President's Message

Seong-Hee Kim

In this spring newsletter, I am glad to report that I-Sim remains an active society with increasing memberships. The number of I-Sim members has been increasing for the last several years, and we currently have close to 700 active members including about 200 international members. I-Sim had very strong participation in the 2014 INFORMS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California with 73 presentations in 19 sponsored sessions. The 2014 Winter Simulation Conference in Savannah, Georgia, was also a success. I-Sim continues to co-sponsor this leading conference in the field of simulation. I-Sim was one of the co-sponsors of the PhD Colloquium, which involved 29 student presentations with a keynote talk by Dr. Andreas Tolk, Chief Scientist at SimIS Inc. and Adjunct Professor at Old Dominion University. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to David Goldsman for sending each colloquium participant a book titled *Advancing the Frontiers of Simulation: A Festschrift in Honor of George Samuel Fishman*. These books were sent out as a small token of I-Sim's appreciation to the colloquium participants and some of them returned us very nice thank-you email letters. At the Winter Simulation Conference Business Meeting, I-Sim honored the following colleagues for their major contributions to our community:

- Bruce Schmeiser - Lifetime Professional Achievement Award;
- Jeffrey A. Joines - Distinguished Service Award; and
- Vijay Desai, Vivek Farias, and Ciamac Moallemi - Outstanding Publication Award.

Other honorees included WSC Diversity Award recipients Nanjing Jian (Cornell University), Paratsu Sharifi (Johns Hopkins University), and Alejandro Teran-Somohano (Auburn University), and I-Sim WSC Best Student Paper Award winner Fatemeh S. Hashemi (Virginia Tech). You can find the photos and full award citations on the I-Sim website. In the coming months, I-Sim will be sponsoring sessions at the 2015 CORS/INFORMS International Conference in Montreal (June 14-17). Planning has also started for the 2015 INFORMS Fall Meeting and the 2015 Winter Simulation Conference. We are looking forward to your support and participation in making these events successful.

There will be a big change in the I-Sim listserv which has been our main communication venue. INFORMS created a new platform called INFORMS Connect (http://connect.informs.org) in 2014. It is a members-only online network you can use to connect with fellow INFORMS members, collaborate on projects, and manage your community activity.
President’s Message, Continued
Seong-Hee Kim

The listserv will be phased out and we are transitioning the I-Sim listserv to INFORMS Connect. Your subscription to I-Sim has been automatically migrated to the Community page with INFORMS Connect. However, if you are not currently a paid member, your subscription will no longer be active as it is considered a member benefit. Information that was previously sent to the mailing list should be posted in a discussion thread or sent to a moderator (Susan Hunter, susanhunter@purdue.edu). More information about INFORMS Connect can be found on the following website: https://www.informs.org/About-INFORMS/News-Room/O.R.-Analytics-at-Work-Blog/INFORMS-Connect-Now-Live.

I-Sim needs your input for continuing success and growth. First, I'd like to encourage you to vote in the election of new I-Sim Council members. Details on the slate of candidates and voting instructions are prepared by the Nominations Committee consisting of Bahar Biller, Doug Morrice, and Stephen Chick; and they are contained in this newsletter. I also ask that you help the awards committees by nominating candidates for the 2015 I-Sim awards. Finally, this newsletter includes the frequently asked questions and answers (FAQ) on National Modeling and Simulation Coalition (NMSC) and its memorandum of understanding (MOU). I encourage you to read the FAQ section and post any additional questions in the community page of INFORMS Connect. A survey on MOU between I-Sim and NMSC will be conducted in April and more information about the survey will be sent soon.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas and suggestions for improving I-Sim. I look forward to the activities and events of the coming months.

Please pass along this newsletter to friends and colleagues, or let them know about the INFORMS Simulation Society website. You’ll get more than just a newsletter. The URL is http://www.informs.org/Community/Simulation-Society

This website is designed to be a general source of information and links for the simulation community, with a particular focus on society interests and activities. There are often additional special items, such as announcements for the Winter Simulation Conference and upcoming INFORMS conferences.
Editor’s Corner
Susan R. Hunter

Jie Xu and I are happy to bring you another edition of the I-Sim newsletter. Thank you to everyone who contributed sections to make this newsletter informative and complete.

As you may notice, the newsletter has a different format this spring. I have migrated the former MS Word newsletter template into LaTeX to automate a number of the editing functions that used to be performed by hand. I am also able to provide far more hyperlinks within the document, e.g., between the table of contents and various sections, since many people read the newsletter electronically. For future issues, we welcome newsletter contributions written in LaTeX or plain text. If you are not familiar with LaTeX, don’t worry! Keep doing what you’re doing and we’ll convert everything for you. We hope you enjoy the new formatting and functionalities.

Also, as mentioned by the President, we will be phasing out the listserv in favor of the INFORMS Connect platform. We appreciate your patience during this transition. As always, Jie and I will do our best to make sure news and announcements are disseminated in a timely fashion through the new communication channels. We look forward to interacting with you on INFORMS Connect!

Treasurer’s Report
Raghu Pasupathy

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Beginning Balance (1/1/2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
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<td>• WSC Sponsorship, surplus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>• National meeting expense (INFORMS)</td>
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<td>• Local meeting expense (WSC)</td>
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<td>• Subdivision payment (WSC awards)</td>
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<td>Ending Balance (1/1/2015)</td>
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Secretary’s Corner
Peter Frazier

As of March 5, 2015, the Society has 496 members. We have 9 members who have kept their I-Sim membership since 1976! There are 160 international members with the highest non-US numbers from Canada (24), followed by Australia (15), and the United Kingdom (12). There are 113 new members who joined I-Sim on or after January 1, 2015. Welcome!

