

New Year's Greetings from the International Association for Ontology and its Applications – Annual Report 2012

Dear members and friends of the IAOA,

Happy new year!

We are looking forward to two **major events** this year – the second Summer Institute as well as the eighth Ontology Summit.

The Ontology Summit 2013 will launch on January 17, for three months of virtual panel sessions and discourse, culminating in a two-day symposium in April. This year's theme is “*Ontology Evaluation Across the Ontology Lifecycle*”. The summit is co-organized by multiple communities and organizations, including Ontolog and IAOA. Members are encouraged to participate actively.

During June 3-7, 2013, the **Summer Institute** will take place in Fiesole (near Florence), Italy, jointly organized with The Vespucci Initiative, dealing with the theme “*Ontologies and Models for Integrated Assessments of Multiple-Scale Processes*”. Calls for participation will be circulated soon.

In the previous year, we had a successful FOIS 2012, co-located in Graz, Austria, with the International Conference on Biomedical Ontology, ICBO 2012, with a total of 84 participants. It was an exciting conference which comprised, over and above the single-track session, an Early Career Symposium for young researchers, three workshops (respectively on Modular Ontologies, Ontology and Semantic Web for Manufacturing and Ontology-driven Information Systems Engineering). Highlights of the conference included the keynote talks by Steve Ray, Laure Vieu and Ed Zalta. The quality of papers in FOIS 2012 was very high, and the decision for the Best Paper Award was difficult. The winner of the IOS Press Best Paper Award at FOIS 2012 was “Three Semantics for the Core of the Distributed Ontology Language”, by Till Mossakowski, Christoph Lange, and Oliver Kutz. We take the opportunity to congratulate the authors again. The next edition of FOIS in 2014 is already getting on, as well. Just in December, a hosting proposal for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September 2014 has been accepted.

FOIS 2012 was preceded by the highly successful first IAOA Summer School, which was held from July 16 to 20 in Trento, Italy. 80 participants from all over the world gathered at the Bruno Kessler Foundation to follow highly informative interdisciplinary lectures on ontology. The lectures were given by Nicola Guarino, Chiara Ghidini and Luciano Serafini, Christiane Fellbaum, Amanda Hicks, Kevin Mulligan and Giancarlo Guizzardi. Together these lecturers represented various different approaches to ontology (ranging from computer- and cognitive science over linguistics to philosophy and conceptual analysis). A second IAOA Summer School will be organized in 2014.

A few words on the IAOA itself. The **new Executive Council** (EC), as elected during FOIS 2012, has taken office on January 1, 2013. Welcome again to the new members and many thanks to all EC members for their work during the previous term(s) of office. Regarding new infrastructure, please note and consider using the still young IAOA blog, introduced via its first post in October 2012.

Last but not least, all IAOA members are kindly reminded to renew their membership for 2013 before

January 31. Please go to the Member's Area > Utilities, select "Payment System (Membership Renewal)" and follow the procedure there. Separate pages list the membership fees and allow you to reset your password, if necessary. Of course, interested parties are always invited to become members of the IAOA.

Thanks to all members for your interest in Ontology and its Applications, as well as for your contributions to and support of the Association as a community. May 2013 become another successful and productive year for all of us.

Michael Gruninger and John Bateman
(for the IAOA Executive Council)