WINFORMS Begins a New Year

FROM THE PRESIDENT – RUSS WOOTEN

Welcome to the start of another program year. As you probably realize this is the third “Year of the Russ.” Dr. Russ Vane will attempt to become our Immediate Past President again. I will be your President and Dr. Doug Samuelson is our new Vice President / President Elect. Doug was a Board Director last year and has stepped down from that position to become our VP. Doug has been our president twice before, so next year will be his third time as WINFORMS President.

Dr. Nastaran Coleman has been re-elected as our Secretary. We are glad to have Nastaran back for another two years in this position. Jeffrey Paulus is our Treasurer. This is the final year of his two-year term.

I also wish to welcome Dr. John Hollywood and Dr. Robert Sheldon as our two incoming Directors. As directors they are on a two-year term. Since Doug has relinquished his position as Director, Dr. Pamela Armstrong is our only returning director.

Our two outgoing Directors are Richard Soland and Alfred Brandstein. I wish to thank them for their efforts over the last two years. I hope that they will stay involved with WINFORMS and remain active with many of our important committees. We certainly can use their continued support and involvement.

Russ, Doug, and I have already met to discuss our goals and aspirations for the WINFORMS 2005 – 2006 Program Year. Please read about our goals in section titled WINFORMS 2005 – 2006 PROGRAM YEAR: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

I am also excited to let you know that Doug has agreed to lead our efforts as Technical Program Chair. Thanks to Doug’s efforts we have already enjoyed some great programs. Doug and Russ are also working to revitalize our Institutional Membership. This is my highest priority this program year.
I hope to continue in the exceptional manner that Russ did for WINFORMS. I believe Russ did an outstanding job for us. I have a lot to accomplish just to keep the WINFORMS programs at an even level. With your encouragement and the assistance of the WINFORMS Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, I am sure our programs will be outstanding again this year.

Russell Wooten, DHS

## Monthly Technical Program Location Change

This year the regular meeting location for our programs is at; **General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, 8th Floor Main Conference Room, 1400 Key Blvd., Suite 1200, Arlington, VA 22209**

Request that any non-US Citizens who plan on attending any of our programs at General Dynamics to contact Russ Vane in advance. This is required to facilitate pre-approved access to the secure facility.

## WINFORMS 2005 – 2006 Program Year

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

My goals as WINFORMS President for the 2005 – 2006 Program Year are for the chapter to provide the maximum level of satisfaction to both our individual and institutional members. I believe we will be successful in this endeavor by providing the following services and obtaining the following metrics. If successful, our three most significant accomplishments will be: increasing the number of institutional members to 30; averaging 50 members per monthly meeting; and hosting a program event with Mr. Allyn Kilsheimer on the Reconstruction of the Pentagon after 9/11.

**Executive Goals**

1. Update and obtain membership approval for WINFORMS’ Strategic Mission and Vision.
2. Update and obtain membership approval for WINFORMS’ Charter.
3. Full calendar year of program activities including:
   a. Minimum of one (1) joint professional meeting with IIE
   b. Minimum of one (1) joint professional meeting with another organization
   c. Pentagon Reconstruction After 9/11 Program
   d. Minimum total of 10 programs
   e. Average 50 attendees throughout the year
4. Increase Individual Membership and Value of their membership.
   a. Increase individual membership to 175
   b. Average 50 in attendance at our program meetings
   c. Increase number of Feedback newsletters
   d. Improve website
5. Successful campaign to revitalize Corporate Membership.
   a. 30 Corporate Members by 5/31/06
   b. All Corporate Members paid (2005 – 2006) at $500/year
   c. All Corporate Members having identified Corporate Representatives by 5/31/05.
Russ Vane Receives INFORMS Moving Spirit Award

Dr. Russ Vane, our immediate past president and acting chapter president for the last three years has been selected by INFORMS to receive their Moving Spirit Award. Please join the WINFORMS Board of Directors and me in congratulating Russ for this major accomplishment.

Russ accomplished a great deal in his leadership role over the last half dozen years. INFORMS and our WINFORMS Chapter have greatly benefited from his efforts. Russ Vane was instrumental in increasing the membership and status of our chapter.

Russ has been a member of INFORMS for many years and became active in WINFORMS in the spring 2000. He assisted Don Bates and Steve Stephens, (both of whom won Moving Spirit awards) with symposium arrangements and other progressively increasing responsibilities.

