Welcome to this month's ASSC newsletter. The ASSC newsletter is intended to improve communication with the membership by providing a quick summary of current events and activities being undertaken by the association. In addition, it is hoped that the newsletter will act as a bulletin board for current members of the ASSC to inform their colleagues of academic events and information relevant to the study of consciousness (e.g. book releases, new papers, meetings, jobs, etc.).

This month's newsletter contains the following information:

- ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION:


- NON-ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION:

  1. The 4th Annual Best Illusion of the Year Contest: Deadline Extended to March 1st
  2. Defining Thoughts - An Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Notion of Thought
  3. 2008 Mind and Life Summer Research Institute: Call for Applications
  4. Research Position in Motor Neuroscience/Neuroimaging at Nottingham

Enjoy the newsletter and have a good weekend!

Kristina

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
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All members of the ASSC are invited to submit items for inclusion in the newsletter that are of potential interest to the general membership to Kristina Musholt (kmusholt@gmail.com) by no later than the 10th of the month (subject: ASSC newsletter).

Items should be in the form of ONE paragraph of plain ASCII text no longer than 250 WORDS, and should be of general relevance to the MAINSTREAM ACADEMIC study of consciousness. Attachments will not be accepted. The submitting author must be a current member of the ASSC. Submissions that do not meet these requirements may be rejected without further correspondence.

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ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION
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1. ASSC EPRINTS ARCHIVE: THE FIVE "MOST POPULAR" PAPERS OF JANUARY 2008
Corresponding author: Kristina Musholt (kmusholt@gmail.com)
Further information: http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu

The Eprint Committee is pleased to announce the five "most popular" papers of January 2008. Overall, we registered 38827 downloads from 65 countries.


Check out the statistics of your paper by month, year, or in total at:
http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu/es/index.php?action=cumulative_usage;range=all

We would also like to remind you that you have the option to subscribe to daily, weekly or monthly notifications of new submissions to the archive.

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NON-ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION
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1. THE 4TH ANNUAL BEST VISUAL ILLUSION OF THE YEAR CONTEST: SUBMISSION EXTENSION TO MARCH 1ST.
Corresponding author: Susana Martinez-Conde (smart@neuralcorrelate.com)
Further information: http://illusioncontest.neuralcorrelate.com

Due to popular demand, the deadline for the 4th annual best visual illusion of the year contest has been extended. Final (no exceptions) submission date is now March 1st. The 2008 contest will be hosted by Stuart Anstis and held in Naples, Florida (Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts, http://www.thephil.org) on Sunday, May 11th, 2008, during the week of the Vision Sciences Society conference (VSS).
Visual Illusion Contestants are invited to submit novel visual or multimodal illusions (unpublished, or published no earlier than 2007) in standard image, movie or HTML formats. An international panel of impartial judges will rate the submissions and narrow them to the top ten. Then, at the Contest Gala in Naples, the top ten illusionists will present their contributions and the attendees of the event will vote to pick the top three winners.

Submissions will be held in strict confidence by the panel of judges and the authors/creators will retain full copyright. No illusions will be posted on the illusion contest's website without the creators' explicit permission. Submissions can be made to Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde (Illusion Contest Coordinator, Neural Correlate Society) via email (smart@neuralcorrelate.com) until March 01, 2008. Illusion submissions should come with a (no more than) one-page description of the illusion and its theoretical underpinnings (if known). Illusions will be rated according to: Significance to our understanding of the visual system; simplicity of the description; sheer beauty; counterintuitive quality; spectacularity.

Visit the illusion contest website for further information and to see last year's illusions: http://illusioncontest.neuralcorrelate.com

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2. DEFINING THOUGHTS - INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP ON THE NOTION OF THOUGHT
Corresponding author: Gottfried Vosgerau (Gottfried.Vosgerau@rub.de)
Contact: David Neugebauer (david.neugebauer@ruhr-uni-bochum.de)
Further information: www.rub.de/philosophy/thoughts.

