



## Southern African Online User Group

### Chair's Report: Sep 2009 – Nov 2010

#### COMMITTEE:

Chair	Madelein van Heerden
Ex Officio	Glenda Myers
Honorary Treasurer	Chris Cromhout
Membership	Maureen Brassel
Membership Secretary	Susan Scheepers
Minutes Secretary	Devind Peter
Meetings Organiser	Christa Fourie
Branch & Liaison Officer	Fiona Bester
Web Mistress	Christel Smith
Blog	Pavlinka Kovatcheva
Co-opted Member	Siphethile Muswelanto
Co-opted Member	Janet Zambri
Co-opted Member	Rajaene van Dyk
Eastern Cape representative	Vuyani Mhlontlo

#### MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES:

- **8 October 2009: Workshop**  
*End user training tips* presented by the UP Faculty for Natural Science, Agriculture and the Build Environment staff  
Venue: University of Pretoria, Main Campus
- **13 November 2009: SAOUG's end of year function**  
*Leadership in a technology driven world* by Ramon Thomas  
Venue: Kloofzicht Lodge, Muldersdrift, Johannesburg
- **24, 25 & 27 November 2009: Training sessions**  
*ScienceDirect and Scopus training workshops* presented by Sunette Steynberg  
Venues: UJ Campus, Johannesburg; UP Main Campus; and CSIR Durban
- **12 February 2010: Valentine's breakfast**  
*Social networking: tips and tricks* by Hennie Rautenbach  
Venue: Adler Museum, WITS Medical School, Johannesburg
- **11 May 2010: Meeting**  
*Broadband in South Africa* by Alan Knott-Craig, Jr.  
Venue: Shonalanga Valley, Muldersdrift
- **3-6 August 2010: 10th SAOIM and workshops**  
Venue: CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria
- **12 November 2010: End of year function and voting AGM**  
*Good news, bad news... The demise of newspapers with special reference to all the fuss about a media tribunal* by David Bullard  
Venue: The Castle, Kyalami

## **ACTIVITIES:**

As can be seen from the list of meetings, workshops and conferences, the review period covered in this report has been exceptionally busy. Much of the Executive Committee's efforts were spent on the organisation of the 10th Southern African Online Information Meeting (SAOIM) held at the CSIR Convention Centre. The conference was moved from our customary time slot early in June to the beginning of August to avoid any logistical difficulties due to the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Two milestones were celebrated – the 10th SAOIM as well as SAOUG's 30th anniversary. (SAOUG was 30 in 2009, but the decision was made to have a joint celebration of the two landmarks in 2010.) There was a very good turnout of more than 250 delegates at the conference and positive feedback was received afterwards.

Besides the abovementioned activities, the Executive Committee has, during the past year, focussed on the following:

- Regional branches: Vuyani Mtlontlo, based at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, was appointed as the Eastern Cape representative. The first meeting of the branch, held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010, included a Dialog Quantum2 presentation by Christa Fourie on building relationships. A Regional Chapter Committee will be formed to assist in organising future activities.
- New website & blog: The revamp of the SAOUG website was completed. Christel Smith and Pavlinka Kovatcheva deserve a special thank you for their hard work on the website and the new blog.
- Constitution: The constitution was formally ratified at the previous AGM on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Changes focussed on the terms of the chairperson and executive committee members.

## **NOTE OF THANKS:**

On behalf of the Executive Committee I wish to thank Swets for their sponsorship of the Group in allowing us to use their Centurion facilities for committee meetings.

I again would like to express my appreciation for the efforts, on behalf of their organisations, of Christelle Nieuwenhuizen (SLIS) and Fanus Olivier (OSALL) with regard to arrangements for the 2010 SAOIM.

To all the Executive Committee members, thank you for your support, dedication, enthusiasm and hard work during the past year. As I have come to appreciate, organising conferences is not for the faint hearted and you deserve huge accolades for handling matters in a most efficient manner. It was an honour working with all of you!

Special thanks go to two of our long serving committee members, Glenda Myers and Maureen Brassel, who have decided not to stand for re-election. Between Glenda and Maureen, they have expertly chaired the Executive Committee for many years. Both were founder members of SAOUG and it is due to their arduous efforts and dedication that SAOUG continues to exist today.

Lastly, I extend my thanks to all SAOUG members for your continued support and contributions to the organisation.

Madelein van Heerden  
Chair: SAOUG  
12 November 2010