He was elected VP/President-Elect for 2002-2003. His predecessor, due to job requirements, was limited in his ability to perform the duties of Chapter President. Russ stepped in cold and kept WINFORMS running with little assistance. He formally served as President in 2003-2004. At the start of the 2004-2005 program year the incoming president, Dan Nussbaum, relocated to California. Russ was willing to step back in as President for a second consecutive year. Currently Russ is leading our Institutional Membership Committee and our Capital Science 2006 Conference efforts.

Again, please join me in congratulating Russ for all his fine efforts and outstanding leadership.

INFORMS 2005 Annual Meeting

The INFORMS 2005 Annual Meeting relocated from New Orleans to San Francisco last year and was held at the Hilton San Francisco. New Orleans was remembered with a Mardi Gras General Reception and an INFORMS Katrina Relief Fund.


Features of this year’s meeting included:

Networking: make connections with colleagues, share knowledge and ideas
Top industry and academic speakers
Two great receptions: Sunday Welcome Reception, Monday General Reception
Tutorials, exhibits, and software demonstrations
Extensive tracks on “hot topic” – the BEST in OR/MS
Practitioners – special tracks and sessions
The Winter Simulation Conference (WSC ’05) was held in beautiful Orlando, Florida at the Hilton in the WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort. The conference took place between December 4, 2005 and December 7, 2005.

WSC ’05 featured a comprehensive program ranging from introductory tutorials to state-of-the-art research and practice. A one-day Introduction to Simulation for Management debuted this year. This introduction was targeted at those who are considering simulation as a tool to improve their business competitiveness. Industry leaders extolled the benefits of simulation drawing on more than twenty-five years of best practices. The Case Studies track, new from last year, continued for a second year. This year’s conference provided newcomers to the field with the knowledge and resources to effectively bring simulation into their organization. In addition, the conference included student presentations, exhibits, training sessions by software/hardware vendors, business meetings for professional societies and software user groups, a general reception, and a spouse’s program.

WSC-05 HOMELAND SECURITY/EMERGENCY RESPONSE MINI-TRACK
Russell Wooten chaired the Homeland Security/Emergency Response Mini-Track at WSC-05. Additionally, one of the speakers at the track was our very own immediate past president, Russ Vane. He presented a paper titled Planning for Terrorist-Caused Emergencies. The abstract follows:

This paper provides a framework for assessing emergencies in order to provide quick protection for the populace and infrastructure; and also to protect first responders. This challenge – the need to respond quickly and the need to respond safely – is the focus for how we must sense, represent, and respond to these progressively revealed events. And this must be done continually. In hypergame theory [Vane 2000] provides an approach to pre-planning, situational discovery and model updating to help the leadership to decide what to do next.

Monthly Meeting Summaries

The following briefly summarizes the monthly meetings held over the last several months. For additional details, please visit the WINFORMS website.

JULY 2005

WINFORMS opened its 2005 – 2006 Program Year on July 13, 2005 with an outstanding presentation by Dr. Saul I. Gass. The presentation was on the life and career of the late great Operations Research pioneer, George B, Dantzig. It was a blend of personal stories of George and his family and an account of the overwhelming achievements of Dr. Dantzig and his SCOOP – Group at the Pentagon. Saul started his OR career working for Dr. Dantzig on Project SCOOP.

With over 60 attendees, WINFORMS had its one of its largest crowd ever at a monthly presentation. Like Saul, many of those in the audience personally knew George Dantzig. The program could have continued for another hour. It did, however, end on a very positive note as those in attendance stayed to get their picture taken with Saul and to have Saul sign his new book.
After the presentation, about ten members of WINFORMS joined Saul for an evening of continued good times, good conversations and great companionship.

AUGUST 2005

WINFORMS continued its 2005 – 2006 Program Year on August 16, 2005 with another outstanding presentation by Dr. John Kettelle. John presented a talk on the utilization of third party programs to provide computer-based negotiations and decision support. John’s talk resulted in many questions as it is a fairly new operations research application. Utilizing computers or artificial intelligence to negotiate compromises or reach decisions definitely has its merits and a bright future in the realm of operations research. As is customary, after the meeting, members of WINFORMS went out for an evening of continued good times, good conversations and great companionship.

SEPTEMBER 2005

On September 13, 2005 WINFORMS presented a talk with pictures on the reconstruction of the Pentagon after the tragic event of September 11, 2001 – The Phoenix Project: Rebuilding the Pentagon after 9/11/01 by Allyn E. Kilsheimer.

