

ISIM Newsletter  
Message from the President

As the dust slowly settles following our first ISIM conference, I am still a bit at a loss for ways to describe that event. But one sentiment is fairly easily conveyed: thanks. Thanks to everyone who helped with the organizational aspects, everyone who presented and/or performed, and to everyone who attended. Judging from the feedback we have received during and following the conference, many of us seem to share the same positive response. Some people have called it amazing, others magical, others a thoroughly fulfilling experience—the list of accolades goes on and on. For me, as I try to restore some semblance of normalcy in my life, it is still all a blur! But one thing is for sure: when the idea for ISIM first began to sprout, I don't think I could possibly have imagined so successful a first gathering. We did it!

Let me try to identify the cast of heroes who helped pull it off. Kate Olson, a new MM in Improvisation grad student, jumped into the fray by organizing the student volunteers and never blinked as we kept expanding her responsibilities. Sound engineer Roger Arnett worked his usual magic as he has done for almost 30 years in our School of Music, Theatre, and Dance; one can only imagine the challenges in doing sound at an event like this. Students Aaron Gold, Theo Katzman, Gary Prince, Matt Endahl, Greg Battista, Greg Lindgren, Christian Carpenter, and Stephan Vaughn came through in a big way. Joan Harris dropped everything for about 4 days and made 16 trips back and forth to the airport for our international guests. Teri Adams not only did all-nighters getting the programs done with two minutes to spare before the registration table opened Friday morning; she also took care of the food. Thanks you guys!

Thanks also to Lisa Abbatamarco for camping out at the registration table and helping administratively with the event. And to James Ilgenfritz who has made important contributions to ISIM

since its early days and helped out in innumerable ways at the conference. Thanks also to my good friends and colleagues Michael Gould who made drum sets and percussion equipment available in all the performance spaces, obviously no small task, and Mark Kirschenmann who coordinated technical needs in all the rooms. And then there was the ISIM board making themselves available for all kinds of last-minute details.

Kudos as well to all the presenters. I had to pinch myself as I witnessed such an abundance of creative talent, including many of my personal heroes, all present in one space. Did that really happen?

I would also like to acknowledge our Creative Arts Orchestra for coming through on multiple fronts—artistic and organizational and interpersonal—over the course of an intensive few days of rehearsals and performances.

Finally, Sarah Weaver, ISIM Executive Director, weaved her usual magic in planning this event and overseeing its virtually every detail from the time of its initial conception. As I tried to convey in that emotional closing ceremony, Sarah was as the first person I discussed the idea for ISIM with, and it could not have happened without her brilliant work.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

We can now safely say that ISIM is officially launched. In the weeks and months that follow we will be drawing on this positive energy and mapping out what comes next. But of one thing we can be sure, a second conference will be on the top of that list.