On behalf of the three sponsoring societies and Seattle University, we are pleased to welcome you to FIE 2012. The lifetime of FIE, 42 years and counting, has been a time of many innovations in engineering and computing education. The Frontiers in Education Conference has become the premiere conference for presentation and discussion of excellent educational research and innovative curricula in engineering education. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the vision and strong leadership of the three sponsoring professional societies – ASEE Educational Research and Methods Division, IEEE Computer Society, and the IEEE Education Society. We, along with the sponsoring societies, are proud of the rich traditions of the FIE and the many engineering educators and educational researchers from around the globe who have contributed so much to our present understanding of how students learn. We are excited to bring this year’s conference to the West Coast, where it is more easily accessible to our colleagues around the Pacific Rim. The theme of this year’s conference, “Soaring to New Heights in Engineering Education” focuses on expanding the diverse community of international scholars and enriching the foundation of educational research that FIE has built over its history. It seems only fitting then that we continue this celebration of “soaring to new heights” by hosting this year’s reception at the Museum of Flight.

Also fitting with this year’s theme and location, we have expanded our outreach efforts to include Asia and Australia and are quite eager to learn of your educational efforts. Welcome to all first timers at FIE, whether international or local. We hope you become ambassadors for FIE by supporting our goals of enriching engineering education and informing other colleagues of your experiences.

FIE 2012 has an exciting and innovative technical program which is made possible by the Planning Committee, a large group of dedicated professionals who volunteer their time to this cause. The program co-chairs from the sponsoring societies – Reid Bailey and Archie Holmes of ERM, Steve Frezza of the IEEE Computer Society, and Lance Perez of the IEEE Education Society – coordinate the paper review process and organize the technical sessions. The program co-chairs are joined by the International Program Chairs, Ming Zhang, Mark Lee, Edmundo Tovar Caro and Melany Ciampi and the Special Sessions Chair Kevin Gary. Ingrid Russell, as the New Faculty Fellows Chair, coordinates the new faculty fellows program, a valuable influx of new people and innovations. Robert Hofinger continues in his key role as Exhibits Chair and Ed Jones as Conference Historian. We are pleased to have had such a dedicated group of program chairs who provide countless hours to organize the technical sessions, workshops, and special sessions that make FIE the innovative and compelling conference that it is.

In addition to selecting the technical program, there is a great deal of logistics and support planning that must be accomplished to make FIE the special conference that it is. We are both fortunate and thankful for the logistics support from Kevin Curry, Assistant to the General Chairs, and the University of Kansas Continuing Education staff and to Chris Dyer, Publications Chair. In addition to providing all of the logistical support that is necessary for the conference, Kevin continues to provide the continuity and institutional memory that is necessary for the planning committee to do its job. In addition, we would like to thank Jennifer Karlin and Stuart Kellogg and the FIE 2011 Planning Committee who continue to offer the support and guidance for the FIE 2012 program. Finally, we would like to thank the FIE Steering Committee for their leadership in ensuring the uniqueness that is FIE.

FIE is more than just a place to present papers. It is a place to meet and welcome new people and reconnect with old colleagues. It is a place to interact and discuss new ideas and new innovations. In short, it is a place to build not only a community of scholars but a community of friends. While you are here, we hope that you will have an opportunity to enjoy some of the many attractions that Seattle has to offer.

Our conference hotel is located in the heart of downtown Seattle, within walking distance of many fine restaurants, the Seattle Art Museum, multiple live music venues, the Seattle waterfront with its stunning views across Puget Sound, and the unique Pike Place Market. If you are able to spend an extra day in Seattle, you can explore the natural beauty of the city and its surroundings, take a trip to Mt. Rainier National Park, or visit the Boeing factory to see the latest commercial airliners being constructed. Seattle offers something for every taste, including all of the great coffee you can drink!

Your Co-Chairs,
Richard Leblanc and Ann Sobel
MESSAGE FROM THE FIE STEERING COMMITTEE

Welcome to Seattle and the 42nd annual Frontiers in Education Conference. This year the conference continues its long tradition of offering an outstanding technical program. Each year I learn so many new things at FIE. I have always particularly liked the sessions on first-year classes, curriculum assessment, and cooperative learning because these are areas I spend significant time thinking about each day on the job. But, last year one of the sessions that had the greatest impact on me was a workshop on the Philosophy of Engineering Education because it asked tough questions to participants about the nature of engineering, engineering knowledge, and engineering education. The effect of this workshop on my thought processes has been profound. I am confident that this year you will find many conference events that can similarly transform the way you think about engineering and education. Immerse yourself in hands-on learning at a workshop on Wednesday. Start Thursday and Friday at the Plenary sessions where you can interact with leaders from both industry and academia as they challenge you to think differently about modern product development and the education of engineering and computer science students. Attend and ask questions at scores of high quality paper presentations in the many parallel tracks. Engage with others at the unique Catalyzing Collaborative Conversations Sessions on Thursday evening where anyone can catalyze educational change by bring forth new topics for group discussion. Finally, enjoy the many opportunities to network with colleagues from around the world at the breakfasts, lunches, exhibit hall breaks, and the fantastic reception at the Museum of Flight on Friday evening.

