

# INFORMS Computing Society

## Business Meeting Minutes,

November 5, 2007

### Attendance

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A subset of those in attendance for the meeting is the following:

Jeff Linderoth, Robin Lougee-Heimer, Dick Barr, Jonathan Eckstein, Sanjay Saigal, Bjarni Kristjansson, Kipp Martin, Ted Ralphs, John Hooker, Janos Pinter, Lou Hafer, Pascal Van Hentenryck, Ramesh Sharda, Christine Shoemaker, David Johnson, Leon Lasdon, Mauricio Resende, Ed Baker, Dave Rader, Jill Hardin, Kevin Wood, John Tomlin, Richa Agarwal, Paul Brooks, Kevin Furman, Nick Sahinidis, Alper Atamturk, Cenk Caliskan, Ashish Gupta, Tamas Terlaky, Hena Bar, Bala Krishnamoorthy, Jim Luedtke, Steve Dirkse, Lutz Vosterhass, Jan Jagla, Oslem Ergun, Shabbir Ahmed, Arne Lokketangen, Amit Partani, Inderjeet Singh, Sachin Jayaral, Dieter Vandebussche, Brady Hunsaker, Bill Stewart, Fred Murphy, Zsolt Ugray, David Morton, John Mitchell, Matt Saltzman, Cindy Phillips, Andreas Reinholz, Carol Tietkokk, David Woodruff, Johan Oppen, Stefan Voss, Alex Meeraus, Hans Mittelmann, Ariela Sofer, Frank Kampes, Bruce Golden, Ed Wasil, Stephen Nash, Bill Hart, John Chinneck

### Opening and Chair's Remarks

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The meeting was opened at 6:20PM by Chair John Chinneck, who then offered some remarks. John first thanked the officers who were stepping down: Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Linderoth, and Board members Nick Sahinidis and Lou Hafer. Robin Lougee-Heimer will become acting Chair on 1/1/08 and John Chinneck will assume the duties of the ICS Historian.

He further offered many thanks to many ICS members for their significant work for the organization.

- \* Steve Dirkse, Robin Lougee-Heimer, and Jeff Linderoth for their work on the ICS 10th Anniversary Activities and Quiz Show
- \* GAMS for sponsoring 10th Anniversary reception
- \* Harvey Greenberg, Tod Morrison and Laurent Michel for student sign-up initiative
- \* Jill Hardin, Kevin Furman, Allen Holder, David Rader, Cesar Rego, Harvey Greenberg, Ariela Sofer for ICS Education Committee report
- \* Robin Lougee-Heimer: for the 80 ICS sessions at the Seattle meeting
- \* Pascal Van Hentenryk, Laurent Michel: webmasters
- \* Allen Holder for editing Math Programming Glossary

- \* Rob Dell for arranging the Leading Edge Tutorials
- \* Matt Saltzman, Bjarni Kristjansson, John Chinneck: for ICS 2009 organizing
- \* Bill Hart: for blogging the Seattle Conference

He also showed off the new ICS Pocket Protectors.

## **Vice Chair's Remarks**

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Robin Lougee-Heimer gave special thanks to everyone who organized ICS-sponsored miniclusters at the Seattle meeting: Brian Borchers, David Woodruff, Ionut Aron, Leo Lopes, Allen Holder, and Nick Sahinidis. A record number of sessions were sponsored in Seattle.

Robin also thanked Jun Ma for his work in putting together the ICS cluster at the INFORMS International Meeting in Puerto Rico -- it was the largest cluster at the conference.

## **Treasurer's Report**

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Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Linderoth presented the Treasurer's report. The financial state of the society is healthy. The current balance was \$34602.15, with an estimated additional revenue of \$1000 and estimated additional expenses of \$3200 for the remainder of the calendar year.

The current membership stands at 489 members. Jeff Linderoth again thanked Harvey Greenberg for his student signup initiative.

Jeff announced that elections for the open positions of Vice-Chair/Char-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and two Board Member positions would be taking place via email after the business meeting.

Jeff then asked for nominations from the floor for the open positions. No nominations came from the floor. (The voting was completed on December 17, 2007.)

It was moved (Arthur, Ahmed) that the minutes from the Business meeting held during the ICS Computing Society Conference on January 3, 2007 held in Miami be accepted.

## **Reports**

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Math Programming Glossary (MPG): The MPS is averaging roughly 88,000 hits per week. There is (or soon will be) expanded coverage in the following area: Complexity Theory, Linearizations, MPECs, and Stochastic Programming. Allen made a plea for interested volunteers to help with the glossary. Sanjay Saigal asked why the glossary

was not in an "open" Wikipedia format. In general, the members seemed in favor of the status quo of moderated edits.

