
Our primary focus continues to be Professionalism amongst our members. At our strategy planning session in January 2008, we agreed on the following vision:

"Within the next five years the CSSA will be recognised as the accredited professional body for the IT / ICT industry"

The mission to achieve the vision:
We must:

- Seek regulatory approval to be appointed as the (statutory) professional body
- Engage with Government and it's appointed educational agents
- Create a skills development framework
- Participate in setting standards, defining skills training needed and acting as a knowledge source on trends and shifts in the industry
- Administer IT skills certification
- Check foreign qualifications for relevance
- Acting as the bridge between Education and Business
- Serve clearly defined stakeholders
- Provide clear benefits for members
- Be the primary IT industry ‘thought leaders’
- Promote links with other professional bodies globally
- With Brand recognition of ‘computers = CSSA’
- Use latest techniques and technologies

All of the above should result on our becoming a sustainable Society, with membership growth. At present we are attracting new members annually, but often lose as many as we gain. We are taking steps to stem the flow of resignations.
2. Structure

New articles of association were approved by members at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of June. In terms of these articles, we continue to have an Executive Council of 16 members (including Chapter Chairs), and Board of Directors (President, Past-President, Honorary Treasurer, Chapter Chair elected Director, Two Vice Presidents, ICDL Member and the Executive Director). A smaller Manco is mandated to make interim decisions.

After a term of 4 years, Moira de Roche stepped down as President, and was succeeded by Mr Adrian Schofield.

3. Representation on Technical Committees & Work Groups

TC1: FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
- South Africa is not represented on this Technical Committee,
- Participation by South Africans WG 1.2 (Descriptional Complexity) Prof Yuri Velinov,

TC2: SOFTWARE THEORY AND PRACTICE
- Representative: Prof Judith Bishop, Department Computer Science, University of Pretoria
- Participation by South Africans
  - WG2.4 (Software Implementation Technology) Judith Bishop
  - WG2.4 (Software Implementation Technology) Ken MacGregor
  - WG2.13 (Open Source Semantics) Derrick Kourie

TC3: EDUCATION
- Representative: Peter Waker, Computer Olympiad Trust
- Participation by South Africans WG3.1 (Secondary Education) Peter Waker

TC5: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS
- South Africa is not represented on this Technical Committee,
- Participation by South Africans
  - WG5.7 (Computer-aided Production Management) Nicolaas du Preez
  - WG5.7 (Computer-aided Production Management) Gavin Flemming
  - WG5.11 (Computers and Environment) J. Dewald Roode
TC6: COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- Representative: Prof Pieter Kritzinger, Department of Computer Science, University of Cape Town
- Participation by South Africans:
  - WG6.11 (Electronic Commerce – Communication Systems) Koos Koen
  - WG6.3 (Performance Communication Systems) Pieter Kritzinger
  - WG6.6 (Management of Networks and Distributed Systems) Jan Roos
  - WG6.11 (Electronic Commerce – Communication Systems) Jan Eloff

TC7: SYSTEM MODELLING AND OPTIMISATION

- South Africa is not represented on this Technical Committee.
- Participation by South Africans
  - WG7.1 (Modeling and Optimisation) Kobus Nel
  - WG7.1 (Modeling and Optimisation) P.J. Vermeulen
  - WG7.3 (Computer System Modelling) Pieter Kritzinger
  - WG7.5 (Reliability and Optimisation of Structural Systems) Radoslaw Iwanikiewich

TC8: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Representative: Prof Irwin Brown, University of Cape Town
- Participation by South Africans
  - WG8.1 (Design and Evaluation of Information Systems) Graham McLeod
  - WG8.2 (The Interaction of Information Systems and the Organisation) Brian O’Donovan
  - WG8.2 (The Interaction of Information Systems and the Organisation) Louise Whittaker
  - WG8.3 (Decision Support Systems) Neil Duffy
  - WG8.4 (E-Business Information Systems) Dewald Roode
  - WG8.3 (Decision Support Systems) Manta Turpin
  - WG8.5 (Public Administration) Lauwrence Cloete

TC9: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMPUTERS AND SOCIETY

- Representative: Dr Jackie Phahlamohola, Systems Modelling Competency Area Manager, CSIR
- Participation by South Africans
  - WG9.4 (Social Implications in Developing Countries) Jonathan Miller
  - WG9.4 (Social Implications in Developing Countries) Dewald Roode
  - WG9.5 (Applications and Social Implications of Virtual Worlds) Dave Lockwood
  - WG9.9 (ICT and Sustainable Development) Wallace Chigona
  - SIG9.2.2 (Framework on Ethics) A Morris

TC10: COMPUTER SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY
There is no South African Representation on this Technical Committee. No South Africans are members of Working Groups.