Dr. Edwin C. Jones is the Frontiers in Education conference historian. He notes that FIE began in Atlanta in the year 1971 as an IEEE Education Society sponsored event. Thirty-four papers were presented in six sessions and enjoyed by approximately 100 registrants. In just a few years, the ASEE Educational Research and Methods (ERM) division joined as a sponsor, the conference community grew, and the conference matured into a premier event in engineering educational theory and practice. In 1995, the IEEE Computer Society became the third sponsor and helped to expand the community even more by reaching out to computer science and software engineering professionals. Over the past four decades, the conference has grown from these historic roots to a four day event with more than 400 papers and 600 registrants.

Each of the three sponsoring societies elects three members to serve on the FIE Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is responsible for strategic mission and vision, long-term conference planning, conference management, and conference site selection. The committee meets in person twice each year and holds considerable discussion electronically throughout the year. Important questions that we have recently answered include:

- **Should FIE periodically move to a venue outside of North America (IEEE Regions 1 - 7)?** The Steering Committee recognized that FIE has a reputation as a premier North American conference. Thus, the committee wrote a long-term policy statement that encourages venues in other IEEE Regions but requires at least five years in North America after any such event. Be sure to reserve October on your calendar and join us in Madrid, Spain in 2014!

- **How can FIE continue to improve its technical program quality and impact factor?** The Steering Committee recognized that FIE has a highly respected proceedings record but also believed that a clear categorization of papers could help peer reviewers better judge the merit of each contributed work. Thus, the conference adopted three paper categories called innovative practice, research-to-practice, and research. The committee continues to work with Technical Program Chairs to improve the quality metrics used by peer reviewers in each category.

- **How can FIE assist its volunteers in learning about and contributing to the conference event?** The Steering Committee is working on a number of informational documents that describe the various volunteer conference roles, the city bid process, and the expectations of Technical Program Chairs. These documents will become visible on the main FIE conference website when they are finished (www.fieconference.org).

- **How can FIE provide the highest quality product while maintaining registration price?** The Steering Committee worked for a number of years to move to transparent bidding processes for publications and for conference logistics. Formal request-for-proposal documents were written describing the responsibilities of these two important aspects of conference management. Bids were received from a number of vendors and through this fiscal process we have been able to leave the FIE registration price fixed for a number of years.

These are just some examples of work going on behind the scenes to make your conference experience better. The Steering Committee works for the Societies and the member communities. We encourage you to contact any one of us to discuss the FIE conference. We can be identified by Steering Committee ribbons on our conference badges.
FIE 2012 PLANNING COMMITTEE

General Co-Chair
Richard LeBlanc
Seattle University

General Co-Chair
Ann E.K. Sobel
Miami University

Assistant to the General Chairs
Kevin Curry
University of Kansas

ASEE/ERM Program Co-Chairs
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IEEE/Education Society Program Co-Chair
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Workshop, Special Sessions & Panels Chair
Kevin Gary
Arizona State University

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New Faculty Fellows Chair
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Universidad Politecnica de Madrid

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VP COPEC- Science and Education Research Council

Conference Historian
Ed Jones
Iowa State University

Awards Chair
Manuel Castro
Spanish National Distance University

FIE STEERING COMMITTEE

ASEE Educational Research and Methods Division Representatives
Beth Eschenbach, Humboldt State University (June 2010 - June 2013)
Jim Morgan, Texas A&M University (June 2011-June 2014)
Archie Holmes, University of Virginia (June 2012 - June 2015)

IEEE Computer Society Representatives
Fernando Naveda, Rochester Institute of Technology (June 2007 - June 2013)
Stephen Frezza, Gannon University (June 2011 - June 2014)
Arnold Pears, Uppsala University (June 2009 - June 2015)

IEEE Education Society Representatives
Russ Meier, Milwaukee School of Engineering (June 2007 - June 2013) Steering Committee Chair
Edmundo Tovar Caro, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid (June 2008 - June 2014)
James Sluss, University of Oklahoma (June 2012 - June 2015)

