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society for
ethics and
information technology

INSEIT quarterly newsletter
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From the Co-Directors -

Hello INSEIT,

We hope this edition of the newsletter finds all of you doing well. As usual, we'll open with a message from our president, Herman Tavani. Here you will find updates on the board's activities and initiatives along with other news and information.

In our member spotlight this time is Maria Bottis. Maria provided some wonderful insights into her thinking about ethics and the law. Her quote about discussions on these matters when she was at Harvard is sure to bring a sly grin to all of your faces. She also lets us in on some of the plans for CEPE 2009 which is shaping into a lively mix of fun and serious work in what will be a gorgeous setting.

We also highlight some upcoming conferences, which should have great appeal to our members. We also describe the new INSEIT fellows program.

If you need to get in touch with the board or one of us, all of our contact information can be found on the last page.

Best,

Kat and Elizabeth

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FROM THE
PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues:

As the spring term for the 2007-2008 academic year is drawing to a close, I suspect that many of you are busy grading final papers and exams. I hope that when you finish, you will be able to enjoy both a restful and productive summer.

In my previous message (included in the February 2008 issue of the Newsletter), I mentioned that the INSEIT Board was in the process of considering some exciting new initiatives for 2008. I am pleased to announce that one of those initiatives has recently been approved by the Board and is now being implemented. You may already have seen Elizabeth Buchanan's announcement of the INSEIT Fellow's Program, which was sent to INSEIT members a short while back. I would like to thank Elizabeth and Kat for proposing this program, and I especially want to thank Elizabeth for her willingness to revise the proposal multiple times during the period in which the Board deliberated on it. (For details, please see the write-up by Kat and Elizabeth on the INSEIT Fellow's Program in this issue of the Newsletter). I hope that those of you who are eligible to do so will take advantage of this wonderful program by submitting your applications.

The next initiative that the Board will consider is the INSEIT Annual Publication. We will revisit some earlier proposals and consider some recent ones, in our deliberations over which kind of annual publication will work best for our association in light of our resources and finances. I hope to be able to report on the progress of this initiative in the next INSEIT Newsletter. Please note that the INSEIT Board also welcomes additional proposals from our members. So, if you have any ideas regarding initiatives that you would like the INSEIT Board to consider, please let us know. Also, please be sure to send to Kat and Elizabeth any "member news items" you have re your recent accomplishments, publications, etc., for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter.

Finally, I hope that you will consider submitting an abstract/paper for the CEPE 2009 Conference, which will be held next June in Corfu, Greece. Please see the (first) Call for Papers for CEPE 2009, included in this issue of the Newsletter, for details about the submission process. (The CEPE 2009 Web site will be available shortly.) Also, see the announcements for the North American CAP Conference (in Indiana, USA, July 2008) and for the CEBE Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, June 2009. Note that the CEBE conference immediately precedes CEPE 2009, so you may want to consider travel plans that would enable you to attend both.

Please note that our next INSEIT meeting is planned for September 2008 at the Ethicomp Conference. We look forward to seeing many of you in Italy in the fall.

Best wishes,
Herman Tavani

Maria Bottis
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

You have a dynamic background with two LL.Ms and a PhD. Tell us more about your current work.

I teach Information law at the Archives and Library Science Department of the Ionian University. The main focus of my work is Intellectual Property and data protection. The highlight for this year is the book Pr. Richard Spinello allowed me to write with him, called Defending Intellectual Property Rights. I absolutely loved the part of intellectual property history and this work as a whole. I will be always in debt to Richard for allowing me to work with him.

How do you differentiate between law and ethics?

The line between law and ethics is a moving target. Usually, we do not condone 'a lot of morality' into law, but at least in Greece until today, the civil law contains provisions directly imposing people's current view on morality as a legal standard as well. For example, we cannot enforce an immoral contract, and the rule against unfair competition also, is a rule, which forbids immoral competition, essentially. On the other hand, there are clear cases where an immoral conduct should not also carry legal consequences, such as, for example, the old common law tort of alienation of affections (example: a stranger harbors and persuades another's wife to leave him, or a priest persuades another's wife to devote her whole time to the church, away from her family, Carrieri v. Bush, 69 Wash. 2d 536, 419 P. 2d 132 (1966). Undue influence claims are well known in other settings also. Courts are generally uneasy about these cases, as they see them as personal and private matters and not the proper domain of litigation.

