From the Faculty Editor

So the iSChannel has made it to its third edition. This is a great achievement and a clear message that the journal has become an established part of ISIG's activity. The quality of the journal is increasing and the editorial process is becoming more embedded and streamlined. Those whose names appear in this journal as editor, author or reviewer should be very proud.

As a snapshot of the concerns of ISIG students, the papers make interesting reading. I was particularly struck by Pavlo Tanasyuk's whose concerns over second-life are philosophical, drawing on Dreyfus's phenomenological ideas to question the mind-body duality of the Virtual World. Abhishek Dhingra is similarly concerned with the virtual world of facebook, but grounds his analysis in non-virtual world issues of security and privacy. Other authors' focus on the perennial issues of our field shows that long held concerns continue to be important – IT in healthcare (Yan), Outsourcing (Guilbaud), eGovernment (Monaghan and Savvides) among others. Most importantly however is that each article demonstrates the deeply investigative nature of our approach, drawing on a range of theoretical ideas to make sense of our messy, complex social world. It is this that provides the strength to the iSChannel and ensures the quality of its contribution.

But we cannot be complacent and must continue to improve. Each year the editorial team receive a large number of submissions from which it must select a small number for publication. This is not an easy task. Making the job of the editorial board easier will demand changes in the way articles are written and reviews are undertaken. It is my plan to involve faculty and students in a wide-ranging discussion of how we can improve the iSChannel publication process for next year. I would like to see more targeted articles written specifically for the iSChannel, rather than receiving large numbers of course-essays submitted on-spec. New approaches to writing such as joint-authoring, review articles and interviews will be considered alongside the traditional research article. By improving the writing, review and editorial process my aim is not just to improve the quality of the journal (which is already extremely high) but also to improve the educational benefit of writing and reviewing for the iSChannel whatever the outcome.

All this does not diminish the fantastic work of all those involved in this edition of the iSChannel. Working to a tight deadline the editorial team have managed the review process fantastically. They have selected an excellent mix of articles, the authors of which must be praised.

Dr Will Venters
Faculty Editor