

INFORMS Computing Society

Business Meeting Minutes

Pittsburgh, PA. Monday November 6, 2006

Over 80 people attended the business meeting.

Opening and Chair's Remarks

The meeting was opened by Chair John Chinneck, who then offered some remarks. John first thanked the officers who were stepping down: former chair Ariela Sofer and ICS Board members Arne Drud and Alex Martin.

He was pleased to report 46 sessions at Pittsburgh that were sponsored or co-sponsored by ICS

There have been many changes on the ICS web site, and a special thanks was given to webmasters Pascal Van Hentenryk and Laurent Michel. Other improvements to the web site include the inclusion of Harvey Greenberg's Math Programming Glossary, contributed by Harvey and Allen Holder; a History of the ICS, contributed Harvey Greenberg; a link to COIN-OR; contributed by Robin Lougee-Heimer, and a soon-to-appear link to ICS Leading Edge Tutorials, contributed by Rob Dell.

John also announced the creation of the new ICS Student Paper Award, and two editorial changes: Prakash Mirchandani replaced David Kelton as Editor of the INFORMS Journal on Computing, and Manmohan Sodhi replaced Matt Saltzman as Editor of INFORMS Online. A round of applause was offered to everyone for their service to ICS.

Vice Chair's Remarks

Vice-Chair Robin Lougee-Heimer commented on an initiative to increase the membership in the INFORMS Computing Society. The current membership (as of September 2006), was 450, broken into the following categories:

- * 314 regular members
- * 91 student members
- * 22 retired members
- * 23 non-INFORMS members

She noted that with more members, we can become a better society and undertake more initiatives. The new ICS web site has instructions on how to join. In particular, student memberships are only \$1, so Robin encouraged everyone to sign up their students.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Linderoth presented the Treasurer's report. Thanks to a very successful meeting in Annapolis, 2005, the ICS currently has a balance of \$36,042.86. Current profit (unaudited) in the Fiscal Year 2006 is \$1505.50

Jeff then asked for nominations from the floor for the two open positions on the ICS Board. Kipp Martin and Jonathan Eckstein were both nominated, and seconds to each nomination were received.

The voting was completed on December 18, 2006.

ICS Student Paper Award

The INFORMS Computing Society (ICS) Student Paper Award is given annually to the best paper on computing and operations research by a student author, as judged by a panel of the ICS. The 2006 ICS Student Paper Award Committee was chaired by David Woodruff and included also David Gay and David Shanno.

The winner of the ICS Student Paper Award 2006 was Geng Deng, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison for his paper, (joint with Michael Ferris) "Variable-Number Sample Path Optimization."

ICS Prize

Chair John Chinneck made an announcement that the winners of the 2005 ICS prize: Zhiwei Fu (Fannie Mae and previously, University of Maryland), Bruce L. Golden, Shreevardhan Lele, S. Raghavan (all from the University of Maryland) and Edward A. Wasil (American University) would make a presentation of their award winning work in a special session on Tuesday, November 7.

The ICS Prize is an Annual award for best English language paper on the OR/CS interface. The 2006 ICS Prize Committee was chaired by Gerald Brown and consisted also over Michael Ball and Pierre L'Ecuyer.

The 2006 ICS Prize was awarded to John Drew, Diane L. Evans, Andrew G. Glen, and Lawrence Leemis. The winning team was awarded the Prize for their body of work in five papers:

- * APPL: A Probability Programming Language
- * The Distribution of Order Statistics for Discrete Random Variables with Applications to Bootstrapping
- * Computing the Distribution of the Product of Two Continuous

Random Variables

- * Computing the Cumulative Distribution Function of the

Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistic

- * A Generalized Univariate Change-of-Variable Transformation

Technique

In awarding the prize the committee gave the following citation: "These papers form the core of an innovative body of work on computation in applied probability with operations research applications. The authors have introduced a probability programming language and demonstrated how to use it with applications at several corporations, government agencies, and academic institutions. These publications contribute significantly to computational probability and its practice at the interface of operations research and computer science."