All this said, I believe that even if it is clear in all jurisdictions that what the law 'allows' morality to be a factor into the resolution of a case, then the judge will, at least unconsciously, 'use' her own personal idea about what is and is not, immoral. This is why psychology is such an important factor, well known, of course, to the experienced trial lawyers in the US; this is what they use, when they 'pick' their jurors.

I cannot offer a rule about the law/morality distinction. I believe, however that there are certain classes of cases, which do not belong to the courts, even if they happen to be litigated as law. One of these is the wrongful birth/life cases, where parents sue for compensation because their child was born with a genetic disability. It does not matter whether a physician was or wasn't negligent in diagnosing the disability and it does not matter to me if the mother had (example: US) a right to terminate the pregnancy. The fact that a child has been born changes the legal picture: any amount of damages awarded is damages awarded against life. But I know may disagree. At the Center for Ethics at Harvard, where I was a 2000-2001 Faculty Fellow, we used to discuss these matters endlessly…

You are an organizer of the next CEPE 2009 conference in Corfu. What can we expect?

Corfu is one of the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean see. It is also a bog island, in the sense that one can easily spend a week here to see the place. We have four great Museums, covering from ancient Greek statutes to early Japanese vases. The views are spectacular and the beaches numerous and very varied. The social program will be exceptional and, of course, a surprise. This is a conference though-I should return to our scientific endeavor! The CEPE organizing committee will see that we invite as many important speakers as we can, from Europe and the US and also, I expect many Greeks and Italians, since we are so close. I believe the beauty of the island, the clarity of the Mediterranean light, the colors of all sorts of blues and greens, the identity and skills of people participating and the commonly shared desires of exploring our fields of interest, knowing people and having fun guarantee a successful conference.

Whose philosophy has influenced you the most?

Larry Lessig's writings were very influential to me, although I have come to see a bit further than his seducing texts, into what I believe closer to the legal reality of intellectual property, freedom of speech and science. Bernt Hugenholtz is also a fantastic writer and I always check with his site, www.ivil.nl for the latest EU legal evolutions. It is difficult to mention all the authors who have influenced me, because so many people have written so well.

What is your favorite course to teach? Why?

My favorite course is the Introduction to Law. I know this is not what I write on, my field, it is not information law but it is wonderful to teach Introduction to Law to students who are not 'corrupt' from any other legal course before this one. I always gain from the answers they give me to cases and how they see, as citizens, how the law should be and what its' shortcomings are. It is a real joy and a privilege to teach this 'little' introduction…As for a least favorite course, I do not have one. I can only say that I find it more intriguing to teach students who have a solid background of theoretical studies from high school. Students who know, for example, who Antigone was and what were the writings of Sophocles. So it is not a matter of a favorite course but rather, who the students are…students make or destroy a good class.

Finally, if you could become another person for one week, who would it be any why?

I would be my daughter Marianna, actually. She is 11, does (easily) excellent at school, clearly has no stress whatsoever and plays tennis every day. She adores our two cats and has loads of friends coming in and out of our house. She also eats whatever she wants and remains thin... My son Andreas is a great kid but he is already 'serious', as he is already 13, and has all the troubles high school brings (especially in Greece). Yes, I think I would love to be a kid like this again for a week (or more, no problem with this one).

Calls and Announcements

Conference Announcement
2008 North American Computing and Philosophy Conference
Indiana University
July 10-12, 2008

Registration is now open for the 2008 North American Computing and Philosophy Conference to be held at Indiana University this July 10th-12th. (See http://ia-cap.org/na-cap08.)