As member, you get discount on registration for conferences sponsored by the I-Sim Society, which includes Winter Simulation Conference. If your membership expires soon, please do not forget to renew your membership. You can renew your membership online at http://renew.informs.org. While you are at the web site, please take the time to check your information and update it if there has been any change. If you are not a current member and want to join I-Sim, please visit http://www.informs.org.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report on the Simulation Archive

Simulation Archive Advisory Committee: Richard E. Nance (Chair), Robert G. Sargent, James R. Wilson

Established in the fall of 1998 at the N.C. State Libraries, the Simulation Archive can be accessed at http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/computer-simulation.

The SAAC serves to advise the library staff and to promote the development of the Archive. The Archive provides an invaluable resource for current and future scholars in computer simulation, computing history, and the history of technology.

The Committee is very appreciative of the $5000 donation voted by the ACM Special Interest Group on Simulation (SIGSIM) in its business meeting at WSC 2014. The strong, continuing support of SIGSIM and the INFORMS Simulation Society (I-Sim), bolstered by annual and one-time individual contributions, funds activities in acquisition, organization, preservation, and access to a wide range of artifacts. The Simulation Archive Endowment has a balance of $65,429.11 as of February 23, 2015.

Specific questions related to the identification and organization of the Archive beyond that provided on the website should be addressed to:

Gwynn Thayer
Associate Head and Curator of Special Collections
NC State Libraries
gathayer@ncsu.edu.

Involvement of the SAAC continues in the creation and compilation of material through the oral history of simulation project that is being pursued with support from the National Science Foundation. Interviews were conducted at WSC 2014 are continuing in 2015.

You can keep up with the progress of the Simulation Archive by visiting the website, and feedback reactions, and suggestions for improvement are welcomed. Additional and much needed tax-deductible donations can be made by contacting:

Greg Raschke
Associate Director for Collections and Scholarly Communication
NC State Libraries
(919) 515-7188
greg.raschke@ncsu.edu.

EDITORS’ REPORTS

Report on IIE Transactions

Raghu Pasupathy, Simulation Department Editor

I would like to thank the Associate Editors in the IIE Simulation Area: Guzin Bayraksan, Dashi Singham and Jiqiao Hu. For the 12-month period ending March, 2015 there were 14 new submissions with 4 rejections, 7 under review/revision, and 3 acceptances.

The goal of the IIE Simulation Department is the rapid dissemination of high-quality methodological and application-related simulation research. Submission of papers on all aspects of simulation are encouraged, including but not limited to analysis and modeling methodology, software, and surveys. Specific topics of interest include simulation optimization, random number and variate generation, input and output analysis, and variance reduction. We are particularly interested in pressing questions that lie on the boundary of stochastic programming and simulation optimization, parallelization methods for large-scale simulation optimization, and agent-based simulation, among others. Software-related papers might discuss new developments in the technology, state-of-the-art code, or interesting special-purpose programs.
Report on INFORMS Journal on Computing
Marvin Nakayama, Simulation Area Editor

In the one-year period ending February 23, 2015, the Simulation Area of the INFORMS Journal on Computing (IJOC) received 11 new submissions and 10 revised manuscripts. During this time, 2 papers were accepted and 7 rejected; there are 6 submissions currently awaiting various stages of editorial feedback. The average turnaround time over all rounds of submissions completed during this period was 99.3 days. The AEs in the IJOC Simulation Area are James M. Calvin, Seong-Hee Kim, Raghu Pasupathy, and Bruno Tuffin. I thank all of the AEs for doing a great job!

The IJOC Simulation Area covers all computational aspects of stochastic simulation. We seek high-quality research on the computational aspects of simulation model building, simulation data structures, simulation modeling and experiment environments, stochastic input modeling, random-variate generation, output analysis, simulation-based optimization, variance-reduction methods for simulation experiments, and other aspects of simulation modeling, experimentation, and analysis.

Submissions to the Simulation Area should not merely use simulation as a tool for generating experiments to test another methodology (these manuscripts should instead be submitted to the IJOC area for which the methodology applies), nor should they only present experimental results from a simulation model. Rather, manuscripts submitted to the area must make a significant contribution to the field of stochastic simulation, as described in the previous paragraph. Complete instructions for preparing manuscripts are available at http://joc.pubs.informs.org.

Submissions must be done electronically through Manuscript Central:
http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijoc

Marvin K. Nakayama
Simulation Area Editor, INFORMS JOC
Computer Science Department
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Newark, NJ 07102
marvin@njit.edu, phone: +1-973-596-3398

Report on the Journal of Simulation
Christine Currie, Simon J. E. Taylor, John Fowler, and Loo Hay Lee, Editors

We are glad to announce that Christine Currie takes over with Simon in support for a year as a co-editor. With the new editor on board we are in the process of updating the editorial board to better reflect the journal’s content. Volume 10 is coming out in 2016 and we are currently planning a series of papers from leading experts in simulation.

Progress for the Journal of Simulation (JOS) continues well. All issues continue to be delivered on time. AOP continues well and we have plenty of content for volume 9 leading into 10. All issues in Volume 8 were delivered on time. Themed issues on healthcare and manufacturing are in the pipeline.

The acceptance rate is around 25%. 176 papers were submitted, up from 129 in the previous year.

Journal of Simulation welcomes submissions from both articles and technical notes from researchers and practitioners active in the field of simulation. In JOS, the field of simulation includes the techniques, tools, methods and technologies of the application and the use of discrete-event simulation. JOS will examine a wide range of domains including, for example, manufacturing, service, defense, health care and general commerce. JOS will particularly seek topics that are not “mainstream” in nature but interesting and evocative to the simulation community as outlined above. For more information, please visit the website:
http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jos/index.html
Report on Management Science  
Noah Gans, Stochastic Models and Simulation Department Editor

Submissions: Please submit manuscripts electronically via Management Science’s Manuscript Central Site:
http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ms

Editorial Activity in the Department: Since July 1st 2014, we have handled 60 papers. Twenty of these were submissions that rolled over from before July 1st, and another 40 have been new submissions received after July 1st. A breakdown of the papers’ dispositions is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disposition</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accept</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor revision</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major revision</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferred to another department</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-process</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report on Operations Research  
Stephen E. Chick, Simulation Area Editor


For the period specified of 4.5 months, there were 11 new submissions and 3 resubmissions. During this period there were 4 rejections, 11 papers continue under review, 4 revise-and-resubmit decisions and 1 acceptance. Of the editorial decisions made in this period, 3 were late (4-6 months from date of submission) and one was very late (180 days or more). I would like to thank the Associate Editor team, Russell Barton, Peter Frazier, Peter Haas, Jeff Hong, and Raghu Pasupathy, for their conscientious service to the journal. We welcome two new associate editors for the area, Henry Lam and Jiaqiao Hu.