ICS Leading Edge Tutorials

ICS Board Member Rob Dell spoke about a new initiative undertaken by ICS to provide "leading-edge" tutorials on topics in computing that are of specific interest to our members. As such, there was a survey form distributed to all attendees asking them to rate their interest in a variety of topics.

COIN-OR Update

ICS Board Member Lou Hafer gave a report on COIN-OR. The ICS and COIN-OR formed a strategic partnership. COIN-OR now consists of 23 software packages, managed by 48 developers. Lou mentioned the new configuration and build system in place at COIN-OR, and also mentioned that six new projects have been added in the last year.

IJOC Report

Chair John Chinneck presented the INFORMS JOC report to the ICS on behalf of outgoing Editor-in-Chief David Kelton.

Volume 18 (2006) if the ICS consisted of 40 papers and approximately 540 pages, a record for ICS. There were special clusters on OR in ECE and computation in music.

The flow of papers over the past months was as follows:

- * 149 submissions (up from 128 last year)
- * Finished processing on 141 papers (up from 128)
- * 32 accepted (down from 40)

- * 109 rejected/withdrawn (up from 83)
- * Acceptance rate 23% (down from 31%)
- * Backlog of 56 papers (down from 58)

There was a request for a large increase in page budget for 2007

The area editors were stable over 2006, and there was one new associate editor.

The finances for 2005 were as follows:

- * Revenue = \$111K (down from \$116K in 2004)
- * Costs = \$65K (down from \$67K) Includes \$7K overhead charge to

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- * Net = \$46K (down from \$49K)
- * Circulation (This is now reported differently from past years)
- * Total = 2,046, including print, online, individual,
institutional, and INFORMS pubs suite

Institutional (libraries) = 747 ... big revenue source

2006 financial data was unavailable at the time of the meeting

IJOC's ISI Impact Factor was 1.762 for 2005, up from 1.522. IJOC is ranked first of 56 journals ranked in the "OR/MS" category.

David Kelton will be stepping down after seven years as Editor-in-Chief of IJOC, replaced by Prakash Mirchandani. The JOC's future is bright, with healthy submissions, circulation, finances, and recognition. The backlog is still long, however.

A long and enthusiastic round of applause was given to David for all his great work on IJOC.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Ed Baker, conference co-chair of the 10th INFORMS Computing Society Conference "Extending the Horizons" invited all ICS members (and non-members) to attend the conference held from January 3-5, 2007 at the University of Miami. The conference web site is www.bus.miami.edu/ics2007.

Jun Ma, INFORMS Computing Society Cluster Chair for the 2007 INFORMS International Meeting invited everyone to attend the conference, organize a session, or organize a track at the meeting. The meeting will be held at the Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort & Spa from July 8-11, 2007. If you are interested in presenting in the ICS Cluster at the meeting, please contact Jun: maj@northwestern.edu

Mathematical Programming Glossary

Allen Holder, Editor of the Mathematical Programming Glossary that was created by Harvey Greenberg and recently contributed to ICS, addressed the meeting asking for input and help about the glossary. Specifically, people interested in authoring new material for the glossary should contact Allen at aholder@trinity.edu.

Proposal for ICS Service Award

A final agenda item was the proposal by Harvey Greenberg for an ICS Service Award to be awarded biannually at the ICS meeting, starting 2007. The award will be a Certificate plus meeting registration fee waiver.

The official proposal was the following:

Criteria:

1. Member of ICS for five years.
2. Major contributor to ICS and its objectives.
3. Not a previous recipient of this award.

The intent is that this be a "lifetime achievement," given at most once every two years. The nomination must make the case that the candidate achieved multiple results that benefited ICS (or its predecessor organizations, CSTS and CS SIG). Service, alone, is not enough; there must be achievement.

The ICS Chair will appoint a Service Award Committee composed of at least three ICS members. They will be charged with soliciting nominations from ICS members. Each nomination must be accompanied by a letter that presents a case based on the nominee's service. This must also be accompanied by three ICS member endorsements. No ICS member may endorse more than one nominee for the same year.

There was a straw vote (in principle) for the award, and the award received overwhelming support. An official ballot on the proposal was sent to the members, since such an award must be written into the bylaws.

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chairman John Chinneck at 7:12PM and seconded by everyone in the room. :-)