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## Message from the WG 8.2 Chair

### Research Generations: A WG 8.2 Chair's Perspective



**Julie E. Kendall, Rutgers University, USA**

My old journalism professor, George Bailey, used to remind us, "Be particularly attentive to beginnings and endings . . . of companies, careers, lives. You will always learn something, and often that's where your best story will be."

If you are reading this, you are one of the many researchers and practitioners  
*(Continued on page 3)*

## IFIP WG 8.2 in Barcelona

### • Special points of interest:

- Message from new WG 8.2 Chair
- IFIP WG 8.2 Conference in Barcelona
- Details about forthcoming joint working conference in Athens in June 2003
- Oasis workshop December 2003
- Upcoming events

### Global and Organizational Discourse about Information Technology

The IFIP WG 8.2 Conference, held in conjunction with ICIS 2002, was a great success. The conference was held from December 12-14, 2002 in Barcelona. Special thanks are due to Rafael Andreu and Sandra Sieber at the IESE Business School who sorted out all the local arrangements for the conference.

A special highlight was the flamenco dancers who performed at the conference dinner (pictured at right). Another highlight was the presentations by the two keynote speakers, Burt Swanson and Lucy Suchman.

As usual, the standard of debate was excellent while



Editor: Michael D. Myers  
University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland, New Zealand

## IFIP WORKING GROUP

Website: [www.ifipwg82.org](http://www.ifipwg82.org)  
Email: [m.myers@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.myers@auckland.ac.nz)



*Organizations and Society in  
Information Systems*

# OASIS

## IFIP WG 8.2 Officers



### WG 8.2 Chair

Dr. Julie E. Kendall  
Rutgers University  
School of Business-Camden  
Camden, NJ 08102 USA  
Phone: +1 856 225 6585  
Fax: +1 856 424 6157  
Email: [julie@thekendalls.org](mailto:julie@thekendalls.org)



### WG 8.2 Vice Chair

Dr. Michael D. Myers  
University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Phone: +64 9 373 7599  
Fax: +64 9 373 7430  
Email: [m.myers@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.myers@auckland.ac.nz)



### WG 8.2 Secretary

Dr. Nancy L. Russo  
Northern Illinois University  
OMIS Department  
DeKalb IL 60115 USA  
Phone: +1 815 753 1185  
Fax: +1 815 753 7460  
Email: [nrusso@niu.edu](mailto:nrusso@niu.edu)

## Barcelona (continued)

the standard of dress was somewhat questionable. It was particularly encouraging to see many new faces at the conference.



The conference proceedings have been published in book form by Kluwer. The full citation information is as follows:

Wynn, E.H., Whitley, E.A., Myers, M.D., and De Gross, J.I. (eds.). Global and Organizational Discourse about Information Technology, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Boston, 2002.

At the end of the conference, David Avison (General Chair) gave his closing address. He thanked all those involved with organizing the conference.

Acknowledgements: Photos kindly supplied by John Venable.

## Chair's message (continued)

tioners who have taken an interest in IFIP WG 8.2, and I want to formally welcome you to our working group. This is my first Chair's column in *OASIS* and it is indeed a privilege to address you. As I assumed the Chair's position last December, I reflected on my own long and fruitful association with WG 8.2 and also tried to see what the future might bring for us as IS researchers as well as for us as a professional society. So this column is a beginning for me as Chair of IFIP WG 8.2, but is also an ending of my stint as Vice Chair, and of David Avison's dedicated service as Chair.

I believe that if we string enough beginnings and endings together, we witness a generation, which is commonly considered to take the span of 22 years. My life with our working group is just a few years shy of just such a generation. About twenty years ago I had the happy accident of first learning of IFIP Working Group 8.2.

### A Generation Spent With IFIP WG 8.2

My own experience with WG 8.2 began in December of 1983 when Rudy Hirschheim and Heinz Klein attended a research presentation that Ken (my spouse, co-author, and past chair of IFIP WG 8.2) and I gave at the 1983 Houston ICIS meeting. Rudy and Heinz described the meeting to be held in Manchester, saying that our research would mesh nicely with the group, and that we should consider participating. We submitted our research, presented it and were warmly welcomed by Enid Mumford (then Chair), Frank Land, Gordon Davis, and many other founders, members and friends. And we have never left. We have witnessed many changes in ourselves, the society, and the world, and we hope we have helped to move the working group along as it grew and matured, or even, perhaps, changed generations.

### Conceptualizing a Generation

What is a generation? How do we know when one has come and gone? Does a generation have its own values? Can or should those values be handed down to future generations, just as in a domestic situation the family home, furniture, and old photographs might be? Are there such things as "research generations?" Some writers have characterized generations as possessing certain characteristics. For example Strauss and Howe (1991) wrote about generations stating that:

We treat generations as people moving through time, each group or generation of people possessing a distinctive sense of self. We look at history just an individual looks at his own life. We explain how each generation is shaped by its "age location"-that is, by its age-determined participation in epochal events that occur during its lifecycle. During childhood, and, especially, during the coming-of-age experiences separating youth from adulthood, this age location produces what we call a "peer personality"- a set of collective behavioral traits and attitudes that later expresses itself throughout a generation's life cycle trajectory (p. 9, *Generations*).

