

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2005

These are hard times for independent societies. Since their membership is dramatically dropping and activities become more and more costly, they must do their best to survive under circumstances that are completely uncondusive to the spirit of free exploration of ideas and unhindered experimentation with novel projects. SSLA has done relatively well so far, thanks to the functional and prudent planning by the previous presidents, Dr Catherine Runcie and Associate Professor Rick Benitez. Thanks to them and their associates, the Society has succeeded in attracting handsome amounts of money while a considerable number of international scholars have attended its conferences.

Consequently, the task for the new president is rather heavy and somehow demoralising. Rick and Catherine managed to organise two international conferences every year and print the Journal in an exemplary manner. The last Pacific Rim Conference dedicated to the work of Professor Grazia Marchiano was one of the most spectacular successes of SSLA. We will try to continue their legacy and carry on the society towards new directions.

As the new President, so far we managed to organise a series of poetry readings with the most important Australian poets, Les Murray, John Tranter, Robert Adamson and Antigone Kefala. In December the international conference dedicated to Martin Heidegger and the Aesthetics of Living has attracted great scholars and philosophers (Professor Gianni Vattimo). Next year SSLA plans an intense program of activities culminating in a mini-conference in July and a more ambitious one in December. Together with these two annual events, monthly lectures on philosophy have been scheduled, with fortnightly screenings of the best movies of the twentieth century throughout 2006.

Furthermore the Journal will double in size and content and we will make every effort to publish new material, building with creative spirit on the work already achieved by Rick and Catherine. The book reviewing section is currently in suspense, due to the increased size of this issue, however we intend to bring back the section when we have finalised our discussions about the directions of the journal—most likely in a modified form as full reviews are harder to come by these days, being no longer recognised as 'scholarly' entities by the government.

We are grateful to all people who have contributed so far to the consolidation and the success of the society and we hope that their support will be continued for many years to come.

—Associate Professor *Vrasidas Karalis*, SSLA President 2005  
*The University of Sydney, November 2005*