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Brandon Lee has served on the Committee for the last 2 years and currently holds the portfolio for organising the National Project Excellence Awards. He has been an active member of Engineers Australia for over 7 years through Young Engineers Australia and is currently Chairperson of the Young Engineers Australia National Committee. His active involvement with Young Engineers began in university where he was interested to find out more about his future career and found that one way was to contribute as an active member to help represent the views of the younger membership. In his current role as Chairperson, Brandon is keen to assist in driving improved young engineer satisfaction with the products and services provided by Engineers Australia especially in area of assisting professional development.



Brandon graduated from the University of Western Australia in 2002 with a combined degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering (majoring in Power & Control) and Commerce (majoring in Accounting & Finance). Upon graduation, he took up employment with the Water Corporation of Western Australia, the major water utility servicing the state. His first few years were spent in an electrical maintenance department where he serviced various metropolitan sites investigating and rectifying failures whilst also co-ordinating minor asset enhancements. Following this placement, he was rotated to a projects group involved with the technical project management and commissioning of new assets/sites. Most of the projects that he has been involved with have been in the areas of chemical dosing and water treatment. For the last year, Brandon has been seconded to Burns & Roe Worley engineering design consultancy working as the primary designer of the instrumentation and control systems for the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant. He is currently seconded to the Multiplex Degremont Joint Venture working as a project engineer responsible for delivering the implementation of the control system he had previously designed for the same project.

Brandon can be contacted on 08 9420 3802 or brandon.lee@watercorporation.com.au

[Ed: Congratulations to Brandon for making it on the Engineer's Australia list of top 10 most influential young Engineers for 2006]

NCACI Visibility: Possibility of a regular Australian Conference

As a part of our strategic plan we need to consider the visibility of the NCACI in Australia. The possibility of hosting a regular Australian conference in the NCACI arena is still under discussion. As mentioned previously one approach would be through a similar style to the Control'95 and Control'97 Conferences. Some concerns have been raised as to whether we could attract enough authors and delegates on a regular basis to host such a conference series. Although we have received some input on this topic, further suggestions, ideas and feedback on this topic are most welcome.

The 2005 ACI Undergraduate Thesis Prize

We have two joint winners for the 2005 ACI Undergraduate thesis prize.

- Mr Simon Voss of The University of Queensland for “Servo assist device for squeeze action hand tool” supervised by Prof. John Simmons
- Mr Agenor Luiz of The University of Sydney “Real-time Human Tracking from a Mobile Robot using Vision” supervised by Ben Upcroft and Suresh Kumar

The winners were announced and one of the prizes was presented at the Electrical College Board's M. A. Sargent Medal Dinner of the Electrical College of Engineer's Australia, held on 2nd June at the Cruising Yacht

The 2005 Certificate of commendation was awarded to

- Mr Luke Cole of The Australian National University for “Localisation using Active Mirror Vision System”



Figure: Professor Iven Mareels (right) presenting the award to Mr Simon Voss (left)

The 2006 ACI Undergraduate Thesis Prize

The IEAust Undergraduate thesis prize in Automation, Control and Instrumentation was inaugurated in 1995 to recognise individual excellence achieved in undergraduate work across the breadth of A, C & I. The quality of work presented has been such that the prize has been awarded each year since then. The award includes a certificate and a cheque for \$2000. Entries for the 2006 Undergraduate thesis prize will close on 15th December. Application forms and submission requirements are available at the Engineers Australia website http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/about_us/natcomm/ncaci/. In order to reflect the team-based nature of final year projects that many of the universities are now supporting, team-based entries will be accepted for the 2006 ACI Undergraduate thesis prize.

2006 National ACI Project Excellence Awards

The National Project Excellence Awards is run biennially and aims to recognise outstanding applications of Automation, Control & Instrumentation. The objectives of the Awards include the promotion of better engineering through encouraging applications of ACI, which are cost effective, commercially viable while providing demonstrable environmental, safety and social benefits to Australia.

The 2004 National Project Excellence Award was awarded to Industrial Automation Services and BlueScope Steel for the Hot Finishing Mill Upgrade Project.