The simulation area of Operations Research looks for significant work in simulation modeling, methodology and applications that advance the knowledge and practice of simulation. In addition to the traditional research areas, we welcome contributions that develop the interface of simulation with other methodological areas, e.g., optimization and applied probability, and with application areas, e.g., service industries like healthcare and financial engineering, manufacturing, and business dynamics. In general, papers should be of interest to a broad O.R. audience, and not just to the simulation community, although we certainly welcome papers that represent major theoretical progress.

Please submit papers electronically via the Manuscript Central O.R. Web site:
http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/opre

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 INFORMS Conference on Business Analytics & Operations Research  
April 12–14, 2015, Huntington Beach, CA  
John Shortle (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/analytics2015/)

The Business Analytics & Operations Research conference focuses on real-world applications of analytics and operations research. The theme of the conference is how to “Apply Science to the Art of Business.” Highlights include the Franz Edelman Competition, methodology and software tutorials, case studies, a premier job fair for professionals, and facilitated networking sessions. The keynote addresses will be given by William Ruh, Vice President of GE Software and Brenda L. Dietrich, Ph.D. IBM Fellow & Vice President, Emerging Technology, IBM Watson. For more details, see this link.
CORS/INFORMS International Conference
June 14–17, 2015, Montreal
John Shortle (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/montreal2015/)

The Joint International Meeting of the Canadian Operational Research Society and Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences will be held in Montreal, June 14–17, 2015.

The meeting will take place at the Le Centre Sheraton Hotel Montreal. Montreal is “a city with more than 100 cultures coming together to create unique cuisine, shopping and art you won’t see anywhere else.” The conference brings together a diverse group of international participants to present a high-quality scientific program. The program includes a simulation cluster sponsored by I-Sim. Early registration will be open until May 15, 2015. For further information, see this link.

2015 INFORMS Simulation Society Research Workshop:
At the Interface of Simulation and Optimization
July 25–27, 2015, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
John Shortle and Raghu Pasupathy

The 2015 INFORMS Simulation Society (I-SIM) Research Workshop be held in Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. This invited workshop will feature emerging methodologies of simulation, optimization, and their interface, while maintaining a healthy grounding in application. We will bring together researchers from the fields of simulation-optimization, stochastic programming, approximate dynamic programming, and machine learning in an attempt at cross-fertilizing what appear to be contemporaneous advances on important related questions from the different sub-cultures.

INFORMS Annual Meeting
November 1–4, 2015, Philadelphia, PA
John Shortle (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/philadelphia/)

The INFORMS Annual Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, November 1–4, 2015. If you would like to organize a session in the simulation cluster, please contact John Shortle (jshortle@gmu.edu). Sessions are 90 minutes, typically with 4 talks. Each invited author will need to upload a title and abstract for their presentation by May 15, 2015. More information about the meeting can be found on the web at this link.

2015 Winter Simulation Conference
December 6–9, 2015, Huntington Beach, CA
John Shortle (source: http://wintersim.org/2015/)

The Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) is the premier international forum for disseminating recent advances in the field of system simulation. WSC provides the central meeting place for simulation practitioners, researchers, and vendors working in all disciplines in industry, service, government, military and academic sectors.

WSC 2015 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Huntington-
ton Beach Resort and Spa in Huntington Beach, CA, December 6-9, 2015. The theme of the conference is “Social and Behavioral Simulation.” The keynote address will be given by Joshua Epstein, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Director, Center for Advanced Modeling in the Social, Behavioral and Health Sciences at Johns Hopkins University. The conference will feature two Titans of Simulation talks by Pierre L’Ecuyer and Averill M. Law. The deadline for contributed papers is April 1, 2015. For additional information, see http://wintersim.org/2015/.

2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Bruce Schmeiser Receives the 2014 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award
Sigrún Andradóttir, Doug Morrice, and Susan Sanchez (Committee chair)

The INFORMS Simulation Society (I-Sim) presented its 2014 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award (LPAA) to Professor Bruce Schmeiser of Purdue University. A presentation of the award took place on December 8, 2014, during the opening session of the 2014 Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) in Savannah, Georgia; and an extended re-presentation of the award took place December 9, 2014, during the I-Sim business meeting held at WSC’14.

The LPAA is the highest honor given by I-Sim. The purpose of the award is to recognize major contributions to the field of simulation that are sustained over most of a professional career, with the critical consideration being the total impact of those contributions on computer simulation. In 2014 the award selection committee consisted of Susan Sanchez (Naval Postgraduate School), Sigrún Andradóttir (Georgia Tech), and Douglas Morrice (University of Texas–Austin), with Susan Sanchez serving as the chair of the committee.

Over the course of a career spanning forty-three years, Bruce Schmeiser has made path-breaking contributions to the theory and practice of computer simulation, including the fields of random variate generation, input modeling, output analysis, efficiency improvement (variance reduction), stochastic root finding, simulation optimization, and the development of simulation-related algorithms and software. Bruce is widely recognized for his excellent conference presentations as well as for his remarkable accomplishments as a classroom teacher and mentor. During his career, he has mentored 20 PhD students, taught thousands of students in his courses, and dedicated himself to the purpose of passing on his extensive knowledge of the field to others.