FUTURE FIE CONFERENCES

FIE 2013 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 23 – 26
FIE 2014 Madrid, Spain

Are you interested in hosting a future FIE conference? Leave your business card at the registration desk, and an FIE steering committee member will contact you.
A Philosophy Driven Curriculum: the Example of an Engineering Science Course in England

John Heywood (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

T2C: Faculty Development 1

Chair: James Pembridge (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, USA)

An assessment of stress factors on engineering academics in a regional context

Steven Goh (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)
Hong Zhou (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)
Frank Bullen (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)
Kenneth Davey (University of Adelaide, Australia)

Starting a New Conversation: An Engineering Faculty Advisor Development Program

Emily L Allen (San Jose State University, USA)
Francisco Castillo (San Jose State University, USA)
Eva Schiorrting (The Research & Planning Group for California Community Colleges, USA)

Work in Progress: Empowering Teaching Assistants to Become Agents of Education Reform

Geoffrey Herman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA)
Kathryn Trenshaw (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA)
Luisa-Maria Rosu (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA)

Department Climate: A Key to Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse and Successful Faculty

Rebecca Brent (Education Designs, Inc., USA)

Work in Progress: Developing and Evaluating Tutor Training for Collaborative Teaching

Lyn Brodie (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)
Hannah Jolly (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)

T2D: Mobile Applications 1

Chair: Javier Kypuros (The University of Texas-Pan American, USA)

Developing Innovative Thinking Among Engineering Undergraduates: Examining the Role of Slate Enabled Technology

Catherine Amelink (Virginia Tech, USA)
Bevlee Watford (Virginia Tech, USA)
Glenda Scales (Virginia Tech, USA)

Work in Progress: The Effects of Mobile Learning on Inquiry-Based Instruction

Kristen Bachman (Miami University, USA)
Gerald Gannod (Miami University, USA)

Will Texting Help Student Learning? A case study of using mobile devices in university classrooms

Fabienne Miller (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA)
Erin DeSilva (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA)
Jianyu Liang (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA)

Enhancing Curiosity Using Interactive Simulations Combined with Real-Time Formative Assessment Facilitated by Open-Format Questions on Tablet Computers

Frank Kowalski (Colorado School of Mines, USA)
Susan Kowalski (Colorado School of Mines, USA)
Student Reflections on Collaborative Technology in a Globally Distributed Student Project ..................365
Roger McDermott (Robert Gordon University, United Kingdom)
Mats Daniels (Uppsala University, Sweden)
Åsa Cajander (Uppsala University, Sweden)
Mats Cullhed (Uppsala University, Sweden)
Tony Clear (Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand)
Cary Laxer (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, USA)

Problem-driven learning on two continents: Lessons in pedagogic innovation across cultural divides .....371
Wendy Newstetter (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA)
Kinda Khalaf (Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, UAE)
Peng Xi (Peking University, P.R. China)

T2H: Using Learning Theories 1
Chairs: Koenraad Gieskes (Binghamton University, USA), Russ Meier (Milwaukee School of Engineering, USA)

Work in Progress: Can Bourdieu's Habitus provide a theoretical framework for Engineering Education Research? ..............................................................377
Jo Devine (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)

Work in Progress: Towards a Framework for Adaptive Learning Systems ..................................................379
Elaine Harada Teixeira de Oliveira (Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Brazil)
Erika Nozawa (Instituto Ambiental e Tecnológico da Amazônia, Brazil)
Rosa Vicari (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil)
Luciana Costa (IATECAM, Brazil)
Yuri Albuquerque (IATECAM, Brazil)

Work in Progress: A Constructivist Didactic Methodology for a Humanoid Robotics Workshop ..........382
Alexandre Miranda (Tehcnical University of Catalonia, Spain)
Yolanda Bolea (Technical Univ of Catalonia, Spain)
Antoni Grau (Technical Univ of Catalonia, Spain)
Alberto Sanfeliu (Technical Univ of Catalonia, Spain)

Work in Progress: Identification of Misconceptions governed by Emergent Phenomena in Photovoltaics Content using the Delphi Method ..........................................................385
Katherine Nelson (Arizona State University, USA)
Sarah Brem (Arizona State University, USA)
Jenefer Husman (Arizona State University, USA)

Work in Progress: A Developmental Approach to Better Problem Solving: A Model for Bridging the Alverno Gap .................................................................387
Stuart Kellogg (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, USA)
Jennifer Karlin (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, USA)
Quality of Service, Quality of Experience and Online Learning .......................................................... 712
Alexander A. Kist (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)
Lyn Brodie (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)