The theme for this year's conference addresses the limits of computation. Conference highlights will include keynote addresses from Paul Thagard ("Can Computers Understand Causality") and Ronald Arkin ("Ethics and Lethality in Autonomous Robots"), a special panel session on morality and machines ("Is Ethics Computable?") and a session on automatic programming and human creativity, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Several other presentations will address other facets of the conference theme. For a penultimate program, see http://ia-cap.org/na-cap08/program.htm.

Spots on the program for session chairs and commentators are still available as indicated on the document just mentioned. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact program chair, Tony Beavers, at afbeavers@gmail.com. Preference for these spots will be given to people not already on the program wherever possible.

This year's conference is sponsored by the Cognitive Science Program, the Department of Computer Science, the Department of Philosophy and the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington.

To learn more about the International Association for Computing and Philosophy, visit http://ia-cap.org.

Call for Papers
CEPE 2009: Internation Computer Ethics Conference
Ionian University, Corfu, Greece
June 27-29, 2009

Deadline for abstracts: 10 November 2008

Papers: CEPE2009 welcomes high quality paper and panel proposals in all areas of computer/IT ethics. This includes, but is not limited to, ethical issues relating to:

- Online communities, the virtual and the "real"
- Privacy, data protection, RFID, surveillance, CCTV, spam, phishing, and spyware
- Global computing and intercultural information ethics
- Information access, search engines, and the digital divide
- Democracy and the internet; computing technology and natural disasters
- Virtuality, simulation and reproduction
- Computing, identity and difference: gender, ethnicity, race, religion
- Open source; virtual ownership; intellectual property & copyright
- Emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, Internet2, robotics, biomedicine, bioinformatics and bioengineering
- New military, security and law enforcement applications of IT
- New developments in artificial intelligence, artificial agents, embedded systems and artificial life.

We particularly welcome papers from applied ethics fields other than computer ethics that focus on any of the above areas, as well as papers from computer science professionals who combine their state-of-the-art knowledge of IT with ethical analysis.

Papers will be accepted on the basis of a submitted abstract, which will be refereed.

An abstract must be between 1200 and 1400 words in length (references included) and submitted via email as embedded plain text or an attachment in RTF or WORD or PDF format.

Abstracts must be submitted no later than 10 November 2008. Authors will be informed of the decision of the referees by 30 January 2009. Full papers must be submitted by 29 April 2009.

Panel Proposals: We will also accept proposals for panel discussions, also to be submitted by 10 November 2008. Panel proposals must include a statement of the general topic and an overview of the specific questions or issues to be addressed. In addition, the proposal should include a list of the panelists involved, their expertise in this area, and whether they have indicated that they are willing to participate. Please use the Panel Proposal Form that will soon be available on the CEPE2009 website.

The CEPE conference series is recognized as one of the premier international events on computer and information ethics attended by delegates from all over the world. Conferences are held about every 24 months, alternating between Europe and the United States. CEPE 2009 is the eighth conference in the series.

Organizing Committee:
 • Maria Bottis, Ionian University, Greece
 • Kenneth Himma, Seattle Pacific University, USA
 • Frances Grodzinsky, Sacred Heart University, USA
 • Richard Spinello, Boston College, USA
 • Herman Tavani, Rivier College, USA
 • Takis Vlamos, Ionian University, Greece

Conference Announcement
Network Ethics: The New Challenge in Business, ICT, and Education.
Catholic University of Lisbon
June 23-25, 2009

The Center for Ethics Business and Economics (CEBE) of the Catholic University of Lisbon, Carnegie Mellon University and University of Northern Iowa are very happy to announce the organization of the conference on "Network Ethics: The new Challenge in Business, ICT and Education." The conference will be conducted in Lisbon, Portugal between the 23rd andthe 25th June 2009. This event intends to join business, computer and information ethics scholars and practitioners from all over the world.