The generations that they describe as recurring are based on US history and are labeled as Progressive, Missionary, Lost, G.I., Silent, Boom, Thirteenth, and Millennial. Birth years are 1901-1924 for the G.I. generation and 1925-1942 for the Silent generation. The Boom generation has birth years of 1943-1960; the Thirteenth generation has birth years from 1961-1981 and the Millennial generation from 1982. Strauss and Howe believe that each generation belongs to one of four types: prophets, nomads, heroes or artists and that these types repeat serially in a fixed pattern, a recurring cycle of spiritual stirrings and worldly catastrophes.

Traditionally, one's service to an IFIP Working group will be a 9-year commitment, or a little more than 40% of the span of a generation. I had the opportunity to serve three years as Secretary with Richard Baskerville (US) as Chair. Then I served three years as Vice Chair with David Avison (FR) as Chair and now as Chair with Michael Myers (NZ) serving as Vice Chair. Our group tradition has been to alternate officer positions so that if the Chair is from North America, the Vice Chair will be from elsewhere in the world, and so on. For the most part this generation of officers "grew up" together and experienced similar historical and research events as well.

### IFIP WG 8.2: A New Beginning

Our working group has much to look forward to and much to be grateful for. We have been blessed with members of

# Minutes of the Business Meeting

## Barcelona, December 14, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by the Chair, David Avison (FR).

### 1. Introduction

David Avison began the meeting with a brief description of IFIP, TC 8, and IFIP Working Group 8.2. He described how one becomes a friend initially and then can be nominated for membership after attending two recent business meetings.

### 2. Election of Officers (2003-2005)

David Avison announced that his tenure as Chair would end December 31, 2002. The new officers will be: Julie Kendall (US), Chair; Michael Myers (NZ), Vice-Chair, and Nancy Russo (US), Secretary.

### 3. Forthcoming Workshops and Working Conferences

The next Working Conference (in conjunction with WG 9.4) will be held 15-17 June 2003 in Athens. Program Co-Chair Ramiro Montealegre (US) discussed the theme, "IS Perspectives & Challenges in the Context of Globalization. There were 107 papers submitted. The conference will have 30 presentations and 2 panels. Work-in-progress papers are to be made available on the web. Relevant dates include: notification of acceptance, 7 Jan; final papers due, 15 Feb; early registration opens, 7 March. Program Co-Chair Mikko Korpela (FI) added that by combining with WG 9.4 we have more papers, more countries, more colors, but not more genders! Organizing Chair Angeliki Poulmenakou (GR) discussed the location, the Athens University of Economics and Business, in downtown Athens. Information on the conference is available at:

<http://www.aueb.gr/ifip-isglob03/>.

David Avison discussed the PhD supervisors workshop to be held on Saturday, 14 June 2003 in conjunction with the Athens conference. Those interested in participating should submit a position statement – the expectation is that all who write a position statement will be invited to attend. The outcome of the workshop will be published in book form. Both US and European views of PhD supervision will be included. Heinz Klein (US) suggested publishing the text on the web instead.

Gurpreet Dhillon (US) will organize a workshop in December 2003, immediately before ICIS (to be held in Seattle). David Avison reminded the group that Workshops are opportunities for new researchers or established researchers working in new areas to receive feedback on work in progress.

There will be an IFIP Working Group 8.2 Working Conference on 15-17 July 2004 in Manchester, UK. David Wastell (UK) and Trevor Wood-Harper (UK) discussed the 20-year retrospective on the 1<sup>st</sup> Manchester methodology conference. The original proceedings will be re-published. The General Chairs will be Frank Land (UK) and Richard Baskerville (US). The Program Co-Chairs are Bonnie Kaplan (US), Duane Truex (US), David Wastell, and Trevor Wood-Harper. The Organizing Chairs are Bob Wood (UK) & Peter Kawalek (UK). The Call for Papers will be out in January 2003, with submissions due in October 2003.

Carsten Sorensen (UK) presented a proposal for a Working Conference to be held 1-3 August 2005 in Cleve-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Athens Conference in June 2003

You are invited to participate in the joint IFIP WG 8.2/9.4 working conference on *IS Perspectives and Challenges in the Context of Globalization* in Athens, Greece from Sunday 15 June – Tuesday 17 June 2003. This promises to be a lively conference with attendees from both working groups who are interested in organizational information systems from a global perspective.

The venue for the conference is Athens University of Economics & Business, in Athens, Greece. The conference organizing chair is Dr. Angeliki Poulymenakou (GR), the conference general Chair is Geoff Walsham (UK), the Conference Program Co-Chairs are Ramiro Montealegre, (US) and Mikko Korpela, (FI).