Beyond these technical achievements, for the past five decades Bruce has served the international simulation community in leadership and editorial positions of great responsibility. By his leadership of I-Sim and WSC, Bruce has played a pivotal role in the growth and development of these institutions, thereby substantially advancing the status and visibility of the simulation field at a critical time in its development. Through his service on editorial boards of numerous archival publications of INFORMS, the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), the American Statistical Association (ASA), and the American Society for Quality (ASQ), Bruce has played a similarly vital role in the establishment and advancement of the simulation literature.

In the letters of support, Bruce is described:

- as “a true scholar, always generous with his time and ideas;”
- as one who “has devoted a great deal of time to the general encouragement of junior researchers entering the field, and in helping them think through the key research and teaching challenges of our discipline;”
- as “an important role model...in how one should conduct oneself in research and professional service;”
• as one who’s encouragement and mentorship continues well after his students graduate;
• as a “man of integrity and an exceptional Samaritan who truly cares for others.”

The field of computer simulation is much the better for his contributions and leadership.

Taken as a whole, Bruce Schmeiser’s contributions to simulation are striking not only for their scope and impact on the field but also for the remarkably long time period over which that impact has been sustained in all of its dimensions. It was with great pride that the selection committee presented to him the 2014 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award of the INFORMS Simulation Society.

Jeffrey A. Joines Receives the 2014 Distinguished Service Award
James R. Wilson

The INFORMS Simulation Society (I-Sim) presented its 2014 Distinguished Service Award to Professor Jeff Joines of North Carolina State University for his outstanding contributions in service to I-Sim, to the Winter Simulation Conference (WSC), and to the international simulation community over the past twenty years. A presentation of the award took place on December 8, 2014, during the opening session of the 2014 WSC in Savannah, Georgia; and an extended re-presentation of the award took on place December 9, 2014, during the I-Sim business meeting held at WSC.

I-Sim established its Distinguished Service Award in 1986 to recognize each year at most one individual who has provided “long-standing, exceptional service to the simulation community . . . acquitted with distinction.” In 2014 the award selection committee consisted of Peter Haas (IBM Corporation), Pierre L’Ecuyer (Université de Montreal), and Jim Wilson (North Carolina State University), with Pierre completing his final year of service on the committee and Jim serving as chair.

Over a period spanning three decades, Jeff Joines has rendered yeoman service of the highest order to the international simulation community, to I-Sim, and to WSC. In particular, Jeff has played a leading role in the growth and development of the Winter Simulation Conference since the mid-1990s. Jeff developed from scratch WSC’s first online paper submission system, which was used from 1997 to 2010 as a critical part not only of WSC’s website but also of I-Sim’s freely accessible online archive of back volumes of the WSC Proceedings. Peter Welch memorably recalled this aspect of Jeff’s service to WSC:

I worked with Jeff from 1995 to 2012 on the website for the Winter Simulation Conference. He recognized the potential importance of the web and the Internet for the conference in early 1995 and guided his paper submission system toward the realization of that potential. The submission and selection process became Internet oriented, and in 1997 his system produced a web version of the program complete with links to abstracts of all the papers a month or so before the conference. This must have been a major boon to justifying attendance. It was simple for me [as web coordinator] to add links to the papers and create the Conference Archive, which proved popular and was extended a few years ago to the entire history of the conference. Besides the paper submission system, Jeff contributed in many other ways to the conference in the years I was involved with it.

Jeff has served as the Technical Coordinator of WSC’s Online Submission and Database Systems since 2000. He was Coeditor of the Proceedings of the 2000 Winter Simulation Conference, he served as Associate Program Chair in 2004, and he was the Program Chair in 2005. He has served as a WSC Track Coordinator in 2009, 2011, and 2014. Since 2009, Jeff has also served as a member of the WSC Board of Directors representing the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society.
Beyond his service to the international simulation community, Jeff has also served as chair, organizer, and program committee member for several conferences on evolutionary computation. He is also coauthor (with S. D. Roberts) of *Simulation Modeling with SIMIO: A Workbook*, with translations into Chinese, Italian, Mongolian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

In all aspects of his professional life, Jeff Joines epitomizes the highest ideals of I-Sim’s Distinguished Service Award. It was with great pride that the selection committee presented to him the 2014 Distinguished Service Award of the INFORMS Simulation Society.

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**Vijay V. Desai, Vivek Farias, and Ciamac C. Moallemi Receive the 2014 Outstanding Simulation Publication Award**

*Dave Goldsman*


Over the last two decades, simulation optimization has emerged as an important and thriving area of research. Besides being interesting from a theoretical point of view, simulation optimization has a wide variety of practical applications, including real option management of commodities, the pricing of financial derivatives, inventory optimization, and supply chain management. But optimization problems, especially in high-dimensional settings, are difficult and time-consuming to solve via naive simulation. Improving the performance of simulation optimization algorithms has been a longstanding goal.

The authors propose a new convex optimization procedure that uses a dual characterization of optimal stopping problems to establish upper and lower bounds on the optimal solution to the underlying optimization problem. In fact, the paper is distinctive in formulating an optimal stopping problem as a convex optimization problem; and it turns out that this insight makes the procedure very fast, despite being simulation-based.

From a theoretical perspective, the paper includes very nice results on martingale duality and bounds based on a Markov chain notion of predictability. At the same time, both the problem and the proposed solution are quite practical. In addition, the paper is extremely well written and accessible, despite its mathematical sophistication.

There has been a great deal of work in recent years on simulation-based methods for optimal stopping problems, but this paper stands out for its combination of theoretical and practical contributions. In fact, this paper makes valuable contributions to several strands of research: simulation-based optimization, approximate dynamic programming, and simulation methods for finance.
Fatemeh Hashemi and Philipp Baumgartel Receive the 2014 WSC Ph.D. Colloquium Best Student Paper Awards
Susan R. Hunter, Communications Editor

The INFORMS SIM Best MS/OR focused paper is: “On adaptive sampling rules for stochastic recursions” by Fatemeh S. Hashemi, Virginia Tech. Her co-authors are Soumyadip Ghosh and Raghu Pasupathy.