General Chairs are Prof. Peter Madsen (Carnegie Mellon University, USA), Prof. João César das Neves (Catholic University of Lisbon) and Prof. Donna Wood (University of Northern Iowa). The Organization Chair is Antonino Vaccaro (Catholic University of Lisbon, FCEE-CEBE, Carnegie Mellon University). Co-Chairs are: Matteo Turilli (University of Oxford and Catholic University of Lisbon, FCEE-CEBE)and Hugo Horta (Catholic University of Lisbon, FCEE-CEBE).

Conference Key Note Speaker: Prof. Luciano Floridi (University of Oxford).

This event is divided in three main tracks:

Track 1: The impact of Network Ethics on Business Practices.
Track 2: Perspectives on Network Ethics from the Disciplines of Computer and
Information Ethics.
Track 3: Network and Ethics as a New Challenge for Higher Education.

The conference organization team is currently working on two editorial initiatives for each track:

Track 1: A book with best papers of the conference edited by Donna Wood and Antonino Vaccaro.
A special issue with the five-six best papers in an international journal (to be decided between Journal of
Business Ethics, Business Ethics: An European Review, Business & Society Review). The special editors of the
issue will be: Donna Wood, Antonino Vaccaro and Adele Queiroz.
Track 2: A book with best papers of the conference edited by Peter Madsen, Matteo Turilli and Antonino Vaccaro.
A special issue in Ethics and Information Technology edited by Peter Madsen, Matteo Turilli and Antonino Vaccaro.
Track 3: A book with best papers of the conference edited by Peter Madsen, Hugo Horta and Antonino Vaccaro. A
special issue with the five-six best papers in an international journal.

More detailed information can be found in the conference website: www.fcee.lisboa.ucp.pt/network

Symposium Announcement
"The Changing Facets of Information in Information Law"
International Symposium on Information Law
Ionian University, Corfu, Greece - June 28, 2008

Part of the Department of Archives and Library Sciences Postgraduate Program's course "Information Law
and Ethics", taught by Dr. Maria Bottis, Lecturer.

Speakers:

Pr. Kenneth Einar Himma, Associate Professor of philosophy, Seatle University, US
Pr. Graeme Laurie, Univ. of Edimburgh, UK, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at the University of Edinburgh and
    Director of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Dr. Nikitas Xatzimihail, Associate Professor, Univ of Cyprus, CY
Pr. Urs Gasser, University of St Gallen, Director, Research Center for Information Law-Faculty Fellow at the Berkman
    Center for Internet & Society, Harvard Law School
Pr. Hugenholtz Bernt, Univ. of Amsterdam, The Netherlands Professor of Intellectual Property Law and Director of
    the Institute for Information Law of the University of Amsterdam (IViR).
Dr. Aristeides Xatzis, Associate Professor, Univ of Athens, Dept. of History, Theory and Methodology of Science, GR
Pr. Simon Rogerson, De Montfort University, Director of the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility
Pr. John Palfrey, Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Executive Director of the Berkman Center for
    Internet & Society
Dr Ken Shadlen, London School of Economics, UK, Senior Lecturer in Development Studies Director of PhD
    Programme, LSE.
Dr. Maria Bottis, Ionian University, Department of Archives and Library Science, GR

Fellowship Announcement
INSEIT Fellows Program

Goal: To facilitate collaboration and collegiality among ethics scholars (broadly defined), and increase interest in INSEIT and further its mission to promote scholarship in the field of information and computer ethics.

Description: Two individuals will be selected as INSEIT Fellows, which will be twelve month appointments. Each individual will receive a complimentary INSEIT membership, and will be paired with a senior INSEIT member, who will serve as the mentor. Pairs are expected to maintain regular communication; in the event one party does not fulfill his/her responsibilities, the stipend will not be issued to that individual. The pair will work collaboratively over the year, preparing a paper or conference proceeding, as well as submit a brief paper for the INSEIT web site and newsletter. Pairs are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal for the CEPE, Ethicomp, or other appropriate conference; and will be highlighted in the INSEIT Newsletter.