**TC11: SECURITY**

- Representative: Prof Rosouw von Solms, School of ICT, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- Alternate Representative: Prof Jan Eloff, Department Computer Science, University of Pretoria
- The following South Africans serve on TC11 Work Groups:
  - WG11.3 (Data and Application Security) Lucas Dreyer, Martin Olivier
  - WG11.4 (Network Security) Prof Basie von Solms
  - WG11.6 (Identity Management) Keith Brekenridge
  - WG11.8 (Information Security Education) Bennie Fei, Anna Granova, Cornelia Grobler, Barry Irwin, Rob Loubsher, Martin Olivier, Colette Trompeter, Hein Venter, Cobus Venter
  - WG11.10 (Critical Infrastructure Protection) Les Labuschagne, Martin Olivier

**TC12: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

- South Africa is not represented on this Technical Committee,
- Participation by South Africans
  - WG12.5 (Artificial Intelligence Applications) Olusola Abidogun

**TC13: HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION**

- Representative: Janet L. Wesson, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- Participation by South Africans
  - WG13.1 (Education in HCl) Prof Paula Kotze
  - WG13.1 (Education in HCl) Prof Janet Wesson
  - WG13.1 (Education in HCl) Ms Darelle van Greunen

**TC14: ENTERTAINMENT COMPUTING**

South Africa is not represented on this Technical Committee.
4. Events

CSSA held its annual Conference in May 2008, co-located with the Computer Faire. It was a one day event, with two streams:

- Business & IT
- Talent Management in ICT

We held the Annual Presidents Awards Banquet in November 2007.

5. Computer Olympiad & Thinkquest

Our team won a bronze medal in Croatia in 2007.

IOI 2008 is in Egypt in August, so at the time of writing the event has not yet taken place. CSSA will again be sending a strong team to this event, and are hopeful of winning medals.

We now run a Junior and Senior section in the second and third round. We hope this will enable us to identify talent for development early. We are disadvantaged in many respects, because many schools no longer teach computer programming. The Introduction to Programming in Python workshop in 2007 was successful, and we hope to run another later this year.

We also run the Thinkquest competition. In 2007 there were 12 SA teams in international ranking, and we had 1 international category prize winner.

6. ICDL

CSSA has ceded the license to run ICDL to the operating organization, ICDL South Africa. In terms of this agreement, CSSA receives royalties on product sales.

7. Professional Qualifications

CSSA have entered a partnership with ACS, in terms of which we offer their CPP to our members at a fee that is favourable to the local economy. At present we have 4 students on the programme, and feedback has been extremely positive.

CSSA hopes to get the programme accredited for the IITP qualification by IP3, late in 2009.

CSSA have launched a lifelong learning programme, where points are awarded for every CSSA and other
Computer Society South Africa

approved learning event attended. We hope this will promote continuous professional development. We further hope that this will attract new members, and add value to the membership.

CSSA has also been represented by Moira de Roche on the IP3 Task Force, as a contributing, not full member. Moira has attended all Task Force meetings and holds the marketing portfolio.

8. Special Interest Groups

Active SIG’s include:

- Project Management
- Business & Systems Analysis
- Business Process Management
- Information Security
- Computer-Human Interaction
- Software testing
- Open Source
- Teachers & Trainers

9. Publications

The Society sends out a monthly e-zine newsletter to its members, and makes regular contribution to Electron Magazine. We have investigated the feasibility of launching our own paper publication, but feel that we don’t have the resources to do so.

Written by: Basie von Solms & Moira de Roche – August 2008