The ACM SIGSIM Best CS focused paper is: “Inverse uncertainty propagation for demand driven data acquisition” by Philipp Baumgartel. His co-authors are Gregor Endler, Andreas M. Wahl, and Richard Lenz.

Nanjing Jian, Paratsu Sharifi, and Alejandro Teran-Somohano Receive the 2014 CUMW Awards
Ola Batarseh, Chair of the CUMW

The 2014 Committee on Underrepresented Women and Minorities (CUMW) award winners are Nanjing Jian (Cornell University), Paratsu Sharifi (Johns Hopkins University), and Alejandro Teran-Somohano (Auburn University).

To cultivate the interest and encourage the participation of underrepresented minorities and women in the field of simulation, the INFORMS Simulation Society is proud to award sponsorships to assist graduate students from these population groups in the costs of attending Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) each year. In 2014, each awardee received an honorarium of $500.00. The CUMW is looking forward for more high-quality applications for the coming 2015 WSC meeting.

2015 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Call for Nominations: 2015 Distinguished Service Award
Peter Haas

To recognize individuals who have provided long-standing, exceptional service to the simulation community, the INFORMS Simulation Society annually sponsors a Distinguished Service Award, given to at most one person each year. This award is for sustained service to the simulation community over at least fifteen to twenty years or longer, and acquitted with distinction. The concept of service for this award does not include teaching or research contributions. Areas of volunteer service include, for example: (i) elected offices in simulation societies; (ii) editorial responsibilities such as area editor or editor-in-chief, for simulation; (iii) responsibilities
such as program chair, proceedings editor, general chair, or member of the program or organizing committee, for conferences involving simulation; (iv) appointed positions for simulation-related activities, such as newsletter editor or serving on committees; and (v) undertakings and actions that promote simulation.

Nominations for the award to be given in 2015 can be made by anyone and should be sent by September 15, 2015, to the Distinguished Service Award Committee Chair:

Peter J. Haas
IBM Almaden Research Center
phaas@us.ibm.com

The other committee members are James R. Wilson (North Carolina State University) and Jeffrey A. Joines (North Carolina State University).

Letters of nomination should identify the nominee’s areas of exceptional service, detailing the activities for which the nominee is believed to deserve this award. The nominator has the responsibility for justifying why the nominee should receive this award. If given, the award will be presented at the Winter Simulation Conference, in Huntington Beach, California, December 6-9, 2015: http://www.wintersim.org.

A list of previous winners is available at: https://www.informs.org/Community/Simulation-Society/Awards/Distinguished-Service-Award/Winners

I-SIM BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

INFORMS Simulation Society Business Meeting:
2014 INFORMS Conference, San Francisco, November 9, 2014

Peter Frazier, Secretary

At 6:27pm, Seong-Hee Kim, President of the Society, called the meeting to order after all attendees introduced themselves. She thanked the current and departing council and committee members for their service.

At 6:29pm, a motion was passed to approve the minutes from the I-Sim business meeting at WSC 2013, subject to correcting a typo in the number of active members. Peter Frazier, I-Sim Secretary, will make this correction.

At 6:30pm, John Shortle gave the Vice President’s report, reporting on the 2014 INFORMS Annual Meeting, and the 2014 Winter Simulation Conference. He then informed the membership about several meetings coming in 2015. For details on these meetings, see the fall newsletter.

At 6:32pm, Peter Frazier gave the Secretary’s Report, with new membership numbers, and Raghu Pasupathy gave the Treasurer’s Report, with I-Sim account balances. For details on both, please see the Secretary’s Corner and Treasurer’s Report in the fall newsletter.

At 6:34pm, Jim Wilson reported on the Simulation Archive. The archive has recently incorporated Bruce Schmeiser’s papers. Contributions to the to the Simulation Archive Endowment, maintained by the NC State Library, are encouraged.

At 6:36pm, Susan Hunter gave the Communications Committee Report. Andrea Hupman is organizing the room share list for WSC. See the fall 2014 newsletter under “Communications Committee” for details.

At 6:37pm, award committee reports were given. Seonghee Kim, Dashi Singham, Jim Wilson, and Susan Sanchez reported that two PhD Colloquium awards, three CUMW awards, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Lifetime Professional Achievement Award will all be given at WSC. Seonghee Kim also gave additional details about the PhD Colloquium at WSC, which may be found in the newsletter.

At 6:39pm, Russell Barton gave the Subdivisions Council Report. Esma Gel is the newly elected VP of Sections and Societies. There is a new model bylaws template for sections and societies. This need not affect existing bylaws, but any revisions in the future must meet legal requirements and match the model as closely as possible. Russell Barton then led discussion of a new business item. INFORMS is suggesting adding refereed sessions or mini tracks to the annual meeting as a way to make sessions at the INFORMS annual meeting more valuable. He made these points:

- If we decide to create these sessions, we could also decide to create new award(s), or have papers from these sessions appear in a special issue of a strong journal.
If we decide to create new awards, we would need to choose what kind of awards: junior faculty awards, industry awards, or both.

Pros: A junior faculty award would motivate young researchers to conduct research in the field of simulation, and would be good for the promotion/tenure process. An industry award would broaden industry participation, and would balance traditional best paper awards.

Cons: These would dilute the value of existing awards and would be additional work for the membership.

Russell Barton then opened the floor to discussion. During open discussion, the following points were raised:

1. The INFORMS annual meeting is close to WSC, which is similar in format to the proposed refereed tracks. This will make it harder to get reviewers, because INFORMS and WSC would draw from the same pool.
2. Sponsored sessions are already high quality, which may reduce the need for refereed tracks.
3. Refereeing would likely reduce the number of parallel sessions, which would make it easier for INFORMS to find locations to host the meeting.
4. Short abstracts are difficult to referee with any accuracy. Requiring extended abstracts might make quality easier to judge.
5. We could have invited papers with discussants.
6. We could ask audiences to rate talks, and invite back speakers with good ratings, perhaps with discussants, or give prizes for the best presentations. Prizes might improve the best talks, but might not improve the median.