COIN-OR: Lou Hafer spoke about COIN-OR, which currently contains 25 software packages by 54 developers and is a strategic partner of ICS. New packages include Cgc (representations and algorithms for networks), GAMSlinks (interfaces to GAMS (cbc, clp, ipopt, bonmin, glpk)), LaGO (nonconvex mixed-integer nonlinear optimization), OBOE (convex nondifferentiable optimization), and OS (distributed optimization as a web service). Lou also announced the meeting for the Coin-Cup, "The most coveted prize in computational OR".

ICS 2009: Matt Saltzman gave a number of facts about the upcoming ICS 2009 Conference. It will be held in Charleston SC on January 11-13, 2009. The conference theme will be OR and Cyberinfrastructure, and the Conference volume will be published by Springer. The Francis Marion Hotel downtown has been booked to host the conference. The paper submission deadline is May 1. More information is available on the conference web site: <http://www.ics2009.org>.

ICS Education Committee: Jill Hardin spoke as chairperson of the ICS Education Committee, a group that has been working since March 2007 to make recommendations to undergraduate students wishing to pursue OR/CS (graduate study or industry). The immediate focus is on "Tier One" skills: those skills deemed essential for success at OR/CS interface. Jill announced a panel discussion on Sunday and that the 2007 report was available on the OMS website. Feedback from ICS members about the report is solicited.

Leading Edge Tutorials: John Chinneck (speaking for Rob Dell) gave details of the ICS leading edge tutorial series. Recent tutorials include PERL in an Hour, Vernon Austel at the INFORMS International Meeting, and three tutorials at the Seattle INFORMS Meeting: Computational Global Optimization, by Leon Lasdon and Janos Pinter, Critical Thinking for Complex Network Systems, by David Alderson, and (Almost) Transparent Parallel and Distributed Optimization, by Pascal Van Hentenryck. Tutorial information will be posted on the ICS web site.

Journal on Computing: John Chinneck is the new Editor-In-Chief of the IJoC. He announced a new area for the journal, Computational Biology and Medical Applications, headed by Harvey Greenberg. He also announced new area editors, Robert Fourer (Northwestern University) for Modeling: Methods and Analysis, replacing John Chinneck, Winfried Grassmann (University of Saskatchewan) for Computational Probability and Analysis, replacing interim editor David Kelton, Alexander Tuzhilin (Stern School of Business at New York University) for Knowledge and Data Management, replacing Amit Basu, and new associate editors: Erwin Pesch, University of Siegen, Jean-Paul Watson, Sandia Labs, Russell R. Barton, Pennsylvania State University, Allen Holder, Trinity University, and Ming-Ying Leung, University of Texas at El Paso. The new online manuscript submission system is now in place.

## **ICS Student Paper Prize**

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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 2007 ICS Student Paper Award Committee was chaired by Jonathan Eckstein and included also Jeff Linderoth and Mike Trick.

The winner of the ICS Student Paper Award 2007 was Amit Partani, from the University of Texas at Austin for his paper (joint with his Adviser David Morton), "Adaptive Jackknife Estimators for Stochastic Programming". The committee also gave honorary mention to two papers, "A branch-and-price algorithm for the two-dimensional strip packing problem" by Andrea Bettinelli, University of Milan (with advisers Alberto Ceselli and Giovanni Righini), and "Ship scheduling and network design for cargo routing in liner shipping", by Richa Agarwal, Georgia Tech (with adviser: Ozlem Ergun).

## **ICS Prize**

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The ICS Prize is an Annual award for best English language paper on the OR/CS interface. The 2007 ICS Prize Committee was chaired by Michael Ball and consisted also of Robert Fourer, Michel Gendreau, and Lawrence Leemis. The 2007 ICS prize was awarded to Janos Csirik, University of Sieged, David Johnson, AT&T Labs, Claire Kenyon, Brown University, James Orlin, MIT, and Richard Weber, University of Cambridge for their article, "On the sum of squares algorithm for bin packing," that appeared in the Journal of the Association of Computing Machinery in 2006.

## **Incoming Chair Remarks**

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Robin Lougee-Heimer accepted the ceremonial ICS Chair beer stein, and demonstrated convincingly to all attending that she does not like beer. The incoming chair attempted to gauge interest in ICS-sponsored webinars, and there was general interest, but it was unclear what technology would be used to host the seminars.

## **Adjourned**

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It was moved (Eckstein, Ahmed) that the meeting be adjourned. Carried at 7:28PM.