Eligibility: Any student already enrolled in a relevant graduate programme; doctoral or post-doc students, or faculty in their first year of professional work will be eligible to apply for the Fellows position. Students or post-doctoral students currently working with an INSEIT member in a formal capacity are not eligible to receive funding with the same individual as an INSEIT mentor. Doctoral students are encouraged to consult with their Ph.D. supervisor or professor prior to submitting. Mentors must be established scholars with a solid record of academic publishing, research, and advisement.

Stipend: Fellows will receive $500 US, and INSEIT membership for one year, and Mentors will receive $250 US, upon the successful completion of their appointment.

Process: Fellow applicants will submit a two page proposal, outlining their area of research interest and describing the goals for the fellowship. A one page cv must be included with the proposal. Mentors should submit a statement outlining his/her interests in and qualifications for serving as a mentor, and a one page cv. Materials must be sent to inseit@sois.uwm.edu by the dates set by the Fellows Program Committee.

2008 Dates: Application materials are due by July 1, 2008, with notification by August 1, 2008.

 Adjudication: The Fellows Program Review Committee is comprised of the INSEIT President, one member of the INSEIT Board, and one INSEIT Director.

 Program Facilitation: The program is administered by the Center for Information Policy Research, School of Information Studies , University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee .

Reporting/Responsibility: Fellows will be responsible for providing the Directors and INSEIT Board with a brief report on their activities and progress mid-way through their appointment, and a final report of 1-2 pages outlining the activities and outcomes of the Fellowship one month after the completion of the term. We assume we can rely on good faith and professional ethics to guide the program.

MEMBER NEWS

INSEIT would like to congratulate Herman Tavani, recipient of the 2008 SIGCAS Service Award. The following description of the award is excerpted from the write-up by Florence Appel, ACM SIGCAS Chair, that appeared in Computers and Society (Vol. 38, No. 1, 2008).

> The 2008 SIGCAS Service Award is presented this year to Herman Tavani, PhD, Professor of Philosophy at Rivier College and President of the International Society for Ethics and Information Technology (INSEIT).   Dr. Tavani joined SIGCAS in 1994, and since that time, he has made a number of valuable and substantial contributions to the organization. SIGCAS' Computers and Society publication has benefited from Dr. Tavani's expertise in a variety of ways. In 1995-1997, he served as its Bibliography Editor, followed in 1997-2002 by his tenure as Associate Editor.   Also, in 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2007, he guest-edited special issues that featured selections of papers from CEPE (Computer Ethics, Philosophical Enquiry) conferences. In addition to Dr. Tavani's editorial contributions to Computers and Society, he has published several articles and book reviews, and is perhaps best known for his comprehensive annotated bibliographies on computer ethics, which have appeared in eleven issues from 1995 through 2005, and have included extensive coverage of journals, magazines, newspapers, online resources, texts and other books, and bibliographies. These bibliographies have proven to be invaluable resources for computer ethics researchers and educators. Dr. Tavani has also provided leadership to the SIGCAS Executive Committee, having served in the capacity of Secretary/Treasurer from 2001 to 2005.

(More information at http://www.sigcas.org/awards-1/awards-winners/sigcas-outstanding-service-award-2008)

Michael Zimmer joins the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies and Center for Information Policy Research as Assistant Professor. Read more about the move at: http://michaelzimmer.org/2008/04/23/joining-uw-milwaukee-school-of-information-studies/

Kat Henderson is now serving as online editor for the ACM SIGCAS quarterly publication *Computers and Society*, described by Florence Appel in her SIGCAS Chair's message at http://www.sigcas.org/newsletter/latest-issue/chairs-message

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Membership:
On-Line Payment Now Available
The Philosophy Documentation Center (PDC) website now has the capability for online renewal.

Please check it out by going to http://www.pdcnet.org/member-inseit.html and click on "current members". This will take you to a screen where you would enter the renewal order number from the renewal notice sent out recently by PDC. New members can also join INSEIT by using this new and convenient system.

Note that you may also complete and send in the hardcopy document. Please print and complete the following information before sending it to the PDC:

Name:
Mailing Address:
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Membership Options (check one):
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All payments must be in US funds
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Name on credit card:
Credit Card Number:
Expiration Date:

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