At 6:51pm, Marvin Nakayama (Journal on Computing), Peter Frazier (Operations Research, for Steve Chick), Raghu Pasupathy (IIE Transactions), Seonghee Kim (ACM TOMACS, for Adelinde Uhrmacher), and John Shortle (Journal of Simulation, for Loo Hay Lee and John Fowler) gave the Journal Editors’ reports. For details, see the fall newsletter. Seong-hee Kim reported that Doug Morrice will give the report for Interfaces at WSC. A report for Journal of Simulation does not appear in the newsletter, and so information is briefly listed here: Journal of Simulation had 191 submissions, with an acceptance rate of 31%. In 2014 there will be two special issues on healthcare and simulation heuristics.

At 6:53pm, John Shortle led discussion of a second new business item. NMSC, the National Modeling and Simulation Community, is seeking a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NMSC and I-Sim stating interest in the NMSC concept, designating an individual to interface with the NMSC policy committee, and agreeing to share event information with the goal of creating a common calendar.

John made these points:

1. Pros: Interacting with a larger community to promote simulation is good. This would help shape discussion on certification and simulation research agenda, and might increase practitioner participation in I-Sim.
2. Cons: NMSC has a strong national / government / military focus while I-Sim is international with broader research interests. I-Sim might not have enough critical mass to affect discussion at the much larger NMSC.

We will vote at WSC. Possible next steps are: I-Sim signs MOU; I-Sim does not sign MOU; I-Sim does not sign MOU, but engages informally.

At 7:02pm, John opened the floor to discussion. The following points were raised:

1. Regarding coordination between I-Sim and ACM SIGSIM, most of the discussion about the MOU was with INFORMS, although representatives from ACM SIGSIM were at that meeting. ACM SIGSIM signed the MOU.
2. INFORMS is not concerned about the MOU. There are no financial obligations or obligation to take a political position that would endanger 501c tax status.
3. In response to a question about what the MOU contains, John Shortle agreed to circulate the MOU to the membership.
4. Regarding fairness to other societies, if we put a link to NMSC’s website on our website, should we then do the same for SCS and ACM SIGSIM?

There is a concern that the proposed simulation certification requirement put forward by NMSC does not match what I-Sim does. If we signed the MOU, we would not be able to influence the simulation certification requirement very much, but signing the MOU would put our stamp of approval on it.

Following this discussion, a motion to dismiss was approved.

Attendees: To deter email harvesting, @ has been replaced with <of>.

Peter Frazier pf98<of>cornell.edu
Seong-Hee Kim skim<of>isye.gatech.edu
Russell Barton rbarton<of>psu.edu
John Shortle jshortle<of>gmu.edu
INFORMS Simulation Society Business Meeting:
2014 Winter Simulation Conference, Savannah, GA, December 9, 2014
Raghu Pasupathy, Treasurer and Guest Secretary, & Peter Frazier, Secretary

At 6:20pm, Seong-Hee Kim, President of the Society, called the meeting to order after all attendees introduced themselves.

At 6:22pm, Seong-Hee Kim, President of the Society, announced the election results, thanked the council members, and the departing officers.

At 6:24pm, a motion was passed to approve the minutes from the I-Sim business meetings at WSC 2013 and INFORMS 2014.

At 6:30pm, John Shortle gave the Vice President’s report, reporting on the 2014 INFORMS Annual Meeting. He then informed the membership about several meetings coming in 2015. For details on these meetings, see the fall newsletter.

At 6:32pm, Raghu Pasupathy (“standing in” for Peter Frazier) gave the Secretary’s Report, and Raghu Pasupathy gave the Treasurer’s Report, with I-Sim account balances. For details on both, please see the Secretary’s Corner and Treasurer’s Report in the fall newsletter.

At 6:34pm, Dick Nance reported on the Simulation Archive, detailing several recent contributions.

At 6:36pm, David Goldsman, President of the WSC Foundation, gave a report on the financial state of the WSC Foundation. This led to several minutes of discussion amongst the attendees, regarding management of the endowment:

- The membership recalled the original motivation of the endowment, which was to set up self-insurance, and arose in response to ongoing economic uncertainties in 2003. From this point of view, spending from the endowment is risky, and may be a cause for concern.
- Members then pointed out that risk mitigation is less important now, because two good things have happened: the joint venture agreement, and INFORMS management has done a good job in managing funds.
- On the one hand, some risk mitigation continues to be important, but on the other hand, we should take advantage of reduced risk to do good things. Discussion centered around the balance between these two goals.

At 6:45pm, Susan Hunter gave the Communications Committee Report.

At 6:45pm, Russell Barton gave the Subdivisions Council Report. Esma Gel is the newly elected VP of Sections and Societies. There is a new model bylaws template.
for sections and societies. This need not affect existing bylaws, but any revisions in the future must meet legal requirements and match the model as closely as possible.

Russell Barton then led a discussion on improving the quality of talks in INFORMS. INFORMS is suggesting adding refereed sessions or mini tracks to the annual meeting as a way to make sessions at the INFORMS annual meeting more valuable. Several options that were raised during the 2014 INFORMS business meeting were revisited. He made these points:

- If we decide to create these sessions, we could also decide to create new award(s), or have papers from these sessions appear in a special issue of a strong journal.
- If we decide to create new awards, we would need to choose what kind of awards: junior faculty awards, industry awards, or both.
- Pros: A junior faculty award would motivate young researchers to conduct research in the field of simulation, and would be good for the promotion/tenure process. An industry award would broaden industry participation, and would balance traditional best paper awards.
- Cons: These would dilute the value of existing awards and would be additional work for the membership.