On September 11, 2001, in response to a call for help from the Pentagon, Mr. Kilsheimer was the first independent structural expert to assess the damage and what would be required to repair and/or replace the Pentagon. Within days he was selected as the professional in charge, lead structural engineer and owner’s representative for the rebuilding, which became known as The Phoenix Project. Under his leadership and that of Walker Lee Evey, the design and construction team rebuilt the iconic structure within 11 months, well ahead of schedule and well under budget. The project required not only design and construction expertise, but also – and even more important – the capability to engage and facilitate an unprecedented sense of teamwork among design professionals and construction workers, and to coordinate and direct the efforts of this unusually diverse team. By its striking success, the project not only helped to restore a symbol of our nation, but also helped the American people to heal after the September 11th tragedy.

The membership of WINFORMS would like to especially thank General Dynamics Network Systems (GDNS) for their generous contribution of $4,000, which defrayed the evening’s costs. The two sponsoring organizations, WINFORMS and the National Capital Chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineering, paid the balance of $2,000. Kudos to GDNS!

DECEMBER 2005


John discussed the Atypical Signal Analysis and Processing (ASAP) concept for identifying, relating, and analyzing potential clues of terrorist activities. Modeled after thought processes used by successful problem solvers, ASAP identifies out of the ordinary, atypical behavior that is potentially related to terror activity. ASAP then puts the behavior into context, generates and tests hypotheses about the meaning of the behavior, and focuses analysts’ attention on the most significant results. John also discussed the development of the concept. Systems engineering and architecture development proved to be the most important part of developing ASAP; while individual data processing and analysis tools were broadly available, the overall architecture and control structures for employing the tools were not. Finally, John discussed what could be done in the short term to capture some of the benefits of ASAP.
SIGSTAT Topics for Winter/Spring 2006

Contributed by Charlie Hallahan

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the CPCUG, the Capital PC User Group, and WINFORMS, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:00 to 1:00 (note new time). Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard’s desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the SIGSTAT website, http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/.

SIGSTAT topics and schedule:

February 8, 2006: SAS PROC ENTROPY
March 8, 2006: SAS PROC GLIMMIX
April 19, 2006: Introduction to Enterprise Guide 4.1 for Statistical Analysis
May 17, 2006: Univariate Detrending Using SAS: Some Examples and Applications

George Dantzig Remembered

Saul Gass Remembers George Dantzig
Contributed by Frank Trippi

As we know, sadly, “the great one – GBD” (aka George Bernard Dantzig) of the operations research world passed away on May 13, 2005. Hence, it was fitting for him to be remembered by his colleagues and Dr. Saul Gass did just that at the WINFORMS Meeting on July 13, 2005.

Over 60 WINFORMS members were treated to a “…review of Dantzig’s ground-breaking analysis leading to the formulation of the general linear programming problem and the SIMPLEX Method for solving it…” Gass’ presentation was all the more fascinating, as he explained his earlier government work not only with Dantzig, but also Koopman, Leontief, von Neuman et al, as cited in his handout; “The First Linear Programming Shoppe” of references.

The talk concluded with a lively question/answer period, the presentation of gifts to Gass, an even a book signing of the new Saul Gass/Arjang Assad book; “An Annotated Timeline of Operations Research: an Informal History.”

From Our Members about Saul Gass’ Presentation

It was truly an historic evening, with Saul’s presentation on George Dantzig. We WINFORMS members are beholden to you and your Board for arranging the program!
Individual Membership Information

Remember to renew your membership for 2006. Dues are $25.00 per individual standard membership, $12.50 for students and senior citizens, for each calendar year, payable to WINFORMS. Address to WINFORMS, P.O. Box 23257 Washington, D.C. 20026-3257. Non-students may renew for up to three years. If you have any questions about individual membership, please email winforms@mail.informs.org or contact any WINFORMS officer.

Institutional Membership Information

Remember to renew your institutional membership for 2006. Dues are $500.00 per institution for each calendar year, payable to WINFORMS. Address to WINFORMS, P.O. Box 23257 Washington, D.C. 20026-3257. If you have any questions about individual membership, please email winforms@mail.informs.org or contact Russ Vane, Russell Wooten or Doug Samuelson.

Contact Information and Important Dates

WINFORMS Officers

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Renew Your Annual Membership!