broaden membership, strengthen member engagement and support Association groups and other organizations dedicated to the information profession. Celebrations of the Association's 80th anniversary are being planned throughout the year to culminate at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Connaway noted other international chapter events in Italy, Barcelona and Taipei scheduled for fall 2017. She closed by inviting members to get involved in Association committees.

KEYWORDS

Association for Information Science and Technology
meetings
leadership
association membership
engagement

I am honored and excited to be serving as the president of ASIS&T for 2016-2017. Our first ASIS&T Annual Meeting outside of North America was a great success. There was great energy at the conference even though the weather in Copenhagen was a bit blustery. Thirty-seven countries were represented by the attendees, an increase of 17 represented countries over those at the ASIS&T 2015 Annual Meeting.



Retiring executive director Dick Hill with ASIS&T past presidents at the Copenhagen meeting

Diane Sonnenwald and **Lauren Harrison**, co-chairs of the Annual Meeting, did an excellent job of creating a stimulating program and providing many networking opportunities. The idea of hosting an Annual Meeting outside of North America was Diane's, and she and Lauren worked very hard to make the event a success. Thank you, Diane and Lauren!

We had several new events at the Annual Meeting this year. We hosted the Women Leaders of the Information Field Happy Hour and had a great turnout. **Marcia Bates**, **Toni Carbo**,

The year 2017 marks the 80th anniversary of ASIS&T. We will celebrate this event throughout the year but will plan special celebrations during the 2017 Annual Meeting in Crystal City (Washington, DC area).



Some Happy Hour attendees. Left to right: Heidi Julien, Kristin Eschenfelder, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Dania Bilal, Nadia Caidi and Sandy Hirsh

Candy Schwartz and many other leaders joined the fun. The miniBARcamp, sponsored by the European Regional and European Student Chapters and ASIS&T, was well attended and a different way to meet people and share research ideas. OCLC sponsored a Storify Contest with five \$500 cash prizes for students attending the conference, who documented their experiences using Storify. The five winners are **Sarah Polkinghorne**, Charles Sturt University, Australia; **Wade Kelly**, Charles Sturt University, Australia; **Agnes Mainka**, Heinrich Heine University Dusseldorf, Germany; **Frances Ryan**, Edinburgh Napier University, UK; and **Laura Ridenour**, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. Check them out at www.asist.org/events/annual-meeting/annual-meeting-2016/student-activities/. SIG CON was dedicated to Dick Hill's 27 years as executive director of our Association. The banter was lively and fun, and the cake and champagne were wonderful! And this was one of the few Annual Meetings where registration included lunch every day at the hotel restaurant. Thank you, ASIS&T staff!

I also want to thank my predecessor, **Nadia Caidi**, who initiated new ways of engagement for members, including the Meet the Author Series, the Doctoral Students' Research

Videos and Regional Meetings. I had the opportunity to work closely with her and past president Sandy Hirsh throughout the year. Working with them was not only a great experience, but it also provided me with the understanding of the issues important to our members.

My goals for the coming year build on Nadia's work. I plan to work to continue to attract an international membership, students, early career professionals and researchers by facilitating new forms of member engagement, such as webinars, workshops and events through collaborative initiatives with similar professional associations and ASIS&T chapters, committees and SIGs. I will also work to promote and support the value of the chapters, committees and SIGs. I have developed a Working Group for Presidential Initiatives that includes **Becky Wilson** (ASIS&T New Leader who has agreed to work with me during the year), **Kendra Albright**, **Ron Larsen** (representing the iCaucus) and **Dietmar Wolfram** (representing ALISE).

The year 2017 marks the 80th anniversary of ASIS&T. We will celebrate this event throughout the year but will plan special celebrations during the 2017 Annual Meeting in Crystal City (Washington, DC area). I have created the ASIS&T 80th Anniversary Advisory Group whose members include **Tatjana Aparac-Jelušić**, **Dania Bilal**, **Michael Buckland**, **Toni Carbo**, **Ken Herold**, **Nouf Khashman** and **Javed Mostafa**. It is chaired by **Kathryn La Barre**. The Advisory Group will provide content on the history of IS and ASIS&T to celebrate ASIS&T's 80th Anniversary at the 2017 Annual Meeting and also for webinars and other events throughout the anniversary year.

One of the best aspects of ASIS&T is the members, and I have been fortunate to have the people below agree to chair or co-chair our Association's committees. If you are interested in joining or becoming involved in a committee, you can do so on the "**Become a Volunteer**" page on the ASIS&T website, or, if you would like to find out more about a committee's work,

This is going to be a very busy year, trying to increase our international membership and engagement, searching for a new executive director and planning for our 80th anniversary celebration.

please feel free to contact the committee's chair(s) or any Board member.

- Award Nominations Committee: **Lai Ma & Anita Komlodi** (Board Liaison: **Abebe Rorissa**)
- Awards & Honors: **Soo Young Rieh & Ken Fleischmann** (Board Liaison: **Abebe Rorissa**)
- Budget and Finance: **June Abbas**
- Constitution and Bylaws: **Linda C. Smith** (Board Liaison: **Lisa Given**)
- Education and Professional Advancement Committee: **Keren Dali & Bill Kules** (Board Liaison: **Heather O'Brien**)
- Executive Committee: **Lynn Silipigni Connaway**
- International Relations Committee: **Mega Subramaniam & Elke Greifeneder** (Board Liaison: **Dania Balil**)
- Leadership Development: **Ixchel Faniel & Laura Creekmore** (Board Liaison: **Kathryn La Barre**)
- Membership: **Naresh Agarwal** (Board Liaison: **Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan**)
- Nominations: **Nadia Caidi**
- Publications Committee: **Rong Tang & Yuelin Li** (Board Liaison: **Jamshid Beheshti**)
- Standards: **Mark Needleman & Timothy Dickey** (Board Liaison: **Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan**)

- Knowledge Management Task Force: **June Abbas & Heather Pfeiffer** (Board Liaison: **June Abbas**)
- Executive Director Search Task Force: **Sandy Hirsh & Clara Chu** (Board Liaison: **Nadia Caidi**)

We have been extremely busy since the Annual Meeting. The European Regional Chapter hosted two events in Italy (www.asist.org/asist-president-lynn-silipigni-connaway-participated-in-two-events-in-italy/) and one in Barcelona (www.asist.org/events/future-of-information-environments-thinking-and-building-with-asist/). The Asia Pacific Chapter scheduled an event at Nankai University on November 29. The Taipei Chapter also has a busy month ahead:

- Events at the National Taiwan Normal University on December 5
- A Taipei Chapter Reception on December 7 at National Taiwan University
- Events at the National Cheng-Chi University on December 8 and at Tamkang University on December 9. I hope to see you at one of these meetings.

This is going to be a very busy year, trying to increase our international membership and engagement, searching for a new executive director and planning for our 80th anniversary celebration. However, I'm looking forward to the exciting road ahead, so fasten your seat belts! ■