Within the interdisciplinary research project "Are Thoughts Motor Processes?", the workshop "Defining Thoughts" will take place on June 5.-7. 2008 in Bochum, Germany. The workshop aims at working out a notion of thought fully usable in interdisciplinary research. While each discipline, from linguistics and psychology to philosophy, traditionally uses its own notion of thought, "Defining Thoughts" brings together researchers from each of these disciplines to discuss the different notions of thought and to develop a common notion making interdisciplinary communication possible.

Participation is free but registration necessary at www.rub.de/philosophy/thoughts/workshop. There will be a conference dinner at June 6., for which the costs will be paid at the reception.

Confirmed Speakers:
Lawrence W. Barsalou, Emory University
Tim Bayne, University of Oxford
José Luis Bermúdez, University of Washington in St. Louis
John Campbell, University of California, Berkeley
Max Coltheart, Macquarie University, Sydney
Vinod Goel, York University, Toronto
Benoit Hardy-Vallée, University of Toronto
Pierre Jacob, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris
Albert Newen, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
3. 2008 MIND AND LIFE SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Corresponding author: Olivia Carter (ocarter@wjh.harvard.edu)
Further information: http://www.mindandlife.org/sri08.application.process.html

Applications for the 2008 Mind and Life Summer Research Institute (MLSRI) to be held at the Garrison Institute (www.garrisoninstitute.org) in New York from June 6 (mid-aft.) to the morning of June 12, 2008, are now being accepted. The application period will close on Friday, February 29, 2008.
To apply now, please go to: http://www.mindandlife.org/sri08.application.process.html. This is an online only application process - no paper applications, either mailed or faxed, will be accepted.

The purpose of the Mind and Life Summer Research Institute is to advance collaborative research among behavioral scientists, neuroscientists, and biomedical researchers based on a process of inquiry, dialogue, and in some cases, collaboration, with Buddhist contemplative practitioners and scholars and those in other contemplative traditions. The long-term objective is to advance the training of a new generation of behavioral scientists, cognitive/affective neuroscientists, clinicians, and contemplative scholar/practitioners interested in exploring the potential influences of meditation and other contemplative practices on mind, behavior, brain function, and health. This includes examining the potential role of contemplative methods for characterizing human experience and consciousness from a neuroscience perspective. The 2008 Summer Research Institute will be devoted to the theme of attention and emotion regulation. It will bring together researchers in basic science, clinical science, contemplative scholarship and philosophy, and contemplative practice to investigate the relation between attentional processes and emotional self-regulation.

4. RESEARCH POSITION IN MOTOR NEUROSCIENCE/NEUROIMAGING AT NOTTINGHAM
Corresponding author: Stephen Jackson (srj@psychology.nottingham.ac.uk)

Applications are invited for a full-time Research position in the School of Psychology, University of Nottingham. The successful candidate will work with Professor Stephen Jackson and colleagues on a project investigating brain plasticity mechanisms and the recovery of sensorimotor function after stroke. The project employs a programmable two-link robot together with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI/fMRI), and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) techniques. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in
Neuropsychology, Psychology, Neuroscience, or a discipline relevant to sensorimotor control and human brain imaging, with an academic record of scientific excellence, independent research, and an interest in an interdisciplinary approach to human motor control. An ability to programme (Matlab, C++, etc.) would be an advantage. Applicants without a PhD but with a strong academic background relevant to neuroimaging and/or sensorimotor control may also be considered.

The post provides an exciting opportunity for an individual to gain expertise in a variety of cognitive neuroscience and brain imaging techniques (e.g., TMS, fMRI, diffusion-tensorimaging), including human neuroimaging at ultra high-field (7T) strengths. The appointment will be for 18-24 months depending upon the level of experience of the applicant. The post will commence 1st March 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Enquiries should be addressed by email to Professor Stephen Jackson (stephen.jackson@nottingham.ac.uk).

Applicants are asked to submit (a) a cover letter describing their research experiences, interests, and goals, (b) a curriculum vitae, (c) a completed application form with the names and contact information of three individuals who can serve as references. These should be sent to Ms Claire Whitney, School of Psychology, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD to arrive prior to February 27th, 2008.