

**Institute of Textile Science**  
2008-2009 President Report  
Kasper Van Veen

A year of momentum...

As I reflect on this past year I am only too painfully aware of the fact that I am new to this role of President of this organization. Filling the shoes of someone like Jacek is not an easy thing to do, the shoes are big...that's one thing... but the shoes seem to have this desire to run, and run, and run. Do you remember as kids, running shoes were just plain old running shoes... there was nothing special about them – a pair of sneakers were just that, a pair of sneakers and everyone had the same kind. Then along came Nike and had to differentiate the whole running shoe market. They brought out the “high tops”, then they brought out the “pump” and all the other brands followed suit with more value added characteristics that promised us that we could run faster, jump higher, and look fantastic while doing all this. Well, Jacek left a pair of those dynamic shoes for me to fill! And not only me, but for the whole board as well. But, we persevered! We've had an exciting year to say the least. As an entire board we achieved some pretty great things this past year.

1. Scientific Sessions – still the backbone of ITS, Francois Simard helped push us further with a fall Scientific Session that was as unique as Francois can be sometimes. We were graciously hosted by the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and we had a list of speakers that brought an international flair to the session. Over the past few years we have continuously tried to make the sessions more valuable, providing a forum for technical exchange and trying to bring the research activities across the textile industry together so that we can be an hand and foot to each other. With the involvement of both academia and industry in our sessions, I believe we have made great progress in achieving that goal.
2. Research Survey – earlier this morning we could hear the report on Textile R&D in Canada, a report that truly made us aware of the intense level of textile development that is still going in our country. One of the comments we made when we reviewed this document for the first time was that it was remarkable how tuned-in and applicable the research was to what industry required. We were pleased to see us working on leading edge, but running shy of being blue-sky. Another strong indicator of the connection we have.
3. Finances – our work has been recognized and supported by Industry Canada as being valuable and we are very appreciative of that. They continue to support the scientific sessions and see value in the research survey that we were conducting. It is encouraging to see our government show support to this industry that remains focused on the future.
4. Bylaws – after much work and considerations, we achieved the goal of passing new bylaws for our association. A considerable amount of work by both Bernie Rose and Francois Simard that came to culmination this past winter. Thanks to all for supporting this endeavour.
5. BoD – we have been able to use conference calls to have very regular BoD meetings, almost every other month which has served to keep us on track and

focused. As president, I have been blessed with a dynamic board that have given energy to the tasks at hand. I'd like to thank Patricia Dolez as secretary for her ability to guide us through all of our meetings, Francois Simard for serving as Vice President this past year, Helena Vanderweerd for he skill and persistence of keeping us on track financially, Bernie Rose, Jerry Bauerle, Tom Hong and Catherine Anderson for providing the valuable input we need to keep the organization on the right track. I would be remiss if I did not thank Jacek as well for keeping up with the energy we have come to expect from him and finally, Lena Horne for tirelessly helping us with membership updates, feedback surveys, and finally for filling the role of Scientific Session coordinator for the exciting one we are at today.

It has truly been a pleasure to serve as your president this past year. I think I can speak on behalf of the board that it has been exciting and rewarding and we hope to bring more involvement, more value and a ongoing closer network of people involved in the textile sciences in the year to come.

Thank you,

Kasper Van Veen