There are two categories of Awards, Major Projects for team projects with significant person time involved; and Regular Projects for smaller team projects or those undertaken by individuals. The National Committee for Automation, Control and Instrumentation will be seeking submissions later this year for the 2006 Awards, which will be judged and presented next year. Details will be provided on the NCACI website over the coming months. Please visit www.engineersaustralia.org.au and follow the links to the NCACI website. To register your interest or for any enquiries, please contact Ms Martine Griffiths, the NCACI Committee Administrator via email at mgriffiths@engineersaustralia.org.au

14th IFAC Symposium on System Identification

The 14th IFAC Symposium on System Identification was held in Newcastle, Australia March 29-31, 2006. A total of 331 regular and invited papers were submitted to the conference. From these 216 papers (about 65%) were selected for inclusion in the final program. These included:

- 3 plenary papers
- 5 semi-plenary papers
- 204 papers in oral sessions
- 12 oral/poster presentations

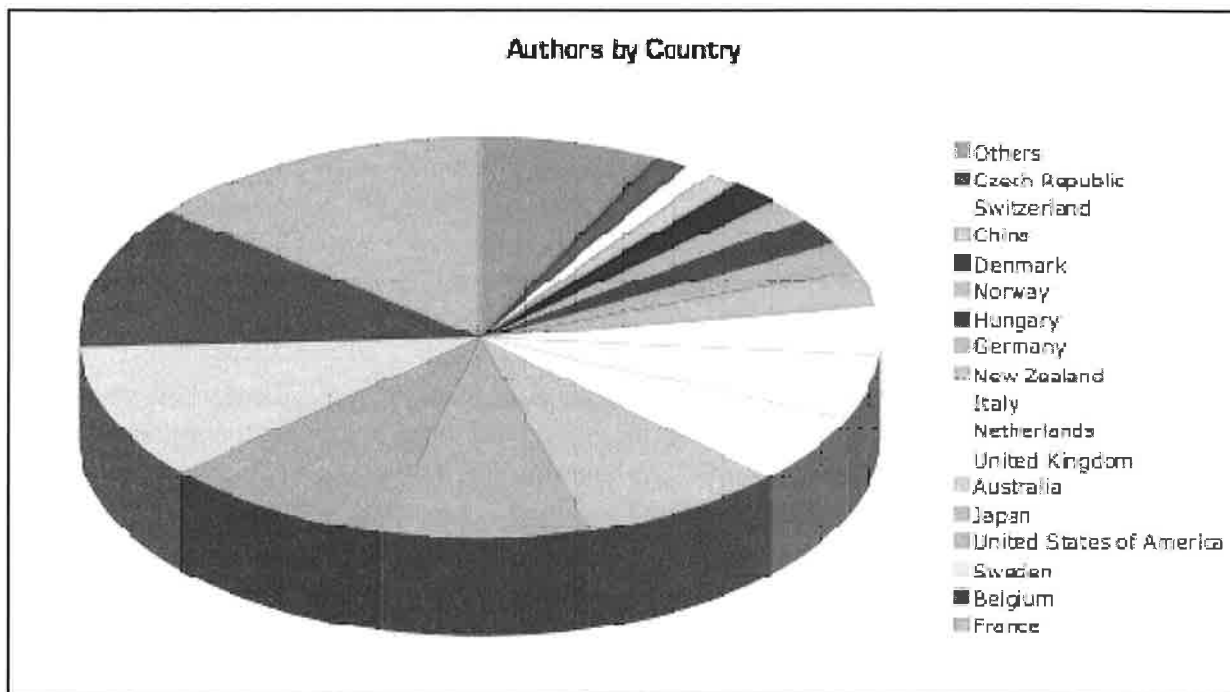
The most frequent first keywords used on accepted papers were

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| - "Non-linear System Identification" | 91 papers |
| - "Identification for control" | 66 papers |
| - "Continuous Time System Identification" | 41 papers |
| - "Recursive Identification" | 35 papers |

Topics for special invited sessions included:

- continuous time system identification
- marine system estimation
- biological applications
- nonlinear system identification
- ecological and environmental applications
- input signal design
- closed loop subspace estimation
- software developments

The conference program also included a panel discussion on "Experiences and Challenges in Identification of Non-linear Systems". It was a one hour session moderated by Michel Gevers. The panellists included: Lennart Ljung, Graham Goodwin, Johan Schoukens, David Westwick, Karel Kesman and Hong Zhao.



**Figure: Author location distribution for 14th IFAC Symposium
on System Identification 2006**

The completed details of the symposium are archived at <http://sysid2006.org>
[Symposium information courtesy of Conference organizer Brett Ninness]

Upcoming conferences

13th Conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice

December 5-7 2006

Toowoomba Qld

<http://www.m2vip.com>

(This conference is supported by Engineers Australia)

Information Decision and Control (IDC 2007)

February 11-14 2007

Adelaide Australia

<http://www.plevin.com.au/idc2007>

Call for Reviewers

Anybody who is interested in acting as a reviewer for the 13th Conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice could you please contact Professor John Billingsley

Email: johnbill@usq.edu.au

Committee Membership

Call for volunteers for the NCACI committee (particularly from instrumentation & biotechnology). Please forward expressions of interest to Prof. Iven Mareels (NCACI Chair) email: i.mareels@unimelb.edu.au

Editor's Post-script

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