At 6:52pm, Marvin Nakayama (Journal on Computing), Steve Chick (Operations Research), Raghu Pasupathy (IIE Transactions), Adelinde Uhrmacher (ACM TOMACS), and John Fowler (Journal of Simulation) and Doug Morrice (Interfaces) gave journal reports.

At 6:53pm, John Shortle led discussion of a second new business item. NMSC, the National Modeling and Simulation Community, is seeking a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NMSC and I-Sim stating interest in the NMSC concept, designating an individual to interface with the NMSC policy committee, and agreeing to share event information with the goal of creating a common calendar.

John made these points:

- Pros: Interacting with a larger community to promote simulation is good. This would help shape discussion on certification and simulation research agenda, and might increase practitioner participation in I-Sim.
- Cons: NMSC has a strong national / government / military focus while I-Sim is international with broader research interests. I-Sim might not have enough critical mass to affect discussion at the much larger NMSC.

At 7:00pm, John opened the floor to discussion. The following points were raised:

- There was concern raised about certification: simulation is very diverse and so it might be safer if the MOU does not mention certification.
- It was pointed out that, irrespective of whether I-Sim signs the MOU, NMSC will pursue their goals.
- The membership had some questions about NMSC and the MOU, including the size of NMSC, which is larger than I-Sim, and about the MOU itself and NMSC’s by-laws.
- The MOU and a link to the by-laws were both distributed to the membership via the I-Sim mailing list on Dec. 2, 2014, shortly before WSC. The by-laws may also be found at http://www.modsimcoalition.org/Documents/NMSC_PolicyGuidance_Signed080812.pdf
- It was noted that this was a memorandum of agreement and not a memorandum of support, and also that we can get out of the agreement any time.
- The membership then discussed whether we should give the membership the option to delay action. This would give the membership more time to review available information, to wait and observe how experiences go with ACM/SIGSIM, and to have discussions at future meetings.
- The point was raised that the benefits to I-Sim of signing the MOU were unclear. One potential advantage then discussed was that the ability of NMSC to get funding etc. is bigger than that of I-Sim.

At 7:20pm, a preliminary survey was taken with five options.

(a) I-Sim signs MOU
(b) I-Sim does not sign MOU
(c) I-Sim does not sign MOU, but engages informally (e.g., discussion of certification)
(d) Abstain
(e) Obtain more information

All options received some votes, but the overwhelming choice among attendees was (e). At 7:22pm, the WSC Best Student Paper Award, WSC Diversity Award, Outstanding Publication Award, Distinguished Service Award, and the Lifetime Professional Achievement Award were presented. More information on these awards and the recipients can be obtained through the spring newsletter.

Following the awards, a motion to dismiss was approved.

Attendees: To deter email harvesting, @ has been re-
Memorandum of Understanding Between NMSC and I-Sim

Richard Fujimoto, John Shortle, and Seong-Hee Kim

Background
The current chairman of National Modeling and Simulation Coalition (NMSC) is Richard Fujimoto (Georgia Institute of Technology) and he is seeking a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NMSC and I-Sim stating (i) I-Sim interests in the NMSC concept; (ii) I-Sim designates individual to provide linkage to NMSC policy committee; and (iii) I-Sim shares event information with the goal of creating a common calendar. Other organizations who signed on MOU include SCS and ACM-SIGSIM.

Plan of Actions
The full document of MOU is available on the community page of INFORMS Connect and a discussion forum is available. Frequently asked questions are included in this newsletter but if you have additional questions and concerns, please post them on the discussion forum. Then there will be an online survey on this item in April. More detailed information on the survey will be sent out early April.
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. What is the history of NMSC?

NMSC was launched as an initiative by Fred Lewis, then president of NTSA with the goal to try to bring together the M&S community so it could speak with one voice for the betterment of the M&S discipline and industry as a whole. An initial “kick off” meeting was held in February 2012. Since that time one activity has focused on outreach to other organizations, which led to raising the question of an MOU at the I-Sim at WSC 2013. Another initiative focused on the development of a proposal to create an NAICS code for modeling and simulation in order to establish M&S as a recognized industry by the U.S. government and enable collection of statistics on the M&S industry (proposal submitted to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2014, and is currently pending). Another current initiative is concerned with developing and building consensus for a common research agenda for the M&S community.

2. How large is it and how many members are there?

Its website is http://www.modsimcoalition.org/. Its mission is to create a unified national community of individuals and organizations around the M&S discipline and professional practice and to be the principal advocate for Modeling & Simulation. NMSC does not aim to become another M&S professional society. Rather it aims to become a loosely coupled federation of organizations, each with deep interest in the growth and advancement of the modeling and simulation discipline and industry. There are currently a handful of organizations (companies, universities, non-profits) that are official members of NMSC and support these objectives. Attendance at the NMSC annual meetings has typically been approximately 50 individuals.

3. Where and what are NMSC by-laws?

The by-laws can be found at http://www.modsimcoalition.org/Documents/NMSC_PolicyGuidance_Signed080812.pdf

4. What is in the MOU?

The MOU is uploaded on INFORMS Connect. Some examples of line items (which we could take out) are: each organization will link to the other’s webpage from its own webpage; each organization will give opportunities for officers from the other to address its membership; and the organizations will avoid conflicts with each other’s calendars.

5. Are there any financial obligations?

There is no financial obligation at this time. If anything changes, we will need to revisit. However, I-Sim is obligated to appoint a liaison to NMSC and attempts to avoid calendar conflicts with NMSC.

6. Is there a chance of being forced to take a political position?

No. NMSC does not lobby with the U.S. Congress or legislative organizations in other countries. Here is some text from the NMSC charter:

Prohibited Functions

A. The Coalition shall not engage in any lobbying activities, nor shall any of its officers, committees or employees engage in lobbying activities on its behalf.
B. No act, statement or position taken or done by the Coalition shall bind, or purport to bind, any member organization which does not concur therein.
C. Neither the Coalition nor any officer, committee or member, acting in the name of the Coalition shall have any authority to speak for any individual company, nor shall any presentation or statement on behalf of the Coalition be submitted as representing the views or position of any individual member organization.
D. The Coalition shall not encroach upon, jeopardize or interfere in the activities of its member organizations.

