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About the Cover . . .

On October 6, 2009, it was announced Dr. Charles Kao won the Nobel Physics Prize. Larry Johnson had the opportunity to interview Dr. Kao in Palo Alto, California at the Stanford Park Hotel on October 16, 2001.

See related story on page 53.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the time of writing this article, it's hard to believe that the Holidays are fast approaching and the end of the year is drawing near. Yet, as you browse through this edition of the IMSA Journal, it will be the beginning of a New Year and I'm hoping the Holiday season was a safe and happy one for all of you and your families.

With the New Year comes new expectations, new deadlines, new commitments, and one would hope, new budgets. I'm sure I speak for others that continue to battle with competing deadlines and dwindling resources. Budget constraints not only affect our plans and projects, but staff as well. Numbers that might just be a line item on an account spreadsheet in reality represent people that, in some cases, must now struggle to make ends meet. Unfortunately we can't forget that some of our members fall into this category and as well as some regions are rebounding economically. My hope is that this prosperity will reach all of you sometime in the near future.

Plans are well underway for the Mid Winter Meetings that are set to take place in January. Being that this will be the first strategic meeting of the Council of Delegates, we have enlisted the facilitating expertise of Steve Ingram of Sightline Solutions to guide the Council in its new role. The outcome of this initial meeting will serve to guide the Board not only for this year, but for years to come. Subsequent meetings will continue to adjust strategic goals and set new ones as we continue to react to our changing industry.

Since the last issue was written, the Committee Chairs and Alternates have been appointed and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the dedication of the members that have agreed to stand again and welcome new Committee members that have agreed to fill positions for the first time. As well, the list of Representatives to other Organizations was submitted to the Board and approved. I would like to give special thanks to those that have volunteered in the past but could not make the time commitment this year. We all know that with life's everyday demands, volunteer time is scarce. I trust that those that have stepped down found the experience worthwhile and rewarding and will return to serve again once their time allows. This does not negate the need for new volunteers. On the contrary, there are fields of representation that IMSA would like to expand to and create a presence in, but having existing representatives cover multiple disciplines can be especially taxing on ones time. I know the members of this Association possess a wealth of experience and knowledge so if you have the expertise, drive and time to commit to volunteering, please step forward, either through your section's Delegate or to a Board member directly.

The Multimedia Task Force, chaired by Past President Bill Moroski, has been busy reviewing our current IMSA certification delivery methods. With the help of consultant Tony Gross, they have identified all of our existing presentation formats, raised the pros and cons of formats that are currently available for this purpose, and are developing standards and deliverables as a guideline for the creators of our courses. The desired outcome would be to find a common delivery platform for all of our education packages as well as one that simplifies correcting and updating certification courses as necessary. Continuing on certification issues, I have received numerous calls and e-mails expressing concerns regarding the changes in the certification process as outlined in Part III of the Governance Policy Manual. In an effort to alleviate some of this anxiety, I have appointed Lenny Hulme to lead a Task Force combining input from the various parties that I have heard from. I have asked the group to review the changes in the process of certification and refine the language to be workable in practice for all concerned. A report on their finding is expected to be presented to the Board at the Mid Winter Meetings.



Craig MacKenzie

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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In addition to all of this, locally in the Vancouver area, we are extremely busy making preparations to welcome the world this February as we'll be hosting the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. Many of you that have experienced preparing for an event of this magnitude will understand when I say it is most definitely a challenge to the resources. Mark February 12-28 on your calendar, those of you that are fortunate enough to attend will not be disappointed.