



## **President's Report (AGM 2007)**

*President: Loretta Bartolini*

Due to financial pressures, 2006 saw a significant change of focus for STAMP activity. Events that demanded funds, yet failed to attract wide participation, were scrapped. However, the academic/support/social network that STAMP facilitates among postgrads in the Department has gone from strength to strength. By involving candidates from the time of their enrolment, there has been a marked increase in participation and enthusiasm for this aspect of postgraduate life.

There were a number of issues facing postgraduates in the Department during 2006. STAMP has represented individuals on various committees, as well as on an ad hoc basis. Major challenges were faced by several candidates, with issues generally being resolved to a greater or lesser extent. Unfortunately, there are some issues outstanding, upon which the Department seems loath to act. Through continued efforts, I hope to keep the lines of communication open, as the current University climate is likely to exacerbate certain matters.

The Honours Mentor Program continued in 2006, with improved participation and positive feedback. The postgrad mentors involved were able to assist in a variety of issues that arose during the year; whether facilitating communication leading to resolution, or assisting in unresolved matters. I would like to thank all postgraduates involved as mentors, particularly Paul Fijn for co-ordinating the program.

STAMP Morning Tea continued in 2006 and has become somewhat of an institution; providing a fortnightly opportunity to socialise and support one another. Once again, there was a sizable STAMP contingent at the UMPA Ball in 2006. STAMP was also one of three UMPA groups to organise a multi-group venture: Crafternoon, along with groups from Earth Sciences and AHCCA.

Given the clarity that is emerging in the UMPA affiliation and funding rules, the role and capabilities of STAMP have once again become more concrete. Our financial position thus established, STAMP can begin to reintroduce events that had been passed over due to funding concerns. Heading into 2007, it seems that there will be many challenges ahead, yet the networks formed and strengthened in 2006 will ensure that postgraduates in the Department are not left without support.