7. The proposed simulation certification requirement put forward by NMSC does not match what I-Sim does. Signing the MOU would put our stamp of approval on that certification.

This is referring to the M&S certification program. This was developed and currently is operated by National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA, http://www.trainingsystems.org/). NMSC has offered to support this activity, but has not officially adopted or endorsed it (although a position by NMSC can still be interpreted as an implicit endorsement by I-Sim).
I-SIM ELECTIONS

Ballot for Election of I-Sim Officers

Bahar Biller, Past President

To vote in the election for I-Sim Council Members, return the ballot below by e-mail or mail by May 29th, 2015 to:

Bahar Biller
GE Global Research Center
One Research Circle, K1-4A70
Niskayuna, NY 12309 USA
E-Mail: bahar.biller@ge.com

If you use email, please include the words I-Sim Ballot in the subject line.

Two candidates will be elected for the I-Sim Council for a period of two years. The candidates are presented in alphabetical order.

COUNCIL (vote for up to two)

________ Soumdayip Ghosh, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, USA

________ Szu Hui NG, National University of Singapore

________ Oliver Rose, Universität der Bundeswehr, Germany

________ Hong Wan, Purdue University, USA

(This part will be used only to certify the ballot — your vote will be kept confidential. Your e-mail address will serve as your signature if you vote electronically.)

Your name (print): ____________________________________________________________

Your signature: ______________________________________________________________

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Brief Biographical Sketches for Candidates for I-Sim Council

SOUMDAYIP GHOSH is a Research Staff Member in the Mathematical Sciences and Analytics Department at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center (joined in 2004). His current research interests lie in simulation-based optimization techniques for stochastic optimization problems, and broadly in the fields of stochastic simulations and decision-making under uncertainty via stochastic optimization. In the applications domain, his research is currently focused on the Energy and Power systems space, where he leads projects in implementing analytics to successfully integrate novel uncertain sources of generation such as renewables in a large scale into the existing electricity grid infrastructure, and also in implementing and testing a vision for the Smart Grid of the future. He had previously worked on cloud infrastructure development and supply chain management. He has been attending the WSC for the past 14 years, and has been the PhD Colloquium Chair in 2009 and the Registration Chair in 2014. His efforts have led to IBM Research sponsorships for the I-Sim CUMW grants and PhD colloquium lunches. He obtained his doctorate in operations research from Cornell University in 2004 and his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (Chennai) in 1999. His email address is ghoshs@us.ibm.com, and he maintains a web presence at http://researcher.watson.ibm.com/researcher/view.php?person=us-ghoshs.

SZU HUI NG is an Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the National University of Singapore, where she is also the Deputy Head of Research and Graduate Studies. She was previously the Deputy Head for Undergraduate Studies from 2011 to 2014. She holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan. Her research interests include computer simulation meta-modeling and analysis, design of experiments, and applications of simulation to maritime transportation. She is a member of IEEE and INFORMS and a senior member of IIE, and is currently an Associate Editor for the Journal of Simulation.

OLIVER ROSE holds the Chair for Modeling and Simulation at the Department of Computer Science of the Universität der Bundeswehr, Germany. He received a M.S. degree in applied mathematics (1992) and a Ph.D. degree in computer science (1997) from Würzburg University, Germany. His research focuses on the operational modeling, analysis and material flow control of complex manufacturing facilities, in particular, semiconductor factories and assembly systems. He is a member of INFORMS Simulation Society, ASIM (German Simulation Society), and GI (German Computer Science Society). In 2012, he served as General Chair of the WSC. Currently, he is member of the board of the ASIM and the ASIM representative at the Board of Directors of the WSC.

HONG WAN received her PhD from Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University in 2004. Her advisors are Professor Bruce Ankenman and Barry Nelson. She is currently an associate professor of the School of Industrial Engineering at Purdue University. Her research interests lie in experimental design and analysis of large-scale simulation experiments, quality management in supply chain, and simulation study of production and healthcare systems. Her work has been published in various journals, including INFORMS Journal on Computing, Naval Research Logistics, ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation (ACM TOMACS), and Operations Research. She is one of the awardees of the 2013 INFORMS Military Application Society Koopman Prize, and has been elected for the James H. Greene Outstanding Graduate Educator Award of School of Industrial Engineering at Purdue University in 2013 and 2014. Her PhD students have won various awards for their thesis work at INFORMS. Prof. Wan is an active member in both the simulation and the INFORMS Quality, Statistics and Reliability (QSR) communities. She has served as conference organizers and session chairs for both INFORMS annual meetings and Winter Simulation Conferences. She was a council member of the QSR Section from 2006 to 2008, and the Committee for Underrepresented Minorities and Women (CUMW) of the Simulation Society. She is a referee for several journals and book chapters, and currently serves as the associate editor for the ACM TOMACS.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Calendar

Jie Xu

INFORMS Conference on Business Analytics and Operations Research, Huntington Beach, CA,
April 12 – April 14, 2015, https://www.informs.org/Attend-a-Conference/Analytics-Conference

Annual IEEE Systems Conference, Vancouver, Canada,

2015 Spring Simulation Multi-Conference, Alexandria, VA,

IIE Annual Conference and Exposition 2015, Nashville, TN,

CORS/INFORMS International Conference, Montreal, Canada,

2015 INFORMS Simulation Society Research Workshop, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN,

8th International Workshop on Simulation, Vienna, Austria,
September 21–25, 2015 http://iws.boku.ac.at/

2015 IEEE Multi-Conference on Systems and Control, Sydney, Australia,

INFORMS Annual Meeting 2015, Philadelphia, PA,

2015 Winter Simulation Conference, Huntington Beach, CA,
December 6 – 9, 2015, http://wintersim.org/2015/