



## **President's Report (AGM 2006)**

*President: Loretta Bartolini*

During the first half of 2005, STAMP was left in the capable hands of Vice-President Stuart Walsh while I was studying overseas. While there was an overall decrease in STAMP events (due mainly to the study commitments of the remaining committee), a total of 13 new PhD students started in 2005 and the enthusiasm these new members brought saw a marked increase in participation. This contributed to the success of several key events, as well as the new and ongoing initiatives contributing to student life in the Department.

The landmark event of Semester One was the Industry Careers Evening, which was attended by 40 students from Melbourne universities. Present were representatives from many key employers in the field, giving students an excellent opportunity to develop industry contacts. A resounding success, this evening placed many demands on the organisers and I'd like to thank everyone involved for their efforts. Semester One also saw the introduction of the Honours Mentor Scheme — a program by which STAMP members supported the Department's Honours students. While certain operational issues arose, the scheme was deemed worthy by the 'Powers that Be' and is continuing in 2006. Thanks to Paul Fijn for co-ordinating this program.

In Semester Two, regular Morning Tea returned, bringing with it a forum for discussing new ideas. The main event to emerge from this was the STAMP Confirmation Workshop. Aimed at first year PhD students, this event was well attended and detailed the practicalities of how Confirmation manifests itself in this Department. On the social front, a large group of members attended the UMPA Ball in September, and the Christmas Party was once again a success.

Heading into 2006, STAMP is going from strength to strength. We have received positive feedback from both students and the Department, and the influx of new members bodes well for the future.