



## President's Report 2008

Since taking up the position of President in February 2008 I am pleased to report on the following activities and involvements of ICASE during 2008 on behalf of its member associations and organisations.

1. The ICASE newsletter was instigated from March 2008. This is a monthly, on-line (or send by e-mail) newsletter which carries news of upcoming events and monthly columns in areas of interest. Most noticeable for 2008 the focus has been on experiments suitable for grades 1-9 students with an emphasis to promote inquiry-type learning. This will continue in 2009.

The newsletter is sent out by e-mail to all science educators showing interest. There is no fee. Feedback on the newsletter is generally positive, but there is a division of interest as to whether the newsletter should carry items in full or this should be left for the website (the newsletter thus drawing attention to the website). Generally readers from developing countries prefer the newsletter the way it is.

2. The ICASE journal continued to be published during 2008 with 2 issues (June and September being designated as special issues). Unfortunately the number of subscribers continued to drop and ICASE funds were drastically affected by maintaining the journal for members. Thus while the number of articles being received was high and the editor was able to develop a high quality journal, its circulation was very suspect and clearly remedial action was needed. The subsequent action was moving the journal online.
3. An ICASE Executive Committee meeting was held in Boston, USA in March 2008 which spend most of its time discussing the journal issue and heard comments from member organisations that strong action on the journal was needed and most probably the journal should cease to function. Also raised was the function of ICASE as an umbrella body in these days of the internet and e-mail communication. It was recognised that ICASE had a networking role to play and that member organisations should be paying more attention to how this role could be maximised.
4. A major involvement of ICASE was in the PARSEL project on raising the popularity and relevance of science education for scientific literacy. The website ([www.parsel.eu](http://www.parsel.eu)) contains a collection of teaching materials based on the PARSEL approach. The approach is heavily related to the STL philosophy - a philosophy pioneered by ICASE in the 1990's although little recognised by STAs. The issue for ICASE is to disseminate the project materials and the ideas behind them and assist member organisations, where this is appropriate, to promote science education in a way that is more popular and relevance for students. This is an ICASE target for 2009.

Jack Holbrook