Associated Event: Ph.D. Supervisor's Workshop

Saturday June 14, 2003 Venue: Athens University of Economics & Business

Organizer: Prof. David Avison [avison@essec.fr](mailto:avison@essec.fr)

Check out the conference at <http://www.aueb.gr/ifip-isglob03/index.html>

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land, hosted by the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. The suggested theme is: Designing Ubiquitous Information Environments: Socio-Technical Issues and Challenges. General Chair will be Kalle Lyytinen (US). Program Co-Chairs will be Carsten Sorensen and Youngjin Yoo (US).

No other proposals were received. David Avison asked group in principle to accept the conference topic and site for 2005. Approved.

### 4. New Members

David Avison explained that individuals who have attended two recent business meetings (including Boise, New Orleans, Aalborg, and Brisbane) are eligible to join IFIP WG 8.2. Names were solicited of individuals who were qualified and interested in becoming members of IFIP WG 8.2. It was MSC that the following people be approved for membership, subject to a check on attendance by the Secretary:

Sandra Sieber (ES), Youngjin Yoo (US), Mohammadou Kah (US), Kalle Kangas (FI), Linda Levine (US), Nancy Pouloudi (GR), Melanie Wilson (UK), Tetsuya Uchiki (JA), Ellen Christiannse (NL), Olga Volkoff (US), Gurpreet Dhillon (US), David Allen (UK) Briony Oates (UK), Walter Fernandez (AU), and Gus Hossein (UK).

### 8. Other Business

Eija Karsten (FI) announced that the paper submission deadline for ECSCW 2003, the Eighth European Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work, is 2 February 2002. (For information, see <http://ecscw2003.oulu.fi/>.)

Jeremy Rose (DK) suggested that the group investigate offering crèche facilities at future conferences.

On behalf of incoming Chair Julie Kendall and the membership of IFIP WG 8.2, Michael Myers presented a plaque to David Avison, thanking him for his years of dedicated service to the group. There was no further business and therefore the meeting was closed at 4.00 p.m.

Nancy L. Russo (US), Secretary

## Chair's Message (continued)

many different types, who want to further the group and deepen their own ties with it by volunteering to develop, chair or host conferences. In Athens, this June we have a jointly held working conference with IFIP WG 9.4 entitled "IS Perspectives and Challenges in the Context of Globalization." I look forward to greeting you there personally.

In December of 2003 we have an OASIS workshop planned prior to the Seattle ICIS meeting, particularly for researchers new to the group, those with new ideas or just "new" who would like to present their research in progress.

Next year, in July of 2004 we have a look back at the last generation, when we revisit the historic Manchester conference (twenty years on), and we return to the UK to ponder the theme: "Relevant Theory and Informed Practice: A 20 Year Retrospective on IS Research." The call for papers explicitly plays the generational card by inviting the "old guard" and the "new young Turks" (I quote directly) to explore the relevance of IS research. Perhaps this is a subconscious, if not conscious, announcement to recognize a new generation of IS researchers.

### Innovation: Signs of a New Generation

Another sign of a generational change is an innovation that comes at the beginning of the Athens Working Conference. Our past Chair, David Avison (FR), along with Jan Pries-Heje (DK) has recognized the importance of exploring what exactly the duties of one generation of researchers might be to the next. To that end, they are holding a special one-day Ph.D. Supervisors' Workshop to be held just prior to the Athens meeting this June.

Today we have a crop of Ph.D. students and colleagues who have never lived in a world without affordable air travel, television, or computers. In fact, many of them have never existed in a research world without IFIP Working Group 8.2, ICIS, or *MIS Quarterly*.

### Now and Beyond

Thank you to all of those members, friends and officers who have made it possible to continue contributing to IFIP WG 8.2. In particular I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, David Avison (FR) for all his unselfish support, as well as the officers I am currently serving with, Michael Myers (NZ) and Nancy Russo (US), for their continued good will. I urge you to consider the future of the working group's research as well as your own. If you have an eye to the future and are longing to develop something new, consider proposing a working conference for 2006. I look forward to new beginnings and endings, and an exciting generation ahead.

## Upcoming IFIP WG 8.2 Conferences and Workshops

- "IS Perspectives and Challenges in the Context of Globalization." Joint IFIP Working Group 8.2/9.4 Working Conference, Athens, Greece, 15-17 June 2003 (just before the ECIS 2003 Conference in Naples, Italy). "IS Perspectives and Challenges in the Context of Globalization." <http://www.aueb.gr/ifip-isglob03/index.html>
- Oasis Workshop, Seattle, Washington, USA, 14 December 2003 (immediately before ICIS). The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2003. Check out the website at <http://island.isy.vcu.edu/oasis2003/default.htm> which has the call for papers and lots of other information. Any other questions can be emailed to [oasis2003@isy.vcu.edu](mailto:oasis2003@isy.vcu.edu)
- "Manchester 2: Relevant Theory and Informed Practice: Looking Forward from a Twenty Year Perspective on IS Research," IFIP 8.2 Working Conference, Manchester, England, 15-17 July 2004. The deadline for submission is 10 September 2003. The call for papers etc is on the conference website is at <http://cba.fiu.edu/dsis/truexd/ifip2004/>