Quantifying learning from web-based course materials using different pre and post tests .................. 718
Paul Steif (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)
Marsha Lovett (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)
Anna Dollár (Miami University, USA)

Accessibility Evaluation Improvement using Case Based Reasoning ................................................. 723
Cecilia Avila Garzon (Universitat de Girona, Spain)
Silvia Margarita Baldiris Navarro (University of Girona, Spain)
Ramón Fabregat Gesa (Universitat de Girona, Spain)
Juan Carlos Guevara Bolaños (Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Colombia)

Work in Progress: Evaluation of an Online Education Portal from the User's Perspective:
An Empirical Investigation of a Photovoltaics (PV) Engineering Learning Portal, pveducation.org ...... 729
Refika Koseler (Arizona State University, USA)
Sue Shapcott (Arizona State University, USA)
Katherine Nelson (Arizona State University, USA)
Jenefer Husman (Arizona State University, USA)

F2D: Mobile Applications 3
Chair: Susan Kowalski (Colorado School of Mines, USA)

Work in Progress: Multi-Faceted Penetration of Fast Fourier Transform by Interactively Analyzing
Real-World Objects via Mobile Technology .......................................................................................... 731
Liang Hong (Tennessee State University, USA)
Kai Qian (Southern Polytechnic State University, USA)
Chih-Cheng Hung (Southern Polytechnic State University, USA)

Work in Progress: Performing Signal Analysis Laboratories using Android Devices ....................... 733
Suhas Ranganath (Arizona State University, USA)
Jayaraman Thiagarajan (Arizona State University, USA)
Karthikkeyan Natesan Ramamurthy (Arizona State University, USA)
Shuang Hu (Arizona State University, USA)
Maheas Banavar (Arizona State University, USA)
Andreas Spanias (Arizona State University, USA)

Exploring the Significance of Multi-touch Tables in Enhancing Collaborative Software Design
Using UML .......................................................................................................................................... 735
Mohammed Basheri (Durham University, United Kingdom)
Liz Burd (Durham University, United Kingdom)

Comparing the Mobile Novice Programming Environments: App Inventor for Android Vs. GameSalad ...................................................................................................................... 740
Krishnendu Roy (Valdosta State University, USA)
William Rousse (Valdosta State University, USA)
David DeMeritt (Valdosta State University, USA)
Open Channel Flow Misconceptions and Ontological Categories .................................................................894
Andrew Easley (Washington State University, USA)
Shane Brown (Washington State University, USA)
Jennifer Adam (Washington State University, USA)
Devin Montfort (Washington State University, USA)
Bernard Vanwie (Washington State University, USA)

Multi-Faceted Approach to Assessing the Quality of Courses Delivered Through Learning Management Systems: An Empirical Investigation of a Computer Literacy Course .................................................900
Sevgi Ozkan (Middle East Technical University, Turkey)
Refika Koseler (Arizona State University, USA)

Work in Progress: A Semantic Annotation Scheme for Concept Maps ..............................................................906
Viviane Silva (Universidade Federal do Amazonas & Instituto Federal de Educação Amazonas, Brazil)
Alberto Castro, Jr. (UFAM - Federal University of Amazonas, Brazil)

Work in Progress: Management of online assessments as a replacement for exams ........................................908
Andrew Maxwell (University of Southern Queensland, Australia)

Exploring Student Understanding of Parallelism Using Concept Maps ...............................................................910
Greg Lammers (Purdue University, USA)
Cordelia M. Brown (Purdue University, USA)

A Mastery-Based Learning Approach for Undergraduate Engineering Programs ..............................................915
Jennifer Bekki (Arizona State University, USA)
Caitlyn Butler (University of Massachusetts, USA)
Odesma Dalrymple (Arizona State University, USA)

F3F: Quantifying Learning Gains 2
Chair: Lisa Benson (Clemson University, USA)

How does Academic Preparation Influence How Engineering Students Solve Problems? .................................921
Sarah Grigg (Clemson University, USA)
Lisa Benson (Clemson University, USA)

Understanding Industry Experiences: From Problem Solving to Engineering Students’ Learning Gains .........................927
Jacquelyn Nagel (James Madison University, USA)
Olga Pierrakos (James Madison University, USA)
Anna Zilberberg (James Madison University, USA)
Sean McVay (James Madison University, USA)

Work in Progress: Outreach Assessment: Measuring Engagement ....................................................................933
Lizabeth Schlemer (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, USA)
John Oliver (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, USA)
Katherine Chen (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, USA)
Sofia Rodriguez Mata (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, USA)
Eric Kim (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, USA)